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Roman Empire, by Edward Gibbon

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Produced by David Reed

HISTORY OF THE DECLINE AND FALL OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE

edward Gibbon, Esq.

with notes by the Rev. H. H. Milman

VOLUME ONE

Introduction

Preface By The Editor.

the great work of Gibbon is indispensable to the student of history. The

literature of Europe offers no substitute for "The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire." It has obtained undisputed possession, as rightful

occupant, of the vast period which it comprehends. However some

subjects, which it embraces, may have undergone more complete

investigation, on the general view of the whole period, this history

is the sole undisputed authority to which all defer, and from which few appeal to the original writers, or to more modern compilers. The

inherent interest of the subject, the inexhaustible labor employed upon

it; the immense condensation of matter; the luminous arrangement; the

general accuracy; the style, which, however monotonous from its

uniform stateliness, and sometimes wearisome from its elaborate ar.,

is throughout vigorous, animated, often picturesque always commands attention, always conveys its meaning with emphatic energy, describes with singular breadth and fidelity, and generalizes with unrivalled felicity of expression; all these high qualifications have secured, and

seem likely to secure, its permanent place in historic literature.

this vast design of Gibbon, the magnificent whole into which he has cast the decay and ruin of the ancient civilization, the formation and birth

of the new order of things, will of itself, independent of the laborious execution of his immense plan, render "The Decline and Fall of the Roman empire" an unapproachable subject to the future historian: [101] in the eloquent language of his recent French editor, M. Guizot:--

[Footnote 101: A considerable portion of this preface has already appeared before us public in the Quarterly Review.]

"The gradual decline of the most extraordinary dominion which has ever invaded and oppressed the world; the fall of that immense empire, erected on the ruins of so many kingdoms, republics, and states both barbarous and civilized; and forming in its turn, by its dismemberment, a multitude of states, republics, and kingdoms; the annihilation of the

religion of Greece and Rome; the birth and the progress of the two new

religions which have shared the most beautiful regions of the earth; the decrepitude of the ancient world, the spectacle of its expiring glory and degenerate manners; the infancy of the modern world, the picture of

its first progress, of the new direction given to the mind and character

of man--such a subject must necessarily fix the attention and excite the interest of men, who cannot behold with indifference those memorable epochs, during which, in the fine language of Corneille--

'Un grand destin commence, un grand destin s'acheve.'"

this extent and harmony of design is unquestionably that which distinguishes the work of Gibbon from all other great historical compositions. He has first bridged the abyss between ancient and modern times, and connected together the two great worlds of history. The great advantage which the classical historians possess over those of modern times is in unity of plan, of course greatly facilitated by the narrower

sphere to which their researches were confined. Except Herodotus, the

great historians of Greece--we exclude the more modern compilers, like diodorus Siculus--limited themselves to a single period, or at 'east to the contracted sphere of Grecian affairs. As far as the Barbarians trespassed within the Grecian boundary, or were necessarily mingled up with Grecian politics, they were admitted into the pale of Grecian

history; but to Thucydides and to Xenophon, excepting in the Persian

inroad of the latter, Greece was the world. Natural unity confined their

narrative almost to chronological order, the episodes were of rare

occurrence and extremely brief. To the Roman historians the course was equally clear and defined. Rome was their centre of unity; and the

uniformity with which the circle of the Roman dominion spread around, the regularity with which their civil polity expanded, forced, as it were, upon the Roman historian that plan which Polybius announces as the

subject of his history, the means and the manner by which the whole world became subject to the Roman sway. How different the complicated

politics of the European kingdoms! Every national history, to be complete, must, in a certain sense, be the history of Europe; there is

no knowing to how remote a quarter it may be necessary to trace our most domestic events; from a country, how apparently disconnected, may

originate the impulse which gives its direction to the whole course of affairs.

In imitation of his classical models, Gibbon places Rome as the cardinal

point from which his inquiries diverge, and to which they bear constant

reference; yet how immeasurable the space over which those inquiries

range; how complicated, how confused, how apparently inextricable the ca-\nuses which tend to the decline of the Roman empire! how countless the nations which swarm forth, in mingling and indistinct hordes, constantly changing the geographical limits--incessantly confounding the

natural boundaries! At first sight, the whole period, the whole state

of the world, seems to offer no more secure footing to an historical adventurer than the chaos of Milton--to be in a state of irreclaimable disorder, best described in the language of the poet:--

--"A dark

Illimitable ocean, without bound,

Without dimension, where length, breadth, and height,

And time, and place, are lost: where eldest Night

And Chaos, ancestors of Nature, hold

Eternal anarchy, amidst the noise

Of endless wars, and by confusion stand."

we feel that the unity and harmony of narrative, which shall comprehend this period of social disorganization, must be ascribed entirely to the

skill and luminous disposition of the historian. It is in this sublime

Gothic architecture of his work, in which the boundless range, the

infinite variety, the, at first sight, incongruous gorgeousness of the separate parts, nevertheless are all subordinate to one main and

predominant idea, that Gibbon is unrivalled. We cannot but admire the

manner in which he masses his materials, and arranges his facts in

successive groups, not according to chronological order, but to their

moral or political connection; the distinctness with which he marks his

periods of gradually increasing decay; and the skill with which, though advancing on separate parallels of history, he shows the common tendency

of the slower or more rapid religious or civil innovations. However these principles of composition may demand more than ordinary attention

on the part of the reader, they can alone impress upon the memory the

real course, and the relative importance of the events. Whoever would

justly appreciate the superiority of Gibbon's lucid arrangement, should attempt to make his way through the regular but wearisome annals of tillemont, or even the less ponderous volumes of Le Beau. Both these writers adhere, almost entirely, to chronological order; the consequence

is, that we are twenty times called upon to break off, and resume the thread of six or eight wars in different parts of the empire; to suspend the operations of a military expedition for a court intrigue; to hurry away from a siege to a council; and the same page places us in the

middle of a campaign against the barbarians, and in the depths of the

Monophysite controversy. In Gibbon it is not always easy to bear in mind the exact dates but the course of events is ever clear and distinct;

like a skilful general, though his troops advance from the most

remote and opposite quarters, they are constantly bearing down and concentrating themselves on one point--that which is still occupied by the name, and by the waning power of Rome. Whether he traces the

progress of hostile religions, or leads from the shores of the baltic, or the verge of the Chinese empire, the successive hosts of barbarians--though one wave has hardly burst and discharged itself, before another swells up and approaches--all is made to flow in the same direction, and the impression which each makes upon the tottering fabric

of the Roman greatness, connects their distant movements, and measures the relative importance assigned to them in the panoramic history. The

more peaceful and didactic episodes on the development of the Roman law,

or even on the details of ecclesiastical history, interpose themselves as resting-places or divisions between the periods of barbaric invasion.

In short, though distracted first by the two capitals, and afterwards by the formal partition of the empire, the extraordinary felicity of arrangement maintains an order and a regular progression. As our horizon expands to reveal to us the gathering tempests which are forming far beyond the boundaries of the civilized world--as we follow their

successive approach to the trembling frontier--the compressed and

receding line is still distinctly visible; though gradually dismembered and the broken fragments assuming the form of regular states and

kingdoms, the real relation of those kingdoms to the empire is

maintained and defined; and even when the Roman dominion has shrunk

into little more than the province of Thrace--when the name of Rome, confined, in Italy, to the walls of the city--yet it is still the

memory, the shade of the Roman greatness, which extends over the wide

sphere into which the historian expands his later narrative; the whole blends into the unity, and is manifestly essential to the double catastrophe of his tragic drama.

but the amplitude, the magnificence, or the harmony of design, are, though imposing, yet unworthy claims on our admiration, unless the details are filled up with correctness and accuracy. No writer has been

more severely tried on this point than Gibbon. He has undergone the triple scrutiny of theological zeal quickened by just resentment, of

literary emulation, and of that mean and invidious vanity which delights

in detecting errors in writers of established fame. On the result of the trial, we may be permitted to summon competent witnesses before we deliver our own judgment.

M. Guizot, in his preface, after stating that in France and Germany, as well as in England, in the most enlightened countries of Europe, Gibbon

is constantly cited as an authority, thus proceeds:--

"I have had occasion, during my labors, to consult the writings of

philosophers, who have treated on the finances of the Roman empire; of

scholars, who have investigated the chronology; of theologians, who have

searched the depths of ecclesiastical history; of writers on law, who

have studied with care the Roman jurisprudence; of Orientalists, who

have occupied themselves with the Arabians and the Koran; of modern

historians, who have entered upon extensive researches touching the crusades and their influence; each of these writers has remarked and

pointed out, in the 'History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman empire,' some negligences, some false or imperfect views some omissions, which it is impossible not to suppose voluntary; they have rectified

some facts combated with advantage some assertions; but in general they have taken the researches and the ideas of Gibbon, as points of departure, or as proofs of the researches or of the new opinions which they have advanced."

M. Guizot goes on to state his own impressions on reading Gibbon's

history, and no authority will have greater weight with those to whom the extent and accuracy of his historical researches are known:--

"After a first rapid perusal, which allowed me to feel nothing but the interest of a narrative, always animated, and, notwithstanding its extent and the variety of objects which it makes to pass before the

view, always perspicuous, I entered upon a minute examination of the details of which it was composed; and the opinion which I then formed was, I confess, singularly severe. I discovered, in certain chapters, errors which appeared to me sufficiently important and numerous to

make me believe that they had been written with extreme negligence; in

others, I was struck with a certain tinge of partiality and prejudice, which imparted to the exposition of the facts that want of truth and justice, which the English express by their happy term

misrepresentation. Some imperfect (tronquees) quotations; some passages,

omitted unintentionally or designedly cast a suspicion on the honesty

(bonne foi) of the author; and his violation of the first law of

history--increased to my eye by the prolonged attention with which I

occupied myself with every phrase, every note, every reflection--caused

me to form upon the whole work, a judgment far too rigorous. After

having finished my labors, I allowed some time to elapse before I

reviewed the whole. A second attentive and regular perusal of the entire work, of the notes of the author, and of those which I had thought it

right to subjoin, showed me how much I had exaggerated the importance of the reproaches which Gibbon really deserved; I was struck with the same errors, the same partiality on certain subjects; but I had been far from doing adequate justice to the immensity of his researches, the

variety of his knowledge, and above all, to that truly philosophical discrimination (justesse d'esprit) which judges the past as it would

judge the present; which does not permit itself to be blinded by the clouds which time gathers around the dead, and which prevent us from

seeing that, under the toga, as under the modern dress, in the senate as in our councils, men were what they still are, and that events took

place eighteen centuries ago, as they take place in our days. I then felt that his book, in spite of its faults, will always be a noble work--and that we may correct his errors and combat his prejudices, without ceasing to admit that few men have combined, if we are not to

say in so high a degree, at least in a manner so complete, and so well

regulated, the necessary qualifications for a writer of history."

the present editor has followed the track of Gibbon through many parts

of his work; he has read his authorities with constant reference to

his pages, and must pronounce his deliberate judgment, in terms of the highest admiration as to his general accuracy. Many of his seeming errors are almost inevitable from the close condensation of his matter. from the immense range of his history, it was sometimes necessary to compress into a single sentence, a whole vague and diffuse page of a byzantine chronicler. Perhaps something of importance may have thus escaped, and his expressions may not quite contain the whole substance

of the passage from which they are taken. His limits, at times, compel

him to sketch; where that is the case, it is not fair to expect the full details of the finished picture. At times he can only deal with

important results; and in his account of a war, it sometimes

requires great attention to discover that the events which seem to be comprehended in a single campaign, occupy several years. But this admirable skill in selecting and giving prominence to the points which are of real weight and importance--this distribution of light and

shade--though perhaps it may occasionally betray him into vague and

imperfect statements, is one of the highest excellencies of Gibbon's

historic manner. It is the more striking, when we pass from the works of

his chief authorities, where, after laboring through long, minute, and wearisome descriptions of the accessary and subordinate circumstances, a

single unmarked and undistinguished sentence, which we may overlook from the inattention of fatigue, contains the great moral and political

result.

Gibbon's method of arrangement, though on the whole most favorable to the clear comprehension of the events, leads likewise to apparent

inaccuracy. That which we expect to find in one part is reserved for another. The estimate which we are to form, depends on the accurate balance of statements in remote parts of the work; and we have sometimes to correct and modify opinions, formed from one chapter by those of another. Yet, on the other hand, it is astonishing how rarely we detect contradiction; the mind of the author has already harmonized the whole

result to truth and probability; the general impression is almost

invariably the same. The quotations of Gibbon have likewise been called

in question;--I have, in general, been more inclined to admire their exactitude, than to complain of their indistinctness, or incompleteness. where they are imperfect, it is commonly from the study of brevity, and

rather from the desire of compressing the substance of his notes into

pointed and emphatic sentences, than from dishonesty, or uncandid

suppression of truth.

these observations apply more particularly to the accuracy and fidelity

of the historian as to his facts; his inferences, of course, are more

liable to exception. It is almost impossible to trace the line between

unfairness and unfaithfulness; between intentional misrepresentation and undesigned false coloring. The relative magnitude and importance of events must, in some respect, depend upon the mind before which they are

presented; the estimate of character, on the habits and feelings of the

reader. Christians, like M. Guizot and ourselves, will see some things, and some persons, in a different light from the historian of the Decline and Fall. We may deplore the bias of his mind; we may ourselves be on

our guard against the danger of being misled, and be anxious to warn

less wary readers against the same perils; but we must not confound this secret and unconscious departure from truth, with the deliberate

violation of that veracity which is the only title of an historian to our confidence. Gibbon, it may be fearlessly asserted, is rarely chargeable even with the suppression of any material fact, which bears

upon individual character; he may, with apparently invidious hostility, enhance the errors and crimes, and disparage the virtues of certain

persons; yet, in general, he leaves us the materials for forming a fairer judgment; and if he is not exempt from his own prejudices,

perhaps we might write passions, yet it must be candidly acknowledged, that his philosophical bigotry is not more unjust than the theological

partialities of those ecclesiastical writers who were before in

undisputed possession of this province of history.

we are thus naturally led to that great misrepresentation which

pervades his history--his false estimate of the nature and influence of christianity.

but on this subject some preliminary caution is necessary, lest that

should be expected from a new edition, which it is impossible that it

should completely accomplish. We must first be prepared with the only

sound preservative against the false impression likely to be produced by the perusal of Gibbon; and we must see clearly the real cause of that false impression. The former of these cautions will be briefly suggested

in its proper place, but it may be as well to state it, here, somewhat

more at length. The art of Gibbon, or at least the unfair impression

produced by his two memorable chapters, consists in his confounding together, in one indistinguishable mass, the origin and apostolic

propagation of the new religion, with its later progress. No argument for the divine authority of Christianity has been urged with greater force, or traced with higher eloquence, than that deduced from its

primary development, explicable on no other hypothesis than a heavenly

origin, and from its rapid extension through great part of the Roman empire. But this argument--one, when confined within reasonable limits,

of unanswerable force--becomes more feeble and disputable in proportion as it recedes from the birthplace, as it were, of the religion. The further Christianity advanced, the more causes purely human were enlisted in its favor; nor can it be doubted that those developed with

such artful exclusiveness by Gibbon did concur most essentially to its establishment. It is in the Christian dispensation, as in the material world. In both it is as the great First Cause, that the Deity is most

undeniably manifest. When once launched in regular motion upon the bosom

of space, and endowed with all their properties and relations of weight and mutual attraction, the heavenly bodies appear to pursue their courses according to secondary laws, which account for all their sublime

regularity. So Christianity proclaims its Divine Author chiefly in its first origin and development. When it had once received its impulse from above--when it had once been infused into the minds of its first teachers--when it had gained full possession of the reason and affections of the favored few--it might be--and to the Protestant, the

rationa Christian, it is impossible to define when it really was--left to make its way by its native force, under the ordinary secret agencies

of all-ruling Providence. The main question, the divine origin of the

religion, was dexterously eluded, or speciously conceded by Gibbon;

his plan enabled him to commence his account, in most parts, below the apostolic times; and it was only by the strength of the dark coloring with which he brought out the failings and the follies of the succeeding ages, that a shadow of doubt and suspicion was thrown back upon the

primitive period of Christianity.

"The theologian," says Gibbon, "may indulge the pleasing task of describing religion as she descended from heaven, arrayed in her native

purity; a more melancholy duty is imposed upon the historian:--he

must discover the inevitable mixture of error and corruption which she contracted in a long residence upon earth among a weak and degenerate

race of beings." Divest this passage of the latent sarcasm betrayed by the subsequent tone of the whole disquisition, and it might commence a christian history written in the most Christian spirit of candor. But as the historian, by seeming to respect, yet by dexterously confounding the

limits of the sacred land, contrived to insinuate that it was an Utopia which had no existence but in the imagination of the theologian--as he

suggested rather than affirmed that the days of Christian purity were a

kind of poetic golden age;--so the theologian, by venturing too far into the domain of the historian, has been perpetually obliged to contest

points on which he had little chance of victory--to deny facts established on unshaken evidence--and thence, to retire, if not with the shame of defeat, yet with but doubtful and imperfect success. Paley, with his intuitive sagacity, saw through the difficulty of answering

Gibbon by the ordinary arts of controversy; his emphatic sentence,

"Who can refute a sneer?" contains as much truth as point. But full and

pregnant as this phrase is, it is not quite the whole truth; it is the tone in which the progress of Christianity is traced, in comparison with the rest of the splendid and prodigally ornamented work, which is the

radical defect in the "Decline and Fall." Christianity alone receives

no embellishment from the magic of Gibbon's language; his imagination is dead to its moral dignity; it is kept down by a general zone of jealous disparagement, or neutralized by a painfully elaborate exposition of

its darker and degenerate periods. There are occasions, indeed, when its

pure and exalted humanity, when its manifestly beneficial influence, can compel even him, as it were, to fairness, and kindle his unguarded eloquence to its usual fervor; but, in general, he soon relapses into a frigid apathy; affects an ostentatiously severe impartiality; notes all the faults of Christians in every age with bitter and almost malignant

sarcasm; reluctantly, and with exception and reservation, admits their claim to admiration. This inextricable bias appears even to influence

his manner of composition. While all the other assailants of the Roman empire, whether warlike or religious, the Goth, the Hun, the Arab, the tartar, Alaric and Attila, Mahomet, and Zengis, and Tamerlane, are each

introduced upon the scene almost with dramatic animation--their progress

related in a full, complete, and unbroken narrative--the triumph of christianity alone takes the form of a cold and critical disquisition. the successes of barbarous energy and brute force call forth all the consummate skill of composition; while the moral triumphs of Christian benevolence--the tranquil heroism of endurance, the blameless purity, the contempt of guilty fame and of honors destructive to the human race, which, had they assumed the proud name of philosophy, would have been blazoned in his brightest words, because they own religion as their

principle--sink into narrow asceticism. The glories of Christianity,

in short, touch on no chord in the heart of the writer; his imagination

remains unkindled; his words, though they maintain their stately and

measured march, have become cool, argumentative, and inanimate. Who would obscure one hue of that gorgeous coloring in which Gibbon has

invested the dying forms of Paganism, or darken one paragraph in his

splendid view of the rise and progress of Mahometanism? But who would not have wished that the same equal justice had been done to christianity; that its real character and deeply penetrating influence

had been traced with the same philosophical sagacity, and represented with more sober, as would become its quiet course, and perhaps less

picturesque, but still with lively and attractive, descriptiveness? He

might have thrown aside, with the same scorn, the mass of ecclesiastical fiction which envelops the early history of the church, stripped off the legendary romance, and brought out the facts in their primitive

nakedness and simplicity--if he had but allowed those facts the benefit

of the glowing eloquence which he denied to them alone. He might have annihilated the whole fabric of post-apostolic miracles, if he had left

uninjured by sarcastic insinuation those of the New Testament; he might

have cashiered, with Dodwell, the whole host of martyrs, which owe their existence to the prodigal invention of later days, had he but bestowed fair room, and dwelt with his ordinary energy on the sufferings of the

genuine witnesses to the truth of Christianity, the Polycarps, or the

martyrs of Vienne. And indeed, if, after all, the view of the early

progress of Christianity be melancholy and humiliating we must beware

lest we charge the whole of this on the infidelity of the historian.

It is idle, it is disingenuous, to deny or to dissemble the early depravations of Christianity, its gradual but rapid departure from

its primitive simplicity and purity, still more, from its spirit of

universal love. It may be no unsalutary lesson to the Christian world, that this silent, this unavoidable, perhaps, yet fatal change shall have been drawn by an impartial, or even an hostile hand. The Christianity

of every age may take warning, lest by its own narrow views, its want

of wisdom, and its want of charity, it give the same advantage to the future unfriendly historian, and disparage the cause of true religion.

the design of the present edition is partly corrective, partly

supplementary: corrective, by notes, which point out (it is hoped, in a perfectly candid and dispassionate spirit with no desire but to establish the truth) such inaccuracies or misstatements as may have been detected, particularly with regard to Christianity; and which thus, with the previous caution, may counteract to a considerable extent the

unfair and unfavorable impression created against rational religion:

supplementary, by adding such additional information as the editor's

reading may have been able to furnish, from original documents or books,

not accessible at the time when Gibbon wrote.

the work originated in the editor's habit of noting on the margin of his copy of Gibbon references to such authors as had discovered errors, or thrown new light on the subjects treated by Gibbon. These had grown to some extent, and seemed to him likely to be of use to others. The annotations of M. Guizot also appeared to him worthy of being better

known to the English public than they were likely to be, as appended to the French translation.

the chief works from which the editor has derived his materials are,

I. The French translation, with notes by M. Guizot; 2d edition, Paris,

1828. The editor has translated almost all the notes of M. Guizot. Where

he has not altogether agreed with him, his respect for the learning and judgment of that writer has, in general, induced him to retain the

statement from which he has ventured to differ, with the grounds on which he formed his own opinion. In the notes on Christianity, he has

retained all those of M. Guizot, with his own, from the conviction, that on such a subject, to many, the authority of a French statesman, a Protestant, and a rational and sincere Christian, would appear more

independent and unbiassed, and therefore be more commanding, than that

of an English clergyman.

the editor has not scrupled to transfer the notes of M. Guizot to the

present work. The well-known zeal for knowledge, displayed in all the writings of that distinguished historian, has led to the natural

inference, that he would not be displeased at the attempt to make them

of use to the English readers of Gibbon. The notes of M. Guizot are

signed with the letter G.

II. The German translation, with the notes of Wenck. Unfortunately this

learned translator died, after having completed only the first volume; the rest of the work was executed by a very inferior hand.

the notes of Wenck are extremely valuable; many of them have been adopted by M. Guizot; they are distinguished by the letter W. [\*]

[Footnote \*: The editor regrets that he has not been able to find the

Italian translation, mentioned by Gibbon himself with some respect. It

is not in our great libraries, the Museum or the Bodleian; and he has

never found any bookseller in London who has seen it.]

III. The new edition of Le Beau's "Histoire du Bas Empire, with notes by

M. St. Martin, and M. Brosset." That distinguished Armenian scholar, M.

St. Martin (now, unhappily, deceased) had added much information from

Oriental writers, particularly from those of Armenia, as well as from

more general sources. Many of his observations have been found as applicable to the work of Gibbon as to that of Le Beau.

IV. The editor has consulted the various answers made to Gibbon on the first appearance of his work; he must confess, with little profit. they were, in general, hastily compiled by inferior and now forgotten writers, with the exception of Bishop Watson, whose able apology is

rather a general argument, than an examination of misstatements. The

name of Milner stands higher with a certain class of readers, but will

not carry much weight with the severe investigator of history.

V. Some few classical works and fragments have come to light, since the appearance of Gibbon's History, and have been noticed in their

respective places; and much use has been made, in the latter volumes

particularly, of the increase to our stores of Oriental literature. The editor cannot, indeed, pretend to have followed his author, in these

gleanings, over the whole vast field of his inquiries; he may have

overlooked or may not have been able to command some works, which might

have thrown still further light on these subjects; but he trusts that what he has adduced will be of use to the student of historic truth.

the editor would further observe, that with regard to some other

objectionable passages, which do not involve misstatement or inaccuracy,

he has intentionally abstained from directing particular attention towards them by any special protest.

the editor's notes are marked M.

a considerable part of the quotations (some of which in the later editions had fallen into great confusion) have been verified, and have been corrected by the latest and best editions of the authors.

June, 1845.

In this new edition, the text and the notes have been carefully revised, the latter by the editor.

Some additional notes have been subjoined, distinguished by the

signature M. 1845.

Preface Of The Author.

It is not my intention to detain the reader by expatiating on the

variety or the importance of the subject, which I have undertaken to treat; since the merit of the choice would serve to render the weakness

of the execution still more apparent, and still less excusable. But as

I have presumed to lay before the public a first volume only [1] of the

History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, it will, perhaps, be expected that I should explain, in a few words, the nature and limits

of my general plan.

[Footnote 1: The first volume of the quarto, which contained the sixteen first chapters.]

the memorable series of revolutions, which in the course of about thirteen centuries gradually undermined, and at length destroyed, the

solid fabric of human greatness, may, with some propriety, be divided

into the three following periods:

I. The first of these periods may be traced from the age of Trajan and the Antonines, when the Roman monarchy, having attained its full

strength and maturity, began to verge towards its decline; and will extend to the subversion of the Western Empire, by the barbarians of

Germany and Scythia, the rude ancestors of the most polished nations of

modern Europe. This extraordinary revolution, which subjected Rome to the power of a Gothic conqueror, was completed about the beginning of the sixth century.

II. The second period of the Decline and Fall of Rome may be supposed to commence with the reign of Justinian, who, by his laws, as well as by

his victories, restored a transient splendor to the Eastern Empire. It will comprehend the invasion of Italy by the Lombards; the conquest

of the Asiatic and African provinces by the Arabs, who embraced the

religion of Mahomet; the revolt of the Roman people against the feeble

princes of Constantinople; and the elevation of Charlemagne, who, in the

year eight hundred, established the second, or German Empire of the West

III. The last and longest of these periods includes about six centuries and a half; from the revival of the Western Empire, till the taking of constantinople by the Turks, and the extinction of a degenerate race

of princes, who continued to assume the titles of Caesar and Augustus, after their dominions were contracted to the limits of a single city; in which the language, as well as manners, of the ancient Romans, had been

long since forgotten. The writer who should undertake to relate the events of this period, would find himself obliged to enter into the

general history of the Crusades, as far as they contributed to the

ruin of the Greek Empire; and he would scarcely be able to restrain his curiosity from making some inquiry into the state of the city of Rome, during the darkness and confusion of the middle ages.

as I have ventured, perhaps too hastily, to commit to the press a work which in every sense of the word, deserves the epithet of imperfect. I consider myself as contracting an engagement to finish, most probably in a second volume, [2] the first of these memorable periods; and to deliver to the Public the complete History of the Decline and Fall of Rome, from the age of the Antonines to the subversion of the Western Empire. With

regard to the subsequent periods, though I may entertain some hopes, I dare not presume to give any assurances. The execution of the extensive

plan which I have described, would connect the ancient and modern

history of the world; but it would require many years of health, of

leisure, and of perseverance.

[Footnote 2: The Author, as it frequently

happens, took an inadequate measure of his growing work. The remainder

of the first period has filled two volumes in quarto, being the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth volumes of the octavo edition.]

bentinck Street, February 1, 1776.

P. S. The entire History, which is now published, of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire in the West, abundantly discharges my engagements with the Public. Perhaps their favorable opinion may encourage me to prosecute a work, which, however laborious it may seem,

is the most agreeable occupation of my leisure hours.

bentinck Street, March 1, 1781.

an Author easily persuades himself that the public opinion is still favorable to his labors; and I have now embraced the serious resolution

of proceeding to the last period of my original design, and of the

Roman Empire, the taking of Constantinople by the Turks, in the year

one thousand four hundred and fifty-three. The most patient Reader, who computes that three ponderous [3] volumes have been already employed

on the events of four centuries, may, perhaps, be alarmed at the long

prospect of nine hundred years. But it is not my intention to expatiate with the same minuteness on the whole series of the Byzantine history. at our entrance into this period, the reign of Justinian, and the conquests of the Mahometans, will deserve and detain our attention, and the last age of Constantinople (the Crusades and the Turks) is connected with the revolutions of Modern Europe. From the seventh to the eleventh century, the obscure interval will be supplied by a concise narrative

of such facts as may still appear either interesting or important.

[Footnote 3: The first six volumes of the octavo edition.] Bentinck

Street, March 1, 1782.

Preface To The First Volume.

diligence and accuracy are the only merits which an historical writer

may ascribe to himself; if any merit, indeed, can be assumed from the

performance of an indispensable duty. I may therefore be allowed to say, that I have carefully examined all the original materials that could

illustrate the subject which I had undertaken to treat. Should I ever complete the extensive design which has been sketched out in the

Preface, I might perhaps conclude it with a critical account of the authors consulted during the progress of the whole work; and however

such an attempt might incur the censure of ostentation, I am persuaded that it would be susceptible of entertainment, as well as information.

at present I shall content myself with a single observation.

the biographers, who, under the reigns of Diocletian and Constantine, composed, or rather compiled, the lives of the Emperors, from Hadrian to the sons of Carus, are usually mentioned under the names of Aelius

Spartianus, Julius Capitolinus, Aelius Lampridius, Vulcatius Gallicanus, trebellius Pollio and Flavius Vopiscus. But there is so much perplexity

in the titles of the MSS., and so many disputes have arisen among the critics (see Fabricius, Biblioth. Latin. l. iii. c. 6) concerning their

number, their names, and their respective property, that for the most

part I have quoted them without distinction, under the general and well-known title of the Augustan History.

Preface To The Fourth Volume Of The Original Quarto Edition.

I now discharge my promise, and complete my design, of writing the

History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, both in the West and the East. The whole period extends from the age of Trajan and the antonines, to the taking of Constantinople by Mahomet the Second; and

includes a review of the Crusades, and the state of Rome during the

middle ages. Since the publication of the first volume, twelve years

have elapsed; twelve years, according to my wish, "of health, of

leisure, and of perseverance." I may now congratulate my deliverance from a long and laborious service, and my satisfaction will be pure and

perfect, if the public favor should be extended to the conclusion of my work.

It was my first intention to have collected, under one view, the

numerous authors, of every age and language, from whom I have derived the materials of this history; and I am still convinced that the apparent ostentation would be more than compensated by real use. If I

have renounced this idea, if I have declined an undertaking which had

obtained the approbation of a master-artist, [4] my excuse may be found

in the extreme difficulty of assigning a proper measure to such a catalogue. A naked list of names and editions would not be satisfactory either to myself or my readers: the characters of the principal Authors

of the Roman and Byzantine History have been occasionally connected with the events which they describe; a more copious and critical inquiry

might indeed deserve, but it would demand, an elaborate volume, which

might swell by degrees into a general library of historical writers. for the present, I shall content myself with renewing my serious

protestation, that I have always endeavored to draw from the fountain-head; that my curiosity, as well as a sense of duty, has always

urged me to study the originals; and that, if they have sometimes eluded

my search, I have carefully marked the secondary evidence, on whose faith a passage or a fact were reduced to depend.

[Footnote 4: See Dr. Robertson's Preface to his History of America.]

I shall soon revisit the banks of the Lake of Lausanne, a country which

I have known and loved from my early youth. Under a mild government, amidst a beauteous landscape, in a life of leisure and independence, and among a people of easy and elegant manners, I have enjoyed, and may again hope to enjoy, the varied pleasures of retirement and society. but I shall ever glory in the name and character of an Englishman: I am

proud of my birth in a free and enlightened country; and the approbation

of that country is the best and most honorable reward of my labors. Were

I ambitious of any other Patron than the Public, I would inscribe this work to a Statesman, who, in a long, a stormy, and at length an

unfortunate administration, had many political opponents, almost without a personal enemy; who has retained, in his fall from power,

many faithful and disinterested friends; and who, under the pressure of

severe infirmity, enjoys the lively vigor of his mind, and the felicity

of his incomparable temper. Lord North will permit me to express the feelings of friendship in the language of truth: but even truth and friendship should be silent, if he still dispensed the favors of the crown.

In a remote solitude, vanity may still whisper in my ear, that my

readers, perhaps, may inquire whether, in the conclusion of the present work, I am now taking an everlasting farewell. They shall hear all that

I know myself, and all that I could reveal to the most intimate friend. the motives of action or silence are now equally balanced; nor can I

pronounce, in my most secret thoughts, on which side the scale will

preponderate. I cannot dissemble that six quartos must have tried, and may have exhausted, the indulgence of the Public; that, in the

repetition of similar attempts, a successful Author has much more to

lose than he can hope to gain; that I am now descending into the vale

of years; and that the most respectable of my countrymen, the men whom

I aspire to imitate, have resigned the pen of history about the same

period of their lives. Yet I consider that the annals of ancient and

modern times may afford many rich and interesting subjects; that I am

still possessed of health and leisure; that by the practice of writing,

some skill and facility must be acquired; and that, in the ardent

pursuit of truth and knowledge, I am not conscious of decay. To an active mind, indolence is more painful than labor; and the first months

of my liberty will be occupied and amused in the excursions of curiosity and taste. By such temptations, I have been sometimes seduced from the

rigid duty even of a pleasing and voluntary task: but my time will now be my own; and in the use or abuse of independence, I shall no longer fear my own reproaches or those of my friends. I am fairly entitled to a

year of jubilee: next summer and the following winter will rapidly pass away; and experience only can determine whether I shall still prefer the freedom and variety of study to the design and composition of a regular work, which animates, while it confines, the daily application of the author.

caprice and accident may influence my choice; but the dexterity of

self-love will contrive to applaud either active industry or philosophic

repose.

downing Street, May 1, 1788.

P. S. I shall embrace this opportunity of introducing two verbal

remarks, which have not conveniently offered themselves to my notice.

1. As often as I use the definitions of beyond the Alps, the Rhine, the Danube, &c., I generally suppose myself at Rome, and afterwards at constantinople; without observing whether this relative geography may agree with the local, but variable, situation of the reader, or the

historian. 2. In proper names of foreign, and especially of Oriental

origin, it should be always our aim to express, in our English version, a faithful copy of the original. But this rule, which is founded on a just regard to uniformity and truth, must often be relaxed; and the exceptions will be limited or enlarged by the custom of the language and the taste of the interpreter. Our alphabets may be often defective; a

harsh sound, an uncouth spelling, might offend the ear or the eye of our countrymen; and some words, notoriously corrupt, are fixed, and, as

it were, naturalized in the vulgar tongue. The prophet Mohammed can

no longer be stripped of the famous, though improper, appellation of

Mahomet: the well-known cities of Aleppo, Damascus, and Cairo, would almost be lost in the strange descriptions of Haleb, Demashk, and Al cahira: the titles and offices of the Ottoman empire are fashioned by the practice of three hundred years; and we are pleased to blend the three Chinese monosyllables, Con-fu-tzee, in the respectable name of confucius, or even to adopt the Portuguese corruption of Mandarin. But

I would vary the use of Zoroaster and Zerdusht, as I drew my information from Greece or Persia: since our connection with India, the genuine timour is restored to the throne of Tamerlane: our most correct writers

have retrenched the Al, the superfluous article, from the Koran; and we escape an ambiguous termination, by adopting Moslem instead of Musulman,

in the plural number. In these, and in a thousand examples, the shades

of distinction are often minute; and I can feel, where I cannot explain, the motives of my choice.

chapter I: The Extent Of The Empire In The Age Of The Antonines--Part I.

Introduction.

The Extent And Military Force Of The Empire In The Age Of

The Antonines.

In the second century of the Christian Aera, the empire of Rome comprehended the fairest part of the earth, and the most civilized

portion of mankind. The frontiers of that extensive monarchy were

guarded by ancient renown and disciplined valor. The gentle but powerful

influence of laws and manners had gradually cemented the union of the

provinces. Their peaceful inhabitants enjoyed and abused the advantages

of wealth and luxury. The image of a free constitution was preserved with decent reverence: the Roman senate appeared to possess the

sovereign authority, and devolved on the emperors all the executive

powers of government. During a happy period of more than fourscore

years, the public administration was conducted by the virtue and abilities of Nerva, Trajan, Hadrian, and the two Antonines. It is the design of this, and of the two succeeding chapters, to describe the

prosperous condition of their empire; and after wards, from the death

of Marcus Antoninus, to deduce the most important circumstances of its decline and fall; a revolution which will ever be remembered, and is

still felt by the nations of the earth.

the principal conquests of the Romans were achieved under the republic; and the emperors, for the most part, were satisfied with preserving those dominions which had been acquired by the policy of the senate, the active emulations of the consuls, and the martial enthusiasm of the

people. The seven first centuries were filled with a rapid succession of triumphs; but it was reserved for Augustus to relinquish the ambitious design of subduing the whole earth, and to introduce a spirit of

moderation into the public councils. Inclined to peace by his temper and situation, it was easy for him to discover that Rome, in her present exalted situation, had much less to hope than to fear from the chance

of arms; and that, in the prosecution of remote wars, the undertaking became every day more difficult, the event more doubtful, and the

possession more precarious, and less beneficial. The experience of augustus added weight to these salutary reflections, and effectually convinced him that, by the prudent vigor of his counsels, it would be easy to secure every concession which the safety or the dignity of Rome

might require from the most formidable barbarians. Instead of exposing

his person and his legions to the arrows of the Parthians, he obtained, by an honorable treaty, the restitution of the standards and prisoners which had been taken in the defeat of Crassus. [1]

[Footnote 1: Dion Cassius, (l. liv. p. 736,) with the annotations

of Reimar, who has collected all that Roman vanity has left upon the

subject. The marble of Ancyra, on which Augustus recorded his own exploits, asserted that he compelled the Parthians to restore the ensigns of Crassus.]

His generals, in the early part of his reign, attempted the reduction

of Ethiopia and Arabia Felix. They marched near a thousand miles to the south of the tropic; but the heat of the climate soon repelled the

invaders, and protected the un-warlike natives of those sequestered

regions. [2] The northern countries of Europe scarcely deserved the expense and labor of conquest. The forests and morasses of Germany were filled with a hardy race of barbarians, who despised life when it was

separated from freedom; and though, on the first attack, they seemed to

yield to the weight of the Roman power, they soon, by a signal act

of despair, regained their independence, and reminded Augustus of the

vicissitude of fortune. [3] On the death of that emperor, his testament was publicly read in the senate. He bequeathed, as a valuable legacy to

his successors, the advice of confining the empire within those limits which nature seemed to have placed as its permanent bulwarks and boundaries: on the west, the Atlantic Ocean; the Rhine and Danube on the north; the Euphrates on the east; and towards the south, the sandy deserts of Arabia and Africa. [4]

[Footnote 2: Strabo, (l. xvi. p. 780,) Pliny the elder, (Hist. Natur. l.

vi. c. 32, 35, [28, 29,]) and Dion Cassius, (l. liii. p. 723, and l. liv.

p. 734,) have left us very curious details concerning these wars. The

Romans made themselves masters of Mariaba, or Merab, a city of Arabia felix, well known to the Orientals. (See Abulfeda and the Nubian

geography, p. 52) They were arrived within three days' journey of the

spice country, the rich object of their invasion.

Note: It is the city of Merab that the Arabs say was the residence of belkis, queen of Saba, who desired to see Solomon. A dam, by which the waters collected in its neighborhood were kept back, having been swept away, the sudden inundation destroyed this city, of which, nevertheless,

vestiges remain. It bordered on a country called Adramout, where a

particular aromatic plant grows: it is for this reason that we real in the history of the Roman expedition, that they were arrived within three days' journey of the spice country.--G. Compare Malte-Brun, Geogr. Eng. trans. vol. ii. p. 215. The period of this flood has been copiously discussed by Reiske, (Program. de vetusta Epocha Arabum, ruptura cataractae Merabensis.) Add. Johannsen, Hist. Yemanae, p. 282. Bonn,

1828; and see Gibbon, note 16. to Chap. L.--M.

Note: Two, according to Strabo. The detailed account of Strabo makes the invaders fail before Marsuabae: this cannot be the same place as

Mariaba. Ukert observes, that Aelius Gallus would not have failed for want of water before Mariaba. (See M. Guizot's note above.) "Either, therefore, they were different places, or Strabo is mistaken." (Ukert,

Geographic der Griechen und Romer, vol. i. p. 181.) Strabo, indeed,

mentions Mariaba distinct from Marsuabae. Gibbon has followed Pliny in

reckoning Mariaba among the conquests of Gallus. There can be little doubt that he is wrong, as Gallus did not approach the capital of

Sabaea. Compare the note of the Oxford editor of Strabo.--M.]

[Footnote 3: By the slaughter of Varus and his three legions. See the first book of the Annals of Tacitus. Sueton. in August. c. 23, and Velleius

Paterculus, l. ii. c. 117, &c. Augustus did not receive the melancholy

news with all the temper and firmness that might have been expected from

his character.]

[Footnote 4: Tacit. Annal. l. ii. Dion Cassius, l. lvi. p. 833, and the

speech of Augustus himself, in Julian's Caesars. It receives great light from the learned notes of his French translator, M. Spanheim.]

Happily for the repose of mankind, the moderate system recommended by the wisdom of Augustus, was adopted by the fears and vices of his

immediate successors. Engaged in the pursuit of pleasure, or in the exercise of tyranny, the first Caesars seldom showed themselves to the armies, or to the provinces; nor were they disposed to suffer, that those triumphs which their indolence neglected, should be usurped by the conduct and valor of their lieutenants. The military fame of a subject was considered as an insolent invasion of the Imperial prerogative; and it became the duty, as well as interest, of every Roman general, to

guard the frontiers intrusted to his care, without aspiring to conquests which might have proved no less fatal to himself than to the vanquished barbarians. [5]

[Footnote 5: Germanicus, Suetonius Paulinus, and Agricola were checked and recalled in the course of their victories. Corbulo was put to death.

Military merit, as it is admirably expressed by Tacitus, was, in the

strictest sense of the word, imperatoria virtus.]

the only accession which the Roman empire received, during the first century of the Christian Aera, was the province of Britain. In this

single instance, the successors of Caesar and Augustus were persuaded to follow the example of the former, rather than the precept of the latter. the proximity of its situation to the coast of Gaul seemed to invite their arms; the pleasing though doubtful intelligence of a pearl fishery, attracted their avarice; [6] and as Britain was viewed in the

light of a distinct and insulated world, the conquest scarcely formed any exception to the general system of continental measures. After a war

of about forty years, undertaken by the most stupid, [7] maintained by the most dissolute, and terminated by the most timid of all the emperors, the far greater part of the island submitted to the Roman

yoke. [8] The various tribes of Britain possessed valor without conduct, and the love of freedom without the spirit of union. They took up arms with savage fierceness; they laid them down, or turned them against each

other, with wild inconsistency; and while they fought singly, they were successively subdued. Neither the fortitude of Caractacus, nor the despair of Boadicea, nor the fanaticism of the Druids, could avert the

slavery of their country, or resist the steady progress of the Imperial

generals, who maintained the national glory, when the throne was disgraced by the weakest, or the most vicious of mankind. At the very time when Domitian, confined to his palace, felt the terrors which

he inspired, his legions, under the command of the virtuous Agricola, defeated the collected force of the Caledonians, at the foot of the

Grampian Hills; and his fleets, venturing to explore an unknown and dangerous navigation, displayed the Roman arms round every part of the

island. The conquest of Britain was considered as already achieved; and

it was the design of Agricola to complete and insure his success, by the easy reduction of Ireland, for which, in his opinion, one legion and a few auxiliaries were sufficient. [9] The western isle might be improved

into a valuable possession, and the Britons would wear their chains with the less reluctance, if the prospect and example of freedom were on every side removed from before their eyes.

[Footnote 6: Caesar himself conceals that ignoble motive; but it is

mentioned by Suetonius, c. 47. The British pearls proved, however,

of little value, on account of their dark and livid color. Tacitus

observes, with reason, (in Agricola, c. 12,) that it was an inherent defect. "Ego facilius crediderim, naturam margaritis deesse quam nobis avaritiam."]

[Footnote 7: Claudius, Nero, and Domitian. A hope is expressed by

Pomponius Mela, l. iii. c. 6, (he wrote under Claudius,) that, by the

success of the Roman arms, the island and its savage inhabitants would

soon be better known. It is amusing enough to peruse such passages in the midst of London.]

[Footnote 8: See the admirable abridgment given by Tacitus, in the life of Agricola, and copiously, though perhaps not completely, illustrated by our own antiquarians, Camden and Horsley.]

[Footnote 9: The Irish writers, jealous of their national honor, are extremely provoked on this occasion, both with Tacitus and with agricola.]

but the superior merit of Agricola soon occasioned his removal from the

government of Britain; and forever disappointed this rational, though extensive scheme of conquest. Before his departure, the prudent general

had provided for security as well as for dominion. He had observed, that the island is almost divided into two unequal parts by the opposite

gulfs, or, as they are now called, the Friths of Scotland. Across the

narrow interval of about forty miles, he had drawn a line of military

stations, which was afterwards fortified, in the reign of Antoninus

Pius, by a turf rampart, erected on foundations of stone. [10] This wall

of Antoninus, at a small distance beyond the modern cities of Edinburgh and Glasgow, was fixed as the limit of the Roman province. The native caledonians preserved, in the northern extremity of the island, their wild independence, for which they were not less indebted to their

poverty than to their valor. Their incursions were frequently repelled and chastised; but their country was never subdued. [11] The masters of the fairest and most wealthy climates of the globe turned with contempt from gloomy hills, assailed by the winter tempest, from lakes concealed

in a blue mist, and from cold and lonely heaths, over which the deer of the forest were chased by a troop of naked barbarians. [12]

[Footnote 10: See Horsley's Britannia Romana, l. i. c. 10. Note: agricola fortified the line from Dumbarton to Edinburgh, consequently within Scotland. The emperor Hadrian, during his residence in Britain, about the year 121, caused a rampart of earth to be raised between

Newcastle and Carlisle. Antoninus Pius, having gained new victories over the Caledonians, by the ability of his general, Lollius, Urbicus, caused a new rampart of earth to be constructed between Edinburgh and dumbarton. Lastly, Septimius Severus caused a wall of stone to be built

parallel to the rampart of Hadrian, and on the same locality. See John warburton's Vallum Romanum, or the History and Antiquities of the Roman wall. London, 1754, 4to.--W. See likewise a good note on the Roman wall

in Lingard's History of England, vol. i. p. 40, 4to edit--M.]

[Footnote 11: The poet Buchanan celebrates with elegance and spirit (see

his Sylvae, v.) the unviolated independence of his native country. But,

if the single testimony of Richard of Cirencester was sufficient to create a Roman province of Vespasiana to the north of the wall, that

independence would be reduced within very narrow limits.]

[Footnote 12: See Appian (in Prooem.) and the uniform imagery of

Ossian's Poems, which, according to every hypothesis, were composed by a

native Caledonian.]

Such was the state of the Roman frontiers, and such the maxims of

Imperial policy, from the death of Augustus to the accession of Trajan. that virtuous and active prince had received the education of a soldier, and possessed the talents of a general. [13] The peaceful system of his

predecessors was interrupted by scenes of war and conquest; and the

legions, after a long interval, beheld a military emperor at their head. the first exploits of Trajan were against the Dacians, the most warlike

of men, who dwelt beyond the Danube, and who, during the reign of domitian, had insulted, with impunity, the Majesty of Rome. [14] To the

strength and fierceness of barbarians they added a contempt for

life, which was derived from a warm persuasion of the immortality and transmigration of the soul. [15] Decebalus, the Dacian king, approved

himself a rival not unworthy of Trajan; nor did he despair of his own and the public fortune, till, by the confession of his enemies, he had exhausted every resource both of valor and policy. [16] This memorable war, with a very short suspension of hostilities, lasted five years; and as the emperor could exert, without control, the whole force of the

state, it was terminated by an absolute submission of the barbarians.

[17] The new province of Dacia, which formed a second exception to the

precept of Augustus, was about thirteen hundred miles in circumference.

Its natural boundaries were the Niester, the Teyss or Tibiscus, the

Lower Danube, and the Euxine Sea. The vestiges of a military road may

still be traced from the banks of the Danube to the neighborhood of bender, a place famous in modern history, and the actual frontier of the turkish and Russian empires. [18]

[Footnote 13: See Pliny's Panegyric, which seems founded on facts.]

[Footnote 14: Dion Cassius, l. lxvii.]

[Footnote 15: Herodotus, l. iv. c. 94. Julian in the Caesars, with

Spanheims observations.]

[Footnote 16: Plin. Epist. viii. 9.]

[Footnote 17: Dion Cassius, l. lxviii. p. 1123, 1131. Julian in caesaribus Eutropius, viii. 2, 6. Aurelius Victor in Epitome.]

[Footnote 18: See a Memoir of M. d'Anville, on the Province of Dacia, in the Academie des Inscriptions, tom. xxviii. p. 444--468.]

trajan was ambitious of fame; and as long as mankind shall continue to bestow more liberal applause on their destroyers than on their benefactors, the thirst of military glory will ever be the vice of the

most exalted characters. The praises of Alexander, transmitted by a

succession of poets and historians, had kindled a dangerous emulation in the mind of Trajan. Like him, the Roman emperor undertook an expedition against the nations of the East; but he lamented with a sigh, that his advanced age scarcely left him any hopes of equalling the renown of the

son of Philip. [19] Yet the success of Trajan, however transient, was

rapid and specious. The degenerate Parthians, broken by intestine discord, fled before his arms. He descended the River Tigris in triumph, from the mountains of Armenia to the Persian Gulf. He enjoyed the honor

of being the first, as he was the last, of the Roman generals, who ever

navigated that remote sea. His fleets ravaged the coast of Arabia; and trajan vainly flattered himself that he was approaching towards the confines of India. [20] Every day the astonished senate received the

intelligence of new names and new nations, that acknowledged his

sway. They were informed that the kings of Bosphorus, Colchos, Iberia, albania, Osrhoene, and even the Parthian monarch himself, had accepted their diadems from the hands of the emperor; that the independent tribes

of the Median and Carduchian hills had implored his protection; and that the rich countries of Armenia, Mesopotamia, and Assyria, were reduced

into the state of provinces. [21] But the death of Trajan soon clouded the splendid prospect; and it was justly to be dreaded, that so many distant nations would throw off the unaccustomed yoke, when they were no

longer restrained by the powerful hand which had imposed it.

[Footnote 19: Trajan's sentiments are represented in a very just and

lively manner in the Caesars of Julian.]

[Footnote 20: Eutropius and Sextus Rufus have endeavored to perpetuate the illusion. See a very sensible dissertation of M. Freret in the academie des Inscriptions, tom. xxi. p. 55.]

[Footnote 21: Dion Cassius, l. lxviii.; and the Abbreviators.]

chapter I: The Extent Of The Empire In The Age Of The Antonines.--Part II.

It was an ancient tradition, that when the Capitol was founded by one of the Roman kings, the god Terminus (who presided over boundaries, and was represented, according to the fashion of that age, by a large stone) alone, among all the inferior deities, refused to yield his place to

Jupiter himself. A favorable inference was drawn from his obstinacy, which was interpreted by the augurs as a sure presage that the boundaries of the Roman power would never recede. [22] During many ages, the prediction, as it is usual, contributed to its own accomplishment. but though Terminus had resisted the Majesty of Jupiter, he submitted to the authority of the emperor Hadrian. [23] The resignation of all the eastern conquests of Trajan was the first measure of his reign.

He restored to the Parthians the election of an independent sovereign; withdrew the Roman garrisons from the provinces of Armenia, Mesopotamia, and Assyria; and, in compliance with the precept of Augustus, once more established the Euphrates as the frontier of the empire. [24] Censure, which arraigns the public actions and the private motives of princes,

has ascribed to envy, a conduct which might be attributed to the

prudence and moderation of Hadrian. The various character of that emperor, capable, by turns, of the meanest and the most generous

sentiments, may afford some color to the suspicion. It was, however,

scarcely in his power to place the superiority of his predecessor in a

more conspicuous light, than by thus confessing himself unequal to the task of defending the conquests of Trajan.

[Footnote 22: Ovid. Fast. l. ii. ver. 667. See Livy, and Dionysius of

Halicarnassus, under the reign of Tarquin.]

[Footnote 23: St. Augustin is highly delighted with the proof of the weakness of Terminus, and the vanity of the Augurs. See De Civitate Dei,

iv. 29. \* Note: The turn of Gibbon's sentence is Augustin's: "Plus

Hadrianum regem hominum, quam regem Deorum timuisse videatur."--M]

[Footnote 24: See the Augustan History, p. 5, Jerome's Chronicle, and all the Epitomizers. It is somewhat surprising, that this memorable event should be omitted by Dion, or rather by Xiphilin.]

the martial and ambitious of spirit Trajan formed a very singular contrast with the moderation of his successor. The restless activity of

Hadrian was not less remarkable when compared with the gentle repose of antoninus Pius. The life of the former was almost a perpetual journey; and as he possessed the various talents of the soldier, the statesman, and the scholar, he gratified his curiosity in the discharge of his duty.

careless of the difference of seasons and of climates, he marched on foot, and bare-headed, over the snows of Caledonia, and the sultry

plains of the Upper Egypt; nor was there a province of the empire which,

in the course of his reign, was not honored with the presence of the

monarch. [25] But the tranquil life of Antoninus Pius was spent in the bosom of Italy, and, during the twenty-three years that he directed the public administration, the longest journeys of that amiable prince extended no farther than from his palace in Rome to the retirement of

his Lanuvian villa. [26]

[Footnote 25: Dion, l. lxix. p. 1158. Hist. August. p. 5, 8. If all our

historians were lost, medals, inscriptions, and other monuments, would be sufficient to record the travels of Hadrian. Note: The journeys of

Hadrian are traced in a note on Solvet's translation of Hegewisch, Essai

sur l'Epoque de Histoire Romaine la plus heureuse pour Genre Humain

Paris, 1834, p. 123.--M.]

[Footnote 26: See the Augustan History and the Epitomes.]

Notwithstanding this difference in their personal conduct, the general

system of Augustus was equally adopted and uniformly pursued by Hadrian and by the two Antonines. They persisted in the design of maintaining the dignity of the empire, without attempting to enlarge its limits. By every honorable expedient they invited the friendship of the barbarians; and endeavored to convince mankind that the Roman power, raised above the temptation of conquest, was actuated only by the love of order and justice. During a long period of forty-three years, their virtuous

labors were crowned with success; and if we except a few slight

hostilities, that served to exercise the legions of the frontier, the reigns of Hadrian and Antoninus Pius offer the fair prospect of

universal peace. [27] The Roman name was revered among the most remote

nations of the earth. The fiercest barbarians frequently submitted their differences to the arbitration of the emperor; and we are informed by a contemporary historian that he had seen ambassadors who were refused the honor which they came to solicit of being admitted into the rank of

subjects. [28]

[Footnote 27: We must, however, remember, that in the time

of Hadrian, a rebellion of the Jews raged with religious fury, though

only in a single province. Pausanias (l. viii. c. 43) mentions two

necessary and successful wars, conducted by the generals of Pius: 1st. against the wandering Moors, who were driven into the solitudes of atlas. 2d. Against the Brigantes of Britain, who had invaded the Roman

province. Both these wars (with several other hostilities) are mentioned

in the Augustan History, p. 19.]

[Footnote 28: Appian of Alexandria, in the preface to his History of the

Roman Wars.]

PART II.

the terror of the Roman arms added weight and dignity to the moderation

of the emperors. They preserved peace by a constant preparation for war; and while justice regulated their conduct, they announced to the nations

on their confines, that they were as little disposed to endure, as to

offer an injury. The military strength, which it had been sufficient for Hadrian and the elder Antoninus to display, was exerted against the

Parthians and the Germans by the emperor Marcus. The hostilities of the barbarians provoked the resentment of that philosophic monarch, and, in the prosecution of a just defence, Marcus and his generals obtained

many signal victories, both on the Euphrates and on the Danube. [29] The

military establishment of the Roman empire, which thus assured either

its tranquillity or success, will now become the proper and important

object of our attention.

[Footnote 29: Dion, l. lxxi. Hist. August. in Marco. The Parthian

victories gave birth to a crowd of contemptible historians, whose memory

has been rescued from oblivion and exposed to ridicule, in a very lively

piece of criticism of Lucian.]

In the purer ages of the commonwealth, the use of arms was reserved for those ranks of citizens who had a country to love, a property to defend, and some share in enacting those laws, which it was their interest as well as duty to maintain. But in proportion as the public freedom was

lost in extent of conquest, war was gradually improved into an art, and degraded into a trade. [30] The legions themselves, even at the time when they were recruited in the most distant provinces, were supposed to consist of Roman citizens. That distinction was generally considered, either as a legal qualification or as a proper recompense for the

soldier; but a more serious regard was paid to the essential merit

of age, strength, and military stature. [31] In all levies, a just

preference was given to the climates of the North over those of the

South: the race of men born to the exercise of arms was sought for in the country rather than in cities; and it was very reasonably presumed, that the hardy occupations of smiths, carpenters, and huntsmen, would

supply more vigor and resolution than the sedentary trades which are employed in the service of luxury. [32] After every qualification of

property had been laid aside, the armies of the Roman emperors were

still commanded, for the most part, by officers of liberal birth and education; but the common soldiers, like the mercenary troops of modern europe, were drawn from the meanest, and very frequently from the most

profligate, of mankind.

[Footnote 30: The poorest rank of soldiers possessed above forty pounds

sterling, (Dionys. Halicarn. iv. 17,) a very high qualification at a time when money was so scarce, that an ounce of silver was equivalent to seventy pounds weight of brass. The populace, excluded by the ancient constitution, were indiscriminately admitted by Marius. See Sallust. de bell. Jugurth. c. 91. \* Note: On the uncertainty of all these estimates, and the difficulty of fixing the relative value of brass and silver, compare Niebuhr, vol. i. p. 473, &c. Eng. trans. p. 452. According to

Niebuhr, the relative disproportion in value, between the two metals, arose, in a great degree from the abundance of brass or copper.--M. compare also Dureau 'de la Malle Economie Politique des Romains especially L. l. c. ix.--M. 1845.]

[Footnote 31: Caesar formed his legion Alauda of Gauls and strangers; but it was during the license of civil war; and after the victory, he

gave them the freedom of the city for their reward.]

[Footnote 32: See Vegetius, de Re Militari, l. i. c. 2--7.]

that public virtue, which among the ancients was denominated patriotism,

is derived from a strong sense of our own interest in the preservation and prosperity of the free government of which we are members. Such a sentiment, which had rendered the legions of the republic almost

invincible, could make but a very feeble impression on the mercenary

servants of a despotic prince; and it became necessary to supply that defect by other motives, of a different, but not less forcible

nature--honor and religion. The peasant, or mechanic, imbibed the useful

prejudice that he was advanced to the more dignified profession of arms,

in which his rank and reputation would depend on his own valor; and that, although the prowess of a private soldier must often escape the notice of fame, his own behavior might sometimes confer glory or disgrace on the company, the legion, or even the army, to whose honors

he was associated. On his first entrance into the service, an oath was administered to him with every circumstance of solemnity. He promised

never to desert his standard, to submit his own will to the commands of

his leaders, and to sacrifice his life for the safety of the emperor and the empire. [33] The attachment of the Roman troops to their standards was inspired by the united influence of religion and of honor. The

golden eagle, which glittered in the front of the legion, was the object

of their fondest devotion; nor was it esteemed less impious than it was

ignominious, to abandon that sacred ensign in the hour of danger. [34] these motives, which derived their strength from the imagination, were enforced by fears and hopes of a more substantial kind. Regular pay,

occasional donatives, and a stated recompense, after the appointed time

of service, alleviated the hardships of the military life, [35] whilst,

on the other hand, it was impossible for cowardice or disobedience to escape the severest punishment. The centurions were authorized to chastise with blows, the generals had a right to punish with death; and it was an inflexible maxim of Roman discipline, that a good soldier

should dread his officers far more than the enemy. From such laudable arts did the valor of the Imperial troops receive a degree of firmness and docility unattainable by the impetuous and irregular passions of barbarians.

[Footnote 33: The oath of service and fidelity to the emperor was annually renewed by the troops on the first of January.]

[Footnote 34: Tacitus calls the Roman eagles, Bellorum Deos. They were

placed in a chapel in the camp, and with the other deities received the

religious worship of the troops. \* Note: See also Dio. Cass. xl. c. 18.

--M.]

[Footnote 35: See Gronovius de Pecunia vetere, l. iii. p. 120, &c. The emperor Domitian raised the annual stipend of the legionaries to twelve

pieces of gold, which, in his time, was equivalent to about ten of

our guineas. This pay, somewhat higher than our own, had been, and was afterwards, gradually increased, according to the progress of wealth and

military government. After twenty years' service, the veteran received three thousand denarii, (about one hundred pounds sterling,) or a

proportionable allowance of land. The pay and advantages of the guards were, in general, about double those of the legions.]

and yet so sensible were the Romans of the imperfection of valor without

skill and practice, that, in their language, the name of an army was borrowed from the word which signified exercise. [36] Military exercises were the important and unremitted object of their discipline. The

recruits and young soldiers were constantly trained, both in the morning and in the evening, nor was age or knowledge allowed to excuse the

veterans from the daily repetition of what they had completely learnt.

Large sheds were erected in the winter-quarters of the troops, that their useful labors might not receive any interruption from the most tempestuous weather; and it was carefully observed, that the arms destined to this imitation of war, should be of double the weight which was required in real action. [37] It is not the purpose of this work to enter into any minute description of the Roman exercises. We shall only

remark, that they comprehended whatever could add strength to the body, activity to the limbs, or grace to the motions. The soldiers were diligently instructed to march, to run, to leap, to swim, to carry heavy burdens, to handle every species of arms that was used either for

offence or for defence, either in distant engagement or in a closer

onset; to form a variety of evolutions; and to move to the sound of flutes in the Pyrrhic or martial dance. [38] In the midst of peace, the

Roman troops familiarized themselves with the practice of war; and it is

prettily remarked by an ancient historian who had fought against them, that the effusion of blood was the only circumstance which distinguished a field of battle from a field of exercise. [39] It was the policy of the ablest generals, and even of the emperors themselves, to encourage these military studies by their presence and example; and we are

informed that Hadrian, as well as Trajan, frequently condescended to

instruct the unexperienced soldiers, to reward the diligent, and

sometimes to dispute with them the prize of superior strength or dexterity. [40] Under the reigns of those princes, the science of tactics was cultivated with success; and as long as the empire retained any vigor, their military instructions were respected as the most

perfect model of Roman discipline.

[Footnote 36: Exercitus ab exercitando, Varro de Lingua Latina, l.

iv. Cicero in Tusculan. l. ii. 37. 15. There is room for a very

interesting work, which should lay open the connection between the

languages and manners of nations. \* Note I am not aware of the existence, at present, of such a work; but the profound observations of the late William von Humboldt, in the introduction to his posthumously

published Essay on the Language of the Island of Java, (uber die

Kawi-sprache, Berlin, 1836,) may cause regret that this task was not completed by that accomplished and universal scholar.--M.]

[Footnote 37: Vegatius, l. ii. and the rest of his first book.]

[Footnote 38: The Pyrrhic dance is extremely well illustrated by M.

le Beau, in the Academie des Inscriptions, tom. xxxv. p. 262, &c. That

learned academician, in a series of memoirs, has collected all the

passages of the ancients that relate to the Roman legion.]

[Footnote 39: Joseph. de Bell. Judaico, l. iii. c. 5. We are indebted to this Jew for some very curious details of Roman discipline.]

[Footnote 40: Plin. Panegyr. c. 13. Life of Hadrian, in the Augustan

History.]

Nine centuries of war had gradually introduced into the service many alterations and improvements. The legions, as they are described by

Polybius, [41] in the time of the Punic wars, differed very materially from those which achieved the victories of Caesar, or defended the

monarchy of Hadrian and the Antonines.

the constitution of the Imperial legion may be described in a few words.

[42] The heavy-armed infantry, which composed its principal strength, [43] was divided into ten cohorts, and fifty-five companies, under the orders

of a correspondent number of tribunes and centurions. The first cohort, which always claimed the post of honor and the custody of the eagle, was formed of eleven hundred and five soldiers, the most approved for valor and fidelity. The remaining nine cohorts consisted each of five hundred and fifty-five; and the whole body of legionary infantry amounted to six thousand one hundred men. Their arms were uniform, and admirably adapted to the nature of their service: an open helmet, with a lofty crest; a breastplate, or coat of mail; greaves on their legs, and an ample buckler on their left arm. The buckler was of an oblong and concave figure, four feet in length, and two and a half in breadth, framed of a

light wood, covered with a bull's hide, and strongly guarded with plates

of brass. Besides a lighter spear, the legionary soldier grasped in

his right hand the formidable pilum, a ponderous javelin, whose

utmost length was about six feet, and which was terminated by a massy triangular point of steel of eighteen inches. [44] This instrument was

indeed much inferior to our modern fire-arms; since it was exhausted by a single discharge, at the distance of only ten or twelve paces.

Yet when it was launched by a firm and skilful hand, there was not any cavalry that durst venture within its reach, nor any shield or corselet that could sustain the impetuosity of its weight. As soon as the Roman

had darted his pilum, he drew his sword, and rushed forwards to close with the enemy. His sword was a short well-tempered Spanish blade, that carried a double edge, and was alike suited to the purpose of striking

or of pushing; but the soldier was always instructed to prefer the

latter use of his weapon, as his own body remained less exposed, whilst

he inflicted a more dangerous wound on his adversary. [45] The legion was

usually drawn up eight deep; and the regular distance of three feet was left between the files as well as ranks. [46] A body of troops,

habituated to preserve this open order, in a long front and a rapid charge, found themselves prepared to execute every disposition which the circumstances of war, or the skill of their leader, might suggest. The

soldier possessed a free space for his arms and motions, and sufficient

intervals were allowed, through which seasonable reenforcements might be

introduced to the relief of the exhausted combatants. [47] The tactics of the Greeks and Macedonians were formed on very different principles. The

strength of the phalanx depended on sixteen ranks of long pikes, wedged together in the closest array. [48] But it was soon discovered by

reflection, as well as by the event, that the strength of the phalanx was unable to contend with the activity of the legion. [49

[Footnote 41: See an admirable digression on the Roman discipline, in the sixth book of his History.]

[Footnote 42: Vegetius de Re Militari, l. ii. c. 4, &c. Considerable

part of his very perplexed abridgment was taken from the regulations of trajan and Hadrian; and the legion, as he describes it, cannot suit any

other age of the Roman empire.]

[Footnote 43: Vegetius de Re Militari, l. ii. c. 1. In the purer age of caesar and Cicero, the word miles was almost confined to the infantry.

Under the lower empire, and the times of chivalry, it was appropriated almost as exclusively to the men at arms, who fought on horseback.]

[Footnote 44: In the time of Polybius and Dionysius of Halicarnassus,

(l. v. c. 45,) the steel point of the pilum seems to have been much

longer. In the time of Vegetius, it was reduced to a foot, or even nine

inches. I have chosen a medium.]

[Footnote 45: For the legionary arms, see Lipsius de Militia Romana, l.

iii. c. 2--7.]

[Footnote 46: See the beautiful comparison of Virgil, Georgic ii. v.

279.]

[Footnote 47: M. Guichard, Memoires Militaires, tom. i. c. 4, and

Nouveaux Memoires, tom. i. p. 293--311, has treated the subject like a

scholar and an officer.]

[Footnote 48: See Arrian's Tactics. With the true partiality of a Greek, arrian rather chose to describe the phalanx, of which he had read, than the legions which he had commanded.]

[Footnote 49: Polyb. l. xvii. (xviii. 9.)]

the cavalry, without which the force of the legion would have remained

imperfect, was divided into ten troops or squadrons; the first, as the companion of the first cohort, consisted of a hundred and thirty-two

men; whilst each of the other nine amounted only to sixty-six. The entire establishment formed a regiment, if we may use the modern expression, of seven hundred and twenty-six horse, naturally connected with its respective legion, but occasionally separated to act in the

line, and to compose a part of the wings of the army. [50] The cavalry of the emperors was no longer composed, like that of the ancient republic,

of the noblest youths of Rome and Italy, who, by performing their

military service on horseback, prepared themselves for the offices

of senator and consul; and solicited, by deeds of valor, the future

suffrages of their countrymen. [51] Since the alteration of manners and

government, the most wealthy of the equestrian order were engaged in the administration of justice, and of the revenue; [52] and whenever they embraced the profession of arms, they were immediately intrusted with a troop of horse, or a cohort of foot. [53] Trajan and Hadrian formed their cavalry from the same provinces, and the same class of their subjects, which recruited the ranks of the legion. The horses were bred, for the most part, in Spain or Cappadocia. The Roman troopers despised the complete armor with which the cavalry of the East was encumbered. Their

more useful arms consisted in a helmet, an oblong shield, light boots, and a coat of mail. A javelin, and a long broad sword, were their

principal weapons of offence. The use of lances and of iron maces they

seem to have borrowed from the barbarians. [54]

[Footnote 50: Veget. de Re Militari, l. ii. c. 6. His positive testimony, which might be supported by circumstantial evidence, ought

surely to silence those critics who refuse the Imperial legion its

proper body of cavalry. Note: See also Joseph. B. J. iii. vi. 2.--M.]

[Footnote 51: See Livy almost throughout, particularly xlii. 61.]

[Footnote 52: Plin. Hist. Natur. xxxiii. 2. The true sense of that very curious passage was first discovered and illustrated by M. de Beaufort,

Republique Romaine, l. ii. c. 2.]

[Footnote 53: As in the instance of Horace and Agricola. This appears to

have been a defect in the Roman discipline; which Hadrian endeavored to

remedy by ascertaining the legal age of a tribune. \* Note: These details are not altogether accurate. Although, in the latter days of the

republic, and under the first emperors, the young Roman nobles obtained the command of a squadron or a cohort with greater facility than in the former times, they never obtained it without passing through a tolerably

long military service. Usually they served first in the praetorian cohort, which was intrusted with the guard of the general: they were

received into the companionship (contubernium) of some superior officer, and were there formed for duty. Thus Julius Caesar, though sprung from a

great family, served first as contubernalis under the praetor, M. thermus, and later under Servilius the Isaurian. (Suet. Jul. 2, 5. Plut.

in Par. p. 516. Ed. Froben.) The example of Horace, which Gibbon adduces to prove that young knights were made tribunes immediately on entering the service, proves nothing. In the first place, Horace was not a

knight; he was the son of a freedman of Venusia, in Apulia, who exercised the humble office of coactor exauctionum, (collector of

payments at auctions.) (Sat. i. vi. 45, or 86.) Moreover, when the poet was made tribune, Brutus, whose army was nearly entirely composed of

Orientals, gave this title to all the Romans of consideration who joined

him. The emperors were still less difficult in their choice; the number

of tribunes was augmented; the title and honors were conferred on

persons whom they wished to attack to the court. Augustus conferred on the sons of senators, sometimes the tribunate, sometimes the command of a squadron. Claudius gave to the knights who entered into the service, first the command of a cohort of auxiliaries, later that of a squadron, and at length, for the first time, the tribunate. (Suet in Claud. with the notes of Ernesti.) The abuses that arose caused by the edict of

Hadrian, which fixed the age at which that honor could be attained.

(Spart. in Had. &c.) This edict was subsequently obeyed; for the emperor

Valerian, in a letter addressed to Mulvius Gallinnus, praetorian

praefect, excuses himself for having violated it in favor of the young

Probus afterwards emperor, on whom he had conferred the tribunate at an earlier age on account of his rare talents. (Vopisc. in Prob. iv.)--W. and G. Agricola, though already invested with the title of tribune, was contubernalis in Britain with Suetonius Paulinus. Tac. Agr. v.--M.]

[Footnote 54: See Arrian's Tactics.]

the safety and honor of the empire was principally intrusted to the

legions, but the policy of Rome condescended to adopt every useful

instrument of war. Considerable levies were regularly made among the

provincials, who had not yet deserved the honorable distinction of

Romans. Many dependent princes and communities, dispersed round the frontiers, were permitted, for a while, to hold their freedom and

security by the tenure of military service. [55] Even select troops of

hostile barbarians were frequently compelled or persuaded to consume their dangerous valor in remote climates, and for the benefit of the state. [56] All these were included under the general name of auxiliaries; and howsoever they might vary according to the difference

of times and circumstances, their numbers were seldom much inferior to those of the legions themselves. [57] Among the auxiliaries, the bravest and most faithful bands were placed under the command of praefects and centurions, and severely trained in the arts of Roman discipline; but the far greater part retained those arms, to which the nature of their country, or their early habits of life, more peculiarly adapted them. by this institution, each legion, to whom a certain proportion of auxiliaries was allotted, contained within itself every species of

lighter troops, and of missile weapons; and was capable of encountering every nation, with the advantages of its respective arms and discipline.

[58] Nor was the legion destitute of what, in modern language, would be

styled a train of artillery. It consisted in ten military engines of the

largest, and fifty-five of a smaller size; but all of which, either

in an oblique or horizontal manner, discharged stones and darts with

irresistible violence. [59]

[Footnote 55: Such, in particular, was the

state of the Batavians. Tacit. Germania, c. 29.]

[Footnote 56: Marcus Antoninus obliged the vanquished Quadi and

Marcomanni to supply him with a large body of troops, which he

immediately sent into Britain. Dion Cassius, l. lxxi. (c. 16.)]

[Footnote 57: Tacit. Annal. iv. 5. Those who fix a regular proportion of as many foot, and twice as many horse, confound the auxiliaries of the emperors with the Italian allies of the republic.]

[Footnote 58: Vegetius, ii. 2. Arrian, in his order of march and battle against the Alani.]

[Footnote 59: The subject of the ancient machines is treated with great

knowledge and ingenuity by the Chevalier Folard, (Polybe, tom. ii. p.

233-290.) He prefers them in many respects to our modern cannon and

mortars. We may observe, that the use of them in the field gradually became more prevalent, in proportion as personal valor and military

skill declined with the Roman empire. When men were no longer found, their place was supplied by machines. See Vegetius, ii. 25. Arrian.]

chapter I: The Extent Of The Empire In The Age Of The Antonines.--Part III.

the camp of a Roman legion presented the appearance of a fortified city.

[60] As soon as the space was marked out, the pioneers carefully levelled the ground, and removed every impediment that might interrupt its

perfect regularity. Its form was an exact quadrangle; and we may calculate, that a square of about seven hundred yards was sufficient for the encampment of twenty thousand Romans; though a similar number of our

own troops would expose to the enemy a front of more than treble that extent. In the midst of the camp, the praetorium, or general's quarters,

rose above the others; the cavalry, the infantry, and the auxiliaries

occupied their respective stations; the streets were broad and perfectly

straight, and a vacant space of two hundred feet was left on all sides between the tents and the rampart. The rampart itself was usually twelve feet high, armed with a line of strong and intricate palisades, and defended by a ditch of twelve feet in depth as well as in breadth. this important labor was performed by the hands of the legionaries themselves; to whom the use of the spade and the pickaxe was no less familiar than that of the sword or pilum. Active valor may often be the

present of nature; but such patient diligence can be the fruit only of

habit and discipline. [61]

[Footnote 60: Vegetius finishes his second book, and the description of the legion, with the following emphatic words:--"Universa quae ix

quoque belli genere necessaria esse creduntur, secum Jegio debet ubique

portare, ut in quovis loco fixerit castra, arma'am faciat civitatem."]

[Footnote 61: For the Roman Castrametation, see Polybius, l. vi. with

Lipsius de Militia Romana, Joseph. de Bell. Jud. l. iii. c. 5. Vegetius,

i. 21--25, iii. 9, and Memoires de Guichard, tom. i. c. 1.]

whenever the trumpet gave the signal of departure, the camp was almost

instantly broke up, and the troops fell into their ranks without delay or confusion. Besides their arms, which the legendaries scarcely considered as an encumbrance, they were laden with their kitchen furniture, the instruments of fortification, and the provision of many days. [62] Under this weight, which would oppress the delicacy of a

modern soldier, they were trained by a regular step to advance, in about

six hours, near twenty miles. [63] On the appearance of an enemy, they threw aside their baggage, and by easy and rapid evolutions converted the column of march into an order of battle. [64] The slingers and archers skirmished in the front; the auxiliaries formed the first line, and were seconded or sustained by the strength of the legions; the cavalry covered the flanks, and the military engines were placed in the

rear.

[Footnote 62: Cicero in Tusculan. ii. 37, [15.]--Joseph. de Bell. Jud.

l. iii. 5, Frontinus, iv. 1.]

[Footnote 63: Vegetius, i. 9. See Memoires de l'Academie des

Inscriptions, tom. xxv. p. 187.]

[Footnote 64: See those evolutions admirably well explained by M.

Guichard Nouveaux Memoires, tom. i. p. 141--234.]

Such were the arts of war, by which the Roman emperors defended their extensive conquests, and preserved a military spirit, at a time when every other virtue was oppressed by luxury and despotism. If, in the consideration of their armies, we pass from their discipline to their

numbers, we shall not find it easy to define them with any tolerable accuracy. We may compute, however, that the legion, which was itself a body of six thousand eight hundred and thirty-one Romans, might, with

its attendant auxiliaries, amount to about twelve thousand five hundred

men. The peace establishment of Hadrian and his successors was composed

of no less than thirty of these formidable brigades; and most probably formed a standing force of three hundred and seventy-five thousand men.

Instead of being confined within the walls of fortified cities, which the Romans considered as the refuge of weakness or pusillanimity, the

legions were encamped on the banks of the great rivers, and along the frontiers of the barbarians. As their stations, for the most

part, remained fixed and permanent, we may venture to describe the distribution of the troops. Three legions were sufficient for Britain. the principal strength lay upon the Rhine and Danube, and consisted of

sixteen legions, in the following proportions: two in the Lower, and three in the Upper Germany; one in Rhaetia, one in Noricum, four

in Pannonia, three in Maesia, and two in Dacia. The defence of the euphrates was intrusted to eight legions, six of whom were planted in

Syria, and the other two in Cappadocia. With regard to Egypt, Africa, and Spain, as they were far removed from any important scene of war, a single legion maintained the domestic tranquillity of each of those

great provinces. Even Italy was not left destitute of a military force. above twenty thousand chosen soldiers, distinguished by the titles

of City Cohorts and Praetorian Guards, watched over the safety of the

monarch and the capital. As the authors of almost every revolution that distracted the empire, the Praetorians will, very soon, and very loudly, demand our attention; but, in their arms and institutions, we cannot find any circumstance which discriminated them from the legions, unless

it were a more splendid appearance, and a less rigid discipline. [65]

[Footnote 65: Tacitus (Annal. iv. 5) has given us a state of the

legions under Tiberius; and Dion Cassius (l. lv. p. 794) under Alexander

Severus. I have endeavored to fix on the proper medium between these two

periods. See likewise Lipsius de Magnitudine Romana, l. i. c. 4, 5.]

the navy maintained by the emperors might seem inadequate to their

greatness; but it was fully sufficient for every useful purpose of

government. The ambition of the Romans was confined to the land; nor was that warlike people ever actuated by the enterprising spirit which had

prompted the navigators of Tyre, of Carthage, and even of Marseilles, to enlarge the bounds of the world, and to explore the most remote coasts

of the ocean. To the Romans the ocean remained an object of terror

rather than of curiosity; [66] the whole extent of the Mediterranean, after the destruction of Carthage, and the extirpation of the pirates, was included within their provinces. The policy of the emperors was directed only to preserve the peaceful dominion of that sea, and to

protect the commerce of their subjects. With these moderate views, augustus stationed two permanent fleets in the most convenient ports of

Italy, the one at Ravenna, on the Adriatic, the other at Misenum, in the Bay of Naples. Experience seems at length to have convinced the ancients, that as soon as their galleys exceeded two, or at the most three ranks of oars, they were suited rather for vain pomp than for

real service. Augustus himself, in the victory of Actium, had seen the

superiority of his own light frigates (they were called Liburnians) over the lofty but unwieldy castles of his rival. [67] Of these Liburnians he composed the two fleets of Ravenna and Misenum, destined to command, the

one the eastern, the other the western division of the Mediterranean; and to each of the squadrons he attached a body of several thousand

marines. Besides these two ports, which may be considered as the

principal seats of the Roman navy, a very considerable force was

stationed at Frejus, on the coast of Provence, and the Euxine was

guarded by forty ships, and three thousand soldiers. To all these we add the fleet which preserved the communication between Gaul and Britain, and a great number of vessels constantly maintained on the Rhine and danube, to harass the country, or to intercept the passage of the barbarians. [68] If we review this general state of the Imperial forces;

of the cavalry as well as infantry; of the legions, the auxiliaries, the

guards, and the navy; the most liberal computation will not allow us to fix the entire establishment by sea and by land at more than four

hundred and fifty thousand men: a military power, which, however formidable it may seem, was equalled by a monarch of the last century, whose kingdom was confined within a single province of the Roman empire.

[69]

[Footnote 66: The Romans tried to disguise, by the pretence of religious awe their ignorance and terror. See Tacit. Germania, c. 34.]

[Footnote 67: Plutarch, in Marc. Anton. [c. 67.] And yet, if we may credit Orosius, these monstrous castles were no more than ten feet above the water, vi. 19.]

[Footnote 68: See Lipsius, de Magnitud. Rom. l. i. c. 5. The sixteen

last chapters of Vegetius relate to naval affairs.]

[Footnote 69: Voltaire, Siecle de Louis XIV. c. 29. It must, however, be

remembered, that France still feels that extraordinary effort.]

we have attempted to explain the spirit which moderated, and the

strength which supported, the power of Hadrian and the Antonines. we shall now endeavor, with clearness and precision, to describe the

provinces once united under their sway, but, at present, divided into so

many independent and hostile states. Spain, the western extremity of the empire, of Europe, and of the ancient world, has, in every age,

invariably preserved the same natural limits; the Pyrenaean Mountains, the Mediterranean, and the Atlantic Ocean. That great peninsula, at

present so unequally divided between two sovereigns, was distributed by augustus into three provinces, Lusitania, Baetica, and Tarraconensis. the kingdom of Portugal now fills the place of the warlike country of the Lusitanians; and the loss sustained by the former on the side of the east, is compensated by an accession of territory towards the North. the confines of Grenada and Andalusia correspond with those of ancient baetica. The remainder of Spain, Gallicia, and the Asturias, Biscay, and

Navarre, Leon, and the two Castiles, Murcia, Valencia, Catalonia, and arragon, all contributed to form the third and most considerable of the

Roman governments, which, from the name of its capital, was styled the

province of Tarragona. [70] Of the native barbarians, the Celtiberians were the most powerful, as the Cantabrians and Asturians proved the most

obstinate. Confident in the strength of their mountains, they were the

last who submitted to the arms of Rome, and the first who threw off the

yoke of the Arabs.

[Footnote 70: See Strabo, l. ii. It is natural enough to suppose, that arragon is derived from Tarraconensis, and several moderns who have written in Latin use those words as synonymous. It is, however, certain, that the Arragon, a little stream which falls from the Pyrenees into the ebro, first gave its name to a country, and gradually to a kingdom. See d'Anville, Geographie du Moyen Age, p. 181.]

ancient Gaul, as it contained the whole country between the Pyrenees, the Alps, the Rhine, and the Ocean, was of greater extent than modern france. To the dominions of that powerful monarchy, with its recent acquisitions of Alsace and Lorraine, we must add the duchy of Savoy, the cantons of Switzerland, the four electorates of the Rhine, and the territories of Liege, Luxemburgh, Hainault, Flanders, and Brabant. when Augustus gave laws to the conquests of his father, he introduced a division of Gaul, equally adapted to the progress of the legions, to the course of the rivers, and to the principal national distinctions, which

had comprehended above a hundred independent states. [71] The sea-coast

of the Mediterranean, Languedoc, Provence, and Dauphine, received their

provincial appellation from the colony of Narbonne. The government

of Aquitaine was extended from the Pyrenees to the Loire. The country between the Loire and the Seine was styled the Celtic Gaul, and soon borrowed a new denomination from the celebrated colony of Lugdunum, or

Lyons. The Belgic lay beyond the Seine, and in more ancient times had been bounded only by the Rhine; but a little before the age of Caesar, the Germans, abusing their superiority of valor, had occupied a considerable portion of the Belgic territory. The Roman conquerors very eagerly embraced so flattering a circumstance, and the Gallic frontier

of the Rhine, from Basil to Leyden, received the pompous names of the

Upper and the Lower Germany. [72] Such, under the reign of the Antonines, were the six provinces of Gaul; the Narbonnese, Aquitaine, the Celtic,

or Lyonnese, the Belgic, and the two Germanies.

[Footnote 71: One hundred and fifteen cities appear in the Notitia of

Gaul; and it is well known that this appellation was applied not only to the capital town, but to the whole territory of each state. But Plutarch and Appian increase the number of tribes to three or four hundred.]

[Footnote 72: D'Anville. Notice de l'Ancienne Gaule.]

we have already had occasion to mention the conquest of Britain, and to fix the boundary of the Roman Province in this island. It comprehended all England, Wales, and the Lowlands of Scotland, as far as the Friths

of Dumbarton and Edinburgh. Before Britain lost her freedom, the country was irregularly divided between thirty tribes of barbarians, of whom the most considerable were the Belgae in the West, the Brigantes in the

North, the Silures in South Wales, and the Iceni in Norfolk and Suffolk.

[73] As far as we can either trace or credit the resemblance of manners and language, Spain, Gaul, and Britain were peopled by the same hardy

race of savages. Before they yielded to the Roman arms, they often disputed the field, and often renewed the contest. After their

submission, they constituted the western division of the European

provinces, which extended from the columns of Hercules to the wall of antoninus, and from the mouth of the Tagus to the sources of the Rhine and Danube.

[Footnote 73: Whittaker's History of Manchester, vol. i. c. 3.] Before the Roman conquest, the country which is now called Lombardy, was not considered as a part of Italy. It had been occupied by a powerful colony

of Gauls, who, settling themselves along the banks of the Po, from

Piedmont to Romagna, carried their arms and diffused their name from the alps to the Apennine.

the Ligurians dwelt on the rocky coast which now forms the republic of

Genoa. Venice was yet unborn; but the territories of that state, which

lie to the east of the Adige, were inhabited by the Venetians. [74] The

middle part of the peninsula, that now composes the duchy of Tuscany and the ecclesiastical state, was the ancient seat of the Etruscans and Umbrians; to the former of whom Italy was indebted for the first

rudiments of civilized life. [75] The Tyber rolled at the foot of the

seven hills of Rome, and the country of the Sabines, the Latins, and the

Volsci, from that river to the frontiers of Naples, was the theatre

of her infant victories. On that celebrated ground the first consuls deserved triumphs, their successors adorned villas, and their posterity

have erected convents. [76] Capua and Campania possessed the immediate territory of Naples; the rest of the kingdom was inhabited by many warlike nations, the Marsi, the Samnites, the Apulians, and the

Lucanians; and the sea-coasts had been covered by the flourishing colonies of the Greeks. We may remark, that when Augustus divided Italy

into eleven regions, the little province of Istria was annexed to that

seat of Roman sovereignty. [77]

[Footnote 74: The Italian Veneti, though often confounded with the

Gauls, were more probably of Illyrian origin. See M. Freret, Memoires de

l'Academie des Inscriptions, tom. xviii. \* Note: Or Liburnian, according to Niebuhr. Vol. i. p. 172.--M.]

[Footnote 75: See Maffei Verona illustrata, l. i. \* Note: Add Niebuhr,

vol. i., and Otfried Muller, die Etrusker, which contains much that is

known, and much that is conjectured, about this remarkable people. Also

Micali, Storia degli antichi popoli Italiani. Florence, 1832--M.]

[Footnote 76: The first contrast was observed by the ancients. See florus, i. 11. The second must strike every modern traveller.]

[Footnote 77: Pliny (Hist. Natur. l. iii.) follows the division of Italy by Augustus.]

the European provinces of Rome were protected by the course of the Rhine and the Danube. The latter of those mighty streams, which rises at the distance of only thirty miles from the former, flows above thirteen

hundred miles, for the most part to the south-east, collects the tribute

of sixty navigable rivers, and is, at length, through six mouths,

received into the Euxine, which appears scarcely equal to such an accession of waters. [78] The provinces of the Danube soon acquired the

general appellation of Illyricum, or the Illyrian frontier, [79] and were esteemed the most warlike of the empire; but they deserve to be more

particularly considered under the names of Rhaetia, Noricum, Pannonia, dalmatia, Dacia, Maesia, Thrace, Macedonia, and Greece.

[Footnote 78: Tournefort, Voyages en Grece et Asie Mineure, lettre

xviii.]

[Footnote 79: The name of Illyricum originally belonged to the sea-coast

of the Adriatic, and was gradually extended by the Romans from the Alps to the Euxine Sea. See Severini Pannonia, l. i. c. 3.]

the province of Rhaetia, which soon extinguished the name of the

Vindelicians, extended from the summit of the Alps to the banks of the Danube; from its source, as far as its conflux with the Inn. The

greatest part of the flat country is subject to the elector of Bavaria; the city of Augsburg is protected by the constitution of the German empire; the Grisons are safe in their mountains, and the country of tirol is ranked among the numerous provinces of the house of Austria.

the wide extent of territory which is included between the Inn, the danube, and the Save,--Austria, Styria, Carinthia, Carniola, the Lower

Hungary, and Sclavonia,--was known to the ancients under the names of

Noricum and Pannonia. In their original state of independence, their fierce inhabitants were intimately connected. Under the Roman government they were frequently united, and they still remain the patrimony of a

single family. They now contain the residence of a German prince, who

styles himself Emperor of the Romans, and form the centre, as well as

strength, of the Austrian power. It may not be improper to observe, that

if we except Bohemia, Moravia, the northern skirts of Austria, and a part of Hungary between the Teyss and the Danube, all the other dominions of the House of Austria were comprised within the limits of the Roman Empire.

dalmatia, to which the name of Illyricum more properly belonged, was a

long, but narrow tract, between the Save and the Adriatic. The best

part of the sea-coast, which still retains its ancient appellation, is a province of the Venetian state, and the seat of the little republic

of Ragusa. The inland parts have assumed the Sclavonian names of Croatia and Bosnia; the former obeys an Austrian governor, the latter a Turkish

pacha; but the whole country is still infested by tribes of barbarians, whose savage independence irregularly marks the doubtful limit of the christian and Mahometan power. [80]

[Footnote 80: A Venetian traveller, the Abbate Fortis, has lately given

us some account of those very obscure countries. But the geography and antiquities of the western Illyricum can be expected only from the

munificence of the emperor, its sovereign.]

after the Danube had received the waters of the Teyss and the Save, it acquired, at least among the Greeks, the name of Ister. [81] It formerly divided Maesia and Dacia, the latter of which, as we have already seen, was a conquest of Trajan, and the only province beyond the river. If we

inquire into the present state of those countries, we shall find that,

on the left hand of the Danube, Temeswar and Transylvania have been annexed, after many revolutions, to the crown of Hungary; whilst the

principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia acknowledge the supremacy

of the Ottoman Porte. On the right hand of the Danube, Maesia, which, during the middle ages, was broken into the barbarian kingdoms of Servia and Bulgaria, is again united in Turkish slavery.

[Footnote 81: The Save rises near the confines of Istria, and was considered by the more early Greeks as the principal stream of the danube.]

the appellation of Roumelia, which is still bestowed by the Turks on the extensive countries of Thrace, Macedonia, and Greece, preserves the

memory of their ancient state under the Roman empire. In the time of the antonines, the martial regions of Thrace, from the mountains of Haemus and Rhodope, to the Bosphorus and the Hellespont, had assumed the form

of a province. Notwithstanding the change of masters and of religion, the new city of Rome, founded by Constantine on the banks of the bosphorus, has ever since remained the capital of a great monarchy. The

kingdom of Macedonia, which, under the reign of Alexander, gave laws to asia, derived more solid advantages from the policy of the two Philips; and with its dependencies of Epirus and Thessaly, extended from the aegean to the Ionian Sea. When we reflect on the fame of Thebes and argos, of Sparta and Athens, we can scarcely persuade ourselves, that so

many immortal republics of ancient Greece were lost in a single province

of the Roman empire, which, from the superior influence of the Achaean

league, was usually denominated the province of Achaia.

Such was the state of Europe under the Roman emperors. The provinces

of Asia, without excepting the transient conquests of Trajan, are all comprehended within the limits of the Turkish power. But, instead of following the arbitrary divisions of despotism and ignorance, it will be safer for us, as well as more agreeable, to observe the indelible characters of nature. The name of Asia Minor is attributed with some

propriety to the peninsula, which, confined betwixt the Euxine and the

Mediterranean, advances from the Euphrates towards Europe. The most extensive and flourishing district, westward of Mount Taurus and the

River Halys, was dignified by the Romans with the exclusive title

of Asia. The jurisdiction of that province extended over the ancient

monarchies of Troy, Lydia, and Phrygia, the maritime countries of the

Pamphylians, Lycians, and Carians, and the Grecian colonies of Ionia, which equalled in arts, though not in arms, the glory of their parent. the kingdoms of Bithynia and Pontus possessed the northern side of the

peninsula from Constantinople to Trebizond. On the opposite side, the

province of Cilicia was terminated by the mountains of Syria: the inland country, separated from the Roman Asia by the River Halys, and from armenia by the Euphrates, had once formed the independent kingdom of cappadocia. In this place we may observe, that the northern shores of the Euxine, beyond Trebizond in Asia, and beyond the Danube in Europe, acknowledged the sovereignty of the emperors, and received at their

hands either tributary princes or Roman garrisons. Budzak, Crim Tartary, circassia, and Mingrelia, are the modern appellations of those savage countries. [82]

[Footnote 82: See the Periplus of Arrian. He examined the coasts of the euxine, when he was governor of Cappadocia.]

Under the successors of Alexander, Syria was the seat of the Seleucidae, who reigned over Upper Asia, till the successful revolt of the Parthians confined their dominions between the Euphrates and the Mediterranean. when Syria became subject to the Romans, it formed the eastern frontier

of their empire: nor did that province, in its utmost latitude, know any

other bounds than the mountains of Cappadocia to the north, and towards the south, the confines of Egypt, and the Red Sea. Phoenicia and

Palestine were sometimes annexed to, and sometimes separated from, the

jurisdiction of Syria. The former of these was a narrow and rocky coast; the latter was a territory scarcely superior to Wales, either in fertility or extent. [821] Yet Phoenicia and Palestine will forever live

in the memory of mankind; since America, as well as Europe, has received

letters from the one, and religion from the other. [83] A sandy desert, alike destitute of wood and water, skirts along the doubtful confine

of Syria, from the Euphrates to the Red Sea. The wandering life of the arabs was inseparably connected with their independence; and wherever,

on some spots less barren than the rest, they ventured to for many

settled habitations, they soon became subjects to the Roman empire. [84]

[Footnote 821: This comparison is exaggerated, with the intention, no doubt, of attacking the authority of the Bible, which boasts of the fertility of Palestine. Gibbon's only authorities were that of Strabo

(l. xvi. 1104) and the present state of the country. But Strabo only

speaks of the neighborhood of Jerusalem, which he calls barren and arid to the extent of sixty stadia round the city: in other parts he gives a favorable testimony to the fertility of many parts of Palestine: thus

he says, "Near Jericho there is a grove of palms, and a country of a

hundred stadia, full of springs, and well peopled." Moreover, Strabo

had never seen Palestine; he spoke only after reports, which may be as

inaccurate as those according to which he has composed that description

of Germany, in which Gluverius has detected so many errors. (Gluv. Germ.

iii. 1.) Finally, his testimony is contradicted and refuted by that

of other ancient authors, and by medals. Tacitus says, in speaking of

Palestine, "The inhabitants are healthy and robust; the rains moderate; the soil fertile." (Hist. v. 6.) Ammianus Macellinus says also, "The

last of the Syrias is Palestine, a country of considerable extent, abounding in clean and well-cultivated land, and containing some fine cities, none of which yields to the other; but, as it were, being on a

parallel, are rivals."--xiv. 8. See also the historian Josephus, Hist.

vi. 1. Procopius of Caeserea, who lived in the sixth century, says that chosroes, king of Persia, had a great desire to make himself master of

Palestine, on account of its extraordinary fertility, its opulence, and the great number of its inhabitants. The Saracens thought the same, and were afraid that Omar. when he went to Jerusalem, charmed with the fertility of the soil and the purity of the air, would never return to

Medina. (Ockley, Hist. of Sarac. i. 232.) The importance attached by the

Romans to the conquest of Palestine, and the obstacles they encountered,

prove also the richness and population of the country. Vespasian and titus caused medals to be struck with trophies, in which Palestine is

represented by a female under a palm-tree, to signify the richness of he country, with this legend: Judea capta. Other medals also indicate this fertility; for instance, that of Herod holding a bunch of grapes, and that of the young Agrippa displaying fruit. As to the present state

of he country, one perceives that it is not fair to draw any inference against its ancient fertility: the disasters through which it has

passed, the government to which it is subject, the disposition of the

inhabitants, explain sufficiently the wild and uncultivated appearance

of the land, where, nevertheless, fertile and cultivated districts are

still found, according to the testimony of travellers; among others, of

Shaw, Maundrel, La Rocque, &c.--G. The Abbe Guenee, in his Lettres de

quelques Juifs a Mons. de Voltaire, has exhausted the subject of the fertility of Palestine; for Voltaire had likewise indulged in sarcasm

on this subject. Gibbon was assailed on this point, not, indeed, by Mr. davis, who, he slyly insinuates, was prevented by his patriotism as a welshman from resenting the comparison with Wales, but by other writers. In his Vindication, he first established the correctness of

his measurement of Palestine, which he estimates as 7600 square English

miles, while Wales is about 7011. As to fertility, he proceeds in the following dexterously composed and splendid passage: "The emperor frederick II., the enemy and the victim of the clergy, is accused of

saying, after his return from his crusade, that the God of the Jews would have despised his promised land, if he had once seen the fruitful

realms of Sicily and Naples." (See Giannone, Istor. Civ. del R. di

Napoli, ii. 245.) This raillery, which malice has, perhaps, falsely

imputed to Frederick, is inconsistent with truth and piety; yet it

must be confessed that the soil of Palestine does not contain that

inexhaustible, and, as it were, spontaneous principle of fertility, which, under the most unfavorable circumstances, has covered with rich

harvests the banks of the Nile, the fields of Sicily, or the plains

of Poland. The Jordan is the only navigable river of Palestine: a considerable part of the narrow space is occupied, or rather lost, in the Dead Sea whose horrid aspect inspires every sensation of disgust, and countenances every tale of horror. The districts which border on arabia partake of the sandy quality of the adjacent desert. The face

of the country, except the sea-coast, and the valley of the Jordan, is covered with mountains, which appear, for the most part, as naked and barren rocks; and in the neighborhood of Jerusalem, there is a real

scarcity of the two elements of earth and water. (See Maundrel's travels, p. 65, and Reland's Palestin. i. 238, 395.) These disadvantages, which now operate in their fullest extent, were formerly corrected by the labors of a numerous people, and the active protection

of a wise government. The hills were clothed with rich beds of artificial mould, the rain was collected in vast cisterns, a supply of fresh water was conveyed by pipes and aqueducts to the dry lands. The breed of cattle was encouraged in those parts which were not adapted for tillage, and almost every spot was compelled to yield some production for the use of the inhabitants.

Pater ispe colendi Haud facilem esse viam voluit, primusque par artem

Movit agros; curis acuens mortalia corda, Nec torpere gravi passus sua

Regna veterno. Gibbon, Misc. Works, iv. 540.

but Gibbon has here eluded the question about the land "flowing with

milk and honey." He is describing Judaea only, without comprehending

Galilee, or the rich pastures beyond the Jordan, even now proverbial for their flocks and herds. (See Burckhardt's Travels, and Hist of Jews,

i. 178.) The following is believed to be a fair statement: "The extraordinary fertility of the whole country must be taken into the account. No part was waste; very little was occupied by unprofitable wood; the more fertile hills were cultivated in artificial terraces,

others were hung with orchards of fruit trees the more rocky and barren districts were covered with vineyards." Even in the present day, the wars and misgovernment of ages have not exhausted the natural richness

of the soil. "Galilee," says Malte Brun, "would be a paradise were it

inhabited by an industrious people under an enlightened government.

No land could be less dependent on foreign importation; it bore within

itself every thing that could be necessary for the subsistence and comfort of a simple agricultural people. The climate was healthy, the

seasons regular; the former rains, which fell about October, after the

vintage, prepared the ground for the seed; that latter, which prevailed during March and the beginning of April, made it grow rapidly. Directly the rains ceased, the grain ripened with still greater rapidity, and was

gathered in before the end of May. The summer months were dry and very

hot, but the nights cool and refreshed by copious dews. In September, the vintage was gathered. Grain of all kinds, wheat, barley, millet,

zea, and other sorts, grew in abundance; the wheat commonly yielded thirty for one. Besides the vine and the olive, the almond, the date, figs of many kinds, the orange, the pomegranate, and many other fruit trees, flourished in the greatest luxuriance. Great quantity of honey was collected. The balm-tree, which produced the opobalsamum,a great

object of trade, was probably introduced from Arabia, in the time of

Solomon. It flourished about Jericho and in Gilead."--Milman's Hist. of

Jews. i. 177.--M.]

[Footnote 83: The progress of religion is well known. The use of letter was introduced among the savages of Europe about fifteen hundred years before Christ; and the Europeans carried them to America about fifteen centuries after the Christian Aera. But in a period of three thousand

years, the Phoenician alphabet received considerable alterations, as it

passed through the hands of the Greeks and Romans.]

[Footnote 84: Dion Cassius, lib. lxviii. p. 1131.]

the geographers of antiquity have frequently hesitated to what portion

of the globe they should ascribe Egypt. [85] By its situation that celebrated kingdom is included within the immense peninsula of Africa; but it is accessible only on the side of Asia, whose revolutions,

in almost every period of history, Egypt has humbly obeyed. A Roman

praefect was seated on the splendid throne of the Ptolemies; and the

iron sceptre of the Mamelukes is now in the hands of a Turkish pacha. the Nile flows down the country, above five hundred miles from the tropic of Cancer to the Mediterranean, and marks on either side of the extent of fertility by the measure of its inundations. Cyrene, situate towards the west, and along the sea-coast, was first a Greek colony, afterwards a province of Egypt, and is now lost in the desert of Barca.

[851]

[Footnote 85: Ptolemy and Strabo, with the modern geographers, fix the

Isthmus of Suez as the boundary of Asia and Africa. Dionysius, Mela,

Pliny, Sallust, Hirtius, and Solinus, have preferred for that purpose the western branch of the Nile, or even the great Catabathmus, or descent, which last would assign to Asia, not only Egypt, but part of

Libya.]

[Footnote 851: The French editor has a long and unnecessary note on the

History of Cyrene. For the present state of that coast and country, the

volume of Captain Beechey is full of interesting details. Egypt, now an

independent and improving kingdom, appears, under the enterprising

rule of Mahommed Ali, likely to revenge its former oppression upon the decrepit power of the Turkish empire.--M.--This note was written in

1838. The future destiny of Egypt is an important problem, only to be solved by time. This observation will also apply to the new French colony in Algiers.--M. 1845.]

from Cyrene to the ocean, the coast of Africa extends above fifteen

hundred miles; yet so closely is it pressed between the Mediterranean and the Sahara, or sandy desert, that its breadth seldom exceeds fourscore or a hundred miles. The eastern division was considered by the Romans as the more peculiar and proper province of Africa. Till the arrival of the Phoenician colonies, that fertile country was inhabited by the Libyans, the most savage of mankind. Under the immediate

jurisdiction of Carthage, it became the centre of commerce and empire; but the republic of Carthage is now degenerated into the feeble and disorderly states of Tripoli and Tunis. The military government of algiers oppresses the wide extent of Numidia, as it was once united

under Massinissa and Jugurtha; but in the time of Augustus, the limits

of Numidia were contracted; and, at least, two thirds of the country acquiesced in the name of Mauritania, with the epithet of Caesariensis. the genuine Mauritania, or country of the Moors, which, from the ancient city of Tingi, or Tangier, was distinguished by the appellation of tingitana, is represented by the modern kingdom of Fez. Salle, on the Ocean, so infamous at present for its piratical depredations, was

noticed by the Romans, as the extreme object of their power, and almost

of their geography. A city of their foundation may still be discovered

near Mequinez, the residence of the barbarian whom we condescend to

style the Emperor of Morocco; but it does not appear, that his

more southern dominions, Morocco itself, and Segelmessa, were ever comprehended within the Roman province. The western parts of Africa are

intersected by the branches of Mount Atlas, a name so idly celebrated by the fancy of poets; [86] but which is now diffused over the immense ocean that rolls between the ancient and the new continent. [87]

[Footnote 86: The long range, moderate height, and gentle declivity

of Mount Atlas, (see Shaw's Travels, p. 5,) are very unlike a solitary

mountain which rears its head into the clouds, and seems to support the

heavens. The peak of Teneriff, on the contrary, rises a league and a

half above the surface of the sea; and, as it was frequently visited by the Phoenicians, might engage the notice of the Greek poets. See Buffon,

Histoire Naturelle, tom. i. p. 312. Histoire des Voyages, tom. ii.]

[Footnote 87: M. de Voltaire, tom. xiv. p. 297, unsupported by either fact or probability, has generously bestowed the Canary Islands on the

Roman empire.]

Having now finished the circuit of the Roman empire, we may observe, that Africa is divided from Spain by a narrow strait of about twelve

miles, through which the Atlantic flows into the Mediterranean. The columns of Hercules, so famous among the ancients, were two mountains which seemed to have been torn asunder by some convulsion of the elements; and at the foot of the European mountain, the fortress of

Gibraltar is now seated. The whole extent of the Mediterranean Sea, its coasts and its islands, were comprised within the Roman dominion. Of the

larger islands, the two Baleares, which derive their name of Majorca and

Minorca from their respective size, are subject at present, the former to Spain, the latter to Great Britain. [871] It is easier to deplore the fate, than to describe the actual condition, of Corsica. [872] Two Italian

sovereigns assume a regal title from Sardinia and Sicily. Crete, or candia, with Cyprus, and most of the smaller islands of Greece and Asia,

have been subdued by the Turkish arms, whilst the little rock of

Malta defies their power, and has emerged, under the government of its

military Order, into fame and opulence. [873]

[Footnote 871: Minorca was lost to Great Britain in 1782. Ann. Register for that year.--M.]

[Footnote 872: The gallant struggles of the Corsicans for their

independence, under Paoli, were brought to a close in the year 1769. this volume was published in 1776. See Botta, Storia d'Italia, vol.

xiv.--M.]

[Footnote 873: Malta, it need scarcely be said, is now in the possession

of the English. We have not, however, thought it necessary to notice every change in the political state of the world, since the time of

Gibbon.--M]

this long enumeration of provinces, whose broken fragments have formed

so many powerful kingdoms, might almost induce us to forgive the vanity

or ignorance of the ancients. Dazzled with the extensive sway, the

irresistible strength, and the real or affected moderation of the emperors, they permitted themselves to despise, and sometimes to forget, the outlying countries which had been left in the enjoyment of a barbarous independence; and they gradually usurped the license of confounding the Roman monarchy with the globe of the earth. [88] But the temper, as well as knowledge, of a modern historian, require a

more sober and accurate language. He may impress a juster image of the

greatness of Rome, by observing that the empire was above two thousand

miles in breadth, from the wall of Antoninus and the northern limits

of Dacia, to Mount Atlas and the tropic of Cancer; that it extended

in length more than three thousand miles from the Western Ocean to the euphrates; that it was situated in the finest part of the Temperate

Zone, between the twenty-fourth and fifty-sixth degrees of northern

latitude; and that it was supposed to contain above sixteen hundred thousand square miles, for the most part of fertile and well-cultivated

land. [89]

[Footnote 88: Bergier, Hist. des Grands Chemins, l. iii. c. 1,

2, 3, 4, a very useful collection.]

[Footnote 89: See Templeman's Survey of the Globe; but I distrust both the Doctor's learning and his maps.]

chapter II: The Internal Prosperity In The Age Of The Antonines.--Part I.

Of The Union And Internal Prosperity Of The Roman Empire, In

The Age Of The Antonines.

It is not alone by the rapidity, or extent of conquest, that we should estimate the greatness of Rome. The sovereign of the Russian deserts commands a larger portion of the globe. In the seventh summer after his

passage of the Hellespont, Alexander erected the Macedonian trophies

on the banks of the Hyphasis. [1] Within less than a century, the

irresistible Zingis, and the Mogul princes of his race, spread their cruel devastations and transient empire from the Sea of China, to the confines of Egypt and Germany. [2] But the firm edifice of Roman power was raised and preserved by the wisdom of ages. The obedient provinces

of Trajan and the Antonines were united by laws, and adorned by arts. they might occasionally suffer from the partial abuse of delegated authority; but the general principle of government was wise, simple, and beneficent. They enjoyed the religion of their ancestors, whilst in civil honors and advantages they were exalted, by just degrees, to an equality with their conquerors.

[Footnote 1: They were erected about the midway between Lahor and Delhi. the conquests of Alexander in Hindostan were confined to the Punjab, a country watered by the five great streams of the Indus. \* Note: The

Hyphasis is one of the five rivers which join the Indus or the Sind, after having traversed the province of the Pendj-ab--a name which in

Persian, signifies five rivers. \* \* \* G. The five rivers were, 1. The

Hydaspes, now the Chelum, Behni, or Bedusta, (Sanscrit, Vitastha, arrow-swift.) 2. The Acesines, the Chenab, (Sanscrit, Chandrabhaga,

Moon-gift.) 3. Hydraotes, the Ravey, or Iraoty, (Sanscrit, Iravati.) 4.

Hyphasis, the Beyah, (Sanscrit, Vepasa, Fetterless.) 5. The Satadru,

(Sanscrit, the Hundred Streamed,) the Sutledj, known first to the Greeks

in the time of Ptolemy. Rennel. Vincent, Commerce of Anc. book 2.

Lassen, Pentapotam. Ind. Wilson's Sanscrit Dict., and the valuable

memoir of Lieut. Burnes, Journal of London Geogr. Society, vol. iii. p.

2, with the travels of that very able writer. Compare Gibbon's own note, c. lxv. note 25.--M substit. for G.]

[Footnote 2: See M. de Guignes, Histoire des Huns, l. xv. xvi. and

xvii.]

I. The policy of the emperors and the senate, as far as it concerned

religion, was happily seconded by the reflections of the enlightened, and by the habits of the superstitious, part of their subjects. The

various modes of worship, which prevailed in the Roman world, were all considered by the people, as equally true; by the philosopher, as equally false; and by the magistrate, as equally useful. And thus toleration produced not only mutual indulgence, but even religious concord.

the superstition of the people was not imbittered by any mixture of theological rancor; nor was it confined by the chains of any speculative

system. The devout polytheist, though fondly attached to his national

rites, admitted with implicit faith the different religions of the earth. [3] Fear, gratitude, and curiosity, a dream or an omen, a singular disorder, or a distant journey, perpetually disposed him to multiply the articles of his belief, and to enlarge the list of his protectors. The thin texture of the Pagan mythology was interwoven with various but not discordant materials. As soon as it was allowed that sages and heroes, who had lived or who had died for the benefit of their country, were exalted to a state of power and immortality, it was universally confessed, that they deserved, if not the adoration, at least the

reverence, of all mankind. The deities of a thousand groves and a thousand streams possessed, in peace, their local and respective

influence; nor could the Romans who deprecated the wrath of the Tiber, deride the Egyptian who presented his offering to the beneficent genius

of the Nile. The visible powers of nature, the planets, and the elements were the same throughout the universe. The invisible governors of the

moral world were inevitably cast in a similar mould of fiction and allegory. Every virtue, and even vice, acquired its divine

representative; every art and profession its patron, whose attributes,

in the most distant ages and countries, were uniformly derived from the character of their peculiar votaries. A republic of gods of such

opposite tempers and interests required, in every system, the moderating

hand of a supreme magistrate, who, by the progress of knowledge and flattery, was gradually invested with the sublime perfections of an eternal Parent, and an Omnipotent Monarch. [4] Such was the mild spirit

of antiquity, that the nations were less attentive to the difference, than to the resemblance, of their religious worship. The Greek, the

Roman, and the Barbarian, as they met before their respective altars, easily persuaded themselves, that under various names, and with various ceremonies, they adored the same deities. [5] The elegant mythology of

Homer gave a beautiful, and almost a regular form, to the polytheism of the ancient world.

[Footnote 3: There is not any writer who describes in so lively a manner as Herodotus the true genius of polytheism. The best commentary may be found in Mr. Hume's Natural History of Religion; and the best contrast

in Bossuet's Universal History. Some obscure traces of an intolerant

spirit appear in the conduct of the Egyptians, (see Juvenal, Sat. xv.;) and the Christians, as well as Jews, who lived under the Roman empire, formed a very important exception; so important indeed, that the discussion will require a distinct chapter of this work. \* Note: M. constant, in his very learned and eloquent work, "Sur la Religion," with the two additional volumes, "Du Polytheisme Romain," has considered the whole history of polytheism in a tone of philosophy, which, without

subscribing to all his opinions, we may be permitted to admire. "The boasted tolerance of polytheism did not rest upon the respect due from

society to the freedom of individual opinion. The polytheistic nations, tolerant as they were towards each other, as separate states, were not the less ignorant of the eternal principle, the only basis of enlightened toleration, that every one has a right to worship God in the

manner which seems to him the best. Citizens, on the contrary, were bound to conform to the religion of the state; they had not the liberty to adopt a foreign religion, though that religion might be legally

recognized in their own city, for the strangers who were its votaries."

--Sur la Religion, v. 184. Du. Polyth. Rom. ii. 308. At this time, the

growing religious indifference, and the general administration of the empire by Romans, who, being strangers, would do no more than protect,

not enlist themselves in the cause of the local superstitions, had

introduced great laxity. But intolerance was clearly the theory both of the Greek and Roman law. The subject is more fully considered in another

place.--M.]

[Footnote 4: The rights, powers, and pretensions of the sovereign of

Olympus are very clearly described in the xvth book of the Iliad; in the Greek original, I mean; for Mr. Pope, without perceiving it, has

improved the theology of Homer. \* Note: There is a curious coincidence between Gibbon's expressions and those of the newly-recovered "De

Republica" of Cicero, though the argument is rather the converse, lib.

i. c. 36. "Sive haec ad utilitatem vitae constitute sint a principibus

rerum publicarum, ut rex putaretur unus esse in coelo, qui nutu, ut ait

Homerus, totum Olympum converteret, idemque et rex et patos haberetur

omnium."--M.]

[Footnote 5: See, for instance, Caesar de Bell. Gall. vi. 17. Within a century or two, the Gauls themselves applied to their gods the names of

Mercury, Mars, Apollo, &c.]

the philosophers of Greece deduced their morals from the nature of man,

rather than from that of God. They meditated, however, on the Divine

Nature, as a very curious and important speculation; and in the

profound inquiry, they displayed the strength and weakness of the human

understanding. [6] Of the four most celebrated schools, the Stoics and the Platonists endeavored to reconcile the jaring interests of reason and piety. They have left us the most sublime proofs of the existence and perfections of the first cause; but, as it was impossible for them to conceive the creation of matter, the workman in the Stoic philosophy was not sufficiently distinguished from the work; whilst, on the contrary, the spiritual God of Plato and his disciples resembled an idea, rather than a substance. The opinions of the Academics and epicureans were of a less religious cast; but whilst the modest science

of the former induced them to doubt, the positive ignorance of the

latter urged them to deny, the providence of a Supreme Ruler. The spirit

of inquiry, prompted by emulation, and supported by freedom, had divided the public teachers of philosophy into a variety of contending sects; but the ingenious youth, who, from every part, resorted to Athens, and the other seats of learning in the Roman empire, were alike instructed

in every school to reject and to despise the religion of the multitude.

How, indeed, was it possible that a philosopher should accept, as divine truths, the idle tales of the poets, and the incoherent traditions of antiquity; or that he should adore, as gods, those imperfect beings whom

he must have despised, as men? Against such unworthy adversaries, Cicero condescended to employ the arms of reason and eloquence; but the satire

of Lucian was a much more adequate, as well as more efficacious, weapon. we may be well assured, that a writer, conversant with the world, would never have ventured to expose the gods of his country to public

ridicule, had they not already been the objects of secret contempt among the polished and enlightened orders of society. [7]

[Footnote 6: The admirable work of Cicero de Natura Deorum is the best clew we have to guide us through the dark and profound abyss. He

represents with candor, and confutes with subtlety, the opinions of the

philosophers.]

[Footnote 7: I do not pretend to assert, that, in this irreligious age, the natural terrors of superstition, dreams, omens, apparitions, &c.,

had lost their efficacy.]

Notwithstanding the fashionable irreligion which prevailed in the age of the Antonines, both the interest of the priests and the credulity of the

people were sufficiently respected. In their writings and conversation, the philosophers of antiquity asserted the independent dignity of

reason; but they resigned their actions to the commands of law and of custom. Viewing, with a smile of pity and indulgence, the various errors of the vulgar, they diligently practised the ceremonies of their fathers, devoutly frequented the temples of the gods; and sometimes condescending to act a part on the theatre of superstition, they concealed the sentiments of an atheist under the sacerdotal robes.

Reasoners of such a temper were scarcely inclined to wrangle about their

respective modes of faith, or of worship. It was indifferent to them what shape the folly of the multitude might choose to assume; and they approached with the same inward contempt, and the same external

reverence, the altars of the Libyan, the Olympian, or the Capitoline

Jupiter. [8]

[Footnote 8: Socrates, Epicurus, Cicero, and Plutarch always inculcated a decent reverence for the religion of their own country, and of

mankind. The devotion of Epicurus was assiduous and exemplary. Diogen.

Laert. x. 10.]

It is not easy to conceive from what motives a spirit of persecution could introduce itself into the Roman councils. The magistrates could

not be actuated by a blind, though honest bigotry, since the magistrates were themselves philosophers; and the schools of Athens had given laws to the senate. They could not be impelled by ambition or avarice, as the temporal and ecclesiastical powers were united in the same hands. The

pontiffs were chosen among the most illustrious of the senators; and the office of Supreme Pontiff was constantly exercised by the emperors themselves. They knew and valued the advantages of religion, as it is connected with civil government. They encouraged the public festivals which humanize the manners of the people. They managed the arts of divination as a convenient instrument of policy; and they respected, as the firmest bond of society, the useful persuasion, that, either in this

or in a future life, the crime of perjury is most assuredly punished by the avenging gods. [9] But whilst they acknowledged the general advantages of religion, they were convinced that the various modes of worship contributed alike to the same salutary purposes; and that, in every country, the form of superstition, which had received the sanction

of time and experience, was the best adapted to the climate, and to its

inhabitants. Avarice and taste very frequently despoiled the vanquished

nations of the elegant statues of their gods, and the rich ornaments

of their temples; [10] but, in the exercise of the religion which they derived from their ancestors, they uniformly experienced the indulgence, and even protection, of the Roman conquerors. The province of Gaul

seems, and indeed only seems, an exception to this universal toleration.

Under the specious pretext of abolishing human sacrifices, the emperors tiberius and Claudius suppressed the dangerous power of the Druids: [11] but the priests themselves, their gods and their altars, subsisted in

peaceful obscurity till the final destruction of Paganism. [12]

[Footnote 9: Polybius, l. vi. c. 53, 54. Juvenal, Sat. xiii. laments that in his time this apprehension had lost much of its effect.]

[Footnote 10: See the fate of Syracuse, Tarentum, Ambracia, Corinth,

&c., the conduct of Verres, in Cicero, (Actio ii. Orat. 4,) and the

usual practice of governors, in the viiith Satire of Juvenal.]

[Footnote 11: Seuton. in Claud.--Plin. Hist. Nat. xxx. 1.]

[Footnote 12: Pelloutier, Histoire des Celtes, tom. vi. p. 230--252.]

Rome, the capital of a great monarchy, was incessantly filled with

subjects and strangers from every part of the world, [13] who all

introduced and enjoyed the favorite superstitions of their native country. [14] Every city in the empire was justified in maintaining the

purity of its ancient ceremonies; and the Roman senate, using the common

privilege, sometimes interposed, to check this inundation of foreign

rites. [141] The Egyptian superstition, of all the most contemptible and abject, was frequently prohibited: the temples of Serapis and Isis demolished, and their worshippers banished from Rome and Italy. [15] But the zeal of fanaticism prevailed over the cold and feeble efforts of

policy. The exiles returned, the proselytes multiplied, the temples were restored with increasing splendor, and Isis and Serapis at length assumed their place among the Roman Deities. [151] [16] Nor was this

indulgence a departure from the old maxims of government. In the purest ages of the commonwealth, Cybele and Aesculapius had been invited by

solemn embassies; [17] and it was customary to tempt the protectors of besieged cities, by the promise of more distinguished honors than they

possessed in their native country. [18] Rome gradually became the common temple of her subjects; and the freedom of the city was bestowed on all the gods of mankind. [19]

[Footnote 13: Seneca, Consolat. ad Helviam, p. 74. Edit., Lips.]

[Footnote 14: Dionysius Halicarn. Antiquitat. Roman. l. ii. (vol. i. p.

275, edit. Reiske.)]

[Footnote 141: Yet the worship of foreign gods at Rome was only guarantied to the natives of those countries from whence they came. The Romans administered the priestly offices only to the gods of their fathers.

Gibbon, throughout the whole preceding sketch of the opinions of the

Romans and their subjects, has shown through what causes they were free from religious hatred and its consequences. But, on the other hand the

internal state of these religions, the infidelity and hypocrisy of the

upper orders, the indifference towards all religion, in even the better

part of the common people, during the last days of the republic, and

under the Caesars, and the corrupting principles of the philosophers,

had exercised a very pernicious influence on the manners, and even on the constitution.--W.]

[Footnote 15: In the year of Rome 701, the temple of Isis and Serapis was demolished by the order of the Senate, (Dion Cassius, l. xl. p.

252,) and even by the hands of the consul, (Valerius Maximus, l. 3.) after the death of Caesar it was restored at the public expense, (Dion.

l. xlvii. p. 501.) When Augustus was in Egypt, he revered the majesty of

Serapis, (Dion, l. li. p. 647;) but in the Pomaerium of Rome, and a

mile round it, he prohibited the worship of the Egyptian gods, (Dion, l.

liii. p. 679; l. liv. p. 735.) They remained, however, very fashionable

under his reign (Ovid. de Art. Amand. l. i.) and that of his successor, till the justice of Tiberius was provoked to some acts of severity. (See tacit. Annal. ii. 85. Joseph. Antiquit. l. xviii. c. 3.) \* Note: See, in the pictures from the walls of Pompeii, the representation of an Isiac temple and worship. Vestiges of Egyptian worship have been traced in

Gaul, and, I am informed, recently in Britain, in excavations at York.--

M.]

[Footnote 151: Gibbon here blends into one, two events, distant a hundred and sixty-six years from each other. It was in the year of Rome 535, that the senate having ordered the destruction of the temples of Isis and Serapis, the workman would lend his hand; and the consul, L. Paulus

himself (Valer. Max. 1, 3) seized the axe, to give the first blow.

Gibbon attribute this circumstance to the second demolition, which took

place in the year 701 and which he considers as the first.--W.]

[Footnote 16: Tertullian in Apologetic. c. 6, p. 74. Edit. Havercamp.

I am inclined to attribute their establishment to the devotion of the flavian family.]

[Footnote 17: See Livy, l. xi. [Suppl.] and xxix.]

[Footnote 18: Macrob. Saturnalia, l. iii. c. 9. He gives us a form of evocation.]

[Footnote 19: Minutius Faelix in Octavio, p. 54. Arnobius, l. vi. p.

115.]

II. The narrow policy of preserving, without any foreign mixture, the pure blood of the ancient citizens, had checked the fortune, and

hastened the ruin, of Athens and Sparta. The aspiring genius of Rome

sacrificed vanity to ambition, and deemed it more prudent, as well as

honorable, to adopt virtue and merit for her own wheresoever they were found, among slaves or strangers, enemies or barbarians. [20] During the most flourishing aera of the Athenian commonwealth, the number

of citizens gradually decreased from about thirty [21] to twenty-one thousand. [22] If, on the contrary, we study the growth of the Roman

republic, we may discover, that, notwithstanding the incessant demands

of wars and colonies, the citizens, who, in the first census of

Servius Tullius, amounted to no more than eighty-three thousand, were

multiplied, before the commencement of the social war, to the number

of four hundred and sixty-three thousand men, able to bear arms in the

service of their country. [23] When the allies of Rome claimed an equal

share of honors and privileges, the senate indeed preferred the chance

of arms to an ignominious concession. The Samnites and the Lucanians

paid the severe penalty of their rashness; but the rest of the Italian

states, as they successively returned to their duty, were admitted

into the bosom of the republic, [24] and soon contributed to the ruin of

public freedom. Under a democratical government, the citizens exercise the powers of sovereignty; and those powers will be first abused, and afterwards lost, if they are committed to an unwieldy multitude. But when the popular assemblies had been suppressed by the administration

of the emperors, the conquerors were distinguished from the vanquished

nations, only as the first and most honorable order of subjects; and their increase, however rapid, was no longer exposed to the same dangers. Yet the wisest princes, who adopted the maxims of Augustus,

guarded with the strictest care the dignity of the Roman name, and diffused the freedom of the city with a prudent liberality. [25]

[Footnote 20: Tacit. Annal. xi. 24. The Orbis Romanus of the learned

Spanheim is a complete history of the progressive admission of Latium,

Italy, and the provinces, to the freedom of Rome. \* Note: Democratic

states, observes Denina, (delle Revoluz. d' Italia, l. ii. c. l.), are

most jealous of communication the privileges of citizenship; monarchies

or oligarchies willingly multiply the numbers of their free subjects. the most remarkable accessions to the strength of Rome, by the aggregation of conquered and foreign nations, took place under the regal and patrician--we may add, the Imperial government.--M.]

[Footnote 21: Herodotus, v. 97. It should seem, however, that he followed a large and popular estimation.]

[Footnote 22: Athenaeus, Deipnosophist. l. vi. p. 272. Edit. Casaubon.

Meursius de Fortuna Attica, c. 4. \* Note: On the number of citizens in athens, compare Boeckh, Public Economy of Athens, (English Tr.,) p. 45, et seq. Fynes Clinton, Essay in Fasti Hel lenici, vol. i. 381.--M.]

[Footnote 23: See a very accurate collection of the numbers of each

Lustrum in M. de Beaufort, Republique Romaine, l. iv. c. 4. Note: All these questions are placed in an entirely new point of view by Nicbuhr,

(Romische Geschichte, vol. i. p. 464.) He rejects the census of Servius fullius as unhistoric, (vol. ii. p. 78, et seq.,) and he establishes the

principle that the census comprehended all the confederate cities which

had the right of Isopolity.--M.]

[Footnote 24: Appian. de Bell. Civil. l. i. Velleius Paterculus, l. ii. c. 15, 16, 17.]

[Footnote 25: Maecenas had advised him to declare, by one edict, all his

subjects citizens. But we may justly suspect that the historian Dion was the author of a counsel so much adapted to the practice of his own age, and so little to that of Augustus.]

chapter II: The Internal Prosperity In The Age Of The Antonines.--Part II.

till the privileges of Romans had been progressively extended to all the inhabitants of the empire, an important distinction was preserved between Italy and the provinces. The former was esteemed the centre of

public unity, and the firm basis of the constitution. Italy claimed the birth, or at least the residence, of the emperors and the senate. [26] the estates of the Italians were exempt from taxes, their persons from the arbitrary jurisdiction of governors. Their municipal corporations, formed after the perfect model of the capital, [261] were intrusted, under the immediate eye of the supreme power, with the execution of the laws. from the foot of the Alps to the extremity of Calabria, all the natives

of Italy were born citizens of Rome. Their partial distinctions were

obliterated, and they insensibly coalesced into one great nation, united by language, manners, and civil institutions, and equal to the weight of a powerful empire. The republic gloried in her generous policy, and was frequently rewarded by the merit and services of her adopted sons. Had

she always confined the distinction of Romans to the ancient families within the walls of the city, that immortal name would have been deprived of some of its noblest ornaments. Virgil was a native of

Mantua; Horace was inclined to doubt whether he should call himself an Apulian or a Lucanian; it was in Padua that an historian was found worthy to record the majestic series of Roman victories. The patriot family of the Catos emerged from Tusculum; and the little town of arpinum claimed the double honor of producing Marius and Cicero, the former of whom deserved, after Romulus and Camillus, to be styled the third Founder of Rome; and the latter, after saving his country from the designs of Catiline, enabled her to contend with Athens for the palm of eloquence. [27]

[Footnote 26: The senators were obliged to have one third of their own

landed property in Italy. See Plin. l. vi. ep. 19. The qualification was

reduced by Marcus to one fourth. Since the reign of Trajan, Italy had

sunk nearer to the level of the provinces.]

[Footnote 261: It may be doubted whether the municipal government of the cities was not the old Italian constitution rather than a transcript from that of Rome. The free government of the cities, observes Savigny, was the leading characteristic of Italy. Geschichte des Romischen

Rechts, i. p. G.--M.]

[Footnote 27: The first part of the Verona Illustrata of the Marquis

Maffei gives the clearest and most comprehensive view of the state of

Italy under the Caesars. \* Note: Compare Denina, Revol. d' Italia, l.

ii. c. 6, p. 100, 4 to edit.]

the provinces of the empire (as they have been described in the

preceding chapter) were destitute of any public force, or constitutional freedom. In Etruria, in Greece, [28] and in Gaul, [29] it was the first care of the senate to dissolve those dangerous confederacies, which taught mankind that, as the Roman arms prevailed by division, they might be resisted by union. Those princes, whom the ostentation of gratitude

or generosity permitted for a while to hold a precarious sceptre, were dismissed from their thrones, as soon as they had per formed their appointed task of fashioning to the yoke the vanquished nations. the free states and cities which had embraced the cause of Rome were rewarded with a nominal alliance, and insensibly sunk into real

servitude. The public authority was every where exercised by the

ministers of the senate and of the emperors, and that authority was absolute, and without control. [291] But the same salutary maxims of

government, which had secured the peace and obedience of Italy were extended to the most distant conquests. A nation of Romans was gradually formed in the provinces, by the double expedient of introducing colonies, and of admitting the most faithful and deserving of the

provincials to the freedom of Rome.

[Footnote 28: See Pausanias, l. vii. The Romans condescended to restore the names of those assemblies, when they could no longer be dangerous.]

[Footnote 29: They are frequently mentioned by Caesar. The Abbe Dubos attempts, with very little success, to prove that the assemblies of Gaul were continued under the emperors. Histoire de l'Etablissement de la

Monarchie Francoise, l. i. c. 4.]

[Footnote 291: This is, perhaps, rather overstated. Most cities retained the choice of their municipal officers: some retained valuable

privileges; Athens, for instance, in form was still a confederate city.

(Tac. Ann. ii. 53.) These privileges, indeed, depended entirely on the arbitrary will of the emperor, who revoked or restored them according to

his caprice. See Walther Geschichte les Romischen Rechts, i. 324--an admirable summary of the Roman constitutional history.--M.]

"Wheresoever the Roman conquers, he inhabits," is a very just

observation of Seneca, [30] confirmed by history and experience. The

natives of Italy, allured by pleasure or by interest, hastened to enjoy the advantages of victory; and we may remark, that, about forty years after the reduction of Asia, eighty thousand Romans were massacred in

one day, by the cruel orders of Mithridates. [31] These voluntary exiles were engaged, for the most part, in the occupations of commerce, agriculture, and the farm of the revenue. But after the legions were

rendered permanent by the emperors, the provinces were peopled by a race

of soldiers; and the veterans, whether they received the reward of their

service in land or in money, usually settled with their families in the country, where they had honorably spent their youth. Throughout the empire, but more particularly in the western parts, the most fertile districts, and the most convenient situations, were reserved for the establishment of colonies; some of which were of a civil, and others of a military nature. In their manners and internal policy, the colonies formed a perfect representation of their great parent; and they were

soon endeared to the natives by the ties of friendship and alliance, they effectually diffused a reverence for the Roman name, and a desire, which was seldom disappointed, of sharing, in due time, its honors and advantages. [32] The municipal cities insensibly equalled the rank and

splendor of the colonies; and in the reign of Hadrian, it was disputed which was the preferable condition, of those societies which had issued from, or those which had been received into, the bosom of Rome. [33] The

right of Latium, as it was called, [331] conferred on the cities to which

it had been granted, a more partial favor. The magistrates only, at the expiration of their office, assumed the quality of Roman citizens; but as those offices were annual, in a few years they circulated round the

principal families. [34] Those of the provincials who were permitted to bear arms in the legions; [35] those who exercised any civil employment; all, in a word, who performed any public service, or displayed any

personal talents, were rewarded with a present, whose value was continually diminished by the increasing liberality of the emperors. Yet even, in the age of the Antonines, when the freedom of the city had been bestowed on the greater number of their subjects, it was still accompanied with very solid advantages. The bulk of the people acquired, with that title, the benefit of the Roman laws, particularly in the

interesting articles of marriage, testaments, and inheritances; and the

road of fortune was open to those whose pretensions were seconded by favor or merit. The grandsons of the Gauls, who had besieged Julius caesar in Alcsia, commanded legions, governed provinces, and were admitted into the senate of Rome. [36] Their ambition, instead of disturbing the tranquillity of the state, was intimately connected with

its safety and greatness.

[Footnote 30: Seneca in Consolat. ad Helviam, c. 6.]

[Footnote 31: Memnon apud Photium, (c. 33,) [c. 224, p. 231, ed Bekker.]

Valer. Maxim. ix. 2. Plutarch and Dion Cassius swell the massacre to

150,000 citizens; but I should esteem the smaller number to be more than

sufficient.]

[Footnote 32: Twenty-five colonies were settled in Spain, (see Plin.

Hist. Nat. iii. 3, 4; iv. 35;) and nine in Britain, of which London, colchester, Lincoln, Chester, Gloucester, and Bath still remain considerable cities. (See Richard of Cirencester, p. 36, and Whittaker's

History of Manchester, l. i. c. 3.)]

[Footnote 33: Aul. Gel. Noctes Atticae, xvi 13. The Emperor Hadrian expressed his surprise, that the cities of Utica, Gades, and Italica, which already enjoyed the rights of Municipia, should solicit the title

of colonies. Their example, however, became fashionable, and the empire was filled with honorary colonies. See Spanheim, de Usu Numismatum dissertat. xiii.]

[Footnote 331: The right of Latium conferred an exemption from the government of the Roman praefect. Strabo states this distinctly, l. iv. p. 295, edit. Caesar's. See also Walther, p. 233.--M]

[Footnote 34: Spanheim, Orbis Roman. c. 8, p. 62.]

[Footnote 35: Aristid. in Romae Encomio. tom. i. p. 218, edit. Jebb.]

[Footnote 36: Tacit. Annal. xi. 23, 24. Hist. iv. 74.]

So sensible were the Romans of the influence of language over national

manners, that it was their most serious care to extend, with the

progress of their arms, the use of the Latin tongue. [37] The ancient dialects of Italy, the Sabine, the Etruscan, and the Venetian, sunk into

oblivion; but in the provinces, the east was less docile than the west to the voice of its victorious preceptors. This obvious difference

marked the two portions of the empire with a distinction of colors, which, though it was in some degree concealed during the meridian

splendor of prosperity, became gradually more visible, as the shades

of night descended upon the Roman world. The western countries were civilized by the same hands which subdued them. As soon as the barbarians were reconciled to obedience, their minds were open to any

new impressions of knowledge and politeness. The language of Virgil and Cicero, though with some inevitable mixture of corruption, was so

universally adopted in Africa, Spain, Gaul Britain, and Pannonia, [38] that the faint traces of the Punic or Celtic idioms were preserved

only in the mountains, or among the peasants. [39] Education and study

insensibly inspired the natives of those countries with the sentiments

of Romans; and Italy gave fashions, as well as laws, to her Latin

provincials. They solicited with more ardor, and obtained with more facility, the freedom and honors of the state; supported the national dignity in letters [40] and in arms; and at length, in the person of trajan, produced an emperor whom the Scipios would not have disowned for their countryman. The situation of the Greeks was very different from that of the barbarians. The former had been long since civilized and corrupted. They had too much taste to relinquish their language, and too much vanity to adopt any foreign institutions. Still preserving the

prejudices, after they had lost the virtues, of their ancestors, they affected to despise the unpolished manners of the Roman conquerors, whilst they were compelled to respect their superior wisdom and power.

[41] Nor was the influence of the Grecian language and sentiments confined to the narrow limits of that once celebrated country. Their empire, by the progress of colonies and conquest, had been diffused from the Adriatic to the Euphrates and the Nile. Asia was covered with Greek cities, and the long reign of the Macedonian kings had introduced a

silent revolution into Syria and Egypt. In their pompous courts, those

princes united the elegance of Athens with the luxury of the East, and the example of the court was imitated, at an humble distance, by the

higher ranks of their subjects. Such was the general division of the

Roman empire into the Latin and Greek languages. To these we may add a third distinction for the body of the natives in Syria, and especially

in Egypt, the use of their ancient dialects, by secluding them from the commerce of mankind, checked the improvements of those barbarians. [42] the slothful effeminacy of the former exposed them to the contempt, the sullen ferociousness of the latter excited the aversion, of the conquerors. [43] Those nations had submitted to the Roman power, but they

seldom desired or deserved the freedom of the city: and it was remarked, that more than two hundred and thirty years elapsed after the ruin of the Ptolemies, before an Egyptian was admitted into the senate of Rome.

[44]

[Footnote 37: See Plin. Hist. Natur. iii. 5. Augustin. de Civitate Dei,

xix 7 Lipsius de Pronunciatione Linguae Latinae, c. 3.]

[Footnote 38: Apuleius and Augustin will answer for Africa; Strabo for Spain and Gaul; Tacitus, in the life of Agricola, for Britain; and

Velleius Paterculus, for Pannonia. To them we may add the language of the Inscriptions. \* Note: Mr. Hallam contests this assertion as regards britain. "Nor did the Romans ever establish their language--I know not whether they wished to do so--in this island, as we perceive by that

stubborn British tongue which has survived two conquests." In his note,

Mr. Hallam examines the passage from Tacitus (Agric. xxi.) to which

Gibbon refers. It merely asserts the progress of Latin studies among the

higher orders. (Midd. Ages, iii. 314.) Probably it was a kind of court

language, and that of public affairs and prevailed in the Roman colonies.--M.]

[Footnote 39: The Celtic was preserved in the mountains of Wales, cornwall, and Armorica. We may observe, that Apuleius reproaches an african youth, who lived among the populace, with the use of the Punic; whilst he had almost forgot Greek, and neither could nor would speak

Latin, (Apolog. p. 596.) The greater part of St. Austin's congregations were strangers to the Punic.]

[Footnote 40: Spain alone produced Columella, the Senecas, Lucan,

Martial, and Quintilian.]

[Footnote 41: There is not, I believe, from Dionysius to Libanus, a

single Greek critic who mentions Virgil or Horace. They seem ignorant that the Romans had any good writers.]

[Footnote 42: The curious reader may see in Dupin, (Bibliotheque ecclesiastique, tom. xix. p. 1, c. 8,) how much the use of the Syriac and Egyptian languages was still preserved.]

[Footnote 43: See Juvenal, Sat. iii. and xv. Ammian. Marcellin. xxii.

16.]

[Footnote 44: Dion Cassius, l. lxxvii. p. 1275. The first instance

happened under the reign of Septimius Severus.]

It is a just though trite observation, that victorious Rome was herself

subdued by the arts of Greece. Those immortal writers who still command the admiration of modern Europe, soon became the favorite object of

study and imitation in Italy and the western provinces. But the elegant amusements of the Romans were not suffered to interfere with their sound

maxims of policy. Whilst they acknowledged the charms of the Greek, they asserted the dignity of the Latin tongue, and the exclusive use of the

latter was inflexibly maintained in the administration of civil as well as military government. [45] The two languages exercised at the same time their separate jurisdiction throughout the empire: the former, as the

natural idiom of science; the latter, as the legal dialect of public transactions. Those who united letters with business were equally conversant with both; and it was almost impossible, in any province, to find a Roman subject, of a liberal education, who was at once a stranger to the Greek and to the Latin language.

[Footnote 45: See Valerius Maximus, l. ii. c. 2, n. 2. The emperor claudius disfranchised an eminent Grecian for not understanding Latin.

He was probably in some public office. Suetonius in Claud. c. 16. \*

Note: Causes seem to have been pleaded, even in the senate, in both

languages. Val. Max. loc. cit. Dion. l. lvii. c. 15.--M]

It was by such institutions that the nations of the empire insensibly

melted away into the Roman name and people. But there still remained, in the centre of every province and of every family, an unhappy condition

of men who endured the weight, without sharing the benefits, of society.

In the free states of antiquity, the domestic slaves were exposed to the wanton rigor of despotism. The perfect settlement of the Roman empire was preceded by ages of violence and rapine. The slaves consisted, for the most part, of barbarian captives, [451] taken in thousands by the chance of war, purchased at a vile price, [46] accustomed to a life

of independence, and impatient to break and to revenge their fetters. against such internal enemies, whose desperate insurrections had more than once reduced the republic to the brink of destruction, [47] the most

severe [471] regulations, [48] and the most cruel treatment, seemed almost

justified by the great law of self-preservation. But when the principal

nations of Europe, Asia, and Africa were united under the laws of

one sovereign, the source of foreign supplies flowed with much less abundance, and the Romans were reduced to the milder but more tedious

method of propagation. [481] In their numerous families, and particularly

in their country estates, they encouraged the marriage of their slaves.

[482] The sentiments of nature, the habits of education, and the possession

of a dependent species of property, contributed to alleviate the

hardships of servitude. [49] The existence of a slave became an object of

greater value, and though his happiness still depended on the temper and circumstances of the master, the humanity of the latter, instead

of being restrained by fear, was encouraged by the sense of his own

interest. The progress of manners was accelerated by the virtue or

policy of the emperors; and by the edicts of Hadrian and the Antonines, the protection of the laws was extended to the most abject part of

mankind. The jurisdiction of life and death over the slaves, a power

long exercised and often abused, was taken out of private hands, and

reserved to the magistrates alone. The subterraneous prisons were abolished; and, upon a just complaint of intolerable treatment, the

injured slave obtained either his deliverance, or a less cruel master.

[50]

[Footnote 451: It was this which rendered the wars so sanguinary, and the battles so obstinate. The immortal Robertson, in an excellent discourse on the state of the world at the period of the establishment

of Christianity, has traced a picture of the melancholy effects of

slavery, in which we find all the depth of his views and the strength of

his mind. I shall oppose successively some passages to the reflections

of Gibbon. The reader will see, not without interest, the truths which

Gibbon appears to have mistaken or voluntarily neglected, developed by

one of the best of modern historians. It is important to call them to

mind here, in order to establish the facts and their consequences with accuracy. I shall more than once have occasion to employ, for this

purpose, the discourse of Robertson. "Captives taken in war were, in all

probability, the first persons subjected to perpetual servitude; and, when the necessities or luxury of mankind increased the demand for

slaves, every new war recruited their number, by reducing the vanquished to that wretched condition. Hence proceeded the fierce and desperate

spirit with which wars were carried on among ancient nations. While chains and slavery were the certain lot of the conquered, battles were fought, and towns defended with a rage and obstinacy which nothing but

horror at such a fate could have inspired; but, putting an end to the cruel institution of slavery, Christianity extended its mild influences to the practice of war, and that barbarous art, softened by its humane

spirit, ceased to be so destructive. Secure, in every event, of personal

liberty, the resistance of the vanquished became less obstinate, and the triumph of the victor less cruel. Thus humanity was introduced into the exercise of war, with which it appears to be almost incompatible; and it

is to the merciful maxims of Christianity, much more than to any other cause, that we must ascribe the little ferocity and bloodshed which accompany modern victories."--G.]

[Footnote 46: In the camp of Lucullus, an ox sold for a drachma, and a

slave for four drachmae, or about three shillings. Plutarch. in Lucull.

p. 580. \* Note: Above 100,000 prisoners were taken in the Jewish war.--G. Hist. of Jews, iii. 71. According to a tradition preserved by S.

Jerom, after the insurrection in the time of Hadrian, they were sold as cheap as horse. Ibid. 124. Compare Blair on Roman Slavery, p. 19.--M., and Dureau de la blalle, Economie Politique des Romains, l. i. c. 15. but I cannot think that this writer has made out his case as to the common price of an agricultural slave being from 2000 to 2500 francs,

(80l. to 100l.) He has overlooked the passages which show the ordinary

prices, (i. e. Hor. Sat. ii. vii. 45,) and argued from extraordinary and exceptional cases.--M. 1845.]

[Footnote 47: Diodorus Siculus in Eclog. Hist. l. xxxiv. and xxxvi. florus, iii. 19, 20.]

[Footnote 471: The following is the example: we shall see whether the word

"severe" is here in its place. "At the time in which L. Domitius was

praetor in Sicily, a slave killed a wild boar of extraordinary size. The

praetor, struck by the dexterity and courage of the man, desired to see

him. The poor wretch, highly gratified with the distinction, came to

present himself before the praetor, in hopes, no doubt, of praise and

reward; but Domitius, on learning that he had only a javelin to attack and kill the boar, ordered him to be instantly crucified, under the barbarous pretext that the law prohibited the use of this weapon, as

of all others, to slaves." Perhaps the cruelty of Domitius is less astonishing than the indifference with which the Roman orator relates this circumstance, which affects him so little that he thus expresses

himself: "Durum hoc fortasse videatur, neque ego in ullam partem disputo." "This may appear harsh, nor do I give any opinion on the

subject." And it is the same orator who exclaims in the same oration,

"Facinus est cruciare civem Romanum; scelus verberare; prope parricidium

necare: quid dicam in crucem tollere?" "It is a crime to imprison a

Roman citizen; wickedness to scourge; next to parricide to put to death, what shall I call it to crucify?"

In general, this passage of Gibbon on slavery, is full, not only of blamable indifference, but of an exaggeration of impartiality which

resembles dishonesty. He endeavors to extenuate all that is appalling

in the condition and treatment of the slaves; he would make us consider those cruelties as possibly "justified by necessity." He then describes, with minute accuracy, the slightest mitigations of their deplorable condition; he attributes to the virtue or the policy of the emperors the

progressive amelioration in the lot of the slaves; and he passes over

in silence the most influential cause, that which, after rendering the

slaves less miserable, has contributed at length entirely to enfranchise them from their sufferings and their chains,--Christianity. It would be easy to accumulate the most frightful, the most agonizing details, of the manner in which the Romans treated their slaves; whole works have been devoted to the description. I content myself with referring to them. Some reflections of Robertson, taken from the discourse already

quoted, will make us feel that Gibbon, in tracing the mitigation of the condition of the slaves, up to a period little later than that which witnessed the establishment of Christianity in the world, could not have avoided the acknowledgment of the influence of that beneficent cause, if

he had not already determined not to speak of it.

"Upon establishing despotic government in the Roman empire, domestic tyranny rose, in a short time, to an astonishing height. In that rank

soil, every vice, which power nourishes in the great, or oppression engenders in the mean, thrived and grew up apace. \* \* \* It is not the authority of any single detached precept in the gospel, but the spirit and genius of the Christian religion, more powerful than any particular command, which hath abolished the practice of slavery throughout the world. The temper which Christianity inspired was mild and gentle; and the doctrines it taught added such dignity and lustre to human nature, as rescued it from the dishonorable servitude into which it was sunk."

It is in vain, then, that Gibbon pretends to attribute solely to the desire of keeping up the number of slaves, the milder conduct which the

Romans began to adopt in their favor at the time of the emperors. This cause had hitherto acted in an opposite direction; how came it on a sudden to have a different influence? "The masters," he says,

"encouraged the marriage of their slaves; \* \* \* the sentiments of

nature, the habits of education, contributed to alleviate the hardships

of servitude." The children of slaves were the property of their master, who could dispose of or alienate them like the rest of his property. Is

it in such a situation, with such notions, that the sentiments of nature

unfold themselves, or habits of education become mild and peaceful? We

must not attribute to causes inadequate or altogether without force, effects which require to explain them a reference to more influential causes; and even if these slighter causes had in effect a manifest

influence, we must not forget that they are themselves the effect of a primary, a higher, and more extensive cause, which, in giving to the

mind and to the character a more disinterested and more humane bias, disposed men to second or themselves to advance, by their conduct, and by the change of manners, the happy results which it tended to

produce.--G.

I have retained the whole of M. Guizot's note, though, in his zeal for the invaluable blessings of freedom and Christianity, he has done Gibbon

injustice. The condition of the slaves was undoubtedly improved under the emperors. What a great authority has said, "The condition of a slave

is better under an arbitrary than under a free government," (Smith's wealth of Nations, iv. 7,) is, I believe, supported by the history of all ages and nations. The protecting edicts of Hadrian and the Antonines are historical facts, and can as little be attributed to the influence

of Christianity, as the milder language of heathen writers, of Seneca,

(particularly Ep. 47,) of Pliny, and of Plutarch. The latter influence

of Christianity is admitted by Gibbon himself. The subject of Roman

slavery has recently been investigated with great diligence in a very

modest but valuable volume, by Wm. Blair, Esq., Edin. 1833. May we be

permitted, while on the subject, to refer to the most splendid

passage extant of Mr. Pitt's eloquence, the description of the Roman

slave-dealer. on the shores of Britain, condemning the island to

irreclaimable barbarism, as a perpetual and prolific nursery of slaves?

Speeches, vol. ii. p. 80.

Gibbon, it should be added, was one of the first and most consistent

opponents of the African slave-trade. (See Hist. ch. xxv. and Letters to

Lor Sheffield, Misc. Works)--M.]

[Footnote 48: See a remarkable instance of severity in Cicero in Verrem,

v. 3.]

[Footnote 481: An active slave-trade, which was carried on in many

quarters, particularly the Euxine, the eastern provinces, the coast of africa, and British must be taken into the account. Blair, 23--32.--M.]

[Footnote 482: The Romans, as well in the first ages of the republic as

later, allowed to their slaves a kind of marriage, (contubernium: )

notwithstanding this, luxury made a greater number of slaves in demand. the increase in their population was not sufficient, and recourse was

had to the purchase of slaves, which was made even in the provinces of the East subject to the Romans. It is, moreover, known that slavery is a

state little favorable to population. (See Hume's Essay, and Malthus on

population, i. 334.--G.) The testimony of Appian (B.C. l. i. c. 7)

is decisive in favor of the rapid multiplication of the agricultural

slaves; it is confirmed by the numbers engaged in the servile wars. compare also Blair, p. 119; likewise Columella l. viii.--M.]

[Footnote 49: See in Gruter, and the other collectors, a great number

of inscriptions addressed by slaves to their wives, children, fellow-servants, masters, &c. They are all most probably of the Imperial age.]

[Footnote 50: See the Augustan History, and a Dissertation of M. de Burigny, in the xxxvth volume of the Academy of Inscriptions, upon the Roman slaves.]

Hope, the best comfort of our imperfect condition, was not denied to the

Roman slave; and if he had any opportunity of rendering himself either

useful or agreeable, he might very naturally expect that the diligence and fidelity of a few years would be rewarded with the inestimable gift

of freedom. The benevolence of the master was so frequently prompted by the meaner suggestions of vanity and avarice, that the laws found

it more necessary to restrain than to encourage a profuse and

undistinguishing liberality, which might degenerate into a very dangerous abuse. [51] It was a maxim of ancient jurisprudence, that a

slave had not any country of his own; he acquired with his liberty an admission into the political society of which his patron was a member. the consequences of this maxim would have prostituted the privileges

of the Roman city to a mean and promiscuous multitude. Some seasonable exceptions were therefore provided; and the honorable distinction was confined to such slaves only as, for just causes, and with the approbation of the magistrate, should receive a solemn and legal

manumission. Even these chosen freedmen obtained no more than the

private rights of citizens, and were rigorously excluded from civil or

military honors. Whatever might be the merit or fortune of their sons, they likewise were esteemed unworthy of a seat in the senate; nor were the traces of a servile origin allowed to be completely obliterated till the third or fourth generation. [52] Without destroying the distinction

of ranks, a distant prospect of freedom and honors was presented, even to those whom pride and prejudice almost disdained to number among the

human species.

[Footnote 51: See another Dissertation of M. de Burigny,

in the xxxviith volume, on the Roman freedmen.]

[Footnote 52: Spanheim, Orbis Roman. l. i. c. 16, p. 124, &c.] It was

once proposed to discriminate the slaves by a peculiar habit; but it was

justly apprehended that there might be some danger in acquainting them with their own numbers. [53] Without interpreting, in their utmost

strictness, the liberal appellations of legions and myriads, [54] we may

venture to pronounce, that the proportion of slaves, who were valued as property, was more considerable than that of servants, who can be computed only as an expense. [55] The youths of a promising genius were

instructed in the arts and sciences, and their price was ascertained by the degree of their skill and talents. [56] Almost every profession, either liberal [57] or mechanical, might be found in the household of an

opulent senator. The ministers of pomp and sensuality were multiplied beyond the conception of modern luxury. [58] It was more for the interest

of the merchant or manufacturer to purchase, than to hire his workmen; and in the country, slaves were employed as the cheapest and

most laborious instruments of agriculture. To confirm the general

observation, and to display the multitude of slaves, we might allege a

variety of particular instances. It was discovered, on a very melancholy

occasion, that four hundred slaves were maintained in a single palace of

Rome. [59] The same number of four hundred belonged to an estate which an african widow, of a very private condition, resigned to her son, whilst

she reserved for herself a much larger share of her property. [60] A freedman, under the name of Augustus, though his fortune had suffered

great losses in the civil wars, left behind him three thousand six

hundred yoke of oxen, two hundred and fifty thousand head of smaller cattle, and what was almost included in the description of cattle, four thousand one hundred and sixteen slaves. [61]

[Footnote 53: Seneca de Clementia, l. i. c. 24. The original is much

stronger, "Quantum periculum immineret si servi nostri numerare nos coepissent."]

[Footnote 54: See Pliny (Hist. Natur. l. xxxiii.) and Athenaeus

(Deipnosophist. l. vi. p. 272.) The latter boldly asserts, that he knew

very many Romans who possessed, not for use, but ostentation, ten and even twenty thousand slaves.]

[Footnote 55: In Paris there are not more than 43,000 domestics of every

sort, and not a twelfth part of the inhabitants. Messange, Recherches

sui la Population, p. 186.]

[Footnote 56: A learned slave sold for many hundred pounds sterling: atticus always bred and taught them himself. Cornel. Nepos in Vit. c.

13, [on the prices of slaves. Blair, 149.]--M.]

[Footnote 57: Many of the Roman physicians were slaves. See Dr.

Middleton's Dissertation and Defence.]

[Footnote 58: Their ranks and offices are very copiously enumerated by

Pignorius de Servis.]

[Footnote 59: Tacit. Annal. xiv. 43. They were all executed for not

preventing their master's murder. \* Note: The remarkable speech of cassius shows the proud feelings of the Roman aristocracy on this

subject.--M]

[Footnote 60: Apuleius in Apolog. p. 548. edit. Delphin]

[Footnote 61: Plin. Hist. Natur. l. xxxiii. 47.]

the number of subjects who acknowledged the laws of Rome, of citizens,

of provincials, and of slaves, cannot now be fixed with such a degree

of accuracy, as the importance of the object would deserve. We are

informed, that when the Emperor Claudius exercised the office of censor,

he took an account of six millions nine hundred and forty-five thousand

Roman citizens, who, with the proportion of women and children, must

have amounted to about twenty millions of souls. The multitude of

subjects of an inferior rank was uncertain and fluctuating. But, after weighing with attention every circumstance which could influence the balance, it seems probable that there existed, in the time of Claudius, about twice as many provincials as there were citizens, of either sex, and of every age; and that the slaves were at least equal in number to the free inhabitants of the Roman world. [611] The total amount of this

imperfect calculation would rise to about one hundred and twenty

millions of persons; a degree of population which possibly exceeds that

of modern Europe, [62] and forms the most numerous society that has ever been united under the same system of government.

[Footnote 611]: According to Robertson, there were twice as many slaves as free citizens.--G. Mr. Blair (p. 15) estimates three slaves to one freeman, between the conquest of Greece, B.C. 146, and the reign of alexander Severus, A. D. 222, 235. The proportion was probably larger

in Italy than in the provinces.--M. On the other hand, Zumpt, in his dissertation quoted below, (p. 86,) asserts it to be a gross error

in Gibbon to reckon the number of slaves equal to that of the free

population. The luxury and magnificence of the great, (he observes,) at the commencement of the empire, must not be taken as the groundwork of calculations for the whole Roman world. "The agricultural laborer, and the artisan, in Spain, Gaul, Britain, Syria, and Egypt, maintained

himself, as in the present day, by his own labor and that of his

household, without possessing a single slave." The latter part of my

note was intended to suggest this consideration. Yet so completely was

slavery rooted in the social system, both in the east and the west, that

in the great diffusion of wealth at this time, every one, I doubt not, who could afford a domestic slave, kept one; and generally, the number

of slaves was in proportion to the wealth. I do not believe that the cultivation of the soil by slaves was confined to Italy; the holders

of large estates in the provinces would probably, either from choice

or necessity, adopt the same mode of cultivation. The latifundia, says

Pliny, had ruined Italy, and had begun to ruin the provinces. Slaves were no doubt employed in agricultural labor to a great extent in

Sicily, and were the estates of those six enormous landholders who were said to have possessed the whole province of Africa, cultivated altogether by free coloni? Whatever may have been the case in the rural districts, in the towns and cities the household duties were almost entirely discharged by slaves, and vast numbers belonged to the public establishments. I do not, however, differ so far from Zumpt, and from

M. Dureau de la Malle, as to adopt the higher and bolder estimate of

Robertson and Mr. Blair, rather than the more cautious suggestions of

Gibbon. I would reduce rather than increase the proportion of the slave

population. The very ingenious and elaborate calculations of the French writer, by which he deduces the amount of the population from the

produce and consumption of corn in Italy, appear to me neither precise

nor satisfactory bases for such complicated political arithmetic.

I am least satisfied with his views as to the population of the city

of Rome; but this point will be more fitly reserved for a note on the thirty-first chapter of Gibbon. The work, however, of M. Dureau de la

Malle is very curious and full on some of the minuter points of Roman

statistics.--M. 1845.]

[Footnote 62: Compute twenty millions in France, twenty-two in Germany, four in Hungary, ten in Italy with its islands, eight in Great Britain and Ireland, eight in Spain and Portugal, ten or twelve in the European

Russia, six in Poland, six in Greece and Turkey, four in Sweden, three

in Denmark and Norway, four in the Low Countries. The whole would amount to one hundred and five, or one hundred and seven millions. See

Voltaire, de l'Histoire Generale. \* Note: The present population of europe is estimated at 227,700,000. Malts Bran, Geogr. Trans edit. 1832

See details in the different volumes Another authority, (Almanach de

Gotha,) quoted in a recent English publication, gives the following details:--

france, 32,897,521 Germany, (including Hungary, Prussian and Austrian

Poland,) 56,136,213 Italy, 20,548,616 Great Britain and Ireland,

24,062,947 Spain and Portugal, 13,953,959. 3,144,000 Russia, including

Poland, 44,220,600 Cracow, 128,480 Turkey, (including Pachalic of dschesair,) 9,545,300 Greece, 637,700 Ionian Islands, 208,100 Sweden and

Norway, 3,914,963 Denmark, 2,012,998 Belgium, 3,533,538 Holland,

2,444,550 Switzerland, 985,000. Total, 219,344,116

Since the publication of my first annotated edition of Gibbon, the

subject of the population of the Roman empire has been investigated by two writers of great industry and learning; Mons. Dureau de la Malle, in

his Economie Politique des Romains, liv. ii. c. 1. to 8, and M. Zumpt,

in a dissertation printed in the Transactions of the Berlin Academy,

1840. M. Dureau de la Malle confines his inquiry almost entirely to the city of Rome, and Roman Italy. Zumpt examines at greater length the axiom, which he supposes to have been assumed by Gibbon as

unquestionable, "that Italy and the Roman world was never so populous as in the time of the Antonines." Though this probably was Gibbon's

opinion, he has not stated it so peremptorily as asserted by Mr. Zumpt.

It had before been expressly laid down by Hume, and his statement was controverted by Wallace and by Malthus. Gibbon says (p. 84) that there

is no reason to believe the country (of Italy) less populous in the age

of the Antonines, than in that of Romulus; and Zumpt acknowledges that we have no satisfactory knowledge of the state of Italy at that early age. Zumpt, in my opinion with some reason, takes the period just before the first Punic war, as that in which Roman Italy (all south of the

Rubicon) was most populous. From that time, the numbers began to diminish, at first from the enormous waste of life out of the free

population in the foreign, and afterwards in the civil wars; from the cultivation of the soil by slaves; towards the close of the republic, from the repugnance to marriage, which resisted alike the dread of legal

punishment and the offer of legal immunity and privilege; and from the depravity of manners, which interfered with the procreation, the birth, and the rearing of children. The arguments and the authorities of Zumpt are equally conclusive as to the decline of population in Greece.

Still the details, which he himself adduces as to the prosperity and

populousness of Asia Minor, and the whole of the Roman East, with the advancement of the European provinces, especially Gaul, Spain, and britain, in civilization, and therefore in populousness, (for I have

no confidence in the vast numbers sometimes assigned to the barbarous

inhabitants of these countries,) may, I think, fairly compensate for any deduction to be made from Gibbon's general estimate on account of Greece and Italy. Gibbon himself acknowledges his own estimate to be vague and conjectural; and I may venture to recommend the dissertation of Zumpt as deserving respectful consideration.--M 1815.]

chapter II: The Internal Prosperity In The Age Of The Antonines.--Part III.

domestic peace and union were the natural consequences of the moderate and comprehensive policy embraced by the Romans. If we turn our eyes towards the monarchies of Asia, we shall behold despotism in the centre, and weakness in the extremities; the collection of the revenue, or the administration of justice, enforced by the presence of an army; hostile barbarians established in the heart of the country, hereditary satraps

usurping the dominion of the provinces, and subjects inclined to

rebellion, though incapable of freedom. But the obedience of the Roman world was uniform, voluntary, and permanent. The vanquished nations, blended into one great people, resigned the hope, nay, even the wish, of

resuming their independence, and scarcely considered their own existence as distinct from the existence of Rome. The established authority of the emperors pervaded without an effort the wide extent of their dominions, and was exercised with the same facility on the banks of the Thames,

or of the Nile, as on those of the Tyber. The legions were destined to

serve against the public enemy, and the civil magistrate seldom required the aid of a military force. [63] In this state of general security, the leisure, as well as opulence, both of the prince and people, were devoted to improve and to adorn the Roman empire.

[Footnote 63: Joseph. de Bell. Judaico, l. ii. c. 16. The oration of agrippa, or rather of the historian, is a fine picture of the Roman empire.]

among the innumerable monuments of architecture constructed by the

Romans, how many have escaped the notice of history, how few have

resisted the ravages of time and barbarism! And yet, even the majestic

ruins that are still scattered over Italy and the provinces, would be

sufficient to prove that those countries were once the seat of a polite and powerful empire. Their greatness alone, or their beauty, might deserve our attention: but they are rendered more interesting, by two

important circumstances, which connect the agreeable history of the arts with the more useful history of human manners. Many of those works were erected at private expense, and almost all were intended for public benefit.

It is natural to suppose that the greatest number, as well as the most considerable of the Roman edifices, were raised by the emperors, who

possessed so unbounded a command both of men and money. Augustus was accustomed to boast that he had found his capital of brick, and that

he had left it of marble. [64] The strict economy of Vespasian was the

source of his magnificence. The works of Trajan bear the stamp of his

genius. The public monuments with which Hadrian adorned every province

of the empire, were executed not only by his orders, but under his

immediate inspection. He was himself an artist; and he loved the arts, as they conduced to the glory of the monarch. They were encouraged by the Antonines, as they contributed to the happiness of the people. But

if the emperors were the first, they were not the only architects

of their dominions. Their example was universally imitated by their

principal subjects, who were not afraid of declaring to the world that they had spirit to conceive, and wealth to accomplish, the noblest

undertakings. Scarcely had the proud structure of the Coliseum been dedicated at Rome, before the edifices, of a smaller scale indeed, but

of the same design and materials, were erected for the use, and at the expense, of the cities of Capua and Verona. [65] The inscription of the

stupendous bridge of Alcantara attests that it was thrown over the Tagus by the contribution of a few Lusitanian communities. When Pliny was

intrusted with the government of Bithynia and Pontus, provinces by

no means the richest or most considerable of the empire, he found the cities within his jurisdiction striving with each other in every useful and ornamental work, that might deserve the curiosity of strangers, or the gratitude of their citizens. It was the duty of the proconsul to

supply their deficiencies, to direct their taste, and sometimes to

moderate their emulation. [66] The opulent senators of Rome and the

provinces esteemed it an honor, and almost an obligation, to adorn the

splendor of their age and country; and the influence of fashion very frequently supplied the want of taste or generosity. Among a crowd of these private benefactors, we may select Herodes Atticus, an Athenian citizen, who lived in the age of the Antonines. Whatever might be the

motive of his conduct, his magnificence would have been worthy of the

greatest kings.

[Footnote 64: Sueton. in August. c. 28. Augustus built in Rome the temple and forum of Mars the Avenger; the temple of Jupiter Tonans in the Capitol; that of Apollo Palatine, with public libraries; the portico and basilica of Caius and Lucius; the porticos of Livia and Octavia; and the theatre of Marcellus. The example of the sovereign was imitated by

his ministers and generals; and his friend Agrippa left behind him the

immortal monument of the Pantheon.] [See Theatre Of Marcellus: Augustus built in Rome the theatre of Marcellus.]

[Footnote 65: See Maffei, Veroni Illustrata, l. iv. p. 68.]

[Footnote 66: See the xth book of Pliny's Epistles. He mentions the following works carried on at the expense of the cities. At Nicomedia, a

new forum, an aqueduct, and a canal, left unfinished by a king; at Nice, a gymnasium, and a theatre, which had already cost near ninety thousand

pounds; baths at Prusa and Claudiopolis, and an aqueduct of sixteen

miles in length for the use of Sinope.]

the family of Herod, at least after it had been favored by fortune, was

lineally descended from Cimon and Miltiades, Theseus and Cecrops, Aeacus and Jupiter. But the posterity of so many gods and heroes was fallen

into the most abject state. His grandfather had suffered by the hands

of justice, and Julius Atticus, his father, must have ended his life in

poverty and contempt, had he not discovered an immense treasure buried

under an old house, the last remains of his patrimony. According to the

rigor of the law, the emperor might have asserted his claim, and the

prudent Atticus prevented, by a frank confession, the officiousness of

informers. But the equitable Nerva, who then filled the throne, refused to accept any part of it, and commanded him to use, without scruple, the present of fortune. The cautious Athenian still insisted, that the treasure was too considerable for a subject, and that he knew not how to use it. Abuse it then, replied the monarch, with a good-natured

peevishness; for it is your own. [67] Many will be of opinion, that atticus literally obeyed the emperor's last instructions; since he expended the greatest part of his fortune, which was much increased by an advantageous marriage, in the service of the public. He had obtained for his son Herod the prefecture of the free cities of Asia; and the

young magistrate, observing that the town of Troas was indifferently

supplied with water, obtained from the munificence of Hadrian three

hundred myriads of drachms, (about a hundred thousand pounds,) for the construction of a new aqueduct. But in the execution of the work, the charge amounted to more than double the estimate, and the officers of the revenue began to murmur, till the generous Atticus silenced their complaints, by requesting that he might be permitted to take upon

himself the whole additional expense. [68]

[Footnote 67: Hadrian afterwards made a very equitable regulation, which divided all treasure-trove between the right of property and that of discovery. Hist. August. p. 9.]

[Footnote 68: Philostrat. in Vit. Sophist. l. ii. p. 548.]

the ablest preceptors of Greece and Asia had been invited by liberal

rewards to direct the education of young Herod. Their pupil soon became a celebrated orator, according to the useless rhetoric of that age, which, confining itself to the schools, disdained to visit either the forum or the Senate.

He was honored with the consulship at Rome: but the greatest part of his

life was spent in a philosophic retirement at Athens, and his adjacent

villas; perpetually surrounded by sophists, who acknowledged, without

reluctance, the superiority of a rich and generous rival. [69] The

monuments of his genius have perished; some considerable ruins still

preserve the fame of his taste and munificence: modern travellers have

measured the remains of the stadium which he constructed at Athens. It was six hundred feet in length, built entirely of white marble, capable

of admitting the whole body of the people, and finished in four years, whilst Herod was president of the Athenian games. To the memory of his wife Regilla he dedicated a theatre, scarcely to be paralleled in the empire: no wood except cedar, very curiously carved, was employed in any part of the building. The Odeum, [691] designed by Pericles for musical

performances, and the rehearsal of new tragedies, had been a trophy of the victory of the arts over barbaric greatness; as the timbers employed

in the construction consisted chiefly of the masts of the Persian

vessels. Notwithstanding the repairs bestowed on that ancient edifice by a king of Cappadocia, it was again fallen to decay. Herod restored

its ancient beauty and magnificence. Nor was the liberality of that

illustrious citizen confined to the walls of Athens. The most splendid

ornaments bestowed on the temple of Neptune in the Isthmus, a theatre at corinth, a stadium at Delphi, a bath at Thermopylae, and an aqueduct at Canusium in Italy, were insufficient to exhaust his treasures. the people of Epirus, Thessaly, Euboea, Boeotia, and Peloponnesus, experienced his favors; and many inscriptions of the cities of Greece and Asia gratefully style Herodes Atticus their patron and benefactor.

[70]

[Footnote 69: Aulus Gellius, in Noct. Attic. i. 2, ix. 2, xviii. 10,

xix. 12. Phil ostrat. p. 564.]

[Footnote 691: The Odeum served for the rehearsal of new comedies as well as tragedies; they were read or repeated, before representation, without

music or decorations, &c. No piece could be represented in the theatre

if it had not been previously approved by judges for this purpose. the king of Cappadocia who restored the Odeum, which had been burnt by

Sylla, was Araobarzanes. See Martini, Dissertation on the Odeons of the ancients, Leipsic. 1767, p. 10--91.--W.]

[Footnote 70: See Philostrat. l. ii. p. 548, 560. Pausanias, l. i. and

vii. 10. The life of Herodes, in the xxxth volume of the Memoirs of the academy of Inscriptions.]

In the commonwealths of Athens and Rome, the modest simplicity of

private houses announced the equal condition of freedom; whilst the

sovereignty of the people was represented in the majestic edifices designed to the public use; [71] nor was this republican spirit totally extinguished by the introduction of wealth and monarchy. It was in works

of national honor and benefit, that the most virtuous of the emperors affected to display their magnificence. The golden palace of Nero excited a just indignation, but the vast extent of ground which had been

usurped by his selfish luxury was more nobly filled under the succeeding

reigns by the Coliseum, the baths of Titus, the Claudian portico, and the temples dedicated to the goddess of Peace, and to the genius of

Rome. [72] These monuments of architecture, the property of the Roman

people, were adorned with the most beautiful productions of Grecian

painting and sculpture; and in the temple of Peace, a very curious

library was open to the curiosity of the learned. [721] At a small distance from thence was situated the Forum of Trajan. It was surrounded by a

lofty portico, in the form of a quadrangle, into which four triumphal arches opened a noble and spacious entrance: in the centre arose a column of marble, whose height, of one hundred and ten feet, denoted the elevation of the hill that had been cut away. This column, which still

subsists in its ancient beauty, exhibited an exact representation of the dacian victories of its founder. The veteran soldier contemplated the

story of his own campaigns, and by an easy illusion of national vanity, the peaceful citizen associated himself to the honors of the triumph. all the other quarters of the capital, and all the provinces of the empire, were embellished by the same liberal spirit of public

magnificence, and were filled with amphi theatres, theatres, temples,

porticoes, triumphal arches, baths and aqueducts, all variously conducive to the health, the devotion, and the pleasures of the meanest citizen. The last mentioned of those edifices deserve our peculiar attention. The boldness of the enterprise, the solidity of the execution, and the uses to which they were subservient, rank the aqueducts among the noblest monuments of Roman genius and power. The aqueducts of the capital claim a just preeminence; but the curious traveller, who, without the light of history, should examine those of

Spoleto, of Metz, or of Segovia, would very naturally conclude that those provincial towns had formerly been the residence of some potent

monarch. The solitudes of Asia and Africa were once covered with flourishing cities, whose populousness, and even whose existence, was derived from such artificial supplies of a perennial stream of fresh water. [73]

[Footnote 71: It is particularly remarked of Athens by Dicaearchus, de

Statu Graeciae, p. 8, inter Geographos Minores, edit. Hudson.]

[Footnote 72: Donatus de Roma Vetere, l. iii. c. 4, 5, 6. Nardini Roma antica, l. iii. 11, 12, 13, and a Ms. description of ancient Rome, by bernardus Oricellarius, or Rucellai, of which I obtained a copy from the library of the Canon Ricardi at Florence. Two celebrated pictures of timanthes and of Protogenes are mentioned by Pliny, as in the Temple of

Peace; and the Laocoon was found in the baths of Titus.]

[Footnote 721: The Emperor Vespasian, who had caused the Temple of Peace to be built, transported to it the greatest part of the pictures,

statues, and other works of art which had escaped the civil tumults. It was there that every day the artists and the learned of Rome assembled; and it is on the site of this temple that a multitude of antiques

have been dug up. See notes of Reimar on Dion Cassius, lxvi. c. 15, p.

1083.--W.]

[Footnote 73: Montfaucon l'Antiquite Expliquee, tom. iv. p. 2, l. i. c. 9. Fabretti has composed a very learned treatise on the aqueducts of

Rome.]

we have computed the inhabitants, and contemplated the public works,

of the Roman empire. The observation of the number and greatness of its cities will serve to confirm the former, and to multiply the latter. It

may not be unpleasing to collect a few scattered instances relative to that subject without forgetting, however, that from the vanity of

nations and the poverty of language, the vague appellation of city has been indifferently bestowed on Rome and upon Laurentum.

I. Ancient Italy is said to have contained eleven hundred and

ninety-seven cities; and for whatsoever aera of antiquity the expression

might be intended, [74] there is not any reason to believe the country

less populous in the age of the Antonines, than in that of Romulus. the petty states of Latium were contained within the metropolis of the empire, by whose superior influence they had been attracted. [741] Those

parts of Italy which have so long languished under the lazy tyranny

of priests and viceroys, had been afflicted only by the more tolerable calamities of war; and the first symptoms of decay which they experienced, were amply compensated by the rapid improvements of the cisalpine Gaul. The splendor of Verona may be traced in its remains: yet

Verona was less celebrated than Aquileia or Padua, Milan or Ravenna. II. the spirit of improvement had passed the Alps, and been felt even in the woods of Britain, which were gradually cleared away to open a free space for convenient and elegant habitations. York was the seat of government;

London was already enriched by commerce; and Bath was celebrated for the

salutary effects of its medicinal waters. Gaul could boast of her twelve

hundred cities; [75] and though, in the northern parts, many of them, without excepting Paris itself, were little more than the rude and

imperfect townships of a rising people, the southern provinces imitated the wealth and elegance of Italy. [76] Many were the cities of Gaul,

Marseilles, Arles, Nismes, Narbonne, Thoulouse, Bourdeaux, Autun,

Vienna, Lyons, Langres, and Treves, whose ancient condition might

sustain an equal, and perhaps advantageous comparison with their present

state. With regard to Spain, that country flourished as a province, and

has declined as a kingdom. Exhausted by the abuse of her strength, by america, and by superstition, her pride might possibly be confounded, if we required such a list of three hundred and sixty cities, as Pliny has exhibited under the reign of Vespasian. [77] III. Three hundred African cities had once acknowledged the authority of Carthage, [78] nor is it

likely that their numbers diminished under the administration of the emperors: Carthage itself rose with new splendor from its ashes; and that capital, as well as Capua and Corinth, soon recovered all the advantages which can be separated from independent sovereignty. IV. The

provinces of the East present the contrast of Roman magnificence with turkish barbarism. The ruins of antiquity scattered over uncultivated fields, and ascribed, by ignorance to the power of magic, scarcely afford a shelter to the oppressed peasant or wandering Arab. Under the reign of the Caesars, the proper Asia alone contained five hundred

populous cities, [79] enriched with all the gifts of nature, and adorned with all the refinements of art. Eleven cities of Asia had once disputed the honor of dedicating a temple of Tiberius, and their respective

merits were examined by the senate. [80] Four of them were immediately

rejected as unequal to the burden; and among these was Laodicea, whose

splendor is still displayed in its ruins. [81] Laodicea collected a

very considerable revenue from its flocks of sheep, celebrated for the fineness of their wool, and had received, a little before the contest, a legacy of above four hundred thousand pounds by the testament of a

generous citizen. [82] If such was the poverty of Laodicea, what must

have been the wealth of those cities, whose claim appeared preferable, and particularly of Pergamus, of Smyrna, and of Ephesus, who so long disputed with each other the titular primacy of Asia? [83] The capitals

of Syria and Egypt held a still superior rank in the empire; Antioch and alexandria looked down with disdain on a crowd of dependent cities, [84] and yielded, with reluctance, to the majesty of Rome itself.

[Footnote 74: Aelian. Hist. Var. lib. ix. c. 16. He lived in the time of alexander Severus. See Fabricius, Biblioth. Graeca, l. iv. c. 21.]

[Footnote 741: This may in some degree account for the difficulty started by Livy, as to the incredibly numerous armies raised by the small states around Rome where, in his time, a scanty stock of free soldiers among a larger population of Roman slaves broke the solitude. Vix seminario exiguo militum relicto servitia Romana ab solitudine vindicant, Liv. vi.

vii. Compare Appian Bel Civ. i. 7.--M. subst. for G.]

[Footnote 75: Joseph. de Bell. Jud. ii. 16. The number, however, is

mentioned, and should be received with a degree of latitude. Note: without doubt no reliance can be placed on this passage of Josephus. The

historian makes Agrippa give advice to the Jews, as to the power of the Romans; and the speech is full of declamation which can furnish no conclusions to history. While enumerating the nations subject to the

Romans, he speaks of the Gauls as submitting to 1200 soldiers, (which is false, as there were eight legions in Gaul, Tac. iv. 5,) while there are

nearly twelve hundred cities.--G. Josephus (infra) places these eight

legions on the Rhine, as Tacitus does.--M.]

[Footnote 76: Plin. Hist. Natur. iii. 5.]

[Footnote 77: Plin. Hist. Natur. iii. 3, 4, iv. 35. The list seems authentic and accurate; the division of the provinces, and the different condition of the cities, are minutely distinguished.]

[Footnote 78: Strabon. Geograph. l. xvii. p. 1189.]

[Footnote 79: Joseph. de Bell. Jud. ii. 16. Philostrat. in Vit. Sophist.

l. ii. p. 548, edit. Olear.]

[Footnote 80: Tacit. Annal. iv. 55. I have taken some pains in consulting and comparing modern travellers, with regard to the fate

of those eleven cities of Asia. Seven or eight are totally destroyed:

Hypaepe, Tralles, Laodicea, Hium, Halicarnassus, Miletus, Ephesus, and we may add Sardes. Of the remaining three, Pergamus is a straggling

village of two or three thousand inhabitants; Magnesia, under the name

of Guzelhissar, a town of some consequence; and Smyrna, a great city,

peopled by a hundred thousand souls. But even at Smyrna, while the franks have maintained a commerce, the Turks have ruined the arts.]

[Footnote 81: See a very exact and pleasing description of the ruins of

Laodicea, in Chandler's Travels through Asia Minor, p. 225, &c.]

[Footnote 82: Strabo, l. xii. p. 866. He had studied at Tralles.]

[Footnote 83: See a Dissertation of M. de Boze, Mem. de l'Academie, tom. xviii. Aristides pronounced an oration, which is still extant, to

recommend concord to the rival cities.]

[Footnote 84: The inhabitants of Egypt, exclusive of Alexandria, amounted to seven millions and a half, (Joseph. de Bell. Jud. ii. 16.)

Under the military government of the Mamelukes, Syria was supposed to contain sixty thousand villages, (Histoire de Timur Bec, l. v. c. 20.)]

chapter II: The Internal Prosperity In The Age Of The Antonines. Part IV.

all these cities were connected with each other, and with the capital, by the public highways, which, issuing from the Forum of Rome, traversed

Italy, pervaded the provinces, and were terminated only by the frontiers

of the empire. If we carefully trace the distance from the wall of antoninus to Rome, and from thence to Jerusalem, it will be found that the great chain of communication, from the north-west to the south-east

point of the empire, was drawn out to the length if four thousand and eighty Roman miles. [85] The public roads were accurately divided by

mile-stones, and ran in a direct line from one city to another, with

very little respect for the obstacles either of nature or private

property. Mountains were perforated, and bold arches thrown over the broadest and most rapid streams. [86] The middle part of the road was

raised into a terrace which commanded the adjacent country, consisted

of several strata of sand, gravel, and cement, and was paved with large

stones, or, in some places near the capital, with granite. [87] Such was the solid construction of the Roman highways, whose firmness has not entirely yielded to the effort of fifteen centuries. They united the subjects of the most distant provinces by an easy and familiar

intercourse; out their primary object had been to facilitate the marches

of the legions; nor was any country considered as completely subdued, till it had been rendered, in all its parts, pervious to the arms and authority of the conqueror. The advantage of receiving the earliest

intelligence, and of conveying their orders with celerity, induced the emperors to establish, throughout their extensive dominions, the

regular institution of posts. [88] Houses were every where erected at the distance only of five or six miles; each of them was constantly provided with forty horses, and by the help of these relays, it was easy to travel a hundred miles in a day along the Roman roads. [89] [891] The use

of posts was allowed to those who claimed it by an Imperial mandate; but though originally intended for the public service, it was sometimes

indulged to the business or conveniency of private citizens. [90] Nor was the communication of the Roman empire less free and open by sea than it was by land. The provinces surrounded and enclosed the Mediterranean: and Italy, in the shape of an immense promontory, advanced into the

midst of that great lake. The coasts of Italy are, in general, destitute

of safe harbors; but human industry had corrected the deficiencies of

nature; and the artificial port of Ostia, in particular, situate at the

mouth of the Tyber, and formed by the emperor Claudius, was a useful

monument of Roman greatness. [91] From this port, which was only sixteen

miles from the capital, a favorable breeze frequently carried vessels in

seven days to the columns of Hercules, and in nine or ten, to Alexandria

in Egypt. [92]

[See Remains Of Claudian Aquaduct]

[Footnote 85: The following Itinerary may serve to convey some idea of the direction of the road, and of the distance between the principal towns. I. From the wall of Antoninus to York, 222 Roman miles. II.

London, 227. III. Rhutupiae or Sandwich, 67. IV. The navigation to boulogne, 45. V. Rheims, 174. VI. Lyons, 330. VII. Milan, 324. VIII.

Rome, 426. IX. Brundusium, 360. X. The navigation to Dyrrachium, 40. XI. byzantium, 711. XII. Ancyra, 283. XIII. Tarsus, 301. XIV. Antioch, 141.

XV. Tyre, 252. XVI. Jerusalem, 168. In all 4080 Roman, or 3740 English

miles. See the Itineraries published by Wesseling, his annotations; Gale and Stukeley for Britain, and M. d'Anville for Gaul and Italy.]

[Footnote 86: Montfaucon, l'Antiquite Expliquee, (tom. 4, p. 2, l. i. c. 5,) has described the bridges of Narni, Alcantara, Nismes, &c.]

[Footnote 87: Bergier, Histoire des grands Chemins de l'Empire Romain,

l. ii. c. l. l--28.]

[Footnote 88: Procopius in Hist. Arcana, c. 30. Bergier, Hist. des

grands Chemins, l. iv. Codex Theodosian. l. viii. tit. v. vol. ii. p.

506--563 with Godefroy's learned commentary.]

[Footnote 89: In the time of Theodosius, Caesarius, a magistrate of high

rank, went post from Antioch to Constantinople. He began his journey at

night, was in Cappadocia (165 miles from Antioch) the ensuing evening, and arrived at Constantinople the sixth day about noon. The whole distance was 725 Roman, or 665 English miles. See Libanius, Orat. xxii., and the Itineria, p. 572--581. Note: A courier is mentioned in Walpole's travels, ii. 335, who was to travel from Aleppo to Constantinople, more than 700 miles, in eight days, an unusually short journey.--M.]

[Footnote 891: Posts for the conveyance of intelligence were established by Augustus. Suet. Aug. 49. The couriers travelled with amazing speed. blair on Roman Slavery, note, p. 261. It is probable that the posts, from the time of Augustus, were confined to the public service, and

supplied by impressment Nerva, as it appears from a coin of his reign,

made an important change; "he established posts upon all the public

roads of Italy, and made the service chargeable upon his own exchequer.

Hadrian, perceiving the advantage of this improvement, extended it to all the provinces of the empire." Cardwell on Coins, p. 220.--M.]

[Footnote 90: Pliny, though a favorite and a minister, made an apology for granting post-horses to his wife on the most urgent business. Epist.

x. 121, 122.]

[Footnote 91: Bergier, Hist. des grands Chemins, l. iv. c. 49.]

[Footnote 92: Plin. Hist. Natur. xix. i. [In Prooem.] \* Note: Pliny says

Puteoli, which seems to have been the usual landing place from the East.

See the voyages of St. Paul, Acts xxviii. 13, and of Josephus, Vita, c.

3--M.]

whatever evils either reason or declamation have imputed to extensive empire, the power of Rome was attended with some beneficial consequences to mankind; and the same freedom of intercourse which extended the

vices, diffused likewise the improvements, of social life. In the more

remote ages of antiquity, the world was unequally divided. The East was

in the immemorial possession of arts and luxury; whilst the West was inhabited by rude and warlike barbarians, who either disdained agriculture, or to whom it was totally unknown. Under the protection of an established government, the productions of happier climates, and the

industry of more civilized nations, were gradually introduced into the western countries of Europe; and the natives were encouraged, by an open and profitable commerce, to multiply the former, as well as to improve the latter. It would be almost impossible to enumerate all the articles, either of the animal or the vegetable reign, which were successively

imported into Europe from Asia and Egypt: [93] but it will not be

unworthy of the dignity, and much less of the utility, of an historical work, slightly to touch on a few of the principal heads. 1. Almost all the flowers, the herbs, and the fruits, that grow in our European

gardens, are of foreign extraction, which, in many cases, is betrayed even by their names: the apple was a native of Italy, and when the

Romans had tasted the richer flavor of the apricot, the peach, the

pomegranate, the citron, and the orange, they contented themselves with applying to all these new fruits the common denomination of apple, discriminating them from each other by the additional epithet of their country. 2. In the time of Homer, the vine grew wild in the island of

Sicily, and most probably in the adjacent continent; but it was not

improved by the skill, nor did it afford a liquor grateful to the taste,

of the savage inhabitants. [94] A thousand years afterwards, Italy could boast, that of the fourscore most generous and celebrated wines, more than two thirds were produced from her soil. [95] The blessing was soon communicated to the Narbonnese province of Gaul; but so intense was the cold to the north of the Cevennes, that, in the time of Strabo, it was thought impossible to ripen the grapes in those parts of Gaul. [96] This difficulty, however, was gradually vanquished; and there is some reason to believe, that the vineyards of Burgundy are as old as the age of the antonines. [97] 3. The olive, in the western world, followed the progress

of peace, of which it was considered as the symbol. Two centuries after the foundation of Rome, both Italy and Africa were strangers to that

useful plant: it was naturalized in those countries; and at length carried into the heart of Spain and Gaul. The timid errors of the ancients, that it required a certain degree of heat, and could only flourish in the neighborhood of the sea, were insensibly exploded by

industry and experience. [98] 4. The cultivation of flax was transported from Egypt to Gaul, and enriched the whole country, however it might

impoverish the particular lands on which it was sown. [99] 5. The use of artificial grasses became familiar to the farmers both of Italy and the

provinces, particularly the Lucerne, which derived its name and origin from Media. [100] The assured supply of wholesome and plentiful food for the cattle during winter, multiplied the number of the docks and herds, which in their turn contributed to the fertility of the soil. To all these improvements may be added an assiduous attention to mines and fisheries, which, by employing a multitude of laborious hands, serve to

increase the pleasures of the rich and the subsistence of the poor. the elegant treatise of Columella describes the advanced state of the

Spanish husbandry under the reign of Tiberius; and it may be observed, that those famines, which so frequently afflicted the infant republic, were seldom or never experienced by the extensive empire of Rome. The accidental scarcity, in any single province, was immediately relieved by the plenty of its more fortunate neighbors.

[Footnote 93: It is not improbable that the Greeks and Phoenicians

introduced some new arts and productions into the neighborhood of

Marseilles and Gades.]

[Footnote 94: See Homer, Odyss. l. ix. v. 358.]

[Footnote 95: Plin. Hist. Natur. l. xiv.]

[Footnote 96: Strab. Geograph. l. iv. p. 269. The intense cold of a

Gallic winter was almost proverbial among the ancients. \* Note: Strabo

only says that the grape does not ripen. Attempts had been made in the time of Augustus to naturalize the vine in the north of Gaul; but the cold was too great. Diod. Sic. edit. Rhodom. p. 304.--W. Diodorus (lib.

v. 26) gives a curious picture of the Italian traders bartering, with the savages of Gaul, a cask of wine for a slave.--M. --It appears from the newly discovered treatise of Cicero de Republica, that there was a

law of the republic prohibiting the culture of the vine and olive beyond the Alps, in order to keep up the value of those in Italy. Nos

justissimi homines, qui transalpinas gentes oleam et vitem serere non

sinimus, quo pluris sint nostra oliveta nostraeque vineae. Lib. iii. 9. the restrictive law of Domitian was veiled under the decent pretext of encouraging the cultivation of grain. Suet. Dom. vii. It was repealed by

Probus Vopis Strobus, 18.--M.]

[Footnote 97: In the beginning of the fourth century, the orator eumenius (Panegyr. Veter. viii. 6, edit. Delphin.) speaks of the vines

in the territory of Autun, which were decayed through age, and the first plantation of which was totally unknown. The Pagus Arebrignus is

supposed by M. d'Anville to be the district of Beaune, celebrated, even at present for one of the first growths of Burgundy. \* Note: This is

proved by a passage of Pliny the Elder, where he speaks of a certain

kind of grape (vitis picata. vinum picatum) which grows naturally to the district of Vienne, and had recently been transplanted into the country

of the Arverni, (Auvergne,) of the Helvii, (the Vivarias.) and the burgundy and Franche Compte. Pliny wrote A.D. 77. Hist. Nat. xiv. 1.-- w.]

[Footnote 98: Plin. Hist. Natur. l. xv.]

[Footnote 99: Plin. Hist. Natur. l. xix.]

[Footnote 100: See the agreeable Essays on Agriculture by Mr. Harte, in which he has collected all that the ancients and moderns have said

of Lucerne.]

agriculture is the foundation of manufactures; since the productions of

nature are the materials of art. Under the Roman empire, the labor of an

industrious and ingenious people was variously, but incessantly, employed in the service of the rich. In their dress, their table, their

houses, and their furniture, the favorites of fortune united every

refinement of conveniency, of elegance, and of splendor, whatever could

soothe their pride or gratify their sensuality. Such refinements, under the odious name of luxury, have been severely arraigned by the moralists

of every age; and it might perhaps be more conducive to the virtue, as well as happiness, of mankind, if all possessed the necessaries, and

none the superfluities, of life. But in the present imperfect condition

of society, luxury, though it may proceed from vice or folly, seems to be the only means that can correct the unequal distribution of property. the diligent mechanic, and the skilful artist, who have obtained no

share in the division of the earth, receive a voluntary tax from the

possessors of land; and the latter are prompted, by a sense of interest, to improve those estates, with whose produce they may purchase additional pleasures. This operation, the particular effects of which are felt in every society, acted with much more diffusive energy in the

Roman world. The provinces would soon have been exhausted of their wealth, if the manufactures and commerce of luxury had not insensibly

restored to the industrious subjects the sums which were exacted from them by the arms and authority of Rome. As long as the circulation was confined within the bounds of the empire, it impressed the political

machine with a new degree of activity, and its consequences, sometimes beneficial, could never become pernicious.

but it is no easy task to confine luxury within the limits of an empire. the most remote countries of the ancient world were ransacked to supply the pomp and delicacy of Rome. The forests of Scythia afforded some

valuable furs. Amber was brought over land from the shores of the Baltic to the Danube; and the barbarians were astonished at the price which they received in exchange for so useless a commodity. [101] There was a considerable demand for Babylonian carpets, and other manufactures of the East; but the most important and unpopular branch of foreign trade was carried on with Arabia and India. Every year, about the time of the

summer solstice, a fleet of a hundred and twenty vessels sailed from Myos-hormos, a port of Egypt, on the Red Sea. By the periodical assistance of the monsoons, they traversed the ocean in about forty days. The coast of Malabar, or the island of Ceylon, [102] was the usual term of their navigation, and it was in those markets that the merchants from the more remote countries of Asia expected their arrival. The

return of the fleet of Egypt was fixed to the months of December or

January; and as soon as their rich cargo had been transported on the backs of camels, from the Red Sea to the Nile, and had descended that

river as far as Alexandria, it was poured, without delay, into the capital of the empire. [103] The objects of oriental traffic were

splendid and trifling; silk, a pound of which was esteemed not inferior

in value to a pound of gold; [104] precious stones, among which the

pearl claimed the first rank after the diamond; [105] and a variety

of aromatics, that were consumed in religious worship and the pomp of funerals. The labor and risk of the voyage was rewarded with almost

incredible profit; but the profit was made upon Roman subjects, and a few individuals were enriched at the expense of the public. As the

natives of Arabia and India were contented with the productions and

manufactures of their own country, silver, on the side of the Romans, was the principal, if not the only [1051] instrument of commerce. It was a complaint worthy of the gravity of the senate, that, in the purchase of female ornaments, the wealth of the state was irrecoverably given away to foreign and hostile nations. [106] The annual loss is computed, by a writer of an inquisitive but censorious temper, at upwards of eight

hundred thousand pounds sterling. [107] Such was the style of discontent, brooding over the dark prospect of approaching poverty. And yet, if we compare the proportion between gold and silver, as it stood in the time

of Pliny, and as it was fixed in the reign of Constantine, we shall discover within that period a very considerable increase. [108] There is

not the least reason to suppose that gold was become more scarce; it is therefore evident that silver was grown more common; that whatever might be the amount of the Indian and Arabian exports, they were far from exhausting the wealth of the Roman world; and that the produce of the

mines abundantly supplied the demands of commerce.

[Footnote 101: Tacit. Germania, c. 45. Plin. Hist. Nat. xxxvii. 13. The

latter observed, with some humor, that even fashion had not yet found

out the use of amber. Nero sent a Roman knight to purchase great

quantities on the spot where it was produced, the coast of modern

Prussia.]

[Footnote 102: Called Taprobana by the Romans, and Serindib by the arabs. It was discovered under the reign of Claudius, and gradually became the principal mart of the East.]

[Footnote 103: Plin. Hist. Natur. l. vi. Strabo, l. xvii.]

[Footnote 104: Hist. August. p. 224. A silk garment was considered as an

ornament to a woman, but as a disgrace to a man.]

[Footnote 105: The two great pearl fisheries were the same as at

present, Ormuz and Cape Comorin. As well as we can compare ancient with modern geography, Rome was supplied with diamonds from the mine

of Jumelpur, in Bengal, which is described in the Voyages de Tavernier, tom. ii. p. 281.]

[Footnote 1051: Certainly not the only one. The Indians were not so contented with regard to foreign productions. Arrian has a long list of european wares, which they received in exchange for their own; Italian and other wines, brass, tin, lead, coral, chrysolith, storax, glass, dresses of one or many colors, zones, &c. See Periplus Maris Erythraei

in Hudson, Geogr. Min. i. p. 27.--W. The German translator observes that

Gibbon has confined the use of aromatics to religious worship and funerals. His error seems the omission of other spices, of which the

Romans must have consumed great quantities in their cookery. Wenck,

however, admits that silver was the chief article of exchange.--M.

In 1787, a peasant (near Nellore in the Carnatic) struck, in digging,

on the remains of a Hindu temple; he found, also, a pot which contained

Roman coins and medals of the second century, mostly Trajans, Adrians, and Faustinas, all of gold, many of them fresh and beautiful, others defaced or perforated, as if they had been worn as ornaments. (Asiatic

Researches, ii. 19.)--M.]

[Footnote 106: Tacit. Annal. iii. 53. In a speech of Tiberius.]

[Footnote 107: Plin. Hist. Natur. xii. 18. In another place he computes

half that sum; Quingenties H. S. for India exclusive of Arabia.]

[Footnote 108: The proportion, which was 1 to 10, and 12 1/2, rose to

14 2/5, the legal regulation of Constantine. See Arbuthnot's Tables of ancient Coins, c. 5.]

Notwithstanding the propensity of mankind to exalt the past, and to depreciate the present, the tranquil and prosperous state of the empire was warmly felt, and honestly confessed, by the provincials as well as Romans. "They acknowledged that the true principles of social life,

laws, agriculture, and science, which had been first invented by the wisdom of Athens, were now firmly established by the power of Rome,

under whose auspicious influence the fiercest barbarians were united by an equal government and common language. They affirm, that with the

improvement of arts, the human species were visibly multiplied. They celebrate the increasing splendor of the cities, the beautiful face of the country, cultivated and adorned like an immense garden; and the long festival of peace which was enjoyed by so many nations, forgetful of the ancient animosities, and delivered from the apprehension of future danger." [109] Whatever suspicions may be suggested by the air of

rhetoric and declamation, which seems to prevail in these passages, the

substance of them is perfectly agreeable to historic truth.

[Footnote 109: Among many other passages, see Pliny, (Hist. Natur. iii.

5.) Aristides, (de Urbe Roma,) and Tertullian, (de Anima, c. 30.)]

It was scarcely possible that the eyes of contemporaries should discover

in the public felicity the latent causes of decay and corruption. This

long peace, and the uniform government of the Romans, introduced a slow and secret poison into the vitals of the empire. The minds of men were

gradually reduced to the same level, the fire of genius was extinguished, and even the military spirit evaporated. The natives of europe were brave and robust. Spain, Gaul, Britain, and Illyricum

supplied the legions with excellent soldiers, and constituted the real

strength of the monarchy. Their personal valor remained, but they no

longer possessed that public courage which is nourished by the love of

independence, the sense of national honor, the presence of danger, and the habit of command. They received laws and governors from the will of their sovereign, and trusted for their defence to a mercenary army. The

posterity of their boldest leaders was contented with the rank of citizens and subjects. The most aspiring spirits resorted to the court

or standard of the emperors; and the deserted provinces, deprived of

political strength or union, insensibly sunk into the languid

indifference of private life.

the love of letters, almost inseparable from peace and refinement, was fashionable among the subjects of Hadrian and the Antonines, who were themselves men of learning and curiosity. It was diffused over the whole extent of their empire; the most northern tribes of Britons had acquired a taste for rhetoric; Homer as well as Virgil were transcribed and

studied on the banks of the Rhine and Danube; and the most liberal

rewards sought out the faintest glimmerings of literary merit. [110] The

sciences of physic and astronomy were successfully cultivated by the

Greeks; the observations of Ptolemy and the writings of Galen are

studied by those who have improved their discoveries and corrected their errors; but if we except the inimitable Lucian, this age of indolence

passed away without having produced a single writer of original genius,

or who excelled in the arts of elegant composition. The authority of

Plato and Aristotle, of Zeno and Epicurus, still reigned in the schools; and their systems, transmitted with blind deference from one generation

of disciples to another, precluded every generous attempt to exercise the powers, or enlarge the limits, of the human mind. The beauties

of the poets and orators, instead of kindling a fire like their own,

inspired only cold and servile mitations: or if any ventured to deviate from those models, they deviated at the same time from good sense and propriety. On the revival of letters, the youthful vigor of the

imagination, after a long repose, national emulation, a new religion,

new languages, and a new world, called forth the genius of Europe. but the provincials of Rome, trained by a uniform artificial foreign education, were engaged in a very unequal competition with those bold ancients, who, by expressing their genuine feelings in their native tongue, had already occupied every place of honor. The name of Poet was almost forgotten; that of Orator was usurped by the sophists. A cloud of critics, of compilers, of commentators, darkened the face of learning, and the decline of genius was soon followed by the corruption of taste.[1101]

[Footnote 110: Herodes Atticus gave the sophist Polemo above eight thousand pounds for three declamations. See Philostrat. l. i. p. 538. the Antonines founded a school at Athens, in which professors of

grammar, rhetoric, politics, and the four great sects of philosophy were

maintained at the public expense for the instruction of youth. The

salary of a philosopher was ten thousand drachmae, between three and four hundred pounds a year. Similar establishments were formed in the

other great cities of the empire. See Lucian in Eunuch. tom. ii. p. 352, edit. Reitz. Philostrat. l. ii. p. 566. Hist. August. p. 21. Dion cassius, l. lxxi. p. 1195. Juvenal himself, in a morose satire, which in every line betrays his own disappointment and envy, is obliged, however, to say,--"--O Juvenes, circumspicit et stimulat vos. Materiamque sibi ducis indulgentia quaerit."--Satir. vii. 20. Note: Vespasian first gave a salary to professors: he assigned to each professor of rhetoric, Greek and Roman, centena sestertia. (Sueton. in Vesp. 18). Hadrian and the antonines, though still liberal, were less profuse.--G. from W.

Suetonius wrote annua centena L. 807, 5, 10.--M.]

[Footnote 1101: This judgment is rather severe: besides the physicians, astronomers, and grammarians, among whom there were some very distinguished men, there were still, under Hadrian, Suetonius, Florus,

Plutarch; under the Antonines, Arrian, Pausanias, Appian, Marcus aurelius himself, Sextus Empiricus, &c. Jurisprudence gained much by the

labors of Salvius Julianus, Julius Celsus, Sex. Pomponius, Caius, and

others.--G. from W. Yet where, among these, is the writer of original

genius, unless, perhaps Plutarch? or even of a style really elegant?--

M.]

the sublime Longinus, who, in somewhat a later period, and in the court

of a Syrian queen, preserved the spirit of ancient Athens, observes and laments this degeneracy of his contemporaries, which debased their

sentiments, enervated their courage, and depressed their talents. "In the same manner," says he, "as some children always remain pygmies, whose infant limbs have been too closely confined, thus our tender

minds, fettered by the prejudices and habits of a just servitude, are unable to expand themselves, or to attain that well-proportioned

greatness which we admire in the ancients; who, living under a popular

government, wrote with the same freedom as they acted." [111] This diminutive stature of mankind, if we pursue the metaphor, was daily

sinking below the old standard, and the Roman world was indeed peopled by a race of pygmies; when the fierce giants of the north broke in, and mended the puny breed. They restored a manly spirit of freedom; and after the revolution of ten centuries, freedom became the happy parent

of taste and science.

[Footnote 111: Longin. de Sublim. c. 44, p. 229, edit. Toll. Here, too, we may say of Longinus, "his own example strengthens all his laws."

Instead of proposing his sentiments with a manly boldness, he insinuates them with the most guarded caution; puts them into the mouth of a friend, and as far as we can collect from a corrupted text, makes a show

of refuting them himself.]

chapter III: The Constitution In The Age Of The Antonines.--Part I.

Of The Constitution Of The Roman Empire, In The Age Of The

Antonines.

the obvious definition of a monarchy seems to be that of a state, in which a single person, by whatsoever name he may be distinguished, is

intrusted with the execution of the laws, the management of the revenue, and the command of the army. But, unless public liberty is protected by intrepid and vigilant guardians, the authority of so formidable a

magistrate will soon degenerate into despotism. The influence of the clergy, in an age of superstition, might be usefully employed to assert the rights of mankind; but so intimate is the connection between the throne and the altar, that the banner of the church has very seldom been seen on the side of the people. [101] A martial nobility and

stubborn commons, possessed of arms, tenacious of property, and collected into constitutional assemblies, form the only balance capable

of preserving a free constitution against enterprises of an aspiring

prince.

[Footnote 101: Often enough in the ages of superstition, but not in the

interest of the people or the state, but in that of the church to which all others were subordinate. Yet the power of the pope has often been of

great service in repressing the excesses of sovereigns, and in softening

manners.--W. The history of the Italian republics proves the error of

Gibbon, and the justice of his German translator's comment.--M.]

every barrier of the Roman constitution had been levelled by the vast ambition of the dictator; every fence had been extirpated by the cruel

hand of the triumvir. After the victory of Actium, the fate of the

Roman world depended on the will of Octavianus, surnamed Caesar, by

his uncle's adoption, and afterwards Augustus, by the flattery of the

senate. The conqueror was at the head of forty-four veteran legions,

[1] conscious of their own strength, and of the weakness of the constitution, habituated, during twenty years' civil war, to every act

of blood and violence, and passionately devoted to the house of Caesar, from whence alone they had received, and expected the most lavish

rewards. The provinces, long oppressed by the ministers of the republic,

sighed for the government of a single person, who would be the master,

not the accomplice, of those petty tyrants. The people of Rome, viewing, with a secret pleasure, the humiliation of the aristocracy, demanded

only bread and public shows; and were supplied with both by the

liberal hand of Augustus. The rich and polite Italians, who had almost

universally embraced the philosophy of Epicurus, enjoyed the present blessings of ease and tranquillity, and suffered not the pleasing dream to be interrupted by the memory of their old tumultuous freedom. With

its power, the senate had lost its dignity; many of the most noble families were extinct. The republicans of spirit and ability had

perished in the field of battle, or in the proscription. The door of the assembly had been designedly left open, for a mixed multitude of more than a thousand persons, who reflected disgrace upon their rank, instead

of deriving honor from it. [2]

[Footnote 1: Orosius, vi. 18. \* Note: Dion says twenty-five, (or three,)

(lv. 23.) The united triumvirs had but forty-three. (Appian. Bell. Civ.

iv. 3.) The testimony of Orosius is of little value when more certain

may be had.--W. But all the legions, doubtless, submitted to Augustus after the battle of Actium.--M.]

[Footnote 2: Julius Caesar introduced soldiers, strangers, and

half-barbarians into the senate (Sueton. in Caesar. c. 77, 80.) The abuse became still more scandalous after his death.]

the reformation of the senate was one of the first steps in which augustus laid aside the tyrant, and professed himself the father of

his country. He was elected censor; and, in concert with his faithful agrippa, he examined the list of the senators, expelled a few members,

[201] whose vices or whose obstinacy required a public example, persuaded

near two hundred to prevent the shame of an expulsion by a voluntary

retreat, raised the qualification of a senator to about ten thousand

pounds, created a sufficient number of patrician families, and accepted for himself the honorable title of Prince of the Senate, [202] which had always been bestowed, by the censors, on the citizen the most eminent for his honors and services. [3] But whilst he thus restored the dignity,

he destroyed the independence, of the senate. The principles of a free constitution are irrecoverably lost, when the legislative power is

nominated by the executive.

[Footnote 201: Of these Dion and Suetonius knew nothing.--W. Dion says the contrary.--M.]

[Footnote 202: But Augustus, then Octavius, was censor, and in virtue of that office, even according to the constitution of the free republic, could reform the senate, expel unworthy members, name the Princeps

Senatus, &c. That was called, as is well known, Senatum legere. It was customary, during the free republic, for the censor to be named Princeps

Senatus, (S. Liv. l. xxvii. c. 11, l. xl. c. 51;) and Dion expressly

says, that this was done according to ancient usage. He was empowered by a decree of the senate to admit a number of families among the

patricians. Finally, the senate was not the legislative power.--W]

[Footnote 3: Dion Cassius, l. liii. p. 693. Suetonius in August. c. 35.]

before an assembly thus modelled and prepared, Augustus pronounced a studied oration, which displayed his patriotism, and disguised his ambition. "He lamented, yet excused, his past conduct. Filial piety had

required at his hands the revenge of his father's murder; the humanity

of his own nature had sometimes given way to the stern laws of

necessity, and to a forced connection with two unworthy colleagues: as long as Antony lived, the republic forbade him to abandon her to a degenerate Roman, and a barbarian queen. He was now at liberty to

satisfy his duty and his inclination. He solemnly restored the senate and people to all their ancient rights; and wished only to mingle with the crowd of his fellow-citizens, and to share the blessings which he

had obtained for his country." [4]

[Footnote 4: Dion (l. liii. p. 698) gives us a prolix and bombast speech

on this great occasion. I have borrowed from Suetonius and Tacitus the

general language of Augustus.]

It would require the pen of Tacitus (if Tacitus had assisted at this assembly) to describe the various emotions of the senate, those that were suppressed, and those that were affected. It was dangerous to trust the sincerity of Augustus; to seem to distrust it was still more dangerous. The respective advantages of monarchy and a republic have

often divided speculative inquirers; the present greatness of the Roman

state, the corruption of manners, and the license of the soldiers,

supplied new arguments to the advocates of monarchy; and these general

views of government were again warped by the hopes and fears of each

individual. Amidst this confusion of sentiments, the answer of the senate was unanimous and decisive. They refused to accept the

resignation of Augustus; they conjured him not to desert the republic, which he had saved. After a decent resistance, the crafty tyrant

submitted to the orders of the senate; and consented to receive the

government of the provinces, and the general command of the Roman armies, under the well-known names of Proconsul and Imperator. [5] But

he would receive them only for ten years. Even before the expiration

of that period, he hope that the wounds of civil discord would be completely healed, and that the republic, restored to its pristine

health and vigor, would no longer require the dangerous interposition

of so extraordinary a magistrate. The memory of this comedy, repeated

several times during the life of Augustus, was preserved to the last ages of the empire, by the peculiar pomp with which the perpetual

monarchs of Rome always solemnized the tenth years of their reign. [6]

[Footnote 5: Imperator (from which we have derived Emperor) signified

under her republic no more than general, and was emphatically bestowed by the soldiers, when on the field of battle they proclaimed their

victorious leader worthy of that title. When the Roman emperors assumed

it in that sense, they placed it after their name, and marked how often they had taken it.]

[Footnote 6: Dion. l. liii. p. 703, &c.]

without any violation of the principles of the constitution, the general

of the Roman armies might receive and exercise an authority almost despotic over the soldiers, the enemies, and the subjects of the

republic. With regard to the soldiers, the jealousy of freedom had, even from the earliest ages of Rome, given way to the hopes of conquest, and a just sense of military discipline. The dictator, or consul, had a right to command the service of the Roman youth; and to punish an

obstinate or cowardly disobedience by the most severe and ignominious

penalties, by striking the offender out of the list of citizens, by confiscating his property, and by selling his person into slavery.

[7] The most sacred rights of freedom, confirmed by the Porcian and

Sempronian laws, were suspended by the military engagement. In his camp the general exercise an absolute power of life and death; his

jurisdiction was not confined by any forms of trial, or rules of

proceeding, and the execution of the sentence was immediate and without appeal. [8] The choice of the enemies of Rome was regularly decided by the legislative authority. The most important resolutions of peace and war were seriously debated in the senate, and solemnly ratified by the people. But when the arms of the legions were carried to a great distance from Italy, the general assumed the liberty of directing them against whatever people, and in whatever manner, they judged most advantageous for the public service. It was from the success, not from the justice, of their enterprises, that they expected the honors of a triumph. In the use of victory, especially after they were no longer controlled by the commissioners of the senate, they exercised the most

unbounded despotism. When Pompey commanded in the East, he rewarded

his soldiers and allies, dethroned princes, divided kingdoms, founded colonies, and distributed the treasures of Mithridates. On his return to Rome, he obtained, by a single act of the senate and people, the

universal ratification of all his proceedings. [9] Such was the power

over the soldiers, and over the enemies of Rome, which was either

granted to, or assumed by, the generals of the republic. They were, at the same time, the governors, or rather monarchs, of the conquered

provinces, united the civil with the military character, administered

justice as well as the finances, and exercised both the executive and

legislative power of the state.

[Footnote 7: Livy Epitom. l. xiv. [c. 27.] Valer. Maxim. vi. 3.]

[Footnote 8: See, in the viiith book of Livy, the conduct of Manlius torquatus and Papirius Cursor. They violated the laws of nature and

humanity, but they asserted those of military discipline; and the

people, who abhorred the action, was obliged to respect the principle.]

[Footnote 9: By the lavish but unconstrained suffrages of the people,

Pompey had obtained a military command scarcely inferior to that of augustus. Among the extraordinary acts of power executed by the former we may remark the foundation of twenty-nine cities, and the distribution

of three or four millions sterling to his troops. The ratification of

his acts met with some opposition and delays in the senate See Plutarch, appian, Dion Cassius, and the first book of the epistles to Atticus.]

from what has already been observed in the first chapter of this work,

some notion may be formed of the armies and provinces thus intrusted to the ruling hand of Augustus. But as it was impossible that he could

personally command the regions of so many distant frontiers, he was

indulged by the senate, as Pompey had already been, in the permission

of devolving the execution of his great office on a sufficient number of

lieutenants. In rank and authority these officers seemed not inferior to the ancient proconsuls; but their station was dependent and precarious. they received and held their commissions at the will of a superior, to whose auspicious influence the merit of their action was legally attributed. [10] They were the representatives of the emperor. The emperor alone was the general of the republic, and his jurisdiction, civil as well as military, extended over all the conquests of Rome. It was some satisfaction, however, to the senate, that he always delegated

his power to the members of their body. The imperial lieutenants were of consular or praetorian dignity; the legions were commanded by senators, and the praefecture of Egypt was the only important trust committed to a

Roman knight.

[Footnote 10: Under the commonwealth, a triumph could only be claimed by the general, who was authorized to take the Auspices in the name of the

people. By an exact consequence, drawn from this principle of policy and religion, the triumph was reserved to the emperor; and his most

successful lieutenants were satisfied with some marks of distinction, which, under the name of triumphal honors, were invented in their favor.]

within six days after Augustus had been compelled to accept so very

liberal a grant, he resolved to gratify the pride of the senate by an easy sacrifice. He represented to them, that they had enlarged

his powers, even beyond that degree which might be required by the

melancholy condition of the times. They had not permitted him to refuse the laborious command of the armies and the frontiers; but he must

insist on being allowed to restore the more peaceful and secure

provinces to the mild administration of the civil magistrate. In the division of the provinces, Augustus provided for his own power and for the dignity of the republic. The proconsuls of the senate, particularly those of Asia, Greece, and Africa, enjoyed a more honorable character than the lieutenants of the emperor, who commanded in Gaul or Syria. The former were attended by lictors, the latter by soldiers. [105] A law was passed, that wherever the emperor was present, his extraordinary commission should supersede the ordinary jurisdiction of the governor; a custom was introduced, that the new conquests belonged to the imperial

portion; and it was soon discovered that the authority of the Prtnce, the favorite epithet of Augustus, was the same in every part of the empire.

[Footnote 105: This distinction is without foundation. The

lieutenants of the emperor, who were called Propraetors, whether they

had been praetors or consuls, were attended by six lictors; those who

had the right of the sword, (of life and death over the soldiers.--M.) bore the military habit (paludamentum) and the sword. The provincial

governors commissioned by the senate, who, whether they had been consuls

or not, were called Pronconsuls, had twelve lictors when they had been consuls, and six only when they had but been praetors. The provinces of africa and Asia were only given to ex-consuls. See, on the Organization

of the Provinces, Dion, liii. 12, 16 Strabo, xvii 840.--W]

In return for this imaginary concession, Augustus obtained an important

privilege, which rendered him master of Rome and Italy. By a dangerous exception to the ancient maxims, he was authorized to preserve his

military command, supported by a numerous body of guards, even in time

of peace, and in the heart of the capital. His command, indeed, was confined to those citizens who were engaged in the service by the

military oath; but such was the propensity of the Romans to servitude, that the oath was voluntarily taken by the magistrates, the senators, and the equestrian order, till the homage of flattery was insensibly converted into an annual and solemn protestation of fidelity.

although Augustus considered a military force as the firmest foundation,

he wisely rejected it, as a very odious instrument of government. It was

more agreeable to his temper, as well as to his policy, to reign under the venerable names of ancient magistracy, and artfully to collect, in

his own person, all the scattered rays of civil jurisdiction. With this

view, he permitted the senate to confer upon him, for his life, the

powers of the consular [11] and tribunitian offices, [12] which were,

in the same manner, continued to all his successors. The consuls had

succeeded to the kings of Rome, and represented the dignity of the

state. They superintended the ceremonies of religion, levied and commanded the legions, gave audience to foreign ambassadors, and

presided in the assemblies both of the senate and people. The general control of the finances was intrusted to their care; and though they

seldom had leisure to administer justice in person, they were considered as the supreme guardians of law, equity, and the public peace. Such was their ordinary jurisdiction; but whenever the senate empowered the first

magistrate to consult the safety of the commonwealth, he was raised by that decree above the laws, and exercised, in the defence of liberty, a temporary despotism. [13] The character of the tribunes was, in every

respect, different from that of the consuls. The appearance of the former was modest and humble; but their persons were sacred and

inviolable. Their force was suited rather for opposition than for action. They were instituted to defend the oppressed, to pardon

offences, to arraign the enemies of the people, and, when they judged it

necessary, to stop, by a single word, the whole machine of government. as long as the republic subsisted, the dangerous influence, which either the consul or the tribune might derive from their respective

jurisdiction, was diminished by several important restrictions. Their authority expired with the year in which they were elected; the former

office was divided between two, the latter among ten persons; and, as both in their private and public interest they were averse to each other, their mutual conflicts contributed, for the most part, to

strengthen rather than to destroy the balance of the constitution. [131] but when the consular and tribunitian powers were united, when they were

vested for life in a single person, when the general of the army was, at the same time, the minister of the senate and the representative of the

Roman people, it was impossible to resist the exercise, nor was it easy to define the limits, of his imperial prerogative.

[Footnote 11: Cicero (de Legibus, iii. 3) gives the consular office the

name of egia potestas; and Polybius (l. vi. c. 3) observes three powers

in the Roman constitution. The monarchical was represented and exercised by the consuls.]

[Footnote 12: As the tribunitian power (distinct from the annual office) was first invented by the dictator Caesar, (Dion, l. xliv. p. 384,) we

may easily conceive, that it was given as a reward for having so nobly asserted, by arms, the sacred rights of the tribunes and people. See his

own Commentaries, de Bell. Civil. l. i.]

[Footnote 13: Augustus exercised nine annual consulships without

interruption. He then most artfully refused the magistracy, as well as the dictatorship, absented himself from Rome, and waited till the fatal effects of tumult and faction forced the senate to invest him with a

perpetual consulship. Augustus, as well as his successors, affected,

however, to conceal so invidious a title.]

[Footnote 131: The note of M. Guizot on the tribunitian power applies to the French translation rather than to the original. The former

has, maintenir la balance toujours egale, which implies much more than

Gibbon's general expression. The note belongs rather to the history of the Republic than that of the Empire.--M]

to these accumulated honors, the policy of Augustus soon added the

splendid as well as important dignities of supreme pontiff, and of censor. By the former he acquired the management of the religion, and by the latter a legal inspection over the manners and fortunes, of the

Roman people. If so many distinct and independent powers did not exactly

unite with each other, the complaisance of the senate was prepared to

supply every deficiency by the most ample and extraordinary concessions. the emperors, as the first ministers of the republic, were exempted from the obligation and penalty of many inconvenient laws: they were authorized to convoke the senate, to make several motions in the same day, to recommend candidates for the honors of the state, to enlarge the bounds of the city, to employ the revenue at their discretion, to declare peace and war, to ratify treaties; and by a most comprehensive clause, they were empowered to execute whatsoever they should judge advantageous to the empire, and agreeable to the majesty of things

private or public, human of divine. [14]

[Footnote 14: See a fragment of a Decree of the Senate, conferring

on the emperor Vespasian all the powers granted to his predecessors, augustus, Tiberius, and Claudius. This curious and important monument is

published in Gruter's Inscriptions, No. ccxlii. \* Note: It is also in the editions of Tacitus by Ryck, (Annal. p. 420, 421,) and Ernesti,

(Excurs. ad lib. iv. 6;) but this fragment contains so many

inconsistencies, both in matter and form, that its authenticity may be doubted--W.]

when all the various powers of executive government were committed to the Imperial magistrate, the ordinary magistrates of the commonwealth

languished in obscurity, without vigor, and almost without business. The

names and forms of the ancient administration were preserved by Augustus with the most anxious care. The usual number of consuls, praetors, and tribunes, [15] were annually invested with their respective ensigns

of office, and continued to discharge some of their least important functions. Those honors still attracted the vain ambition of the Romans; and the emperors themselves, though invested for life with the powers of the consul ship, frequently aspired to the title of that annual dignity, which they condescended to share with the most illustrious of their fellow-citizens. [16] In the election of these magistrates, the

people, during the reign of Augustus, were permitted to expose all the inconveniences of a wild democracy. That artful prince, instead

of discovering the least symptom of impatience, humbly solicited their

suffrages for himself or his friends, and scrupulously practised all the duties of an ordinary candidate. [17] But we may venture to ascribe to

his councils the first measure of the succeeding reign, by which the elections were transferred to the senate. [18] The assemblies of the

people were forever abolished, and the emperors were delivered from a dangerous multitude, who, without restoring liberty, might have disturbed, and perhaps endangered, the established government.

[Footnote 15: Two consuls were created on the Calends of January; but in the course of the year others were substituted in their places, till the annual number seems to have amounted to no less than twelve. The

praetors were usually sixteen or eighteen, (Lipsius in Excurs. D. ad tacit. Annal. l. i.) I have not mentioned the Aediles or Quaestors

Officers of the police or revenue easily adapt themselves to any form

of government. In the time of Nero, the tribunes legally possessed the right of intercession, though it might be dangerous to exercise it

(Tacit. Annal. xvi. 26.) In the time of Trajan, it was doubtful whether the tribuneship was an office or a name, (Plin. Epist. i. 23.)]

[Footnote 16: The tyrants themselves were ambitious of the consulship. the virtuous princes were moderate in the pursuit, and exact in the discharge of it. Trajan revived the ancient oath, and swore before the consul's tribunal that he would observe the laws, (Plin. Panegyric c.

64.)]

[Footnote 17: Quoties Magistratuum Comitiis interesset. Tribus cum candidatis suis circunbat: supplicabatque more solemni. Ferebat et ipse

suffragium in tribubus, ut unus e populo. Suetonius in August c. 56.]

[Footnote 18: Tum primum Comitia e campo ad patres translata sunt. tacit. Annal. i. 15. The word primum seems to allude to some faint and unsuccessful efforts which were made towards restoring them to the

people. Note: The emperor Caligula made the attempt: he rest red the comitia to the people, but, in a short time, took them away again. Suet.

in Caio. c. 16. Dion. lix. 9, 20. Nevertheless, at the time of Dion, they preserved still the form of the Comitia. Dion. lviii. 20.--W.]

by declaring themselves the protectors of the people, Marius and Caesar

had subverted the constitution of their country. But as soon as the

senate had been humbled and disarmed, such an assembly, consisting of five or six hundred persons, was found a much more tractable and

useful instrument of dominion. It was on the dignity of the senate that augustus and his successors founded their new empire; and they affected,

on every occasion, to adopt the language and principles of Patricians.

In the administration of their own powers, they frequently consulted the great national council, and seemed to refer to its decision the

most important concerns of peace and war. Rome, Italy, and the internal

provinces, were subject to the immediate jurisdiction of the senate. with regard to civil objects, it was the supreme court of appeal; with

regard to criminal matters, a tribunal, constituted for the trial of all offences that were committed by men in any public station, or that affected the peace and majesty of the Roman people. The exercise of the

judicial power became the most frequent and serious occupation of the

senate; and the important causes that were pleaded before them afforded a last refuge to the spirit of ancient eloquence. As a council of

state, and as a court of justice, the senate possessed very considerable

prerogatives; but in its legislative capacity, in which it was supposed

virtually to represent the people, the rights of sovereignty were acknowledged to reside in that assembly. Every power was derived from their authority, every law was ratified by their sanction. Their regular

meetings were held on three stated days in every month, the Calends, the

Nones, and the Ides. The debates were conducted with decent freedom; and the emperors themselves, who gloried in the name of senators, sat,

voted, and divided with their equals. To resume, in a few words, the

system of the Imperial government; as it was instituted by Augustus, and

maintained by those princes who understood their own interest and that

of the people, it may be defined an absolute monarchy disguised by the forms of a commonwealth. The masters of the Roman world surrounded their throne with darkness, concealed their irresistible strength, and humbly

professed themselves the accountable ministers of the senate, whose

supreme decrees they dictated and obeyed. [19]

[Footnote 19: Dion Cassius (l. liii. p. 703--714) has given a very loose and partial sketch of the Imperial system. To illustrate and often to correct him, I have meditated Tacitus, examined Suetonius, and consulted the following moderns: the Abbe de la Bleterie, in the Memoires de

l'Academie des Inscriptions, tom. xix. xxi. xxiv. xxv. xxvii. Beaufort

Republique Romaine, tom. i. p. 255--275. The Dissertations of Noodt and

Gronovius de lege Regia, printed at Leyden, in the year 1731 Gravina de

Imperio Romano, p. 479--544 of his Opuscula. Maffei, Verona Illustrata,

p. i. p. 245, &c.] The face of the court corresponded with the forms of the administration. The emperors, if we except those tyrants whose capricious folly violated every law of nature and decency, disdained that pomp and ceremony which might offend their countrymen, but could add nothing to their real power. In all the offices of life, they affected to confound themselves with their subjects, and maintained with them an equal intercourse of visits and entertainments. Their habit, their palace, their table, were suited only to the rank of an opulent

senator. Their family, however numerous or splendid, was composed entirely of their domestic slaves and freedmen. [20] Augustus or Trajan would have blushed at employing the meanest of the Romans in those

menial offices, which, in the household and bedchamber of a limited

monarch, are so eagerly solicited by the proudest nobles of Britain.]

[Footnote 20: A weak prince will always be governed by his domestics. the power of slaves aggravated the shame of the Romans; and the senate

paid court to a Pallas or a Narcissus. There is a chance that a modern favorite may be a gentleman.]

the deification of the emperors [21] is the only instance in which they departed from their accustomed prudence and modesty. The Asiatic Greeks were the first inventors, the successors of Alexander the first objects,

of this servile and impious mode of adulation. [211] It was easily transferred from the kings to the governors of Asia; and the Roman

magistrates very frequently were adored as provincial deities, with the

pomp of altars and temples, of festivals and sacrifices. [22] It was

natural that the emperors should not refuse what the proconsuls had accepted; and the divine honors which both the one and the other

received from the provinces, attested rather the despotism than the

servitude of Rome. But the conquerors soon imitated the vanquished

nations in the arts of flattery; and the imperious spirit of the first caesar too easily consented to assume, during his lifetime, a place among the tutelar deities of Rome. The milder temper of his successor declined so dangerous an ambition, which was never afterwards revived, except by the madness of Caligula and Domitian. Augustus permitted

indeed some of the provincial cities to erect temples to his honor, on condition that they should associate the worship of Rome with that of the sovereign; he tolerated private superstition, of which he might be the object; [23] but he contented himself with being revered by the

senate and the people in his human character, and wisely left to his

successor the care of his public deification. A regular custom was

introduced, that on the decease of every emperor who had neither lived

nor died like a tyrant, the senate by a solemn decree should place him

in the number of the gods: and the ceremonies of his apotheosis were blended with those of his funeral. [231] This legal, and, as it should

seem, injudicious profanation, so abhorrent to our stricter principles, was received with a very faint murmur, [24] by the easy nature of

Polytheism; but it was received as an institution, not of religion, but

of policy. We should disgrace the virtues of the Antonines by comparing them with the vices of Hercules or Jupiter. Even the characters of caesar or Augustus were far superior to those of the popular deities. but it was the misfortune of the former to live in an enlightened age, and their actions were too faithfully recorded to admit of such a

mixture of fable and mystery, as the devotion of the vulgar requires. As

soon as their divinity was established by law, it sunk into oblivion, without contributing either to their own fame, or to the dignity of

succeeding princes.

[Footnote 21: See a treatise of Vandale de Consecratione Principium.

It would be easier for me to copy, than it has been to verify, the

quotations of that learned Dutchman.]

[Footnote 211: This is inaccurate. The successors of Alexander were not the first deified sovereigns; the Egyptians had deified and worshipped

many of their kings; the Olympus of the Greeks was peopled with divinities who had reigned on earth; finally, Romulus himself had

received the honors of an apotheosis (Tit. Liv. i. 16) a long time before Alexander and his successors. It is also an inaccuracy to confound the honors offered in the provinces to the Roman governors, by temples and altars, with the true apotheosis of the emperors; it was not a religious worship, for it had neither priests nor sacrifices. Augustus was severely blamed for having permitted himself to be worshipped as a god in the provinces, (Tac. Ann. i. 10: ) he would not have incurred that blame if he had only done what the governors were accustomed to do.--G. from W. M. Guizot has been guilty of a still greater inaccuracy

in confounding the deification of the living with the apotheosis of the dead emperors. The nature of the king-worship of Egypt is still

very obscure; the hero-worship of the Greeks very different from the adoration of the "praesens numen" in the reigning sovereign.--M.]

[Footnote 22: See a dissertation of the Abbe Mongault in the first

volume of the Academy of Inscriptions.]

[Footnote 23: Jurandasque tuum per nomen ponimus aras, says Horace to the emperor himself, and Horace was well acquainted with the court of augustus. Note: The good princes were not those who alone obtained the honors of an apotheosis: it was conferred on many tyrants. See an excellent treatise of Schaepflin, de Consecratione Imperatorum

Romanorum, in his Commentationes historicae et criticae. Bale, 1741, p.

184.--W.]

[Footnote 231: The curious satire in the works of Seneca, is the strongest

remonstrance of profaned religion.--M.]

[Footnote 24: See Cicero in Philippic. i. 6. Julian in Caesaribus. Inque deum templis jurabit Roma per umbras, is the indignant expression of

Lucan; but it is a patriotic rather than a devout indignation.]

In the consideration of the Imperial government, we have frequently

mentioned the artful founder, under his well-known title of Augustus, which was not, however, conferred upon him till the edifice was almost completed. The obscure name of Octavianus he derived from a mean family,

in the little town of Aricia. [241] It was stained with the blood of the

proscription; and he was desirous, had it been possible, to erase all

memory of his former life. The illustrious surname of Caesar he had assumed, as the adopted son of the dictator: but he had too much good

sense, either to hope to be confounded, or to wish to be compared with that extraordinary man. It was proposed in the senate to dignify their

minister with a new appellation; and after a serious discussion, that of augustus was chosen, among several others, as being the most expressive

of the character of peace and sanctity, which he uniformly affected.

[25] Augustus was therefore a personal, Caesar a family distinction. the former should naturally have expired with the prince on whom it was bestowed; and however the latter was diffused by adoption and female alliance, Nero was the last prince who could allege any hereditary claim to the honors of the Julian line. But, at the time of his death, the

practice of a century had inseparably connected those appellations with the Imperial dignity, and they have been preserved by a long succession

of emperors, Romans, Greeks, Franks, and Germans, from the fall of the republic to the present time. A distinction was, however, soon

introduced. The sacred title of Augustus was always reserved for the

monarch, whilst the name of Caesar was more freely communicated to his

relations; and, from the reign of Hadrian, at least, was appropriated to the second person in the state, who was considered as the presumptive

heir of the empire. [251]

[Footnote 241: Octavius was not of an obscure family, but of a considerable

one of the equestrian order. His father, C. Octavius, who possessed

great property, had been praetor, governor of Macedonia, adorned with the title of Imperator, and was on the point of becoming consul when he died. His mother Attia, was daughter of M. Attius Balbus, who had also been praetor. M. Anthony reproached Octavius with having been born in aricia, which, nevertheless, was a considerable municipal city: he was

vigorously refuted by Cicero. Philip. iii. c. 6.--W. Gibbon probably

meant that the family had but recently emerged into notice.--M.]

[Footnote 25: Dion. Cassius, l. liii. p. 710, with the curious annotations of Reimar.]

[Footnote 251: The princes who by their birth or their adoption belonged to the family of the Caesars, took the name of Caesar. After the death of Nero, this name designated the Imperial dignity itself, and afterwards the appointed successor. The time at which it was employed in the latter sense, cannot be fixed with certainty. Bach (Hist. Jurisprud.

Rom. 304) affirms from Tacitus, H. i. 15, and Suetonius, Galba, 17, that

Galba conferred on Piso Lucinianus the title of Caesar, and from that time the term had this meaning: but these two historians simply say that

he appointed Piso his successor, and do not mention the word Caesar. aurelius Victor (in Traj. 348, ed. Artzen) says that Hadrian first

received this title on his adoption; but as the adoption of Hadrian is

still doubtful, and besides this, as Trajan, on his death-bed, was

not likely to have created a new title for his successor, it is more

probable that Aelius Verus was the first who was called Caesar when adopted by Hadrian. Spart. in Aelio Vero, 102.--W.]

chapter III: The Constitution In The Age Of The Antonines.--Part II.

the tender respect of Augustus for a free constitution which he had destroyed, can only be explained by an attentive consideration of the character of that subtle tyrant. A cool head, an unfeeling heart, and a cowardly disposition, prompted him at the age of nineteen to assume the

mask of hypocrisy, which he never afterwards laid aside. With the same

hand, and probably with the same temper, he signed the proscription of cicero, and the pardon of Cinna. His virtues, and even his vices, were artificial; and according to the various dictates of his interest, he was at first the enemy, and at last the father, of the Roman world.

[26] When he framed the artful system of the Imperial authority, his

moderation was inspired by his fears. He wished to deceive the people by an image of civil liberty, and the armies by an image of civil

government.

[Footnote 26: As Octavianus advanced to the banquet of the Caesars,

his color changed like that of the chameleon; pale at first, then red, afterwards black, he at last assumed the mild livery of Venus and the Graces, (Caesars, p. 309.) This image, employed by Julian in his

ingenious fiction, is just and elegant; but when he considers this change of character as real and ascribes it to the power of philosophy,

he does too much honor to philosophy and to Octavianus.]

I. The death of Caesar was ever before his eyes. He had lavished wealth and honors on his adherents; but the most favored friends of his uncle were in the number of the conspirators. The fidelity of the legions

might defend his authority against open rebellion; but their vigilance could not secure his person from the dagger of a determined republican; and the Romans, who revered the memory of Brutus, [27] would applaud the

imitation of his virtue. Caesar had provoked his fate, as much as by the ostentation of his power, as by his power itself. The consul or the tribune might have reigned in peace. The title of king had armed the

Romans against his life. Augustus was sensible that mankind is governed by names; nor was he deceived in his expectation, that the senate and

people would submit to slavery, provided they were respectfully assured that they still enjoyed their ancient freedom. A feeble senate and enervated people cheerfully acquiesced in the pleasing illusion, as

long as it was supported by the virtue, or even by the prudence, of the successors of Augustus. It was a motive of self-preservation, not a

principle of liberty, that animated the conspirators against Caligula,

Nero, and Domitian. They attacked the person of the tyrant, without aiming their blow at the authority of the emperor.

[Footnote 27: Two centuries after the establishment of monarchy, the emperor Marcus Antoninus recommends the character of Brutus as a perfect

model of Roman virtue. \* Note: In a very ingenious essay, Gibbon has

ventured to call in question the preeminent virtue of Brutus. Misc works, iv. 95.--M.]

there appears, indeed, one memorable occasion, in which the senate, after seventy years of patience, made an ineffectual attempt to

re-assume its long-forgotten rights. When the throne was vacant by the

murder of Caligula, the consuls convoked that assembly in the Capitol, condemned the memory of the Caesars, gave the watchword liberty to the few cohorts who faintly adhered to their standard, and during eight-and-forty hours acted as the independent chiefs of a free commonwealth. But while they deliberated, the praetorian guards had

resolved. The stupid Claudius, brother of Germanicus, was already in their camp, invested with the Imperial purple, and prepared to support

his election by arms. The dream of liberty was at an end; and the senate awoke to all the horrors of inevitable servitude. Deserted by the

people, and threatened by a military force, that feeble assembly was compelled to ratify the choice of the praetorians, and to embrace the benefit of an amnesty, which Claudius had the prudence to offer, and the

generosity to observe. [28]

[See The Capitol: When the throne was vacant by the murder of Caligula, the consuls convoked that assembly in the Capitol.]

[Footnote 28: It is much to be regretted that we have lost the part

of Tacitus which treated of that transaction. We are forced to content

ourselves with the popular rumors of Josephus, and the imperfect hints

of Dion and Suetonius.]

II. The insolence of the armies inspired Augustus with fears of a still

more alarming nature. The despair of the citizens could only attempt, what the power of the soldiers was, at any time, able to execute. How

precarious was his own authority over men whom he had taught to violate every social duty! He had heard their seditious clamors; he dreaded their calmer moments of reflection. One revolution had been purchased by

immense rewards; but a second revolution might double those rewards. The troops professed the fondest attachment to the house of Caesar; but the attachments of the multitude are capricious and inconstant. Augustus

summoned to his aid whatever remained in those fierce minds of Roman

prejudices; enforced the rigor of discipline by the sanction of law; and, interposing the majesty of the senate between the emperor and the army, boldly claimed their allegiance, as the first magistrate of the

republic.

during a long period of two hundred and twenty years from the establishment of this artful system to the death of Commodus, the dangers inherent to a military government were, in a great measure,

suspended. The soldiers were seldom roused to that fatal sense of their

own strength, and of the weakness of the civil authority, which was, before and afterwards, productive of such dreadful calamities. Caligula and Domitian were assassinated in their palace by their own domestics:

[281] the convulsions which agitated Rome on the death of the former, were confined to the walls of the city. But Nero involved the whole empire in

his ruin. In the space of eighteen months, four princes perished by the sword; and the Roman world was shaken by the fury of the contending armies. Excepting only this short, though violent eruption of military

license, the two centuries from Augustus [29] to Commodus passed away

unstained with civil blood, and undisturbed by revolutions. The emperor was elected by the authority of the senate, and the consent of the

soldiers. [30] The legions respected their oath of fidelity; and it

requires a minute inspection of the Roman annals to discover three

inconsiderable rebellions, which were all suppressed in a few months, and without even the hazard of a battle. [31]

[Footnote 281: Caligula perished by a conspiracy formed by the officers

of the praetorian troops, and Domitian would not, perhaps, have been assassinated without the participation of the two chiefs of that guard

in his death.--W.]

[Footnote 29: Augustus restored the ancient severity of discipline. after the civil wars, he dropped the endearing name of Fellow-Soldiers, and called them only Soldiers, (Sueton. in August. c. 25.) See the use tiberius made of the Senate in the mutiny of the Pannonian legions,

(Tacit. Annal. i.)]

[Footnote 30: These words seem to have been the constitutional language.

See Tacit. Annal. xiii. 4. \* Note: This panegyric on the soldiery is

rather too liberal. Claudius was obliged to purchase their consent to

his coronation: the presents which he made, and those which the

praetorians received on other occasions, considerably embarrassed the finances. Moreover, this formidable guard favored, in general, the cruelties of the tyrants. The distant revolts were more frequent than

Gibbon thinks: already, under Tiberius, the legions of Germany would

have seditiously constrained Germanicus to assume the Imperial purple.

On the revolt of Claudius Civilis, under Vespasian, the legions of Gaul

murdered their general, and offered their assistance to the Gauls who were in insurrection. Julius Sabinus made himself be proclaimed emperor,

&c. The wars, the merit, and the severe discipline of Trajan, Hadrian, and the two Antonines, established, for some time, a greater degree of

subordination.--W]

[Footnote 31: The first was Camillus Scribonianus, who took up arms in dalmatia against Claudius, and was deserted by his own troops in five days, the second, L. Antonius, in Germany, who rebelled against domitian; and the third, Avidius Cassius, in the reign of M. Antoninus. the two last reigned but a few months, and were cut off by their own adherents. We may observe, that both Camillus and Cassius colored their ambition with the design of restoring the republic; a task, said Cassius

peculiarly reserved for his name and family.]

In elective monarchies, the vacancy of the throne is a moment big with danger and mischief. The Roman emperors, desirous to spare the legions that interval of suspense, and the temptation of an irregular choice,

invested their designed successor with so large a share of present

power, as should enable him, after their decease, to assume the

remainder, without suffering the empire to perceive the change of

masters. Thus Augustus, after all his fairer prospects had been snatched from him by untimely deaths, rested his last hopes on Tiberius, obtained for his adopted son the censorial and tribunitian powers, and dictated a

law, by which the future prince was invested with an authority equal to

his own, over the provinces and the armies. [32] Thus Vespasian subdued the generous mind of his eldest son. Titus was adored by the eastern

legions, which, under his command, had recently achieved the conquest of

Judaea. His power was dreaded, and, as his virtues were clouded by the

intemperance of youth, his designs were suspected. Instead of listening to such unworthy suspicions, the prudent monarch associated Titus to the full powers of the Imperial dignity; and the grateful son ever approved

himself the humble and faithful minister of so indulgent a father. [33]

[Footnote 32: Velleius Paterculus, l. ii. c. 121. Sueton. in Tiber. c.

26.]

[Footnote 33: Sueton. in Tit. c. 6. Plin. in Praefat. Hist. Natur.]

the good sense of Vespasian engaged him indeed to embrace every measure that might confirm his recent and precarious elevation. The military

oath, and the fidelity of the troops, had been consecrated, by the

habits of a hundred years, to the name and family of the Caesars; and although that family had been continued only by the fictitious rite of adoption, the Romans still revered, in the person of Nero, the grandson

of Germanicus, and the lineal successor of Augustus. It was not without

reluctance and remorse, that the praetorian guards had been persuaded to abandon the cause of the tyrant. [34] The rapid downfall of Galba,

Otho, and Vitellus, taught the armies to consider the emperors as the creatures of their will, and the instruments of their license. The birth

of Vespasian was mean: his grandfather had been a private soldier, his father a petty officer of the revenue; [35] his own merit had raised him,

in an advanced age, to the empire; but his merit was rather useful than

shining, and his virtues were disgraced by a strict and even sordid

parsimony. Such a prince consulted his true interest by the association

of a son, whose more splendid and amiable character might turn the

public attention from the obscure origin, to the future glories, of the flavian house. Under the mild administration of Titus, the Roman world enjoyed a transient felicity, and his beloved memory served to protect, above fifteen years, the vices of his brother Domitian.

[Footnote 34: This idea is frequently and strongly inculcated by tacitus. See Hist. i. 5, 16, ii. 76.]

[Footnote 35: The emperor Vespasian, with his usual good sense, laughed at the genealogists, who deduced his family from Flavius, the founder of

Reate, (his native country,) and one of the companions of Hercules Suet

in Vespasian, c. 12.]

Nerva had scarcely accepted the purple from the assassins of Domitian, before he discovered that his feeble age was unable to stem the torrent

of public disorders, which had multiplied under the long tyranny of his

predecessor. His mild disposition was respected by the good; but the degenerate Romans required a more vigorous character, whose justice

should strike terror into the guilty. Though he had several relations,

he fixed his choice on a stranger. He adopted Trajan, then about forty

years of age, and who commanded a powerful army in the Lower Germany; and immediately, by a decree of the senate, declared him his colleague and successor in the empire. [36] It is sincerely to be lamented, that whilst we are fatigued with the disgustful relation of Nero's crimes and follies, we are reduced to collect the actions of Trajan from the

glimmerings of an abridgment, or the doubtful light of a panegyric. there remains, however, one panegyric far removed beyond the suspicion

of flattery. Above two hundred and fifty years after the death of trajan, the senate, in pouring out the customary acclamations on the accession of a new emperor, wished that he might surpass the felicity of augustus, and the virtue of Trajan. [37]

[Footnote 36: Dion, l. lxviii. p. 1121. Plin. Secund. in Panegyric.]

[Footnote 37: Felicior Augusto, Melior Trajano. Eutrop. viii. 5.]

we may readily believe, that the father of his country hesitated whether

he ought to intrust the various and doubtful character of his kinsman

Hadrian with sovereign power. In his last moments the arts of the empress Plotina either fixed the irresolution of Trajan, or boldly

supposed a fictitious adoption; [38] the truth of which could not be

safely disputed, and Hadrian was peaceably acknowledged as his lawful

successor. Under his reign, as has been already mentioned, the empire flourished in peace and prosperity. He encouraged the arts, reformed the laws, asserted military discipline, and visited all his provinces

in person. His vast and active genius was equally suited to the most enlarged views, and the minute details of civil policy. But the ruling

passions of his soul were curiosity and vanity. As they prevailed, and as they were attracted by different objects, Hadrian was, by turns, an excellent prince, a ridiculous sophist, and a jealous tyrant. the general tenor of his conduct deserved praise for its equity and

moderation. Yet in the first days of his reign, he put to death four consular senators, his personal enemies, and men who had been judged worthy of empire; and the tediousness of a painful illness rendered

him, at last, peevish and cruel. The senate doubted whether they should

pronounce him a god or a tyrant; and the honors decreed to his memory were granted to the prayers of the pious Antoninus. [39]

[Footnote 38: Dion (l. lxix. p. 1249) affirms the whole to have been a fiction, on the authority of his father, who, being governor of the

province where Trajan died, had very good opportunities of sifting this mysterious transaction. Yet Dodwell (Praelect. Camden. xvii.) has

maintained that Hadrian was called to the certain hope of the empire, during the lifetime of Trajan.]

[Footnote 39: Dion, (l. lxx. p. 1171.) Aurel. Victor.]

the caprice of Hadrian influenced his choice of a successor.

after revolving in his mind several men of distinguished merit, whom

he esteemed and hated, he adopted Aelius Verus a gay and voluptuous

nobleman, recommended by uncommon beauty to the lover of Antinous. [40] but whilst Hadrian was delighting himself with his own applause, and the acclamations of the soldiers, whose consent had been secured by an

immense donative, the new Caesar [41] was ravished from his embraces by an untimely death. He left only one son. Hadrian commended the boy to the gratitude of the Antonines. He was adopted by Pius; and, on the accession of Marcus, was invested with an equal share of sovereign

power. Among the many vices of this younger Verus, he possessed

one virtue; a dutiful reverence for his wiser colleague, to whom he willingly abandoned the ruder cares of empire. The philosophic emperor dissembled his follies, lamented his early death, and cast a decent veil

over his memory.

[Footnote 40: The deification of Antinous, his medals, his statues, temples, city, oracles, and constellation, are well known, and still dishonor the memory of Hadrian. Yet we may remark, that of the first fifteen emperors, Claudius was the only one whose taste in love was entirely correct. For the honors of Antinous, see Spanheim, Commentaire

sui les Caesars de Julien, p. 80.]

[Footnote 41: Hist. August. p. 13. Aurelius Victor in Epitom.]

as soon as Hadrian's passion was either gratified or disappointed, he

resolved to deserve the thanks of posterity, by placing the most exalted

merit on the Roman throne. His discerning eye easily discovered a

senator about fifty years of age, clameless in all the offices of life; and a youth of about seventeen, whose riper years opened a fair prospect

of every virtue: the elder of these was declared the son and successor

of Hadrian, on condition, however, that he himself should immediately adopt the younger. The two Antonines (for it is of them that we are now

peaking,) governed the Roman world forty-two years, with the same

invariable spirit of wisdom and virtue. Although Pius had two sons, [42]

he preferred the welfare of Rome to the interest of his family, gave his daughter Faustina, in marriage to young Marcus, obtained from the senate the tribunitian and proconsular powers, and, with a noble disdain, or

rather ignorance of jealousy, associated him to all the labors of

government. Marcus, on the other hand, revered the character of his benefactor, loved him as a parent, obeyed him as his sovereign, [43] and, after he was no more, regulated his own administration by the example and maxims of his predecessor. Their united reigns are possibly the only period of history in which the happiness of a great people was the sole object of government.

[Footnote 42: Without the help of medals and inscriptions, we should be

ignorant of this fact, so honorable to the memory of Pius. Note: Gibbon attributes to Antoninus Pius a merit which he either did not possess, or was not in a situation to display.

1. He was adopted only on the condition that he would adopt, in his turn, Marcus Aurelius and L. Verus.

2. His two sons died children, and one of them, M. Galerius, alone, appears to have survived, for a few years, his father's coronation.

Gibbon is also mistaken when he says (note 42) that "without the help

of medals and inscriptions, we should be ignorant that Antoninus had two sons." Capitolinus says expressly, (c. 1,) Filii mares duo, duae-foeminae; we only owe their names to the medals. Pagi. Cont. Baron,

i. 33, edit Paris.--W.]

[Footnote 43: During the twenty-three years of Pius's reign, Marcus was

only two nights absent from the palace, and even those were at different times. Hist. August. p. 25.]

titus Antoninus Pius has been justly denominated a second Numa. The

same love of religion, justice, and peace, was the distinguishing characteristic of both princes. But the situation of the latter opened a much larger field for the exercise of those virtues. Numa could

only prevent a few neighboring villages from plundering each other's

harvests. Antoninus diffused order and tranquillity over the greatest

part of the earth. His reign is marked by the rare advantage of furnishing very few materials for history; which is, indeed, little more than the register of the crimes, follies, and misfortunes of mankind.

In private life, he was an amiable, as well as a good man. The native

simplicity of his virtue was a stranger to vanity or affectation.

He enjoyed with moderation the conveniences of his fortune, and the

innocent pleasures of society; [44] and the benevolence of his soul displayed itself in a cheerful serenity of temper.

[Footnote 44: He was fond of the theatre, and not insensible to the charms of the fair sex. Marcus Antoninus, i. 16. Hist. August. p. 20,

21. Julian in Caesar.]

the virtue of Marcus Aurelius Antoninus was of severer and more

laborious kind. [45] It was the well-earned harvest of many a learned conference, of many a patient lecture, and many a midnight lucubration. at the age of twelve years he embraced the rigid system of the Stoics, which taught him to submit his body to his mind, his passions to his

reason; to consider virtue as the only good, vice as the only evil, all things external as things indifferent. [46] His meditations, composed in the tumult of the camp, are still extant; and he even condescended to

give lessons of philosophy, in a more public manner than was perhaps consistent with the modesty of sage, or the dignity of an emperor. [47] but his life was the noblest commentary on the precepts of Zeno. He was

severe to himself, indulgent to the imperfections of others, just and beneficent to all mankind. He regretted that Avidius Cassius, who excited a rebellion in Syria, had disappointed him, by a voluntary death, [471] of the pleasure of converting an enemy into a friend;; and he

justified the sincerity of that sentiment, by moderating the zeal of the

senate against the adherents of the traitor. [48] War he detested, as the disgrace and calamity of human nature; [481] but when the necessity of a just defence called upon him to take up arms, he readily exposed his

person to eight winter campaigns, on the frozen banks of the Danube, the

severity of which was at last fatal to the weakness of his constitution.

His memory was revered by a grateful posterity, and above a century after his death, many persons preserved the image of Marcus Antoninus among those of their household gods. [49]

[Footnote 45: The enemies of Marcus charged him with hypocrisy, and with a want of that simplicity which distinguished Pius and even Verus.

(Hist. August. 6, 34.) This suspicions, unjust as it was, may serve to account for the superior applause bestowed upon personal qualifications,

in preference to the social virtues. Even Marcus Antoninus has been called a hypocrite; but the wildest scepticism never insinuated that caesar might probably be a coward, or Tully a fool. Wit and valor are

qualifications more easily ascertained than humanity or the love of

justice.]

[Footnote 46: Tacitus has characterized, in a few words, the principles

of the portico: Doctores sapientiae secutus est, qui sola bona quae

honesta, main tantum quae turpia; potentiam, nobilitatem, aeteraque extra... bonis neque malis adnumerant. Tacit. Hist. iv. 5.]

[Footnote 47: Before he went on the second expedition against the

Germans, he read lectures of philosophy to the Roman people, during three days. He had already done the same in the cities of Greece and asia. Hist. August. in Cassio, c. 3.]

[Footnote 471: Cassius was murdered by his own partisans. Vulcat. Gallic.

in Cassio, c. 7. Dion, lxxi. c. 27.--W.]

[Footnote 48: Dion, l. lxxi. p. 1190. Hist. August. in Avid. Cassio.

Note: See one of the newly discovered passages of Dion Cassius. Marcus wrote to the senate, who urged the execution of the partisans of cassius, in these words: "I entreat and beseech you to preserve my reign

unstained by senatorial blood. None of your order must perish either by

your desire or mine." Mai. Fragm. Vatican. ii. p. 224.--M.]

[Footnote 481: Marcus would not accept the services of any of the barbarian allies who crowded to his standard in the war against Avidius cassius. "Barbarians," he said, with wise but vain sagacity, "must not become acquainted with the dissensions of the Roman people." Mai. Fragm

Vatican l. 224.--M.]

[Footnote 49: Hist. August. in Marc. Antonin. c. 18.]

If a man were called to fix the period in the history of the world, during which the condition of the human race was most happy and

prosperous, he would, without hesitation, name that which elapsed from the death of Domitian to the accession of Commodus. The vast extent of the Roman empire was governed by absolute power, under the guidance of

virtue and wisdom. The armies were restrained by the firm but gentle

hand of four successive emperors, whose characters and authority commanded involuntary respect. The forms of the civil administration were carefully preserved by Nerva, Trajan, Hadrian, and the Antonines, who delighted in the image of liberty, and were pleased with considering themselves as the accountable ministers of the laws. Such princes deserved the honor of restoring the republic, had the Romans of their days been capable of enjoying a rational freedom.

the labors of these monarchs were overpaid by the immense reward that

inseparably waited on their success; by the honest pride of virtue, and by the exquisite delight of beholding the general happiness of which they were the authors. A just but melancholy reflection imbittered,

however, the noblest of human enjoyments. They must often have

recollected the instability of a happiness which depended on the character of single man. The fatal moment was perhaps approaching, when some licentious youth, or some jealous tyrant, would abuse, to the destruction, that absolute power, which they had exerted for the benefit

of their people. The ideal restraints of the senate and the laws might

serve to display the virtues, but could never correct the vices, of the emperor. The military force was a blind and irresistible instrument

of oppression; and the corruption of Roman manners would always supply flatterers eager to applaud, and ministers prepared to serve, the fear

or the avarice, the lust or the cruelty, of their master. These gloomy apprehensions had been already justified by the experience of the

Romans. The annals of the emperors exhibit a strong and various picture

of human nature, which we should vainly seek among the mixed and doubtful characters of modern history. In the conduct of those monarchs we may trace the utmost lines of vice and virtue; the most exalted

perfection, and the meanest degeneracy of our own species. The golden age of Trajan and the Antonines had been preceded by an age of iron. It

is almost superfluous to enumerate the unworthy successors of Augustus. their unparalleled vices, and the splendid theatre on which they were acted, have saved them from oblivion. The dark, unrelenting Tiberius, the furious Caligula, the feeble Claudius, the profligate and cruel

Nero, the beastly Vitellius, [50] and the timid, inhuman Domitian, are condemned to everlasting infamy. During fourscore years (excepting only the short and doubtful respite of Vespasian's reign) [51] Rome groaned beneath an unremitting tyranny, which exterminated the ancient families

of the republic, and was fatal to almost every virtue and every talent that arose in that unhappy period.

[Footnote 50: Vitellius consumed in mere eating at least six millions

of our money in about seven months. It is not easy to express his vices with dignity, or even decency. Tacitus fairly calls him a hog, but it

is by substituting for a coarse word a very fine image. "At Vitellius,

umbraculis hortorum abditus, ut ignava animalia, quibus si cibum

suggeras, jacent torpentque, praeterita, instantia, futura, pari

oblivione dimiserat. Atque illum nemore Aricino desidem et marcentum,"

&c. Tacit. Hist. iii. 36, ii. 95. Sueton. in Vitell. c. 13. Dion. cassius, l xv. p. 1062.]

[Footnote 51: The execution of Helvidius Priscus, and of the virtuous eponina, disgraced the reign of Vespasian.]

Under the reign of these monsters, the slavery of the Romans was accompanied with two peculiar circumstances, the one occasioned by their former liberty, the other by their extensive conquests, which rendered their condition more completely wretched than that of the victims of tyranny in any other age or country. From these causes were derived, 1. the exquisite sensibility of the sufferers; and, 2. The impossibility of escaping from the hand of the oppressor.

I. When Persia was governed by the descendants of Sefi, a race of

princes whose wanton cruelty often stained their divan, their table, and their bed, with the blood of their favorites, there is a saying recorded

of a young nobleman, that he never departed from the sultan's presence, without satisfying himself whether his head was still on his shoulders. the experience of every day might almost justify the scepticism of

Rustan. [52] Yet the fatal sword, suspended above him by a single thread, seems not to have disturbed the slumbers, or interrupted the tranquillity, of the Persian. The monarch's frown, he well knew, could

level him with the dust; but the stroke of lightning or apoplexy might be equally fatal; and it was the part of a wise man to forget the

inevitable calamities of human life in the enjoyment of the fleeting

hour. He was dignified with the appellation of the king's slave; had,

perhaps, been purchased from obscure parents, in a country which he

had never known; and was trained up from his infancy in the severe discipline of the seraglio. [53] His name, his wealth,his honors, were the gift of a master, who might, without injustice, resume what he had bestowed. Rustan's knowledge, if he possessed any, could only serve to confirm his habits by prejudices. His language afforded not words for any form of government, except absolute monarchy. The history of the east informed him, that such had ever been the condition of mankind.

[54] The Koran, and the interpreters of that divine book, inculcated to

him, that the sultan was the descendant of the prophet, and the

vicegerent of heaven; that patience was the first virtue of a Mussulman, and unlimited obedience the great duty of a subject.

[Footnote 52: Voyage de Chardin en Perse, vol. iii. p. 293.]

[Footnote 53: The practice of raising slaves to the great offices of

state is still more common among the Turks than among the Persians. The

miserable countries of Georgia and Circassia supply rulers to the

greatest part of the East.]

[Footnote 54: Chardin says, that European travellers have diffused among the Persians some ideas of the freedom and mildness of our governments. they have done them a very ill office.]

the minds of the Romans were very differently prepared for slavery.

Oppressed beneath the weight of their own corruption and of military

violence, they for a long while preserved the sentiments, or at least the ideas, of their free-born ancestors. The education of Helvidius and thrasea, of Tacitus and Pliny, was the same as that of Cato and Cicero. from Grecian philosophy, they had imbibed the justest and most liberal

notions of the dignity of human nature, and the origin of civil society. the history of their own country had taught them to revere a free, a

virtuous, and a victorious commonwealth; to abhor the successful crimes

of Caesar and Augustus; and inwardly to despise those tyrants whom they adored with the most abject flattery. As magistrates and senators they were admitted into the great council, which had once dictated laws to the earth, whose authority was so often prostituted to the vilest

purposes of tyranny. Tiberius, and those emperors who adopted his

maxims, attempted to disguise their murders by the formalities of

justice, and perhaps enjoyed a secret pleasure in rendering the senate their accomplice as well as their victim. By this assembly, the last of the Romans were condemned for imaginary crimes and real virtues. Their

infamous accusers assumed the language of independent patriots, who arraigned a dangerous citizen before the tribunal of his country; and the public service was rewarded by riches and honors. [55] The servile

judges professed to assert the majesty of the commonwealth, violated

in the person of its first magistrate, [56] whose clemency they most applauded when they trembled the most at his inexorable and impending cruelty. [57] The tyrant beheld their baseness with just contempt, and encountered their secret sentiments of detestation with sincere and avowed hatred for the whole body of the senate.

[Footnote 55: They alleged the example of Scipio and Cato, (Tacit. annal. iii. 66.) Marcellus Epirus and Crispus Vibius had acquired two

millions and a half under Nero. Their wealth, which aggravated their crimes, protected them under Vespasian. See Tacit. Hist. iv. 43. Dialog. de Orator. c. 8. For one accusation, Regulus, the just object of Pliny's

satire, received from the senate the consular ornaments, and a present

of sixty thousand pounds.]

[Footnote 56: The crime of majesty was formerly a treasonable offence against the Roman people. As tribunes of the people, Augustus and tiberius applied tit to their own persons, and extended it to an

infinite latitude. Note: It was Tiberius, not Augustus, who first took

in this sense the words crimen laesae majestatis. Bachii Trajanus, 27.

--W.]

[Footnote 57: After the virtuous and unfortunate widow of Germanicus had been put to death, Tiberius received the thanks of the senate for his clemency. she had not been publicly strangled; nor was the body drawn with a hook to the Gemoniae, where those of common male factors were exposed. See Tacit. Annal. vi. 25. Sueton. in Tiberio c. 53.]

II. The division of Europe into a number of independent states, connected, however, with each other by the general resemblance of

religion, language, and manners, is productive of the most beneficial consequences to the liberty of mankind. A modern tyrant, who should find

no resistance either in his own breast, or in his people, would soon experience a gentle restrain form the example of his equals, the dread

of present censure,d the advice of his allies, and the apprehension of

his enemies. The object of his displeasure, escaping from the narrow

limits of his dominions, would easily obtain, in a happier climate, a secure refuge, a new fortune adequate to his merit, the freedom of complaint, and perhaps the means of revenge. But the empire of the

Romans filled the world, and when the empire fell into the hands of a

single person, he wold became a safe and dreary prison for his enemies. the slave of Imperial despotism, whether he was condemned to drags his

gilded chain in rome and the senate, or to were out a life of exile on the barren rock of Seriphus, or the frozen bank of the Danube, expected

his fate in silent despair. [58] To resist was fatal, and it was

impossible to fly. On every side he was encompassed with a vast extent

of sea and land, which he could never hope to traverse without being discovered, seized, and restored to his irritated master. Beyond the frontiers, his anxious view could discover nothing, except the ocean,

inhospitable deserts, hostile tribes of barbarians, of fierce manners and unknown language, or dependent kings, who would gladly purchase the emperor's protection by the sacrifice of an obnoxious fugitive. [59]

"Wherever you are," said Cicero to the exiled Marcellus, "remember that

you are equally within the power of the conqueror." [60]

[Footnote 58: Seriphus was a small rocky island in the Aegean Sea, the

inhabitants of which were despised for their ignorance and obscurity. the place of Ovid's exile is well known, by his just, but unmanly

lamentations. It should seem, that he only received an order to leave

rome in so many days, and to transport himself to Tomi. Guards and

jailers were unnecessary.]

[Footnote 59: Under Tiberius, a Roman knight attempted to fly to the

Parthians. He was stopped in the straits of Sicily; but so little danger did there appear in the example, that the most jealous of tyrants disdained to punish it. Tacit. Annal. vi. 14.]

[Footnote 60: Cicero ad Familiares, iv. 7.]

chapter IV: The Cruelty, Follies And Murder Of Commodus.--Part I.

The Cruelty, Follies, And Murder Of Commodus--Election Of

Pertinax--His Attempts To Reform The State--His

Assassination By The Praetorian Guards.

the mildness of Marcus, which the rigid discipline of the Stoics was

unable to eradicate, formed, at the same time, the most amiable, and the

only defective part of his character. His excellent understanding was

often deceived by the unsuspecting goodness of his heart. Artful men, who study the passions of princes, and conceal their own, approached his

person in the disguise of philosophic sanctity, and acquired riches and

honors by affecting to despise them. [1] His excessive indulgence to

his brother, [105] his wife, and his son, exceeded the bounds of private

virtue, and became a public injury, by the example and consequences of their vices.

[Footnote 1: See the complaints of Avidius Cassius, Hist. August. p.

45. These are, it is true, the complaints of faction; but even faction exaggerates, rather than invents.]

[Footnote 105: His brother by adoption, and his colleague, L. Verus.

Marcus Aurelius had no other brother.--W.]

faustina, the daughter of Pius and the wife of Marcus, has been as much celebrated for her gallantries as for her beauty. The grave simplicity

of the philosopher was ill calculated to engage her wanton levity, or to fix that unbounded passion for variety, which often discovered personal

merit in the meanest of mankind. [2] The Cupid of the ancients was, in

general, a very sensual deity; and the amours of an empress, as they exact on her side the plainest advances, are seldom susceptible of much

sentimental delicacy. Marcus was the only man in the empire who seemed

ignorant or insensible of the irregularities of Faustina; which, according to the prejudices of every age, reflected some disgrace on the

injured husband. He promoted several of her lovers to posts of honor and

profit, [3] and during a connection of thirty years, invariably gave her

proofs of the most tender confidence, and of a respect which ended not with her life. In his Meditations, he thanks the gods, who had bestowed

on him a wife so faithful, so gentle, and of such a wonderful simplicity

of manners. [4] The obsequious senate, at his earnest request, declared

her a goddess. She was represented in her temples, with the attributes

of Juno, Venus, and Ceres; and it was decreed, that, on the day of their

nuptials, the youth of either sex should pay their vows before the altar

of their chaste patroness. [5]

[Footnote 2: Faustinam satis constat apud Cajetam conditiones sibi et

nauticas et gladiatorias, elegisse. Hist. August. p. 30. Lampridius explains the sort of merit which Faustina chose, and the conditions which she exacted. Hist. August. p. 102.]

[Footnote 3: Hist. August. p. 34.]

[Footnote 4: Meditat. l. i. The world has laughed at the credulity of

Marcus but Madam Dacier assures us, (and we may credit a lady,) that the

husband will always be deceived, if the wife condescends to dissemble.]

[Footnote 5: Dion Cassius, l. lxxi. [c. 31,] p. 1195. Hist. August.

p. 33. Commentaire de Spanheim sur les Caesars de Julien, p. 289. The deification of Faustina is the only defect which Julian's criticism is able to discover in the all-accomplished character of Marcus.]

the monstrous vices of the son have cast a shade on the purity of the father's virtues. It has been objected to Marcus, that he sacrificed the

happiness of millions to a fond partiality for a worthless boy; and that

he chose a successor in his own family, rather than in the republic.

Nothing however, was neglected by the anxious father, and by the men of

virtue and learning whom he summoned to his assistance, to expand the

narrow mind of young Commodus, to correct his growing vices, and to

render him worthy of the throne for which he was designed. But the

power of instruction is seldom of much efficacy, except in those happy dispositions where it is almost superfluous. The distasteful lesson of a grave philosopher was, in a moment, obliterated by the whisper of a profligate favorite; and Marcus himself blasted the fruits of this

labored education, by admitting his son, at the age of fourteen or fifteen, to a full participation of the Imperial power. He lived but four years afterwards: but he lived long enough to repent a rash

measure, which raised the impetuous youth above the restraint of reason and authority.

Most of the crimes which disturb the internal peace of society, are

produced by the restraints which the necessary but unequal laws of

property have imposed on the appetites of mankind, by confining to a few the possession of those objects that are coveted by many. Of all our

passions and appetites, the love of power is of the most imperious and

unsociable nature, since the pride of one man requires the submission of the multitude. In the tumult of civil discord, the laws of society lose their force, and their place is seldom supplied by those of humanity. the ardor of contention, the pride of victory, the despair of success, the memory of past injuries, and the fear of future dangers, all contribute to inflame the mind, and to silence the voice of pity. From

such motives almost every page of history has been stained with civil blood; but these motives will not account for the unprovoked cruelties

of Commodus, who had nothing to wish and every thing to enjoy. The beloved son of Marcus succeeded to his father, amidst the acclamations

of the senate and armies; [6] and when he ascended the throne, the happy

youth saw round him neither competitor to remove, nor enemies to punish.

In this calm, elevated station, it was surely natural that he should

prefer the love of mankind to their detestation, the mild glories of his five predecessors to the ignominious fate of Nero and Domitian.

[Footnote 6: Commodus was the first Porphyrogenitus, (born since his father's accession to the throne.) By a new strain of flattery, the Egyptian medals date by the years of his life; as if they were

synonymous to those of his reign. Tillemont, Hist. des Empereurs, tom.

ii. p. 752.]

Yet Commodus was not, as he has been represented, a tiger born with an

insatiate thirst of human blood, and capable, from his infancy, of the

most inhuman actions. [7] Nature had formed him of a weak rather than a wicked disposition. His simplicity and timidity rendered him the slave

of his attendants, who gradually corrupted his mind. His cruelty, which at first obeyed the dictates of others, degenerated into habit, and at

length became the ruling passion of his soul. [8]

[Footnote 7: Hist. August. p. 46.]

[Footnote 8: Dion Cassius, l. lxxii. p. 1203.]

Upon the death of his father, Commodus found himself embarrassed with the command of a great army, and the conduct of a difficult war against the Quadi and Marcomanni. [9] The servile and profligate youths whom

Marcus had banished, soon regained their station and influence about the

new emperor. They exaggerated the hardships and dangers of a campaign

in the wild countries beyond the Danube; and they assured the indolent

prince that the terror of his name, and the arms of his lieutenants, would be sufficient to complete the conquest of the dismayed barbarians,

or to impose such conditions as were more advantageous than any conquest. By a dexterous application to his sensual appetites, they compared the tranquillity, the splendor, the refined pleasures of Rome, with the tumult of a Pannonian camp, which afforded neither leisure nor

materials for luxury. [10] Commodus listened to the pleasing advice; but whilst he hesitated between his own inclination and the awe which he

still retained for his father's counsellors, the summer insensibly elapsed, and his triumphal entry into the capital was deferred till the autumn. His graceful person, [11] popular address, and imagined virtues, attracted the public favor; the honorable peace which he had recently

granted to the barbarians, diffused a universal joy; [12] his impatience to revisit Rome was fondly ascribed to the love of his country; and

his dissolute course of amusements was faintly condemned in a prince of

nineteen years of age.

[Footnote 9: According to Tertullian, (Apolog. c. 25,) he died at

Sirmium. But the situation of Vindobona, or Vienna, where both the

Victors place his death, is better adapted to the operations of the war against the Marcomanni and Quadi.]

[Footnote 10: Herodian, l. i. p. 12.]

[Footnote 11: Herodian, l. i. p. 16.]

[Footnote 12: This universal joy is well described (from the medals as well as historians) by Mr. Wotton, Hist. of Rome, p. 192, 193.] During the three first years of his reign, the forms, and even the spirit, of the old administration, were maintained by those faithful counsellors, to whom Marcus had recommended his son, and for whose wisdom and

integrity Commodus still entertained a reluctant esteem. The young

prince and his profligate favorites revelled in all the license of

sovereign power; but his hands were yet unstained with blood; and he

had even displayed a generosity of sentiment, which might perhaps have

ripened into solid virtue. [13] A fatal incident decided his fluctuating character.

[Footnote 13: Manilius, the confidential secretary of Avidius Cassius, was discovered after he had lain concealed several years. The emperor

nobly relieved the public anxiety by refusing to see him, and burning

his papers without opening them. Dion Cassius, l. lxxii. p. 1209.]

One evening, as the emperor was returning to the palace, through a dark and narrow portico in the amphitheatre, [14] an assassin, who waited his

passage, rushed upon him with a drawn sword, loudly exclaiming, "The

senate sends you this." The menace prevented the deed; the assassin was seized by the guards, and immediately revealed the authors of the conspiracy. It had been formed, not in the state, but within the walls

of the palace. Lucilla, the emperor's sister, and widow of Lucius Verus,

impatient of the second rank, and jealous of the reigning empress, had armed the murderer against her brother's life. She had not ventured to communicate the black design to her second husband, Claudius Pompeiarus, a senator of distinguished merit and unshaken loyalty; but among the crowd of her lovers (for she imitated the manners of Faustina) she found

men of desperate fortunes and wild ambition, who were prepared to serve

her more violent, as well as her tender passions. The conspirators experienced the rigor of justice, and the abandoned princess was

punished, first with exile, and afterwards with death. [15]

[Footnote 14: See Maffei degli Amphitheatri, p. 126.]

[Footnote 15: Dion, l. lxxi. p. 1205 Herodian, l. i. p. 16 Hist. August

p. 46.]

but the words of the assassin sunk deep into the mind of Commodus, and

left an indelible impression of fear and hatred against the whole body

of the senate. [151] Those whom he had dreaded as importunate ministers,

he now suspected as secret enemies. The Delators, a race of men discouraged, and almost extinguished, under the former reigns, again became formidable, as soon as they discovered that the emperor was desirous of finding disaffection and treason in the senate. That assembly, whom Marcus had ever considered as the great council of the nation, was composed of the most distinguished of the Romans; and distinction of every kind soon became criminal. The possession of wealth

stimulated the diligence of the informers; rigid virtue implied a tacit censure of the irregularities of Commodus; important services implied a dangerous superiority of merit; and the friendship of the father always

insured the aversion of the son. Suspicion was equivalent to proof; trial to condemnation. The execution of a considerable senator was attended with the death of all who might lament or revenge his fate; and when Commodus had once tasted human blood, he became incapable of

pity or remorse.

[Footnote 151: The conspirators were senators, even the assassin

himself. Herod. 81.--G.]

Of these innocent victims of tyranny, none died more lamented than the two brothers of the Quintilian family, Maximus and Condianus; whose fraternal love has saved their names from oblivion, and endeared their

memory to posterity. Their studies and their occupations, their pursuits and their pleasures, were still the same. In the enjoyment of a great estate, they never admitted the idea of a separate interest: some fragments are now extant of a treatise which they composed in common;

[152] and in every action of life it was observed that their two bodies were animated by one soul. The Antonines, who valued their virtues, and delighted in their union, raised them, in the same year, to the consulship; and Marcus afterwards intrusted to their joint care the civil administration of Greece, and a great military command, in which they obtained a signal victory over the Germans. The kind cruelty of commodus united them in death. [16]

[Footnote 152: This work was on agriculture, and is often quoted by later writers. See P. Needham, Proleg. ad Geoponic. Camb. 1704.--W.]

[Footnote 16: In a note upon the Augustan History, Casaubon has collected a number of particulars concerning these celebrated brothers.

See p. 96 of his learned commentary.]

the tyrant's rage, after having shed the noblest blood of the senate, at length recoiled on the principal instrument of his cruelty. Whilst commodus was immersed in blood and luxury, he devolved the detail of the

public business on Perennis, a servile and ambitious minister, who had

obtained his post by the murder of his predecessor, but who possessed a considerable share of vigor and ability. By acts of extortion, and the forfeited estates of the nobles sacrificed to his avarice, he had accumulated an immense treasure. The Praetorian guards were under

his immediate command; and his son, who already discovered a military

genius, was at the head of the Illyrian legions. Perennis aspired to the empire; or what, in the eyes of Commodus, amounted to the same crime, he was capable of aspiring to it, had he not been prevented, surprised, and

put to death. The fall of a minister is a very trifling incident in the

general history of the empire; but it was hastened by an extraordinary circumstance, which proved how much the nerves of discipline were already relaxed. The legions of Britain, discontented with the administration of Perennis, formed a deputation of fifteen hundred

select men, with instructions to march to Rome, and lay their complaints before the emperor. These military petitioners, by their own determined behaviour, by inflaming the divisions of the guards, by exaggerating the strength of the British army, and by alarming the fears of Commodus, exacted and obtained the minister's death, as the only redress of their

grievances. [17] This presumption of a distant army, and their discovery

of the weakness of government, was a sure presage of the most dreadful convulsions.

[Footnote 17: Dion, l. lxxii. p. 1210. Herodian, l. i. p. 22. Hist. august. p. 48. Dion gives a much less odious character of Perennis, than the other historians. His moderation is almost a pledge of his veracity.

Note: Gibbon praises Dion for the moderation with which he speaks of

Perennis: he follows, nevertheless, in his own narrative, Herodian and

Lampridius. Dion speaks of Perennis not only with moderation, but with admiration; he represents him as a great man, virtuous in his life, and blameless in his death: perhaps he may be suspected of partiality; but

it is singular that Gibbon, having adopted, from Herodian and

Lampridius, their judgment on this minister, follows Dion's improbable account of his death. What likelihood, in fact, that fifteen hundred men

should have traversed Gaul and Italy, and have arrived at Rome without any understanding with the Praetorians, or without detection or

opposition from Perennis, the Praetorian praefect? Gibbon, foreseeing,

perhaps, this difficulty, has added, that the military deputation

inflamed the divisions of the guards; but Dion says expressly that they did not reach Rome, but that the emperor went out to meet them: he even

reproaches him for not having opposed them with the guards, who were

superior in number. Herodian relates that Commodus, having learned, from a soldier, the ambitious designs of Perennis and his son, caused them to be attacked and massacred by night.--G. from W. Dion's narrative is

remarkably circumstantial, and his authority higher than either of the

other writers. He hints that Cleander, a new favorite, had already

undermined the influence of Perennis.--M.]

the negligence of the public administration was betrayed, soon afterwards, by a new disorder, which arose from the smallest beginnings. a spirit of desertion began to prevail among the troops: and the deserters, instead of seeking their safety in flight or concealment,

infested the highways. Maternus, a private soldier, of a daring boldness above his station, collected these bands of robbers into a little army,

set open the prisons, invited the slaves to assert their freedom, and

plundered with impunity the rich and defenceless cities of Gaul and

Spain. The governors of the provinces, who had long been the spectators, and perhaps the partners, of his depredations, were, at length, roused from their supine indolence by the threatening commands of the emperor.

Maternus found that he was encompassed, and foresaw that he must be

overpowered. A great effort of despair was his last resource. He ordered

his followers to disperse, to pass the Alps in small parties and various disguises, and to assemble at Rome, during the licentious tumult of the festival of Cybele. [18] To murder Commodus, and to ascend the vacant throne, was the ambition of no vulgar robber. His measures were so ably concerted that his concealed troops already filled the streets of

Rome. The envy of an accomplice discovered and ruined this singular enterprise, in a moment when it was ripe for execution. [19]

[Footnote 18: During the second Punic war, the Romans imported from Asia the worship of the mother of the gods. Her festival, the Megalesia, began on the fourth of April, and lasted six days. The streets were crowded with mad processions, the theatres with spectators, and the

public tables with unbidden guests. Order and police were suspended, and

pleasure was the only serious business of the city. See Ovid. de Fastis,

l. iv. 189, &c.]

[Footnote 19: Herodian, l. i. p. 23, 23.]

Suspicious princes often promote the last of mankind, from a vain

persuasion, that those who have no dependence, except on their favor, will have no attachment, except to the person of their benefactor. cleander, the successor of Perennis, was a Phrygian by birth; of a nation over whose stubborn, but servile temper, blows only could

prevail. [20] He had been sent from his native country to Rome, in the capacity of a slave. As a slave he entered the Imperial palace, rendered

himself useful to his master's passions, and rapidly ascended to the

most exalted station which a subject could enjoy. His influence over the mind of Commodus was much greater than that of his predecessor; for cleander was devoid of any ability or virtue which could inspire the emperor with envy or distrust. Avarice was the reigning passion of his

soul, and the great principle of his administration. The rank of Consul,

of Patrician, of Senator, was exposed to public sale; and it would have been considered as disaffection, if any one had refused to purchase these empty and disgraceful honors with the greatest part of his fortune. [21] In the lucrative provincial employments, the minister

shared with the governor the spoils of the people. The execution of the

laws was penal and arbitrary. A wealthy criminal might obtain, not only the reversal of the sentence by which he was justly condemned, but might

likewise inflict whatever punishment he pleased on the accuser, the witnesses, and the judge.

[Footnote 20: Cicero pro Flacco, c. 27.]

[Footnote 21: One of these dear-bought promotions occasioned a current... that Julius Solon was banished into the senate.]

by these means, Cleander, in the space of three years, had accumulated

more wealth than had ever yet been possessed by any freedman. [22] commodus was perfectly satisfied with the magnificent presents which the artful courtier laid at his feet in the most seasonable moments. to divert the public envy, Cleander, under the emperor's name, erected baths, porticos, and places of exercise, for the use of the people.

[23] He flattered himself that the Romans, dazzled and amused by this apparent liberality, would be less affected by the bloody scenes which were daily exhibited; that they would forget the death of Byrrhus, a

senator to whose superior merit the late emperor had granted one of

his daughters; and that they would forgive the execution of Arrius antoninus, the last representative of the name and virtues of the antonines. The former, with more integrity than prudence, had attempted to disclose, to his brother-in-law, the true character of Cleander. An equitable sentence pronounced by the latter, when proconsul of Asia, against a worthless creature of the favorite, proved fatal to him. [24] after the fall of Perennis, the terrors of Commodus had, for a short time, assumed the appearance of a return to virtue. He repealed the most

odious of his acts; loaded his memory with the public execration, and ascribed to the pernicious counsels of that wicked minister all the errors of his inexperienced youth. But his repentance lasted only thirty days; and, under Cleander's tyranny, the administration of Perennis was

often regretted.

[Footnote 22: Dion (l. lxxii. p. 12, 13) observes, that no freedman had

possessed riches equal to those of Cleander. The fortune of Pallas amounted, however, to upwards of five and twenty hundred thousand

pounds; Ter millies.]

[Footnote 23: Dion, l. lxxii. p. 12, 13. Herodian, l. i. p. 29. Hist. august. p. 52. These baths were situated near the Porta Capena. See

Nardini Roma Antica, p. 79.]

[Footnote 24: Hist. August. p. 79.]

chapter IV: The Cruelty, Follies And Murder Of Commodus.--Part II.

Pestilence and famine contributed to fill up the measure of the calamities of Rome. [25] The first could be only imputed to the just

indignation of the gods; but a monopoly of corn, supported by the riches and power of the minister, was considered as the immediate cause of the second. The popular discontent, after it had long circulated in whispers, broke out in the assembled circus. The people quitted their favorite amusements for the more delicious pleasure of revenge,

rushed in crowds towards a palace in the suburbs, one of the emperor's

retirements, and demanded, with angry clamors, the head of the public enemy. Cleander, who commanded the Praetorian guards, [26] ordered a body

of cavalry to sally forth, and disperse the seditious multitude. The

multitude fled with precipitation towards the city; several were slain, and many more were trampled to death; but when the cavalry entered the

streets, their pursuit was checked by a shower of stones and darts from the roofs and windows of the houses. The foot guards, [27] who had been long jealous of the prerogatives and insolence of the Praetorian cavalry, embraced the party of the people. The tumult became a regular engagement, and threatened a general massacre. The Praetorians, at

length, gave way, oppressed with numbers; and the tide of popular fury

returned with redoubled violence against the gates of the palace, where commodus lay, dissolved in luxury, and alone unconscious of the civil war. It was death to approach his person with the unwelcome news. He would have perished in this supine security, had not two women, his eldest sister Fadilla, and Marcia, the most favored of his concubines,

ventured to break into his presence. Bathed in tears, and with dishevelled hair, they threw themselves at his feet; and with all the

pressing eloquence of fear, discovered to the affrighted emperor the crimes of the minister, the rage of the people, and the impending

ruin, which, in a few minutes, would burst over his palace and person. commodus started from his dream of pleasure, and commanded that the head

of Cleander should be thrown out to the people. The desired spectacle

instantly appeased the tumult; and the son of Marcus might even yet have

regained the affection and confidence of his subjects. [28]

[Footnote 25: Herodian, l. i. p. 28. Dion, l. lxxii. p. 1215. The

latter says that two thousand persons died every day at Rome, during a considerable length of time.]

[Footnote 26: Tuneque primum tres praefecti praetorio fuere: inter quos

libertinus. From some remains of modesty, Cleander declined the title, whilst he assumed the powers, of Praetorian praefect. As the other freedmen were styled, from their several departments, a rationibus, ab epistolis, Cleander called himself a pugione, as intrusted with the defence of his master's person. Salmasius and Casaubon seem to have talked very idly upon this passage. \* Note: M. Guizot denies that

Lampridius means Cleander as praefect a pugione. The Libertinus seems to

me to mean him.--M.]

[Footnote 27: Herodian, l. i. p. 31. It is doubtful whether he means the Praetorian infantry, or the cohortes urbanae, a body of six thousand

men, but whose rank and discipline were not equal to their numbers.

Neither Tillemont nor Wotton choose to decide this question.]

[Footnote 28: Dion Cassius, l. lxxii. p. 1215. Herodian, l. i. p. 32.

Hist. August. p. 48.]

but every sentiment of virtue and humanity was extinct in the mind of commodus. Whilst he thus abandoned the reins of empire to these unworthy favorites, he valued nothing in sovereign power, except the unbounded

license of indulging his sensual appetites. His hours were spent in a

seraglio of three hundred beautiful women, and as many boys, of every

rank, and of every province; and, wherever the arts of seduction proved

ineffectual, the brutal lover had recourse to violence. The ancient historians [29] have expatiated on these abandoned scenes of

prostitution, which scorned every restraint of nature or modesty; but it would not be easy to translate their too faithful descriptions into the decency of modern language. The intervals of lust were filled up with the basest amusements. The influence of a polite age, and the labor of an attentive education, had never been able to infuse into his rude and brutish mind the least tincture of learning; and he was the first of the Roman emperors totally devoid of taste for the pleasures of the

understanding. Nero himself excelled, or affected to excel, in the elegant arts of music and poetry: nor should we despise his pursuits,

had he not converted the pleasing relaxation of a leisure hour into the serious business and ambition of his life. But Commodus, from his earliest infancy, discovered an aversion to whatever was rational or

liberal, and a fond attachment to the amusements of the populace; the

sports of the circus and amphitheatre, the combats of gladiators, and the hunting of wild beasts. The masters in every branch of learning, whom Marcus provided for his son, were heard with inattention and disgust; whilst the Moors and Parthians, who taught him to dart the

javelin and to shoot with the bow, found a disciple who delighted in his application, and soon equalled the most skilful of his instructors in the steadiness of the eye and the dexterity of the hand.

[Footnote 29: Sororibus suis constupratis. Ipsas concubinas suas sub

oculis...stuprari jubebat. Nec irruentium in se juvenum carebat infamia,

omni parte corporis atque ore in sexum utrumque pollutus. Hist. Aug. p.

47.]

the servile crowd, whose fortune depended on their master's vices, applauded these ignoble pursuits. The perfidious voice of flattery

reminded him, that by exploits of the same nature, by the defeat of the

Nemaean lion, and the slaughter of the wild boar of Erymanthus, the

Grecian Hercules had acquired a place among the gods, and an immortal

memory among men. They only forgot to observe, that, in the first ages

of society, when the fiercer animals often dispute with man the

possession of an unsettled country, a successful war against those

savages is one of the most innocent and beneficial labors of heroism. In the civilized state of the Roman empire, the wild beasts had long since

retired from the face of man, and the neighborhood of populous cities. to surprise them in their solitary haunts, and to transport them to

Rome, that they might be slain in pomp by the hand of an emperor, was an enterprise equally ridiculous for the prince and oppressive for the

people. [30] Ignorant of these distinctions, Commodus eagerly embraced the glorious resemblance, and styled himself (as we still read on his

medals [31] the Roman Hercules. [311] The club and the lion's hide were

placed by the side of the throne, amongst the ensigns of sovereignty; and statues were erected, in which Commodus was represented in the character, and with the attributes, of the god, whose valor and dexterity he endeavored to emulate in the daily course of his ferocious amusements. [32]

[Footnote 30: The African lions, when pressed by hunger, infested the open

villages and cultivated country; and they infested them with impunity. the royal beast was reserved for the pleasures of the emperor and the capital; and the unfortunate peasant who killed one of them though

in his own defence, incurred a very heavy penalty. This extraordinary

game-law was mitigated by Honorius, and finally repealed by Justinian. codex Theodos. tom. v. p. 92, et Comment Gothofred.]

[Footnote 31: Spanheim de Numismat. Dissertat. xii. tom. ii. p. 493.]

[Footnote 311: Commodus placed his own head on the colossal statue of

Hercules with the inscription, Lucius Commodus Hercules. The wits of

Rome, according to a new fragment of Dion, published an epigram, of which, like many other ancient jests, the point is not very clear.

It seems to be a protest of the god against being confounded with the emperor. Mai Fragm. Vatican. ii. 225.--M.]

[Footnote 32: Dion, l. lxxii. p. 1216. Hist. August. p. 49.]

elated with these praises, which gradually extinguished the innate sense

of shame, Commodus resolved to exhibit before the eyes of the Roman

people those exercises, which till then he had decently confined within the walls of his palace, and to the presence of a few favorites. On the appointed day, the various motives of flattery, fear, and curiosity, attracted to the amphitheatre an innumerable multitude of spectators; and some degree of applause was deservedly bestowed on the uncommon

skill of the Imperial performer. Whether he aimed at the head or heart

of the animal, the wound was alike certain and mortal. With arrows whose

point was shaped into the form of crescent, Commodus often intercepted the rapid career, and cut asunder the long, bony neck of the ostrich.

[33] A panther was let loose; and the archer waited till he had leaped

upon a trembling malefactor. In the same instant the shaft flew, the beast dropped dead, and the man remained unhurt. The dens of the amphitheatre disgorged at once a hundred lions: a hundred darts from the

unerring hand of Commodus laid them dead as they run raging round the arena. Neither the huge bulk of the elephant, nor the scaly hide of the

rhinoceros, could defend them from his stroke. Aethiopia and India

yielded their most extraordinary productions; and several animals were

slain in the amphitheatre, which had been seen only in the

representations of art, or perhaps of fancy. [34] In all these exhibitions, the securest precautions were used to protect the person of the Roman Hercules from the desperate spring of any savage, who might

possibly disregard the dignity of the emperor and the sanctity of the

god. [35]

[Footnote 33: The ostrich's neck is three feet long, and composed of

seventeen vertebrae. See Buffon, Hist. Naturelle.]

[Footnote 34: Commodus killed a camelopardalis or Giraffe, (Dion, l.

lxxii. p. 1211,) the tallest, the most gentle, and the most useless

of the large quadrupeds. This singular animal, a native only of the

interior parts of Africa, has not been seen in Europe since the revival

of letters; and though M. de Buffon (Hist. Naturelle, tom. xiii.) has endeavored to describe, he has not ventured to delineate, the Giraffe. \*

Note: The naturalists of our days have been more fortunate. London

probably now contains more specimens of this animal than have been seen

in Europe since the fall of the Roman empire, unless in the pleasure

gardens of the emperor Frederic II., in Sicily, which possessed several. frederic's collections of wild beasts were exhibited, for the popular amusement, in many parts of Italy. Raumer, Geschichte der Hohenstaufen,

v. iii. p. 571. Gibbon, moreover, is mistaken; as a giraffe was

presented to Lorenzo de Medici, either by the sultan of Egypt or the

king of Tunis. Contemporary authorities are quoted in the old work,

Gesner de Quadrupedibum p. 162.--M.]

[Footnote 35: Herodian, l. i. p. 37. Hist. August. p. 50.]

but the meanest of the populace were affected with shame and indignation when they beheld their sovereign enter the lists as a gladiator, and

glory in a profession which the laws and manners of the Romans had branded with the justest note of infamy. [36] He chose the habit and arms of the Secutor, whose combat with the Retiarius formed one of the

most lively scenes in the bloody sports of the amphitheatre. The Secutor was armed with a helmet, sword, and buckler; his naked antagonist had

only a large net and a trident; with the one he endeavored to entangle, with the other to despatch his enemy. If he missed the first throw, he was obliged to fly from the pursuit of the Secutor, till he had prepared

his net for a second cast. [37] The emperor fought in this character

seven hundred and thirty-five several times. These glorious achievements were carefully recorded in the public acts of the empire; and that he

might omit no circumstance of infamy, he received from the common fund

of gladiators a stipend so exorbitant that it became a new and most

ignominious tax upon the Roman people. [38] It may be easily supposed, that in these engagements the master of the world was always successful;

in the amphitheatre, his victories were not often sanguinary; but when

he exercised his skill in the school of gladiators, or his own palace,

his wretched antagonists were frequently honored with a mortal wound from the hand of Commodus, and obliged to seal their flattery with their blood. [39] He now disdained the appellation of Hercules. The name of

Paulus, a celebrated Secutor, was the only one which delighted his ear.

It was inscribed on his colossal statues, and repeated in the redoubled acclamations [40] of the mournful and applauding senate. [41] Claudius

Pompeianus, the virtuous husband of Lucilla, was the only senator who asserted the honor of his rank. As a father, he permitted his sons to consult their safety by attending the amphitheatre. As a Roman, he declared, that his own life was in the emperor's hands, but that he would never behold the son of Marcus prostituting his person and dignity. Notwithstanding his manly resolution Pompeianus escaped the

resentment of the tyrant, and, with his honor, had the good fortune to

preserve his life. [42]

[Footnote 36: The virtuous and even the wise princes forbade the

senators and knights to embrace this scandalous profession, under pain

of infamy, or, what was more dreaded by those profligate wretches, of exile. The tyrants allured them to dishonor by threats and rewards.

Nero once produced in the arena forty senators and sixty knights. See

Lipsius, Saturnalia, l. ii. c. 2. He has happily corrected a passage

of Suetonius in Nerone, c. 12.]

[Footnote 37: Lipsius, l. ii. c. 7, 8. Juvenal, in the eighth satire,

gives a picturesque description of this combat.]

[Footnote 38: Hist. August. p. 50. Dion, l. lxxii. p. 1220. He received, for each time, decies, about 8000l. sterling.]

[Footnote 39: Victor tells us, that Commodus only allowed his antagonists a...weapon, dreading most probably the consequences of their despair.]

[Footnote 40: They were obliged to repeat, six hundred and twenty-six times, Paolus first of the Secutors, &c.]

[Footnote 41: Dion, l. lxxii. p. 1221. He speaks of his own baseness and danger.]

[Footnote 42: He mixed, however, some prudence with his courage, and

passed the greatest part of his time in a country retirement; alleging

his advanced age, and the weakness of his eyes. "I never saw him in the

senate," says Dion, "except during the short reign of Pertinax." All his

infirmities had suddenly left him, and they returned as suddenly upon the murder of that excellent prince. Dion, l. lxxiii. p. 1227.]

commodus had now attained the summit of vice and infamy. Amidst the acclamations of a flattering court, he was unable to disguise from

himself, that he had deserved the contempt and hatred of every man of

sense and virtue in his empire. His ferocious spirit was irritated by the consciousness of that hatred, by the envy of every kind of merit, by the just apprehension of danger, and by the habit of slaughter, which he contracted in his daily amusements. History has preserved a long list of consular senators sacrificed to his wanton suspicion, which sought out, with peculiar anxiety, those unfortunate persons connected, however

remotely, with the family of the Antonines, without sparing even the

ministers of his crimes or pleasures. [43] His cruelty proved at last fatal to himself. He had shed with impunity the noblest blood of Rome:

he perished as soon as he was dreaded by his own domestics. Marcia,

his favorite concubine, Eclectus, his chamberlain, and Laetus, his

Praetorian praefect, alarmed by the fate of their companions and

predecessors, resolved to prevent the destruction which every hour hung

over their heads, either from the mad caprice of the tyrant, [431] or the sudden indignation of the people. Marcia seized the occasion of

presenting a draught of wine to her lover, after he had fatigued himself with hunting some wild beasts. Commodus retired to sleep; but whilst he was laboring with the effects of poison and drunkenness, a robust youth, by profession a wrestler, entered his chamber, and strangled him without

resistance. The body was secretly conveyed out of the palace, before the

least suspicion was entertained in the city, or even in the court, of the emperor's death. Such was the fate of the son of Marcus, and so easy was it to destroy a hated tyrant, who, by the artificial powers of

government, had oppressed, during thirteen years, so many millions of

subjects, each of whom was equal to their master in personal strength and personal abilities. [44]

[Footnote 43: The prefects were changed almost hourly or daily; and the caprice of Commodus was often fatal to his most favored chamberlains.

Hist. August. p. 46, 51.]

[Footnote 431: Commodus had already resolved to massacre them the following night they determined o anticipate his design. Herod. i.

17.--W.]

[Footnote 44: Dion, l. lxxii. p. 1222. Herodian, l. i. p. 43. Hist. august. p. 52.]

the measures of he conspirators were conducted with the deliberate coolness and celerity which the greatness of the occasion required. they resolved instantly to fill the vacant throne with an emperor whose character would justify and maintain the action that had been committed. they fixed on Pertinax, praefect of the city, an ancient senator of consular rank, whose conspicuous merit had broke through the obscurity

of his birth, and raised him to the first honors of the state. He had

successively governed most of the provinces of the empire; and in all

his great employments, military as well as civil, he had uniformly distinguished himself by the firmness, the prudence, and the integrity

of his conduct. [45] He now remained almost alone of the friends and

ministers of Marcus; and when, at a late hour of the night, he was awakened with the news, that the chamberlain and the praefect were at

his door, he received them with intrepid resignation, and desired they would execute their master's orders. Instead of death, they offered him the throne of the Roman world. During some moments he distrusted their

intentions and assurances. Convinced at length of the death of Commodus,

he accepted the purple with a sincere reluctance, the natural effect of

his knowledge both of the duties and of the dangers of the supreme rank.

[46]

[Footnote 45: Pertinax was a native of Alba Pompeia, in Piedmont, and son of a timber merchant. The order of his employments (it is marked by Capitolinus) well deserves to be set down, as expressive of the form

of government and manners of the age. 1. He was a centurion. 2. Praefect

of a cohort in Syria, in the Parthian war, and in Britain. 3. He

obtained an Ala, or squadron of horse, in Maesia. 4. He was commissary

of provisions on the Aemilian way. 5. He commanded the fleet upon the

Rhine. 6. He was procurator of Dacia, with a salary of about 1600l. a

year. 7. He commanded the veterans of a legion. 8. He obtained the rank

of senator. 9. Of praetor. 10. With the command of the first legion

in Rhaetia and Noricum. 11. He was consul about the year 175. 12. He attended Marcus into the East. 13. He commanded an army on the Danube.

14. He was consular legate of Maesia. 15. Of Dacia. 16. Of Syria. 17.

Of Britain. 18. He had the care of the public provisions at Rome. 19.

He was proconsul of Africa. 20. Praefect of the city. Herodian (l. i.

p. 48) does justice to his disinterested spirit; but Capitolinus, who collected every popular rumor, charges him with a great fortune acquired by bribery and corruption.]

[Footnote 46: Julian, in the Caesars, taxes him with being accessory to the death of Commodus.]

Laetus conducted without delay his new emperor to the camp of the

Praetorians, diffusing at the same time through the city a seasonable

report that Commodus died suddenly of an apoplexy; and that the virtuous

Pertinax had already succeeded to the throne. The guards were rather

surprised than pleased with the suspicious death of a prince, whose

indulgence and liberality they alone had experienced; but the emergency

of the occasion, the authority of their praefect, the reputation of

Pertinax, and the clamors of the people, obliged them to stifle their

secret discontents, to accept the donative promised by the new emperor, to swear allegiance to him, and with joyful acclamations and laurels

in their hands to conduct him to the senate house, that the military consent might be ratified by the civil authority. This important night was now far spent; with the dawn of day, and the commencement of the new

year, the senators expected a summons to attend an ignominious ceremony.

[461] In spite of all remonstrances, even of those of his creatures who

yet preserved any regard for prudence or decency, Commodus had resolved to pass the night in the gladiators' school, and from thence to take

possession of the consulship, in the habit and with the attendance of that infamous crew. On a sudden, before the break of day, the senate was called together in the temple of Concord, to meet the guards, and to

ratify the election of a new emperor. For a few minutes they sat in

silent suspense, doubtful of their unexpected deliverance, and

suspicious of the cruel artifices of Commodus: but when at length they were assured that the tyrant was no more, they resigned themselves to all the transports of joy and indignation. Pertinax, who modestly

represented the meanness of his extraction, and pointed out several

noble senators more deserving than himself of the empire, was constrained by their dutiful violence to ascend the throne, and received all the titles of Imperial power, confirmed by the most sincere vows of fidelity. The memory of Commodus was branded with eternal infamy. The

names of tyrant, of gladiator, of public enemy resounded in every corner

of the house. They decreed in tumultuous votes, [462] that his honors

should be reversed, his titles erased from the public monuments, his

statues thrown down, his body dragged with a hook into the stripping

room of the gladiators, to satiate the public fury; and they expressed

some indignation against those officious servants who had already

presumed to screen his remains from the justice of the senate. But

Pertinax could not refuse those last rites to the memory of Marcus, and the tears of his first protector Claudius Pompeianus, who lamented the cruel fate of his brother-in-law, and lamented still more that he had deserved it. [47]

[Footnote 461: The senate always assembled at the beginning of the year,

on the night of the 1st January, (see Savaron on Sid. Apoll. viii. 6,) and this happened the present year, as usual, without any particular

order.--G from W.]

[Footnote 462: What Gibbon improperly calls, both here and in the note, tumultuous decrees, were no more than the applauses and acclamations which recur so often in the history of the emperors. The custom passed from the theatre to the forum, from the forum to the senate. Applauses

on the adoption of the Imperial decrees were first introduced under trajan. (Plin. jun. Panegyr. 75.) One senator read the form of the decree, and all the rest answered by acclamations, accompanied with a

kind of chant or rhythm. These were some of the acclamations addressed to Pertinax, and against the memory of Commodus. Hosti patriae honores detrahantur. Parricidae honores detrahantur. Ut salvi simus, Jupiter,

optime, maxime, serva nobis Pertinacem. This custom prevailed not only

in the councils of state, but in all the meetings of the senate. However

inconsistent it may appear with the solemnity of a religious assembly, the early Christians adopted and introduced it into their synods,

notwithstanding the opposition of some of the Fathers, particularly of

St. Chrysostom. See the Coll. of Franc. Bern. Ferrarius de veterum acclamatione in Graevii Thesaur. Antiq. Rom. i. 6.--W. This note is

rather hypercritical, as regards Gibbon, but appears to be worthy of

preservation.--M.]

[Footnote 47: Capitolinus gives us the particulars of these tumultuary

votes, which were moved by one senator, and repeated, or rather chanted by the whole body. Hist. August. p. 52.]

these effusions of impotent rage against a dead emperor, whom the senate

had flattered when alive with the most abject servility, betrayed a just but ungenerous spirit of revenge.

the legality of these decrees was, however, supported by the principles

of the Imperial constitution. To censure, to depose, or to punish with death, the first magistrate of the republic, who had abused his delegated trust, was the ancient and undoubted prerogative of the Roman

senate; [48] but the feeble assembly was obliged to content itself with

inflicting on a fallen tyrant that public justice, from which, during

his life and reign, he had been shielded by the strong arm of military despotism. [481]

[Footnote 48: The senate condemned Nero to be put to death more majorum.

Sueton. c. 49.]

[Footnote 481: No particular law assigned this right to the senate: it was deduced from the ancient principles of the republic. Gibbon appears to

infer, from the passage of Suetonius, that the senate, according to its ancient right, punished Nero with death. The words, however, more

majerum refer not to the decree of the senate, but to the kind of death, which was taken from an old law of Romulus. (See Victor. Epit. Ed. artzen p. 484, n. 7.)--W.]

Pertinax found a nobler way of condemning his predecessor's memory; by the contrast of his own virtues with the vices of Commodus. On the day

of his accession, he resigned over to his wife and son his whole private fortune; that they might have no pretence to solicit favors at the expense of the state. He refused to flatter the vanity of the former with the title of Augusta; or to corrupt the inexperienced youth of the latter by the rank of Caesar. Accurately distinguishing between the duties of a parent and those of a sovereign, he educated his son with a

severe simplicity, which, while it gave him no assured prospect of the throne, might in time have rendered him worthy of it. In public, the behavior of Pertinax was grave and affable. He lived with the virtuous

part of the senate, (and, in a private station, he had been acquainted with the true character of each individual,) without either pride or

jealousy; considered them as friends and companions, with whom he had

shared the danger of the tyranny, and with whom he wished to enjoy the security of the present time. He very frequently invited them to familiar entertainments, the frugality of which was ridiculed by those who remembered and regretted the luxurious prodigality of Commodus. [49]

[Footnote 49: Dion (l. lxxiii. p. 1223) speaks of these entertainments, as a senator who had supped with the emperor; Capitolinus, (Hist. august. p. 58,) like a slave, who had received his intelligence from one the scullions.]

to heal, as far as I was possible, the wounds inflicted by the hand of tyranny, was the pleasing, but melancholy, task of

Pertinax. The innocent victims, who yet survived, were recalled from exile, released from prison, and restored to the full possession of their honors and fortunes. The unburied bodies of murdered senators (for the cruelty of Commodus endeavored to extend itself beyond death) were deposited in the sepulchres of their ancestors; their memory was justified and every consolation was bestowed on their ruined and afflicted families. Among these consolations, one of the most grateful was the punishment of the Delators; the common enemies of their master,

of virtue, and of their country. Yet even in the inquisition of these

legal assassins, Pertinax proceeded with a steady temper, which gave every thing to justice, and nothing to popular prejudice and resentment. the finances of the state demanded the most vigilant care of the emperor. Though every measure of injustice and extortion had been adopted, which could collect the property of the subject into the coffers of the prince, the rapaciousness of Commodus had been so very

inadequate to his extravagance, that, upon his death, no more than eight thousand pounds were found in the exhausted treasury, [50] to defray the current expenses of government, and to discharge the pressing demand of a liberal donative, which the new emperor had been obliged to promise to the Praetorian guards. Yet under these distressed circumstances,

Pertinax had the generous firmness to remit all the oppressive taxes

invented by Commodus, and to cancel all the unjust claims of the treasury; declaring, in a decree of the senate, "that he was better

satisfied to administer a poor republic with innocence, than to acquire

riches by the ways of tyranny and dishonor. Economy and industry he considered as the pure and genuine sources of wealth; and from them he

soon derived a copious supply for the public necessities. The expense of the household was immediately reduced to one half. All the instruments

of luxury Pertinax exposed to public auction, [51] gold and silver plate, chariots of a singular construction, a superfluous wardrobe of silk and embroidery, and a great number of beautiful slaves of both sexes; excepting only, with attentive humanity, those who were born in a

state of freedom, and had been ravished from the arms of their weeping

parents. At the same time that he obliged the worthless favorites of the tyrant to resign a part of their ill-gotten wealth, he satisfied the just creditors of the state, and unexpectedly discharged the long arrears of honest services. He removed the oppressive restrictions which

had been laid upon commerce, and granted all the uncultivated lands

in Italy and the provinces to those who would improve them; with an exemption from tribute during the term of ten years. [52]

[Footnote 50: Decies. The blameless economy of Pius left his successors a treasure of vicies septies millies, above two and twenty millions

sterling. Dion, l. lxxiii. p. 1231.]

[Footnote 51: Besides the design of converting these useless ornaments

into money, Dion (l. lxxiii. p. 1229) assigns two secret motives of

Pertinax. He wished to expose the vices of Commodus, and to discover by the purchasers those who most resembled him.]

[Footnote 52: Though Capitolinus has picked up many idle tales of the

private life of Pertinax, he joins with Dion and Herodian in admiring

his public conduct.]

Such a uniform conduct had already secured to Pertinax the noblest

reward of a sovereign, the love and esteem of his people.

those who remembered the virtues of Marcus were happy to contemplate in their new emperor the features of that bright original; and flattered themselves, that they should long enjoy the benign influence of his administration. A hasty zeal to reform the corrupted state, accompanied with less prudence than might have been expected from the years and experience of Pertinax, proved fatal to himself and to his country.

His honest indiscretion united against him the servile crowd, who found their private benefit in the public disorders, and who preferred the favor of a tyrant to the inexorable equality of the laws. [53]

[Footnote 53: Leges, rem surdam, inexorabilem esse. T. Liv. ii. 3.]

amidst the general joy, the sullen and angry countenance of the

Praetorian guards betrayed their inward dissatisfaction. They had

reluctantly submitted to Pertinax; they dreaded the strictness of the ancient discipline, which he was preparing to restore; and they

regretted the license of the former reign. Their discontents were

secretly fomented by Laetus, their praefect, who found, when it was too late, that his new emperor would reward a servant, but would not be

ruled by a favorite. On the third day of his reign, the soldiers seized

on a noble senator, with a design to carry him to the camp, and to

invest him with the Imperial purple. Instead of being dazzled by the dangerous honor, the affrighted victim escaped from their violence, and took refuge at the feet of Pertinax. A short time afterwards, Sosius falco, one of the consuls of the year, a rash youth, [54] but of an ancient and opulent family, listened to the voice of ambition; and a conspiracy was formed during a short absence of Pertinax, which was crushed by his sudden return to Rome, and his resolute behavior. Falco was on the point of being justly condemned to death as a public enemy

had he not been saved by the earnest and sincere entreaties of the

injured emperor, who conjured the senate, that the purity of his reign

might not be stained by the blood even of a guilty senator.

[Footnote 54: If we credit Capitolinus, (which is rather difficult,) falco behaved with the most petulant indecency to Pertinax, on the day

of his accession. The wise emperor only admonished him of his youth and

in experience. Hist. August. p. 55.]

these disappointments served only to irritate the rage of the Praetorian

guards. On the twenty-eighth of March, eighty-six days only after the death of Commodus, a general sedition broke out in the camp, which the

officers wanted either power or inclination to suppress. Two or three

hundred of the most desperate soldiers marched at noonday, with arms in their hands and fury in their looks, towards the Imperial palace. the gates were thrown open by their companions upon guard, and by the domestics of the old court, who had already formed a secret conspiracy against the life of the too virtuous emperor. On the news of their approach, Pertinax, disdaining either flight or concealment, advanced to

meet his assassins; and recalled to their minds his own innocence, and the sanctity of their recent oath. For a few moments they stood

in silent suspense, ashamed of their atrocious design, and awed by the venerable aspect and majestic firmness of their sovereign, till at

length, the despair of pardon reviving their fury, a barbarian of the country of Tongress [55] levelled the first blow against Pertinax, who was instantly despatched with a multitude of wounds. His head, separated from his body, and placed on a lance, was carried in triumph to the

Praetorian camp, in the sight of a mournful and indignant people, who

lamented the unworthy fate of that excellent prince, and the transient blessings of a reign, the memory of which could serve only to aggravate their approaching misfortunes. [56]

[Footnote 55: The modern bishopric of Liege. This soldier probably belonged to the Batavian horse-guards, who were mostly raised in the duchy of Gueldres and the neighborhood, and were distinguished by their

valor, and by the boldness with which they swam their horses across the broadest and most rapid rivers. Tacit. Hist. iv. 12 Dion, l. lv p. 797

Lipsius de magnitudine Romana, l. i. c. 4.]

[Footnote 56: Dion, l. lxxiii. p. 1232. Herodian, l. ii. p. 60. Hist. august. p. 58. Victor in Epitom. et in Caesarib. Eutropius, viii. 16.]

chapter V: Sale Of The Empire To Didius Julianus.--Part I.

Public Sale Of The Empire To Didius Julianus By The

Praetorian Guards--Clodius Albinus In Britain, Pescennius

Niger In Syria, And Septimius Severus In Pannonia, Declare

Against The Murderers Of Pertinax--Civil Wars And Victory Of

Severus Over His Three Rivals--Relaxation Of Discipline--New

Maxims Of Government.

the power of the sword is more sensibly felt in an extensive monarchy, than in a small community. It has been calculated by the ablest

politicians, that no state, without being soon exhausted, can maintain above the hundredth part of its members in arms and idleness. But although this relative proportion may be uniform, the influence of the army over the rest of the society will vary according to the degree of

its positive strength. The advantages of military science and discipline cannot be exerted, unless a proper number of soldiers are united into

one body, and actuated by one soul. With a handful of men, such a union would be ineffectual; with an unwieldy host, it would be impracticable; and the powers of the machine would be alike destroyed by the extreme

minuteness or the excessive weight of its springs. To illustrate this

observation, we need only reflect, that there is no superiority of

natural strength, artificial weapons, or acquired skill, which could enable one man to keep in constant subjection one hundred of his fellow-creatures: the tyrant of a single town, or a small district, would soon discover that a hundred armed followers were a weak defence against ten thousand peasants or citizens; but a hundred thousand well-disciplined soldiers will command, with despotic sway, ten millions

of subjects; and a body of ten or fifteen thousand guards will strike terror into the most numerous populace that ever crowded the streets of an immense capital. The Praetorian bands, whose licentious fury was the first symptom and cause of the decline of the Roman empire, scarcely amounted to the last-mentioned number [1] They derived their institution from Augustus. That crafty tyrant, sensible that laws might color, but that arms alone could maintain, his usurped dominion, had gradually formed this powerful body of guards, in constant readiness to protect

his person, to awe the senate, and either to prevent or to crush the first motions of rebellion. He distinguished these favored troops by a double pay and superior privileges; but, as their formidable aspect would at once have alarmed and irritated the Roman people, three cohorts

only were stationed in the capital, whilst the remainder was dispersed

in the adjacent towns of Italy. [2] But after fifty years of peace and servitude, Tiberius ventured on a decisive measure, which forever

rivetted the fetters of his country. Under the fair pretences of

relieving Italy from the heavy burden of military quarters, and of

introducing a stricter discipline among the guards, he assembled them at

Rome, in a permanent camp, [3] which was fortified with skilful care, [4] and placed on a commanding situation. [5]

[Footnote 1: They were originally nine or ten thousand men, (for Tacitus and son are not agreed upon the subject,) divided into as many cohorts.

Vitellius increased them to sixteen thousand, and as far as we can learn from inscriptions, they never afterwards sunk much below that number.

See Lipsius de magnitudine Romana, i. 4.]

[Footnote 2: Sueton. in August. c. 49.]

[Footnote 3: Tacit. Annal. iv. 2. Sueton. in Tiber. c. 37. Dion Cassius,

l. lvii. p. 867.]

[Footnote 4: In the civil war between Vitellius and Vespasian, the

Praetorian camp was attacked and defended with all the machines used in the siege of the best fortified cities. Tacit. Hist. iii. 84.]

[Footnote 5: Close to the walls of the city, on the broad summit of the

Quirinal and Viminal hills. See Nardini Roma Antica, p. 174. Donatus de

Roma Antiqua, p. 46. \* Note: Not on both these hills: neither Donatus

nor Nardini justify this position. (Whitaker's Review. p. 13.) At the

northern extremity of this hill (the Viminal) are some considerable

remains of a walled enclosure which bears all the appearance of a Roman camp, and therefore is generally thought to correspond with the Castra

Praetoria. Cramer's Italy 390.--M.]

Such formidable servants are always necessary, but often fatal to the throne of despotism. By thus introducing the Praetorian

guards as it were into the palace and the senate, the emperors taught them to perceive their own strength, and the weakness of the civil

government; to view the vices of their masters with familiar contempt, and to lay aside that reverential awe, which distance only, and mystery, can preserve towards an imaginary power. In the luxurious idleness of an opulent city, their pride was nourished by the sense of their

irresistible weight; nor was it possible to conceal from them, that the person of the sovereign, the authority of the senate, the public treasure, and the seat of empire, were all in their hands. To divert the

Praetorian bands from these dangerous reflections, the firmest and best established princes were obliged to mix blandishments with commands,

rewards with punishments, to flatter their pride, indulge their

pleasures, connive at their irregularities, and to purchase their

precarious faith by a liberal donative; which, since the elevation of claudius, was enacted as a legal claim, on the accession of every new emperor. [6]

[Footnote 6: Claudius, raised by the soldiers to the empire, was the first who gave a donative. He gave quina dena, 120l. (Sueton. in Claud. c. 10: ) when Marcus, with his colleague Lucius Versus, took quiet

possession of the throne, he gave vicena, 160l. to each of the guards.

Hist. August. p. 25, (Dion, l. lxxiii. p. 1231.) We may form some idea

of the amount of these sums, by Hadrian's complaint that the promotion

of a Caesar had cost him ter millies, two millions and a half sterling.]

the advocate of the guards endeavored to justify by arguments the power which they asserted by arms; and to maintain that, according to the

purest principles of the constitution, their consent was essentially

necessary in the appointment of an emperor. The election of consuls, of

generals, and of magistrates, however it had been recently usurped by the senate, was the ancient and undoubted right of the Roman people. [7] but where was the Roman people to be found? Not surely amongst the mixed

multitude of slaves and strangers that filled the streets of Rome; a

servile populace, as devoid of spirit as destitute of property. The defenders of the state, selected from the flower of the Italian youth,

[8] and trained in the exercise of arms and virtue, were the genuine

representatives of the people, and the best entitled to elect the

military chief of the republic. These assertions, however defective in

reason, became unanswerable when the fierce Praetorians increased their weight, by throwing, like the barbarian conqueror of Rome, their swords

into the scale. [9]

[Footnote 7: Cicero de Legibus, iii. 3. The first book of Livy, and the

second of Dionysius of Halicarnassus, show the authority of the people, even in the election of the kings.]

[Footnote 8: They were originally recruited in Latium, Etruria, and the

old colonies, (Tacit. Annal. iv. 5.) The emperor Otho compliments their vanity with the flattering titles of Italiae, Alumni, Romana were

juventus. Tacit. Hist. i. 84.]

[Footnote 9: In the siege of Rome by the Gauls. See Livy, v. 48.

Plutarch. in Camill. p. 143.]

the Praetorians had violated the sanctity of the throne by the atrocious

murder of Pertinax; they dishonored the majesty of it by their

subsequent conduct. The camp was without a leader, for even the praefect

Laetus, who had excited the tempest, prudently declined the public

indignation. Amidst the wild disorder, Sulpicianus, the emperor's father-in-law, and governor of the city, who had been sent to the camp

on the first alarm of mutiny, was endeavoring to calm the fury of the

multitude, when he was silenced by the clamorous return of the

murderers, bearing on a lance the head of Pertinax. Though history has accustomed us to observe every principle and every passion yielding to the imperious dictates of ambition, it is scarcely credible that, in these moments of horror, Sulpicianus should have aspired to ascend a throne polluted with the recent blood of so near a relation and so excellent a prince. He had already begun to use the only effectual argument, and to treat for the Imperial dignity; but the more prudent of the Praetorians, apprehensive that, in this private contract, they

should not obtain a just price for so valuable a commodity, ran out upon the ramparts; and, with a loud voice, proclaimed that the Roman world was to be disposed of to the best bidder by public auction. [10]

[Footnote 10: Dion, L. lxxiii. p. 1234. Herodian, l. ii. p. 63. Hist. august p. 60. Though the three historians agree that it was in fact an auction, Herodian alone affirms that it was proclaimed as such by the

soldiers.]

this infamous offer, the most insolent excess of military license, diffused a universal grief, shame, and indignation throughout the city.

It reached at length the ears of Didius Julianus, a wealthy senator, who, regardless of the public calamities, was indulging himself in the

luxury of the table. [11] His wife and his daughter, his freedmen and

his parasites, easily convinced him that he deserved the throne, and earnestly conjured him to embrace so fortunate an opportunity. The vain

old man hastened to the Praetorian camp, where Sulpicianus was still in treaty with the guards, and began to bid against him from the foot

of the rampart. The unworthy negotiation was transacted by faithful emissaries, who passed alternately from one candidate to the other, and acquainted each of them with the offers of his rival. Sulpicianus had already promised a donative of five thousand drachms (above one hundred and sixty pounds) to each soldier; when Julian, eager for the prize,

rose at once to the sum of six thousand two hundred and fifty drachms,

or upwards of two hundred pounds sterling. The gates of the camp were

instantly thrown open to the purchaser; he was declared emperor, and

received an oath of allegiance from the soldiers, who retained humanity enough to stipulate that he should pardon and forget the competition of

Sulpicianus. [111]

[Footnote 11: Spartianus softens the most odious parts of the character and elevation of Julian.]

[Footnote 111: One of the principal causes of the preference of Julianus by the soldiers, was the dexterty dexterity with which he reminded them that Sulpicianus would not fail to revenge on them the death of his

son-in-law. (See Dion, p. 1234, 1234. c. 11. Herod. ii. 6.)--W.]

It was now incumbent on the Praetorians to fulfil the conditions of the

sale. They placed their new sovereign, whom they served and despised,

in the centre of their ranks, surrounded him on every side with their

shields, and conducted him in close order of battle through the deserted

streets of the city. The senate was commanded to assemble; and those who

had been the distinguished friends of Pertinax, or the personal enemies

of Julian, found it necessary to affect a more than common share of

satisfaction at this happy revolution. [12] After Julian had filled the

senate house with armed soldiers, he expatiated on the freedom of

his election, his own eminent virtues, and his full assurance of the affections of the senate. The obsequious assembly congratulated their

own and the public felicity; engaged their allegiance, and conferred on

him all the several branches of the Imperial power. [13] From the

senate Julian was conducted, by the same military procession, to take

possession of the palace. The first objects that struck his eyes, were the abandoned trunk of Pertinax, and the frugal entertainment prepared for his supper. The one he viewed with indifference, the other with contempt. A magnificent feast was prepared by his order, and he amused

himself, till a very late hour, with dice, and the performances of

Pylades, a celebrated dancer. Yet it was observed, that after the crowd of flatterers dispersed, and left him to darkness, solitude, and terrible reflection, he passed a sleepless night; revolving most

probably in his mind his own rash folly, the fate of his virtuous

predecessor, and the doubtful and dangerous tenure of an empire which

had not been acquired by merit, but purchased by money. [14]

[Footnote 12: Dion Cassius, at that time praetor, had been a personal enemy to Julian, i. lxxiii. p. 1235.]

[Footnote 13: Hist. August. p. 61. We learn from thence one curious circumstance, that the new emperor, whatever had been his birth, was

immediately aggregated to the number of patrician families. Note: A new fragment of Dion shows some shrewdness in the character of Julian. When the senate voted him a golden statue, he preferred one of brass, as more

lasting. He "had always observed," he said, "that the statues of former emperors were soon destroyed. Those of brass alone remained." The

indignant historian adds that he was wrong. The virtue of sovereigns alone preserves their images: the brazen statue of Julian was broken to

pieces at his death. Mai. Fragm. Vatican. p. 226.--M.]

[Footnote 14: Dion, l. lxxiii. p. 1235. Hist. August. p. 61. I have endeavored to blend into one consistent story the seeming contradictions

of the two writers. \* Note: The contradiction as M. Guizot observed, is

irreconcilable. He quotes both passages: in one Julianus is represented as a miser, in the other as a voluptuary. In the one he refuses to eat till the body of Pertinax has been buried; in the other he gluts himself with every luxury almost in the sight of his headless remains.--M.]

He had reason to tremble. On the throne of the world he found himself without a friend, and even without an adherent. The guards themselves were ashamed of the prince whom their avarice had persuaded them to accept; nor was there a citizen who did not consider his elevation with horror, as the last insult on the Roman name. The nobility, whose conspicuous station, and ample possessions, exacted the strictest caution, dissembled their sentiments, and met the affected civility of the emperor with smiles of complacency and professions of duty. But the

people, secure in their numbers and obscurity, gave a free vent to their

passions. The streets and public places of Rome resounded with clamors and imprecations. The enraged multitude affronted the person of Julian,

rejected his liberality, and, conscious of the impotence of their own

resentment, they called aloud on the legions of the frontiers to assert the violated majesty of the Roman empire. The public discontent was soon diffused from the centre to the frontiers of the empire. The armies of britain, of Syria, and of Illyricum, lamented the death of Pertinax,

in whose company, or under whose command, they had so often fought and conquered. They received with surprise, with indignation, and perhaps with envy, the extraordinary intelligence, that the Praetorians had disposed of the empire by public auction; and they sternly refused to

ratify the ignominious bargain. Their immediate and unanimous revolt was fatal to Julian, but it was fatal at the same time to the public peace, as the generals of the respective armies, Clodius Albinus, Pescennius

Niger, and Septimius Severus, were still more anxious to succeed than to

revenge the murdered Pertinax. Their forces were exactly balanced. Each

of them was at the head of three legions, [15] with a numerous train of auxiliaries; and however different in their characters, they were all

soldiers of experience and capacity.

[Footnote 15: Dion, l. lxxiii. p. 1235.]

clodius Albinus, governor of Britain, surpassed both his competitors in the nobility of his extraction, which he derived from some of the most

illustrious names of the old republic. [16] But the branch from which he claimed his descent was sunk into mean circumstances, and transplanted

into a remote province. It is difficult to form a just idea of his true character. Under the philosophic cloak of austerity, he stands accused

of concealing most of the vices which degrade human nature. [17] But his accusers are those venal writers who adored the fortune of Severus, and trampled on the ashes of an unsuccessful rival. Virtue, or the appearances of virtue, recommended Albinus to the confidence and good

opinion of Marcus; and his preserving with the son the same interest which he had acquired with the father, is a proof at least that he was

possessed of a very flexible disposition. The favor of a tyrant does

not always suppose a want of merit in the object of it; he may, without

intending it, reward a man of worth and ability, or he may find such a

man useful to his own service. It does not appear that Albinus served the son of Marcus, either as the minister of his cruelties, or even as the associate of his pleasures. He was employed in a distant honorable command, when he received a confidential letter from the emperor, acquainting him of the treasonable designs of some discontented

generals, and authorizing him to declare himself the guardian and

successor of the throne, by assuming the title and ensigns of Caesar.

[18] The governor of Britain wisely declined the dangerous honor, which would have marked him for the jealousy, or involved him in the approaching ruin, of Commodus. He courted power by nobler, or, at

least, by more specious arts. On a premature report of the death of the emperor, he assembled his troops; and, in an eloquent discourse, deplored the inevitable mischiefs of despotism, described the happiness and glory which their ancestors had enjoyed under the consular

government, and declared his firm resolution to reinstate the senate and

people in their legal authority. This popular harangue was answered by the loud acclamations of the British legions, and received at Rome with a secret murmur of applause. Safe in the possession of his little world, and in the command of an army less distinguished indeed for discipline than for numbers and valor, [19] Albinus braved the menaces of Commodus,

maintained towards Pertinax a stately ambiguous reserve, and instantly declared against the usurpation of Julian. The convulsions of the capital added new weight to his sentiments, or rather to his professions

of patriotism. A regard to decency induced him to decline the lofty titles of Augustus and Emperor; and he imitated perhaps the example of

Galba, who, on a similar occasion, had styled himself the Lieutenant of the senate and people. [20]

[Footnote 16: The Posthumian and the Ce'onian; the former of whom was

raised to the consulship in the fifth year after its institution.]

[Footnote 17: Spartianus, in his undigested collections, mixes up all the virtues and all the vices that enter into the human composition, and bestows them on the same object. Such, indeed are many of the characters

in the Augustan History.]

[Footnote 18: Hist. August. p. 80, 84.]

[Footnote 19: Pertinax, who governed Britain a few years before, had been left for dead, in a mutiny of the soldiers. Hist. August. p 54.

Yet they loved and regretted him; admirantibus eam virtutem cui

irascebantur.]

[Footnote 20: Sueton. in Galb. c. 10.]

Personal merit alone had raised Pescennius Niger, from an obscure birth and station, to the government of Syria; a lucrative and important command, which in times of civil confusion gave him a near prospect of the throne. Yet his parts seem to have been better suited to the second than to the first rank; he was an unequal rival, though he might have approved himself an excellent lieutenant, to Severus, who afterwards displayed the greatness of his mind by adopting several useful

institutions from a vanquished enemy. [21] In his government Niger acquired the esteem of the soldiers and the love of the provincials. His

rigid discipline foritfied the valor and confirmed the obedience of the former, whilst the voluptuous Syrians were less delighted with the mild firmness of his administration, than with the affability of his manners, and the apparent pleasure with which he attended their frequent and

pompous festivals. [22] As soon as the intelligence of the atrocious

murder of Pertinax had reached Antioch, the wishes of Asia invited Niger to assume the Imperial purple and revenge his death. The legions of the eastern frontier embraced his cause; the opulent but unarmed provinces, from the frontiers of Aethiopia [23] to the Hadriatic, cheerfully

submitted to his power; and the kings beyond the Tigris and the euphrates congratulated his election, and offered him their homage and

services. The mind of Niger was not capable of receiving this sudden tide of fortune: he flattered himself that his accession would be

undisturbed by competition and unstained by civil blood; and whilst he enjoyed the vain pomp of triumph, he neglected to secure the means of

victory. Instead of entering into an effectual negotiation with the

powerful armies of the West, whose resolution might decide, or at least

must balance, the mighty contest; instead of advancing without delay towards Rome and Italy, where his presence was impatiently expected, [24]

Niger trifled away in the luxury of Antioch those irretrievable moments which were diligently improved by the decisive activity of Severus. [25]

[Footnote 21: Hist. August. p. 76.]

[Footnote 22: Herod. l. ii. p. 68. The Chronicle of John Malala, of antioch, shows the zealous attachment of his countrymen to these festivals, which at once gratified their superstition, and their love of

pleasure.]

[Footnote 23: A king of Thebes, in Egypt, is mentioned, in the Augustan

History, as an ally, and, indeed, as a personal friend of Niger. If

Spartianus is not, as I strongly suspect, mistaken, he has brought to

light a dynasty of tributary princes totally unknown to history.]

[Footnote 24: Dion, l. lxxiii. p. 1238. Herod. l. ii. p. 67. A verse in every one's mouth at that time, seems to express the general opinion of the three rivals; Optimus est Niger, [Fuscus, which preserves the

quantity.--M.] bonus After, pessimus Albus. Hist. August. p. 75.]

[Footnote 25: Herodian, l. ii. p. 71.]

the country of Pannonia and Dalmatia, which occupied the space between the Danube and the Hadriatic, was one of the last and most difficult conquests of the Romans. In the defence of national freedom, two hundred thousand of these barbarians had once appeared in the field, alarmed the declining age of Augustus, and exercised the vigilant prudence

of Tiberius at the head of the collected force of the empire. [26] The

Pannonians yielded at length to the arms and institutions of Rome. Their

recent subjection, however, the neighborhood, and even the mixture, of the unconquered tribes, and perhaps the climate, adapted, as it has been observed, to the production of great bodies and slow minds, [27] all contributed to preserve some remains of their original ferocity, and

under the tame and uniform countenance of Roman provincials, the hardy features of the natives were still to be discerned. Their warlike youth afforded an inexhaustible supply of recruits to the legions stationed on the banks of the Danube, and which, from a perpetual warfare against the

Germans and Sarmazans, were deservedly esteemed the best troops in the

service.

[Footnote 26: See an account of that memorable war in Velleius

Paterculus, is 110, &c., who served in the army of Tiberius.]

[Footnote 27: Such is the reflection of Herodian, l. ii. p. 74. Will the

modern Austrians allow the influence?]

the Pannonian army was at this time commanded by Septimius Severus, a native of Africa, who, in the gradual ascent of private honors, had concealed his daring ambition, which was never diverted from its steady course by the allurements of pleasure, the apprehension of danger,

or the feelings of humanity. [28] On the first news of the murder of

Pertinax, he assembled his troops, painted in the most lively colors the crime, the insolence, and the weakness of the Praetorian guards, and animated the legions to arms and to revenge. He concluded (and the

peroration was thought extremely eloquent) with promising every soldier about four hundred pounds; an honorable donative, double in value to the infamous bribe with which Julian had purchased the empire. [29] The acclamations of the army immediately saluted Severus with the names of augustus, Pertinax, and Emperor; and he thus attained the lofty station to which he was invited, by conscious merit and a long train of dreams and omens, the fruitful offsprings either of his superstition or policy.

[30]

[Footnote 28: In the letter to Albinus, already mentioned, Commodus accuses Severus, as one of the ambitious generals who censured his conduct, and wished to occupy his place. Hist. August. p. 80.]

[Footnote 29: Pannonia was too poor to supply such a sum. It was

probably promised in the camp, and paid at Rome, after the victory. In fixing the sum, I have adopted the conjecture of Casaubon. See Hist. august. p. 66. Comment. p. 115.]

[Footnote 30: Herodian, l. ii. p. 78. Severus was declared emperor on the banks of the Danube, either at Carnuntum, according to Spartianus,

(Hist. August. p. 65,) or else at Sabaria, according to Victor. Mr.

Hume, in supposing that the birth and dignity of Severus were too

much inferior to the Imperial crown, and that he marched into Italy as general only, has not considered this transaction with his usual accuracy, (Essay on the original contract.) \* Note: Carnuntum, opposite to the mouth of the Morava: its position is doubtful, either Petronel or

Haimburg. A little intermediate village seems to indicate by its name

(Altenburg) the site of an old town. D'Anville Geogr. Anc. Sabaria, now

Sarvar.--G. Compare note 37.--M.]

the new candidate for empire saw and improved the peculiar advantage of

his situation. His province extended to the Julian Alps, which gave an easy access into Italy; and he remembered the saying of Augustus, That a Pannonian army might in ten days appear in sight of Rome. [31] By a celerity proportioned to the greatness of the occasion, he might

reasonably hope to revenge Pertinax, punish Julian, and receive the

homage of the senate and people, as their lawful emperor, before his competitors, separated from Italy by an immense tract of sea and land, were apprised of his success, or even of his election. During the whole expedition, he scarcely allowed himself any moments for sleep or food;

marching on foot, and in complete armor, at the head of his columns,

he insinuated himself into the confidence and affection of his troops,

pressed their diligence, revived their spirits, animated their hopes, and was well satisfied to share the hardships of the meanest soldier, whilst he kept in view the infinite superiority of his reward.

[Footnote 31: Velleius Paterculus, l. ii. c. 3. We must reckon the march from the nearest verge of Pannonia, and extend the sight of the city as far as two hundred miles.]

the wretched Julian had expected, and thought himself prepared, to dispute the empire with the governor of Syria; but in the invincible and

rapid approach of the Pannonian legions, he saw his inevitable ruin. The

hasty arrival of every messenger increased his just apprehensions. He was successively informed, that Severus had passed the Alps; that the

Italian cities, unwilling or unable to oppose his progress, had received

him with the warmest professions of joy and duty; that the important

place of Ravenna had surrendered without resistance, and that the

Hadriatic fleet was in the hands of the conqueror. The enemy was now within two hundred and fifty miles of Rome; and every moment diminished the narrow span of life and empire allotted to Julian.

He attempted, however, to prevent, or at least to protract, his ruin.

He implored the venal faith of the Praetorians, filled the city with

unavailing preparations for war, drew lines round the suburbs, and even strengthened the fortifications of the palace; as if those last

intrenchments could be defended, without hope of relief, against a

victorious invader. Fear and shame prevented the guards from deserting

his standard; but they trembled at the name of the Pannonian legions, commanded by an experienced general, and accustomed to vanquish the barbarians on the frozen Danube. [32] They quitted, with a sigh, the

pleasures of the baths and theatres, to put on arms, whose use they had almost forgotten, and beneath the weight of which they were oppressed. the unpractised elephants, whose uncouth appearance, it was hoped, would

strike terror into the army of the north, threw their unskilful riders; and the awkward evolutions of the marines, drawn from the fleet of

Misenum, were an object of ridicule to the populace; whilst the senate enjoyed, with secret pleasure, the distress and weakness of the usurper.

[33]

[Footnote 32: This is not a puerile figure of rhetoric, but an allusion to a real fact recorded by Dion, l. lxxi. p. 1181. It probably happened

more than once.]

[Footnote 33: Dion, l. lxxiii. p. 1233. Herodian, l. ii. p. 81. There

is no surer proof of the military skill of the Romans, than their first

surmounting the idle terror, and afterwards disdaining the dangerous

use, of elephants in war. Note: These elephants were kept for

processions, perhaps for the games. Se Herod. in loc.--M.]

every motion of Julian betrayed his trembling perplexity. He insisted that Severus should be declared a public enemy by the senate. He entreated that the Pannonian general might be associated to the empire.

He sent public ambassadors of consular rank to negotiate with his rival;

he despatched private assassins to take away his life. He designed that the Vestal virgins, and all the colleges of priests, in their sacerdotal

habits, and bearing before them the sacred pledges of the Roman

religion, should advance in solemn procession to meet the Pannonian

legions; and, at the same time, he vainly tried to interrogate, or to appease, the fates, by magic ceremonies and unlawful sacrifices. [34]

[Footnote 34: Hist. August. p. 62, 63. \* Note: Quae ad speculum dicunt fieri in quo pueri praeligatis oculis, incantate..., respicere dicuntur.

\* \* \* Tuncque puer vidisse dicitur et adventun Severi et Juliani decessionem. This seems to have been a practice somewhat similar to that

of which our recent Egyptian travellers relate such extraordinary circumstances. See also Apulius, Orat. de Magia.--M.]

chapter V: Sale Of The Empire To Didius Julianus.--Part II.

Severus, who dreaded neither his arms nor his enchantments, guarded

himself from the only danger of secret conspiracy, by the faithful attendance of six hundred chosen men, who never quitted his person or their cuirasses, either by night or by day, during the whole march. advancing with a steady and rapid course, he passed, without difficulty, the defiles of the Apennine, received into his party the troops and ambassadors sent to retard his progress, and made a short halt at

Interamnia, about seventy miles from Rome. His victory was already

secure, but the despair of the Praetorians might have rendered it bloody; and Severus had the laudable ambition of ascending the throne without drawing the sword. [35] His emissaries, dispersed in the capital, assured the guards, that provided they would abandon their worthless

prince, and the perpetrators of the murder of Pertinax, to the justice

of the conqueror, he would no longer consider that melancholy event as the act of the whole body. The faithless Praetorians, whose resistance was supported only by sullen obstinacy, gladly complied with the easy conditions, seized the greatest part of the assassins, and signified to the senate, that they no longer defended the cause of Julian. That assembly, convoked by the consul, unanimously acknowledged Severus as

lawful emperor, decreed divine honors to Pertinax, and pronounced a

sentence of deposition and death against his unfortunate successor.

Julian was conducted into a private apartment of the baths of the

palace, and beheaded as a common criminal, after having purchased, with an immense treasure, an anxious and precarious reign of only sixty-six days. [36] The almost incredible expedition of Severus, who, in so short a space of time, conducted a numerous army from the banks of the Danube to those of the Tyber, proves at once the plenty of provisions produced by agriculture and commerce, the goodness of the roads, the discipline

of the legions, and the indolent, subdued temper of the provinces. [37]

[Footnote 35: Victor and Eutropius, viii. 17, mention a combat near the

Milvian bridge, the Ponte Molle, unknown to the better and more ancient writers.]

[Footnote 36: Dion, l. lxxiii. p. 1240. Herodian, l. ii. p. 83. Hist. august. p. 63.]

[Footnote 37: From these sixty-six days, we must first deduct sixteen, as Pertinax was murdered on the 28th of March, and Severus most probably elected on the 13th of April, (see Hist. August. p. 65, and Tillemont,

Hist. des Empereurs, tom. iii. p. 393, note 7.) We cannot allow less than ten days after his election, to put a numerous army in motion. forty days remain for this rapid march; and as we may compute about eight hundred miles from Rome to the neighborhood of Vienna, the army of

Severus marched twenty miles every day, without halt or intermission.]

the first cares of Severus were bestowed on two measures the one dictated by policy, the other by decency; the revenge, and the honors, due to the memory of Pertinax. Before the new emperor entered Rome, he

issued his commands to the Praetorian guards, directing them to wait his arrival on a large plain near the city, without arms, but in the habits

of ceremony, in which they were accustomed to attend their sovereign. He was obeyed by those haughty troops, whose contrition was the effect of their just terrors. A chosen part of the Illyrian army encompassed them with levelled spears. Incapable of flight or resistance, they expected their fate in silent consternation. Severus mounted the tribunal,

sternly reproached them with perfidy and cowardice, dismissed them with

ignominy from the trust which they had betrayed, despoiled them of their

splendid ornaments, and banished them, on pain of death, to the distance

of a hundred miles from the capital. During the transaction, another detachment had been sent to seize their arms, occupy their camp, and

prevent the hasty consequences of their despair. [38]

[Footnote 38: Dion, l. lxxiv. p. 1241. Herodian, l. ii. p. 84.] The funeral and consecration of Pertinax was next solemnized with every circumstance of sad magnificence. [39] The senate, with a melancholy

pleasure, performed the last rites to that excellent prince, whom they

had loved, and still regretted. The concern of his successor was

probably less sincere; he esteemed the virtues of Pertinax, but those

virtues would forever have confined his ambition to a private station.

Severus pronounced his funeral oration with studied eloquence, inward

satisfaction, and well-acted sorrow; and by this pious regard to his

memory, convinced the credulous multitude, that he alone was worthy to

supply his place. Sensible, however, that arms, not ceremonies, must assert his claim to the empire, he left Rome at the end of thirty days, and without suffering himself to be elated by this easy victory,

prepared to encounter his more formidable rivals.

[Footnote 39: Dion, (l. lxxiv. p. 1244,) who assisted at the ceremony as a senator, gives a most pompous description of it.]

the uncommon abilities and fortune of Severus have induced an elegant

historian to compare him with the first and greatest of the Caesars.

[40] The parallel is, at least, imperfect. Where shall we find, in the character of Severus, the commanding superiority of soul, the generous clemency, and the various genius, which could reconcile and unite the

love of pleasure, the thirst of knowledge, and the fire of ambition?

[41] In one instance only, they may be compared, with some degree of

propriety, in the celerity of their motions, and their civil victories.

In less than four years, [42] Severus subdued the riches of the East, and the valor of the West. He vanquished two competitors of reputation and ability, and defeated numerous armies, provided with weapons and discipline equal to his own. In that age, the art of fortification, and the principles of tactics, were well understood by all the Roman

generals; and the constant superiority of Severus was that of an artist, who uses the same instruments with more skill and industry than his

rivals. I shall not, however, enter into a minute narrative of these

military operations; but as the two civil wars against Niger and against albinus were almost the same in their conduct, event, and consequences,

I shall collect into one point of view the most striking circumstances, tending to develop the character of the conqueror and the state of the empire.

[Footnote 40: Herodian, l. iii. p. 112]

[Footnote 41: Though it is not, most assuredly, the intention of Lucan to exalt the character of Caesar, yet the idea he gives of that hero,

in the tenth book of the Pharsalia, where he describes him, at the same time, making love to Cleopatra, sustaining a siege against the power of egypt, and conversing with the sages of the country, is, in reality, the

noblest panegyric. \* Note: Lord Byron wrote, no doubt, from a

reminiscence of that passage--"It is possible to be a very great man, and to be still very inferior to Julius Caesar, the most complete character, so Lord Bacon thought, of all antiquity. Nature seems

incapable of such extraordinary combinations as composed his versatile capacity, which was the wonder even of the Romans themselves. The first

general; the only triumphant politician; inferior to none in point of eloquence; comparable to any in the attainments of wisdom, in an age

made up of the greatest commanders, statesmen, orators, and

philosophers, that ever appeared in the world; an author who composed a

perfect specimen of military annals in his travelling carriage; at one time in a controversy with Cato, at another writing a treatise on

punuing, and collecting a set of good sayings; fighting and making love at the same moment, and willing to abandon both his empire and his

mistress for a sight of the fountains of the Nile. Such did Julius caesar appear to his contemporaries, and to those of the subsequent ages who were the most inclined to deplore and execrate his fatal genius."

Note 47 to Canto iv. of Childe Harold.--M.]

[Footnote 42: Reckoning from his election, April 13, 193, to the death

of Albinus, February 19, 197. See Tillemont's Chronology.]

falsehood and insincerity, unsuitable as they seem to the dignity of

public transactions, offend us with a less degrading idea of meanness, than when they are found in the intercourse of private life. In the

latter, they discover a want of courage; in the other, only a defect of

power: and, as it is impossible for the most able statesmen to subdue

millions of followers and enemies by their own personal strength, the world, under the name of policy, seems to have granted them a very

liberal indulgence of craft and dissimulation. Yet the arts of Severus cannot be justified by the most ample privileges of state reason. He

promised only to betray, he flattered only to ruin; and however he

might occasionally bind himself by oaths and treaties, his conscience,

obsequious to his interest, always released him from the inconvenient

obligation. [43]

[Footnote 43: Herodian, l. ii. p. 85.]

If his two competitors, reconciled by their common danger, had advanced

upon him without delay, perhaps Severus would have sunk under their

united effort. Had they even attacked him, at the same time, with

separate views and separate armies, the contest might have been long and doubtful. But they fell, singly and successively, an easy prey to the arts as well as arms of their subtle enemy, lulled into security by the

moderation of his professions, and overwhelmed by the rapidity of his action. He first marched against Niger, whose reputation and power he the most dreaded: but he declined any hostile declarations, suppressed the name of his antagonist, and only signified to the senate and people

his intention of regulating the eastern provinces. In private, he spoke

of Niger, his old friend and intended successor, [44] with the most affectionate regard, and highly applauded his generous design of

revenging the murder of Pertinax. To punish the vile usurper of the throne, was the duty of every Roman general. To persevere in arms, and to resist a lawful emperor, acknowledged by the senate, would alone

render him criminal. [45] The sons of Niger had fallen into his hands among the children of the provincial governors, detained at Rome as

pledges for the loyalty of their parents. [46] As long as the power of

Niger inspired terror, or even respect, they were educated with the most tender care, with the children of Severus himself; but they were

soon involved in their father's ruin, and removed first by exile, and afterwards by death, from the eye of public compassion. [47]

[Footnote 44: Whilst Severus was very dangerously ill, it was

industriously given out, that he intended to appoint Niger and Albinus

his successors. As he could not be sincere with respect to both, he

might not be so with regard to either. Yet Severus carried his hypocrisy

so far, as to profess that intention in the memoirs of his own life.]

[Footnote 45: Hist. August. p. 65.]

[Footnote 46: This practice, invented by Commodus, proved very useful to Severus. He found at Rome the children of many of the principal adherents of his rivals; and he employed them more than once to

intimidate, or seduce, the parents.]

[Footnote 47: Herodian, l. iii. p. 95. Hist. August. p. 67, 68.]

whilst Severus was engaged in his eastern war, he had reason to apprehend that the governor of Britain might pass the sea and the alps, occupy the vacant seat of empire, and oppose his return with the authority of the senate and the forces of the West. The ambiguous conduct of Albinus, in not assuming the Imperial title, left room for

negotiation. Forgetting, at once, his professions of patriotism, and the

jealousy of sovereign power, he accepted the precarious rank of Caesar, as a reward for his fatal neutrality. Till the first contest was decided, Severus treated the man, whom he had doomed to destruction, with every mark of esteem and regard. Even in the letter, in which he announced his victory over Niger, he styles Albinus the brother of his

soul and empire, sends him the affectionate salutations of his wife

Julia, and his young family, and entreats him to preserve the armies and the republic faithful to their common interest. The messengers charged with this letter were instructed to accost the Caesar with respect, to desire a private audience, and to plunge their daggers into his heart.

[48] The conspiracy was discovered, and the too credulous Albinus, at length, passed over to the continent, and prepared for an unequal contest with his rival, who rushed upon him at the head of a veteran and

victorious army.

[Footnote 48: Hist. August. p. 84. Spartianus has inserted this curious

letter at full length.]

the military labors of Severus seem inadequate to the importance of his conquests. Two engagements, [481] the one near the Hellespont, the other

in the narrow defiles of Cilicia, decided the fate of his Syrian competitor; and the troops of Europe asserted their usual ascendant

over the effeminate natives of Asia. [49] The battle of Lyons, where one

hundred and fifty thousand Romans [50] were engaged, was equally fatal to albinus. The valor of the British army maintained, indeed, a sharp and doubtful contest, with the hardy discipline of the Illyrian legions. The fame and person of Severus appeared, during a few moments, irrecoverably

lost, till that warlike prince rallied his fainting troops, and led them

on to a decisive victory. [51] The war was finished by that memorable day. [511]

[Footnote 481: There were three actions; one near Cyzicus, on the

Hellespont, one near Nice, in Bithynia, the third near the Issus, in cilicia, where Alexander conquered Darius. (Dion, lxiv. c. 6.

Herodian, iii. 2, 4.)--W Herodian represents the second battle as of

less importance than Dion--M.]

[Footnote 49: Consult the third book of Herodian, and the seventy-fourth book of Dion Cassius.]

[Footnote 50: Dion, l. lxxv. p. 1260.]

[Footnote 51: Dion, l. lxxv. p. 1261. Herodian, l. iii. p. 110. Hist. august. p. 68. The battle was fought in the plain of Trevoux, three

or four leagues from Lyons. See Tillemont, tom. iii. p. 406, note 18.]

[Footnote 511: According to Herodian, it was his lieutenant Laetus who

led back the troops to the battle, and gained the day, which Severus

had almost lost. Dion also attributes to Laetus a great share in the

victory. Severus afterwards put him to death, either from fear or

jealousy.--W. and G. Wenck and M. Guizot have not given the real

statement of Herodian or of Dion. According to the former, Laetus appeared with his own army entire, which he was suspected of having designedly kept disengaged when the battle was still doudtful, or rather after the rout of severus. Dion says that he did not move till Severus

had won the victory.--M.]

the civil wars of modern Europe have been distinguished, not only by the fierce animosity, but likewise by the obstinate perseverance, of the contending factions. They have generally been justified by some

principle, or, at least, colored by some pretext, of religion, freedom,

or loyalty. The leaders were nobles of independent property and

hereditary influence. The troops fought like men interested in the decision of the quarrel; and as military spirit and party zeal were

strongly diffused throughout the whole community, a vanquished chief was

immediately supplied with new adherents, eager to shed their blood in the same cause. But the Romans, after the fall of the republic, combated only for the choice of masters. Under the standard of a popular candidate for empire, a few enlisted from affection, some from fear,

many from interest, none from principle. The legions, uninflamed by

party zeal, were allured into civil war by liberal donatives, and

still more liberal promises. A defeat, by disabling the chief from the

performance of his engagements, dissolved the mercenary allegiance of

his followers, and left them to consult their own safety by a timely desertion of an unsuccessful cause. It was of little moment to the

provinces, under whose name they were oppressed or governed; they were driven by the impulsion of the present power, and as soon as that power

yielded to a superior force, they hastened to implore the clemency of the conqueror, who, as he had an immense debt to discharge, was obliged to sacrifice the most guilty countries to the avarice of his soldiers.

In the vast extent of the Roman empire, there were few fortified cities capable of protecting a routed army; nor was there any person, or family, or order of men, whose natural interest, unsupported by the

powers of government, was capable of restoring the cause of a sinking

party. [52]

[Footnote 52: Montesquieu, Considerations sur la Grandeur et la decadence des Romains, c. xiii.]

Yet, in the contest between Niger and Severus, a single city deserves an

honorable exception. As Byzantium was one of the greatest passages from europe into Asia, it had been provided with a strong garrison, and a fleet of five hundred vessels was anchored in the harbor. [53] The

impetuosity of Severus disappointed this prudent scheme of defence; he

left to his generals the siege of Byzantium, forced the less guarded

passage of the Hellespont, and, impatient of a meaner enemy, pressed forward to encounter his rival. Byzantium, attacked by a numerous and

increasing army, and afterwards by the whole naval power of the empire,

sustained a siege of three years, and remained faithful to the name and

memory of Niger. The citizens and soldiers (we know not from what cause) were animated with equal fury; several of the principal officers

of Niger, who despaired of, or who disdained, a pardon, had thrown themselves into this last refuge: the fortifications were esteemed

impregnable, and, in the defence of the place, a celebrated engineer displayed all the mechanic powers known to the ancients. [54] Byzantium, at length, surrendered to famine. The magistrates and soldiers were put to the sword, the walls demolished, the privileges suppressed, and the destined capital of the East subsisted only as an open village, subject to the insulting jurisdiction of Perinthus. The historian Dion, who had admired the flourishing, and lamented the desolate, state of Byzantium, accused the revenge of Severus, for depriving the Roman people of the

strongest bulwark against the barbarians of Pontus and Asia [55] The truth of this observation was but too well justified in the succeeding age, when the Gothic fleets covered the Euxine, and passed through the

undefined Bosphorus into the centre of the Mediterranean.

[Footnote 53: Most of these, as may be supposed, were small open

vessels; some, however, were galleys of two, and a few of three ranks

of oars.]

[Footnote 54: The engineer's name was Priscus. His skill saved

his life, and he was taken into the service of the conqueror. For the

particular facts of the siege, consult Dion Cassius (l. lxxv. p. 1251) and Herodian, (l. iii. p. 95;) for the theory of it, the fanciful chevalier de Folard may be looked into. See Polybe, tom. i. p. 76.]

[Footnote 55: Notwithstanding the authority of Spartianus, and

some modern Greeks, we may be assured, from Dion and Herodian, that byzantium, many years after the death of Severus, lay in ruins. There is

no contradiction between the relation of Dion and that of Spartianus and the modern Greeks. Dion does not say that Severus destroyed Byzantium, but that he deprived it of its franchises and privileges, stripped the

inhabitants of their property, razed the fortifications, and subjected the city to the jurisdiction of Perinthus. Therefore, when Spartian,

Suidas, Cedrenus, say that Severus and his son Antoninus restored to byzantium its rights and franchises, ordered temples to be built, &c., this is easily reconciled with the relation of Dion. Perhaps the latter

mentioned it in some of the fragments of his history which have been

lost. As to Herodian, his expressions are evidently exaggerated, and he

has been guilty of so many inaccuracies in the history of Severus, that we have a right to suppose one in this passage.--G. from W Wenck and M.

Guizot have omitted to cite Zosimus, who mentions a particular portico built by Severus, and called, apparently, by his name. Zosim. Hist. ii. c. xxx. p. 151, 153, edit Heyne.--M.]

both Niger and Albinus were discovered and put to death

in their flight from the field of battle. Their fate excited neither

surprise nor compassion. They had staked their lives against the chance

of empire, and suffered what they would have inflicted; nor did Severus claim the arrogant superiority of suffering his rivals to live in a

private station. But his unforgiving temper, stimulated by avarice,

indulged a spirit of revenge, where there was no room for apprehension. the most considerable of the provincials, who, without any dislike to the fortunate candidate, had obeyed the governor under whose authority they were accidentally placed, were punished by death, exile, and especially by the confiscation of their estates. Many cities of the east were stripped of their ancient honors, and obliged to pay, into the treasury of Severus, four times the amount of the sums contributed by them for the service of Niger. [56]

[Footnote 56: Dion, l. lxxiv. p. 1250.]

till the final decision of the war, the cruelty of Severus was, in some

measure, restrained by the uncertainty of the event, and his pretended

reverence for the senate. The head of Albinus, accompanied with a

menacing letter, announced to the Romans that he was resolved to spare

none of the adherents of his unfortunate competitors. He was irritated by the just auspicion that he had never possessed the affections of the

senate, and he concealed his old malevolence under the recent discovery

of some treasonable correspondences. Thirty-five senators, however, accused of having favored the party of Albinus, he freely pardoned, and, by his subsequent behavior, endeavored to convince them, that he had forgotten, as well as forgiven, their supposed offences. But, at the

same time, he condemned forty-one [57] other senators, whose names

history has recorded; their wives, children, and clients attended them

in death, [571] and the noblest provincials of Spain and Gaul were involved

in the same ruin. [572] Such rigid justice--for so he termed it--was, in the opinion of Severus, the only conduct capable of insuring peace to the people or stability to the prince; and he condescended slightly to

lament, that to be mild, it was necessary that he should first be cruel.

[58]

[Footnote 57: Dion, (l. lxxv. p. 1264;) only twenty-nine senators are mentioned by him, but forty-one are named in the Augustan History,

p. 69, among whom were six of the name of Pescennius. Herodian (l. iii.

p. 115) speaks in general of the cruelties of Severus.]

[Footnote 571: Wenck denies that there is any authority for this massacre

of the wives of the senators. He adds, that only the children and

relatives of Niger and Albinus were put to death. This is true of the family of Albinus, whose bodies were thrown into the Rhone; those of

Niger, according to Lampridius, were sent into exile, but afterwards put to death. Among the partisans of Albinus who were put to death were many women of rank, multae foeminae illustres. Lamprid. in Sever.--M.]

[Footnote 572: A new fragment of Dion describes the state of Rome during this contest. All pretended to be on the side of Severus; but their

secret sentiments were often betrayed by a change of countenance on the arrival of some sudden report. Some were detected by overacting their

loyalty, Mai. Fragm. Vatican. p. 227 Severus told the senate he would

rather have their hearts than their votes.--Ibid.--M.]

[Footnote 58: Aurelius Victor.]

the true interest of an absolute monarch generally coincides with that

of his people. Their numbers, their wealth, their order, and their

security, are the best and only foundations of his real greatness; and were he totally devoid of virtue, prudence might supply its place, and would dictate the same rule of conduct. Severus considered the Roman empire as his property, and had no sooner secured the possession, than

he bestowed his care on the cultivation and improvement of so valuable an acquisition. Salutary laws, executed with inflexible firmness, soon corrected most of the abuses with which, since the death of Marcus, every part of the government had been infected. In the administration of

justice, the judgments of the emperor were characterized by attention, discernment, and impartiality; and whenever he deviated from the strict

line of equity, it was generally in favor of the poor and oppressed;

not so much indeed from any sense of humanity, as from the natural

propensity of a despot to humble the pride of greatness, and to sink all his subjects to the same common level of absolute dependence.

His expensive taste for building, magnificent shows, and above all a constant and liberal distribution of corn and provisions, were the

surest means of captivating the affection of the Roman people. [59] The

misfortunes of civil discord were obliterated. The clam of peace and

prosperity was once more experienced in the provinces; and many cities,

restored by the munificence of Severus, assumed the title of his colonies, and attested by public monuments their gratitude and felicity. [60] The fame of the Roman arms was revived by that warlike and

successful emperor, [61] and he boasted, with a just pride, that, having

received the empire oppressed with foreign and domestic wars, he left it established in profound, universal, and honorable peace. [62]

[Footnote 59: Dion, l. lxxvi. p. 1272. Hist. August. p. 67. Severus celebrated the secular games with extraordinary magnificence, and he

left in the public granaries a provision of corn for seven years, at the

rate of 75,000 modii, or about 2500 quarters per day. I am persuaded that the granaries of Severus were supplied for a long term, but I am

not less persuaded, that policy on one hand, and admiration on the

other, magnified the hoard far beyond its true contents.]

[Footnote 60: See Spanheim's treatise of ancient medals, the

inscriptions, and our learned travellers Spon and Wheeler, Shaw, Pocock,

&c, who, in Africa, Greece, and Asia, have found more monuments of

Severus than of any other Roman emperor whatsoever.]

[Footnote 61: He carried his victorious arms to Seleucia and Ctesiphon, the capitals of the Parthian monarchy. I shall have occasion to mention this war in its proper place.]

[Footnote 62: Etiam in Britannis, was his own just and emphatic expression Hist. August. 73.]

although the wounds of civil war appeared completely healed, its mortal

poison still lurked in the vitals of the constitution.

Severus possessed a considerable share of vigor and ability; but the daring soul of the first Caesar, or the deep policy of Augustus, were

scarcely equal to the task of curbing the insolence of the victorious

legions. By gratitude, by misguided policy, by seeming necessity,

Severus was reduced to relax the nerves of discipline. [63] The vanity

of his soldiers was flattered with the honor of wearing gold rings their ease was indulged in the permission of living with their wives in the

idleness of quarters. He increased their pay beyond the example

of former times, and taught them to expect, and soon to claim, extraordinary donatives on every public occasion of danger or festivity. elated by success, enervated by luxury, and raised above the level of

subjects by their dangerous privileges, [64] they soon became incapable

of military fatigue, oppressive to the country, and impatient of a just

subordination. Their officers asserted the superiority of rank by a more

profuse and elegant luxury. There is still extant a letter of Severus,

lamenting the licentious stage of the army, [641] and exhorting one of

his generals to begin the necessary reformation from the tribunes themselves; since, as he justly observes, the officer who has forfeited the esteem, will never command the obedience, of his soldiers. [65] Had the emperor pursued the train of reflection, he would have discovered, that the primary cause of this general corruption might be ascribed, not

indeed to the example, but to the pernicious indulgence, however, of the commander-in-chief.

[Footnote 63: Herodian, l. iii. p. 115. Hist. August. p. 68.]

[Footnote 64: Upon the insolence and privileges of the soldier, the 16th

satire, falsely ascribed to Juvenal, may be consulted; the style and circumstances of it would induce me to believe, that it was composed

under the reign of Severus, or that of his son.]

[Footnote 641: Not of the army, but of the troops in Gaul. The contents

of this letter seem to prove that Severus was really anxious to restore discipline Herodian is the only historian who accuses him of being the first cause of its relaxation.--G. from W Spartian mentions his increase

of the pays.--M.]

[Footnote 65: Hist. August. p. 73.]

the Praetorians, who murdered their emperor and sold the empire, had

received the just punishment of their treason; but the necessary, though dangerous, institution of guards was soon restored on a new model by

Severus, and increased to four times the ancient number. [66] Formerly these troops had been recruited in Italy; and as the adjacent provinces

gradually imbibed the softer manners of Rome, the levies were extended to Macedonia, Noricum, and Spain. In the room of these elegant troops, better adapted to the pomp of courts than to the uses of war, it was established by Severus, that from all the legions of the frontiers, the

soldiers most distinguished for strength, valor, and fidelity, should be

occasionally draughted; and promoted, as an honor and reward, into the

more eligible service of the guards. [67] By this new institution, the

Italian youth were diverted from the exercise of arms, and the capital was terrified by the strange aspect and manners of a multitude of barbarians. But Severus flattered himself, that the legions would consider these chosen Praetorians as the representatives of the whole

military order; and that the present aid of fifty thousand men, superior

in arms and appointments to any force that could be brought into the field against them, would forever crush the hopes of rebellion, and

secure the empire to himself and his posterity.

[Footnote 66: Herodian, l. iii. p. 131.]

[Footnote 67: Dion, l. lxxiv. p. 1243.]

the command of these favored and formidable troops soon became the first office of the empire. As the government degenerated into military despotism, the Praetorian Praefect, who in his origin had been a simple captain of the guards, [671] was placed not only at the head of the army, but of the finances, and even of the law. In every department of administration, he represented the person, and exercised the authority,

of the emperor. The first praefect who enjoyed and abused this immense

power was Plautianus, the favorite minister of Severus. His reign lasted above then years, till the marriage of his daughter with the eldest son

of the emperor, which seemed to assure his fortune, proved the occasion

of his ruin. [68] The animosities of the palace, by irritating the ambition and alarming the fears of Plautianus, [681] threatened to produce a revolution, and obliged the emperor, who still loved him, to consent with reluctance to his death. [69] After the fall of Plautianus, an eminent lawyer, the celebrated Papinian, was appointed to execute the

motley office of Praetorian Praefect.

[Footnote 671: The Praetorian Praefect had never been a simple captain of the guards; from the first creation of this office, under Augustus,

it possessed great power. That emperor, therefore, decreed that there

should be always two Praetorian Praefects, who could only be taken from the equestrian order Tiberius first departed from the former clause of this edict; Alexander Severus violated the second by naming senators

praefects. It appears that it was under Commodus that the Praetorian

Praefects obtained the province of civil jurisdiction. It extended only to Italy, with the exception of Rome and its district, which was

governed by the Praefectus urbi. As to the control of the finances, and the levying of taxes, it was not intrusted to them till after the great change that Constantine I. made in the organization of the empire at

least, I know no passage which assigns it to them before that time; and drakenborch, who has treated this question in his Dissertation de

official praefectorum praetorio, vi., does not quote one.--W.]

[Footnote 68: One of his most daring and wanton acts of power, was the castration of a hundred free Romans, some of them married men, and even fathers of families; merely that his daughter, on her marriage with the

young emperor, might be attended by a train of eunuchs worthy of an eastern queen. Dion, l. lxxvi. p. 1271.]

[Footnote 681: Plautianus was compatriot, relative, and the old friend,

of Severus; he had so completely shut up all access to the emperor, that the latter was ignorant how far he abused his powers: at length, being informed of it, he began to limit his authority. The marriage of

Plautilla with Caracalla was unfortunate; and the prince who had been forced to consent to it, menaced the father and the daughter with death when he should come to the throne. It was feared, after that, that

Plautianus would avail himself of the power which he still possessed, against the Imperial family; and Severus caused him to be assassinated

in his presence, upon the pretext of a conspiracy, which Dion considers fictitious.--W. This note is not, perhaps, very necessary and does not contain the whole facts. Dion considers the conspiracy the invention of caracalla, by whose command, almost by whose hand, Plautianus was slain

in the presence of Severus.--M.]

[Footnote 69: Dion, l. lxxvi. p. 1274.

Herodian, l. iii. p. 122, 129. The grammarian of Alexander seems, as is

not unusual, much better acquainted with this mysterious transaction, and more assured of the guilt of Plautianus than the Roman senator

ventures to be.]

till the reign of Severus, the virtue and even the good sense of the emperors had been distinguished by their zeal or affected reverence for the senate, and by a tender regard to the nice frame of civil policy

instituted by Augustus. But the youth of Severus had been trained in the

implicit obedience of camps, and his riper years spent in the despotism

of military command. His haughty and inflexible spirit could not discover, or would not acknowledge, the advantage of preserving an

intermediate power, however imaginary, between the emperor and the army.

He disdained to profess himself the servant of an assembly that detested

his person and trembled at his frown; he issued his commands, where his

requests would have proved as effectual; assumed the conduct and style

of a sovereign and a conqueror, and exercised, without disguise, the whole legislative, as well as the executive power.

the victory over the senate was easy and inglorious. Every eye and every

passion were directed to the supreme magistrate, who possessed the arms and treasure of the state; whilst the senate, neither elected by the

people, nor guarded by military force, nor animated by public spirit,

rested its declining authority on the frail and crumbling basis of ancient opinion. The fine theory of a republic insensibly vanished, and

made way for the more natural and substantial feelings of monarchy. As the freedom and honors of Rome were successively communicated to the

provinces, in which the old government had been either unknown, or was remembered with abhorrence, the tradition of republican maxims was

gradually obliterated. The Greek historians of the age of the Antonines

[70] observe, with a malicious pleasure, that although the sovereign of

Rome, in compliance with an obsolete prejudice, abstained from the name

of king, he possessed the full measure of regal power. In the reign of

Severus, the senate was filled with polished and eloquent slaves from the eastern provinces, who justified personal flattery by speculative

principles of servitude. These new advocates of prerogative were heard with pleasure by the court, and with patience by the people, when they inculcated the duty of passive obedience, and descanted on the

inevitable mischiefs of freedom. The lawyers and historians concurred

in teaching, that the Imperial authority was held, not by the delegated commission, but by the irrevocable resignation of the senate; that the emperor was freed from the restraint of civil laws, could command by his arbitrary will the lives and fortunes of his subjects, and might dispose

of the empire as of his private patrimony. [71] The most eminent of the civil lawyers, and particularly Papinian, Paulus, and Ulpian, flourished

under the house of Severus; and the Roman jurisprudence, having closely

united itself with the system of monarchy, was supposed to have attained

its full majority and perfection.

[Footnote 70: Appian in Prooem.]

[Footnote 71: Dion Cassius seems to have written with no other view than to form these opinions into an historical system. The Pandea's will

how how assiduously the lawyers, on their side, laboree in the cause of

prerogative.]

the contemporaries of Severus in the enjoyment of the peace and glory

of his reign, forgave the cruelties by which it had been introduced.

Posterity, who experienced the fatal effects of his maxims and example,

justly considered him as the principal author of the decline of the

Roman empire.

chapter VI: Death Of Severus, Tyranny Of Caracalla, Usurpation Of Marcinus.--Part I.

The Death Of Severus.--Tyranny Of Caracalla.--Usurpation

Of Macrinus.--Follies Of Elagabalus.--Virtues Of Alexander

Severus.--Licentiousness Of The Army.--General State Of

The Roman Finances.

the ascent to greatness, however steep and dangerous, may entertain an active spirit with the consciousness and exercise of its own powers: but the possession of a throne could never yet afford a lasting satisfaction to an ambitious mind. This melancholy truth was felt and acknowledged by

Severus. Fortune and merit had, from an humble station, elevated him to the first place among mankind. "He had been all things," as he said

himself, "and all was of little value." [1] Distracted with the care,

not of acquiring, but of preserving an empire, oppressed with age and

infirmities, careless of fame, [2] and satiated with power, all his

prospects of life were closed. The desire of perpetuating the greatness

of his family was the only remaining wish of his ambition and paternal tenderness.

[Footnote 1: Hist. August. p. 71. "Omnia fui, et nihil expedit."]

[Footnote 2: Dion Cassius, l. lxxvi. p. 1284.]

Like most of the Africans, Severus was passionately addicted to the vain

studies of magic and divination, deeply versed in the interpretation of dreams and omens, and perfectly acquainted with the science of judicial astrology; which, in almost every age except the present, has maintained

its dominion over the mind of man. He had lost his first wife, while

he was governor of the Lionnese Gaul. [3] In the choice of a second, he

sought only to connect himself with some favorite of fortune; and as

soon as he had discovered that the young lady of Emesa in Syria had a

royal nativity, he solicited and obtained her hand. [4] Julia Domna (for that was her name) deserved all that the stars could promise her.

She possessed, even in advanced age, the attractions of beauty, [5] and united to a lively imagination a firmness of mind, and strength of

judgment, seldom bestowed on her sex. Her amiable qualities never made any deep impression on the dark and jealous temper of her husband; but in her son's reign, she administered the principal affairs of the empire, with a prudence that supported his authority, and with a

moderation that sometimes corrected his wild extravagancies. [6] Julia applied herself to letters and philosophy, with some success, and with the most splendid reputation. She was the patroness of every art, and the friend of every man of genius. [7] The grateful flattery of the

learned has celebrated her virtues; but, if we may credit the scandal of ancient history, chastity was very far from being the most conspicuous

virtue of the empress Julia. [8]

[Footnote 3: About the year 186. M. de Tillemont is miserably embarrassed with a passage of Dion, in which the empress Faustina, who died in the year 175, is introduced as having contributed to the

marriage of Severus and Julia, (l. lxxiv. p. 1243.) The learned compiler forgot that Dion is relating not a real fact, but a dream of Severus; and dreams are circumscribed to no limits of time or space. Did M. de tillemont imagine that marriages were consummated in the temple of Venus at Rome? Hist. des Empereurs, tom. iii. p. 389. Note 6.]

[Footnote 4: Hist. August. p. 65.]

[Footnote 5: Hist. August. p. 5.]

[Footnote 6: Dion Cassius, l. lxxvii. p. 1304, 1314.]

[Footnote 7: See a dissertation of Menage, at the end of his edition of diogenes Laertius, de Foeminis Philosophis.]

[Footnote 8: Dion, l. lxxvi. p. 1285. Aurelius Victor.]

two sons, Caracalla [9] and Geta, were the fruit of this marriage, and the destined heirs of the empire. The fond hopes of the father, and

of the Roman world, were soon disappointed by these vain youths, who displayed the indolent security of hereditary princes; and a presumption that fortune would supply the place of merit and application. Without any emulation of virtue or talents, they discovered, almost from their

infancy, a fixed and implacable antipathy for each other.

[Footnote 9: Bassianus was his first name, as it had been that of his

maternal grandfather. During his reign, he assumed the appellation of antoninus, which is employed by lawyers and ancient historians. After

his death, the public indignation loaded him with the nicknames of tarantus and Caracalla. The first was borrowed from a celebrated

Gladiator, the second from a long Gallic gown which he distributed to the people of Rome.]

their aversion, confirmed by years, and fomented by the arts of their

interested favorites, broke out in childish, and gradually in more

serious competitions; and, at length, divided the theatre, the circus, and the court, into two factions, actuated by the hopes and fears of their respective leaders. The prudent emperor endeavored, by every expedient of advice and authority, to allay this growing animosity. The

unhappy discord of his sons clouded all his prospects, and threatened to

overturn a throne raised with so much labor, cemented with so much blood, and guarded with every defence of arms and treasure. With an

impartial hand he maintained between them an exact balance of favor, conferred on both the rank of Augustus, with the revered name of antoninus; and for the first time the Roman world beheld three emperors.

[10] Yet even this equal conduct served only to inflame the contest, whilst the fierce Caracalla asserted the right of primogeniture, and the

milder Geta courted the affections of the people and the soldiers. In the anguish of a disappointed father, Severus foretold that the weaker

of his sons would fall a sacrifice to the stronger; who, in his turn, would be ruined by his own vices. [11]

[Footnote 10: The elevation of Caracalla is fixed by the accurate M. de Tillemont to the year 198; the association of Geta to the year 208.]

[Footnote 11: Herodian, l. iii. p. 130. The lives of Caracalla and Geta,

in the Augustan History.]

In these circumstances the intelligence of a war in Britain, and of an

invasion of the province by the barbarians of the North, was received with pleasure by Severus. Though the vigilance of his lieutenants might

have been sufficient to repel the distant enemy, he resolved to embrace the honorable pretext of withdrawing his sons from the luxury of Rome, which enervated their minds and irritated their passions; and of inuring their youth to the toils of war and government. Notwithstanding his advanced age, (for he was above threescore,) and his gout, which obliged

him to be carried in a litter, he transported himself in person into that remote island, attended by his two sons, his whole court, and a formidable army. He immediately passed the walls of Hadrian and antoninus, and entered the enemy's country, with a design of completing the long attempted conquest of Britain. He penetrated to the northern extremity of the island, without meeting an enemy. But the concealed ambuscades of the Caledonians, who hung unseen on the rear and flanks of

his army, the coldness of the climate and the severity of a winter march across the hills and morasses of Scotland, are reported to have cost the

Romans above fifty thousand men. The Caledonians at length yielded to the powerful and obstinate attack, sued for peace, and surrendered a

part of their arms, and a large tract of territory. But their apparent

submission lasted no longer than the present terror. As soon as the

Roman legions had retired, they resumed their hostile independence. their restless spirit provoked Severus to send a new army into caledonia, with the most bloody orders, not to subdue, but to extirpate the natives. They were saved by the death of their haughty enemy. [12]

[Footnote 12: Dion, l. lxxvi. p. 1280, &c. Herodian, l. iii. p. 132,

&c.]

this Caledonian war, neither marked by decisive events, nor attended with any important consequences, would ill deserve our attention; but it

is supposed, not without a considerable degree of probability, that the

invasion of Severus is connected with the most shining period of the british history or fable. Fingal, whose fame, with that of his heroes and bards, has been revived in our language by a recent publication, is

said to have commanded the Caledonians in that memorable juncture, to

have eluded the power of Severus, and to have obtained a signal victory

on the banks of the Carun, in which the son of the King of the World, caracul, fled from his arms along the fields of his pride. [13]

Something of a doubtful mist still hangs over these Highland traditions;

nor can it be entirely dispelled by the most ingenious researches of

modern criticism; [14] but if we could, with safety, indulge the

pleasing supposition, that Fingal lived, and that Ossian sung, the

striking contrast of the situation and manners of the contending nations

might amuse a philosophic mind.

the parallel would be little to the advantage of the more civilized

people, if we compared the unrelenting revenge of Severus with the

generous clemency of Fingal; the timid and brutal cruelty of Caracalla with the bravery, the tenderness, the elegant genius of Ossian; the

mercenary chiefs, who, from motives of fear or interest, served under the imperial standard, with the free-born warriors who started to arms at the voice of the king of Morven; if, in a word, we contemplated the

untutored Caledonians, glowing with the warm virtues of nature, and the degenerate Romans, polluted with the mean vices of wealth and slavery.

[Footnote 13: Ossian's Poems, vol. i. p. 175.]

[Footnote 14: That the Caracul of Ossian is the Caracalla of the Roman

History, is, perhaps, the only point of British antiquity in which Mr.

Macpherson and Mr. Whitaker are of the same opinion; and yet the opinion

is not without difficulty. In the Caledonian war, the son of Severus was

known only by the appellation of Antoninus, and it may seem strange that the Highland bard should describe him by a nickname, invented four years afterwards, scarcely used by the Romans till after the death of that emperor, and seldom employed by the most ancient historians. See Dion,

l. lxxvii. p. 1317. Hist. August. p. 89 Aurel. Victor. Euseb. in Chron. ad ann. 214. Note: The historical authority of Macpherson's Ossian has

not increased since Gibbon wrote. We may, indeed, consider it exploded.

Mr. Whitaker, in a letter to Gibbon (Misc. Works, vol. ii. p. 100,) attempts, not very successfully, to weaken this objection of the

historian.--M.]

the declining health and last illness of Severus inflamed the wild ambition and black passions of Caracalla's soul. Impatient of any delay

or division of empire, he attempted, more than once, to shorten the

small remainder of his father's days, and endeavored, but without

success, to excite a mutiny among the troops. [15] The old emperor had

often censured the misguided lenity of Marcus, who, by a single act of

justice, might have saved the Romans from the tyranny of his worthless

son. Placed in the same situation, he experienced how easily the rigor

of a judge dissolves away in the tenderness of a parent. He deliberated,

he threatened, but he could not punish; and this last and only instance

of mercy was more fatal to the empire than a long series of cruelty.

[16] The disorder of his mind irritated the pains of his body; he wished

impatiently for death, and hastened the instant of it by his impatience.

He expired at York in the sixty-fifth year of his life, and in the eighteenth of a glorious and successful reign. In his last moments he

recommended concord to his sons, and his sons to the army. The salutary advice never reached the heart, or even the understanding, of the

impetuous youths; but the more obedient troops, mindful of their oath of allegiance, and of the authority of their deceased master, resisted the

solicitations of Caracalla, and proclaimed both brothers emperors of

Rome. The new princes soon left the Caledonians in peace, returned to the capital, celebrated their father's funeral with divine honors, and were cheerfully acknowledged as lawful sovereigns, by the senate, the

people, and the provinces. Some preeminence of rank seems to have been allowed to the elder brother; but they both administered the empire with equal and independent power. [17]

[Footnote 15: Dion, l. lxxvi. p. 1282. Hist. August. p. 71. Aurel.

Victor.]

[Footnote 16: Dion, l. lxxvi. p. 1283. Hist. August. p. 89]

[Footnote 17: Dion, l. lxxvi. p. 1284. Herodian, l. iii. p. 135.]

Such a divided form of government would have proved a source of discord between the most affectionate brothers. It was impossible that it could

long subsist between two implacable enemies, who neither desired nor could trust a reconciliation. It was visible that one only could reign, and that the other must fall; and each of them, judging of his rival's designs by his own, guarded his life with the most jealous vigilance from the repeated attacks of poison or the sword. Their rapid journey through Gaul and Italy, during which they never ate at the same table,

or slept in the same house, displayed to the provinces the odious

spectacle of fraternal discord. On their arrival at Rome, they

immediately divided the vast extent of the imperial palace. [18] No communication was allowed between their apartments; the doors and

passages were diligently fortified, and guards posted and relieved with the same strictness as in a besieged place. The emperors met only in

public, in the presence of their afflicted mother; and each surrounded by a numerous train of armed followers. Even on these occasions of ceremony, the dissimulation of courts could ill disguise the rancor of their hearts. [19]

[Footnote 18: Mr. Hume is justly surprised at a passage of Herodian, (l.

iv. p. 139,) who, on this occasion, represents the Imperial palace as equal in extent to the rest of Rome. The whole region of the Palatine

Mount, on which it was built, occupied, at most, a circumference of eleven or twelve thousand feet, (see the Notitia and Victor, in

Nardini's Roma Antica.) But we should recollect that the opulent

senators had almost surrounded the city with their extensive gardens and

suburb palaces, the greatest part of which had been gradually confiscated by the emperors. If Geta resided in the gardens that bore

his name on the Janiculum, and if Caracalla inhabited the gardens of

Maecenas on the Esquiline, the rival brothers were separated from each

other by the distance of several miles; and yet the intermediate space was filled by the Imperial gardens of Sallust, of Lucullus, of Agrippa,

of Domitian, of Caius, &c., all skirting round the city, and all connected with each other, and with the palace, by bridges thrown over the Tiber and the streets. But this explanation of Herodian would

require, though it ill deserves, a particular dissertation, illustrated by a map of ancient Rome. (Hume, Essay on Populousness of Ancient

Nations.--M.)]

[Footnote 19: Herodian, l. iv. p. 139]

this latent civil war already distracted the whole government, when a scheme was suggested that seemed of mutual benefit to the hostile brothers. It was proposed, that since it was impossible to reconcile their minds, they should separate their interest, and divide the empire between them. The conditions of the treaty were already drawn with some accuracy. It was agreed that Caracalla, as the elder brother should

remain in possession of Europe and the western Africa; and that he

should relinquish the sovereignty of Asia and Egypt to Geta, who might fix his residence at Alexandria or Antioch, cities little inferior to

Rome itself in wealth and greatness; that numerous armies should be constantly encamped on either side of the Thracian Bosphorus, to guard the frontiers of the rival monarchies; and that the senators of European extraction should acknowledge the sovereign of Rome, whilst the natives

of Asia followed the emperor of the East. The tears of the empress Julia

interrupted the negotiation, the first idea of which had filled every

Roman breast with surprise and indignation. The mighty mass of conquest was so intimately united by the hand of time and policy, that it

required the most forcible violence to rend it asunder. The Romans had

reason to dread, that the disjointed members would soon be reduced by a civil war under the dominion of one master; but if the separation was permanent, the division of the provinces must terminate in the dissolution of an empire whose unity had hitherto remained inviolate.

[20]

[Footnote 20: Herodian, l. iv. p. 144.]

Had the treaty been carried into execution, the sovereign of Europe

might soon have been the conqueror of Asia; but Caracalla obtained an easier, though a more guilty, victory. He artfully listened to his

mother's entreaties, and consented to meet his brother in her apartment, on terms of peace and reconciliation. In the midst of their conversation, some centurions, who had contrived to conceal themselves,

rushed with drawn swords upon the unfortunate Geta. His distracted

mother strove to protect him in her arms; but, in the unavailing

struggle, she was wounded in the hand, and covered with the blood of

her younger son, while she saw the elder animating and assisting [21] the fury of the assassins. As soon as the deed was perpetrated, Caracalla, with hasty steps, and horror in his countenance, ran towards the

Praetorian camp, as his only refuge, and threw himself on the ground before the statues of the tutelar deities. [22] The soldiers attempted to

raise and comfort him. In broken and disordered words he informed them

of his imminent danger, and fortunate escape; insinuating that he had

prevented the designs of his enemy, and declared his resolution to live and die with his faithful troops. Geta had been the favorite of the

soldiers; but complaint was useless, revenge was dangerous, and they

still reverenced the son of Severus. Their discontent died away in idle

murmurs, and Caracalla soon convinced them of the justice of his cause, by distributing in one lavish donative the accumulated treasures of his father's reign. [23] The real sentiments of the soldiers alone were

of importance to his power or safety. Their declaration in his favor commanded the dutiful professions of the senate. The obsequious assembly was always prepared to ratify the decision of fortune; [231] but as caracalla wished to assuage the first emotions of public indignation, the name of Geta was mentioned with decency, and he received the funeral

honors of a Roman emperor. [24] Posterity, in pity to his misfortune,

has cast a veil over his vices. We consider that young prince as the

innocent victim of his brother's ambition, without recollecting that he

himself wanted power, rather than inclination, to consummate the same attempts of revenge and murder. [241]

[Footnote 21: Caracalla consecrated, in the temple of Serapis, the

sword with which, as he boasted, he had slain his brother Geta. Dion, l.

lxxvii p. 1307.]

[Footnote 22: Herodian, l. iv. p. 147. In every Roman camp there was a

small chapel near the head-quarters, in which the statues of the tutelar deities were preserved and adored; and we may remark that the eagles, and other military ensigns, were in the first rank of these deities; an excellent institution, which confirmed discipline by the sanction of

religion. See Lipsius de Militia Romana, iv. 5, v. 2.]

[Footnote 23: Herodian, l. iv. p. 148. Dion, l. lxxvii. p. 1289.]

[Footnote 231: The account of this transaction, in a new passage of dion, varies in some degree from this statement. It adds that the

next morning, in the senate, Antoninus requested their indulgence, not because he had killed his brother, but because he was hoarse, and could

not address them. Mai. Fragm. p. 228.--M.]

[Footnote 24: Geta was placed among the gods. Sit divus, dum non sit

vivus said his brother. Hist. August. p. 91. Some marks of Geta's consecration are still found upon medals.]

[Footnote 241: The favorable judgment which history has given of Geta

is not founded solely on a feeling of pity; it is supported by the testimony of contemporary historians: he was too fond of the pleasures

of the table, and showed great mistrust of his brother; but he was

humane, well instructed; he often endeavored to mitigate the rigorous decrees of Severus and Caracalla. Herod iv. 3. Spartian in Geta.--W.]

the crime went not unpunished. Neither business, nor pleasure, nor flattery, could defend Caracalla from the stings of a guilty conscience; and he confessed, in the anguish of a tortured mind, that his disordered fancy often beheld the angry forms of his father and his brother rising

into life, to threaten and upbraid him. [25] The consciousness of his crime should have induced him to convince mankind, by the virtues of

his reign, that the bloody deed had been the involuntary effect of fatal

necessity. But the repentance of Caracalla only prompted him to remove from the world whatever could remind him of his guilt, or recall the

memory of his murdered brother. On his return from the senate to the

palace, he found his mother in the company of several noble matrons, weeping over the untimely fate of her younger son. The jealous emperor threatened them with instant death; the sentence was executed against fadilla, the last remaining daughter of the emperor Marcus; [251] and even the afflicted Julia was obliged to silence her lamentations, to

suppress her sighs, and to receive the assassin with smiles of joy and approbation. It was computed that, under the vague appellation of the friends of Geta, above twenty thousand persons of both sexes suffered death. His guards and freedmen, the ministers of his serious business, and the companions of his looser hours, those who by his interest had been promoted to any commands in the army or provinces, with the long connected chain of their dependants, were included in the proscription; which endeavored to reach every one who had maintained the smallest correspondence with Geta, who lamented his death, or who even mentioned

his name. [26] Helvius Pertinax, son to the prince of that name, lost

his life by an unseasonable witticism. [27] It was a sufficient crime

of Thrasea Priscus to be descended from a family in which the love

of liberty seemed an hereditary quality. [28] The particular causes of calumny and suspicion were at length exhausted; and when a senator was accused of being a secret enemy to the government, the emperor was satisfied with the general proof that he was a man of property and

virtue. From this well-grounded principle he frequently drew the most bloody inferences. [281]

[Footnote 25: Dion, l. lxxvii. p. 1307]

[Footnote 251: The most valuable paragraph of dion, which the industry

of M. Manas recovered, relates to this daughter of Marcus, executed by caracalla. Her name, as appears from Fronto, as well as from Dion, was Cornificia. When commanded to choose the kind of death she was to suffer, she burst into womanish tears; but remembering her father

Marcus, she thus spoke:--"O my hapless soul, (... animula,) now

imprisoned in the body, burst forth! be free! show them, however

reluctant to believe it, that thou art the daughter of Marcus." She then

laid aside all her ornaments, and preparing herself for death, ordered

her veins to be opened. Mai. Fragm. Vatican ii p. 220.--M.]

[Footnote 26: Dion, l. lxxvii. p. 1290. Herodian, l. iv. p. 150. Dion

(p. 2298) says, that the comic poets no longer durst employ the name of

Geta in their plays, and that the estates of those who mentioned it in their testaments were confiscated.]

[Footnote 27: Caracalla had assumed the names of several conquered

nations; Pertinax observed, that the name of Geticus (he had obtained

some advantage over the Goths, or Getae) would be a proper addition to

Parthieus, Alemannicus, &c. Hist. August. p. 89.]

[Footnote 28: Dion, l. lxxvii. p. 1291. He was probably descended from

Helvidius Priscus, and Thrasea Paetus, those patriots, whose firm, but

useless and unseasonable, virtue has been immortalized by Tacitus. Note:

M. Guizot is indignant at this "cold" observation of Gibbon on the noble character of Thrasea; but he admits that his virtue was useless to the

public, and unseasonable amidst the vices of his age.--M.]

[Footnote 281: Caracalla reproached all those who demanded no favors of

him. "It is clear that if you make me no requests, you do not trust me;

if you do not trust me, you suspect me; if you suspect me, you fear me;

if you fear me, you hate me." And forthwith he condemned them as conspirators, a good specimen of the sorites in a tyrant's logic. See fragm. Vatican p.--M.]

chapter VI: Death Of Severus, Tyranny Of Caracalla, Usurpation Of Marcinus.--Part II.

the execution of so many innocent citizens was bewailed by the secret tears of their friends and families. The death of Papinian, the

Praetorian Praefect, was lamented as a public calamity. [282] During the

last seven years of Severus, he had exercised the most important offices

of the state, and, by his salutary influence, guided the emperor's steps

in the paths of justice and moderation. In full assurance of his virtue and abilities, Severus, on his death-bed, had conjured him to watch over the prosperity and union of the Imperial family. [29] The honest labors

of Papinian served only to inflame the hatred which Caracalla had already conceived against his father's minister. After the murder of

Geta, the Praefect was commanded to exert the powers of his skill and eloquence in a studied apology for that atrocious deed. The philosophic

Seneca had condescended to compose a similar epistle to the senate, in the name of the son and assassin of Agrippina. [30] "That it was easier to commit than to justify a parricide," was the glorious reply of

Papinian; [31] who did not hesitate between the loss of life and that of

honor. Such intrepid virtue, which had escaped pure and unsullied from the intrigues courts, the habits of business, and the arts of his

profession, reflects more lustre on the memory of Papinian, than all his

great employments, his numerous writings, and the superior reputation as a lawyer, which he has preserved through every age of the Roman

jurisprudence. [32]

[Footnote 281: Papinian was no longer Praetorian Praefect. Caracalla had deprived him of that office immediately after the death of Severus.

Such is the statement of Dion; and the testimony of Spartian, who gives

Papinian the Praetorian praefecture till his death, is of little weight

opposed to that of a senator then living at Rome.--W.]

[Footnote 29: It is said that Papinian was himself a relation of the empress Julia.]

[Footnote 30: Tacit. Annal. xiv. 2.]

[Footnote 31: Hist. August. p. 88.]

[Footnote 32: With regard to Papinian, see Heineccius's Historia Juris

Roma ni, l. 330, &c.]

It had hitherto been the peculiar felicity of the Romans, and in the worst of times the consolation, that the virtue of the emperors was active, and their vice indolent. Augustus, Trajan, Hadrian, and Marcus

visited their extensive dominions in person, and their progress was

marked by acts of wisdom and beneficence. The tyranny of Tiberius, Nero, and Domitian, who resided almost constantly at Rome, or in the adjacent was confined to the senatorial and equestrian orders. [33] But Caracalla was the common enemy of mankind. He left capital (and he never returned to it) about a year after the murder of Geta. The rest of his reign was

spent in the several provinces of the empire, particularly those of the east, and province was by turns the scene of his rapine and cruelty. the senators, compelled by fear to attend his capricious motions,were

obliged to provide daily entertainments at an immense expense, which

he abandoned with contempt to his guards; and to erect, in every city,

magnificent palaces and theatres, which he either disdained to visit,

or ordered immediately thrown down. The most wealthy families ruined by partial fines and confiscations, and the great body of his subjects

oppressed by ingenious and aggravated taxes. [34] In the midst of

peace, and upon the slightest provocation, he issued his commands, at alexandria, in Egypt for a general massacre. From a secure post in the temple of Serapis, he viewed and directed the slaughter of many thousand citizens, as well as strangers, without distinguishing the number or the crime of the sufferers; since as he coolly informed the senate, all the alexandrians, those who perished, and those who had escaped, were alike

guilty. [35]

[Footnote 33: Tiberius and Domitian never moved from the neighborhood

of Rome. Nero made a short journey into Greece. "Et laudatorum Principum

usus ex aequo, quamvis procul agentibus. Saevi proximis ingruunt." tacit. Hist. iv. 74.]

[Footnote 34: Dion, l. lxxvii. p. 1294.]

[Footnote 35: Dion, l. lxxvii. p. 1307. Herodian, l. iv. p. 158. the former represents it as a cruel massacre, the latter as a perfidious

one too. It seems probable that the Alexandrians has irritated the tyrant by their railleries, and perhaps by their tumults. \* Note: After these massacres, Caracalla also deprived the Alexandrians of their

spectacles and public feasts; he divided the city into two parts by a wall with towers at intervals, to prevent the peaceful communications of the citizens. Thus was treated the unhappy Alexandria, says Dion, by the

savage beast of Ausonia. This, in fact, was the epithet which the oracle

had applied to him; it is said, indeed, that he was much pleased with the name and often boasted of it. Dion, lxxvii. p. 1307.--G.]

the wise instructions of Severus never made any lasting impression on the mind of his son, who, although not destitute of imagination and eloquence, was equally devoid of judgment and humanity. [36] One dangerous maxim, worthy of a tyrant, was remembered and abused by caracalla. "To secure the affections of the army, and to esteem the

rest of his subjects as of little moment." [37] But the liberality of the father had been restrained by prudence, and his indulgence to the troops was tempered by firmness and authority. The careless profusion of the

son was the policy of one reign, and the inevitable ruin both of the army and of the empire. The vigor of the soldiers, instead of being confirmed by the severe discipline of camps, melted away in the luxury

of cities. The excessive increase of their pay and donatives [38] exhausted the state to enrich the military order, whose modesty in

peace, and service in war, is best secured by an honorable poverty. The demeanor of Caracalla was haughty and full of pride; but with the troops

he forgot even the proper dignity of his rank, encouraged their insolent familiarity, and, neglecting the essential duties of a general, affected to imitate the dress and manners of a common soldier.

[Footnote 36: Dion, l. lxxvii. p. 1296.]

[Footnote 37: Dion, l. lxxvi. p. 1284. Mr. Wotton (Hist. of Rome, p.

330) suspects that this maxim was invented by Caracalla himself, and attributed to his father.]

[Footnote 38: Dion (l. lxxviii. p. 1343) informs us that the extraordinary gifts of Caracalla to the army amounted annually to

seventy millions of drachmae (about two millions three hundred and fifty thousand pounds.) There is another passage in Dion, concerning the

military pay, infinitely curious, were it not obscure, imperfect, and

probably corrupt. The best sense seems to be, that the Praetorian guards

received twelve hundred and fifty drachmae, (forty pounds a year,)

(Dion, l. lxxvii. p. 1307.) Under the reign of Augustus, they were paid at the rate of two drachmae, or denarii, per day, 720 a year, (Tacit. annal. i. 17.) Domitian, who increased the soldiers' pay one fourth,

must have raised the Praetorians to 960 drachmae, (Gronoviue de Pecunia

Veteri, l. iii. c. 2.) These successive augmentations ruined the empire; for, with the soldiers' pay, their numbers too were increased. We have

seen the Praetorians alone increased from 10,000 to 50,000 men. Note:

Valois and Reimar have explained in a very simple and probable manner this passage of Dion, which Gibbon seems to me not to have understood.

He ordered that the soldiers should receive, as the reward of their

services the Praetorians 1250 drachms, the other 5000 drachms. Valois thinks that the numbers have been transposed, and that Caracalla added

5000 drachms to the donations made to the Praetorians, 1250 to those of the legionaries. The Praetorians, in fact, always received more than the others. The error of Gibbon arose from his considering that this

referred to the annual pay of the soldiers, while it relates to the

sum they received as a reward for their services on their discharge: donatives means recompense for service. Augustus had settled that the

Praetorians, after sixteen campaigns, should receive 5000 drachms: the

legionaries received only 3000 after twenty years. Caracalla added

5000 drachms to the donative of the Praetorians, 1250 to that of the

legionaries. Gibbon appears to have been mistaken both in confounding this donative on discharge with the annual pay, and in not paying attention to the remark of Valois on the transposition of the numbers in the text.--G]

It was impossible that such a character, and such conduct as that of Caracalla, could inspire either love or esteem; but as long as his vices were beneficial to the armies, he was secure from the danger of rebellion. A secret conspiracy, provoked by his own jealousy, was fatal to the tyrant. The Praetorian praefecture was divided between two ministers. The military department was intrusted to Adventus, an experienced rather than able soldier; and the civil affairs were transacted by Opilius Macrinus, who, by his dexterity in business, had

raised himself, with a fair character, to that high office. But his favor varied with the caprice of the emperor, and his life might depend

on the slightest suspicion, or the most casual circumstance. Malice or fanaticism had suggested to an African, deeply skilled in the knowledge

of futurity, a very dangerous prediction, that Macrinus and his son were destined to reign over the empire. The report was soon diffused through the province; and when the man was sent in chains to Rome, he still asserted, in the presence of the praefect of the city, the faith of

his prophecy. That magistrate, who had received the most pressing

instructions to inform himself of the successors of Caracalla,

immediately communicated the examination of the African to the Imperial court, which at that time resided in Syria. But, notwithstanding the diligence of the public messengers, a friend of Macrinus found means to apprise him of the approaching danger. The emperor received the letters from Rome; and as he was then engaged in the conduct of a chariot race,

he delivered them unopened to the Praetorian Praefect, directing him to despatch the ordinary affairs, and to report the more important business that might be contained in them. Macrinus read his fate, and resolved to

prevent it. He inflamed the discontents of some inferior officers, and employed the hand of Martialis, a desperate soldier, who had been

refused the rank of centurion. The devotion of Caracalla prompted him to make a pilgrimage from Edessa to the celebrated temple of the Moon at carrhae. [381] He was attended by a body of cavalry: but having stopped on the road for some necessary occasion, his guards preserved a respectful distance, and Martialis, approaching his person under a presence of duty, stabbed him with a dagger. The bold assassin was instantly killed by a Scythian archer of the Imperial guard. Such was the end of a

monster whose life disgraced human nature, and whose reign accused the

patience of the Romans. [39] The grateful soldiers forgot his vices,

remembered only his partial liberality, and obliged the senate to

prostitute their own dignity and that of religion, by granting him a

place among the gods. Whilst he was upon earth, Alexander the Great was the only hero whom this god deemed worthy his admiration. He assumed the

name and ensigns of Alexander, formed a Macedonian phalanx of guards,

persecuted the disciples of Aristotle, and displayed, with a puerile enthusiasm, the only sentiment by which he discovered any regard for

virtue or glory. We can easily conceive, that after the battle of Narva, and the conquest of Poland, Charles XII. (though he still wanted the

more elegant accomplishments of the son of Philip) might boast of having

rivalled his valor and magnanimity; but in no one action of his life did Caracalla express the faintest resemblance of the Macedonian hero, except in the murder of a great number of his own and of his father's friends. [40]

[Footnote 381: Carrhae, now Harran, between Edessan and Nisibis, famous for the defeat of Crassus--the Haran from whence Abraham set out for the

land of Canaan. This city has always been remarkable for its attachment to Sabaism--G]

[Footnote 39: Dion, l. lxxviii. p. 1312. Herodian, l. iv. p. 168.]

[Footnote 40: The fondness of Caracalla for the name and ensigns

of Alexander is still preserved on the medals of that emperor. See

Spanheim, de Usu Numismatum, Dissertat. xii. Herodian (l. iv. p. 154)

had seen very ridiculous pictures, in which a figure was drawn with one

side of the face like Alexander, and the other like Caracalla.]

after the extinction of the house of Severus, the Roman world remained three days without a master. The choice of the army (for the authority

of a distant and feeble senate was little regarded) hung in anxious

suspense, as no candidate presented himself whose distinguished birth and merit could engage their attachment and unite their suffrages. The decisive weight of the Praetorian guards elevated the hopes of their

praefects, and these powerful ministers began to assert their legal claim to fill the vacancy of the Imperial throne. Adventus, however, the senior praefect, conscious of his age and infirmities, of his small

reputation, and his smaller abilities, resigned the dangerous honor to the crafty ambition of his colleague Macrinus, whose well-dissembled

grief removed all suspicion of his being accessary to his master's death. [41] The troops neither loved nor esteemed his character. They cast their eyes around in search of a competitor, and at last yielded with reluctance to his promises of unbounded liberality and indulgence. a short time after his accession, he conferred on his son Diadumenianus, at the age of only ten years, the Imperial title, and the popular

name of Antoninus. The beautiful figure of the youth, assisted by an additional donative, for which the ceremony furnished a pretext, might attract, it was hoped, the favor of the army, and secure the doubtful throne of Macrinus.

[Footnote 41: Herodian, l. iv. p. 169. Hist. August. p. 94.]

the authority of the new sovereign had been ratified by the cheerful

submission of the senate and provinces. They exulted in their unexpected deliverance from a hated tyrant, and it seemed of little consequence to examine into the virtues of the successor of Caracalla. But as soon as the first transports of joy and surprise had subsided, they began to

scrutinize the merits of Macrinus with a critical severity, and to arraign the nasty choice of the army. It had hitherto been considered as a fundamental maxim of the constitution, that the emperor must be always chosen in the senate, and the sovereign power, no longer exercised by the whole body, was always delegated to one of its members. But Macrinus was not a senator. [42] The sudden elevation of the Praetorian praefects betrayed the meanness of their origin; and the equestrian order was

still in possession of that great office, which commanded with arbitrary

sway the lives and fortunes of the senate. A murmur of indignation was heard, that a man, whose obscure [43] extraction had never been

illustrated by any signal service, should dare to invest himself with the purple, instead of bestowing it on some distinguished senator, equal

in birth and dignity to the splendor of the Imperial station. As soon as the character of Macrinus was surveyed by the sharp eye of discontent,

some vices, and many defects, were easily discovered. The choice of his

ministers was in many instances justly censured, and the dissastified dissatisfied people, with their usual candor, accused at once his

indolent tameness and his excessive severity. [44]

[Footnote 42: Dion, l. lxxxviii. p. 1350. Elagabalus reproached his

predecessor with daring to seat himself on the throne; though, as

Praetorian praefect, he could not have been admitted into the senate after the voice of the crier had cleared the house. The personal favor

of Plautianus and Sejanus had broke through the established rule. they rose, indeed, from the equestrian order; but they preserved the

praefecture, with the rank of senator and even with the annulship.]

[Footnote 43: He was a native of Caesarea, in Numidia, and began his fortune by serving in the household of Plautian, from whose ruin he

narrowly escaped. His enemies asserted that he was born a slave, and

had exercised, among other infamous professions, that of Gladiator. The fashion of aspersing the birth and condition of an adversary seems to have lasted from the time of the Greek orators to the learned

grammarians of the last age.]

[Footnote 44: Both Dion and Herodian speak of the virtues and vices of

Macrinus with candor and impartiality; but the author of his life, in the Augustan History, seems to have implicitly copied some of the

venal writers, employed by Elagabalus, to blacken the memory of his

predecessor.]

His rash ambition had climbed a height where it was difficult to stand with firmness, and impossible to fall without instant destruction. trained in the arts of courts and the forms of civil business, he trembled in the presence of the fierce and undisciplined multitude, over whom he had assumed the command; his military talents were despised, and

his personal courage suspected; a whisper that circulated in the camp, disclosed the fatal secret of the conspiracy against the late emperor, aggravated the guilt of murder by the baseness of hypocrisy, and

heightened contempt by detestation. To alienate the soldiers, and to

provoke inevitable ruin, the character of a reformer was only wanting; and such was the peculiar hardship of his fate, that Macrinus was compelled to exercise that invidious office. The prodigality of caracalla had left behind it a long train of ruin and disorder; and if that worthless tyrant had been capable of reflecting on the sure consequences of his own conduct, he would perhaps have enjoyed the dark

prospect of the distress and calamities which he bequeathed to his

successors.

In the management of this necessary reformation, Macrinus proceeded with a cautious prudence, which would have restored health and vigor to the

Roman army in an easy and almost imperceptible manner. To the soldiers already engaged in the service, he was constrained to leave the dangerous privileges and extravagant pay given by Caracalla; but the new

recruits were received on the more moderate though liberal establishment

of Severus, and gradually formed to modesty and obedience. [45] One fatal error destroyed the salutary effects of this judicious plan. The

numerous army, assembled in the East by the late emperor, instead of being immediately dispersed by Macrinus through the several provinces, was suffered to remain united in Syria, during the winter that followed

his elevation. In the luxurious idleness of their quarters, the troops

viewed their strength and numbers, communicated their complaints, and revolved in their minds the advantages of another revolution. The

veterans, instead of being flattered by the advantageous distinction, were alarmed by the first steps of the emperor, which they considered as the presage of his future intentions. The recruits, with sullen

reluctance, entered on a service, whose labors were increased while

its rewards were diminished by a covetous and unwarlike sovereign. The

murmurs of the army swelled with impunity into seditious clamors; and the partial mutinies betrayed a spirit of discontent and disaffection that waited only for the slightest occasion to break out on every side

into a general rebellion. To minds thus disposed, the occasion soon

presented itself.

[Footnote 45: Dion, l. lxxxiii. p. 1336. The sense of the author is as the intention of the emperor; but Mr. Wotton has mistaken both, by

understanding the distinction, not of veterans and recruits, but of old and new legions. History of Rome, p. 347.]

the empress Julia had experienced all the vicissitudes of fortune. From an humble station she had been raised to greatness, only to taste the

superior bitterness of an exalted rank. She was doomed to weep over the death of one of her sons, and over the life of the other. The cruel fate

of Caracalla, though her good sense must have long taught' er to expect

it, awakened the feelings of a mother and of an empress. Notwithstanding the respectful civility expressed by the usurper towards the widow of

Severus, she descended with a painful struggle into the condition of a subject, and soon withdrew herself, by a voluntary death, from the anxious and humiliating dependence. [46] [461] Julia Maesa, her sister, was

ordered to leave the court and Antioch. She retired to Emesa with an

immense fortune, the fruit of twenty years' favor accompanied by her two daughters, Soaemias and Mamae, each of whom was a widow, and each had an only son. Bassianus, [462] for that was the name of the son of Soaemias, was consecrated to the honorable ministry of high priest of the Sun; and this holy vocation, embraced either from prudence or superstition, contributed to raise the Syrian youth to the empire of Rome. A numerous body of troops was stationed at Emesa; and as the severe discipline of

Macrinus had constrained them to pass the winter encamped, they were eager to revenge the cruelty of such unaccustomed hardships. The

soldiers, who resorted in crowds to the temple of the Sun, beheld with veneration and delight the elegant dress and figure of the young

pontiff; they recognized, or they thought that they recognized, the features of Caracalla, whose memory they now adored. The artful Maesa

saw and cherished their rising partiality, and readily sacrificing her daughter's reputation to the fortune of her grandson, she insinuated that Bassianus was the natural son of their murdered sovereign. The

sums distributed by her emissaries with a lavish hand silenced every

objection, and the profusion sufficiently proved the affinity, or at

least the resemblance, of Bassianus with the great original. The young antoninus (for he had assumed and polluted that respectable name) was declared emperor by the troops of Emesa, asserted his hereditary right, and called aloud on the armies to follow the standard of a young and

liberal prince, who had taken up arms to revenge his father's death and the oppression of the military order. [47]

[Footnote 46: Dion, l. lxxviii. p. 1330. The abridgment of Xiphilin, though less particular, is in this place clearer than the original.]

[Footnote 461: As soon as this princess heard of the death of Caracalla,

she wished to starve herself to death: the respect shown to her by

Macrinus, in making no change in her attendants or her court, induced

her to prolong her life. But it appears, as far as the mutilated text of dion and the imperfect epitome of Xiphilin permit us to judge, that she conceived projects of ambition, and endeavored to raise herself to the empire. She wished to tread in the steps of Semiramis and Nitocris, whose country bordered on her own. Macrinus sent her an order

immediately to leave Antioch, and to retire wherever she chose. She

returned to her former purpose, and starved herself to death.--G.]

[Footnote 462: He inherited this name from his great-grandfather of the

mother's side, Bassianus, father of Julia Maesa, his grandmother, and

of Julia Domna, wife of Severus. Victor (in his epitome) is perhaps the

only historian who has given the key to this genealogy, when speaking

of Caracalla. His Bassianus ex avi materni nomine dictus. Caracalla, elagabalus, and Alexander Seyerus, bore successively this name.--G.]

[Footnote 47: According to Lampridius, (Hist. August. p. 135,) Alexander

Severus lived twenty-nine years three months and seven days. As he was

killed March 19, 235, he was born December 12, 205 and was consequently about this time thirteen years old, as his elder cousin might be about

seventeen. This computation suits much better the history of the young

princes than that of Herodian, (l. v. p. 181,) who represents them as three years younger; whilst, by an opposite error of chronology, he

lengthens the reign of Elagabalus two years beyond its real duration. for the particulars of the conspiracy, see Dion, l. lxxviii. p. 1339.

Herodian, l. v. p. 184.]

whilst a conspiracy of women and eunuchs was concerted with prudence, and conducted with rapid vigor, Macrinus, who, by a decisive motion,

might have crushed his infant enemy, floated between the opposite extremes of terror and security, which alike fixed him inactive at antioch. A spirit of rebellion diffused itself through all the camps and

garrisons of Syria, successive detachments murdered their officers, [48] and joined the party of the rebels; and the tardy restitution of

military pay and privileges was imputed to the acknowledged weakness of

Macrinus. At length he marched out of Antioch, to meet the increasing and zealous army of the young pretender. His own troops seemed to take the field with faintness and reluctance; but, in the heat of the battle,

[49] the Praetorian guards, almost by an involuntary impulse, asserted the superiority of their valor and discipline. The rebel ranks were broken; when the mother and grandmother of the Syrian prince, who, according to their eastern custom, had attended the army, threw themselves from their covered chariots, and, by exciting the compassion

of the soldiers, endeavored to animate their drooping courage. Antoninus

himself, who, in the rest of his life, never acted like a man, in this

important crisis of his fate, approved himself a hero, mounted his

horse, and, at the head of his rallied troops, charged sword in hand among the thickest of the enemy; whilst the eunuch Gannys, [491] whose

occupations had been confined to female cares and the soft luxury of asia, displayed the talents of an able and experienced general. The battle still raged with doubtful violence, and Macrinus might have

obtained the victory, had he not betrayed his own cause by a shameful and precipitate flight. His cowardice served only to protract his life a few days, and to stamp deserved ignominy on his misfortunes. It is

scarcely necessary to add, that his son Diadumenianus was involved in the same fate.

as soon as the stubborn Praetorians could be convinced that they fought for a prince who had basely deserted them, they surrendered to the conqueror: the contending parties of the Roman army, mingling tears

of joy and tenderness, united under the banners of the imagined son of caracalla, and the East acknowledged with pleasure the first emperor of asiatic extraction.

[Footnote 48: By a most dangerous proclamation of the pretended antoninus, every soldier who brought in his officer's head became entitled to his private estate, as well as to his military commission.]

[Footnote 49: Dion, l. lxxviii. p. 1345. Herodian, l. v. p. 186. the battle was fought near the village of Immae, about two-and-twenty

miles from Antioch.]

[Footnote 491: Gannys was not a eunuch. Dion, p. 1355.--W]

the letters of Macrinus had condescended to inform the senate of the

slight disturbance occasioned by an impostor in Syria, and a decree

immediately passed, declaring the rebel and his family public enemies; with a promise of pardon, however, to such of his deluded adherents as

should merit it by an immediate return to their duty. During the twenty days that elapsed from the declaration of the victory of Antoninus, (for

in so short an interval was the fate of the Roman world decided,) the capital and the provinces, more especially those of the East, were distracted with hopes and fears, agitated with tumult, and stained with a useless effusion of civil blood, since whosoever of the rivals

prevailed in Syria must reign over the empire. The specious letters in which the young conqueror announced his victory to the obedient senate were filled with professions of virtue and moderation; the shining examples of Marcus and Augustus, he should ever consider as the great

rule of his administration; and he affected to dwell with pride on the

striking resemblance of his own age and fortunes with those of Augustus, who in the earliest youth had revenged, by a successful war, the murder

of his father. By adopting the style of Marcus Aurelius Antoninus, son

of Antoninus and grandson of Severus, he tacitly asserted his hereditary claim to the empire; but, by assuming the tribunitian and proconsular

powers before they had been conferred on him by a decree of the senate,

he offended the delicacy of Roman prejudice. This new and injudicious

violation of the constitution was probably dictated either by the

ignorance of his Syrian courtiers, or the fierce disdain of his military followers. [50]

[Footnote 50: Dion, l. lxxix. p. 1353.]

as the attention of the new emperor was diverted by the most trifling amusements, he wasted many months in his luxurious progress from Syria to Italy, passed at Nicomedia his first winter after his victory, and deferred till the ensuing summer his triumphal entry into the capital. a faithful picture, however, which preceded his arrival, and was placed by his immediate order over the altar of Victory in the senate house, conveyed to the Romans the just but unworthy resemblance of his person and manners. He was drawn in his sacerdotal robes of silk and gold, after the loose flowing fashion of the Medes and Phoenicians; his head was covered with a lofty tiara, his numerous collars and bracelets were adorned with gems of an inestimable value. His eyebrows were tinged with black, and his cheeks painted with an artificial red and white. [51] the grave senators confessed with a sigh, that, after having long experienced the stern tyranny of their own countrymen, Rome was at

length humbled beneath the effeminate luxury of Oriental despotism.

[Footnote 51: Dion, l. lxxix. p. 1363. Herodian, l. v. p. 189.]

the Sun was worshipped at Emesa, under the name of Elagabalus, [52] and

under the form of a black conical stone, which, as it was universally believed, had fallen from heaven on that sacred place. To this

protecting deity, Antoninus, not without some reason, ascribed his elevation to the throne. The display of superstitious gratitude was the

only serious business of his reign. The triumph of the god of Emesa over all the religions of the earth, was the great object of his zeal and

vanity; and the appellation of Elagabalus (for he presumed as pontiff and favorite to adopt that sacred name) was dearer to him than all the titles of Imperial greatness. In a solemn procession through the streets

of Rome, the way was strewed with gold dust; the black stone, set in

precious gems, was placed on a chariot drawn by six milk-white horses

richly caparisoned. The pious emperor held the reins, and, supported by

his ministers, moved slowly backwards, that he might perpetually enjoy the felicity of the divine presence. In a magnificent temple raised on the Palatine Mount, the sacrifices of the god Elagabalus were celebrated with every circumstance of cost and solemnity. The richest wines, the

most extraordinary victims, and the rarest aromatics, were profusely consumed on his altar. Around the altar, a chorus of Syrian damsels

performed their lascivious dances to the sound of barbarian music, whilst the gravest personages of the state and army, clothed in long

Phoenician tunics, officiated in the meanest functions, with affected

zeal and secret indignation. [53]

[Footnote 52: This name is derived by the learned from two Syrian words, ela a God, and Gabal, to form, the forming or plastic god, a proper, and even happy epithet for the sun. Wotton's History of Rome, p. 378 Note: the name of Elagabalus has been disfigured in various ways. Herodian calls him; Lampridius, and the more modern writers, make him

Heliogabalus. Dion calls him Elegabalus; but Elegabalus was the true

name, as it appears on the medals. (Eckhel. de Doct. num. vet. t. vii.

p. 250.) As to its etymology, that which Gibbon adduces is given by Bochart, Chan. ii. 5; but Salmasius, on better grounds. (not. in

Lamprid. in Elagab.,) derives the name of Elagabalus from the idol

of that god, represented by Herodian and the medals in the form of a

mountain, (gibel in Hebrew,) or great stone cut to a point, with marks which represent the sun. As it was not permitted, at Hierapolis, in

Syria, to make statues of the sun and moon, because, it was said, they are themselves sufficiently visible, the sun was represented at Emesa

in the form of a great stone, which, as it appeared, had fallen from

heaven. Spanheim, Caesar. notes, p. 46.--G. The name of Elagabalus, in

"nummis rarius legetur." Rasche, Lex. Univ. Ref. Numm. Rasche quotes two.--M]

[Footnote 53: Herodian, l. v. p. 190.]

chapter VI: Death Of Severus, Tyranny Of Caracalla, Usurpation Of Marcinus.--Part III.

to this temple, as to the common centre of religious worship, the

Imperial fanatic attempted to remove the Ancilia, the Palladium, [54] and all the sacred pledges of the faith of Numa. A crowd of inferior deities attended in various stations the majesty of the god of Emesa; but his court was still imperfect, till a female of distinguished rank was admitted to his bed. Pallas had been first chosen for his consort; but as it was dreaded lest her warlike terrors might affright the soft delicacy of a Syrian deity, the Moon, adorned by the Africans under the

name of Astarte, was deemed a more suitable companion for the Sun. Her

image, with the rich offerings of her temple as a marriage portion, was transported with solemn pomp from Carthage to Rome, and the day of these

mystic nuptials was a general festival in the capital and throughout the empire. [55]

[Footnote 54: He broke into the sanctuary of Vesta, and carried away a

statue, which he supposed to be the palladium; but the vestals boasted that, by a pious fraud, they had imposed a counterfeit image on the

profane intruder. Hist. August., p. 103.]

[Footnote 55: Dion, l. lxxix. p. 1360. Herodian, l. v. p. 193. The

subjects of the empire were obliged to make liberal presents to the

new married couple; and whatever they had promised during the life of elagabalus was carefully exacted under the administration of Mamaea.]

a rational voluptuary adheres with invariable respect to the temperate dictates of nature, and improves the gratifications of sense by social

intercourse, endearing connections, and the soft coloring of taste and the imagination. But Elagabalus, (I speak of the emperor of that name,) corrupted by his youth, his country, and his fortune, abandoned himself to the grossest pleasures with ungoverned fury, and soon found disgust and satiety in the midst of his enjoyments. The inflammatory powers of art were summoned to his aid: the confused multitude of women, of wines, and of dishes, and the studied variety of attitude and sauces, served to revive his languid appetites. New terms and new inventions in these

sciences, the only ones cultivated and patronized by the monarch, [56]

signalized his reign, and transmitted his infamy to succeeding times. a capricious prodigality supplied the want of taste and elegance; and whilst Elagabalus lavished away the treasures of his people in the wildest extravagance, his own voice and that of his flatterers applauded a spirit of magnificence unknown to the tameness of his predecessors. to confound the order of seasons and climates, [57] to sport with the

passions and prejudices of his subjects, and to subvert every law of

nature and decency, were in the number of his most delicious amusements. a long train of concubines, and a rapid succession of wives, among whom was a vestal virgin, ravished by force from her sacred asylum, [58] were

insufficient to satisfy the impotence of his passions. The master of the

Roman world affected to copy the dress and manners of the female sex,

preferred the distaff to the sceptre, and dishonored the principal dignities of the empire by distributing them among his numerous lovers;

one of whom was publicly invested with the title and authority of the emperor's, or, as he more properly styled himself, of the empress's

husband. [59]

[Footnote 56: The invention of a new sauce was liberally rewarded; but

if it was not relished, the inventor was confined to eat of nothing else till he had discoveredanother more agreeable to the Imperial palate

Hist. August. p. 111.]

[Footnote 57: He never would eat sea-fish except at a great distance from the sea; he then would distribute vast quantities of the rarest

sorts, brought at an immense expense, to the peasants of the inland country. Hist. August. p. 109.]

[Footnote 58: Dion, l. lxxix. p. 1358. Herodian, l. v. p. 192.]

[Footnote 59: Hierocles enjoyed that honor; but he would have been

supplanted by one Zoticus, had he not contrived, by a potion, to enervate the powers of his rival, who, being found on trial unequal to his reputation, was driven with ignominy from the palace. Dion,

l. lxxix. p. 1363, 1364. A dancer was made praefect of the city, a charioteer praefect of the watch, a barber praefect of the provisions. these three ministers, with many inferior officers, were all recommended enormitate membrorum. Hist. August. p. 105.]

It may seem probable, the vices and follies of Elagabalus have been adorned by fancy, and blackened by prejudice. [60] Yet, confining

ourselves to the public scenes displayed before the Roman people, and attested by grave and contemporary historians, their inexpressible

infamy surpasses that of any other age or country. The license of an eastern monarch is secluded from the eye of curiosity by the

inaccessible walls of his seraglio. The sentiments of honor and

gallantry have introduced a refinement of pleasure, a regard for decency, and a respect for the public opinion, into the modern courts of europe; [601] but the corrupt and opulent nobles of Rome gratified every

vice that could be collected from the mighty conflux of nations and

manners. Secure of impunity, careless of censure, they lived without

restraint in the patient and humble society of their slaves and

parasites. The emperor, in his turn, viewing every rank of his subjects with the same contemptuous indifference, asserted without control his

sovereign privilege of lust and luxury.

[Footnote 60: Even the credulous compiler of his life, in the Augustan

History (p. 111) is inclined to suspect that his vices may have been exaggerated.]

[Footnote 601: Wenck has justly observed that Gibbon should have

reckoned the influence of Christianity in this great change. In the most

savage times, and the most corrupt courts, since the introduction of christianity there have been no Neros or Domitians, no Commodus or elagabalus.--M.]

the most worthless of mankind are not afraid to condemn

in others the same disorders which they allow in themselves; and can

readily discover some nice difference of age, character, or station, to

justify the partial distinction. The licentious soldiers, who had

raised to the throne the dissolute son of Caracalla, blushed at their

ignominious choice, and turned with disgust from that monster, to contemplate with pleasure the opening virtues of his cousin Alexander, the son of Mamaea. The crafty Maesa, sensible that her grandson elagabalus must inevitably destroy himself by his own vices, had

provided another and surer support of her family. Embracing a favorable

moment of fondness and devotion, she had persuaded the young emperor to adopt Alexander, and to invest him with the title of Caesar, that his

own divine occupations might be no longer interrupted by the care of the earth. In the second rank that amiable prince soon acquired the affections of the public, and excited the tyrant's jealousy, who

resolved to terminate the dangerous competition, either by corrupting the manners, or by taking away the life, of his rival. His arts proved

unsuccessful; his vain designs were constantly discovered by his own

loquacious folly, and disappointed by those virtuous and faithful

servants whom the prudence of Mamaea had placed about the person of

her son. In a hasty sally of passion, Elagabalus resolved to execute by force what he had been unable to compass by fraud, and by a despotic

sentence degraded his cousin from the rank and honors of Caesar. The

message was received in the senate with silence, and in the camp with fury. The Praetorian guards swore to protect Alexander, and to revenge the dishonored majesty of the throne. The tears and promises of the trembling Elagabalus, who only begged them to spare his life, and to

leave him in the possession of his beloved Hierocles, diverted their

just indignation; and they contented themselves with empowering their

praefects to watch over the safety of Alexander, and the conduct of the emperor. [61]

[Footnote 61: Dion, l. lxxix. p. 1365. Herodian, l. v. p. 195--201.

Hist. August. p. 105. The last of the three historians seems to have followed the best authors in his account of the revolution.]

It was impossible that such a reconciliation should last, or that even the mean soul of Elagabalus could hold an empire on such humiliating terms of dependence. He soon attempted, by a dangerous experiment, to try the temper of the soldiers. The report of the death of Alexander, and the natural suspicion that he had been murdered, inflamed their

passions into fury, and the tempest of the camp could only be appeased by the presence and authority of the popular youth. Provoked at this new

instance of their affection for his cousin, and their contempt for

his person, the emperor ventured to punish some of the leaders of the

mutiny. His unseasonable severity proved instantly fatal to his minions,

his mother, and himself. Elagabalus was massacred by the indignant

Praetorians, his mutilated corpse dragged through the streets of the city, and thrown into the Tiber. His memory was branded with eternal

infamy by the senate; the justice of whose decree has been ratified by

posterity. [62]

[See Island In The Tiber: Elagabalus was thrown into the Tiber]

[Footnote 62: The aera of the death of Elagabalus, and of the accession

of Alexander, has employed the learning and ingenuity of Pagi, tillemont, Valsecchi, Vignoli, and Torre, bishop of Adria. The question

is most assuredly intricate; but I still adhere to the authority of dion, the truth of whose calculations is undeniable, and the purity of whose text is justified by the agreement of Xiphilin, Zonaras, and cedrenus. Elagabalus reigned three years nine months and four days, from

his victory over Macrinus, and was killed March 10, 222. But what shall we reply to the medals, undoubtedly genuine, which reckon the fifth year

of his tribunitian power? We shall reply, with the learned Valsecchi, that the usurpation of Macrinus was annihilated, and that the son of caracalla dated his reign from his father's death? After resolving this

great difficulty, the smaller knots of this question may be easily

untied, or cut asunder. Note: This opinion of Valsecchi has been triumphantly contested by Eckhel, who has shown the impossibility of

reconciling it with the medals of Elagabalus, and has given the most

satisfactory explanation of the five tribunates of that emperor. He ascended the throne and received the tribunitian power the 16th of May,

in the year of Rome 971; and on the 1st January of the next year, 972,

he began a new tribunate, according to the custom established by

preceding emperors. During the years 972, 973, 974, he enjoyed the tribunate, and commenced his fifth in the year 975, during which he was

killed on the 10th March. Eckhel de Doct. Num. viii. 430 &c.--G.]

In the room of Elagabalus, his cousin Alexander was raised to the throne by the

Praetorian guards. His relation to the family of Severus, whose name

he assumed, was the same as that of his predecessor; his virtue and his danger had already endeared him to the Romans, and the eager liberality

of the senate conferred upon him, in one day, the various titles and

powers of the Imperial dignity. [63] But as Alexander was a modest and dutiful youth, of only seventeen years of age, the reins of government were in the hands of two women, of his mother, Mamaea, and of Maesa,

his grandmother. After the death of the latter, who survived but a short time the elevation of Alexander, Mamaea remained the sole regent of

her son and of the empire.

[Footnote 63: Hist. August. p. 114. By this unusual precipitation, the

senate meant to confound the hopes of pretenders, and prevent the factions of the armies.]

In every age and country, the wiser, or at least the stronger, of the two sexes, has usurped the powers of the state, and confined the other to the cares and pleasures of domestic life. In hereditary monarchies,

however, and especially in those of modern Europe, the gallant spirit of chivalry, and the law of succession, have accustomed us to allow a

singular exception; and a woman is often acknowledged the absolute

sovereign of a great kingdom, in which she would be deemed incapable of exercising the smallest employment, civil or military. But as the Roman emperors were still considered as the generals and magistrates of the

republic, their wives and mothers, although distinguished by the name of augusta were never associated to their personal honors; and a female

reign would have appeared an inexpiable prodigy in the eyes of those

primitive Romans, who married without love, or loved without delicacy and respect. [64] The haughty Agripina aspired, indeed, to share the

honors of the empire which she had conferred on her son; but her mad ambition, detested by every citizen who felt for the dignity of Rome, was disappointed by the artful firmness of Seneca and Burrhus. [65] The

good sense, or the indifference, of succeeding princes, restrained them from offending the prejudices of their subjects; and it was reserved for the profligate Elagabalus to discharge the acts of the senate with the

name of his mother Soaemias, who was placed by the side of the consuls, and subscribed, as a regular member, the decrees of the legislative assembly. Her more prudent sister, Mamaea, declined the useless and

odious prerogative, and a solemn law was enacted, excluding women forever from the senate, and devoting to the infernal gods the head of the wretch by whom this sanction should be violated. [66] The substance,

not the pageantry, of power. was the object of Mamaea's manly ambition.

She maintained an absolute and lasting empire over the mind of her son, and in his affection the mother could not brook a rival. Alexander, with

her consent, married the daughter of a patrician; but his respect for

his father-in-law, and love for the empress, were inconsistent with the tenderness of interest of Mamaea. The patrician was executed on the

ready accusation of treason, and the wife of Alexander driven with

ignominy from the palace, and banished into Africa. [67]

[Footnote 64: Metellus Numidicus, the censor, acknowledged to the Roman

people, in a public oration, that had kind nature allowed us to exist without the help of women, we should be delivered from a very troublesome companion; and he could recommend matrimony only as the

sacrifice of private pleasure to public duty. Aulus Gellius, i. 6.]

[Footnote 65: Tacit. Annal. xiii. 5.]

[Footnote 66: Hist. August. p. 102, 107.]

[Footnote 67: Dion, l. lxxx. p. 1369. Herodian, l. vi. p. 206. Hist. august. p. 131. Herodian represents the patrician as innocent. The augustian History, on the authority of Dexippus, condemns him, as guilty

of a conspiracy against the life of Alexander. It is impossible to

pronounce between them; but Dion is an irreproachable witness of the

jealousy and cruelty of Mamaea towards the young empress, whose hard fate Alexander lamented, but durst not oppose.]

Notwithstanding this act of jealous cruelty, as well as some instances

of avarice, with which Mamaea is charged, the general tenor of her administration was equally for the benefit of her son and of the empire. with the approbation of the senate, she chose sixteen of the wisest and

most virtuous senators as a perpetual council of state, before whom every public business of moment was debated and determined. The celebrated Ulpian, equally distinguished by his knowledge of, and his

respect for, the laws of Rome, was at their head; and the prudent firmness of this aristocracy restored order and authority to the

government. As soon as they had purged the city from foreign

superstition and luxury, the remains of the capricious tyranny of elagabalus, they applied themselves to remove his worthless creatures from every department of the public administration, and to supply their

places with men of virtue and ability. Learning, and the love of

justice, became the only recommendations for civil offices; valor, and the love of discipline, the only qualifications for military employments. [68]

[Footnote 68: Herodian, l. vi. p. 203. Hist. August. p. 119. The latter

insinuates, that when any law was to be passed, the council was assisted by a number of able lawyers and experienced senators, whose opinions were separately given, and taken down in writing.]

but the most

important care of Mamaea and her wise counsellors, was to form the character of the young emperor, on whose personal qualities the

happiness or misery of the Roman world must ultimately depend. The fortunate soil assisted, and even prevented, the hand of cultivation. an excellent understanding soon convinced Alexander of the advantages of

virtue, the pleasure of knowledge, and the necessity of labor. A natural

mildness and moderation of temper preserved him from the assaults of

passion, and the allurements of vice. His unalterable regard for his

mother, and his esteem for the wise Ulpian, guarded his unexperienced

youth from the poison of flattery. [581]

[Footnote 681: Alexander received into his chapel all the religions which prevailed in the empire; he admitted Jesus Christ, Abraham,

Orpheus, Apollonius of Tyana, &c. It was almost certain that his mother

Mamaea had instructed him in the morality of Christianity. Historians in

general agree in calling her a Christian; there is reason to believe that she had begun to have a taste for the principles of Christianity.

(See Tillemont, Alexander Severus) Gibbon has not noticed this circumstance; he appears to have wished to lower the character of this empress; he has throughout followed the narrative of Herodian, who, by the acknowledgment of Capitolinus himself, detested Alexander. Without believing the exaggerated praises of Lampridius, he ought not to have followed the unjust severity of Herodian, and, above all, not to have forgotten to say that the virtuous Alexander Severus had insured to the

Jews the preservation of their privileges, and permitted the exercise of christianity. Hist. Aug. p. 121. The Christians had established their worship in a public place, of which the victuallers (cauponarii) claimed, not the property, but possession by custom. Alexander answered, that it was better that the place should be used for the service of God,

in any form, than for victuallers.--G. I have scrupled to omit this

note, as it contains some points worthy of notice; but it is very unjust to Gibbon, who mentions almost all the circumstances, which he is accused of omitting, in another, and, according to his plan, a better

place, and, perhaps, in stronger terms than M. Guizot. See Chap. xvi.--

M.]

the simple journal of his ordinary occupations exhibits a pleasing

picture of an accomplished emperor, [69] and, with some allowance for the difference of manners, might well deserve the imitation of modern

princes. Alexander rose early: the first moments of the day were consecrated to private devotion, and his domestic chapel was filled with the images of those heroes, who, by improving or reforming human life,

had deserved the grateful reverence of posterity. But as he deemed the

service of mankind the most acceptable worship of the gods, the greatest

part of his morning hours was employed in his council, where he discussed public affairs, and determined private causes, with a patience and discretion above his years. The dryness of business was relieved by the charms of literature; and a portion of time was always set apart for

his favorite studies of poetry, history, and philosophy. The works of

Virgil and Horace, the republics of Plato and Cicero, formed his taste, enlarged his understanding, and gave him the noblest ideas of man and

government. The exercises of the body succeeded to those of the mind; and Alexander, who was tall, active, and robust, surpassed most of his equals in the gymnastic arts. Refreshed by the use of the bath and a

slight dinner, he resumed, with new vigor, the business of the day; and, till the hour of supper, the principal meal of the Romans, he was attended by his secretaries, with whom he read and answered the

multitude of letters, memorials, and petitions, that must have been addressed to the master of the greatest part of the world. His table was

served with the most frugal simplicity, and whenever he was at liberty to consult his own inclination, the company consisted of a few select friends, men of learning and virtue, amongst whom Ulpian was constantly

invited. Their conversation was familiar and instructive; and the pauses were occasionally enlivened by the recital of some pleasing composition, which supplied the place of the dancers, comedians, and even gladiators,

so frequently summoned to the tables of the rich and luxurious Romans.

[70] The dress of Alexander was plain and modest, his demeanor courteous and affable: at the proper hours his palace was open to all his

subjects, but the voice of a crier was heard, as in the Eleusinian

mysteries, pronouncing the same salutary admonition: "Let none enter these holy walls, unless he is conscious of a pure and innocent mind."

[71]

[Footnote 69: See his life in the Augustan History. The undistinguishing compiler has buried these interesting anecdotes under a load of trivial

unmeaning circumstances.]

[Footnote 70: See the 13th Satire of Juvenal.]

[Footnote 71: Hist. August. p. 119.]

Such a uniform tenor of life, which left not a moment for vice or folly, is a better

proof of the wisdom and justice of Alexander's government, than all the trifling details preserved in the compilation of Lampridius. Since the accession of Commodus, the Roman world had experienced, during the term

of forty years, the successive and various vices of four tyrants. From the death of Elagabalus, it enjoyed an auspicious calm of thirteen

years. [711] The provinces, relieved from the oppressive taxes invented by caracalla and his pretended son, flourished in peace and prosperity,

under the administration of magistrates, who were convinced by experience that to deserve the love of the subjects, was their best and

only method of obtaining the favor of their sovereign. While some gentle

restraints were imposed on the innocent luxury of the Roman people, the

price of provisions and the interest of money, were reduced by the

paternal care of Alexander, whose prudent liberality, without distressing the industrious, supplied the wants and amusements of the

populace. The dignity, the freedom, the authority of the senate was

restored; and every virtuous senator might approach the person of the emperor without a fear and without a blush.

[Footnote 711: Wenck observes that Gibbon, enchanted with the virtue of alexander has heightened, particularly in this sentence, its effect on the state of the world. His own account, which follows, of the

insurrections and foreign wars, is not in harmony with this beautiful

picture.--M.]

the name of Antoninus, ennobled by the virtues of Pius and Marcus, had been communicated by adoption to the dissolute Verus, and by descent to the cruel Commodus.

It became the honorable appellation of the sons of Severus, was bestowed

on young Diadumenianus, and at length prostituted to the infamy of the

high priest of Emesa. Alexander, though pressed by the studied, and,

perhaps, sincere importunity of the senate, nobly refused the borrowed

lustre of a name; whilst in his whole conduct he labored to restore the

glories and felicity of the age of the genuine Antonines. [72]

[Footnote 72: See, in the Hist. August. p. 116, 117, the whole contest between Alexander and the senate, extracted from the journals of that assembly. It happened on the sixth of March, probably of the year 223, when the Romans had enjoyed, almost a twelvemonth, the blessings of his

reign. Before the appellation of Antoninus was offered him as a title of

honor, the senate waited to see whether Alexander would not assume it as a family name.]

In the civil administration of Alexander, wisdom was enforced by power, and the people, sensible of the public felicity,

repaid their benefactor with their love and gratitude. There still

remained a greater, a more necessary, but a more difficult enterprise; the reformation of the military order, whose interest and temper, confirmed by long impunity, rendered them impatient of the restraints of discipline, and careless of the blessings of public tranquillity. In the execution of his design, the emperor affected to display his love, and to conceal his fear of the army. The most rigid economy in every other branch of the administration supplied a fund of gold and silver for the

ordinary pay and the extraordinary rewards of the troops. In their

marches he relaxed the severe obligation of carrying seventeen days'

provision on their shoulders. Ample magazines were formed along the

public roads, and as soon as they entered the enemy's country, a

numerous train of mules and camels waited on their haughty laziness. As alexander despaired of correcting the luxury of his soldiers, he attempted, at least, to direct it to objects of martial pomp and

ornament, fine horses, splendid armor, and shields enriched with silver and gold. He shared whatever fatigues he was obliged to impose, visited,

in person, the sick and wounded, preserved an exact register of their

services and his own gratitude, and expressed on every occasion, the warmest regard for a body of men, whose welfare, as he affected to declare, was so closely connected with that of the state. [73] By the

most gentle arts he labored to inspire the fierce multitude with a sense

of duty, and to restore at least a faint image of that discipline to which the Romans owed their empire over so many other nations, as warlike and more powerful than themselves. But his prudence was vain,

his courage fatal, and the attempt towards a reformation served only to

inflame the ills it was meant to cure.

[Footnote 73: It was a favorite saying of the emperor's Se milites magis

servare, quam seipsum, quod salus publica in his esset. Hist. Aug. p.

130.]

the Praetorian guards were attached to the youth of Alexander. They loved him as a tender

pupil, whom they had saved from a tyrant's fury, and placed on the

Imperial throne. That amiable prince was sensible of the obligation; but as his gratitude was restrained within the limits of reason and justice, they soon were more dissatisfied with the virtues of Alexander, than they had ever been with the vices of Elagabalus. Their praefect, the wise Ulpian, was the friend of the laws and of the people; he was considered as the enemy of the soldiers, and to his pernicious counsels every scheme of reformation was imputed. Some trifling accident blew up their discontent into a furious mutiny; and the civil war raged, during three days, in Rome, whilst the life of that excellent minister was defended by the grateful people. Terrified, at length, by the sight of

some houses in flames, and by the threats of a general conflagration, the people yielded with a sigh, and left the virtuous but unfortunate

Ulpian to his fate. He was pursued into the Imperial palace, and

massacred at the feet of his master, who vainly strove to cover him with the purple, and to obtain his pardon from the inexorable soldiers. [731]

Such was the deplorable weakness of government, that the emperor was

unable to revenge his murdered friend and his insulted dignity, without

stooping to the arts of patience and dissimulation. Epagathus, the

principal leader of the mutiny, was removed from Rome, by the honorable employment of praefect of Egypt: from that high rank he was gently degraded to the government of Crete; and when at length, his popularity among the guards was effaced by time and absence, Alexander ventured to

inflict the tardy but deserved punishment of his crimes. [74] Under the

reign of a just and virtuous prince, the tyranny of the army threatened with instant death his most faithful ministers, who were suspected of an

intention to correct their intolerable disorders. The historian Dion cassius had commanded the Pannonian legions with the spirit of ancient discipline. Their brethren of Rome, embracing the common cause of

military license, demanded the head of the reformer. Alexander, however,

instead of yielding to their seditious clamors, showed a just sense of

his merit and services, by appointing him his colleague in the consulship, and defraying from his own treasury the expense of that vain dignity: but as was justly apprehended, that if the soldiers beheld him with the ensigns of his office, they would revenge the insult in his blood, the nominal first magistrate of the state retired, by the emperor's advice, from the city, and spent the greatest part of his consulship at his villas in Campania. [75] [751]

[Footnote 731: Gibbon has confounded two events altogether different-- the quarrel of the people with the Praetorians, which lasted three days, and the assassination of Ulpian by the latter. Dion relates first the death of Ulpian, afterwards, reverting back according to a manner which

is usual with him, he says that during the life of Ulpian, there had been a war of three days between the Praetorians and the people. But

Ulpian was not the cause. Dion says, on the contrary, that it was

occasioned by some unimportant circumstance; whilst he assigns a weighty

reason for the murder of Ulpian, the judgment by which that Praetorian

praefect had condemned his predecessors, Chrestus and Flavian, to death, whom the soldiers wished to revenge. Zosimus (l. 1, c. xi.) attributes this sentence to Mamaera; but, even then, the troops might have imputed

it to Ulpian, who had reaped all the advantage and was otherwise odious to them.--W.]

[Footnote 74: Though the author of the life of Alexander (Hist. August.

p. 182) mentions the sedition raised against Ulpian by the soldiers, he conceals the catastrophe, as it might discover a weakness in the administration of his hero. From this designed omission, we may judge of the weight and candor of that author.]

[Footnote 75: For an account of Ulpian's fate and his own danger, see the mutilated conclusion of Dion's History, l. lxxx. p. 1371.]

[Footnote 751: Dion possessed no estates in Campania, and was not rich.

He only says that the emperor advised him to reside, during his consulate, in some place out of Rome; that he returned to Rome after the end of his consulate, and had an interview with the emperor in Campania.

He asked and obtained leave to pass the rest of his life in his native city, (Nice, in Bithynia: ) it was there that he finished his history, which closes with his second consulship.--W.]

chapter VI: Death Of Severus, Tyranny Of Caracalla, Usurpation Of Marcinus.--Part IV.

the lenity of the emperor confirmed the insolence of the troops; the legions imitated the example of the guards, and defended their

prerogative of licentiousness with the same furious obstinacy. The administration of Alexander was an unavailing struggle against the corruption of his age. In llyricum, in Mauritania, in Armenia, in

Mesopotamia, in Germany, fresh mutinies perpetually broke out; his

officers were murdered, his authority was insulted, and his life at last

sacrificed to the fierce discontents of the army. [76] One particular fact well deserves to be recorded, as it illustrates the manners of the troops, and exhibits a singular instance of their return to a sense of duty and obedience. Whilst the emperor lay at Antioch, in his Persian expedition, the particulars of which we shall hereafter relate, the

punishment of some soldiers, who had been discovered in the baths

of women, excited a sedition in the legion to which they belonged. alexander ascended his tribunal, and with a modest firmness represented to the armed multitude the absolute necessity, as well as his

inflexible resolution, of correcting the vices introduced by his impure

predecessor, and of maintaining the discipline, which could not be

relaxed without the ruin of the Roman name and empire. Their clamors

interrupted his mild expostulation. "Reserve your shout," said the

undaunted emperor, "till you take the field against the Persians, the

Germans, and the Sarmatians. Be silent in the presence of your sovereign and benefactor, who bestows upon you the corn, the clothing, and the

money of the provinces. Be silent, or I shall no longer style you

solders, but citizens, [77] if those indeed who disclaim the laws of

Rome deserve to be ranked among the meanest of the people." His menaces

inflamed the fury of the legion, and their brandished arms already threatened his person. "Your courage," resumed the intrepid Alexander,

"would be more nobly displayed in the field of battle; me you may destroy, you cannot intimidate; and the severe justice of the republic would punish your crime and revenge my death." The legion still

persisted in clamorous sedition, when the emperor pronounced, with a cud

voice, the decisive sentence, "Citizens! lay down your arms, and depart

in peace to your respective habitations." The tempest was instantly appeased: the soldiers, filled with grief and shame, silently confessed the justice of their punishment, and the power of discipline, yielded up their arms and military ensigns, and retired in confusion, not to their camp, but to the several inns of the city. Alexander enjoyed, during thirty days, the edifying spectacle of their repentance; nor did he

restore them to their former rank in the army, till he had punished with death those tribunes whose connivance had occasioned the mutiny. The

grateful legion served the emperor whilst living, and revenged him when dead. [78]

[Footnote 76: Annot. Reimar. ad Dion Cassius, l. lxxx. p. 1369.]

[Footnote 77: Julius Caesar had appeased a sedition with the same word,

Quirites; which, thus opposed to soldiers, was used in a sense of contempt, and reduced the offenders to the less honorable condition of

mere citizens. Tacit. Annal. i. 43.]

[Footnote 78: Hist. August. p. 132.]

the resolutions of the multitude generally depend on a moment; and the caprice of passion might equally determine the seditious legion to

lay down their arms at the emperor's feet, or to plunge them into his breast. Perhaps, if this singular transaction had been investigated by the penetration of a philosopher, we should discover the secret causes which on that occasion authorized the boldness of the prince, and commanded the obedience of the troops; and perhaps, if it had been

related by a judicious historian, we should find this action, worthy

of Caesar himself, reduced nearer to the level of probability and the common standard of the character of Alexander Severus. The abilities of that amiable prince seem to have been inadequate to the difficulties of

his situation, the firmness of his conduct inferior to the purity of his

intentions. His virtues, as well as the vices of Elagabalus, contracted a tincture of weakness and effeminacy from the soft climate of Syria,

of which he was a native; though he blushed at his foreign origin, and

listened with a vain complacency to the flattering genealogists, who derived his race from the ancient stock of Roman nobility. [79] The pride and avarice of his mother cast a shade on the glories of his reign; an by exacting from his riper years the same dutiful obedience which she

had justly claimed from his unexperienced youth, Mamaea exposed to

public ridicule both her son's character and her own. [80] The fatigues

of the Persian war irritated the military discontent; the unsuccessful event [801] degraded the reputation of the emperor as a general, and even as a soldier. Every cause prepared, and every circumstance hastened, a revolution, which distracted the Roman empire with a long series of

intestine calamities.

[Footnote 79: From the Metelli. Hist. August. p. 119. The choice was

judicious. In one short period of twelve years, the Metelli could reckon

seven consulships and five triumphs. See Velleius Paterculus, ii. 11, and the Fasti.]

[Footnote 80: The life of Alexander, in the Augustan History, is the

mere idea of a perfect prince, an awkward imitation of the Cyropaedia. the account of his reign, as given by Herodian, is rational and

moderate, consistent with the general history of the age; and, in some

of the most invidious particulars, confirmed by the decisive fragments

of Dion. Yet from a very paltry prejudice, the greater number of our

modern writers abuse Herodian, and copy the Augustan History. See Mess de Tillemont and Wotton. From the opposite prejudice, the emperor

Julian (in Caesarib. p. 315) dwells with a visible satisfaction on the effeminate weakness of the Syrian, and the ridiculous avarice of his

mother.]

[Footnote 801: Historians are divided as to the success of the campaign against the Persians; Herodian alone speaks of defeat. Lampridius, eutropius, Victor, and others, say that it was very glorious to alexander; that he beat Artaxerxes in a great battle, and repelled him from the frontiers of the empire. This much is certain, that Alexander,

on his return to Rome, (Lamp. Hist. Aug. c. 56, 133, 134,) received the

honors of a triumph, and that he said, in his oration to the people.

Quirites, vicimus Persas, milites divites reduximus, vobis congiarium

pollicemur, cras ludos circenses Persicos donabimus. Alexander, says eckhel, had too much modesty and wisdom to permit himself to receive

honors which ought only to be the reward of victory, if he had not deserved them; he would have contented himself with dissembling his

losses. Eckhel, Doct. Num. vet. vii. 276. The medals represent him as in triumph; one, among others, displays him crowned by Victory between two

rivers, the Euphrates and the Tigris. P. M. TR. P. xii. Cos. iii. PP.

Imperator paludatus D. hastam. S. parazonium, stat inter duos fluvios

humi jacentes, et ab accedente retro Victoria coronatur. Ae. max. mod.

(Mus. Reg. Gall.) Although Gibbon treats this question more in detail when he speaks of the Persian monarchy, I have thought fit to place here what contradicts his opinion.--G]

the dissolute tyranny of Commodus, the civil wars occasioned by his death, and the new maxims of policy introduced by the house of Severus,

had all contributed to increase the dangerous power of the army, and to

obliterate the faint image of laws and liberty that was still impressed

on the minds of the Romans. The internal change, which undermined the foundations of the empire, we have endeavored to explain with some degree of order and perspicuity. The personal characters of the emperors, their victories, laws, follies, and fortunes, can interest us

no farther than as they are connected with the general history of the decline and Fall of the monarchy. Our constant attention to that

great object will not suffer us to overlook a most important edict of antoninus Caracalla, which communicated to all the free inhabitants

of the empire the name and privileges of Roman citizens. His unbounded

liberality flowed not, however, from the sentiments of a generous mind;

it was the sordid result of avarice, and will naturally be illustrated by some observations on the finances of that state, from the victorious ages of the commonwealth to the reign of Alexander Severus. The siege

of Veii in Tuscany, the first considerable enterprise of the Romans, was protracted to the tenth year, much less by the strength of the place than by the unskillfulness of the besiegers. The unaccustomed hardships

of so many winter campaigns, at the distance of near twenty miles from

home, [81] required more than common encouragements; and the senate wisely prevented the clamors of the people, by the institution of a

regular pay for the soldiers, which was levied by a general tribute, assessed according to an equitable proportion on the property of the citizens. [82] During more than two hundred years after the conquest of

Veii, the victories of the republic added less to the wealth than to the power of Rome. The states of Italy paid their tribute in military

service only, and the vast force, both by sea and land, which was exerted in the Punic wars, was maintained at the expense of the Romans themselves. That high-spirited people (such is often the generous enthusiasm of freedom) cheerfully submitted to the most excessive but

voluntary burdens, in the just confidence that they should speedily enjoy the rich harvest of their labors. Their expectations were not disappointed. In the course of a few years, the riches of Syracuse, of carthage, of Macedonia, and of Asia, were brought in triumph to Rome. the treasures of Perseus alone amounted to near two millions sterling, and the Roman people, the sovereign of so many nations, was forever delivered from the weight of taxes. [83] The increasing revenue of the

provinces was found sufficient to defray the ordinary establishment

of war and government, and the superfluous mass of gold and silver was deposited in the temple of Saturn, and reserved for any unforeseen emergency of the state. [84]

[Footnote 81: According to the more accurate Dionysius, the city itself was only a hundred stadia, or twelve miles and a half, from Rome, though some out-posts might be advanced farther on the side of Etruria.

Nardini, in a professed treatise, has combated the popular opinion and the authority of two popes, and has removed Veii from Civita Castellana, to a little spot called Isola, in the midway between Rome and the Lake bracianno. \* Note: See the interesting account of the site and ruins of

Veii in Sir W Gell's topography of Rome and its Vicinity. v. ii. p.

303.--M.]

[Footnote 82: See the 4th and 5th books of Livy. In the Roman census,

property, power, and taxation were commensurate with each other.]

[Footnote 83: Plin. Hist. Natur. l. xxxiii. c. 3. Cicero de Offic. ii.

22. Plutarch, P. Aemil. p. 275.]

[Footnote 84: See a fine description of this accumulated wealth of ages

in Phars. l. iii. v. 155, &c.]

History has never, perhaps, suffered a greater or more irreparable

injury than in the loss of the curious register [841] bequeathed by augustus to the senate, in which that experienced prince so accurately balanced the revenues and expenses of the Roman empire. [85] Deprived of this clear and comprehensive estimate, we are reduced to collect a few

imperfect hints from such of the ancients as have accidentally turned aside from the splendid to the more useful parts of history. We are

informed that, by the conquests of Pompey, the tributes of Asia were

raised from fifty to one hundred and thirty-five millions of drachms; or about four millions and a half sterling. [86] [861] Under the last and most

indolent of the Ptolemies, the revenue of Egypt is said to have amounted to twelve thousand five hundred talents; a sum equivalent to more than two millions and a half of our money, but which was afterwards considerably improved by the more exact economy of the Romans, and the

increase of the trade of Aethiopia and India. [87] Gaul was enriched by

rapine, as Egypt was by commerce, and the tributes of those two great

provinces have been compared as nearly equal to each other in value.

[88] The ten thousand Euboic or Phoenician talents, about four millions

sterling, [89] which vanquished Carthage was condemned to pay within the term of fifty years, were a slight acknowledgment of the superiority of

Rome, [90] and cannot bear the least proportion with the taxes afterwards

raised both on the lands and on the persons of the inhabitants, when the fertile coast of Africa was reduced into a province. [91]

[Footnote 841: See Rationarium imperii. Compare besides Tacitus, Suet. aug. c. ult. Dion, p. 832. Other emperors kept and published similar

registers. See a dissertation of Dr. Wolle, de Rationario imperii Rom.

Leipsig, 1773. The last book of Appian also contained the statistics of the Roman empire, but it is lost.--W.]

[Footnote 85: Tacit. in Annal. i. ll. It seems to have existed in the time of Appian.]

[Footnote 86: Plutarch, in Pompeio, p. 642.]

[Footnote 861: Wenck contests the accuracy of Gibbon's version of Plutarch, and supposes that Pompey only raised the revenue from 50,000,000 to

85,000,000 of drachms; but the text of Plutarch seems clearly to mean that his conquests added 85,000,000 to the ordinary revenue. Wenck adds,

"Plutarch says in another part, that Antony made Asia pay, at one time,

200,000 talents, that is to say, 38,875,000 L. sterling." But Appian explains this by saying that it was the revenue of ten years, which brings the annual revenue, at the time of Antony, to 3,875,000 L.

sterling.--M.]

[Footnote 87: Strabo, l. xvii. p. 798.]

[Footnote 88: Velleius Paterculus, l. ii. c. 39. He seems to give the

preference to the revenue of Gaul.]

[Footnote 89: The Euboic, the Phoenician, and the Alexandrian talents were double in weight to the Attic. See Hooper on ancient weights and

measures, p. iv. c. 5. It is very probable that the same talent was carried from Tyre to Carthage.]

[Footnote 90: Polyb. l. xv. c. 2.]

[Footnote 91: Appian in Punicis, p. 84.]

Spain, by a very singular fatality, was the Peru and Mexico of the old world. The discovery of the rich western continent by the Phoenicians, and the oppression of the simple natives, who were compelled to labor in their own mines for the benefit of strangers, form an exact type of the more recent history of Spanish America. [92] The Phoenicians were acquainted only with the sea-coast of Spain; avarice, as well as ambition, carried the arms of Rome and Carthage into the heart of the country, and almost every part of the soil was found pregnant with copper, silver, and gold. [921] Mention is made of a mine near Carthagena which yielded every day twenty-five thousand drachmns of silver, or about three hundred thousand pounds a year. [93] Twenty thousand pound weight of gold was annually received from the provinces of Asturia,

Gallicia, and Lusitania. [94]

[Footnote 92: Diodorus Siculus, l. 5. Oadiz was built by the Phoenicians a little more than a thousand years before Christ. See Vell. Pa ter.

i.2.]

[Footnote 921: Compare Heeren's Researches vol. i. part ii. p.]

[Footnote 93: Strabo, l. iii. p. 148.]

[Footnote 94: Plin. Hist. Natur. l. xxxiii. c. 3. He mentions likewise a silver mine in Dalmatia, that yielded every day fifty pounds to the state.] We want both leisure and materials to pursue this curious

inquiry through the many potent states that were annihilated in the

Roman empire. Some notion, however, may be formed of the revenue of the

provinces where considerable wealth had been deposited by nature, or collected by man, if we observe the severe attention that was directed to the abodes of solitude and sterility. Augustus once received a

petition from the inhabitants of Gyarus, humbly praying that they might be relieved from one third of their excessive impositions. Their whole tax amounted indeed to no more than one hundred and fifty drachms, or about five pounds: but Gyarus was a little island, or rather a rock, of the Aegean Sea, destitute of fresh water and every necessary of life, and inhabited only by a few wretched fishermen. [95]

[Footnote 95: Strabo, l. x. p. 485. Tacit. Annal. iu. 69, and iv. 30.

See Tournefort (Voyages au Levant, Lettre viii.) a very lively picture

of the actual misery of Gyarus.]

from the faint glimmerings of such doubtful and scattered lights, we

should be inclined to believe, 1st, That (with every fair allowance for the differences of times and circumstances) the general income of the

Roman provinces could seldom amount to less than fifteen or twenty

millions of our money; [96] and, 2dly, That so ample a revenue must

have been fully adequate to all the expenses of the moderate government

instituted by Augustus, whose court was the modest family of a private

senator, and whose military establishment was calculated for the defence

of the frontiers, without any aspiring views of conquest, or any serious apprehension of a foreign invasion.

[Footnote 96: Lipsius de magnitudine Romana (l. ii. c. 3) computes the

revenue at one hundred and fifty millions of gold crowns; but his whole book, though learned and ingenious, betrays a very heated imagination.

Note: If Justus Lipsius has exaggerated the revenue of the Roman empire

Gibbon, on the other hand, has underrated it. He fixes it at fifteen

or twenty millions of our money. But if we take only, on a moderate calculation, the taxes in the provinces which he has already cited, they will amount, considering the augmentations made by Augustus, to nearly that sum. There remain also the provinces of Italy, of Rhaetia, of

Noricum, Pannonia, and Greece, &c., &c. Let us pay attention, besides, to the prodigious expenditure of some emperors, (Suet. Vesp. 16;) we

shall see that such a revenue could not be sufficient. The authors of the Universal History, part xii., assign forty millions sterling as the

sum to about which the public revenue might amount.--G. from W.]

Notwithstanding the seeming probability of both these conclusions, the latter of them at least is positively disowned by the language and conduct of Augustus. It is not easy to determine whether, on this

occasion, he acted as the common father of the Roman world, or as the

oppressor of liberty; whether he wished to relieve the provinces, or to impoverish the senate and the equestrian order. But no sooner had

he assumed the reins of government, than he frequently intimated the

insufficiency of the tributes, and the necessity of throwing an equitable proportion of the public burden upon Rome and Italy. [961] In the prosecution of this unpopular design, he advanced, however, by cautious and well-weighed steps. The introduction of customs was followed by the establishment of an excise, and the scheme of taxation was completed by an artful assessment on the real and personal property

of the Roman citizens, who had been exempted from any kind of contribution above a century and a half.

[Footnote 961: It is not astonishing that Augustus held this language. The senate declared also under Nero, that the state could

not exist without the imposts as well augmented as founded by Augustus. tac. Ann. xiii. 50. After the abolition of the different tributes paid by Italy, an abolition which took place A. U. 646, 694, and 695, the

state derived no revenues from that great country, but the twentieth

part of the manumissions, (vicesima manumissionum,) and Ciero laments this in many places, particularly in his epistles to ii. 15.--G. from w.]

I. In a great empire like that of Rome, a natural balance of money must

have gradually established itself. It has been already observed, that as the wealth of the provinces was attracted to the capital by the strong

hand of conquest and power, so a considerable part of it was restored to the industrious provinces by the gentle influence of commerce and arts.

In the reign of Augustus and his successors, duties were imposed on every kind of merchandise, which through a thousand channels flowed to the great centre of opulence and luxury; and in whatsoever manner the

law was expressed, it was the Roman purchaser, and not the provincial

merchant, who paid the tax. [97] The rate of the customs varied from the eighth to the fortieth part of the value of the commodity; and we have a right to suppose that the variation was directed by the unalterable

maxims of policy; that a higher duty was fixed on the articles of

luxury than on those of necessity, and that the productions raised or

manufactured by the labor of the subjects of the empire were treated with more indulgence than was shown to the pernicious, or at least the

unpopular commerce of Arabia and India. [98] There is still extant a long but imperfect catalogue of eastern commodities, which about the time

of Alexander Severus were subject to the payment of duties; cinnamon,

myrrh, pepper, ginger, and the whole tribe of aromatics a great variety

of precious stones, among which the diamond was the most remarkable for

its price, and the emerald for its beauty; [99] Parthian and Babylonian

leather, cottons, silks, both raw and manufactured, ebony ivory, and eunuchs. [100] We may observe that the use and value of those effeminate

slaves gradually rose with the decline of the empire.

[Footnote 97: Tacit. Annal. xiii. 31. \* Note: The customs (portoria) existed in the times of the ancient kings of Rome. They were suppressed

in Italy, A. U. 694, by the Praetor, Cecilius Matellus Nepos. Augustus

only reestablished them. See note above.--W.]

[Footnote 98: See Pliny, (Hist. Natur. l. vi. c. 23, lxii. c. 18.) His

observation that the Indian commodities were sold at Rome at a hundred times their original price, may give us some notion of the produce of the customs, since that original price amounted to more than eight

hundred thousand pounds.]

[Footnote 99: The ancients were unacquainted with the art of cutting diamonds.]

[Footnote 100: M. Bouchaud, in his treatise de l'Impot chez les

Romains, has transcribed this catalogue from the Digest, and attempts to

illustrate it by a very prolix commentary. \* Note: In the Pandects, l.

39, t. 14, de Publican. Compare Cicero in Verrem. c. 72--74.--W.]

II. The excise, introduced by Augustus after the civil wars, was extremely moderate, but it was general. It seldom exceeded one per cent.; but it comprehended whatever was sold in the markets or by public auction, from the most considerable purchases of lands and houses, to those minute objects which can only derive a value from their infinite

multitude and daily consumption. Such a tax, as it affects the body

of the people, has ever been the occasion of clamor and discontent. An emperor well acquainted with the wants and resources of the state was

obliged to declare, by a public edict, that the support of the army depended in a great measure on the produce of the excise. [101]

[Footnote 101: Tacit. Annal. i. 78. Two years afterwards, the reduction

of the poor kingdom of Cappadocia gave Tiberius a pretence for diminishing the excise of one half, but the relief was of very short duration.]

III. When Augustus resolved to establish a permanent military force for the defence of his government against foreign and domestic enemies, he instituted a peculiar treasury for the pay of the soldiers, the rewards of the veterans, and the extra-ordinary expenses of war. the ample revenue of the excise, though peculiarly appropriated to those uses, was found inadequate. To supply the deficiency, the emperor

suggested a new tax of five per cent. on all legacies and inheritances. but the nobles of Rome were more tenacious of property than of freedom. their indignant murmurs were received by Augustus with his usual temper.

He candidly referred the whole business to the senate, and exhorted them to provide for the public service by some other expedient of a less

odious nature. They were divided and perplexed. He insinuated to them, that their obstinacy would oblige him to propose a general land tax and capitation. They acquiesced in silence. [102]. The new imposition on

legacies and inheritances was, however, mitigated by some restrictions.

It did not take place unless the object was of a certain value, most

probably of fifty or a hundred pieces of gold; [103] nor could it be exacted from the nearest of kin on the father's side. [104] When the

rights of nature and poverty were thus secured, it seemed reasonable, that a stranger, or a distant relation, who acquired an unexpected accession of fortune, should cheerfully resign a twentieth part of it, for the benefit of the state. [105]

[Footnote 102: Dion Cassius, l. lv. p. 794, l. lvi. p. 825. Note: Dion

neither mentions this proposition nor the capitation. He only says that the emperor imposed a tax upon landed property, and sent every where

men employed to make a survey, without fixing how much, and for how much each was to pay. The senators then preferred giving the tax on legacies and inheritances.--W.]

[Footnote 103: The sum is only fixed by conjecture.]

[Footnote 104: As the Roman law subsisted for many ages, the Cognati, or

relations on the mother's side, were not called to the succession. This

harsh institution was gradually undermined by humanity, and finally abolished by Justinian.]

[Footnote 105: Plin. Panegyric. c. 37.]

Such a tax, plentiful as it must prove in every wealthy community, was

most happily suited to the situation of the Romans, who could frame their arbitrary wills, according to the dictates of reason or caprice, without any restraint from the modern fetters of entails and

settlements. From various causes, the partiality of paternal affection

often lost its influence over the stern patriots of the commonwealth, and the dissolute nobles of the empire; and if the father bequeathed to

his son the fourth part of his estate, he removed all ground of legal complaint. [106] But a rich childish old man was a domestic tyrant, and

his power increased with his years and infirmities. A servile crowd, in which he frequently reckoned praetors and consuls, courted his smiles,

pampered his avarice, applauded his follies, served his passions, and waited with impatience for his death. The arts of attendance and flattery were formed into a most lucrative science; those who professed

it acquired a peculiar appellation; and the whole city, according to the lively descriptions of satire, was divided between two parties, the

hunters and their game. [107] Yet, while so many unjust and extravagant wills were every day dictated by cunning and subscribed by folly, a few were the result of rational esteem and virtuous gratitude. Cicero, who

had so often defended the lives and fortunes of his fellow-citizens, was

rewarded with legacies to the amount of a hundred and seventy thousand

pounds; [108] nor do the friends of the younger Pliny seem to have been

less generous to that amiable orator. [109] Whatever was the motive of the testator, the treasury claimed, without distinction, the twentieth

part of his estate: and in the course of two or three generations, the whole property of the subject must have gradually passed through the coffers of the state.

[Footnote 106: See Heineccius in the Antiquit. Juris Romani, l. ii.]

[Footnote 107: Horat. l. ii. Sat. v. Potron. c. 116, &c. Plin. l. ii. epist. 20.]

[Footnote 108: Cicero in Philip. ii. c. 16.]

[Footnote 109: See his epistles. Every such will gave him an occasion of displaying his reverence to the dead, and his justice to the living. He

reconciled both in his behavior to a son who had been disinherited by

his mother, (v.l.)]

In the first and golden years of the reign of Nero, that prince, from a desire of popularity, and perhaps from a blind impulse of benevolence, conceived a wish of abolishing the oppression of the customs and excise. the wisest senators applauded his magnanimity: but they diverted him from the execution of a design which would have dissolved the strength and resources of the republic. [110] Had it indeed been possible to

realize this dream of fancy, such princes as Trajan and the Antonines would surely have embraced with ardor the glorious opportunity of conferring so signal an obligation on mankind. Satisfied, however, with alleviating the public burden, they attempted not to remove it. The

mildness and precision of their laws ascertained the rule and measure

of taxation, and protected the subject of every rank against arbitrary

interpretations, antiquated claims, and the insolent vexation of the farmers of the revenue. [111] For it is somewhat singular, that, in every age, the best and wisest of the Roman governors persevered in this

pernicious method of collecting the principal branches at least of the excise and customs. [112]

[Footnote 110: Tacit. Annal. xiii. 50. Esprit des Loix, l. xii. c. 19.]

[Footnote 111: See Pliny's Panegyric, the Augustan History, and Burman de Vectigal. passim.]

[Footnote 112: The tributes (properly so called) were not farmed; since the good princes often remitted many millions of arrears.]

the sentiments, and, indeed, the situation, of Caracalla were very different from those of the Antonines. Inattentive, or rather averse, to the welfare of his people, he found himself under the necessity of

gratifying the insatiate avarice which he had excited in the army.

Of the several impositions introduced by Augustus, the twentieth on

inheritances and legacies was the most fruitful, as well as the most comprehensive. As its influence was not confined to Rome or Italy, the

produce continually increased with the gradual extension of the Roman city. The new citizens, though charged, on equal terms, [113] with the

payment of new taxes, which had not affected them as subjects, derived an ample compensation from the rank they obtained, the privileges they acquired, and the fair prospect of honors and fortune that was thrown

open to their ambition. But the favor which implied a distinction was

lost in the prodigality of Caracalla, and the reluctant provincials were compelled to assume the vain title, and the real obligations, of Roman citizens. [1131] Nor was the rapacious son of Severus contented with such a measure of taxation as had appeared sufficient to his moderate

predecessors. Instead of a twentieth, he exacted a tenth of all legacies and inheritances; and during his reign (for the ancient proportion was

restored after his death) he crushed alike every part of the empire

under the weight of his iron sceptre. [114]

[Footnote 113: The situation of the new citizens is minutely described by Pliny, (Panegyric, c. 37, 38, 39). Trajan published a law very much

in their favor.]

[Footnote 1131: Gibbon has adopted the opinion of Spanheim and of Burman, which attributes to Caracalla this edict, which gave the right of the city to all the inhabitants of the provinces. This opinion may be disputed. Several passages of Spartianus, of Aurelius Victor, and of aristides, attribute this edict to Marc. Aurelius. See a learned essay, entitled Joh. P. Mahneri Comm. de Marc. Aur. Antonino Constitutionis de civitate Universo Orbi Romano data auctore. Halae, 1772, 8vo. It appears that Marc. Aurelius made some modifications of this edict, which

released the provincials from some of the charges imposed by the right

of the city, and deprived them of some of the advantages which it conferred. Caracalla annulled these modifications.--W.]

[Footnote 114: Dion, l. lxxvii. p. 1295.]

when all the provincials became liable to the peculiar impositions

of Roman citizens, they seemed to acquire a legal exemption from the tributes which they had paid in their former condition of subjects. Such were not the maxims of government adopted by Caracalla and his pretended

son. The old as well as the new taxes were, at the same time, levied in the provinces. It was reserved for the virtue of Alexander to relieve them in a great measure from this intolerable grievance, by reducing the tributes to a thirteenth part of the sum exacted at the time of his accession. [115] It is impossible to conjecture the motive that engaged

him to spare so trifling a remnant of the public evil; but the noxious weed, which had not been totally eradicated, again sprang up with the

most luxuriant growth, and in the succeeding age darkened the Roman world with its deadly shade. In the course of this history, we shall be too often summoned to explain the land tax, the capitation, and the

heavy contributions of corn, wine, oil, and meat, which were exacted from the provinces for the use of the court, the army, and the capital.

[Footnote 115: He who paid ten aurei, the usual tribute, was charged with no more than the third part of an aureus, and proportional pieces

of gold were coined by Alexander's order. Hist. August. p. 127, with the commentary of Salmasius.]

as long as Rome and Italy were respected as the centre of government, a

national spirit was preserved by the ancient, and insensibly imbibed by the adopted, citizens. The principal commands of the army were filled by men who had received a liberal education, were well instructed in the advantages of laws and letters, and who had risen, by equal steps, through the regular succession of civil and military honors. [116] To their influence and example we may partly ascribe the modest obedience

of the legions during the two first centuries of the Imperial history.

[Footnote 116: See the lives of Agricola, Vespasian, Trajan, Severus, and his three competitors; and indeed of all the eminent men of those times. But when the last enclosure of the Roman constitution was trampled down by Caracalla, the separation of professions gradually

succeeded to the distinction of ranks. The more polished citizens of the internal provinces were alone qualified to act as lawyers and

magistrates. The rougher trade of arms was abandoned to the peasants and barbarians of the frontiers, who knew no country but their camp, no

science but that of war no civil laws, and scarcely those of

military discipline. With bloody hands, savage manners, and desperate

resolutions, they sometimes guarded, but much oftener subverted, the throne of the emperors.]

chapter VII: Tyranny Of Maximin, Rebellion, Civil Wars, Death Of Maximin.--Part I.

The Elevation And Tyranny Of Maximin.--Rebellion In Africa

And Italy, Under The Authority Of The Senate.--Civil Wars

And Seditions.--Violent Deaths Of Maximin And His Son, Of

Maximus And Balbinus, And Of The Three Gordians.--

Usurpation And Secular Games Of Philip.

Of the various forms of government which have prevailed in the world, an

hereditary monarchy seems to present the fairest scope for ridicule. Is

it possible to relate without an indignant smile, that, on the father's decease, the property of a nation, like that of a drove of oxen, descends to his infant son, as yet unknown to mankind and to himself; and that the bravest warriors and the wisest statesmen, relinquishing their natural right to empire, approach the royal cradle with bended

knees and protestations of inviolable fidelity? Satire and declamation

may paint these obvious topics in the most dazzling colors, but our more

serious thoughts will respect a useful prejudice, that establishes a

rule of succession, independent of the passions of mankind; and we shall cheerfully acquiesce in any expedient which deprives the multitude

of the dangerous, and indeed the ideal, power of giving themselves a

master.

In the cool shade of retirement, we may easily devise imaginary forms

of government, in which the sceptre shall be constantly bestowed on the

most worthy, by the free and incorrupt suffrage of the whole community. experience overturns these airy fabrics, and teaches us, that in a large

society, the election of a monarch can never devolve to the wisest, or to the most numerous part of the people. The army is the only order of

men sufficiently united to concur in the same sentiments, and powerful enough to impose them on the rest of their fellow-citizens; but the temper of soldiers, habituated at once to violence and to slavery,

renders them very unfit guardians of a legal, or even a civil constitution. Justice, humanity, or political wisdom, are qualities they are too little acquainted with in themselves, to appreciate them

in others. Valor will acquire their esteem, and liberality will purchase their suffrage; but the first of these merits is often lodged in the

most savage breasts; the latter can only exert itself at the expense of the public; and both may be turned against the possessor of the throne, by the ambition of a daring rival.

the superior prerogative of birth, when it has obtained the sanction

of time and popular opinion, is the plainest and least invidious of all distinctions among mankind. The acknowledged right extinguishes the

hopes of faction, and the conscious security disarms the cruelty of the monarch. To the firm establishment of this idea we owe the peaceful

succession and mild administration of European monarchies. To the defect of it we must attribute the frequent civil wars, through which an asiatic despot is obliged to cut his way to the throne of his fathers.

Yet, even in the East, the sphere of contention is usually limited to the princes of the reigning house, and as soon as the more fortunate competitor has removed his brethren by the sword and the bowstring, he

no longer entertains any jealousy of his meaner subjects. But the Roman empire, after the authority of the senate had sunk into contempt, was a vast scene of confusion. The royal, and even noble, families of the

provinces had long since been led in triumph before the car of the

haughty republicans. The ancient families of Rome had successively fallen beneath the tyranny of the Caesars; and whilst those princes were shackled by the forms of a commonwealth, and disappointed by the

repeated failure of their posterity, [1] it was impossible that any idea

of hereditary succession should have taken root in the minds of their

subjects. The right to the throne, which none could claim from birth, every one assumed from merit. The daring hopes of ambition were set

loose from the salutary restraints of law and prejudice; and the meanest

of mankind might, without folly, entertain a hope of being raised by

valor and fortune to a rank in the army, in which a single crime would enable him to wrest the sceptre of the world from his feeble and unpopular master. After the murder of Alexander Severus, and the elevation of Maximin, no emperor could think himself safe upon the throne, and every barbarian peasant of the frontier might aspire to that august, but dangerous station.

[Footnote 1: There had been no example of three successive generations

on the throne; only three instances of sons who succeeded their fathers. the marriages of the Caesars (notwithstanding the permission, and the frequent practice of divorces) were generally unfruitful.]

about thirty-two years before that event, the emperor Severus, returning from an eastern expedition, halted in Thrace, to celebrate, with

military games, the birthday of his younger son, Geta. The country flocked in crowds to behold their sovereign, and a young barbarian of

gigantic stature earnestly solicited, in his rude dialect, that he

might be allowed to contend for the prize of wrestling. As the pride of discipline would have been disgraced in the overthrow of a Roman soldier by a Thracian peasant, he was matched with the stoutest followers of the camp, sixteen of whom he successively laid on the ground. His victory was rewarded by some trifling gifts, and a permission to enlist in the troops. The next day, the happy barbarian was distinguished above a crowd of recruits, dancing and exulting after the fashion of his country. As soon as he perceived that he had attracted the emperor's

notice, he instantly ran up to his horse, and followed him on foot, without the least appearance of fatigue, in a long and rapid career.

"Thracian," said Severus with astonishment, "art thou disposed to wrestle after thy race?" "Most willingly, sir," replied the unwearied

youth; and, almost in a breath, overthrew seven of the strongest

soldiers in the army. A gold collar was the prize of his matchless

vigor and activity, and he was immediately appointed to serve in the

horseguards who always attended on the person of the sovereign. [2]

[Footnote 2: Hist. August p. 138.]

Maximin, for that was his name, though born on the territories of the empire, descended from a mixed race of barbarians. His father was a

Goth, and his mother of the nation of the Alani. He displayed on every

occasion a valor equal to his strength; and his native fierceness was

soon tempered or disguised by the knowledge of the world. Under the

reign of Severus and his son, he obtained the rank of centurion, with the favor and esteem of both those princes, the former of whom was an excellent judge of merit. Gratitude forbade Maximin to serve under the assassin of Caracalla. Honor taught him to decline the effeminate

insults of Elagabalus. On the accession of Alexander he returned to court, and was placed by that prince in a station useful to the service, and honorable to himself. The fourth legion, to which he was appointed tribune, soon became, under his care, the best disciplined of the whole army. With the general applause of the soldiers, who bestowed on their favorite hero the names of Ajax and Hercules, he was successively

promoted to the first military command; [3] and had not he still retained too much of his savage origin, the emperor might perhaps have given his

own sister in marriage to the son of Maximin. [4]

[Footnote 3: Hist. August. p. 140. Herodian, l. vi. p. 223. Aurelius

Victor. By comparing these authors, it should seem that Maximin had the

particular command of the Tribellian horse, with the general commission

of disciplining the recruits of the whole army. His biographer ought to

have marked, with more care, his exploits, and the successive steps of

his military promotions.]

[Footnote 4: See the original letter of Alexander Severus, Hist. August.

p. 149.]

Instead of securing his fidelity, these favors served only to inflame the ambition of the Thracian peasant, who deemed his fortune inadequate to his merit, as long as he was constrained to acknowledge a superior. though a stranger to rea wisdom, he was not devoid of a selfish cunning, which showed him that the emperor had lost the affection of the army, and taught him to improve their discontent to his own advantage. It is easy for faction and calumny to shed their poison on the administration

of the best of princes, and to accuse even their virtues by artfully confounding them with those vices to which they bear the nearest affinity. The troops listened with pleasure to the emissaries of

Maximin. They blushed at their own ignominious patience, which, during thirteen years, had supported the vexatious discipline imposed by an effeminate Syrian, the timid slave of his mother and of the senate. It was time, they cried, to cast away that useless phantom of the civil

power, and to elect for their prince and general a real soldier, educated in camps, exercised in war, who would assert the glory, and distribute among his companions the treasures, of the empire. A great army was at that time assembled on the banks of the Rhine, under the command of the emperor himself, who, almost immediately after his return from the Persian war, had been obliged to march against the barbarians

of Germany. The important care of training and reviewing the new levies was intrusted to Maximin. One day, as he entered the field of exercise, the troops either from a sudden impulse, or a formed conspiracy, saluted

him emperor, silenced by their loud acclamations his obstinate refusal, and hastened to consummate their rebellion by the murder of Alexander

Severus.

the circumstances of his death are variously related. The writers, who

suppose that he died in ignorance of the ingratitude and ambition of

Maximin, affirm, that, after taking a frugal repast in the sight of the army, he retired to sleep, and that, about the seventh hour of the day, a part of his own guards broke into the imperial tent, and, with many wounds, assassinated their virtuous and unsuspecting prince. [5] If we credit another, and indeed a more probable account, Maximin was invested with the purple by a numerous detachment, at the distance of several

miles from the head-quarters; and he trusted for success rather to the secret wishes than to the public declarations of the great army. alexander had sufficient time to awaken a faint sense of loyalty among the troops; but their reluctant professions of fidelity quickly vanished

on the appearance of Maximin, who declared himself the friend and advocate of the military order, and was unanimously acknowledged emperor

of the Romans by the applauding legions. The son of Mamaea, betrayed and deserted, withdrew into his tent, desirous at least to conceal his approaching fate from the insults of the multitude. He was soon followed by a tribune and some centurions, the ministers of death; but instead

of receiving with manly resolution the inevitable stroke, his unavailing cries and entreaties disgraced the last moments of his life, and converted into contempt some portion of the just pity which his

innocence and misfortunes must inspire. His mother, Mamaea, whose pride and avarice he loudly accused as the cause of his ruin, perished with

her son. The most faithful of his friends were sacrificed to the first fury of the soldiers. Others were reserved for the more deliberate cruelty of the usurper; and those who experienced the mildest treatment, were stripped of their employments, and ignominiously driven from the court and army. [6]

[Footnote 5: Hist. August. p. 135. I have softened some of the most

improbable circumstances of this wretched biographer. From his

ill-worded narration, it should seem that the prince's buffoon having accidentally entered the tent, and awakened the slumbering monarch, the fear of punishment urged him to persuade the disaffected soldiers to commit the murder.]

[Footnote 6: Herodian, l. vi. 223-227.]

the former tyrants, Caligula and Nero, Commodus, and Caracalla, were all dissolute and unexperienced youths, [7] educated in the purple, and corrupted by the pride of empire, the luxury of Rome, and the perfidious

voice of flattery. The cruelty of Maximin was derived from a different

source, the fear of contempt. Though he depended on the attachment of the soldiers, who loved him for virtues like their own, he was conscious that his mean and barbarian origin, his savage appearance, and his total

ignorance of the arts and institutions of civil life, [8] formed a very

unfavorable contrast with the amiable manners of the unhappy Alexander.

He remembered, that, in his humbler fortune, he had often waited before the door of the haughty nobles of Rome, and had been denied admittance by the insolence of their slaves. He recollected too the friendship of a few who had relieved his poverty, and assisted his rising hopes. But those who had spurned, and those who had protected, the Thracian, were

guilty of the same crime, the knowledge of his original obscurity. For this crime many were put to death; and by the execution of several

of his benefactors, Maximin published, in characters of blood, the

indelible history of his baseness and ingratitude. [9]

[Footnote 7: Caligula, the eldest of the four, was only twenty-five

years of age when he ascended the throne; Caracalla was twenty-three, commodus nineteen, and Nero no more than seventeen.]

[Footnote 8: It appears that he was totally ignorant of the Greek

language; which, from its universal use in conversation and letters, was an essential part of every liberal education.]

[Footnote 9: Hist. August. p. 141. Herodian, l. vii. p. 237. The latter

of these historians has been most unjustly censured for sparing the

vices of Maximin.]

the dark and sanguinary soul of the tyrant was open to every suspicion against those among his subjects who were the most distinguished by their birth or merit. Whenever he was alarmed with the sound of treason,

his cruelty was unbounded and unrelenting. A conspiracy against his life was either discovered or imagined, and Magnus, a consular senator, was

named as the principal author of it. Without a witness, without a trial, and without an opportunity of defence, Magnus, with four thousand of his

supposed accomplices, was put to death. Italy and the whole empire were infested with innumerable spies and informers. On the slightest accusation, the first of the Roman nobles, who had governed provinces, commanded armies, and been adorned with the consular and triumphal

ornaments, were chained on the public carriages, and hurried away to the emperor's presence. Confiscation, exile, or simple death, were esteemed

uncommon instances of his lenity. Some of the unfortunate sufferers he

ordered to be sewed up in the hides of slaughtered animals, others to be exposed to wild beasts, others again to be beaten to death with clubs. during the three years of his reign, he disdained to visit either Rome

or Italy. His camp, occasionally removed from the banks of the Rhine to those of the Danube, was the seat of his stern despotism, which trampled

on every principle of law and justice, and was supported by the avowed

power of the sword. [10] No man of noble birth, elegant accomplishments,

or knowledge of civil business, was suffered near his person; and the court of a Roman emperor revived the idea of those ancient chiefs of

slaves and gladiators, whose savage power had left a deep impression of terror and detestation. [11]

[Footnote 10: The wife of Maximin, by insinuating wise counsels with female gentleness, sometimes brought back the tyrant to the way of truth and humanity. See Ammianus Marcellinus, l. xiv. c. l, where he alludes to the fact which he had more fully related under the reign of the

Gordians. We may collect from the medals, that Paullina was the name

of this benevolent empress; and from the title of Diva, that she died before Maximin. (Valesius ad loc. cit. Ammian.) Spanheim de U. et P. N. tom. ii. p. 300. Note: If we may believe Syrcellus and Zonaras, in was

Maximin himself who ordered her death--G]

[Footnote 11: He was compared to Spartacus and Athenio. Hist. August p.

141.]

as long as the cruelty of Maximin was confined to the illustrious

senators, or even to the bold adventurers, who in the court or army expose themselves to the caprice of fortune, the body of the people

viewed their sufferings with indifference, or perhaps with pleasure. but the tyrant's avarice, stimulated by the insatiate desires of the

soldiers, at length attacked the public property. Every city of the empire was possessed of an independent revenue, destined to purchase corn for the multitude, and to supply the expenses of the games and entertainments. By a single act of authority, the whole mass of wealth was at once confiscated for the use of the Imperial treasury. The temples were stripped of their most valuable offerings of gold and

silver, and the statues of gods, heroes, and emperors, were melted down and coined into money. These impious orders could not be executed without tumults and massacres, as in many places the people chose rather to die in the defence of their altars, than to behold in the midst

of peace their cities exposed to the rapine and cruelty of war. the soldiers themselves, among whom this sacrilegious plunder was distributed, received it with a blush; and hardened as they were in acts of violence, they dreaded the just reproaches of their friends and

relations. Throughout the Roman world a general cry of indignation was

heard, imploring vengeance on the common enemy of human kind; and at

length, by an act of private oppression, a peaceful and unarmed province was driven into rebellion against him. [12]

[Footnote 12: Herodian, l. vii. p. 238. Zosim. l. i. p. 15.]

the procurator of Africa was a servant worthy of such a master, who considered the fines and confiscations of the rich as one of the most fruitful branches of the Imperial revenue. An iniquitous sentence had been pronounced against some opulent youths of that country, the execution of which would have stripped them of far the greater part of their patrimony. In this extremity, a resolution that must either complete or prevent their ruin, was dictated by despair. A respite of three days, obtained with difficulty from the rapacious treasurer, was employed in collecting from their estates a great number of slaves and

peasants blindly devoted to the commands of their lords, and armed with the rustic weapons of clubs and axes. The leaders of the conspiracy, as they were admitted to the audience of the procurator, stabbed him with the daggers concealed under their garments, and, by the assistance of their tumultuary train, seized on the little town of Thysdrus, [13] and erected the standard of rebellion against the sovereign of the Roman empire. They rested their hopes on the hatred of mankind against

Maximin, and they judiciously resolved to oppose to that detested tyrant an emperor whose mild virtues had already acquired the love and esteem

of the Romans, and whose authority over the province would give weight and stability to the enterprise. Gordianus, their proconsul, and the

object of their choice, refused, with unfeigned reluctance, the dangerous honor, and begged with tears, that they would suffer him to terminate in peace a long and innocent life, without staining his feeble age with civil blood. Their menaces compelled him to accept the Imperial

purple, his only refuge, indeed, against the jealous cruelty of Maximin;

since, according to the reasoning of tyrants, those who have been esteemed worthy of the throne deserve death, and those who deliberate

have already rebelled. [14]

[Footnote 13: In the fertile territory of Byzacium, one hundred and fifty miles to the south of Carthage. This city was decorated, probably by the Gordians, with the title of colony, and with a fine amphitheatre, which is still in a very perfect state. See Intinerar. Wesseling, p. 59; and Shaw's Travels, p. 117.]

[Footnote 14: Herodian, l. vii. p. 239. Hist. August. p. 153.]

the family of Gordianus was one of the most illustrious of the Roman

senate. On the father's side he was descended from the Gracchi; on his

mother's, from the emperor Trajan. A great estate enabled him to support the dignity of his birth, and in the enjoyment of it, he displayed an elegant taste and beneficent disposition. The palace in Rome, formerly

inhabited by the great Pompey, had been, during several generations, in the possession of Gordian's family. [15] It was distinguished by ancient trophies of naval victories, and decorated with the works of modern

painting. His villa on the road to Praeneste was celebrated for baths of

singular beauty and extent, for three stately rooms of a hundred feet in

length, and for a magnificent portico, supported by two hundred columns

of the four most curious and costly sorts of marble. [16] The public

shows exhibited at his expense, and in which the people were entertained with many hundreds of wild beasts and gladiators, [17] seem to surpass the fortune of a subject; and whilst the liberality of other magistrates was confined to a few solemn festivals at Rome, the magnificence of

Gordian was repeated, when he was aedile, every month in the year, and extended, during his consulship, to the principal cities of Italy. He was twice elevated to the last-mentioned dignity, by Caracalla and by alexander; for he possessed the uncommon talent of acquiring the esteem

of virtuous princes, without alarming the jealousy of tyrants. His long

life was innocently spent in the study of letters and the peaceful

honors of Rome; and, till he was named proconsul of Africa by the voice

of the senate and the approbation of Alexander, [18] he appears

prudently to have declined the command of armies and the government of

provinces. [181] As long as that emperor lived, Africa was happy under the administration of his worthy representative: after the barbarous

Maximin had usurped the throne, Gordianus alleviated the miseries which

he was unable to prevent. When he reluctantly accepted the purple, he was above fourscore years old; a last and valuable remains of the happy age of the Antonines, whose virtues he revived in his own conduct, and celebrated in an elegant poem of thirty books. With the venerable

proconsul, his son, who had accompanied him into Africa as his

lieutenant, was likewise declared emperor. His manners were less pure, but his character was equally amiable with that of his father. twenty-two acknowledged concubines, and a library of sixty-two thousand

volumes, attested the variety of his inclinations; and from the

productions which he left behind him, it appears that the former as well as the latter were designed for use rather than for ostentation. [19] the Roman people acknowledged in the features of the younger Gordian the

resemblance of Scipio Africanus, [191] recollected with pleasure that

his mother was the granddaughter of Antoninus Pius, and rested the

public hope on those latent virtues which had hitherto, as they fondly

imagined, lain concealed in the luxurious indolence of private life.

[Footnote 15: Hist. Aug. p. 152. The celebrated house of Pompey in carinis was usurped by Marc Antony, and consequently became, after the triumvir's death, a part of the Imperial domain. The emperor Trajan allowed, and even encouraged, the rich senators to purchase those

magnificent and useless places, (Plin. Panegyric. c. 50;) and it may

seem probable, that, on this occasion, Pompey's house came into the

possession of Gordian's great-grandfather.]

[Footnote 16: The Claudian, the Numidian, the Carystian, and the

Synnadian. The colors of Roman marbles have been faintly described and

imperfectly distinguished. It appears, however, that the Carystian was a sea-green, and that the marble of Synnada was white mixed with oval

spots of purple. See Salmasius ad Hist. August. p. 164.]

[Footnote 17: Hist. August. p. 151, 152. He sometimes gave five hundred

pair of gladiators, never less than one hundred and fifty. He once gave for the use of the circus one hundred Sicilian, and as many Cappaecian cappadecian horses. The animals designed for hunting were chiefly bears, boars, bulls, stags, elks, wild asses, &c. Elephants and lions seem to

have been appropriated to Imperial magnificence.]

[Footnote 18: See the original letter, in the Augustan History, p. 152, which at once shows Alexander's respect for the authority of the senate, and his esteem for the proconsul appointed by that assembly.]

[Footnote 181: Herodian expressly says that he had administered many

provinces, lib. vii. 10.--W.]

[Footnote 19: By each of his concubines, the younger Gordian left three

or four children. His literary productions, though less numerous, were by no means contemptible.]

[Footnote 191: Not the personal likeness, but the family descent from the

Scipiod.--W.]

as soon as the Gordians had appeased the first tumult of a popular election, they removed their court to Carthage. They were received with the acclamations of the Africans, who honored their virtues, and who,

since the visit of Hadrian, had never beheld the majesty of a Roman emperor. But these vain acclamations neither strengthened nor confirmed the title of the Gordians. They were induced by principle, as well as

interest, to solicit the approbation of the senate; and a deputation of the noblest provincials was sent, without delay, to Rome, to relate and

justify the conduct of their countrymen, who, having long suffered with

patience, were at length resolved to act with vigor. The letters of the

new princes were modest and respectful, excusing the necessity which had

obliged them to accept the Imperial title; but submitting their election and their fate to the supreme judgment of the senate. [20]

[Footnote 20: Herodian, l. vii. p. 243. Hist. August. p. 144.]

the inclinations of the senate were neither doubtful nor divided. The birth and noble alliances of the Gordians had intimately connected them with the most illustrious houses of Rome. Their fortune had created many dependants in that assembly, their merit had acquired many friends. their mild administration opened the flattering prospect of the

restoration, not only of the civil but even of the republican

government. The terror of military violence, which had first obliged the

senate to forget the murder of Alexander, and to ratify the election of a barbarian peasant, [21] now produced a contrary effect, and provoked them to assert the injured rights of freedom and humanity. The hatred of

Maximin towards the senate was declared and implacable; the tamest

submission had not appeased his fury, the most cautious innocence would

not remove his suspicions; and even the care of their own safety urged them to share the fortune of an enterprise, of which (if unsuccessful) they were sure to be the first victims. These considerations, and

perhaps others of a more private nature, were debated in a previous conference of the consuls and the magistrates. As soon as their

resolution was decided, they convoked in the temple of Castor the whole body of the senate, according to an ancient form of secrecy, [22] calculated to awaken their attention, and to conceal their decrees.

"Conscript fathers," said the consul Syllanus, "the two Gordians, both

of consular dignity, the one your proconsul, the other your lieutenant,

have been declared emperors by the general consent of Africa. Let us

return thanks," he boldly continued, "to the youth of Thysdrus; let us

return thanks to the faithful people of Carthage, our generous deliverers from a horrid monster--Why do you hear me thus coolly, thus timidly? Why do you cast those anxious looks on each other? Why

hesitate? Maximin is a public enemy! may his enmity soon expire with

him, and may we long enjoy the prudence and felicity of Gordian the father, the valor and constancy of Gordian the son!" [23] The noble ardor of the consul revived the languid spirit of the senate. By a

unanimous decree, the election of the Gordians was ratified, Maximin,

his son, and his adherents, were pronounced enemies of their country, and liberal rewards were offered to whomsoever had the courage and good fortune to destroy them. [See Temple Of Castor and Pollux]

[Footnote 21: Quod. tamen patres dum periculosum existimant; inermes armato esistere approbaverunt.--Aurelius Victor.]

[Footnote 22: Even the servants of the house, the scribes, &c., were excluded, and their office was filled by the senators themselves. We are obliged to the Augustan History. p. 159, for preserving this curious example of the old discipline of the commonwealth.]

[Footnote 23: This spirited speech, translated from the Augustan

historian, p. 156, seems transcribed by him from the origina registers

of the senate]

during the emperor's absence, a detachment of the

Praetorian guards remained at Rome, to protect, or rather to command, the capital. The praefect Vitalianus had signalized his fidelity to

Maximin, by the alacrity with which he had obeyed, and even prevented the cruel mandates of the tyrant. His death alone could rescue the authority of the senate, and the lives of the senators from a state of danger and suspense. Before their resolves had transpired, a quaestor and some tribunes were commissioned to take his devoted life. They executed the order with equal boldness and success; and, with their bloody daggers in their hands, ran through the streets, proclaiming to the people and the soldiers the news of the happy revolution. The enthusiasm of liberty was seconded by the promise of a large donative,

in lands and money; the statues of Maximin were thrown down; the capital

of the empire acknowledged, with transport, the authority of the two

Gordians and the senate; [24] and the example of Rome was followed by the

rest of Italy.

[Footnote 24: Herodian, l. vii. p. 244]

a new spirit had arisen in that assembly, whose long patience had been

insulted by wanton despotism and military license. The senate assumed the reins of government, and, with a calm intrepidity, prepared to

vindicate by arms the cause of freedom. Among the consular senators

recommended by their merit and services to the favor of the emperor alexander, it was easy to select twenty, not unequal to the command of an army, and the conduct of a war. To these was the defence of Italy

intrusted. Each was appointed to act in his respective department, authorized to enroll and discipline the Italian youth; and instructed to fortify the ports and highways, against the impending invasion of

Maximin. A number of deputies, chosen from the most illustrious of the

senatorian and equestrian orders, were despatched at the same time to the governors of the several provinces, earnestly conjuring them to fly to the assistance of their country, and to remind the nations of their ancient ties of friendship with the Roman senate and people. The general

respect with which these deputies were received, and the zeal of Italy and the provinces in favor of the senate, sufficiently prove that the

subjects of Maximin were reduced to that uncommon distress, in which the body of the people has more to fear from oppression than from

resistance. The consciousness of that melancholy truth, inspires a degree of persevering fury, seldom to be found in those civil wars which are artificially supported for the benefit of a few factious and designing leaders. [25]

[Footnote 25: Herodian, l. vii. p. 247, l. viii. p. 277. Hist. August. p

156-158.]

for while the cause of the Gordians was embraced with such diffusive ardor, the Gordians themselves were no more. The feeble court of carthage was alarmed by the rapid approach of Capelianus, governor of

Mauritania, who, with a small band of veterans, and a fierce host of barbarians, attacked a faithful, but unwarlike province. The younger

Gordian sallied out to meet the enemy at the head of a few guards, and a numerous undisciplined multitude, educated in the peaceful luxury

of Carthage. His useless valor served only to procure him an honorable death on the field of battle. His aged father, whose reign had not exceeded thirty-six days, put an end to his life on the first news of the defeat. Carthage, destitute of defence, opened her gates to the conqueror, and Africa was exposed to the rapacious cruelty of a slave,

obliged to satisfy his unrelenting master with a large account of blood and treasure. [26]

[Footnote 26: Herodian, l. vii. p. 254. Hist. August. p. 150-160. We

may observe, that one month and six days, for the reign of Gordian, is a

just correction of Casaubon and Panvinius, instead of the absurd reading

of one year and six months. See Commentar. p. 193. Zosimus relates, l.

i. p. 17, that the two Gordians perished by a tempest in the midst of their navigation. A strange ignorance of history, or a strange abuse of

metaphors!]

the fate of the Gordians filled Rome with just but unexpected terror. the senate, convoked in the temple of Concord, affected to transact the common business of the day; and seemed to decline, with trembling anxiety, the consideration of their own and the public danger. A silent consternation prevailed in the assembly, till a senator, of the name and family of Trajan, awakened his brethren from their fatal lethargy. He

represented to them that the choice of cautious, dilatory measures had been long since out of their power; that Maximin, implacable by nature, and exasperated by injuries, was advancing towards Italy, at the head

of the military force of the empire; and that their only remaining alternative was either to meet him bravely in the field, or tamely to expect the tortures and ignominious death reserved for unsuccessful

rebellion. "We have lost," continued he, "two excellent princes; but

unless we desert ourselves, the hopes of the republic have not perished with the Gordians. Many are the senators whose virtues have deserved, and whose abilities would sustain, the Imperial dignity. Let us elect two emperors, one of whom may conduct the war against the public enemy, whilst his colleague remains at Rome to direct the civil administration.

I cheerfully expose myself to the danger and envy of the nomination, and give my vote in favor of Maximus and Balbinus. Ratify my choice, conscript fathers, or appoint in their place, others more worthy of the empire." The general apprehension silenced the whispers of jealousy; the merit of the candidates was universally acknowledged; and the house

resounded with the sincere acclamations of "Long life and victory to the emperors Maximus and Balbinus. You are happy in the judgment of the

senate; may the republic be happy under your administration!" [27]

[Footnote 27: See the Augustan History, p. 166, from the registers of the senate; the date is confessedly faulty but the coincidence of the apollinatian games enables us to correct it.]

chapter VII: Tyranny Of Maximin, Rebellion, Civil Wars, Death Of Maximin.--Part II.

the virtues and the reputation of the new emperors justified the most

sanguine hopes of the Romans. The various nature of their talents seemed to appropriate to each his peculiar department of peace and war, without

leaving room for jealous emulation. Balbinus was an admired orator, a

poet of distinguished fame, and a wise magistrate, who had exercised with innocence and applause the civil jurisdiction in almost all the

interior provinces of the empire. His birth was noble, [28] his fortune affluent, his manners liberal and affable. In him the love of pleasure was corrected by a sense of dignity, nor had the habits of ease deprived

him of a capacity for business. The mind of Maximus was formed in a

rougher mould. By his valor and abilities he had raised himself from the meanest origin to the first employments of the state and army. His

victories over the Sarmatians and the Germans, the austerity of his

life, and the rigid impartiality of his justice, while he was a Praefect

of the city, commanded the esteem of a people whose affections were engaged in favor of the more amiable Balbinus. The two colleagues had both been consuls, (Balbinus had twice enjoyed that honorable office,) both had been named among the twenty lieutenants of the senate; and

since the one was sixty and the other seventy-four years old, [29] they

had both attained the full maturity of age and experience.

[Footnote 28: He was descended from Cornelius Balbus, a noble Spaniard, and the adopted son of Theophanes, the Greek historian. Balbus obtained the freedom of Rome by the favor of Pompey, and preserved it by the eloquence of Cicero. (See Orat. pro Cornel. Balbo.) The friendship of caesar, (to whom he rendered the most important secret services in the civil war) raised him to the consulship and the pontificate, honors

never yet possessed by a stranger. The nephew of this Balbus triumphed

over the Garamantes. See Dictionnaire de Bayle, au mot Balbus, where he distinguishes the several persons of that name, and rectifies, with his

usual accuracy, the mistakes of former writers concerning them.]

[Footnote 29: Zonaras, l. xii. p. 622. But little dependence is to be had on the authority of a modern Greek, so grossly ignorant of the history of the third century, that he creates several imaginary emperors, and confounds those who really existed.]

after the senate had conferred on Maximus and Balbinus an equal portion

of the consular and tribunitian powers, the title of Fathers of their country, and the joint office of Supreme Pontiff, they ascended to the capitol to return thanks to the gods, protectors of Rome. [30] The solemn

rites of sacrifice were disturbed by a sedition of the people. The

licentious multitude neither loved the rigid Maximus, nor did they

sufficiently fear the mild and humane Balbinus. Their increasing numbers

surrounded the temple of Jupiter; with obstinate clamors they asserted their inherent right of consenting to the election of their sovereign; and demanded, with an apparent moderation, that, besides the two emperors, chosen by the senate, a third should be added of the family

of the Gordians, as a just return of gratitude to those princes who had

sacrificed their lives for the republic. At the head of the city-guards, and the youth of the equestrian order, Maximus and Balbinus attempted to cut their way through the seditious multitude. The multitude, armed with

sticks and stones, drove them back into the Capitol. It is prudent to

yield when the contest, whatever may be the issue of it, must be fatal to both parties. A boy, only thirteen years of age, the grandson of the elder, and nephew [301] of the younger Gordian, was produced to the people,

invested with the ornaments and title of Caesar. The tumult was appeased by this easy condescension; and the two emperors, as soon as they had been peaceably acknowledged in Rome, prepared to defend Italy against the common enemy.

[Footnote 30: Herodian, l. vii. p. 256, supposes that the senate was at first convoked in the Capitol, and is very eloquent on the occasion. The augustar History p. 116, seems much more authentic.]

[Footnote 301: According to some, the son.--G.]

whilst in Rome and Africa, revolutions succeeded each other with such amazing rapidity, that the mind of Maximin was agitated by the most furious passions. He is said to have received the news of the rebellion

of the Gordians, and of the decree of the senate against him, not with the temper of a man, but the rage of a wild beast; which, as it could

not discharge itself on the distant senate, threatened the life of his

son, of his friends, and of all who ventured to approach his person. The

grateful intelligence of the death of the Gordians was quickly followed by the assurance that the senate, laying aside all hopes of pardon or accommodation, had substituted in their room two emperors, with whose

merit he could not be unacquainted. Revenge was the only consolation

left to Maximin, and revenge could only be obtained by arms. The

strength of the legions had been assembled by Alexander from all parts

of the empire. Three successful campaigns against the Germans and the

Sarmatians, had raised their fame, confirmed their discipline, and even

increased their numbers, by filling the ranks with the flower of the barbarian youth. The life of Maximin had been spent in war, and the candid severity of history cannot refuse him the valor of a soldier, or even the abilities of an experienced general. [31] It might naturally be expected, that a prince of such a character, instead of suffering the

rebellion to gain stability by delay, should immediately have marched from the banks of the Danube to those of the Tyber, and that his

victorious army, instigated by contempt for the senate, and eager to

gather the spoils of Italy, should have burned with impatience to finish the easy and lucrative conquest. Yet as far as we can trust to the

obscure chronology of that period, [32] it appears that the operations

of some foreign war deferred the Italian expedition till the ensuing

spring. From the prudent conduct of Maximin, we may learn that the

savage features of his character have been exaggerated by the pencil of

party, that his passions, however impetuous, submitted to the force

of reason, and that the barbarian possessed something of the generous

spirit of Sylla, who subdued the enemies of Rome before he suffered

himself to revenge his private injuries. [33]

[Footnote 31: In Herodian, l. vii. p. 249, and in the Augustan History, we have three several orations of Maximin to his army, on the rebellion

of Africa and Rome: M. de Tillemont has very justly observed that they

neither agree with each other nor with truth. Histoire des Empereurs, tom. iii. p. 799.]

[Footnote 32: The carelessness of the writers of that age, leaves us in a singular perplexity. 1. We know that Maximus and Balbinus were killed during the Capitoline games. Herodian, l. viii. p. 285. The authority

of Censorinus (de Die Natali, c. 18) enables us to fix those games with certainty to the year 238, but leaves us in ignorance of the month

or day. 2. The election of Gordian by the senate is fixed with equal certainty to the 27th of May; but we are at a loss to discover whether

it was in the same or the preceding year. Tillemont and Muratori, who

maintain the two opposite opinions, bring into the field a desultory troop of authorities, conjectures and probabilities. The one seems to draw out, the other to contract the series of events between those

periods, more than can be well reconciled to reason and history. Yet

it is necessary to choose between them. Note: Eckhel has more recently treated these chronological questions with a perspicuity which gives

great probability to his conclusions. Setting aside all the historians, whose contradictions are irreconcilable, he has only consulted the

medals, and has arranged the events before us in the following order:--

Maximin, A. U. 990, after having conquered the Germans, reenters

Pannonia, establishes his winter quarters at Sirmium, and prepares

himself to make war against the people of the North.

In the year 991, in the cal ends of January, commences his fourth tribunate. The Gordians are chosen emperors in Africa, probably at the beginning of the month of March. The senate confirms this election with

joy, and declares Maximin the enemy of Rome. Five days after he had

heard of this revolt, Maximin sets out from Sirmium on his march to

Italy. These events took place about the beginning of April; a little after, the Gordians are slain in Africa by Capellianus, procurator

of Mauritania. The senate, in its alarm, names as emperors Balbus and

Maximus Pupianus, and intrusts the latter with the war against Maximin.

Maximin is stopped on his road near Aquileia, by the want of provisions, and by the melting of the snows: he begins the siege of Aquileia at the end of April. Pupianus assembles his army at Ravenna. Maximin and

his son are assassinated by the soldiers enraged at the resistance of aquileia: and this was probably in the middle of May. Pupianus returns to Rome, and assumes the government with Balbinus; they are assassinated towards the end of July Gordian the younger ascends the throne. Eckhel de Doct. Vol vii 295.--G.]

[Footnote 33: Velleius Paterculus, l. ii. c. 24. The president de

Montesquieu (in his dialogue between Sylla and Eucrates) expresses the

sentiments of the dictator in a spirited, and even a sublime manner.]

when the troops of Maximin, advancing in excellent order, arrived at the foot of the Julian Alps, they were terrified by the silence and desolation that reigned on the frontiers of Italy. The villages and

open towns had been abandoned on their approach by the inhabitants, the cattle was driven away, the provisions removed or destroyed, the bridges broken down, nor was any thing left which could afford either shelter or

subsistence to an invader. Such had been the wise orders of the generals

of the senate: whose design was to protract the war, to ruin the army of

Maximin by the slow operation of famine, and to consume his strength in the sieges of the principal cities of Italy, which they had plentifully

stored with men and provisions from the deserted country. Aquileia

received and withstood the first shock of the invasion. The streams that

issue from the head of the Hadriatic Gulf, swelled by the melting of the winter snows, [34] opposed an unexpected obstacle to the arms of Maximin. at length, on a singular bridge, constructed with art and difficulty, of

large hogsheads, he transported his army to the opposite bank, rooted up the beautiful vineyards in the neighborhood of Aquileia, demolished the

suburbs, and employed the timber of the buildings in the engines and towers, with which on every side he attacked the city. The walls, fallen to decay during the security of a long peace, had been hastily repaired

on this sudden emergency: but the firmest defence of Aquileia consisted

in the constancy of the citizens; all ranks of whom, instead of being dismayed, were animated by the extreme danger, and their knowledge

of the tyrant's unrelenting temper. Their courage was supported and directed by Crispinus and Menophilus, two of the twenty lieutenants

of the senate, who, with a small body of regular troops, had thrown themselves into the besieged place. The army of Maximin was repulsed in

repeated attacks, his machines destroyed by showers of artificial fire; and the generous enthusiasm of the Aquileians was exalted into a confidence of success, by the opinion that Belenus, their tutelar deity, combated in person in the defence of his distressed worshippers. [35]

[Footnote 34: Muratori (Annali d' Italia, tom. ii. p. 294) thinks the

melting of the snows suits better with the months of June or July, than with those of February. The opinion of a man who passed his life between the Alps and the Apennines, is undoubtedly of great weight; yet I

observe, 1. That the long winter, of which Muratori takes advantage,

is to be found only in the Latin version, and not in the Greek text

of Herodian. 2. That the vicissitudes of suns and rains, to which the

soldiers of Maximin were exposed, (Herodian, l. viii. p. 277,) denote the spring rather than the summer. We may observe, likewise, that these

several streams, as they melted into one, composed the Timavus, so

poetically (in every sense of the word) described by Virgil. They are about twelve miles to the east of Aquileia. See Cluver. Italia Antiqua, tom. i. p. 189, &c.]

[Footnote 35: Herodian, l. viii. p. 272. The Celtic deity was supposed to be Apollo, and received under that name the thanks of the senate. A temple was likewise built to Venus the Bald, in honor of the women of aquileia, who had given up their hair to make ropes for the military engines.]

the emperor Maximus, who had advanced as far as Ravenna, to secure that

important place, and to hasten the military preparations, beheld the event of the war in the more faithful mirror of reason and policy. He was too sensible, that a single town could not resist the persevering efforts of a great army; and he dreaded, lest the enemy, tired with the

obstinate resistance of Aquileia, should on a sudden relinquish the fruitless siege, and march directly towards Rome. The fate of the empire and the cause of freedom must then be committed to the chance of a battle; and what arms could he oppose to the veteran legions of the

Rhine and Danube? Some troops newly levied among the generous but enervated youth of Italy; and a body of German auxiliaries, on whose firmness, in the hour of trial, it was dangerous to depend. In the midst

of these just alarms, the stroke of domestic conspiracy punished the crimes of Maximin, and delivered Rome and the senate from the calamities that would surely have attended the victory of an enraged barbarian.

the people of Aquileia had scarcely experienced any of the common

miseries of a siege; their magazines were plentifully supplied, and

several fountains within the walls assured them of an inexhaustible

resource of fresh water. The soldiers of Maximin were, on the contrary, exposed to the inclemency of the season, the contagion of disease, and the horrors of famine. The open country was ruined, the rivers filled with the slain, and polluted with blood. A spirit of despair and disaffection began to diffuse itself among the troops; and as they were cut off from all intelligence, they easily believed that the whole empire had embraced the cause of the senate, and that they were left as devoted victims to perish under the impregnable walls of Aquileia. The fierce temper of the tyrant was exasperated by disappointments, which

he imputed to the cowardice of his army; and his wanton and ill-timed cruelty, instead of striking terror, inspired hatred, and a just desire

of revenge. A party of Praetorian guards, who trembled for their wives and children in the camp of Alba, near Rome, executed the sentence of the senate.

Maximin, abandoned by his guards, was slain in his tent, with his son,

(whom he had associated to the honors of the purple,) Anulinus the

praefect, and the principal ministers of his tyranny. [36] The sight of their heads, borne on the point of spears, convinced the citizens of aquileia that the siege was at an end; the gates of the city were thrown

open, a liberal market was provided for the hungry troops of Maximin, and the whole army joined in solemn protestations of fidelity to the

senate and the people of Rome, and to their lawful emperors Maximus and balbinus. Such was the deserved fate of a brutal savage, destitute, as

he has generally been represented, of every sentiment that distinguishes a civilized, or even a human being. The body was suited to the soul. The

stature of Maximin exceeded the measure of eight feet, and circumstances almost incredible are related of his matchless strength and appetite.

[37] Had he lived in a less enlightened age, tradition and poetry

might well have described him as one of those monstrous giants, whose

supernatural power was constantly exerted for the destruction of

mankind.

[Footnote 36: Herodian, l. viii. p. 279. Hist. August. p. 146. The duration of Maximin's reign has not been defined with much accuracy, except by Eutropius, who allows him three years and a few days, (l. ix.

1;) we may depend on the integrity of the text, as the Latin original is checked by the Greek version of Paeanius.]

[Footnote 37: Eight Roman feet and one third, which are equal to above eight English feet, as the two measures are to each other in the

proportion of 967 to 1000. See Graves's discourse on the Roman foot. We are told that Maximin could drink in a day an amphora (or about seven

gallons) of wine, and eat thirty or forty pounds of meat. He could move a loaded wagon, break a horse's leg with his fist, crumble stones in his

hand, and tear up small trees by the roots. See his life in the Augustan

History.]

It is easier to conceive than to describe the universal joy of the Roman world on the fall of the tyrant, the news of which is said to have been carried in four days from Aquileia to Rome. The return of Maximus was a triumphal procession; his colleague and young Gordian went out to meet

him, and the three princes made their entry into the capital, attended by the ambassadors of almost all the cities of Italy, saluted with the

splendid offerings of gratitude and superstition, and received with the

unfeigned acclamations of the senate and people, who persuaded themselves that a golden age would succeed to an age of iron. [38] The conduct of the two emperors corresponded with these expectations. They administered justice in person; and the rigor of the one was tempered by the other's clemency. The oppressive taxes with which Maximin had loaded the rights of inheritance and succession, were repealed, or at least

moderated. Discipline was revived, and with the advice of the senate

many wise laws were enacted by their imperial ministers, who endeavored to restore a civil constitution on the ruins of military tyranny. "What

reward may we expect for delivering Rome from a monster?" was the

question asked by Maximus, in a moment of freedom and confidence.

balbinus answered it without hesitation--"The love of the senate, of the people, and of all mankind." "Alas!" replied his more penetrating colleague--"alas! I dread the hatred of the soldiers, and the fatal effects of their resentment." [39] His apprehensions were but too well

justified by the event.

[Footnote 38: See the congratulatory letter of Claudius Julianus, the consul to the two emperors, in the Augustan History.]

[Footnote 39: Hist. August. p. 171.]

whilst Maximus was preparing to defend Italy against the common foe, balbinus, who remained at Rome, had been engaged in scenes of blood and

intestine discord. Distrust and jealousy reigned in the senate; and even

in the temples where they assembled, every senator carried either open

or concealed arms. In the midst of their deliberations, two veterans

of the guards, actuated either by curiosity or a sinister motive, audaciously thrust themselves into the house, and advanced by degrees beyond the altar of Victory. Gallicanus, a consular, and Maecenas, a

Praetorian senator, viewed with indignation their insolent intrusion: drawing their daggers, they laid the spies (for such they deemed them) dead at the foot of the altar, and then, advancing to the door of the

senate, imprudently exhorted the multitude to massacre the Praetorians, as the secret adherents of the tyrant. Those who escaped the first fury

of the tumult took refuge in the camp, which they defended with superior advantage against the reiterated attacks of the people, assisted by the

numerous bands of gladiators, the property of opulent nobles. The civil war lasted many days, with infinite loss and confusion on both sides. when the pipes were broken that supplied the camp with water, the

Praetorians were reduced to intolerable distress; but in their turn they made desperate sallies into the city, set fire to a great number

of houses, and filled the streets with the blood of the inhabitants. The emperor Balbinus attempted, by ineffectual edicts and precarious truces, to reconcile the factions at Rome. But their animosity, though smothered for a while, burnt with redoubled violence. The soldiers, detesting the

senate and the people, despised the weakness of a prince, who wanted either the spirit or the power to command the obedience of his subjects.

[40]

[Footnote 40: Herodian, l. viii. p. 258.]

after the tyrant's death, his formidable army had acknowledged, from

necessity rather than from choice, the authority of Maximus, who transported himself without delay to the camp before Aquileia. As soon as he had received their oath of fidelity, he addressed them in terms full of mildness and moderation; lamented, rather than arraigned the wild disorders of the times, and assured the soldiers, that of all their

past conduct the senate would remember only their generous desertion of the tyrant, and their voluntary return to their duty. Maximus enforced

his exhortations by a liberal donative, purified the camp by a solemn

sacrifice of expiation, and then dismissed the legions to their several

provinces, impressed, as he hoped, with a lively sense of gratitude and

obedience. [41] But nothing could reconcile the haughty spirit of the

Praetorians. They attended the emperors on the memorable day of their

public entry into Rome; but amidst the general acclamations, the sullen, dejected countenance of the guards sufficiently declared that they considered themselves as the object, rather than the partners, of the triumph. When the whole body was united in their camp, those who had

served under Maximin, and those who had remained at Rome, insensibly communicated to each other their complaints and apprehensions. The emperors chosen by the army had perished with ignominy; those elected by the senate were seated on the throne. [42] The long discord between the civil and military powers was decided by a war, in which the former had

obtained a complete victory. The soldiers must now learn a new doctrine

of submission to the senate; and whatever clemency was affected by that

politic assembly, they dreaded a slow revenge, colored by the name of discipline, and justified by fair pretences of the public good. But their fate was still in their own hands; and if they had courage to despise the vain terrors of an impotent republic, it was easy to convince the world, that those who were masters of the arms, were

masters of the authority, of the state.

[Footnote 41: Herodian, l. viii. p. 213.]

[Footnote 42: The observation had been made imprudently enough in the acclamations of the senate, and with regard to the soldiers it carried the appearance of a wanton insult. Hist. August. p. 170.]

when the senate elected two princes, it is probable that, besides the declared reason of providing for the various emergencies of peace and war, they were actuated by the secret desire of weakening by division the despotism of the supreme magistrate. Their policy was effectual, but

it proved fatal both to their emperors and to themselves. The jealousy

of power was soon exasperated by the difference of character. Maximus despised Balbinus as a luxurious noble, and was in his turn disdained by

his colleague as an obscure soldier. Their silent discord was understood

rather than seen; [43] but the mutual consciousness prevented them from

uniting in any vigorous measures of defence against their common enemies

of the Praetorian camp. The whole city was employed in the Capitoline

games, and the emperors were left almost alone in the palace. On a

sudden, they were alarmed by the approach of a troop of desperate assassins. Ignorant of each other's situation or designs, (for they already occupied very distant apartments,) afraid to give or to receive assistance, they wasted the important moments in idle debates and fruitless recriminations. The arrival of the guards put an end to the

vain strife. They seized on these emperors of the senate, for such they called them with malicious contempt, stripped them of their garments, and dragged them in insolent triumph through the streets of Rome, with the design of inflicting a slow and cruel death on these unfortunate

princes. The fear of a rescue from the faithful Germans of the Imperial

guards, shortened their tortures; and their bodies, mangled with a thousand wounds, were left exposed to the insults or to the pity of the

populace. [44]

[Footnote 43: Discordiae tacitae, et quae intelligerentur potius

quam viderentur. Hist. August. p. 170. This well-chosen expression is

probably stolen from some better writer.]

[Footnote 44: Herodian, l. viii. p. 287, 288.]

In the space of a few months, six princes had been cut off by the sword.

Gordian, who had already received the title of Caesar, was the only

person that occurred to the soldiers as proper to fill the vacant throne. [45] They carried him to the camp, and unanimously saluted him augustus and Emperor. His name was dear to the senate and people;

his tender age promised a long impunity of military license; and the

submission of Rome and the provinces to the choice of the Praetorian

guards, saved the republic, at the expense indeed of its freedom and dignity, from the horrors of a new civil war in the heart of the capital. [46]

[Footnote 45: Quia non alius erat in praesenti, is the expression of the augustan History.]

[Footnote 46: Quintus Curtius (l. x. c. 9,) pays an elegant compliment to the emperor of the day, for having, by his happy accession, extinguished so many firebrands, sheathed so many swords, and put an end to the evils of a divided government. After weighing with attention every word of the passage, I am of opinion, that it suits better with the elevation of Gordian, than with any other period of the Roman

history. In that case, it may serve to decide the age of Quintus curtius. Those who place him under the first Caesars, argue from the

purity of his style but are embarrassed by the silence of Quintilian, in

his accurate list of Roman historians. \* Note: This conjecture of Gibbon

is without foundation. Many passages in the work of Quintus Curtius clearly place him at an earlier period. Thus, in speaking of the

Parthians, he says, Hinc in Parthicum perventum est, tunc ignobilem

gentem: nunc caput omnium qui post Euphratem et Tigrim amnes siti Rubro

mari terminantur. The Parthian empire had this extent only in the first age of the vulgar aera: to that age, therefore, must be assigned the date of Quintus Curtius. Although the critics (says M. de Sainte Croix)

have multiplied conjectures on this subject, most of them have ended by adopting the opinion which places Quintus Curtius under the reign of claudius. See Just. Lips. ad Ann. Tac. ii. 20. Michel le Tellier Praef.

in Curt. Tillemont Hist. des Emp. i. p. 251. Du Bos Reflections sur la

Poesie, 2d Partie. Tiraboschi Storia della, Lett. Ital. ii. 149. Examen. crit. des Historiens d'Alexandre, 2d ed. p. 104, 849, 850.--G.

----This interminable question seems as much perplexed as ever. The first argument of M. Guizot is a strong one, except that Parthian is often

used by later writers for Persian. Cunzius, in his preface to an edition

published at Helmstadt, (1802,) maintains the opinion of Bagnolo, which assigns Q. Curtius to the time of Constantine the Great. Schmieder,

in his edit. Gotting. 1803, sums up in this sentence, aetatem Curtii

ignorari pala mest.--M.]

as the third Gordian was only nineteen years of age at the time of his death, the history of his life, were it known to us with greater accuracy than it really is, would contain little more than the account

of his education, and the conduct of the ministers, who by turns abused

or guided the simplicity of his unexperienced youth. Immediately after

his accession, he fell into the hands of his mother's eunuchs, that

pernicious vermin of the East, who, since the days of Elagabalus, had

infested the Roman palace. By the artful conspiracy of these wretches, an impenetrable veil was drawn between an innocent prince and his

oppressed subjects, the virtuous disposition of Gordian was deceived, and the honors of the empire sold without his knowledge, though in a

very public manner, to the most worthless of mankind. We are ignorant by what fortunate accident the emperor escaped from this ignominious

slavery, and devolved his confidence on a minister, whose wise counsels

had no object except the glory of his sovereign and the happiness of the

people. It should seem that love and learning introduced Misitheus to the favor of Gordian. The young prince married the daughter of his

master of rhetoric, and promoted his father-in-law to the first offices

of the empire. Two admirable letters that passed between them are still extant. The minister, with the conscious dignity of virtue, congratulates Gordian that he is delivered from the tyranny of the eunuchs, [47] and still more that he is sensible of his deliverance. The emperor acknowledges, with an amiable confusion, the errors of his past conduct; and laments, with singular propriety, the misfortune of a

monarch, from whom a venal tribe of courtiers perpetually labor to conceal the truth. [48]

[Footnote 47: Hist. August. p. 161. From some hints in the two letters,

I should expect that the eunuchs were not expelled the palace without

some degree of gentle violence, and that the young Gordian rather approved of, than consented to, their disgrace.]

[Footnote 48: Duxit uxorem filiam Misithei, quem causa eloquentiae dignum parentela sua putavit; et praefectum statim fecit; post quod, non

puerile jam et contemptibile videbatur imperium.]

the life of Misitheus had been spent in the profession of letters, not

of arms; yet such was the versatile genius of that great man, that, when

he was appointed Praetorian Praefect, he discharged the military duties of his place with vigor and ability. The Persians had invaded

Mesopotamia, and threatened Antioch. By the persuasion of his father-in-law, the young emperor quitted the luxury of Rome, opened, for the last time recorded in history, the temple of Janus, and marched in

person into the East. On his approach, with a great army, the Persians withdrew their garrisons from the cities which they had already taken, and retired from the Euphrates to the Tigris. Gordian enjoyed the

pleasure of announcing to the senate the first success of his arms, which he ascribed, with a becoming modesty and gratitude, to the wisdom

of his father and Praefect. During the whole expedition, Misitheus watched over the safety and discipline of the army; whilst he prevented their dangerous murmurs by maintaining a regular plenty in the camp, and by establishing ample magazines of vinegar, bacon, straw, barley, and wheat in all the cities of the frontier. [49] But the prosperity of

Gordian expired with Misitheus, who died of a flux, not with out very

strong suspicions of poison. Philip, his successor in the praefecture, was an Arab by birth, and consequently, in the earlier part of his life, a robber by profession. His rise from so obscure a station to the first dignities of the empire, seems to prove that he was a bold and able

leader. But his boldness prompted him to aspire to the throne, and his abilities were employed to supplant, not to serve, his indulgent master. the minds of the soldiers were irritated by an artificial scarcity, created by his contrivance in the camp; and the distress of the army was attributed to the youth and incapacity of the prince. It is not in our

power to trace the successive steps of the secret conspiracy and open

sedition, which were at length fatal to Gordian. A sepulchral monument was erected to his memory on the spot [50] where he was killed, near the conflux of the Euphrates with the little river Aboras. [51] The fortunate

Philip, raised to the empire by the votes of the soldiers, found a ready

obedience from the senate and the provinces. [52]

[Footnote 49: Hist. August. p. 162. Aurelius Victor. Porphyrius in Vit

Plotin. ap. Fabricium, Biblioth. Graec. l. iv. c. 36. The philosopher

Plotinus accompanied the army, prompted by the love of knowledge, and by the hope of penetrating as far as India.]

[Footnote 50: About twenty miles from the little town of Circesium, on the frontier of the two empires. \* Note: Now Kerkesia; placed in the angle formed by the juncture of the Chaboras, or al Khabour, with the euphrates. This situation appeared advantageous to Diocletian, that he

raised fortifications to make it the but wark of the empire on the side

of Mesopotamia. D'Anville. Geog. Anc. ii. 196.--G. It is the Carchemish

of the Old Testament, 2 Chron. xxxv. 20. ler. xlvi. 2.--M.]

[Footnote 51: The inscription (which contained a very singular pun) was erased by the order of Licinius, who claimed some degree of relationship to Philip, (Hist. August. p. 166;) but the tumulus, or mound of earth which formed the sepulchre, still subsisted in the time of Julian. See ammian Marcellin. xxiii. 5.]

[Footnote 52: Aurelius Victor. Eutrop. ix. 2. Orosius, vii. 20. Ammianus

Marcellinus, xxiii. 5. Zosimus, l. i. p. 19. Philip, who was a native of bostra, was about forty years of age. \* Note: Now Bosra. It was once the

metropolis of a province named Arabia, and the chief city of Auranitis,

of which the name is preserved in Beled Hauran, the limits of which meet the desert. D'Anville. Geog. Anc. ii. 188. According to Victor, (in caesar.,) Philip was a native of Tracbonitis another province of arabia.--G.]

we cannot forbear transcribing the ingenious, though somewhat fanciful description, which a celebrated writer of our own times has traced

of the military government of the Roman empire. What in that age was called the Roman empire, was only an irregular republic, not unlike the aristocracy [53] of Algiers, [54] where the militia, possessed of the sovereignty, creates and deposes a magistrate, who is styled a Dey.

Perhaps, indeed, it may be laid down as a general rule, that a military

government is, in some respects, more republican than monarchical. Nor can it be said that the soldiers only partook of the government by their disobedience and rebellions. The speeches made to them by the emperors, were they not at length of the same nature as those formerly pronounced to the people by the consuls and the tribunes? And although the armies

had no regular place or forms of assembly; though their debates were

short, their action sudden, and their resolves seldom the result of cool reflection, did they not dispose, with absolute sway, of the

public fortune? What was the emperor, except the minister of a violent

government, elected for the private benefit of the soldiers?

[Footnote 53: Can the epithet of Aristocracy be applied, with any

propriety, to the government of Algiers? Every military government floats between two extremes of absolute monarchy and wild democracy.]

[Footnote 54: The military republic of the Mamelukes in Egypt would have afforded M. de Montesquieu (see Considerations sur la Grandeur et la decadence des Romains, c. 16) a juster and more noble parallel.]

"When the army had elected Philip, who was Praetorian praefect to the third Gordian, the latter demanded that he might remain sole emperor; he was unable to obtain it. He requested that the power might be equally divided between them; the army would not listen to his speech. He consented to be degraded to the rank of Caesar; the favor was refused

him. He desired, at least, he might be appointed Praetorian praefect;

his prayer was rejected. Finally, he pleaded for his life. The army, in these several judgments, exercised the supreme magistracy." According to the historian, whose doubtful narrative the President De Montesquieu has adopted, Philip, who, during the whole transaction, had preserved a

sullen silence, was inclined to spare the innocent life of his benefactor; till, recollecting that his innocence might excite a dangerous compassion in the Roman world, he commanded, without regard to

his suppliant cries, that he should be seized, stripped, and led away to

instant death. After a moment's pause, the inhuman sentence was executed. [55]

[Footnote 55: The Augustan History (p. 163, 164) cannot, in this

instance, be reconciled with itself or with probability. How could

Philip condemn his predecessor, and yet consecrate his memory? How could

he order his public execution, and yet, in his letters to the senate, exculpate himself from the guilt of his death? Philip, though an ambitious usurper, was by no means a mad tyrant. Some chronological difficulties have likewise been discovered by the nice eyes of Tillemont and Muratori, in this supposed association of Philip to the empire. \*

Note: Wenck endeavors to reconcile these discrepancies. He supposes that Gordian was led away, and died a natural death in prison. This is directly contrary to the statement of Capitolinus and of Zosimus, whom he adduces in support of his theory. He is more successful in

his precedents of usurpers deifying the victims of their ambition. Sit divus, dummodo non sit vivus.--M.]

chapter VII: Tyranny Of Maximin, Rebellion, Civil Wars, Death Of Maximin.--Part III.

On his return from the East to Rome, Philip, desirous of obliterating the memory of his crimes, and of captivating the affections of the people, solemnized the secular games with infinite pomp and

magnificence. Since their institution or revival by Augustus, [56] they

had been celebrated by Claudius, by Domitian, and by Severus, and were

now renewed the fifth time, on the accomplishment of the full period of a thousand years from the foundation of Rome. Every circumstance of the

secular games was skillfully adapted to inspire the superstitious mind with deep and solemn reverence. The long interval between them [57] exceeded the term of human life; and as none of the spectators had already seen them, none could flatter themselves with the expectation

of beholding them a second time. The mystic sacrifices were performed, during three nights, on the banks of the Tyber; and the Campus Martius

resounded with music and dances, and was illuminated with innumerable

lamps and torches. Slaves and strangers were excluded from any

participation in these national ceremonies. A chorus of twenty-seven

youths, and as many virgins, of noble families, and whose parents were both alive, implored the propitious gods in favor of the present, and for the hope of the rising generation; requesting, in religious hymns, that according to the faith of their ancient oracles, they would still

maintain the virtue, the felicity, and the empire of the Roman people.

[58] The magnificence of Philip's shows and entertainments dazzled the eyes of the multitude. The devout were employed in the rites of

superstition, whilst the reflecting few revolved in their anxious minds the past history and the future fate of the empire.[58]

[Footnote 56: The account of the last supposed celebration, though in an enlightened period of history, was so very doubtful and obscure, that the alternative seems not doubtful. When the popish jubilees, the copy

of the secular games, were invented by Boniface VII., the crafty pope

pretended that he only revived an ancient institution. See M. le Chais,

Lettres sur les Jubiles.]

[Footnote 57: Either of a hundred or a hundred and ten years. Varro and

Livy adopted the former opinion, but the infallible authority of the

Sybil consecrated the latter, (Censorinus de Die Natal. c. 17.) The emperors Claudius and Philip, however, did not treat the oracle with

implicit respect.]

[Footnote 58: The idea of the secular games is best understood from the

poem of Horace, and the description of Zosimus, 1. l. ii. p. 167, &c.]

Since Romulus, with a small band of shepherds and outlaws, fortified

himself on the hills near the Tyber, ten centuries had already elapsed.

[59] During the four first ages, the Romans, in the laborious school of

poverty, had acquired the virtues of war and government: by the vigorous exertion of those virtues, and by the assistance of fortune, they had

obtained, in the course of the three succeeding centuries, an absolute empire over many countries of Europe, Asia, and Africa. The last three

hundred years had been consumed in apparent prosperity and internal decline. The nation of soldiers, magistrates, and legislators, who composed the thirty-five tribes of the Roman people, were dissolved into the common mass of mankind, and confounded with the millions of servile

provincials, who had received the name, without adopting the spirit, of

Romans. A mercenary army, levied among the subjects and barbarians of the frontier, was the only order of men who preserved and abused their

independence. By their tumultuary election, a Syrian, a Goth, or an arab, was exalted to the throne of Rome, and invested with despotic

power over the conquests and over the country of the Scipios.

[Footnote 59: The received calculation of Varro assigns to the foundation of Rome an aera that corresponds with the 754th year before christ. But so little is the chronology of Rome to be depended on, in the more early ages, that Sir Isaac Newton has brought the same event as

low as the year 627 (Compare Niebuhr vol. i. p. 271.--M.)]

the limits of the Roman empire still extended from the Western Ocean to the Tigris, and from Mount Atlas to the Rhine and the Danube. To the undiscerning eye of the vulgar, Philip appeared a monarch no less

powerful than Hadrian or Augustus had formerly been. The form was still the same, but the animating health and vigor were fled. The industry of the people was discouraged and exhausted by a long series of oppression. the discipline of the legions, which alone, after the extinction

of every other virtue, had propped the greatness of the state, was corrupted by the ambition, or relaxed by the weakness, of the emperors. the strength of the frontiers, which had always consisted in arms rather than in fortifications, was insensibly undermined; and the fairest

provinces were left exposed to the rapaciousness or ambition of the barbarians, who soon discovered the decline of the Roman empire.

chapter VIII: State Of Persion And Restoration Of The Monarchy.--Part I.

Of The State Of Persia After The Restoration Of The Monarchy

By Artaxerxes.

whenever Tacitus indulges himself in those beautiful episodes, in which

he relates some domestic transaction of the Germans or of the Parthians,

his principal object is to relieve the attention of the reader from a

uniform scene of vice and misery. From the reign of Augustus to the time

of Alexander Severus, the enemies of Rome were in her bosom--the tyrants and the soldiers; and her prosperity had a very distant and feeble

interest in the revolutions that might happen beyond the Rhine and the euphrates. But when the military order had levelled, in wild anarchy, the power of the prince, the laws of the senate, and even the discipline

of the camp, the barbarians of the North and of the East, who had long

hovered on the frontier, boldly attacked the provinces of a declining

monarchy. Their vexatious inroads were changed into formidable

irruptions, and, after a long vicissitude of mutual calamities,

many tribes of the victorious invaders established themselves in the

provinces of the Roman Empire. To obtain a clearer knowledge of these great events, we shall endeavor to form a previous idea of the character, forces, and designs of those nations who avenged the cause of

Hannibal and Mithridates.

In the more early ages of the world, whilst the forest that covered europe afforded a retreat to a few wandering savages, the inhabitants

of Asia were already collected into populous cities, and reduced under extensive empires, the seat of the arts, of luxury, and of despotism. the Assyrians reigned over the East, [1] till the sceptre of Ninus and

Semiramis dropped from the hands of their enervated successors. The

Medes and the Babylonians divided their power, and were themselves

swallowed up in the monarchy of the Persians, whose arms could not be confined within the narrow limits of Asia. Followed, as it is said, by two millions of men, Xerxes, the descendant of Cyrus, invaded Greece.

thirty thousand soldiers, under the command of Alexander, the son of

Philip, who was intrusted by the Greeks with their glory and revenge, were sufficient to subdue Persia. The princes of the house of Seleucus

usurped and lost the Macedonian command over the East. About the same time, that, by an ignominious treaty, they resigned to the Romans the country on this side Mount Tarus, they were driven by the Parthians,

[1001] an obscure horde of Scythian origin, from all the provinces of Upper asia. The formidable power of the Parthians, which spread from India to the frontiers of Syria, was in its turn subverted by Ardshir, or artaxerxes; the founder of a new dynasty, which, under the name of

Sassanides, governed Persia till the invasion of the Arabs. This great

revolution, whose fatal influence was soon experienced by the Romans,

happened in the fourth year of Alexander Severus, two hundred and twenty-six years after the Christian era. [2] [201]

[Footnote 1: An ancient chronologist, quoted by Valleius Paterculus, (l.

i. c. 6,) observes, that the Assyrians, the Medes, the Persians, and the

Macedonians, reigned over Asia one thousand nine hundred and ninety-five

years, from the accession of Ninus to the defeat of Antiochus by the

Romans. As the latter of these great events happened 289 years before christ, the former may be placed 2184 years before the same aera. The astronomical Observations, found at Babylon, by Alexander, went fifty

years higher.]

[Footnote 1001: The Parthians were a tribe of the Indo-Germanic branch which dwelt on the south-east of the Caspian, and belonged to the same

race as the Getae, the Massagetae, and other nations, confounded by the ancients under the vague denomination of Scythians. Klaproth, Tableaux

Hist. d l'Asie, p. 40. Strabo (p. 747) calls the Parthians Carduchi,

i.e., the inhabitants of Curdistan.--M.]

[Footnote 2: In the five hundred and thirty-eighth year of the aera

of Seleucus. See Agathias, l. ii. p. 63. This great event (such is the carelessness of the Orientals) is placed by Eutychius as high as the tenth year of Commodus, and by Moses of Chorene as low as the reign

of Philip. Ammianus Marcellinus has so servilely copied (xxiii. 6) his ancient materials, which are indeed very good, that he describes the family of the Arsacides as still seated on the Persian throne in the

middle of the fourth century.]

[Footnote 201: The Persian History, if the poetry of the Shah Nameh, the book of Kings, may deserve that name mentions four dynasties from the earliest ages to the invasion of the Saracens. The Shah Nameh was composed with the view of perpetuating the remains of the original

Persian records or traditions which had survived the Saracenic invasion. the task was undertaken by the poet Dukiki, and afterwards, under the

patronage of Mahmood of Ghazni, completed by Ferdusi. The first of these dynasties is that of Kaiomors, as Sir W. Jones observes, the dark and fabulous period; the second, that of the Kaianian, the heroic and

poetical, in which the earned have discovered some curious, and imagined

some fanciful, analogies with the Jewish, the Greek, and the Roman accounts of the eastern world. See, on the Shah Nameh, Translation by

Goerres, with Von Hammer's Review, Vienna Jahrbuch von Lit. 17, 75, 77.

Malcolm's Persia, 8vo. ed. i. 503. Macan's Preface to his Critical edition of the Shah Nameh. On the early Persian History, a very sensible abstract of various opinions in Malcolm's Hist. of Persian.--M.]

artaxerxes had served with great reputation in the armies of Artaban, the last king of the Parthians, and it appears that he was driven into exile and rebellion by royal ingratitude, the customary reward for

superior merit. His birth was obscure, and the obscurity equally

gave room to the aspersions of his enemies, and the flattery of his adherents. If we credit the scandal of the former, Artaxerxes sprang from the illegitimate commerce of a tanner's wife with a common soldier.

[3] The latter represent him as descended from a branch of the ancient

kings of Persian, though time and misfortune had gradually reduced his ancestors to the humble station of private citizens. [4] As the

lineal heir of the monarchy, he asserted his right to the throne, and challenged the noble task of delivering the Persians from the oppression

under which they groaned above five centuries since the death of Darius. the Parthians were defeated in three great battles. [401] In the last of these their king Artaban was slain, and the spirit of the nation was forever broken. [5] The authority of Artaxerxes was solemnly acknowledged

in a great assembly held at Balch in Khorasan. [501] Two younger branches

of the royal house of Arsaces were confounded among the prostrate

satraps. A third, more mindful of ancient grandeur than of present

necessity, attempted to retire, with a numerous train of vessels, towards their kinsman, the king of Armenia; but this little army

of deserters was intercepted, and cut off, by the vigilance of the conqueror, [6] who boldly assumed the double diadem, and the title of

King of Kings, which had been enjoyed by his predecessor. But these

pompous titles, instead of gratifying the vanity of the Persian, served

only to admonish him of his duty, and to inflame in his soul and should the ambition of restoring in their full splendor, the religion and empire of Cyrus.

[Footnote 3: The tanner's name was Babec; the soldier's, Sassan: from the former Artaxerxes obtained the surname of Babegan, from the latter all his descendants have been styled Sassanides.]

[Footnote 4: D'Herbelot, Bibliotheque Orientale, Ardshir.]

[Footnote 401: In the plain of Hoormuz, the son of Babek was hailed in the field with the proud title of Shahan Shah, king of kings--a name ever since assumed by the sovereigns of Persia. Malcolm, i. 71.--M.]

[Footnote 5: Dion Cassius, l. lxxx. Herodian, l. vi. p. 207. abulpharagins Dynast. p. 80.]

[Footnote 501: See the Persian account of the rise of Ardeschir Babegan

in Malcolm l 69.--M.]

[Footnote 6: See Moses Chorenensis, l. ii. c. 65--71.]

I. During the long servitude of Persia under the Macedonian and the

Parthian yoke, the nations of Europe and Asia had mutually adopted and corrupted each other's superstitions. The Arsacides, indeed, practised the worship of the Magi; but they disgraced and polluted it with a

various mixture of foreign idolatry. [601] The memory of Zoroaster, the ancient prophet and philosopher of the Persians, [7] was still revered

in the East; but the obsolete and mysterious language, in which the

Zendavesta was composed, [8] opened a field of dispute to seventy sects, who variously explained the fundamental doctrines of their religion, and were all indifferently devided by a crowd of infidels, who rejected the divine mission and miracles of the prophet. To suppress the idolaters,

reunite the schismatics, and confute the unbelievers, by the infallible decision of a general council, the pious Artaxerxes summoned the Magi from all parts of his dominions. These priests, who had so long sighed

in contempt and obscurity obeyed the welcome summons; and, on the appointed day, appeared, to the number of about eighty thousand. But as the debates of so tumultuous an assembly could not have been directed by the authority of reason, or influenced by the art of policy, the Persian

synod was reduced, by successive operations, to forty thousand, to four thousand, to four hundred, to forty, and at last to seven Magi, the

most respected for their learning and piety. One of these, Erdaviraph, a young but holy prelate, received from the hands of his brethren three cups of soporiferous wine. He drank them off, and instantly fell into a

long and profound sleep. As soon as he waked, he related to the king and to the believing multitude, his journey to heaven, and his

intimate conferences with the Deity. Every doubt was silenced by this

supernatural evidence; and the articles of the faith of Zoroaster were fixed with equal authority and precision. [9] A short delineation of that celebrated system will be found useful, not only to display the character of the Persian nation, but to illustrate many of their most

important transactions, both in peace and war, with the Roman empire.

[10]

[Footnote 601: Silvestre de Sacy (Antiquites de la Perse) had proved the neglect of the Zoroastrian religion under the Parthian kings.--M.]

[Footnote 7: Hyde and Prideaux, working up the Persian legends and their

own conjectures into a very agreeable story, represent Zoroaster as a contemporary of Darius Hystaspes. But it is sufficient to observe, that the Greek writers, who lived almost in the age of Darius, agree in

placing the aera of Zoroaster many hundred, or even thousand, years before their own time. The judicious criticisms of Mr. Moyle perceived, and maintained against his uncle, Dr. Prideaux, the antiquity of the

Persian prophet. See his work, vol. ii. \* Note: There are three leading theories concerning the age of Zoroaster: 1. That which assigns him to an age of great and almost indefinite antiquity--it is that of Moyle, adopted by Gibbon, Volney, Recherches sur l'Histoire, ii. 2. Rhode, also, (die Heilige Sage, &c.,) in a very ingenious and ably-developed theory, throws the Bactrian prophet far back into antiquity 2. Foucher,

(Mem. de l'Acad. xxvii. 253,) Tychsen, (in Com. Soc. Gott. ii. 112),

Heeren, (ldeen. i. 459,) and recently Holty, identify the Gushtasp of the Persian mythological history with Cyaxares the First, the king of the Medes, and consider the religion to be Median in its origin. M.

Guizot considers this opinion most probable, note in loc. 3. Hyde,

Prideaux, Anquetil du Perron, Kleuker, Herder, Goerres,

(Mythen-Geschichte,) Von Hammer. (Wien. Jahrbuch, vol. ix.,) Malcolm,

(i. 528,) De Guigniaut, (Relig. de l'Antiq. 2d part, vol. iii.,)

Klaproth, (Tableaux de l'Asie, p. 21,) make Gushtasp Darius Hystaspes, and Zoroaster his contemporary. The silence of Herodotus appears the

great objection to this theory. Some writers, as M. Foucher (resting, as

M. Guizot observes, on the doubtful authority of Pliny,) make more than

one Zoroaster, and so attempt to reconcile the conflicting theories.--

M.]

[Footnote 8: That ancient idiom was called the Zend. The language of the commentary, the Pehlvi, though much more modern, has ceased many ages ago to be a living tongue. This fact alone (if it is allowed as authentic) sufficiently warrants the antiquity of those writings which M d'Anquetil has brought into Europe, and translated into French. \* Note:

Zend signifies life, living. The word means, either the collection of the canonical books of the followers of Zoroaster, or the language

itself in which they are written. They are the books that contain the word of life whether the language was originally called Zend, or whether

it was so called from the contents of the books. Avesta means word,

oracle, revelation: this term is not the title of a particular work, but

of the collection of the books of Zoroaster, as the revelation of

Ormuzd. This collection is sometimes called Zendavesta, sometimes briefly Zend. The Zend was the ancient language of Media, as is proved by its affinity with the dialects of Armenia and Georgia; it was already a dead language under the Arsacides in the country which was the scene

of the events recorded in the Zendavesta. Some critics, among others

Richardson and Sir W. Jones, have called in question the antiquity of these books. The former pretended that Zend had never been a written or

spoken language, but had been invented in the later times by the Magi, for the purposes of their art; but Kleuker, in the dissertations which

he added to those of Anquetil and the Abbe Foucher, has proved that the

Zend was a living and spoken language.--G. Sir W. Jones appears to have abandoned his doubts, on discovering the affinity between the Zend and the Sanskrit. Since the time of Kleuker, this question has been

investigated by many learned scholars. Sir W. Jones, Leyden, (Asiat.

Research. x. 283,) and Mr. Erskine, (Bombay Trans. ii. 299,) consider it a derivative from the Sanskrit. The antiquity of the Zendavesta has

likewise been asserted by Rask, the great Danish linguist, who, according to Malcolm, brought back from the East fresh transcripts and additions to those published by Anquetil. According to Rask, the Zend and Sanskrit are sister dialects; the one the parent of the Persian, the

other of the Indian family of languages.--G. and M.----But the subject

is more satisfactorily illustrated in Bopp's comparative Grammar of the

Sanscrit, Zend, Greek, Latin, Lithuanian, Gothic, and German languages. berlin. 1833-5. According to Bopp, the Zend is, in some respects, of a

more remarkable structure than the Sanskrit. Parts of the Zendavesta

have been published in the original, by M. Bournouf, at Paris, and M.

Ol. shausen, in Hamburg.--M.----The Pehlvi was the language of the countries bordering on Assyria, and probably of Assyria itself. Pehlvi

signifies valor, heroism; the Pehlvi, therefore, was the language of the ancient heroes and kings of Persia, the valiant. (Mr. Erskine prefers the derivation from Pehla, a border.--M.) It contains a number of aramaic roots. Anquetil considered it formed from the Zend. Kleuker does

not adopt this opinion. The Pehlvi, he says, is much more flowing, and

less overcharged with vowels, than the Zend. The books of Zoroaster, first written in Zend, were afterwards translated into Pehlvi and Parsi. the Pehlvi had fallen into disuse under the dynasty of the Sassanides, but the learned still wrote it. The Parsi, the dialect of Pars or farristan, was then prevailing dialect. Kleuker, Anhang zum Zend Avesta,

2, ii. part i. p. 158, part ii. 31.--G.----Mr. Erskine (Bombay transactions) considers the existing Zendavesta to have been compiled in the time of Ardeschir Babegan.--M.]

[Footnote 9: Hyde de Religione veterum Pers. c. 21.]

[Footnote 10: I have principally drawn this account from the Zendavesta

of M. d'Anquetil, and the Sadder, subjoined to Dr. Hyde's treatise. It

must, however, be confessed, that the studied obscurity of a prophet, the figurative style of the East, and the deceitful medium of a French

or Latin version may have betrayed us into error and heresy, in this abridgment of Persian theology. \* Note: It is to be regretted that

Gibbon followed the post-Mahometan Sadder of Hyde.--M.]

the great and fundamental article of the system, was the celebrated doctrine of the two principles; a bold and injudicious attempt of eastern philosophy to reconcile the existence of moral and physical evil with the attributes of a beneficent Creator and Governor of the world. the first and original Being, in whom, or by whom, the universe exists,

is denominated in the writings of Zoroaster, Time without bounds; [1001] but it must be confessed, that this infinite substance seems rather a

metaphysical, abstraction of the mind, than a real object endowed with

self-consciousness, or possessed of moral perfections. From either the blind or the intelligent operation of this infinite Time, which bears but too near an affinity with the chaos of the Greeks, the two secondary but active principles of the universe, were from all eternity produced,

Ormusd and Ahriman, each of them possessed of the powers of creation, but each disposed, by his invariable nature, to exercise them with different designs. [1002] The principle of good is eternally aborbed in

light; the principle of evil eternally buried in darkness. The wise benevolence of Ormusd formed man capable of virtue, and abundantly

provided his fair habitation with the materials of happiness. By

his vigilant providence, the motion of the planets, the order of the

seasons, and the temperate mixture of the elements, are preserved. But the malice of Ahriman has long since pierced Ormusd's egg; or, in other words, has violated the harmony of his works. Since that fatal eruption, the most minute articles of good and evil are intimately intermingled and agitated together; the rankest poisons spring up amidst the most

salutary plants; deluges, earthquakes, and conflagrations attest the conflict of Nature, and the little world of man is perpetually shaken by

vice and misfortune. Whilst the rest of human kind are led away captives

in the chains of their infernal enemy, the faithful Persian alone

reserves his religious adoration for his friend and protector Ormusd, and fights under his banner of light, in the full confidence that he

shall, in the last day, share the glory of his triumph. At that decisive

period, the enlightened wisdom of goodness will render the power of

Ormusd superior to the furious malice of his rival. Ahriman and his followers, disarmed and subdued, will sink into their native darkness; and virtue will maintain the eternal peace and harmony of the universe.

[11] [1101]

[Footnote 1001: Zeruane Akerene, so translated by Anquetil and Kleuker. there is a dissertation of Foucher on this subject, Mem. de l'Acad. des

Inscr. t. xxix. According to Bohlen (das alte Indien) it is the Sanskrit

Sarvan Akaranam, the Uncreated Whole; or, according to Fred. Schlegel,

Sarvan Akharyam the Uncreate Indivisible.--M.]

[Footnote 1002: This is an error. Ahriman was not forced by his invariable

nature to do evil; the Zendavesta expressly recognizes (see the

Izeschne) that he was born good, that in his origin he was light; envy

rendered him evil; he became jealous of the power and attributes

of Ormuzd; then light was changed into darkness, and Ahriman was

precipitated into the abyss. See the Abridgment of the Doctrine of the ancient Persians, by Anquetil, c. ii Section 2.--G.]

[Footnote 11: The modern Parsees (and in some degree the Sadder) exalt

Ormusd into the first and omnipotent cause, whilst they degrade Ahriman

into an inferior but rebellious spirit. Their desire of pleasing the

Mahometans may have contributed to refine their theological systems.]

[Footnote 1101: According to the Zendavesta, Ahriman will not be annihilated or precipitated forever into darkness: at the resurrection

of the dead he will be entirely defeated by Ormuzd, his power will be destroyed, his kingdom overthrown to its foundations, he will himself be

purified in torrents of melting metal; he will change his heart and his will, become holy, heavenly establish in his dominions the law and word

of Ormuzd, unite himself with him in everlasting friendship, and both will sing hymns in honor of the Great Eternal. See Anquetil's abridgment. Kleuker, Anhang part iii. p 85, 36; and the Izeschne, one of the books of the Zendavesta. According to the Sadder Bun-Dehesch, a more

modern work, Ahriman is to be annihilated: but this is contrary to the text itself of the Zendavesta, and to the idea its author gives of the

kingdom of Eternity, after the twelve thousand years assigned to the contest between Good and Evil.--G.]

chapter VIII: State Of Persion And Restoration Of The Monarchy.--Part II.

the theology of Zoroaster was darkly comprehended by foreigners, and even by the far greater number of his disciples; but the most careless

observers were struck with the philosophic simplicity of the Persian worship. "That people," said Herodotus, [12] "rejects the use of temples,

of altars, and of statues, and smiles at the folly of those nations who

imagine that the gods are sprung from, or bear any affinity with, the

human nature. The tops of the highest mountains are the places chosen for sacrifices. Hymns and prayers are the principal worship; the Supreme

God, who fills the wide circle of heaven, is the object to whom they are addressed." Yet, at the same time, in the true spirit of a polytheist,

he accuseth them of adoring Earth, Water, Fire, the Winds, and the Sun and Moon. But the Persians of every age have denied the charge, and explained the equivocal conduct, which might appear to give a color to

it. The elements, and more particularly Fire, Light, and the Sun, whom they called Mithra, [1201] were the objects of their religious reverence, because they considered them as the purest symbols, the noblest

productions, and the most powerful agents of the Divine Power and

Nature. [13]

[Footnote 12: Herodotus, l. i. c. 131. But Dr. Prideaux thinks, with reason, that the use of temples was afterwards permitted

in the Magian religion. Note: The Pyraea, or fire temples of the

Zoroastrians, (observes Kleuker, Persica, p. 16,) were only to be found in Media or Aderbidjan, provinces into which Herodotus did not

penetrate.--M.]

[Footnote 1201: Among the Persians Mithra is not the Sun: Anquetil has contested and triumphantly refuted the opinion of those who confound them, and it is evidently contrary to the text of the Zendavesta. Mithra

is the first of the genii, or jzeds, created by Ormuzd; it is he who watches over all nature. Hence arose the misapprehension of some of the

Greeks, who have said that Mithra was the summus deus of the Persians:

he has a thousand ears and ten thousand eyes. The Chaldeans appear to

have assigned him a higher rank than the Persians. It is he who bestows

upon the earth the light of the sun. The sun. named Khor, (brightness,)

is thus an inferior genius, who, with many other genii, bears a part

in the functions of Mithra. These assistant genii to another genius are called his kamkars; but in the Zendavesta they are never confounded. On the days sacred to a particular genius, the Persian ought to recite, not

only the prayers addressed to him, but those also which are addressed to

his kamkars; thus the hymn or iescht of Mithra is recited on the day of the sun, (Khor,) and vice versa. It is probably this which has sometimes caused them to be confounded; but Anquetil had himself exposed this error, which Kleuker, and all who have studied the Zendavesta, have

noticed. See viii. Diss. of Anquetil. Kleuker's Anhang, part iii. p.

132.--G. M. Guizot is unquestionably right, according to the pure and original doctrine of the Zend. The Mithriac worship, which was so extensively propagated in the West, and in which Mithra and the sun were perpetually confounded, seems to have been formed from a fusion

of Zoroastrianism and Chaldaism, or the Syrian worship of the sun. An excellent abstract of the question, with references to the works of the chief modern writers on his curious subject, De Sacy, Kleuker, Von

Hammer, &c., may be found in De Guigniaut's translation of Kreuzer.

Relig. d'Antiquite, notes viii. ix. to book ii. vol. i. 2d part, page

728.--M.]

[Footnote 13: Hyde de Relig. Pers. c. 8. Notwithstanding all their distinctions and protestations, which seem sincere enough, their tyrants, the Mahometans, have constantly stigmatized them as idolatrous worshippers of the fire.]

every mode of religion, to make a deep and lasting impression on the

human mind, must exercise our obedience, by enjoining practices of devotion, for which we can assign no reason; and must acquire our esteem, by inculcating moral duties analogous to the dictates of our

own hearts. The religion of Zoroaster was abundantly provided with the former and possessed a sufficient portion of the latter. At the age of

puberty, the faithful Persian was invested with a mysterious girdle, the badge of the divine protection; and from that moment all the actions

of his life, even the most indifferent, or the most necessary, were

sanctified by their peculiar prayers, ejaculations, or genuflections; the omission of which, under any circumstances, was a grievous sin,

not inferior in guilt to the violation of the moral duties. The moral duties, however, of justice, mercy, liberality, &c., were in their turn required of the disciple of Zoroaster, who wished to escape the

persecution of Ahriman, and to live with Ormusd in a blissful eternity, where the degree of felicity will be exactly proportioned to the degree

of virtue and piety. [14]

[Footnote 14: See the Sadder, the smallest part of which consists of

moral precepts. The ceremonies enjoined are infinite and trifling. fifteen genuflections, prayers, &c., were required whenever the devout

Persian cut his nails or made water; or as often as he put on the sacred

girdle Sadder, Art. 14, 50, 60. \* Note: Zoroaster exacted much less ceremonial observance, than at a later period, the priests of his doctrines. This is the progress of all religions the worship, simple in

its origin, is gradually overloaded with minute superstitions. The maxim

of the Zendavesta, on the relative merit of sowing the earth and of

prayers, quoted below by Gibbon, proves that Zoroaster did not attach too much importance to these observances. Thus it is not from the

Zendavesta that Gibbon derives the proof of his allegation, but from the

Sadder, a much later work.--G]

but there are some remarkable instances in which Zoroaster lays aside the prophet, assumes the legislator, and discovers a liberal concern for

private and public happiness, seldom to be found among the grovelling

or visionary schemes of superstition. Fasting and celibacy, the common

means of purchasing the divine favor, he condemns with abhorrence, as a criminal rejection of the best gifts of Providence. The saint, in the

Magian religion, is obliged to beget children, to plant useful trees, to destroy noxious animals, to convey water to the dry lands of Persia, and to work out his salvation by pursuing all the labors of agriculture.

[1401] We may quote from the Zendavesta a wise and benevolent maxim, which compensates for many an absurdity. "He who sows the ground with care and diligence acquires a greater stock of religious merit than he could gain by the repetition of ten thousand prayers." [15] In the spring of every

year a festival was celebrated, destined to represent the primitive equality, and the present connection, of mankind. The stately kings of

Persia, exchanging their vain pomp for more genuine greatness, freely

mingled with the humblest but most useful of their subjects. On that day the husbandmen were admitted, without distinction, to the table of the

king and his satraps. The monarch accepted their petitions, inquired

into their grievances, and conversed with them on the most equal terms.

"From your labors," was he accustomed to say, (and to say with truth, if

not with sincerity,) "from your labors we receive our subsistence; you derive your tranquillity from our vigilance: since, therefore, we are

mutually necessary to each other, let us live together like brothers in concord and love." [16] Such a festival must indeed have degenerated, in a wealthy and despotic empire, into a theatrical representation; but it was at least a comedy well worthy of a royal audience, and which might

sometimes imprint a salutary lesson on the mind of a young prince.

[Footnote 1401: See, on Zoroaster's encouragement of agriculture, the

ingenious remarks of Heeren, Ideen, vol. i. p. 449, &c., and Rhode,

Heilige Sage, p. 517--M.]

[Footnote 15: Zendavesta, tom. i. p. 224, and Precis du Systeme de

Zoroastre, tom. iii.]

[Footnote 16: Hyde de Religione Persarum, c. 19.]

Had Zoroaster, in all his institutions, invariably supported this exalted character, his name would deserve a place with those of Numa and confucius, and his system would be justly entitled to all the applause, which it has pleased some of our divines, and even some of our

philosophers, to bestow on it. But in that motley composition, dictated by reason and passion, by enthusiasm and by selfish motives, some useful and sublime truths were disgraced by a mixture of the most abject and dangerous superstition. The Magi, or sacerdotal order, were extremely

numerous, since, as we have already seen, fourscore thousand of them were convened in a general council. Their forces were multiplied by discipline. A regular hierarchy was diffused through all the provinces

of Persia; and the Archimagus, who resided at Balch, was respected as the visible head of the church, and the lawful successor of Zoroaster.

[17] The property of the Magi was very considerable. Besides the less

invidious possession of a large tract of the most fertile lands of

Media, [18] they levied a general tax on the fortunes and the industry of the Persians. [19] "Though your good works," says the interested prophet,

"exceed in number the leaves of the trees, the drops of rain, the

stars in the heaven, or the sands on the sea-shore, they will all be

unprofitable to you, unless they are accepted by the destour, or

priest. To obtain the acceptation of this guide to salvation, you must faithfully pay him tithes of all you possess, of your goods, of your

lands, and of your money. If the destour be satisfied, your soul will escape hell tortures; you will secure praise in this world and happiness

in the next. For the destours are the teachers of religion; they know all things, and they deliver all men." [20] [201]

[Footnote 17: Hyde de Religione Persarum, c. 28. Both Hyde and Prideaux affect to apply to the Magian the terms consecrated to the Christian

hierarchy.]

[Footnote 18: Ammian. Marcellin. xxiii. 6. He informs us (as far as we

may credit him) of two curious particulars: 1. That the Magi derived

some of their most secret doctrines from the Indian Brachmans; and 2. that they were a tribe, or family, as well as order.]

[Footnote 19: The divine institution of tithes exhibits a singular

instance of conformity between the law of Zoroaster and that of Moses. those who cannot otherwise account for it, may suppose, if they please that the Magi of the latter times inserted so useful an interpolation

into the writings of their prophet.]

[Footnote 20: Sadder, Art. viii.]

[Footnote 201: The passage quoted by Gibbon is not taken from the writings

of Zoroaster, but from the Sadder, a work, as has been before said, much

later than the books which form the Zendavesta. and written by a Magus for popular use; what it contains, therefore, cannot be attributed to

Zoroaster. It is remarkable that Gibbon should fall into this error, for

Hyde himself does not ascribe the Sadder to Zoroaster; he remarks that

it is written inverse, while Zoroaster always wrote in prose. Hyde, i.

p. 27. Whatever may be the case as to the latter assertion, for which there appears little foundation, it is unquestionable that the Sadder is

of much later date. The Abbe Foucher does not even believe it to be an extract from the works of Zoroaster. See his Diss. before quoted. Mem. de l'Acad. des Ins. t. xxvii.--G. Perhaps it is rash to speak of any

part of the Zendavesta as the writing of Zoroaster, though it may be a genuine representation of his. As to the Sadder, Hyde (in Praef.) considered it not above 200 years old. It is manifestly post-Mahometan.

See Art. xxv. on fasting.--M.]

these convenient maxims of reverence and implicit were doubtless

imprinted with care on the tender minds of youth; since the Magi were the masters of education in Persia, and to their hands the children even

of the royal family were intrusted. [21] The Persian priests, who were of a speculative genius, preserved and investigated the secrets of Oriental

philosophy; and acquired, either by superior knowledge, or superior art, the reputation of being well versed in some occult sciences, which

have derived their appellation from the Magi. [22] Those of more active dispositions mixed with the world in courts and cities; and it is

observed, that the administration of Artaxerxes was in a great measure directed by the counsels of the sacerdotal order, whose dignity, either from policy or devotion, that prince restored to its ancient splendor.

[23]

[Footnote 21: Plato in Alcibiad.]

[Footnote 22: Pliny (Hist. Natur. l. xxx. c. 1) observes, that magic

held mankind by the triple chain of religion, of physic, and of astronomy.]

[Footnote 23: Agathias, l. iv. p. 134.]

the first counsel of the Magi was agreeable to the unsociable genius of their faith, [24] to the practice of ancient kings, [25] and even to the example of their legislator, who had a victim to a religious war, excited by his own intolerant zeal. [26] By an edict of Artaxerxes, the exercise of every worship, except that of Zoroaster, was severely

prohibited. The temples of the Parthians, and the statues of their deified monarchs, were thrown down with ignominy. [27] The sword of aristotle (such was the name given by the Orientals to the polytheism and philosophy of the Greeks) was easily broken; [28] the flames of

persecution soon reached the more stubborn Jews and Christians; [29]

nor did they spare the heretics of their own nation and religion. The

majesty of Ormusd, who was jealous of a rival, was seconded by the despotism of Artaxerxes, who could not suffer a rebel; and the schismatics within his vast empire were soon reduced to the

inconsiderable number of eighty thousand. [30] [301] This spirit of

persecution reflects dishonor on the religion of Zoroaster; but as it was not productive of any civil commotion, it served to strengthen the

new monarchy, by uniting all the various inhabitants of Persia in the bands of religious zeal. [302]

[Footnote 24: Mr. Hume, in the Natural History of Religion, sagaciously

remarks, that the most refined and philosophic sects are constantly the

most intolerant. \* Note: Hume's comparison is rather between theism and polytheism. In

India, in Greece, and in modern Europe, philosophic religion has

looked down with contemptuous toleration on the superstitions of the

vulgar.--M.]

[Footnote 25: Cicero de Legibus, ii. 10. Xerxes, by the advice of the

Magi, destroyed the temples of Greece.]

[Footnote 26: Hyde de Relig. Persar. c. 23, 24. D'Herbelot, Bibliotheque

Orientale, Zurdusht. Life of Zoroaster in tom. ii. of the Zendavesta.]

[Footnote 27: Compare Moses of Chorene, l. ii. c. 74, with Ammian.

Marcel lin. xxiii. 6. Hereafter I shall make use of these passages.]

[Footnote 28: Rabbi Abraham, in the Tarikh Schickard, p. 108, 109.]

[Footnote 29: Basnage, Histoire des Juifs, l. viii. c. 3. Sozomen, l.

ii. c. 1 Manes, who suffered an ignominious death, may be deemed a

Magian as well as a Christian heretic.]

[Footnote 30: Hyde de Religione Persar. c. 21.]

[Footnote 301: It is incorrect to attribute these persecutions to artaxerxes. The Jews were held in honor by him, and their schools flourished during his reign. Compare Jost, Geschichte der Israeliter, b.

xv. 5, with Basnage. Sapor was forced by the people to temporary

severities; but their real persecution did not begin till the reigns of

Yezdigerd and Kobad. Hist. of Jews, iii. 236. According to Sozomen, i.

viii., Sapor first persecuted the Christians. Manes was put to death by

Varanes the First, A. D. 277. Beausobre, Hist. de Man. i. 209.--M.]

[Footnote 302: In the testament of Ardischer in Ferdusi, the poet assigns these sentiments to the dying king, as he addresses his son: Never forget that as a king, you are at once the protector of religion and

of your country. Consider the altar and the throne as inseparable; they

must always sustain each other. Malcolm's Persia. i. 74--M]

II. Artaxerxes, by his valor and conduct, had wrested the sceptre of the east from the ancient royal family of Parthia. There still remained the more difficult task of establishing, throughout the vast extent of

Persia, a uniform and vigorous administration. The weak indulgence of the Arsacides had resigned to their sons and brothers the principal

provinces, and the greatest offices of the kingdom in the nature of

hereditary possessions. The vitaxoe, or eighteen most powerful satraps, were permitted to assume the regal title; and the vain pride of the

monarch was delighted with a nominal dominion over so many vassal kings. even tribes of barbarians in their mountains, and the Greek cities of

Upper Asia, [31] within their walls, scarcely acknowledged, or seldom

obeyed. any superior; and the Parthian empire exhibited, under other

names, a lively image of the feudal system [32] which has since prevailed

in Europe. But the active victor, at the head of a numerous and disciplined army, visited in person every province of Persia. The defeat of the boldest rebels, and the reduction of the strongest fortifications, [33] diffused the terror of his arms, and prepared the way for the peaceful reception of his authority. An obstinate resistance was fatal to the chiefs; but their followers were treated with lenity.

[34] A cheerful submission was rewarded with honors and riches, but the

prudent Artaxerxes suffering no person except himself to assume the title of king, abolished every intermediate power between the throne and the people. His kingdom, nearly equal in extent to modern Persia, was,

on every side, bounded by the sea, or by great rivers; by the Euphrates, the Tigris, the Araxes, the Oxus, and the Indus, by the Caspian Sea, and the Gulf of Persia. [35] That country was computed to contain, in the last century, five hundred and fifty-four cities, sixty thousand

villages, and about forty millions of souls. [36] If we compare the administration of the house of Sassan with that of the house of Sefi, the political influence of the Magian with that of the Mahometan

religion, we shall probably infer, that the kingdom of Artaxerxes contained at least as great a number of cities, villages, and

inhabitants. But it must likewise be confessed, that in every age the want of harbors on the sea-coast, and the scarcity of fresh water in the inland provinces, have been very unfavorable to the commerce and agriculture of the Persians; who, in the calculation of their numbers,

seem to have indulged one of the nearest, though most common, artifices

of national vanity.

[Footnote 31: These colonies were extremely numerous. Seleucus Nicator founded thirty-nine cities, all named from himself, or some of his

relations, (see Appian in Syriac. p. 124.) The aera of Seleucus (still

in use among the eastern Christians) appears as late as the year 508,

of Christ 196, on the medals of the Greek cities within the Parthian empire. See Moyle's works, vol. i. p. 273, &c., and M. Freret, Mem. de

l'Academie, tom. xix.]

[Footnote 32: The modern Persians distinguish that period as the dynasty

of the kings of the nations. See Plin. Hist. Nat. vi. 25.]

[Footnote 33: Eutychius (tom. i. p. 367, 371, 375) relates the siege of the island of Mesene in the Tigris, with some circumstances not unlike the story of Nysus and Scylla.]

[Footnote 34: Agathias, ii. 64, [and iv. p. 260.] The princes of

Segestan de fended their independence during many years. As romances

generally transport to an ancient period the events of their own time,

it is not impossible that the fabulous exploits of Rustan, Prince of

Segestan, many have been grafted on this real history.]

[Footnote 35: We can scarcely attribute to the Persian monarchy the

sea-coast of Gedrosia or Macran, which extends along the Indian Ocean from Cape Jask (the promontory Capella) to Cape Goadel. In the time of alexander, and probably many ages afterwards, it was thinly inhabited by a savage people of Icthyophagi, or Fishermen, who knew no arts, who acknowledged no master, and who were divided by in-hospitable deserts from the rest of the world. (See Arrian de Reb. Indicis.) In the twelfth century, the little town of Taiz (supposed by M. d'Anville to be the teza of Ptolemy) was peopled and enriched by the resort of the Arabian

merchants. (See Geographia Nubiens, p. 58, and d'Anville, Geographie ancienne, tom. ii. p. 283.) In the last age, the whole country was divided between three princes, one Mahometan and two Idolaters, who

maintained their independence against the successors of Shah Abbas.

(Voyages de Tavernier, part i. l. v. p. 635.)]

[Footnote 36: Chardin, tom. iii c 1 2, 3.]

as soon as the ambitious mind of Artaxerxes had triumphed ever the

resistance of his vassals, he began to threaten the neighboring states, who, during the long slumber of his predecessors, had insulted Persia with impunity. He obtained some easy victories over the wild Scythians and the effeminate Indians; but the Romans were an enemy, who, by their

past injuries and present power, deserved the utmost efforts of his arms. A forty years' tranquillity, the fruit of valor and moderation,

had succeeded the victories of Trajan. During the period that elapsed from the accession of Marcus to the reign of Alexander, the Roman and the Parthian empires were twice engaged in war; and although the whole

strength of the Arsacides contended with a part only of the forces of

Rome, the event was most commonly in favor of the latter. Macrinus,

indeed, prompted by his precarious situation and pusillanimous temper,

purchased a peace at the expense of near two millions of our money; [37] but the generals of Marcus, the emperor Severus, and his son, erected

many trophies in Armenia, Mesopotamia, and Assyria. Among their exploits, the imperfect relation of which would have unseasonably

interrupted the more important series of domestic revolutions, we shall

only mention the repeated calamities of the two great cities of Seleucia and Ctesiphon.

[Footnote 37: Dion, l. xxviii. p. 1335.]

Seleucia, on the western bank of the Tigris, about forty-five miles to the north of ancient Babylon, was the capital of the Macedonian conquests in Upper Asia. [38] Many ages after the fall of their empire,

Seleucia retained the genuine characters of a Grecian colony, arts,

military virtue, and the love of freedom. The independent republic was

governed by a senate of three hundred nobles; the people consisted of

six hundred thousand citizens; the walls were strong, and as long as concord prevailed among the several orders of the state, they viewed with contempt the power of the Parthian: but the madness of faction was

sometimes provoked to implore the dangerous aid of the common enemy, who was posted almost at the gates of the colony. [39] The Parthian monarchs,

like the Mogul sovereigns of Hindostan, delighted in the pastoral

life of their Scythian ancestors; and the Imperial camp was frequently

pitched in the plain of Ctesiphon, on the eastern bank of the Tigris, at the distance of only three miles from Seleucia. [40] The innumerable attendants on luxury and despotism resorted to the court, and the little

village of Ctesiphon insensibly swelled into a great city. [41] Under the

reign of Marcus, the Roman generals penetrated as far as Ctesiphon and Seleucia. They were received as friends by the Greek colony; they attacked as enemies the seat of the Parthian kings; yet both cities experienced the same treatment. The sack and conflagration of Seleucia, with the massacre of three hundred thousand of the inhabitants, tarnished the glory of the Roman triumph. [42] Seleucia, already exhausted by the neighborhood of a too powerful rival, sunk under the fatal blow; but Ctesiphon, in about thirty-three years, had sufficiently

recovered its strength to maintain an obstinate siege against the emperor Severus. The city was, however, taken by assault; the king, who defended it in person, escaped with precipitation; a hundred thousand captives, and a rich booty, rewarded the fatigues of the Roman soldiers.

[43] Notwithstanding these misfortunes, Ctesiphon succeeded to Babylon and to Seleucia, as one of the great capitals of the East. In summer, the monarch of Persia enjoyed at Ecbatana the cool breezes of the

mountains of Media; but the mildness of the climate engaged him to

prefer Ctesiphon for his winter residence.

[Footnote 38: For the precise situation of Babylon, Seleucia, Ctesiphon,

Moiain, and Bagdad, cities often confounded with each other, see an excellent Geographical Tract of M. d'Anville, in Mem. de l'Academie, tom. xxx.]

[Footnote 39: Tacit. Annal. xi. 42. Plin. Hist. Nat. vi.

26.]

[Footnote 40: This may be inferred from Strabo, l. xvi. p. 743.]

[Footnote 41: That most curious traveller, Bernier, who followed the camp of Aurengzebe from Delhi to Cashmir, describes with great accuracy the immense moving city. The guard of cavalry consisted of 35,000 men, that of infantry of 10,000. It was computed that the camp contained

150,000 horses, mules, and elephants; 50,000 camels, 50,000 oxen, and between 300,000 and 400,000 persons. Almost all Delhi followed the court, whose magnificence supported its industry.]

[Footnote 42: Dion, l. lxxi. p. 1178. Hist. August. p. 38. Eutrop.

viii. 10 Euseb. in Chronic. Quadratus (quoted in the Augustan History) attempted to vindicate the Romans by alleging that the citizens of

Seleucia had first violated their faith.]

[Footnote 43: Dion, l. lxxv. p. 1263. Herodian, l. iii. p. 120. Hist. august. p. 70.]

from these successful inroads the Romans derived no real or lasting benefit; nor did they attempt to preserve such distant conquests,

separated from the provinces of the empire by a large tract of

intermediate desert. The reduction of the kingdom of Osrhoene was an acquisition of less splendor indeed, but of a far more solid advantage. that little state occupied the northern and most fertile part of

Mesopotamia, between the Euphrates and the Tigris. Edessa, its capital, was situated about twenty miles beyond the former of those rivers; and the inhabitants, since the time of Alexander, were a mixed race

of Greeks, Arabs, Syrians, and Armenians. [44] The feeble sovereigns of

Osrhoene, placed on the dangerous verge of two contending empires, were attached from inclination to the Parthian cause; but the superior power

of Rome exacted from them a reluctant homage, which is still attested by their medals. After the conclusion of the Parthian war under Marcus, it was judged prudent to secure some substantia, pledges of their doubtful fidelity. Forts were constructed in several parts of the country, and a Roman garrison was fixed in the strong town of Nisibis. During the troubles that followed the death of Commodus, the princes of Osrhoene attempted to shake off the yoke; but the stern policy of Severus confirmed their dependence, [45] and the perfidy of Caracalla completed the easy conquest. Abgarus, the last king of Edessa, was sent in chains to Rome, his dominions reduced into a province, and his capital dignified with the rank of colony; and thus the Romans, about ten years before the fall of the Parthian monarchy, obtained a firm and permanent establishment beyond the Euphrates. [46]

[Footnote 44: The polished citizens of Antioch called those of Edessa

mixed barbarians. It was, however, some praise, that of the three dialects of the Syriac, the purest and most elegant (the Aramaean) was

spoken at Edessa. This remark M. Bayer (Hist. Edess. p 5) has borrowed from George of Malatia, a Syrian writer.]

[Footnote 45: Dion, l. lxxv. p. 1248, 1249, 1250. M. Bayer has neglected to use this most important passage.]

[Footnote 46: This kingdom, from Osrhoes, who gave a new name to the country, to the last Abgarus, had lasted 353 years. See the learned work

of M. Bayer, Historia Osrhoena et Edessena.]

Prudence as well as glory might have justified a war on the side of artaxerxes, had his views been confined to the defence or acquisition

of a useful frontier. but the ambitious Persian openly avowed a far more extensive design of conquest; and he thought himself able to support his

lofty pretensions by the arms of reason as well as by those of power. cyrus, he alleged, had first subdued, and his successors had for a long time possessed, the whole extent of Asia, as far as the Propontis and the Aegean Sea; the provinces of Caria and Ionia, under their empire,

had been governed by Persian satraps, and all Egypt, to the confines of aethiopia, had acknowledged their sovereignty. [47] Their rights had been

suspended, but not destroyed, by a long usurpation; and as soon as he

received the Persian diadem, which birth and successful valor had placed

upon his head, the first great duty of his station called upon him to

restore the ancient limits and splendor of the monarchy. The Great King, therefore, (such was the haughty style of his embassies to the emperor alexander,) commanded the Romans instantly to depart from all the

provinces of his ancestors, and, yielding to the Persians the empire of asia, to content themselves with the undisturbed possession of Europe. this haughty mandate was delivered by four hundred of the tallest and

most beautiful of the Persians; who, by their fine horses, splendid arms, and rich apparel, displayed the pride and greatness of their

master. [48] Such an embassy was much less an offer of negotiation than a declaration of war. Both Alexander Severus and Artaxerxes, collecting the military force of the Roman and Persian monarchies, resolved in this

important contest to lead their armies in person.

[Footnote 47: Xenophon, in the preface to the Cyropaedia, gives a clear and magnificent idea of the extent of the empire of Cyrus. Herodotus (l.

iii. c. 79, &c.) enters into a curious and particular description of the twenty great Satrapies into which the Persian empire was divided by darius Hystaspes.]

[Footnote 48: Herodian, vi. 209, 212.]

If we credit what should seem the most authentic of all records, an

oration, still extant, and delivered by the emperor himself to the

senate, we must allow that the victory of Alexander Severus was not

inferior to any of those formerly obtained over the Persians by the

son of Philip. The army of the Great King consisted of one hundred and twenty thousand horse, clothed in complete armor of steel; of seven

hundred elephants, with towers filled with archers on their backs, and

of eighteen hundred chariots armed with scythes. This formidable

host, the like of which is not to be found in eastern history, and has

scarcely been imagined in eastern romance, [49] was discomfited in a

great battle, in which the Roman Alexander proved himself an intrepid

soldier and a skilful general. The Great King fled before his valor; an immense booty, and the conquest of Mesopotamia, were the immediate fruits of this signal victory. Such are the circumstances of this

ostentatious and improbable relation, dictated, as it too plainly appears, by the vanity of the monarch, adorned by the unblushing

servility of his flatterers, and received without contradiction by a distant and obsequious senate. [50] Far from being inclined to believe that the arms of Alexander obtained any memorable advantage over the

Persians, we are induced to suspect that all this blaze of imaginary

glory was designed to conceal some real disgrace.

[Footnote 49: There were two hundred scythed chariots at the battle of arbela, in the host of Darius. In the vast army of Tigranes, which was

vanquished by Lucullus, seventeen thousand horse only were completely armed. Antiochus brought fifty-four elephants into the field against the

Romans: by his frequent wars and negotiations with the princes of India,

he had once collected a hundred and fifty of those great animals; but

it may be questioned whether the most powerful monarch of Hindostan evci formed a line of battle of seven hundred elephants. Instead of three or four thousand elephants, which the Great Mogul was supposed to possess, tavernier (Voyages, part ii. l. i. p. 198) discovered, by a more accurate inquiry, that he had only five hundred for his baggage, and eighty or ninety for the service of war. The Greeks have varied with

regard to the number which Porus brought into the field; but Quintus curtius, (viii. 13,) in this instance judicious and moderate, is contented with eighty-five elephants, distinguished by their size and

strength. In Siam, where these animals are the most numerous and the

most esteemed, eighteen elephants are allowed as a sufficient proportion for each of the nine brigades into which a just army is divided. The whole number, of one hundred and sixty-two elephants of war, may

sometimes be doubled. Hist. des Voyages, tom. ix. p. 260. \* Note: compare Gibbon's note 10 to ch. lvii--M.]

[Footnote 50: Hist. August. p. 133. \* Note: See M. Guizot's note, p.

267. According to the Persian authorities Ardeschir extended his conquests to the Euphrates. Malcolm i. 71.--M.]

Our suspicious are confirmed by the authority of a contemporary

historian, who mentions the virtues of Alexander with respect, and

his faults with candor. He describes the judicious plan which had been formed for the conduct of the war. Three Roman armies were destined to invade Persia at the same time, and by different roads. But the

operations of the campaign, though wisely concerted, were not executed either with ability or success. The first of these armies, as soon as it

had entered the marshy plains of Babylon, towards the artificial conflux

of the Euphrates and the Tigris, [51] was encompassed by the superior

numbers, and destroyed by the arrows of the enemy. The alliance of chosroes, king of Armenia, [52] and the long tract of mountainous country, in which the Persian cavalry was of little service, opened a secure entrance into the heart of Media, to the second of the Roman armies. These brave troops laid waste the adjacent provinces, and by

several successful actions against Artaxerxes, gave a faint color to the emperor's vanity. But the retreat of this victorious army was imprudent,

or at least unfortunate. In repassing the mountains, great numbers of

soldiers perished by the badness of the roads, and the severity of the winter season. It had been resolved, that whilst these two great detachments penetrated into the opposite extremes of the Persian dominions, the main body, under the command of Alexander himself, should

support their attack, by invading the centre of the kingdom. But the

unexperienced youth, influenced by his mother's counsels, and perhaps by

his own fears, deserted the bravest troops, and the fairest prospect of

victory; and after consuming in Mesopotamia an inactive and inglorious

summer, he led back to Antioch an army diminished by sickness, and

provoked by disappointment. The behavior of Artaxerxes had been very different. Flying with rapidity from the hills of Media to the marshes

of the Euphrates, he had everywhere opposed the invaders in person; and

in either fortune had united with the ablest conduct the most undaunted

resolution. But in several obstinate engagements against the veteran

legions of Rome, the Persian monarch had lost the flower of his troops. even his victories had weakened his power. The favorable opportunities

of the absence of Alexander, and of the confusions that followed that emperor's death, presented themselves in vain to his ambition. Instead

of expelling the Romans, as he pretended, from the continent of Asia,

he found himself unable to wrest from their hands the little province

of Mesopotamia. [53]

[Footnote 51: M. de Tillemont has already observed, that Herodian's

geography is somewhat confused.]

[Footnote 52: Moses of Chorene (Hist. Armen. l. ii. c. 71) illustrates this invasion of Media, by asserting that Chosroes, king of Armenia, defeated Artaxerxes, and pursued him to the confines of India. The exploits of Chosroes have been magnified; and he acted as a dependent ally to the Romans.]

[Footnote 53: For the account of this war, see Herodian, l. vi. p. 209,

212. The old abbreviators and modern compilers have blindly followed the augustan History.]

the reign of Artaxerxes, which, from the last defeat of the Parthians,

lasted only fourteen years, forms a memorable aera in the history of the east, and even in that of Rome. His character seems to have been marked by those bold and commanding features, that generally distinguish the

princes who conquer, from those who inherit an empire. Till the last

period of the Persian monarchy, his code of laws was respected as the

groundwork of their civil and religious policy. [54] Several of his

sayings are preserved. One of them in particular discovers a deep

insight into the constitution of government. "The authority of the

prince," said Artaxerxes, "must be defended by a military force; that force can only be maintained by taxes; all taxes must, at last, fall

upon agriculture; and agriculture can never flourish except under the

protection of justice and moderation." [55] Artaxerxes bequeathed his new empire, and his ambitious designs against the Romans, to Sapor, a son

not unworthy of his great father; but those designs were too extensive for the power of Persia, and served only to involve both nations in a

long series of destructive wars and reciprocal calamities.

[Footnote 54: Eutychius, tom. ii. p. 180, vers. Pocock. The great chosroes Noushirwan sent the code of Artaxerxes to all his satraps, as the invariable rule of their conduct.]

[Footnote 55: D'Herbelot, Bibliotheque Orientale, au mot Ardshir. we may observe, that after an ancient period of fables, and a long

interval of darkness, the modern histories of Persia begin to assume an air of truth with the dynasty of Sassanides. Compare Malcolm, i.

79.--M.]

the Persians, long since civilized and corrupted, were very far from possessing the martial independence, and the intrepid hardiness, both of mind and body, which have rendered the northern barbarians

masters of the world. The science of war, that constituted the more

rational force of Greece and Rome, as it now does of Europe, never made any considerable progress in the East. Those disciplined evolutions which harmonize and animate a confused multitude, were unknown to the

Persians. They were equally unskilled in the arts of constructing, besieging, or defending regular fortifications. They trusted more to their numbers than to their courage; more to their courage than to their discipline. The infantry was a half-armed, spiritless crowd of peasants,

levied in haste by the allurements of plunder, and as easily dispersed by a victory as by a defeat. The monarch and his nobles transported into the camp the pride and luxury of the seraglio. Their military operations were impeded by a useless train of women, eunuchs, horses, and camels; and in the midst of a successful campaign, the Persian host was often

separated or destroyed by an unexpected famine. [56]

[Footnote 56: Herodian, l. vi. p. 214. Ammianus Marcellinus, l. xxiii. c. 6. Some differences may be observed between the two historians, the

natural effects of the changes produced by a century and a half.]

but the nobles of Persia, in the bosom of luxury and despotism,

preserved a strong sense of personal gallantry and national honor. From the age of seven years they were taught to speak truth, to shoot with the bow, and to ride; and it was universally confessed, that in the two

last of these arts, they had made a more than common proficiency. [57] the most distinguished youth were educated under the monarch's eye,

practised their exercises in the gate of his palace, and were severely trained up to the habits of temperance and obedience, in their long and

laborious parties of hunting. In every province, the satrap maintained a like school of military virtue. The Persian nobles (so natural is the idea of feudal tenures) received from the king's bounty lands and

houses, on the condition of their service in war. They were ready on the first summons to mount on horseback, with a martial and splendid train

of followers, and to join the numerous bodies of guards, who were carefully selected from among the most robust slaves, and the bravest adventures of Asia. These armies, both of light and of heavy cavalry, equally formidable by the impetuosity of their charge and the rapidity

of their motions, threatened, as an impending cloud, the eastern

provinces of the declining empire of Rome. [58]

[Footnote 57: The Persians are still the most skilful horsemen, and their horses the finest in the East.]

[Footnote 58: From Herodotus, Xenophon, Herodian, Ammianus, Chardin,

&c., I have extracted such probable accounts of the Persian nobility, as seem either common to every age, or particular to that of the

Sassanides.]

chapter IX: State Of Germany Until The Barbarians.--Part I.

The State Of Germany Till The Invasion Of The Barbarians In

The Time Of The Emperor Decius.

the government and religion of Persia have deserved some notice, from their connection with the decline and fall of the Roman empire. We shall

occasionally mention the Scythian or Sarmatian tribes, [1001] which, with their arms and horses, their flocks and herds, their wives and families, wandered over the immense plains which spread themselves from the caspian Sea to the Vistula, from the confines of Persia to those of

Germany. But the warlike Germans, who first resisted, then invaded, and at length overturned the Western monarchy of Rome, will occupy a much

more important place in this history, and possess a stronger, and, if we may use the expression, a more domestic, claim to our attention and

regard. The most civilized nations of modern Europe issued from the woods of Germany; and in the rude institutions of those barbarians we

may still distinguish the original principles of our present laws and

manners. In their primitive state of simplicity and independence, the

Germans were surveyed by the discerning eye, and delineated by the

masterly pencil, of Tacitus, [1002] the first of historians who applied the

science of philosophy to the study of facts. The expressive conciseness

of his descriptions has served to exercise the diligence of innumerable antiquarians, and to excite the genius and penetration of the

philosophic historians of our own times. The subject, however various and important, has already been so frequently, so ably, and so

successfully discussed, that it is now grown familiar to the reader, and difficult to the writer. We shall therefore content ourselves with observing, and indeed with repeating, some of the most important circumstances of climate, of manners, and of institutions, which

rendered the wild barbarians of Germany such formidable enemies to the

Roman power.

[Footnote 1001: The Scythians, even according to the ancients, are not

Sarmatians. It may be doubted whether Gibbon intended to confound them.--M. ----The Greeks, after having divided the world into Greeks and barbarians. divided the barbarians into four great classes, the Celts, the Scythians, the Indians, and the Ethiopians. They called Celts all the inhabitants of Gaul. Scythia extended from the Baltic Sea to the

Lake Aral: the people enclosed in the angle to the north-east, between celtica and Scythia, were called Celto-Scythians, and the Sarmatians were placed in the southern part of that angle. But these names of celts, of Scythians, of Celto-Scythians, and Sarmatians, were invented,

says Schlozer, by the profound cosmographical ignorance of the Greeks, and have no real ground; they are purely geographical divisions, without any relation to the true affiliation of the different races. Thus all the inhabitants of Gaul are called Celts by most of the ancient writers;

yet Gaul contained three totally distinct nations, the Belgae, the aquitani, and the Gauls, properly so called. Hi omnes lingua institutis,

legibusque inter se differunt. Caesar. Com. c. i. It is thus the Turks call all Europeans Franks. Schlozer, Allgemeine Nordische Geschichte, p.

289. 1771. Bayer (de Origine et priscis Sedibus Scytharum, in Opusc.

p. 64) says, Primus eorum, de quibus constat, Ephorus, in quarto

historiarum libro, orbem terrarum inter Scythas, Indos, Aethiopas et celtas divisit. Fragmentum ejus loci Cosmas Indicopleustes in topographia Christiana, f. 148, conservavit. Video igitur Ephorum, cum

locorum positus per certa capita distribuere et explicare constitueret,

insigniorum nomina gentium vastioribus spatiis adhibuisse, nulla mala fraude et successu infelici. Nam Ephoro quoquomodo dicta pro exploratis

habebant Graeci plerique et Romani: ita gliscebat error posteritate.

Igitur tot tamque diversae stirpis gentes non modo intra communem

quandam regionem definitae, unum omnes Scytharum nomen his auctoribus

subierunt, sed etiam ab illa regionis adpellatione in eandem nationem

sunt conflatae. Sic Cimmeriorum res cum Scythicis, Scytharum cum

Sarmaticis, Russicis, Hunnicis, Tataricis commiscentur.--G.]

[Footnote 1002: The Germania of Tacitus has been a fruitful source of

hypothesis to the ingenuity of modern writers, who have endeavored to account for the form of the work and the views of the author. According to Luden, (Geschichte des T. V. i. 432, and note,) it contains the

unfinished and disarranged for a larger work. An anonymous writer,

supposed by Luden to be M. Becker, conceives that it was intended as an episode in his larger history. According to M. Guizot, "Tacite a peint

les Germains comme Montaigne et Rousseau les sauvages, dans un acces d'humeur contre sa patrie: son livre est une satire des moeurs Romaines,

l'eloquente boutade d'un patriote philosophe qui veut voir la vertu la,

ou il ne rencontre pas la mollesse honteuse et la depravation savante d'une vielle societe." Hist. de la Civilisation Moderne, i. 258.--M.]

ancient Germany, excluding from its independent limits the province westward of the Rhine, which had submitted to the Roman yoke, extended

itself over a third part of Europe. [1] Almost the whole of modern

Germany, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Livonia, Prussia, and the

greater part of Poland, were peopled by the various tribes of one great

nation, whose complexion, manners, and language denoted a common origin, and preserved a striking resemblance. On the west, ancient Germany was divided by the Rhine from the Gallic, and on the south, by the Danube, from the Illyrian, provinces of the empire. A ridge of hills, rising from the Danube, and called the Carpathian Mountains, covered Germany on the side of Dacia or Hungary. The eastern frontier was faintly marked by the mutual fears of the Germans and the Sarmatians, and was often confounded by the mixture of warring and confederating tribes of the two

nations. In the remote darkness of the north, the ancients imperfectly descried a frozen ocean that lay beyond the Baltic Sea, and beyond the

Peninsula, or islands [1001] of Scandinavia.

[Footnote 1: Germany was not of such vast extent. It is from Caesar, and

more particularly from Ptolemy, (says Gatterer,) that we can know what was the state of ancient Germany before the wars with the Romans had changed the positions of the tribes. Germany, as changed by these wars,

has been described by Strabo, Pliny, and Tacitus. Germany, properly so called, was bounded on the west by the Rhine, on the east by the

Vistula, on the north by the southern point of Norway, by Sweden, and esthonia. On the south, the Maine and the mountains to the north of bohemia formed the limits. Before the time of Caesar, the country between the Maine and the Danube was partly occupied by the Helvetians and other Gauls, partly by the Hercynian forest but, from the time of caesar to the great migration, these boundaries were advanced as far as the Danube, or, what is the same thing, to the Suabian Alps, although the Hercynian forest still occupied, from north to south, a space of

nine days' journey on both banks of the Danube. "Gatterer, Versuch einer all-gemeinen Welt-Geschichte," p. 424, edit. de 1792. This vast country was far from being inhabited by a single nation divided into different tribes of the same origin. We may reckon three principal races, very distinct in their language, their origin, and their customs. 1. To the east, the Slaves or Vandals. 2. To the west, the Cimmerians or Cimbri.

3. Between the Slaves and Cimbrians, the Germans, properly so called, the Suevi of Tacitus. The South was inhabited, before Julius Caesar, by

nations of Gaulish origin, afterwards by the Suevi.--G. On the position

of these nations, the German antiquaries differ. I. The Slaves, or

Sclavonians, or Wendish tribes, according to Schlozer, were originally

settled in parts of Germany unknown to the Romans, Mecklenburgh,

Pomerania, Brandenburgh, Upper Saxony; and Lusatia. According to

Gatterer, they remained to the east of the Theiss, the Niemen, and the

Vistula, till the third century. The Slaves, according to Procopius and

Jornandes, formed three great divisions. 1. The Venedi or Vandals, who took the latter name, (the Wenden,) having expelled the Vandals,

properly so called, (a Suevian race, the conquerors of Africa,) from the country between the Memel and the Vistula. 2. The Antes, who inhabited between the Dneister and the Dnieper. 3. The Sclavonians, properly so called, in the north of Dacia. During the great migration, these races advanced into Germany as far as the Saal and the Elbe. The Sclavonian

language is the stem from which have issued the Russian, the Polish, the bohemian, and the dialects of Lusatia, of some parts of the duchy of

Luneburgh, of Carniola, Carinthia, and Styria, &c.; those of Croatia, bosnia, and Bulgaria. Schlozer, Nordische Geschichte, p. 323, 335. II. the Cimbric race. Adelung calls by this name all who were not Suevi. this race had passed the Rhine, before the time of Caesar, occupied belgium, and are the Belgae of Caesar and Pliny. The Cimbrians also

occupied the Isle of Jutland. The Cymri of Wales and of Britain are of this race. Many tribes on the right bank of the Rhine, the Guthini in

Jutland, the Usipeti in Westphalia, the Sigambri in the duchy of Berg, were German Cimbrians. III. The Suevi, known in very early times by the

Romans, for they are mentioned by L. Corn. Sisenna, who lived 123 years before Christ, (Nonius v. Lancea.) This race, the real Germans, extended to the Vistula, and from the Baltic to the Hercynian forest. The name of

Suevi was sometimes confined to a single tribe, as by Caesar to the catti. The name of the Suevi has been preserved in Suabia. These three were the principal races which inhabited Germany; they moved from east to west, and are the parent stem of the modern natives. But northern europe, according to Schlozer, was not peopled by them alone; other

races, of different origin, and speaking different languages, have

inhabited and left descendants in these countries. The German tribes called themselves, from very remote times, by the generic name of teutons, (Teuten, Deutschen,) which Tacitus derives from that of one of their gods, Tuisco. It appears more probable that it means merely men,

people. Many savage nations have given themselves no other name. Thus the Laplanders call themselves Almag, people; the Samoiedes Nilletz,

Nissetsch, men, &c. As to the name of Germans, (Germani,) Caesar found

it in use in Gaul, and adopted it as a word already known to the Romans.

Many of the learned (from a passage of Tacitus, de Mor Germ. c. 2) have

supposed that it was only applied to the Teutons after Caesar's time; but Adelung has triumphantly refuted this opinion. The name of Germans

is found in the Fasti Capitolini. See Gruter, Iscrip. 2899, in which the consul Marcellus, in the year of Rome 531, is said to have defeated the

Gauls, the Insubrians, and the Germans, commanded by Virdomar. See adelung, Aelt. Geschichte der Deutsch, p. 102.--Compressed from G.]

[Footnote 1001: The modern philosophers of Sweden seem agreed that the waters of the Baltic gradually sink in a regular proportion, which they

have ventured to estimate at half an inch every year. Twenty centuries ago the flat country of Scandinavia must have been covered by the

sea; while the high lands rose above the waters, as so many islands of

various forms and dimensions. Such, indeed, is the notion given us by

Mela, Pliny, and Tacitus, of the vast countries round the Baltic. See

in the Bibliotheque Raisonnee, tom. xl. and xlv. a large abstract of dalin's History of Sweden, composed in the Swedish language. \* Note:

Modern geologists have rejected this theory of the depression of the baltic, as inconsistent with recent observation. The considerable changes which have taken place on its shores, Mr. Lyell, from actual

observation now decidedly attributes to the regular and uniform elevation of the land.--Lyell's Geology, b. ii. c. 17--M.]

Some ingenious writers [2] have suspected that Europe was much colder formerly than it is at present; and the most ancient descriptions of the climate of Germany tend exceedingly to confirm their theory. The general complaints of intense frost and eternal winter, are perhaps little to be

regarded, since we have no method of reducing to the accurate standard

of the thermometer, the feelings, or the expressions, of an orator born in the happier regions of Greece or Asia. But I shall select two

remarkable circumstances of a less equivocal nature. 1. The great

rivers which covered the Roman provinces, the Rhine and the Danube, were frequently frozen over, and capable of supporting the most enormous weights. The barbarians, who often chose that severe season for their

inroads, transported, without apprehension or danger, their numerous armies, their cavalry, and their heavy wagons, over a vast and solid bridge of ice. [3] Modern ages have not presented an instance of a like

phenomenon. 2. The reindeer, that useful animal, from whom the savage

of the North derives the best comforts of his dreary life, is of a constitution that supports, and even requires, the most intense cold.

He is found on the rock of Spitzberg, within ten degrees of the Pole; he

seems to delight in the snows of Lapland and Siberia: but at present he cannot subsist, much less multiply, in any country to the south of the baltic. [4] In the time of Caesar the reindeer, as well as the elk and the wild bull, was a native of the Hercynian forest, which then overshadowed a great part of Germany and Poland. [5] The modern

improvements sufficiently explain the causes of the diminution of the cold. These immense woods have been gradually cleared, which intercepted from the earth the rays of the sun. [6] The morasses have been drained, and, in proportion as the soil has been cultivated, the air has become

more temperate. Canada, at this day, is an exact picture of ancient

Germany. Although situated in the same parallel with the finest

provinces of France and England, that country experiences the most

rigorous cold. The reindeer are very numerous, the ground is covered with deep and lasting snow, and the great river of St. Lawrence is

regularly frozen, in a season when the waters of the Seine and the thames are usually free from ice. [7]

[Footnote 2: In particular, Mr. Hume, the Abbe du Bos, and M.

Pelloutier. Hist. des Celtes, tom. i.]

[Footnote 3: Diodorus Siculus, l. v. p. 340, edit. Wessel. Herodian, l.

vi. p. 221. Jornandes, c. 55. On the banks of the Danube, the wine, when brought to table, was frequently frozen into great lumps, frusta vini.

Ovid. Epist. ex Ponto, l. iv. 7, 9, 10. Virgil. Georgic. l. iii.

355. The fact is confirmed by a soldier and a philosopher, who had experienced the intense cold of Thrace. See Xenophon, Anabasis, l. vii.

p. 560, edit. Hutchinson. Note: The Danube is constantly frozen over. At

Pesth the bridge is usually taken up, and the traffic and communication between the two banks carried on over the ice. The Rhine is likewise in

many parts passable at least two years out of five. Winter campaigns are

so unusual, in modern warfare, that I recollect but one instance of an army crossing either river on the ice. In the thirty years' war,

(1635,) Jan van Werth, an Imperialist partisan, crossed the Rhine from

Heidelberg on the ice with 5000 men, and surprised Spiers. Pichegru's

memorable campaign, (1794-5,) when the freezing of the Meuse and Waal

opened Holland to his conquests, and his cavalry and artillery attacked the ships frozen in, on the Zuyder Zee, was in a winter of unprecedented

severity.--M. 1845.]

[Footnote 4: Buffon, Histoire Naturelle, tom. xii. p. 79, 116.]

[Footnote 5: Caesar de Bell. Gallic. vi. 23, &c. The most inquisitive of the Germans were ignorant of its utmost limits, although some of them

had travelled in it more than sixty days' journey. \* Note: The passage

of Caesar, "parvis renonum tegumentis utuntur," is obscure, observes

Luden, (Geschichte des Teutschen Volkes,) and insufficient to prove the

reindeer to have existed in Germany. It is supported however, by a fragment of Sallust. Germani intectum rhenonibus corpus tegunt.--M. It

has been suggested to me that Caesar (as old Gesner supposed) meant the

reindeer in the following description. Est bos cervi figura cujus a

media fronte inter aures unum cornu existit, excelsius magisque directum

(divaricatum, qu?) his quae nobis nota sunt cornibus. At ejus summo,

sicut palmae, rami quam late diffunduntur. Bell. vi.--M. 1845.]

[Footnote 6: Cluverius (Germania Antiqua, l. iii. c. 47) investigates the small and scattered remains of the Hercynian wood.]

[Footnote 7: Charlevoix, Histoire du Canada.]

It is difficult to ascertain, and easy to exaggerate, the influence of the climate of ancient Germany over the minds and bodies of the natives.

Many writers have supposed, and most have allowed, though, as it should

seem, without any adequate proof, that the rigorous cold of the North was favorable to long life and generative vigor, that the women were

more fruitful, and the human species more prolific, than in warmer or

more temperate climates. [8] We may assert, with greater confidence, that the keen air of Germany formed the large and masculine limbs of the

natives, who were, in general, of a more lofty stature than the people

of the South, [9] gave them a kind of strength better adapted to violent exertions than to patient labor, and inspired them with constitutional bravery, which is the result of nerves and spirits. The severity of a winter campaign, that chilled the courage of the Roman troops, was

scarcely felt by these hardy children of the North, [10] who, in their turn, were unable to resist the summer heats, and dissolved away in

languor and sickness under the beams of an Italian sun. [11]

[Footnote 8: Olaus Rudbeck asserts that the Swedish women often bear ten or twelve children, and not uncommonly twenty or thirty; but the authority of Rudbeck is much to be suspected.]

[Footnote 9: In hos artus, in haec corpora, quae miramur, excrescunt. taeit Germania, 3, 20. Cluver. l. i. c. 14.]

[Footnote 10: Plutarch. in Mario. The Cimbri, by way of amusement, often did down mountains of snow on their broad shields.]

[Footnote 11: The Romans made war in all climates, and by their excellent discipline were in a great measure preserved in health and

vigor. It may be remarked, that man is the only animal which can live and multiply in every country from the equator to the poles. The hog

seems to approach the nearest to our species in that privilege.]

chapter IX: State Of Germany Until The Barbarians.--Part II.

there is not any where upon the globe a large tract of country, which we

have discovered destitute of inhabitants, or whose first population can be fixed with any degree of historical certainty. And yet, as the most

philosophic minds can seldom refrain from investigating the infancy

of great nations, our curiosity consumes itself in toilsome and disappointed efforts. When Tacitus considered the purity of the German blood, and the forbidding aspect of the country, he was disposed to

pronounce those barbarians Indigence, or natives of the soil. We may allow with safety, and perhaps with truth, that ancient Germany was

not originally peopled by any foreign colonies already formed into a political society; [12] but that the name and nation received their existence from the gradual union of some wandering savages of the

Hercynian woods. To assert those savages to have been the spontaneous

production of the earth which they inhabited would be a rash inference, condemned by religion, and unwarranted by reason.

[Footnote 12: Facit. Germ. c. 3. The emigration of the Gauls followed the course of the Danube, and discharged itself on Greece and Asia. tacitus could discover only one inconsiderable tribe that retained any traces of a Gallic origin. \* Note: The Gothini, who must not be confounded with the Gothi, a Suevian tribe. In the time of Caesar many

other tribes of Gaulish origin dwelt along the course of the Danube, who could not long resist the attacks of the Suevi. The Helvetians, who dwelt on the borders of the Black Forest, between the Maine and the danube, had been expelled long before the time of Caesar. He mentions also the Volci Tectosagi, who came from Languedoc and settled round the black Forest. The Boii, who had penetrated into that forest, and also

have left traces of their name in Bohemia, were subdued in the first century by the Marcomanni. The Boii settled in Noricum, were mingled afterwards with the Lombards, and received the name of Boio Arii

(Bavaria) or Boiovarii: var, in some German dialects, appearing to mean

remains, descendants. Compare Malte B-m, Geography, vol. i. p. 410, edit

1832--M.]

Such rational doubt is but ill suited with the genius of popular vanity. among the nations who have adopted the Mosaic history of the world, the ark of Noah has been of the same use, as was formerly to the Greeks and

Romans the siege of Troy. On a narrow basis of acknowledged truth, an

immense but rude superstructure of fable has been erected; and the wild Irishman, [13] as well as the wild Tartar, [14] could point out the

individual son of Japhet, from whose loins his ancestors were lineally descended. The last century abounded with antiquarians of profound

learning and easy faith, who, by the dim light of legends and traditions, of conjectures and etymologies, conducted the great

grandchildren of Noah from the Tower of Babel to the extremities of the

globe. Of these judicious critics, one of the most entertaining was

Oaus Rudbeck, professor in the university of Upsal. [15] Whatever is celebrated either in history or fable, this zealous patriot ascribes to

his country. From Sweden (which formed so considerable a part of ancient

Germany) the Greeks themselves derived their alphabetical characters, their astronomy, and their religion. Of that delightful region (for such

it appeared to the eyes of a native) the Atlantis of Plato, the country

of the Hyperboreans, the gardens of the Hesperides, the Fortunate

Islands, and even the Elysian Fields, were all but faint and imperfect transcripts. A clime so profusely favored by Nature could not long

remain desert after the flood. The learned Rudbeck allows the family

of Noah a few years to multiply from eight to about twenty thousand

persons. He then disperses them into small colonies to replenish the earth, and to propagate the human species. The German or Swedish detachment (which marched, if I am not mistaken, under the command of askenaz, the son of Gomer, the son of Japhet) distinguished itself by a more than common diligence in the prosecution of this great work. The

northern hive cast its swarms over the greatest part of Europe, Africa, and Asia; and (to use the author's metaphor) the blood circulated from the extremities to the heart.

[Footnote 13: According to Dr. Keating, (History of Ireland, p. 13, 14,) the giant Portholanus, who was the son of Seara, the son of Esra, the

son of Sru, the son of Framant, the son of Fathaclan, the son of Magog, the son of Japhet, the son of Noah, landed on the coast of Munster the

14th day of May, in the year of the world one thousand nine hundred and

seventy-eight. Though he succeeded in his great enterprise, the loose behavior of his wife rendered his domestic life very unhappy, and

provoked him to such a degree, that he killed--her favorite greyhound. this, as the learned historian very properly observes, was the first

instance of female falsehood and infidelity ever known in Ireland.]

[Footnote 14: Genealogical History of the Tartars, by Abulghazi Bahadur

Khan.]

[Footnote 15: His work, entitled Atlantica, is uncommonly scarce. bayle has given two most curious extracts from it. Republique des

Lettres Janvier et Fevrier, 1685.]

but all this well-labored system of German antiquities is annihilated by a single fact, too well attested to admit of any doubt, and of too decisive a nature to leave room for any reply. The Germans, in the age

of Tacitus, were unacquainted with the use of letters; [16] and the use

of letters is the principal circumstance that distinguishes a civilized

people from a herd of savages incapable of knowledge or reflection. without that artificial help, the human memory soon dissipates or corrupts the ideas intrusted to her charge; and the nobler faculties of the mind, no longer supplied with models or with materials, gradually forget their powers; the judgment becomes feeble and lethargic, the

imagination languid or irregular. Fully to apprehend this important truth, let us attempt, in an improved society, to calculate the immense distance between the man of learning and the illiterate peasant. The former, by reading and reflection, multiplies his own experience, and

lives in distant ages and remote countries; whilst the latter, rooted to a single spot, and confined to a few years of existence, surpasses but

very little his fellow-laborer, the ox, in the exercise of his mental faculties. The same, and even a greater, difference will be found between nations than between individuals; and we may safely pronounce, that without some species of writing, no people has ever preserved the faithful annals of their history, ever made any considerable progress

in the abstract sciences, or ever possessed, in any tolerable degree of

perfection, the useful and agreeable arts of life.

[Footnote 16: Tacit. Germ. ii. 19. Literarum secreta viri pariter ac foeminae ignorant. We may rest contented with this decisive authority, without entering into the obscure disputes concerning the antiquity of the Runic characters. The learned Celsius, a Swede, a scholar, and a

philosopher, was of opinion, that they were nothing more than the Roman

letters, with the curves changed into straight lines for the ease of engraving. See Pelloutier, Histoire des Celtes, l. ii. c. 11. dictionnaire Diplomatique, tom. i. p. 223. We may add, that the oldest

Runic inscriptions are supposed to be of the third century, and the most ancient writer who mentions the Runic characters is Venan tius frotunatus, (Carm. vii. 18,) who lived towards the end of the sixth century. Barbara fraxineis pingatur Runa tabellis. \* Note: The obscure

subject of the Runic characters has exercised the industry and ingenuity

of the modern scholars of the north. There are three distinct theories;

one, maintained by Schlozer, (Nordische Geschichte, p. 481, &c.,) who considers their sixteen letters to be a corruption of the Roman alphabet, post-Christian in their date, and Schlozer would attribute their introduction into the north to the Alemanni. The second, that of frederick Schlegel, (Vorlesungen uber alte und neue Literatur,) supposes that these characters were left on the coasts of the Mediterranean and

Northern Seas by the Phoenicians, preserved by the priestly castes, and employed for purposes of magic. Their common origin from the Phoenician would account for heir similarity to the Roman letters. The last, to which we incline, claims much higher and more venerable antiquity for the Runic, and supposes them to have been the original characters of the

Indo-Teutonic tribes, brought from the East, and preserved among the different races of that stock. See Ueber Deutsche Runen von W. C. Grimm,

1821. A Memoir by Dr. Legis. Fundgruben des alten Nordens. Foreign

Quarterly Review vol. ix. p. 438.--M.]

Of these arts, the ancient Germans were wretchedly destitute. [1601] They

passed their lives in a state of ignorance and poverty, which it has

pleased some declaimers to dignify with the appellation of virtuous

simplicity. Modern Germany is said to contain about two thousand three

hundred walled towns. [17] In a much wider extent of country, the

geographer Ptolemy could discover no more than ninety places which he decorates with the name of cities; [18] though, according to our ideas, they would but ill deserve that splendid title. We can only suppose them to have been rude fortifications, constructed in the centre of the woods, and designed to secure the women, children, and cattle, whilst the warriors of the tribe marched out to repel a sudden invasion. [19] but Tacitus asserts, as a well-known fact, that the Germans, in his time, had no cities; [20] and that they affected to despise the works of

Roman industry, as places of confinement rather than of security. [21] their edifices were not even contiguous, or formed into regular villas;

[22] each barbarian fixed his independent dwelling on the spot to which a plain, a wood, or a stream of fresh water, had induced him to give the

preference. Neither stone, nor brick, nor tiles, were employed in these

slight habitations. [23] They were indeed no more than low huts, of a circular figure, built of rough timber, thatched with straw, and pierced at the top to leave a free passage for the smoke. In the most inclement winter, the hardy German was satisfied with a scanty garment made of the

skin of some animal. The nations who dwelt towards the North clothed themselves in furs; and the women manufactured for their own use a coarse kind of linen. [24] The game of various sorts, with which the forests of Germany were plentifully stocked, supplied its inhabitants with food and exercise. [25] Their monstrous herds of cattle, less

remarkable indeed for their beauty than for their utility, [26] formed the principal object of their wealth. A small quantity of corn was the

only produce exacted from the earth; the use of orchards or artificial

meadows was unknown to the Germans; nor can we expect any improvements

in agriculture from a people, whose prosperity every year experienced a

general change by a new division of the arable lands, and who, in that

strange operation, avoided disputes, by suffering a great part of their territory to lie waste and without tillage. [27]

[Footnote 1601: Luden (the author of the Geschichte des Teutschen Volkes)

has surpassed most writers in his patriotic enthusiasm for the virtues and noble manners of his ancestors. Even the cold of the climate, and the want of vines and fruit trees, as well as the barbarism of the

inhabitants, are calumnies of the luxurious Italians. M. Guizot, on the

other side, (in his Histoire de la Civilisation, vol. i. p. 272, &c.,)

has drawn a curious parallel between the Germans of Tacitus and the

North American Indians.--M.]

[Footnote 17: Recherches Philosophiques sur

les Americains, tom. iii. p. 228. The author of that very curious work

is, if I am not misinformed, a German by birth. (De Pauw.)]

[Footnote 18: The Alexandrian Geographer is often criticized by the accurate Cluverius.]

[Footnote 19: See Caesar, and the learned Mr. Whitaker in his History of

Manchester, vol. i.]

[Footnote 20: Tacit. Germ. 15.]

[Footnote 21: When the Germans commanded the Ubii of Cologne to cast

off the Roman yoke, and with their new freedom to resume their ancient

manners, they insisted on the immediate demolition of the walls of the colony. "Postulamus a vobis, muros coloniae, munimenta servitii, detrahatis; etiam fera animalia, si clausa teneas, virtutis

obliviscuntur." Tacit. Hist. iv. 64.]

[Footnote 22: The straggling villages of Silesia are several miles in

length. See Cluver. l. i. c. 13.]

[Footnote 23: One hundred and forty years after Tacitus, a few more

regular structures were erected near the Rhine and Danube. Herodian, l.

vii. p. 234.]

[Footnote 24: Tacit. Germ. 17.]

[Footnote 25: Tacit. Germ. 5.]

[Footnote 26: Caesar de Bell. Gall. vi. 21.]

[Footnote 27: Tacit. Germ. 26. Caesar, vi. 22.]

Gold, silver, and iron, were extremely scarce in Germany. Its barbarous

inhabitants wanted both skill and patience to investigate those rich

veins of silver, which have so liberally rewarded the attention of the

princes of Brunswick and Saxony. Sweden, which now supplies Europe with

iron, was equally ignorant of its own riches; and the appearance of the arms of the Germans furnished a sufficient proof how little iron they were able to bestow on what they must have deemed the noblest use of that metal. The various transactions of peace and war had introduced

some Roman coins (chiefly silver) among the borderers of the Rhine and danube; but the more distant tribes were absolutely unacquainted with the use of money, carried on their confined traffic by the exchange of commodities, and prized their rude earthen vessels as of equal value with the silver vases, the presents of Rome to their princes and ambassadors. [28] To a mind capable of reflection, such leading facts convey more instruction, than a tedious detail of subordinate circumstances. The value of money has been settled by general consent to express our wants and our property, as letters were invented to express

our ideas; and both these institutions, by giving a more active energy to the powers and passions of human nature, have contributed to multiply the objects they were designed to represent. The use of gold and

silver is in a great measure factitious; but it would be impossible to enumerate the important and various services which agriculture, and all the arts, have received from iron, when tempered and fashioned by the

operation of fire, and the dexterous hand of man. Money, in a word, is the most universal incitement, iron the most powerful instrument, of

human industry; and it is very difficult to conceive by what means a

people, neither actuated by the one, nor seconded by the other, could emerge from the grossest barbarism. [29]

[Footnote 28: Tacit. Germ. 6.]

[Footnote 29: It is said that the Mexicans and Peruvians, without the

use of either money or iron, had made a very great progress in the arts. Those arts, and the monuments they produced, have been strangely

magnified. See Recherches sur les Americains, tom. ii. p. 153, &c]

If we contemplate a savage nation in any part of the globe, a supine

indolence and a carelessness of futurity will be found to constitute their general character. In a civilized state, every faculty of man

is expanded and exercised; and the great chain of mutual dependence connects and embraces the several members of society. The most numerous

portion of it is employed in constant and useful labor. The select few,

placed by fortune above that necessity, can, however, fill up their time by the pursuits of interest or glory, by the improvement of their estate

or of their understanding, by the duties, the pleasures, and even the follies of social life. The Germans were not possessed of these varied

resources. The care of the house and family, the management of the

land and cattle, were delegated to the old and the infirm, to women and

slaves. The lazy warrior, destitute of every art that might employ his

leisure hours, consumed his days and nights in the animal gratifications

of sleep and food. And yet, by a wonderful diversity of nature,

(according to the remark of a writer who had pierced into its darkest

recesses,) the same barbarians are by turns the most indolent and the most restless of mankind. They delight in sloth, they detest tranquility. [30] The languid soul, oppressed with its own weight, anxiously required some new and powerful sensation; and war and danger were the only amusements adequate to its fierce temper. The sound that

summoned the German to arms was grateful to his ear. It roused him from

his uncomfortable lethargy, gave him an active pursuit, and, by strong exercise of the body, and violent emotions of the mind, restored him to a more lively sense of his existence. In the dull intervals of peace, these barbarians were immoderately addicted to deep gaming and excessive drinking; both of which, by different means, the one by inflaming their

passions, the other by extinguishing their reason, alike relieved them from the pain of thinking. They gloried in passing whole days and nights at table; and the blood of friends and relations often stained their

numerous and drunken assemblies. [31] Their debts of honor (for in that

light they have transmitted to us those of play) they discharged with the most romantic fidelity. The desperate gamester, who had staked his

person and liberty on a last throw of the dice, patiently submitted to the decision of fortune, and suffered himself to be bound, chastised, and sold into remote slavery, by his weaker but more lucky antagonist.

[32]

[Footnote 30: Tacit. Germ. 15.]

[Footnote 31: Tacit. Germ. 22, 23.]

[Footnote 32: Id. 24. The Germans might borrow the arts of play from the

Romans, but the passion is wonderfully inherent in the human species.]

Strong beer, a liquor extracted with very little art from wheat or barley, and corrupted (as it is strongly expressed by Tacitus) into a certain semblance of wine, was sufficient for the gross purposes of

German debauchery. But those who had tasted the rich wines of Italy, and afterwards of Gaul, sighed for that more delicious species of

intoxication. They attempted not, however, (as has since been executed with so much success,) to naturalize the vine on the banks of the Rhine and Danube; nor did they endeavor to procure by industry the materials

of an advantageous commerce. To solicit by labor what might be ravished by arms, was esteemed unworthy of the German spirit. [33] The intemperate thirst of strong liquors often urged the barbarians to invade the

provinces on which art or nature had bestowed those much envied

presents. The Tuscan who betrayed his country to the Celtic nations, attracted them into Italy by the prospect of the rich fruits and delicious wines, the productions of a happier climate. [34] And in the

same manner the German auxiliaries, invited into France during the civil wars of the sixteenth century, were allured by the promise of plenteous

quarters in the provinces of Champaigne and Burgundy. [35] Drunkenness, the most illiberal, but not the most dangerous of our vices, was

sometimes capable, in a less civilized state of mankind, of occasioning a battle, a war, or a revolution.

[Footnote 33: Tacit. Germ. 14.]

[Footnote 34: Plutarch. in Camillo. T. Liv. v. 33.]

[Footnote 35: Dubos. Hist. de la Monarchie Francoise, tom. i. p.

193.]

the climate of ancient Germany has been modified, and the soil fertilized, by the labor of ten centuries from the time of Charlemagne. the same extent of ground which at present maintains, in ease and

plenty, a million of husbandmen and artificers, was unable to supply a

hundred thousand lazy warriors with the simple necessaries of life. [36] the Germans abandoned their immense forests to the exercise of hunting, employed in pasturage the most considerable part of their lands, bestowed on the small remainder a rude and careless cultivation, and then accused the scantiness and sterility of a country that refused to

maintain the multitude of its inhabitants. When the return of famine

severely admonished them of the importance of the arts, the national distress was sometimes alleviated by the emigration of a third, perhaps,

or a fourth part of their youth. [37] The possession and the enjoyment

of property are the pledges which bind a civilized people to an improved country. But the Germans, who carried with them what they most valued, their arms, their cattle, and their women, cheerfully abandoned the vast

silence of their woods for the unbounded hopes of plunder and conquest. the innumerable swarms that issued, or seemed to issue, from the great

storehouse of nations, were multiplied by the fears of the vanquished, and by the credulity of succeeding ages. And from facts thus exaggerated, an opinion was gradually established, and has been

supported by writers of distinguished reputation, that, in the age of caesar and Tacitus, the inhabitants of the North were far more numerous than they are in our days. [38] A more serious inquiry into the causes of

population seems to have convinced modern philosophers of the falsehood, and indeed the impossibility, of the supposition. To the names of

Mariana and of Machiavel, [39] we can oppose the equal names of Robertson and Hume. [40]

[Footnote 36: The Helvetian nation, which issued from a country called

Switzerland, contained, of every age and sex, 368,000 persons, (Caesar de Bell. Gal. i. 29.) At present, the number of people in the Pays de Vaud (a small district on the banks of the Leman Lake, much more distinguished for politeness than for industry) amounts to 112,591. See an excellent tract of M. Muret, in the Memoires de la Societe de Born.]

[Footnote 37: Paul Diaconus, c. 1, 2, 3. Machiavel, Davila, and the rest

of Paul's followers, represent these emigrations too much as regular and concerted measures.]

[Footnote 38: Sir William Temple and Montesquieu have indulged, on this

subject, the usual liveliness of their fancy.]

[Footnote 39: Machiavel, Hist. di Firenze, l. i. Mariana, Hist. Hispan.

l. v. c. 1]

[Footnote 40: Robertson's Charles V. Hume's Political Essays. Note: It

is a wise observation of Malthus, that these nations "were not populous

in proportion to the land they occupied, but to the food they produced." they were prolific from their pure morals and constitutions, but their

institutions were not calculated to produce food for those whom they brought into being.--M--1845.]

a warlike nation like the Germans, without either cities, letters, arts,

or money, found some compensation for this savage state in the enjoyment

of liberty. Their poverty secured their freedom, since our desires and our possessions are the strongest fetters of despotism. "Among the

Suiones (says Tacitus) riches are held in honor. They are therefore

subject to an absolute monarch, who, instead of intrusting his people with the free use of arms, as is practised in the rest of Germany, commits them to the safe custody, not of a citizen, or even of a freedman, but of a slave. The neighbors of the Suiones, the Sitones, are sunk even below servitude; they obey a woman." [41] In the mention

of these exceptions, the great historian sufficiently acknowledges the

general theory of government. We are only at a loss to conceive by what

means riches and despotism could penetrate into a remote corner of the North, and extinguish the generous flame that blazed with such fierceness on the frontier of the Roman provinces, or how the ancestors

of those Danes and Norwegians, so distinguished in latter ages by their

unconquered spirit, could thus tamely resign the great character of

German liberty. [42] Some tribes, however, on the coast of the Baltic, acknowledged the authority of kings, though without relinquishing the

rights of men, [43] but in the far greater part of Germany, the form of

government was a democracy, tempered, indeed, and controlled, not so

much by general and positive laws, as by the occasional ascendant of birth or valor, of eloquence or superstition. [44]

[Footnote 41: Tacit. German. 44, 45. Freinshemius (who dedicated his

supplement to Livy to Christina of Sweden) thinks proper to be very angry with the Roman who expressed so very little reverence for Northern

queens. Note: The Suiones and the Sitones are the ancient inhabitants

of Scandinavia, their name may be traced in that of Sweden; they did not belong to the race of the Suevi, but that of the non-Suevi or Cimbri, whom the Suevi, in very remote times, drove back part to the west, part to the north; they were afterwards mingled with Suevian tribes, among

others the Goths, who have traces of their name and power in the isle of

Gothland.--G]

[Footnote 42: May we not suspect that superstition was the parent of despotism? The descendants of Odin, (whose race was not extinct till the

year 1060) are said to have reigned in Sweden above a thousand years. the temple of Upsal was the ancient seat of religion and empire. In the

year 1153 I find a singular law, prohibiting the use and profession of arms to any except the king's guards. Is it not probable that it was colored by the pretence of reviving an old institution? See Dalin's

History of Sweden in the Bibliotheque Raisonneo tom. xl. and xlv.]

[Footnote 43: Tacit. Germ. c. 43.]

[Footnote 44: Id. c. 11, 12, 13, & c.]

civil governments, in their first institution, are voluntary associations for mutual defence. To obtain the desired end, it is absolutely necessary that each individual should conceive himself

obliged to submit his private opinions and actions to the judgment of the greater number of his associates. The German tribes were contented with this rude but liberal outline of political society. As soon as a

youth, born of free parents, had attained the age of manhood, he was

introduced into the general council of his countrymen, solemnly invested with a shield and spear, and adopted as an equal and worthy member of the military commonwealth. The assembly of the warriors of the tribe was convened at stated seasons, or on sudden emergencies. The trial of

public offences, the election of magistrates, and the great business

of peace and war, were determined by its independent voice. Sometimes

indeed, these important questions were previously considered and

prepared in a more select council of the principal chieftains. [45] The

magistrates might deliberate and persuade, the people only could resolve and execute; and the resolutions of the Germans were for the most part

hasty and violent. Barbarians accustomed to place their freedom in

gratifying the present passion, and their courage in overlooking all future consequences, turned away with indignant contempt from the

remonstrances of justice and policy, and it was the practice to signify by a hollow murmur their dislike of such timid counsels. But whenever a more popular orator proposed to vindicate the meanest citizen from either foreign or domestic injury, whenever he called upon his fellow-countrymen to assert the national honor, or to pursue some enterprise full of danger and glory, a loud clashing of shields and

spears expressed the eager applause of the assembly. For the Germans always met in arms, and it was constantly to be dreaded, lest an

irregular multitude, inflamed with faction and strong liquors, should

use those arms to enforce, as well as to declare, their furious

resolves. We may recollect how often the diets of Poland have been

polluted with blood, and the more numerous party has been compelled to

yield to the more violent and seditious. [46]

[Footnote 45: Grotius changes an expression of Tacitus, pertractantur

into Proetractantur. The correction is equally just and ingenious.]

[Footnote 46: Even in our ancient parliament, the barons often carried a

question, not so much by the number of votes, as by that of their armed followers.]

a general of the tribe was elected on occasions of danger; and, if the danger was pressing and extensive, several tribes concurred in the choice of the same general. The bravest warrior was named to lead his countrymen into the field, by his example rather than by his commands. but this power, however limited, was still invidious. It expired with the war, and in time of peace the German tribes acknowledged not any

supreme chief. [47] Princes were, however, appointed, in the general assembly, to administer justice, or rather to compose differences, [48]

in their respective districts. In the choice of these magistrates, as

much regard was shown to birth as to merit. [49] To each was assigned, by the public, a guard, and a council of a hundred persons, and the first

of the princes appears to have enjoyed a preeminence of rank and honor which sometimes tempted the Romans to compliment him with the regal title. [50]

[Footnote 47: Caesar de Bell. Gal. vi. 23.]

[Footnote 48: Minuunt controversias, is a very happy expression of caesar's.]

[Footnote 49: Reges ex nobilitate, duces ex virtute sumunt. tacit Germ. 7]

[Footnote 50: Cluver. Germ. Ant. l. i. c. 38.]

the comparative view of the powers of the magistrates, in two remarkable

instances, is alone sufficient to represent the whole system of German

manners. The disposal of the landed property within their district was absolutely vested in their hands, and they distributed it every

year according to a new division. [51] At the same time they were not authorized to punish with death, to imprison, or even to strike a

private citizen. [52] A people thus jealous of their persons, and careless of their possessions, must have been totally destitute of

industry and the arts, but animated with a high sense of honor and

independence.

[Footnote 51: Caesar, vi. 22. Tacit Germ. 26.]

[Footnote 52: Tacit. Germ. 7.]

chapter IX: State Of Germany Until The Barbarians.--Part III.

the Germans respected only those duties which they imposed on themselves. The most obscure soldier resisted with disdain the authority

of the magistrates. The noblest youths blushed not to be numbered among the faithful companions of some renowned chief, to whom they devoted their arms and service. A noble emulation prevailed among the companions, to obtain the first place in the esteem of their chief; amongst the chiefs, to acquire the greatest number of valiant companions. To be ever surrounded by a band of select youths was the

pride and strength of the chiefs, their ornament in peace, their defence

in war. The glory of such distinguished heroes diffused itself beyond the narrow limits of their own tribe. Presents and embassies solicited their friendship, and the fame of their arms often insured victory to the party which they espoused. In the hour of danger it was shameful for the chief to be surpassed in valor by his companions; shameful for the companions not to equal the valor of their chief. To survive his fall

in battle, was indelible infamy. To protect his person, and to adorn his

glory with the trophies of their own exploits, were the most sacred of their duties. The chiefs combated for victory, the companions for the chief. The noblest warriors, whenever their native country was sunk into the laziness of peace, maintained their numerous bands in some distant

scene of action, to exercise their restless spirit, and to acquire

renown by voluntary dangers. Gifts worthy of soldiers--the warlike

steed, the bloody and even victorious lance--were the rewards which the companions claimed from the liberality of their chief. The rude plenty

of his hospitable board was the only pay that he could bestow, or they would accept. War, rapine, and the free-will offerings of his friends,

supplied the materials of this munificence. [53] This institution,

however it might accidentally weaken the several republics, invigorated the general character of the Germans, and even ripened amongst them all the virtues of which barbarians are susceptible; the faith and valor, the hospitality and the courtesy, so conspicuous long afterwards in the ages of chivalry.

the honorable gifts, bestowed by the chief on his brave companions, have been supposed, by an ingenious writer, to contain the first rudiments of the fiefs, distributed after the conquest of the Roman provinces, by the barbarian lords among their vassals, with a similar duty of homage and

military service. [54] These conditions are, however, very repugnant to the maxims of the ancient Germans, who delighted in mutual presents; but without either imposing, or accepting, the weight of obligations. [55]

[Footnote 53: Tacit. Germ. 13, 14.]

[Footnote 54: Esprit des Loix, l. xxx. c. 3. The brilliant imagination

of Montesquieu is corrected, however, by the dry, cold reason of the abbe de Mably. Observations sur l'Histoire de France, tom. i. p. 356.]

[Footnote 55: Gaudent muneribus, sed nec data imputant, nec acceptis

obligautur. Tacit. Germ. c. 21.]

"In the days of chivalry, or more properly of romance, all the men were brave, and all the women were chaste;" and notwithstanding the latter of these virtues is acquired and preserved with much more difficulty than the former, it is ascribed, almost without exception, to the wives of the ancient Germans. Polygamy was not in use, except among the princes, and among them only for the sake of multiplying their alliances. divorces were prohibited by manners rather than by laws. Adulteries were

punished as rare and inexpiable crimes; nor was seduction justified by example and fashion. [56] We may easily discover that Tacitus indulges an

honest pleasure in the contrast of barbarian virtue with the dissolute conduct of the Roman ladies; yet there are some striking circumstances that give an air of truth, or at least probability, to the conjugal faith and chastity of the Germans.

[Footnote 56: The adulteress was whipped through the village. Neither wealth nor beauty could inspire compassion, or procure her a second

husband. 18, 19.]

although the progress of civilization has undoubtedly contributed to assuage the fiercer passions of human nature, it seems to have been less favorable to the virtue of chastity, whose most dangerous enemy is the

softness of the mind. The refinements of life corrupt while they polish the intercourse of the sexes. The gross appetite of love becomes

most dangerous when it is elevated, or rather, indeed, disguised by

sentimental passion. The elegance of dress, of motion, and of

manners, gives a lustre to beauty, and inflames the senses through the

imagination. Luxurious entertainments, midnight dances, and licentious

spectacles, present at once temptation and opportunity to female frailty. [57] From such dangers the unpolished wives of the barbarians were secured by poverty, solitude, and the painful cares of a domestic

life. The German huts, open, on every side, to the eye of indiscretion

or jealousy, were a better safeguard of conjugal fidelity, than the walls, the bolts, and the eunuchs of a Persian haram. To this reason another may be added, of a more honorable nature. The Germans treated their women with esteem and confidence, consulted them on every occasion

of importance, and fondly believed, that in their breasts resided a

sanctity and wisdom more than human. Some of the interpreters of fate,

such as Velleda, in the Batavian war, governed, in the name of the deity, the fiercest nations of Germany. [58] The rest of the sex, without being adored as goddesses, were respected as the free and equal companions of soldiers; associated even by the marriage ceremony to a

life of toil, of danger, and of glory. [59] In their great invasions, the camps of the barbarians were filled with a multitude of women, who

remained firm and undaunted amidst the sound of arms, the various forms

of destruction, and the honorable wounds of their sons and husbands. [60] fainting armies of Germans have, more than once, been driven back upon the enemy, by the generous despair of the women, who dreaded death much

less than servitude. If the day was irrecoverably lost, they well knew

how to deliver themselves and their children, with their own hands, from an insulting victor. [61] Heroines of such a cast may claim our admiration; but they were most assuredly neither lovely, nor very

susceptible of love. Whilst they affected to emulate the stern virtues

of man, they must have resigned that attractive softness, in which

principally consist the charm and weakness of woman. Conscious pride taught the German females to suppress every tender emotion that stood

in competition with honor, and the first honor of the sex has ever been that of chastity. The sentiments and conduct of these high-spirited

matrons may, at once, be considered as a cause, as an effect, and as a

proof of the general character of the nation. Female courage, however it

may be raised by fanaticism, or confirmed by habit, can be only a faint and imperfect imitation of the manly valor that distinguishes the age or country in which it may be found.

[Footnote 57: Ovid employs two hundred lines in the research of places the most favorable to love. Above all, he considers the theatre as the best adapted to collect the beauties of Rome, and to melt them into tenderness and sensuality,]

[Footnote 58: Tacit. Germ. iv. 61, 65.]

[Footnote 59: The marriage present was a yoke of oxen, horses, and arms. See Germ. c. 18. Tacitus is somewhat too florid on the subject.]

[Footnote 60: The change of exigere into exugere is a most excellent correction.]

[Footnote 61: Tacit. Germ. c. 7. Plutarch in Mario. Before the wives of the Teutones destroyed themselves and their children, they had offered to surrender, on condition that they should be received as the slaves

of the vestal virgins.]

the religious system of the Germans (if the wild opinions of savages can deserve that name) was dictated by their wants, their fears, and their

ignorance. [62] They adored the great visible objects and agents of

nature, the Sun and the Moon, the Fire and the Earth; together with those imaginary deities, who were supposed to preside over the most

important occupations of human life. They were persuaded, that, by some

ridiculous arts of divination, they could discover the will of the

superior beings, and that human sacrifices were the most precious and acceptable offering to their altars. Some applause has been hastily bestowed on the sublime notion, entertained by that people, of the deity, whom they neither confined within the walls of the temple, nor

represented by any human figure; but when we recollect, that the Germans were unskilled in architecture, and totally unacquainted with the art of

sculpture, we shall readily assign the true reason of a scruple, which arose not so much from a superiority of reason, as from a want of

ingenuity. The only temples in Germany were dark and ancient groves, consecrated by the reverence of succeeding generations. Their secret

gloom, the imagined residence of an invisible power, by presenting no distinct object of fear or worship, impressed the mind with a still deeper sense of religious horror; [63] and the priests, rude and

illiterate as they were, had been taught by experience the use of every artifice that could preserve and fortify impressions so well suited to their own interest.

[Footnote 62: Tacitus has employed a few lines, and Cluverius one

hundred and twenty-four pages, on this obscure subject. The former discovers in Germany the gods of Greece and Rome. The latter is

positive, that, under the emblems of the sun, the moon, and the fire,

his pious ancestors worshipped the Trinity in unity]

[Footnote 63: The sacred wood, described with such sublime horror by

Lucan, was in the neighborhood of Marseilles; but there were many of the

same kind in Germany. \* Note: The ancient Germans had shapeless idols, and, when they began to build more settled habitations, they raised also temples, such as that to the goddess Teufana, who presided over divination. See Adelung, Hist. of Ane Germans, p 296--G]

the same ignorance, which renders barbarians incapable of conceiving or embracing the useful restraints of laws, exposes them naked and unarmed to the blind terrors of superstition. The German priests, improving this favorable temper of their countrymen, had assumed a jurisdiction even in temporal concerns, which the magistrate could not venture to exercise; and the haughty warrior patiently submitted to the lash of correction, when it was inflicted, not by any human power, but by the immediate

order of the god of war. [64] The defects of civil policy were sometimes

supplied by the interposition of ecclesiastical authority. The latter was constantly exerted to maintain silence and decency in the popular assemblies; and was sometimes extended to a more enlarged concern for the national welfare. A solemn procession was occasionally celebrated in the present countries of Mecklenburgh and Pomerania. The unknown symbol

of the Earth, covered with a thick veil, was placed on a carriage drawn by cows; and in this manner the goddess, whose common residence was in the Isles of Rugen, visited several adjacent tribes of her worshippers. during her progress the sound of war was hushed, quarrels were

suspended, arms laid aside, and the restless Germans had an opportunity

of tasting the blessings of peace and harmony. [65] The truce of God,

so often and so ineffectually proclaimed by the clergy of the eleventh century, was an obvious imitation of this ancient custom. [66]

[Footnote 64: Tacit. Germania, c. 7.]

[Footnote 65: Tacit. Germania, c. 40.]

[Footnote 66: See Dr. Robertson's History of Charles V. vol. i. note

10.]

but the influence of religion was far more powerful to inflame, than to moderate, the fierce passions of the Germans. Interest and fanaticism often prompted its ministers to sanctify the most daring and the most unjust enterprises, by the approbation of Heaven, and full assurances of success. The consecrated standards, long revered in the

groves of superstition, were placed in the front of the battle; [67] and the hostile army was devoted with dire execrations to the gods of war and of thunder. [68] In the faith of soldiers (and such were the Germans) cowardice is the most unpardonable of sins. A brave man was the worthy favorite of their martial deities; the wretch who had lost his shield was alike banished from the religious and civil assemblies of his countrymen. Some tribes of the north seem to have embraced the doctrine

of transmigration, [69] others imagined a gross paradise of immortal drunkenness. [70] All agreed, that a life spent in arms, and a glorious death in battle, were the best preparations for a happy futurity, either

in this or in another world.

[Footnote 67: Tacit. Germania, c. 7. These standards were only the heads

of wild beasts.]

[Footnote 68: See an instance of this custom, Tacit. Annal. xiii. 57.]

[Footnote 69: Caesar Diodorus, and Lucan, seem to ascribe this doctrine to the Gauls, but M. Pelloutier (Histoire des Celtes, l. iii. c. 18)

labors to reduce their expressions to a more orthodox sense.]

[Footnote 70: Concerning this gross but alluring doctrine of the Edda,

see Fable xx. in the curious version of that book, published by M.

Mallet, in his Introduction to the History of Denmark.]

the immortality so vainly promised by the priests, was, in some degree, conferred by the bards. That singular order of men has most deservedly attracted the notice of all who have attempted to investigate the antiquities of the Celts, the Scandinavians, and the Germans. Their

genius and character, as well as the reverence paid to that important

office, have been sufficiently illustrated. But we cannot so easily express, or even conceive, the enthusiasm of arms and glory which they

kindled in the breast of their audience. Among a polished people, a taste for poetry is rather an amusement of the fancy, than a passion

of the soul. And yet, when in calm retirement we peruse the combats described by Homer or Tasso, we are insensibly seduced by the fiction, and feel a momentary glow of martial ardor. But how faint, how cold is the sensation which a peaceful mind can receive from solitary study! It was in the hour of battle, or in the feast of victory, that the bards celebrated the glory of the heroes of ancient days, the ancestors of those warlike chieftains, who listened with transport to their artless but animated strains. The view of arms and of danger heightened the effect of the military song; and the passions which it tended to excite, the desire of fame, and the contempt of death, were the habitual

sentiments of a German mind. [71] [711]

[Footnote 71: See Tacit. Germ. c. 3. Diod. Sicul. l. v. Strabo, l. iv.

p. 197. The classical reader may remember the rank of Demodocus in the

Phaeacian court, and the ardor infused by Tyrtaeus into the fainting

Spartans. Yet there is little probability that the Greeks and the

Germans were the same people. Much learned trifling might be spared, if

our antiquarians would condescend to reflect, that similar manners will

naturally be produced by similar situations.]

[Footnote 711: Besides these battle songs, the Germans sang at their festival banquets, (Tac. Ann. i. 65,) and around the bodies of their

slain heroes. King Theodoric, of the tribe of the Goths, killed in a battle against Attila, was honored by songs while he was borne from the field of battle. Jornandes, c. 41. The same honor was paid to the remains of Attila. Ibid. c. 49. According to some historians, the Germans had songs also at their weddings; but this appears to me

inconsistent with their customs, in which marriage was no more than the

purchase of a wife. Besides, there is but one instance of this, that

of the Gothic king, Ataulph, who sang himself the nuptial hymn when

he espoused Placidia, sister of the emperors Arcadius and Honorius,

(Olympiodor. p. 8.) But this marriage was celebrated according to the

Roman rites, of which the nuptial songs formed a part. Adelung, p.

382.--G. Charlemagne is said to have collected the national songs of the ancient Germans. Eginhard, Vit. Car. Mag.--M.]

Such was the situation, and such were the manners of the ancient

Germans. Their climate, their want of learning, of arts, and of laws, their notions of honor, of gallantry, and of religion, their sense of freedom, impatience of peace, and thirst of enterprise, all contributed to form a people of military heroes. And yet we find, that during more than two hundred and fifty years that elapsed from the defeat of

Varus to the reign of Decius, these formidable barbarians made few considerable attempts, and not any material impression on the luxurious and enslaved provinces of the empire. Their progress was checked by their want of arms and discipline, and their fury was diverted by the

intestine divisions of ancient Germany. I. It has been observed, with

ingenuity, and not without truth, that the command of iron soon gives a nation the command of gold. But the rude tribes of Germany, alike destitute of both those valuable metals, were reduced slowly to acquire, by their unassisted strength, the possession of the one as well as the other. The face of a German army displayed their poverty of iron.

Swords, and the longer kind of lances, they could seldom use. Their frameoe (as they called them in their own language) were long spears

headed with a sharp but narrow iron point, and which, as occasion

required, they either darted from a distance, or pushed in close onset. with this spear, and with a shield, their cavalry was contented. a multitude of darts, scattered [72] with incredible force, were an additional resource of the infantry. Their military dress, when they wore any, was nothing more than a loose mantle. A variety of colors was the only ornament of their wooden or osier shields. Few of the chiefs were distinguished by cuirasses, scarcely any by helmets. Though the

horses of Germany were neither beautiful, swift, nor practised in the

skilful evolutions of the Roman manege, several of the nations obtained

renown by their cavalry; but, in general, the principal strength of the

Germans consisted in their infantry, [73] which was drawn up in several deep columns, according to the distinction of tribes and families.

Impatient of fatigue and delay, these half-armed warriors rushed to battle with dissonant shouts and disordered ranks; and sometimes, by the effort of native valor, prevailed over the constrained and more artificial bravery of the Roman mercenaries. But as the barbarians

poured forth their whole souls on the first onset, they knew not how to

rally or to retire. A repulse was a sure defeat; and a defeat was most commonly total destruction. When we recollect the complete armor of the Roman soldiers, their discipline, exercises, evolutions, fortified camps, and military engines, it appears a just matter of surprise,

how the naked and unassisted valor of the barbarians could dare to encounter, in the field, the strength of the legions, and the various troops of the auxiliaries, which seconded their operations. The contest was too unequal, till the introduction of luxury had enervated the

vigor, and a spirit of disobedience and sedition had relaxed the discipline, of the Roman armies. The introduction of barbarian auxiliaries into those armies, was a measure attended with very obvious dangers, as it might gradually instruct the Germans in the arts of war and of policy. Although they were admitted in small numbers and with the

strictest precaution, the example of Civilis was proper to convince the

Romans, that the danger was not imaginary, and that their precautions were not always sufficient. [74] During the civil wars that followed the death of Nero, that artful and intrepid Batavian, whom his enemies condescended to compare with Hannibal and Sertorius, [75] formed a great design of freedom and ambition. Eight Batavian cohorts renowned in the wars of Britain and Italy, repaired to his standard. He introduced an army of Germans into Gaul, prevailed on the powerful cities of Treves and Langres to embrace his cause, defeated the legions, destroyed their fortified camps, and employed against the Romans the military knowledge which he had acquired in their service. When at length, after an

obstinate struggle, he yielded to the power of the empire, Civilis

secured himself and his country by an honorable treaty. The Batavians

still continued to occupy the islands of the Rhine, [76] the allies, not the servants, of the Roman monarchy.

[Footnote 72: Missilia spargunt, tacit. Germ. c. 6. Either that historian used a vague expression, or

he meant that they were thrown at random.]

[Footnote 73: It was their

principal distinction from the Sarmatians, who generally fought on

horseback.]

[Footnote 74: The relation of this enterprise occupies a great part

of the fourth and fifth books of the History of Tacitus, and is more

remarkable for its eloquence than perspicuity. Sir Henry Saville has

observed several inaccuracies.]

[Footnote 75: Tacit. Hist. iv. 13. Like them he had lost an eye.]

[Footnote 76: It was contained between the two branches of the old

Rhine, as they subsisted before the face of the country was changed by art and nature. See Cluver German. Antiq. l. iii. c. 30, 37.]

II. The strength of ancient Germany appears formidable, when we consider the effects that might have been produced by its united effort. The wide extent of country might very possibly contain a million of warriors, as all who were of age to bear arms were of a temper to use them. But this fierce multitude, incapable of concerting or executing any plan

of national greatness, was agitated by various and often hostile

intentions. Germany was divided into more than forty independent states; and, even in each state, the union of the several tribes was extremely

loose and precarious. The barbarians were easily provoked; they knew not

how to forgive an injury, much less an insult; their resentments were bloody and implacable. The casual disputes that so frequently happened

in their tumultuous parties of hunting or drinking, were sufficient to inflame the minds of whole nations; the private feuds of any considerable chieftains diffused itself among their followers and allies. To chastise the insolent, or to plunder the defenceless, were alike causes of war. The most formidable states of Germany affected to encompass their territories with a wide frontier of solitude and devastation. The awful distance preserved by their neighbors attested the terror of their arms, and in some measure defended them from the danger of unexpected incursions. [77]

[Footnote 77: Caesar de Bell. Gal. l. vi. 23.]

"The Bructeri [771] (it is Tacitus who now speaks) were totally exterminated by the neighboring tribes, [78] provoked by their insolence, allured by the hopes of spoil, and perhaps inspired by the tutelar deities of the empire. Above sixty thousand barbarians were destroyed;

not by the Roman arms, but in our sight, and for our entertainment. May the nations, enemies of Rome, ever preserve this enmity to each other! we have now attained the utmost verge of prosperity, [79] and

have nothing left to demand of fortune, except the discord of the barbarians." [80]--These sentiments, less worthy of the humanity than of the patriotism of Tacitus, express the invariable maxims of the policy

of his countrymen. They deemed it a much safer expedient to divide than to combat the barbarians, from whose defeat they could derive neither

honor nor advantage. The money and negotiations of Rome insinuated themselves into the heart of Germany; and every art of seduction was

used with dignity, to conciliate those nations whom their proximity to the Rhine or Danube might render the most useful friends as well as the

most troublesome enemies. Chiefs of renown and power were flattered by the most trifling presents, which they received either as marks of distinction, or as the instruments of luxury. In civil dissensions the weaker faction endeavored to strengthen its interest by entering into

secret connections with the governors of the frontier provinces. Every

quarrel among the Germans was fomented by the intrigues of Rome; and every plan of union and public good was defeated by the stronger bias of

private jealousy and interest. [81]

[Footnote 771: The Bructeri were a non-Suevian tribe, who dwelt below the duchies of Oldenburgh, and Lauenburgh, on the borders of the Lippe, and

in the Hartz Mountains. It was among them that the priestess Velleda

obtained her renown.--G.]

[Footnote 78: They are mentioned, however, in the ivth and vth centuries by Nazarius, Ammianus, Claudian, &c., as a tribe of Franks. See Cluver.

Germ. Antiq. l. iii. c. 13.]

[Footnote 79: Urgentibus is the common reading; but good sense, Lipsius, and some Mss. declare for Vergentibus.]

[Footnote 80: Tacit Germania, c. 33. The pious Abbe de la Bleterie is

very angry with Tacitus, talks of the devil, who was a murderer from the beginning, &c., &c.]

[Footnote 81: Many traces of this policy may be discovered in Tacitus and Dion: and many more may be inferred from the principles of human

nature.]

the general conspiracy which terrified the Romans under the reign of

Marcus Antoninus, comprehended almost all the nations of Germany, and even Sarmatia, from the mouth of the Rhine to that of the Danube. [82]

It is impossible for us to determine whether this hasty confederation was formed by necessity, by reason, or by passion; but we may rest assured, that the barbarians were neither allured by the indolence, nor

provoked by the ambition, of the Roman monarch. This dangerous invasion

required all the firmness and vigilance of Marcus. He fixed generals of ability in the several stations of attack, and assumed in person the conduct of the most important province on the Upper Danube. After a long and doubtful conflict, the spirit of the barbarians was subdued. The

Quadi and the Marcomanni, [83] who had taken the lead in the war, were the most severely punished in its catastrophe. They were commanded to

retire five miles [84] from their own banks of the Danube, and to deliver up the flower of the youth, who were immediately sent into britain, a remote island, where they might be secure as hostages, and

useful as soldiers. [85] On the frequent rebellions of the Quadi and

Marcomanni, the irritated emperor resolved to reduce their country into the form of a province. His designs were disappointed by death. This formidable league, however, the only one that appears in the two first centuries of the Imperial history, was entirely dissipated, without

leaving any traces behind in Germany.

[Footnote 82: Hist. Aug. p. 31. Ammian. Marcellin. l. xxxi. c. 5. Aurel.

Victor. The emperor Marcus was reduced to sell the rich furniture of the

palace, and to enlist slaves and robbers.]

[Footnote 83: The Marcomanni, a colony, who, from the banks of the Rhine

occupied Bohemia and Moravia, had once erected a great and formidable

monarchy under their king Maroboduus. See Strabo, l. vii. [p. 290.]

Vell. Pat. ii. 108. Tacit. Annal. ii. 63. \* Note: The Mark-manaen, the

March-men or borderers. There seems little doubt that this was an appellation, rather than a proper name of a part of the great Suevian or teutonic race.--M.]

[Footnote 84: Mr. Wotton (History of Rome, p. 166) increases the

prohibition to ten times the distance. His reasoning is specious, but

not conclusive. Five miles were sufficient for a fortified barrier.]

[Footnote 85: Dion, l. lxxi. and lxxii.]

In the course of this introductory chapter, we have confined ourselves to the general outlines of the manners of Germany, without attempting to describe or to distinguish the various tribes which filled that

great country in the time of Caesar, of Tacitus, or of Ptolemy. As the ancient, or as new tribes successively present themselves in the

series of this history, we shall concisely mention their origin, their

situation, and their particular character. Modern nations are fixed and

permanent societies, connected among themselves by laws and government, bound to their native soil by arts and agriculture. The German tribes were voluntary and fluctuating associations of soldiers, almost of

savages. The same territory often changed its inhabitants in the tide

of conquest and emigration. The same communities, uniting in a plan of defence or invasion, bestowed a new title on their new confederacy. The dissolution of an ancient confederacy restored to the independent tribes their peculiar but long-forgotten appellation. A victorious state often communicated its own name to a vanquished people. Sometimes crowds of

volunteers flocked from all parts to the standard of a favorite leader;

his camp became their country, and some circumstance of the enterprise

soon gave a common denomination to the mixed multitude. The distinctions

of the ferocious invaders were perpetually varied by themselves, and confounded by the astonished subjects of the Roman empire. [86]

[Footnote 86: See an excellent dissertation on the origin and migrations

of nations, in the Memoires de l'Academie des Inscriptions, tom. xviii.

p. 48--71. It is seldom that the antiquarian and the philosopher are so

happily blended.]

wars, and the administration of public affairs, are the principal

subjects of history; but the number of persons interested in these busy scenes is very different, according to the different condition of

mankind. In great monarchies, millions of obedient subjects pursue their

useful occupations in peace and obscurity. The attention of the writer, as well as of the reader, is solely confined to a court, a capital, a

regular army, and the districts which happen to be the occasional scene

of military operations. But a state of freedom and barbarism, the season

of civil commotions, or the situation of petty republics, [87] raises almost every member of the community into action, and consequently into

notice. The irregular divisions, and the restless motions, of the people

of Germany, dazzle our imagination, and seem to multiply their numbers. the profuse enumeration of kings, of warriors, of armies and nations,

inclines us to forget that the same objects are continually repeated

under a variety of appellations, and that the most splendid appellations

have been frequently lavished on the most inconsiderable objects.

[Footnote 87: Should we suspect that Athens contained only 21,000 citizens, and Sparta no more than 39,000? See Hume and Wallace on the

number of mankind in ancient and modern times. \* Note: This number, though too positively stated, is probably not far wrong, as an average estimate. On the subject of Athenian population, see St. Croix, Acad. des Inscrip. xlviii. Boeckh, Public Economy of Athens, i. 47. Eng Trans, fynes Clinton, Fasti Hellenici, vol. i. p. 381. The latter author estimates the citizens of Sparta at 33,000--M.]

chapter X: Emperors Decius, Gallus, Aemilianus, Valerian And Gallienus--Part I.

The Emperors Decius, Gallus, Aemilianus, Valerian, And

Gallienus.--The General Irruption Of The Barbari Ans.--The

Thirty Tyrants.

from the great secular games celebrated by Philip, to the death of the emperor Gallienus, there elapsed twenty years of shame and misfortune. during that calamitous period, every instant of time was marked, every

province of the Roman world was afflicted, by barbarous invaders, and

military tyrants, and the ruined empire seemed to approach the last and fatal moment of its dissolution. The confusion of the times, and the

scarcity of authentic memorials, oppose equal difficulties to the

historian, who attempts to preserve a clear and unbroken thread of

narration. Surrounded with imperfect fragments, always concise, often

obscure, and sometimes contradictory, he is reduced to collect, to compare, and to conjecture: and though he ought never to place his conjectures in the rank of facts, yet the knowledge of human nature, and

of the sure operation of its fierce and unrestrained passions, might, on

some occasions, supply the want of historical materials.

there is not, for instance, any difficulty in conceiving, that the

successive murders of so many emperors had loosened all the ties of allegiance between the prince and people; that all the generals of

Philip were disposed to imitate the example of their master; and that the caprice of armies, long since habituated to frequent and violent

revolutions, might every day raise to the throne the most obscure of their fellow-soldiers. History can only add, that the rebellion against the emperor Philip broke out in the summer of the year two hundred and forty-nine, among the legions of Maesia; and that a subaltern officer,

[1] named Marinus, was the object of their seditious choice. Philip was alarmed. He dreaded lest the treason of the Maesian army should

prove the first spark of a general conflagration. Distracted with the consciousness of his guilt and of his danger, he communicated the

intelligence to the senate. A gloomy silence prevailed, the effect of fear, and perhaps of disaffection; till at length Decius, one of the assembly, assuming a spirit worthy of his noble extraction, ventured to discover more intrepidity than the emperor seemed to possess. He treated the whole business with contempt, as a hasty and inconsiderate tumult, and Philip's rival as a phantom of royalty, who in a very few days would be destroyed by the same inconstancy that had created him. The speedy completion of the prophecy inspired Philip with a just esteem for so able a counsellor; and Decius appeared to him the only person capable

of restoring peace and discipline to an army whose tumultuous spirit did

not immediately subside after the murder of Marinus. Decius, [2] who

long resisted his own nomination, seems to have insinuated the danger of

presenting a leader of merit to the angry and apprehensive minds of the soldiers; and his prediction was again confirmed by the event. The

legions of Maesia forced their judge to become their accomplice. They

left him only the alternative of death or the purple. His subsequent conduct, after that decisive measure, was unavoidable. He conducted, or followed, his army to the confines of Italy, whither Philip, collecting all his force to repel the formidable competitor whom he had raised up, advanced to meet him. The Imperial troops were superior in number; but the rebels formed an army of veterans, commanded by an able and experienced leader. Philip was either killed in the battle, or put to death a few days afterwards at Verona. His son and associate in the empire was massacred at Rome by the Praetorian guards; and the

victorious Decius, with more favorable circumstances than the ambition

of that age can usually plead, was universally acknowledged by the

senate and provinces. It is reported, that, immediately after his

reluctant acceptance of the title of Augustus, he had assured Philip, by a private message, of his innocence and loyalty, solemnly protesting, that, on his arrival on Italy, he would resign the Imperial ornaments, and return to the condition of an obedient subject. His professions

might be sincere; but in the situation where fortune had placed him, it was scarcely possible that he could either forgive or be forgiven. [3]

[Footnote 1: The expression used by Zosimus and Zonaras may signify that

Marinus commanded a century, a cohort, or a legion.]

[Footnote 2: His birth at Bubalia, a little village in Pannonia,

(Eutrop. ix. Victor. in Caesarib. et Epitom.,) seems to contradict,

unless it was merely accidental, his supposed descent from the Decii.

Six hundred years had bestowed nobility on the Decii: but at the commencement of that period, they were only plebeians of merit, and among the first who shared the consulship with the haughty patricians.

Plebeine Deciorum animae, &c. Juvenal, Sat. viii. 254. See the spirited

speech of Decius, in Livy. x. 9, 10.]

[Footnote 3: Zosimus, l. i. p. 20, c. 22. Zonaras, l. xii. p. 624, edit.

Louvre.]

the emperor Decius had employed a few months in the works of peace and the administration of justice, when he was summoned to the banks of the Danube by the invasion of the Goths. This is the first considerable

occasion in which history mentions that great people, who afterwards broke the Roman power, sacked the Capitol, and reigned in Gaul, Spain, and Italy. So memorable was the part which they acted in the subversion

of the Western empire, that the name of Goths is frequently but

improperly used as a general appellation ef rude and warlike barbarism.

In the beginning of the sixth century, and after the conquest of Italy, the Goths, in possession of present greatness, very naturally indulged themselves in the prospect of past and of future glory. They wished to

preserve the memory of their ancestors, and to transmit to posterity their own achievements. The principal minister of the court of Ravenna, the learned Cassiodorus, gratified the inclination of the conquerors in a Gothic history, which consisted of twelve books, now reduced to the

imperfect abridgment of Jornandes. [4] These writers passed with the most artful conciseness over the misfortunes of the nation, celebrated its

successful valor, and adorned the triumph with many Asiatic trophies, that more properly belonged to the people of Scythia. On the faith of ancient songs, the uncertain, but the only memorials of barbarians, they deduced the first origin of the Goths from the vast island, or

peninsula, of Scandinavia. [5] [501] That extreme country of the North was not unknown to the conquerors of Italy: the ties of ancient consanguinity had been strengthened by recent offices of friendship; and a Scandinavian king had cheerfully abdicated his savage greatness, that

he might pass the remainder of his days in the peaceful and polished court of Ravenna. [6] Many vestiges, which cannot be ascribed to the arts of popular vanity, attest the ancient residence of the Goths in the countries beyond the Rhine. From the time of the geographer Ptolemy, the

southern part of Sweden seems to have continued in the possession of the

less enterprising remnant of the nation, and a large territory is even at present divided into east and west Gothland. During the middle ages, (from the ninth to the twelfth century,) whilst Christianity was advancing with a slow progress into the North, the Goths and the

Swedes composed two distinct and sometimes hostile members of the

same monarchy. [7] The latter of these two names has prevailed without extinguishing the former. The Swedes, who might well be satisfied with their own fame in arms, have, in every age, claimed the kindred glory of the Goths. In a moment of discontent against the court of Rome, Charles the Twelfth insinuated, that his victorious troops were not degenerated from their brave ancestors, who had already subdued the mistress of the world. [8]

[Footnote 4: See the prefaces of Cassiodorus and Jornandes; it is

surprising that the latter should be omitted in the excellent edition,

published by Grotius, of the Gothic writers.]

[Footnote 5: On the authority of Ablavius, Jornandes quotes some old

Gothic chronicles in verse. De Reb. Geticis, c. 4.]

[Footnote 501: The Goths have inhabited Scandinavia, but it was not their original habitation. This great nation was anciently of the

Suevian race; it occupied, in the time of Tacitus, and long before,

Mecklenburgh, Pomerania Southern Prussia and the north-west of Poland. A

little before the birth of J. C., and in the first years of that century, they belonged to the kingdom of Marbod, king of the Marcomanni: but Cotwalda, a young Gothic prince, delivered them from that tyranny, and established his own power over the kingdom of the Marcomanni, already much weakened by the victories of Tiberius. The power of the

Goths at that time must have been great: it was probably from them that the Sinus Codanus (the Baltic) took this name, as it was afterwards called Mare Suevicum, and Mare Venedicum, during the superiority of the

proper Suevi and the Venedi. The epoch in which the Goths passed into

Scandinavia is unknown. See Adelung, Hist. of Anc. Germany, p. 200.

Gatterer, Hist. Univ. 458.--G. ----M. St. Martin observes, that the

Scandinavian descent of the Goths rests on the authority of Jornandes, who professed to derive it from the traditions of the Goths. He is

supported by Procopius and Paulus Diaconus. Yet the Goths are

unquestionably the same with the Getae of the earlier historians. St.

Martin, note on Le Beau, Hist. du bas Empire, iii. 324. The identity of the Getae and Goths is by no means generally admitted. On the whole, they seem to be one vast branch of the Indo-Teutonic race, who spread

irregularly towards the north of Europe, and at different periods, and

in different regions, came in contact with the more civilized nations of the south. At this period, there seems to have been a reflux of these

Gothic tribes from the North. Malte Brun considers that there are strong

grounds for receiving the Islandic traditions commented by the Danish

Varro, M. Suhm. From these, and the voyage of Pytheas, which Malte Brun considers genuine, the Goths were in possession of Scandinavia, ey-Gothland, 250 years before J. C., and of a tract on the continent

(Reid-Gothland) between the mouths of the Vistula and the Oder. In their

southern migration, they followed the course of the Vistula; afterwards,

of the Dnieper. Malte Brun, Geogr. i. p. 387, edit. 1832. Geijer, the

historian of Sweden, ably maintains the Scandinavian origin of the

Goths. The Gothic language, according to Bopp, is the link between the

Sanscrit and the modern Teutonic dialects: "I think that I am reading

Sanscrit when I am reading Olphilas." Bopp, Conjugations System der

Sanscrit Sprache, preface, p. x--M.]

[Footnote 6: Jornandes, c. 3.]

[Footnote 7: See in the Prolegomena of Grotius some large extracts from adam of Bremen, and Saxo-Grammaticus. The former wrote in the year 1077, the latter flourished about the year 1200.]

[Footnote 8: Voltaire, Histoire de Charles XII. l. iii. When the austrians desired the aid of the court of Rome against Gustavus adolphus, they always represented that conqueror as the lineal successor

of Alaric. Harte's History of Gustavus, vol. ii. p. 123.]

till the end of the eleventh century, a celebrated temple subsisted at Upsal, the most considerable town of the Swedes and Goths. It was enriched with the gold which the Scandinavians had acquired in their

piratical adventures, and sanctified by the uncouth representations of the three principal deities, the god of war, the goddess of generation, and the god of thunder. In the general festival, that was solemnized every ninth year, nine animals of every species (without excepting the human) were sacrificed, and their bleeding bodies suspended in the

sacred grove adjacent to the temple. [9] The only traces that now

subsist of this barbaric superstition are contained in the Edda, [901] a

system of mythology, compiled in Iceland about the thirteenth century, and studied by the learned of Denmark and Sweden, as the most valuable

remains of their ancient traditions.

[Footnote 9: See Adam of Bremen in Grotii Prolegomenis, p. 105. The temple of Upsal was destroyed by Ingo, king of Sweden, who began

his reign in the year 1075, and about fourscore years afterwards, a christian cathedral was erected on its ruins. See Dalin's History of

Sweden, in the Bibliotheque Raisonee.]

[Footnote 901: The Eddas have at length been made accessible to European

scholars by the completion of the publication of the Saemundine Edda by the Arna Magnaean Commission, in 3 vols. 4to., with a copious lexicon of

northern mythology.--M.]

Notwithstanding the mysterious obscurity of the Edda, we can easily distinguish two persons confounded under the name of Odin; the god of war, and the great legislator of Scandinavia. The latter, the Mahomet

of the North, instituted a religion adapted to the climate and to the

people. Numerous tribes on either side of the Baltic were subdued by the

invincible valor of Odin, by his persuasive eloquence, and by the fame which he acquired of a most skilful magician. The faith that he had

propagated, during a long and prosperous life, he confirmed by a

voluntary death. Apprehensive of the ignominious approach of disease and infirmity, he resolved to expire as became a warrior. In a solemn assembly of the Swedes and Goths, he wounded himself in nine mortal

places, hastening away (as he asserted with his dying voice) to prepare the feast of heroes in the palace of the God of war. [10]

[Footnote 10: Mallet, Introduction a l'Histoire du Dannemarc.]

the native and proper habitation of Odin is distinguished by the appellation of As-gard. The happy resemblance of that name with As-burg,

or As-of, [11] words of a similar signification, has given rise to an

historical system of so pleasing a contexture, that we could almost wish to persuade ourselves of its truth. It is supposed that Odin was the chief of a tribe of barbarians which dwelt on the banks of the Lake

Maeotis, till the fall of Mithridates and the arms of Pompey menaced the

North with servitude. That Odin, yielding with indignant fury to a power which he was unable to resist, conducted his tribe from the frontiers of the Asiatic Sarmatia into Sweden, with the great design of forming, in that inaccessible retreat of freedom, a religion and a people, which, in

some remote age, might be subservient to his immortal revenge; when his

invincible Goths, armed with martial fanaticism, should issue in

numerous swarms from the neighborhood of the Polar circle, to chastise the oppressors of mankind. [12]

[Footnote 11: Mallet, c. iv. p. 55, has collected from Strabo, Pliny,

Ptolemy, and Stephanus Byzantinus, the vestiges of such a city and

people.]

[Footnote 12: This wonderful expedition of Odin, which, by deducting the enmity of the Goths and Romans from so memorable a cause, might supply the noble groundwork of an epic poem, cannot safely be received as authentic history. According to the obvious sense of the Edda, and the

interpretation of the most skilful critics, As-gard, instead of denoting a real city of the Asiatic Sarmatia, is the fictitious appellation of the mystic abode of the gods, the Olympus of Scandinavia; from whence the prophet was supposed to descend, when he announced his new religion to the Gothic nations, who were already seated in the southern parts of

Sweden. \* Note: A curious letter may be consulted on this subject from the Swede, Ihre counsellor in the Chancery of Upsal, printed at Upsal by edman, in 1772 and translated into German by M. Schlozer. Gottingen,

printed for Dietericht, 1779.--G. ----Gibbon, at a later period of his work, recanted his opinion of the truth of this expedition of Odin. The asiatic origin of the Goths is almost certain from the affinity of their

language to the Sanscrit and Persian; but their northern writers, when all mythology was reduced to hero worship.--M.]

If so many successive generations of Goths were capable of preserving a faint tradition of their Scandinavian origin, we must not expect, from

such unlettered barbarians, any distinct account of the time and circumstances of their emigration. To cross the Baltic was an easy and

natural attempt. The inhabitants of Sweden were masters of a sufficient

number of large vessels, with oars, [13] and the distance is little more than one hundred miles from Carlscroon to the nearest ports of Pomerania and Prussia. Here, at length, we land on firm and historic ground. At

least as early as the Christian aera, [14] and as late as the age of the antonines, [15] the Goths were established towards the mouth of the

Vistula, and in that fertile province where the commercial cities of thorn, Elbing, Koningsberg, and Dantzick, were long afterwards founded.

[16] Westward of the Goths, the numerous tribes of the Vandals were

spread along the banks of the Oder, and the sea-coast of Pomerania and

Mecklenburgh. A striking resemblance of manners, complexion, religion, and language, seemed to indicate that the Vandals and the Goths were

originally one great people. [17] The latter appear to have been

subdivided into Ostrogoths, Visigoths, and Gepidae. [18] The distinction among the Vandals was more strongly marked by the independent names of

Heruli, Burgundians, Lombards, and a variety of other petty states, many

of which, in a future age, expanded themselves into powerful monarchies.

[181]

[Footnote 13: Tacit. Germania, c. 44.]

[Footnote 14: Tacit. Annal. ii. 62. If we could yield a firm assent to the navigations of Pytheas of Marseilles, we must allow that the Goths

had passed the Baltic at least three hundred years before Christ.]

[Footnote 15: Ptolemy, l. ii.]

[Footnote 16: By the German colonies who followed the arms of the teutonic knights. The conquest and conversion of Prussia were completed by those adventurers in the thirteenth century.]

[Footnote 17: Pliny (Hist. Natur. iv. 14) and Procopius (in Bell.

Vandal. l. i. c. l) agree in this opinion. They lived in distant ages, and possessed different means of investigating the truth.]

[Footnote 18: The Ostro and Visi, the eastern and western Goths,

obtained those denominations from their original seats in Scandinavia.

In all their future marches and settlements they preserved, with their

names, the same relative situation. When they first departed from

Sweden, the infant colony was contained in three vessels. The third, being a heavy sailer, lagged behind, and the crew, which afterwards

swelled into a nation, received from that circumstance the appellation

of Gepidae or Loiterers. Jornandes, c. 17. \* Note: It was not in

Scandinavia that the Goths were divided into Ostrogoths and Visigoths; that division took place after their irruption into Dacia in the third century: those who came from Mecklenburgh and Pomerania were called

Visigoths; those who came from the south of Prussia, and the northwest

of Poland, called themselves Ostrogoths. Adelung, Hist. All. p. 202

Gatterer, Hist. Univ. 431.--G.]

[Footnote 181: This opinion is by no means probable. The Vandals and the

Goths equally belonged to the great division of the Suevi, but the two tribes were very different. Those who have treated on this part

of history, appear to me to have neglected to remark that the ancients almost always gave the name of the dominant and conquering people to all the weaker and conquered races. So Pliny calls Vindeli, Vandals, all the

people of the north-east of Europe, because at that epoch the Vandals were doubtless the conquering tribe. Caesar, on the contrary, ranges

under the name of Suevi, many of the tribes whom Pliny reckons as

Vandals, because the Suevi, properly so called, were then the most

powerful tribe in Germany. When the Goths, become in their turn conquerors, had subjugated the nations whom they encountered on their way, these nations lost their name with their liberty, and became of

Gothic origin. The Vandals themselves were then considered as Goths; the

Heruli, the Gepidae, &c., suffered the same fate. A common origin was thus attributed to tribes who had only been united by the conquests of

some dominant nation, and this confusion has given rise to a number of

historical errors.--G. ----M. St. Martin has a learned note (to Le Beau,

v. 261) on the origin of the Vandals. The difficulty appears to be in

rejecting the close analogy of the name with the Vend or Wendish race, who were of Sclavonian, not of Suevian or German, origin. M. St. Martin

supposes that the different races spread from the head of the Adriatic to the Baltic, and even the Veneti, on the shores of the Adriatic, the

Vindelici, the tribes which gave their name to Vindobena, Vindoduna,

Vindonissa, were branches of the same stock with the Sclavonian Venedi, who at one time gave their name to the Baltic; that they all spoke dialects of the Wendish language, which still prevails in Carinthia, carniola, part of Bohemia, and Lusatia, and is hardly extinct in

Mecklenburgh and Pomerania. The Vandal race, once so fearfully celebrated in the annals of mankind, has so utterly perished from the face of the earth, that we are not aware that any vestiges of their

language can be traced, so as to throw light on the disputed question of their German, their Sclavonian, or independent origin. The weight of ancient authority seems against M. St. Martin's opinion. Compare, on the

Vandals, Malte Brun. 394. Also Gibbon's note, c. xli. n. 38.--M.]

In the age of the Antonines, the Goths were still seated in Prussia. about the reign of Alexander Severus, the Roman province of Dacia had already experienced their proximity by frequent and destructive inroads.

[19] In this interval, therefore, of about seventy years, we must place the second migration of about seventy years, we must place the second

migration of the Goths from the Baltic to the Euxine; but the cause that

produced it lies concealed among the various motives which actuate the conduct of unsettled barbarians. Either a pestilence or a famine, a

victory or a defeat, an oracle of the gods or the eloquence of a daring

leader, were sufficient to impel the Gothic arms on the milder climates

of the south. Besides the influence of a martial religion, the numbers and spirit of the Goths were equal to the most dangerous adventures. the use of round bucklers and short swords rendered them formidable in a close engagement; the manly obedience which they yielded to hereditary

kings, gave uncommon union and stability to their councils; [20] and the renowned Amala, the hero of that age, and the tenth ancestor of theodoric, king of Italy, enforced, by the ascendant of personal merit, the prerogative of his birth, which he derived from the Anses, or demi

gods of the Gothic nation. [21]

[Footnote 19: See a fragment of Peter Patricius in the Excerpta

Legationum and with regard to its probable date, see Tillemont, Hist, des Empereurs, tom. iii. p. 346.]

[Footnote 20: Omnium harum gentium insigne, rotunda scuta, breves

gladii, et erga rages obsequium. Tacit. Germania, c. 43. The Goths

probably acquired their iron by the commerce of amber.]

[Footnote 21: Jornandes, c. 13, 14.]

the fame of a great enterprise excited the bravest warriors from all the

Vandalic states of Germany, many of whom are seen a few years afterwards combating under the common standard of the Goths. [22] The first motions

of the emigrants carried them to the banks of the Prypec, a river

universally conceived by the ancients to be the southern branch of the borysthenes. [23] The windings of that great stream through the plains

of Poland and Russia gave a direction to their line of march, and a constant supply of fresh water and pasturage to their numerous herds

of cattle. They followed the unknown course of the river, confident in their valor, and careless of whatever power might oppose their progress. the Bastarnae and the Venedi were the first who presented themselves; and the flower of their youth, either from choice or compulsion,

increased the Gothic army. The Bastarnae dwelt on the northern side of the Carpathian Mountains: the immense tract of land that separated the bastarnae from the savages of Finland was possessed, or rather wasted, by the Venedi; [24] we have some reason to believe that the first of these nations, which distinguished itself in the Macedonian war, [25] and was afterwards divided into the formidable tribes of the Peucini, the borani, the Carpi, &c., derived its origin from the Germans. [251] With better authority, a Sarmatian extraction may be assigned to the Venedi, who rendered themselves so famous in the middle ages. [26] But the confusion of blood and manners on that doubtful frontier often perplexed the most accurate observers. [27] As the Goths advanced near the Euxine

Sea, they encountered a purer race of Sarmatians, the Jazyges, the alani, [271] and the Roxolani; and they were probably the first Germans who saw the mouths of the Borysthenes, and of the Tanais. If we inquire

into the characteristic marks of the people of Germany and of Sarmatia, we shall discover that those two great portions of human kind were

principally distinguished by fixed huts or movable tents, by a close dress or flowing garments, by the marriage of one or of several wives, by a military force, consisting, for the most part, either of infantry

or cavalry; and above all, by the use of the Teutonic, or of the

Sclavonian language; the last of which has been diffused by conquest, from the confines of Italy to the neighborhood of Japan.

[Footnote 22: The Heruli, and the Uregundi or Burgundi, are particularly

mentioned. See Mascou's History of the Germans, l. v. A passage in the augustan History, p. 28, seems to allude to this great emigration. the Marcomannic war was partly occasioned by the pressure of barbarous tribes, who fled before the arms of more northern barbarians.]

[Footnote 23: D'Anville, Geographie Ancienne, and the third part of his

incomparable map of Europe.]

[Footnote 24: Tacit. Germania, c. 46.]

[Footnote 25: Cluver. Germ. Antiqua, l. iii. c. 43.]

[Footnote 251: The Bastarnae cannot be considered original inhabitants of

Germany Strabo and Tacitus appear to doubt it; Pliny alone calls them

Germans: Ptolemy and Dion treat them as Scythians, a vague appellation at this period of history; Livy, Plutarch, and Diodorus Siculus, call them Gauls, and this is the most probable opinion. They descended from the Gauls who entered Germany under Signoesus. They are always found associated with other Gaulish tribes, such as the Boll, the Taurisci,

&c., and not to the German tribes. The names of their chiefs or princes, chlonix, Chlondicus. Deldon, are not German names. Those who were

settled in the island of Peuce in the Danube, took the name of Peucini. the Carpi appear in 237 as a Suevian tribe who had made an irruption

into Maesia. Afterwards they reappear under the Ostrogoths, with whom they were probably blended. Adelung, p. 236, 278.--G.]

[Footnote 26: The Venedi, the Slavi, and the Antes, were the three great tribes of the same people. Jornandes, 24. \* Note Dagger: They formed the

great Sclavonian nation.--G.]

[Footnote 27: Tacitus most assuredly deserves that title, and even his cautious suspense is a proof of his diligent inquiries.]

[Footnote 271: Jac. Reineggs supposed that he had found, in the mountains

of Caucasus, some descendants of the Alani. The Tartars call them edeki-Alan: they speak a peculiar dialect of the ancient language of the tartars of Caucasus. See J. Reineggs' Descr. of Caucasus, p. 11, 13.--G. according to Klaproth, they are the Ossetes of the present day in Mount caucasus and were the same with the Albanians of antiquity. Klaproth,

Hist. de l'Asie, p. 180.--M.]

chapter X: Emperors Decius, Gallus, Aemilianus, Valerian And Gallienus.--Part II.

the Goths were now in possession of the Ukraine, a country of considerable extent and uncommon fertility, intersected with navigable

rivers, which, from either side, discharge themselves into the borysthenes; and interspersed with large and leafy forests of oaks. the plenty of game and fish, the innumerable bee-hives deposited in the

hollow of old trees, and in the cavities of rocks, and forming, even in that rude age, a valuable branch of commerce, the size of the cattle, the temperature of the air, the aptness of the soil for every species of

gain, and the luxuriancy of the vegetation, all displayed the liberality

of Nature, and tempted the industry of man. [28] But the Goths withstood all these temptations, and still adhered to a life of idleness, of

poverty, and of rapine.

[Footnote 28: Genealogical History of the Tartars, p. 593. Mr. Bell

(vol. ii. p 379) traversed the Ukraine, in his journey from

Petersburgh to Constantinople. The modern face of the country is a just

representation of the ancient, since, in the hands of the Cossacks, it

still remains in a state of nature.]

the Scythian hordes, which, towards the east, bordered on the new

settlements of the Goths, presented nothing to their arms, except the doubtful chance of an unprofitable victory. But the prospect of the

Roman territories was far more alluring; and the fields of Dacia were covered with rich harvests, sown by the hands of an industrious, and exposed to be gathered by those of a warlike, people. It is probable that the conquests of Trajan, maintained by his successors, less for any real advantage than for ideal dignity, had contributed to weaken the empire on that side. The new and unsettled province of Dacia was neither

strong enough to resist, nor rich enough to satiate, the rapaciousness

of the barbarians. As long as the remote banks of the Niester were considered as the boundary of the Roman power, the fortifications of the

Lower Danube were more carelessly guarded, and the inhabitants of

Maesia lived in supine security, fondly conceiving themselves at an

inaccessible distance from any barbarian invaders. The irruptions of the Goths, under the reign of Philip, fatally convinced them of their

mistake. The king, or leader, of that fierce nation, traversed with contempt the province of Dacia, and passed both the Niester and the danube without encountering any opposition capable of retarding his

progress. The relaxed discipline of the Roman troops betrayed the most

important posts, where they were stationed, and the fear of deserved

punishment induced great numbers of them to enlist under the Gothic

standard. The various multitude of barbarians appeared, at length,

under the walls of Marcianopolis, a city built by Trajan in honor of

his sister, and at that time the capital of the second Maesia. [29] The

inhabitants consented to ransom their lives and property by the payment

of a large sum of money, and the invaders retreated back into their deserts, animated, rather than satisfied, with the first success of their arms against an opulent but feeble country. Intelligence was soon transmitted to the emperor Decius, that Cniva, king of the Goths, had

passed the Danube a second time, with more considerable forces; that his

numerous detachments scattered devastation over the province of Maesia, whilst the main body of the army, consisting of seventy thousand Germans and Sarmatians, a force equal to the most daring achievements, required the presence of the Roman monarch, and the exertion of his military

power.

[Footnote 29: In the sixteenth chapter of Jornandes, instead

of secundo Maesiam we may venture to substitute secundam, the second

Maesia, of which Marcianopolis was certainly the capital. (See Hierocles de Provinciis, and Wesseling ad locum, p. 636. Itinerar.) It is

surprising how this palpable error of the scribe should escape the

judicious correction of Grotius. Note: Luden has observed that Jornandes

mentions two passages over the Danube; this relates to the second

irruption into Maesia. Geschichte des T V. ii. p. 448.--M.]

decius found the Goths engaged before Nicopolis, one of the many

monuments of Trajan's victories. [30] On his approach they raised the

siege, but with a design only of marching away to a conquest of greater

importance, the siege of Philippopolis, a city of Thrace, founded by the father of Alexander, near the foot of Mount Haemus. [31] Decius followed them through a difficult country, and by forced marches; but when he

imagined himself at a considerable distance from the rear of the Goths, cniva turned with rapid fury on his pursuers. The camp of the Romans was

surprised and pillaged, and, for the first time, their emperor fled

in disorder before a troop of half-armed barbarians. After a long

resistance, Philoppopolis, destitute of succor, was taken by storm. A

hundred thousand persons are reported to have been massacred in the sack

of that great city. [32] Many prisoners of consequence became a valuable accession to the spoil; and Priscus, a brother of the late emperor

Philip, blushed not to assume the purple, under the protection of the barbarous enemies of Rome. [33] The time, however, consumed in that tedious siege, enabled Decius to revive the courage, restore the discipline, and recruit the numbers of his troops. He intercepted

several parties of Carpi, and other Germans, who were hastening to

share the victory of their countrymen, [34] intrusted the passes of the

mountains to officers of approved valor and fidelity, [35] repaired and

strengthened the fortifications of the Danube, and exerted his utmost

vigilance to oppose either the progress or the retreat of the Goths. encouraged by the return of fortune, he anxiously waited for an

opportunity to retrieve, by a great and decisive blow, his own glory, and that of the Roman arms. [36]

[Footnote 30: The place is still called Nicop. D'Anville, Geographie ancienne, tom. i. p. 307. The little stream, on whose banks it stood, falls into the Danube.]

[Footnote 31: Stephan. Byzant. de Urbibus, p. 740. Wesseling, Itinerar.

p. 136. Zonaras, by an odd mistake, ascribes the foundation of

Philippopolis to the immediate predecessor of Decius. \* Note: Now

Philippopolis or Philiba; its situation among the hills caused it to be also called Trimontium. D'Anville, Geog. Anc. i. 295.--G.]

[Footnote 32: Ammian. xxxi. 5.]

[Footnote 33: Aurel. Victor. c. 29.]

[Footnote 34: Victorioe Carpicoe, on some medals of Decius, insinuate these advantages.]

[Footnote 35: Claudius (who afterwards reigned with so much glory) was

posted in the pass of Thermopylae with 200 Dardanians, 100 heavy and

160 light horse, 60 Cretan archers, and 1000 well-armed recruits. See an original letter from the emperor to his officer, in the Augustan

History, p. 200.]

[Footnote 36: Jornandes, c. 16--18. Zosimus, l. i. p. 22. In the general account of this war, it is easy to discover the opposite prejudices of the Gothic and the Grecian writer. In carelessness alone they are alike.]

at the same time when Decius was struggling with the violence of the tempest, his mind, calm and deliberate amidst the tumult of war,

investigated the more general causes, that, since the age of the antonines, had so impetuously urged the decline of the Roman greatness.

He soon discovered that it was impossible to replace that greatness on a

permanent basis, without restoring public virtue, ancient principles and

manners, and the oppressed majesty of the laws. To execute this noble but arduous design, he first resolved to revive the obsolete office of censor; an office which, as long as it had subsisted in its pristine

integrity, had so much contributed to the perpetuity of the state, [37] till it was usurped and gradually neglected by the Caesars. [38] conscious that the favor of the sovereign may confer power, but that the esteem of the people can alone bestow authority, he submitted the choice

of the censor to the unbiased voice of the senate. By their unanimous

votes, or rather acclamations, Valerian, who was afterwards emperor, and who then served with distinction in the army of Decius, was declared the

most worthy of that exalted honor. As soon as the decree of the senate was transmitted to the emperor, he assembled a great council in his camp, and before the investiture of the censor elect, he apprised him of the difficulty and importance of his great office. "Happy Valerian,"

said the prince to his distinguished subject, "happy in the general approbation of the senate and of the Roman republic! Accept the censorship of mankind; and judge of our manners. You will select those who deserve to continue members of the senate; you will restore the equestrian order to its ancient splendor; you will improve the revenue,

yet moderate the public burdens. You will distinguish into regular classes the various and infinite multitude of citizens, and accurately

view the military strength, the wealth, the virtue, and the resources of

Rome. Your decisions shall obtain the force of laws. The army, the

palace, the ministers of justice, and the great officers of the empire, are all subject to your tribunal. None are exempted, excepting only the

ordinary consuls, [39] the praefect of the city, the king of the

sacrifices, and (as long as she preserves her chastity inviolate) the eldest of the vestal virgins. Even these few, who may not dread the

severity, will anxiously solicit the esteem, of the Roman censor." [40]

[Footnote 37: Montesquieu, Grandeur et Decadence des Romains, c. viii.

He illustrates the nature and use of the censorship with his usual

ingenuity, and with uncommon precision.]

[Footnote 38: Vespasian and Titus were the last censors, (Pliny, Hist.

Natur vii. 49. Censorinus de Die Natali.) The modesty of Trajan

refused an honor which he deserved, and his example became a law to the antonines. See Pliny's Panegyric, c. 45 and 60.]

[Footnote 39: Yet in spite of his exemption, Pompey appeared before that tribunal during his consulship. The occasion, indeed, was equally

singular and honorable. Plutarch in Pomp. p. 630.]

[Footnote 40: See the original speech in the Augustan Hist. p. 173-174.]

a magistrate, invested with such extensive powers, would have appeared

not so much the minister, as the colleague of his sovereign. [41]

Valerian justly dreaded an elevation so full of envy and of suspicion.

He modestly argued the alarming greatness of the trust, his own

insufficiency, and the incurable corruption of the times. He artfully

insinuated, that the office of censor was inseparable from the Imperial dignity, and that the feeble hands of a subject were unequal to the

support of such an immense weight of cares and of power. [42] The approaching event of war soon put an end to the prosecution of a project

so specious, but so impracticable; and whilst it preserved Valerian from the danger, saved the emperor Decius from the disappointment, which would most probably have attended it. A censor may maintain, he can

never restore, the morals of a state. It is impossible for such a

magistrate to exert his authority with benefit, or even with effect,

unless he is supported by a quick sense of honor and virtue in the minds

of the people, by a decent reverence for the public opinion, and by a train of useful prejudices combating on the side of national manners.

In a period when these principles are annihilated, the censorial

jurisdiction must either sink into empty pageantry, or be converted

into a partial instrument of vexatious oppression. [43] It was easier to

vanquish the Goths than to eradicate the public vices; yet even in the first of these enterprises, Decius lost his army and his life.

[Footnote 41: This transaction might deceive Zonaras, who supposes that

Valerian was actually declared the colleague of Decius, l. xii. p. 625.]

[Footnote 42: Hist. August. p. 174. The emperor's reply is omitted.]

[Footnote 43: Such as the attempts of Augustus towards a reformation of

manness. Tacit. Annal. iii. 24.]

the Goths were now, on every side, surrounded and pursued by the Roman arms. The flower of their troops had perished in the long siege

of Philippopolis, and the exhausted country could no longer afford

subsistence for the remaining multitude of licentious barbarians.

Reduced to this extremity, the Goths would gladly have purchased, by the surrender of all their booty and prisoners, the permission of an undisturbed retreat. But the emperor, confident of victory, and

resolving, by the chastisement of these invaders, to strike a salutary terror into the nations of the North, refused to listen to any terms of accommodation. The high-spirited barbarians preferred death to slavery. an obscure town of Maesia, called Forum Terebronii, [44] was the scene of the battle. The Gothic army was drawn up in three lines, and either from choice or accident, the front of the third line was covered by a morass.

In the beginning of the action, the son of Decius, a youth of the fairest hopes, and already associated to the honors of the purple, was

slain by an arrow, in the sight of his afflicted father; who, summoning all his fortitude, admonished the dismayed troops, that the loss of a single soldier was of little importance to the republic. [45] The conflict was terrible; it was the combat of despair against grief and

rage. The first line of the Goths at length gave way in disorder; the

second, advancing to sustain it, shared its fate; and the third only

remained entire, prepared to dispute the passage of the morass, which was imprudently attempted by the presumption of the enemy. "Here the fortune of the day turned, and all things became adverse to the Romans; the place deep with ooze, sinking under those who stood, slippery to

such as advanced; their armor heavy, the waters deep; nor could they wield, in that uneasy situation, their weighty javelins. The barbarians,

on the contrary, were inured to encounter in the bogs, their persons tall, their spears long, such as could wound at a distance." [46] In this

morass the Roman army, after an ineffectual struggle, was irrecoverably

lost; nor could the body of the emperor ever be found. [47] Such was the fate of Decius, in the fiftieth year of his age; an accomplished prince, active in war and affable in peace; [48] who, together with his son,

has deserved to be compared, both in life and death, with the brightest examples of ancient virtue. [49]

[Footnote 44: Tillemont, Histoire des Empereurs, tom. iii. p. 598. As

Zosimus and some of his followers mistake the Danube for the Tanais, they place the field of battle in the plains of Scythia.]

[Footnote 45: Aurelius Victor allows two distinct actions for the deaths of the two Decii; but I have preferred the account of Jornandes.]

[Footnote 46: I have ventured to copy from Tacitus (Annal. i. 64) the picture of a similar engagement between a Roman army and a German tribe.]

[Footnote 47: Jornandes, c. 18. Zosimus, l. i. p. 22, [c. 23.]

Zonaras, l. xii. p. 627. Aurelius Victor.]

[Footnote 48: The Decii were killed before the end of the year two

hundred and fifty-one, since the new princes took possession of the consulship on the ensuing calends of January.]

[Footnote 49: Hist. August. p. 223, gives them a very honorable place among the small number of good emperors who reigned between Augustus and diocletian.]

this fatal blow humbled, for a very little time, she insolence of the

legions. They appeared to have patiently expected, and submissively

obeyed, the decree of the senate which regulated the succession to the throne. From a just regard for the memory of Decius, the Imperial title was conferred on Hostilianus, his only surviving son; but an equal rank, with more effectual power, was granted to Gallus, whose experience and ability seemed equal to the great trust of guardian to the young prince and the distressed empire. [50] The first care of the new emperor was to deliver the Illyrian provinces from the intolerable weight of the

victorious Goths. He consented to leave in their hands the rich fruits of their invasion, an immense booty, and what was still more disgraceful, a great number of prisoners of the highest merit and

quality. He plentifully supplied their camp with every conveniency that could assuage their angry spirits or facilitate their so much wished-for departure; and he even promised to pay them annually a large sum

of gold, on condition they should never afterwards infest the Roman territories by their incursions. [51]

[Footnote 50: Haec ubi Patres comperere.. .. decernunt. Victor in caesaribus.]

[Footnote 51: Zonaras, l. xii. p. 628.]

In the age of the Scipios, the most opulent kings of the earth, who courted the protection of the victorious commonwealth, were gratified with such trifling presents as could only derive a value from the hand that bestowed them; an ivory chair, a coarse garment of purple, an

inconsiderable piece of plate, or a quantity of copper coin. [52] After the wealth of nations had centred in Rome, the emperors displayed their

greatness, and even their policy, by the regular exercise of a steady and moderate liberality towards the allies of the state. They relieved the poverty of the barbarians, honored their merit, and recompensed their fidelity. These voluntary marks of bounty were understood to flow,

not from the fears, but merely from the generosity or the gratitude of the Romans; and whilst presents and subsidies were liberally distributed among friends and suppliants, they were sternly refused to such as claimed them as a debt. [53] But this stipulation, of an annual payment to a victorious enemy, appeared without disguise in the light of an

ignominious tribute; the minds of the Romans were not yet accustomed to accept such unequal laws from a tribe of barbarians; and the prince, who by a necessary concession had probably saved his country, became the

object of the general contempt and aversion. The death of Hostiliamus, though it happened in the midst of a raging pestilence, was interpreted as the personal crime of Gallus; [54] and even the defeat of the later emperor was ascribed by the voice of suspicion to the perfidious counsels of his hated successor. [55] The tranquillity which the empire enjoyed during the first year of his administration, [56] served rather to inflame than to appease the public discontent; and as soon as the apprehensions of war were removed, the infamy of the peace was more deeply and more sensibly felt.

[Footnote 52: A Sella, a Toga, and a golden Patera of five pounds weight, were accepted with joy and gratitude by the wealthy king of egypt. (Livy, xxvii. 4.) Quina millia Aeris, a weight of copper, in

value about eighteen pounds sterling, was the usual present made to foreign are ambassadors. (Livy, xxxi. 9.)]

[Footnote 53: See the firmness of a Roman general so late as the time

of Alexander Severus, in the Excerpta Legationum, p. 25, edit. Louvre.]

[Footnote 54: For the plague, see Jornandes, c. 19, and Victor in caesaribus.]

[Footnote 55: These improbable accusations are alleged by Zosimus, l. i.

p. 28, 24.]

[Footnote 56: Jornandes, c. 19. The Gothic writer at least observed the peace which his victorious countrymen had sworn to Gallus.]

but the Romans were irritated to a still higher degree, when they discovered that they had not even secured their repose, though at the expense of their honor. The dangerous secret of the wealth and weakness

of the empire had been revealed to the world. New swarms of barbarians, encouraged by the success, and not conceiving themselves bound by the

obligation of their brethren, spread devastation though the Illyrian

provinces, and terror as far as the gates of Rome. The defence of the

monarchy, which seemed abandoned by the pusillanimous emperor, was assumed by Aemilianus, governor of Pannonia and Maesia; who rallied the

scattered forces, and revived the fainting spirits of the troops. The barbarians were unexpectedly attacked, routed, chased, and pursued beyond the Danube. The victorious leader distributed as a donative the

money collected for the tribute, and the acclamations of the soldiers

proclaimed him emperor on the field of battle. [57] Gallus, who, careless of the general welfare, indulged himself in the pleasures of

Italy, was almost in the same instant informed of the success, of the

revolt, and of the rapid approach of his aspiring lieutenant. He advanced to meet him as far as the plains of Spoleto. When the armies came in right of each other, the soldiers of Gallus compared the

ignominious conduct of their sovereign with the glory of his rival. They admired the valor of Aemilianus; they were attracted by his liberality, for he offered a considerable increase of pay to all deserters. [58] The

murder of Gallus, and of his son Volusianus, put an end to the civil war; and the senate gave a legal sanction to the rights of conquest. The

letters of Aemilianus to that assembly displayed a mixture of moderation and vanity. He assured them, that he should resign to their wisdom the civil administration; and, contenting himself with the quality of their

general, would in a short time assert the glory of Rome, and deliver the empire from all the barbarians both of the North and of the East. [59]

His pride was flattered by the applause of the senate; and medals are

still extant, representing him with the name and attributes of Hercules the Victor, and Mars the Avenger. [60]

[Footnote 57: Zosimus, l. i. p. 25, 26.]

[Footnote 58: Victor in Caesaribus.]

[Footnote 59: Zonaras, l. xii. p. 628.]

[Footnote 60: Banduri Numismata, p. 94.]

If the new monarch possessed the abilities, he wanted the time,

necessary to fulfil these splendid promises. Less than four months

intervened between his victory and his fall. [61] He had vanquished

Gallus: he sunk under the weight of a competitor more formidable than

Gallus. That unfortunate prince had sent Valerian, already distinguished by the honorable title of censor, to bring the legions of Gaul and

Germany [62] to his aid. Valerian executed that commission with zeal and fidelity; and as he arrived too late to save his sovereign, he resolved to revenge him. The troops of Aemilianus, who still lay encamped in the

plains of Spoleto, were awed by the sanctity of his character, but much

more by the superior strength of his army; and as they were now become as incapable of personal attachment as they had always been of constitutional principle, they readily imbrued their hands in the blood

of a prince who so lately had been the object of their partial choice. the guilt was theirs, [621] but the advantage of it was Valerian's; who

obtained the possession of the throne by the means indeed of a civil war, but with a degree of innocence singular in that age of revolutions;

since he owed neither gratitude nor allegiance to his predecessor, whom

he dethroned.

[Footnote 61: Eutropius, l. ix. c. 6, says tertio mense. eusebio this emperor.]

[Footnote 62: Zosimus, l. i. p. 28. Eutropius and Victor station

Valerian's army in Rhaetia.]

[Footnote 621: Aurelius Victor says that Aemilianus died of a natural disorder. Tropius, in speaking of his death, does not say that he was assassinated--G.]

Valerian was about sixty years of age [63] when he was invested with the

purple, not by the caprice of the populace, or the clamors of the army, but by the unanimous voice of the Roman world. In his gradual ascent through the honors of the state, he had deserved the favor of virtuous

princes, and had declared himself the enemy of tyrants. [64] His noble birth, his mild but unblemished manners, his learning, prudence, and experience, were revered by the senate and people; and if mankind

(according to the observation of an ancient writer) had been left at

liberty to choose a master, their choice would most assuredly have fallen on Valerian. [65] Perhaps the merit of this emperor was

inadequate to his reputation; perhaps his abilities, or at least his

spirit, were affected by the languor and coldness of old age. The consciousness of his decline engaged him to share the throne with a

younger and more active associate; [66] the emergency of the times demanded a general no less than a prince; and the experience of the

Roman censor might have directed him where to bestow the Imperial

purple, as the reward of military merit. But instead of making a

judicious choice, which would have confirmed his reign and endeared his

memory, Valerian, consulting only the dictates of affection or vanity,

immediately invested with the supreme honors his son Gallienus, a youth whose effeminate vices had been hitherto concealed by the obscurity of a

private station. The joint government of the father and the son

subsisted about seven, and the sole administration of Gallien continued about eight, years. But the whole period was one uninterrupted series of confusion and calamity. As the Roman empire was at the same time, and on every side, attacked by the blind fury of foreign invaders, and the wild ambition of domestic usurpers, we shall consult order and perspicuity, by pursuing, not so much the doubtful arrangement of dates, as the more

natural distribution of subjects. The most dangerous enemies of Rome, during the reigns of Valerian and Gallienus, were, 1. The Franks; 2. The alemanni; 3. The Goths; and, 4. The Persians. Under these general appellations, we may comprehend the adventures of less considerable tribes, whose obscure and uncouth names would only serve to oppress the

memory and perplex the attention of the reader.

[Footnote 63: He was about seventy at the time of his accession, or, as

it is more probable, of his death. Hist. August. p. 173. Tillemont,

Hist. des Empereurs, tom. iii. p. 893, note 1.]

[Footnote 64: Inimicus tyrannorum. Hist. August. p. 173. In the glorious

struggle of the senate against Maximin, Valerian acted a very spirited

part. Hist. August. p. 156.]

[Footnote 65: According to the distinction of Victor, he seems to have

received the title of Imperator from the army, and that of Augustus from the senate.]

[Footnote 66: From Victor and from the medals, Tillemont (tom. iii. p.

710) very justly infers, that Gallienus was associated to the empire about the month of August of the year 253.]

I. As the posterity of the Franks compose one of the greatest and most enlightened nations of Europe, the powers of learning and ingenuity have been exhausted in the discovery of their unlettered ancestors. To the tales of credulity have succeeded the systems of fancy. Every passage

has been sifted, every spot has been surveyed, that might possibly

reveal some faint traces of their origin. It has been supposed that

Pannonia, [67] that Gaul, that the northern parts of Germany, [68] gave birth to that celebrated colony of warriors. At length the most rational critics, rejecting the fictitious emigrations of ideal conquerors, have acquiesced in a sentiment whose simplicity persuades us of its truth.

[69] They suppose, that about the year two hundred and forty, [70] a new confederacy was formed under the name of Franks, by the old inhabitants

of the Lower Rhine and the Weser. [701] The present circle of Westphalia, the Landgraviate of Hesse, and the duchies of Brunswick and Luneburg, were the ancient of the Chauci who, in their inaccessible morasses, defied the Roman arms; [71] of the Cherusci, proud of the fame of arminius; of the Catti, formidable by their firm and intrepid infantry; and of several other tribes of inferior power and renown. [72] The love

of liberty was the ruling passion of these Germans; the enjoyment of it their best treasure; the word that expressed that enjoyment, the most

pleasing to their ear. They deserved, they assumed, they maintained the

honorable appellation of Franks, or Freemen; which concealed, though

it did not extinguish, the peculiar names of the several states of the confederacy. [73] Tacit consent, and mutual advantage, dictated the first

laws of the union; it was gradually cemented by habit and experience. the league of the Franks may admit of some comparison with the Helvetic body; in which every canton, retaining its independent sovereignty, consults with its brethren in the common cause, without acknowledging the authority of any supreme head, or representative assembly. [74] But the principle of the two confederacies was extremely different. A peace

of two hundred years has rewarded the wise and honest policy of the

Swiss. An inconstant spirit, the thirst of rapine, and a disregard to the most solemn treaties, disgraced the character of the Franks.

[Footnote 67: Various systems have been formed to explain a difficult

passage in Gregory of Tours, l. ii. c. 9.]

[Footnote 68: The Geographer of Ravenna, i. 11, by mentioning

Mauringania, on the confines of Denmark, as the ancient seat of the franks, gave birth to an ingenious system of Leibritz.]

[Footnote 69: See Cluver. Germania Antiqua, l. iii. c. 20. M. Freret, in the Memoires de l'Academie des Inscriptions, tom. xviii.]

[Footnote 70: Most probably under the reign of Gordian, from an accidental circumstance fully canvassed by Tillemont, tom. iii. p. 710,

1181.]

[Footnote 701: The confederation of the Franks appears to have been formed, 1. Of the Chauci. 2. Of the Sicambri, the inhabitants of the duchy of Berg. 3. Of the Attuarii, to the north of the Sicambri, in the principality of Waldeck, between the Dimel and the Eder. 4. Of the Bructeri, on the banks of the Lippe, and in the Hartz. 5. Of the chamavii, the Gambrivii of Tacitua, who were established, at the time

of the Frankish confederation, in the country of the Bructeri. 6. Of the Catti, in Hessia.--G. The Salii and Cherasci are added. Greenwood's

Hist. of Germans, i 193.--M.]

[Footnote 71: Plin. Hist. Natur. xvi. l. The Panegyrists frequently allude to the morasses of the Franks.]

[Footnote 72: Tacit. Germania, c. 30, 37.]

[Footnote 73: In a subsequent period, most of those old names are

occasionally mentioned. See some vestiges of them in Cluver. Germ. antiq. l. iii.]

[Footnote 74: Simler de Republica Helvet. cum notis Fuselin.]

chapter X: Emperors Decius, Gallus, Aemilianus, Valerian And Gallienus.--Part III.

the Romans had long experienced the daring valor of the people of

Lower Germany. The union of their strength threatened Gaul with a more formidable invasion, and required the presence of Gallienus, the heir and colleague of Imperial power. [75] Whilst that prince, and his infant

son Salonius, displayed, in the court of Treves, the majesty of the empire its armies were ably conducted by their general, Posthumus, who, though he afterwards betrayed the family of Valerian, was ever faithful to the great interests of the monarchy. The treacherous language of

panegyrics and medals darkly announces a long series of victories. trophies and titles attest (if such evidence can attest) the fame of

Posthumus, who is repeatedly styled the Conqueror of the Germans, and the Savior of Gaul. [76]

[Footnote 75: Zosimus, l. i. p. 27.]

[Footnote 76: M. de Brequigny (in the Memoires de l'Academie, tom. xxx.)

has given us a very curious life of Posthumus. A series of the Augustan

History from Medals and Inscriptions has been more than once planned, and is still much wanted. \* Note: M. Eckhel, Keeper of the Cabinet of

Medals, and Professor of Antiquities at Vienna, lately deceased, has

supplied this want by his excellent work, Doctrina veterum Nummorum, conscripta a Jos. Eckhel, 8 vol. in 4to Vindobona, 1797.--G. Captain

Smyth has likewise printed (privately) a valuable Descriptive Catologue

of a series of Large Brass Medals of this period Bedford, 1834.--M.

1845.]

but a single fact, the only one indeed of which we have any distinct

knowledge, erases, in a great measure, these monuments of vanity and adulation. The Rhine, though dignified with the title of Safeguard of the provinces, was an imperfect barrier against the daring spirit of enterprise with which the Franks were actuated. Their rapid devastations

stretched from the river to the foot of the Pyrenees; nor were they

stopped by those mountains. Spain, which had never dreaded, was unable to resist, the inroads of the Germans. During twelve years, the greatest

part of the reign of Gallie nus, that opulent country was the theatre of

unequal and destructive hostilities. Tarragona, the flourishing capital

of a peaceful province, was sacked and almost destroyed; [77] and so

late as the days of Orosius, who wrote in the fifth century, wretched cottages, scattered amidst the ruins of magnificent cities, still

recorded the rage of the barbarians. [78] When the exhausted country no

longer supplied a variety of plunder, the Franks seized on some vessels

in the ports of Spain, [79] and transported themselves into Mauritania. the distant province was astonished with the fury of these barbarians, who seemed to fall from a new world, as their name, manners, and complexion, were equally unknown on the coast of Africa. [80]

[Footnote 77: Aurel. Victor, c. 33. Instead of Poene direpto, both the

sense and the expression require deleto; though indeed, for different

reasons, it is alike difficult to correct the text of the best, and of the worst, writers.]

[Footnote 78: In the time of Ausonius (the end of the fourth century)

Ilerda or Lerida was in a very ruinous state, (Auson. Epist. xxv. 58,) which probably was the consequence of this invasion.]

[Footnote 79: Valesius is therefore mistaken in supposing that the franks had invaded Spain by sea.]

[Footnote 80: Aurel. Victor. Eutrop. ix. 6.]

II. In that part of Upper Saxony, beyond the Elbe, which is at present called the Marquisate of Lusace, there existed, in ancient times, a

sacred wood, the awful seat of the superstition of the Suevi. None were

permitted to enter the holy precincts, without confessing, by their

servile bonds and suppliant posture, the immediate presence of the

sovereign Deity. [81] Patriotism contributed, as well as devotion, to consecrate the Sonnenwald, or wood of the Semnones. [82] It was

universally believed, that the nation had received its first existence

on that sacred spot. At stated periods, the numerous tribes who gloried

in the Suevic blood, resorted thither by their ambassadors; and the

memory of their common extraction was perpetrated by barbaric rites and

human sacrifices. The wide-extended name of Suevi filled the interior countries of Germany, from the banks of the Oder to those of the Danube. they were distinguished from the other Germans by their peculiar mode

of dressing their long hair, which they gathered into a rude knot on the crown of the head; and they delighted in an ornament that showed their

ranks more lofty and terrible in the eyes of the enemy. [83] Jealous as the Germans were of military renown, they all confessed the superior

valor of the Suevi; and the tribes of the Usipetes and Tencteri, who, with a vast army, encountered the dictator Caesar, declared that they esteemed it not a disgrace to have fled before a people to whose arms the immortal gods themselves were unequal. [84]

[Footnote 81: Tacit.Germania, 38.]

[Footnote 82: Cluver. Germ. Antiq. iii. 25.]

[Footnote 83: Sic Suevi a ceteris Germanis, sic Suerorum ingenui a

servis separantur. A proud separation!]

[Footnote 84: Caesar in Bello Gallico, iv. 7.]

In the reign of the emperor Caracalla, an innumerable swarm of Suevi appeared on the banks of the Mein, and in the neighborhood of the Roman

provinces, in quest either of food, of plunder, or of glory. [85] The

hasty army of volunteers gradually coalesced into a great and permanent

nation, and as it was composed from so many different tribes, assumed the name of Alemanni, [851] or Allmen; to denote at once their various

lineage and their common bravery. [86] The latter was soon felt by the Romans in many a hostile inroad. The Alemanni fought chiefly on

horseback; but their cavalry was rendered still more formidable by a

mixture of light infantry, selected from the bravest and most active of the youth, whom frequent exercise had inured to accompany the horsemen

in the longest march, the most rapid charge, or the most precipitate

retreat. [87]

[Footnote 85: Victor in Caracal. Dion Cassius, lxvii. p. 1350.]

[Footnote 851: The nation of the Alemanni was not originally formed by the

Suavi properly so called; these have always preserved their own name.

Shortly afterwards they made (A. D. 357) an irruption into Rhaetia, and

it was not long after that they were reunited with the Alemanni. Still they have always been a distinct people; at the present day, the people who inhabit the north-west of the Black Forest call themselves Schwaben,

Suabians, Sueves, while those who inhabit near the Rhine, in Ortenau, the Brisgaw, the Margraviate of Baden, do not consider themselves

Suabians, and are by origin Alemanni. The Teucteri and the Usipetae,

inhabitants of the interior and of the north of Westphalia, formed, says

Gatterer, the nucleus of the Alemannic nation; they occupied the country where the name of the Alemanni first appears, as conquered in 213, by caracalla. They were well trained to fight on horseback, (according to tacitus, Germ. c. 32;) and Aurelius Victor gives the same praise to the alemanni: finally, they never made part of the Frankish league. The alemanni became subsequently a centre round which gathered a multitude

of German tribes, See Eumen. Panegyr. c. 2. Amm. Marc. xviii. 2, xxix.

4.--G. ----The question whether the Suevi was a generic name comprehending the clans which peopled central Germany, is rather hastily decided by M. Guizot Mr. Greenwood, who has studied the modern German writers on their own origin, supposes the Suevi, Alemanni, and

Marcomanni, one people, under different appellations. History of

Germany, vol i.--M.]

[Footnote 86: This etymology (far different from those which amuse the fancy of the learned) is preserved by Asinius Quadratus, an original

historian, quoted by Agathias, i. c. 5.]

[Footnote 87: The Suevi engaged Caesar in this manner, and the manoeuvre deserved the approbation of the conqueror, (in Bello Gallico, i. 48.)]

this warlike people of Germans had been astonished by the immense

preparations of Alexander Severus; they were dismayed by the arms of his

successor, a barbarian equal in valor and fierceness to themselves. but still hovering on the frontiers of the empire, they increased the

general disorder that ensued after the death of Decius. They inflicted

severe wounds on the rich provinces of Gaul; they were the first who

removed the veil that covered the feeble majesty of Italy. A numerous body of the Alemanni penetrated across the Danube and through the

Rhaetian Alps into the plains of Lombardy, advanced as far as Ravenna, and displayed the victorious banners of barbarians almost in sight of

Rome. [88]

[Footnote 88: Hist. August. p. 215, 216. Dexippus in the Excerpts.

Legationam, p. 8. Hieronym. Chron. Orosius, vii. 22.]

the insult and the danger rekindled in the senate some sparks of their ancient virtue. Both the emperors were engaged in far distant wars,

Valerian in the East, and Gallienus on the Rhine. All the hopes and

resources of the Romans were in themselves. In this emergency, the

senators resumed he defence of the republic, drew out the Praetorian

guards, who had been left to garrison the capital, and filled up their

numbers, by enlisting into the public service the stoutest and most willing of the Plebeians. The Alemanni, astonished with the sudden appearance of an army more numerous than their own, retired into

Germany, laden with spoil; and their retreat was esteemed as a victory by the unwarlike Romans. [89]

[Footnote 89: Zosimus, l. i. p. 34.]

when Gallienus received the intelligence that his capital was delivered from the barbarians, he was much less delighted than alarmed with the courage of the senate, since it might one day prompt them to rescue the

public from domestic tyranny as well as from foreign invasion. His timid

ingratitude was published to his subjects, in an edict which prohibited the senators from exercising any military employment, and even from approaching the camps of the legions. But his fears were groundless. the rich and luxurious nobles, sinking into their natural character, accepted, as a favor, this disgraceful exemption from military service; and as long as they were indulged in the enjoyment of their baths, their theatres, and their villas, they cheerfully resigned the more dangerous cares of empire to the rough hands of peasants and soldiers. [90]

[Footnote 90: Aurel. Victor, in Gallieno et Probo. His complaints breathe as uncommon spirit of freedom.]

another invasion of the Alemanni, of a more formidable aspect, but more

glorious event, is mentioned by a writer of the lower empire. Three

hundred thousand are said to have been vanquished, in a battle near

Milan, by Gallienus in person, at the head of only ten thousand Romans.

[91] We may, however, with great probability, ascribe this incredible

victory either to the credulity of the historian, or to some exaggerated exploits of one of the emperor's lieutenants. It was by arms of a very different nature, that Gallienus endeavored to protect Italy from the fury of the Germans. He espoused Pipa, the daughter of a king of the

Marcomanni, a Suevic tribe, which was often confounded with the Alemanni

in their wars and conquests. [92] To the father, as the price of his alliance, he granted an ample settlement in Pannonia. The native charms

of unpolished beauty seem to have fixed the daughter in the affections

of the inconstant emperor, and the bands of policy were more firmly connected by those of love. But the haughty prejudice of Rome still

refused the name of marriage to the profane mixture of a citizen and a barbarian; and has stigmatized the German princess with the opprobrious title of concubine of Gallienus. [93]

[Footnote 91: Zonaras, l. xii. p. 631.]

[Footnote 92: One of the Victors calls him king of the Marcomanni; the

other of the Germans.]

[Footnote 93: See Tillemont, Hist. des Empereurs, tom. iii. p. 398,

&c.]

III. We have already traced the emigration of the Goths from

Scandinavia, or at least from Prussia, to the mouth of the Borysthenes, and have followed their victorious arms from the Borysthenes to the danube. Under the reigns of Valerian and Gallienus, the frontier of the

last-mentioned river was perpetually infested by the inroads of Germans and Sarmatians; but it was defended by the Romans with more than usual firmness and success. The provinces that were the seat of war, recruited the armies of Rome with an inexhaustible supply of hardy soldiers; and more than one of these Illyrian peasants attained the station, and displayed the abilities, of a general. Though flying parties of the barbarians, who incessantly hovered on the banks of the Danube,

penetrated sometimes to the confines of Italy and Macedonia, their

progress was commonly checked, or their return intercepted, by the

Imperial lieutenants. [94] But the great stream of the Gothic hostilities was diverted into a very different channel. The Goths, in their new

settlement of the Ukraine, soon became masters of the northern coast of the Euxine: to the south of that inland sea were situated the soft and wealthy provinces of Asia Minor, which possessed all that could attract, and nothing that could resist, a barbarian conqueror.

[Footnote 94: See the lives of Claudius, Aurelian, and Probus, in the augustan History.]

the banks of the Borysthenes are only sixty miles distant from the

narrow entrance [95] of the peninsula of Crim Tartary, known to the ancients under the name of Chersonesus Taurica. [96] On that inhospitable

shore, Euripides, embellishing with exquisite art the tales of antiquity, has placed the scene of one of his most affecting tragedies.

[97] The bloody sacrifices of Diana, the arrival of Orestes and Pylades, and the triumph of virtue and religion over savage fierceness, serve to

represent an historical truth, that the Tauri, the original inhabitants

of the peninsula, were, in some degree, reclaimed from their brutal

manners by a gradual intercourse with the Grecian colonies, which

settled along the maritime coast. The little kingdom of Bosphorus, whose capital was situated on the Straits, through which the Maeotis communicates itself to the Euxine, was composed of degenerate Greeks and

half-civilized barbarians. It subsisted, as an independent state, from the time of the Peloponnesian war, [98] was at last swallowed up by the ambition of Mithridates, [99] and, with the rest of his dominions, sunk

under the weight of the Roman arms. From the reign of Augustus, [100] the kings of Bosphorus were the humble, but not useless, allies of the empire. By presents, by arms, and by a slight fortification drawn across the Isthmus, they effectually guarded against the roving plunderers of

Sarmatia, the access of a country, which, from its peculiar situation and convenient harbors, commanded the Euxine Sea and Asia Minor. [101] As

long as the sceptre was possessed by a lineal succession of kings, they acquitted themselves of their important charge with vigilance and success. Domestic factions, and the fears, or private interest, of

obscure usurpers, who seized on the vacant throne, admitted the Goths

into the heart of Bosphorus. With the acquisition of a superfluous waste

of fertile soil, the conquerors obtained the command of a naval force,

sufficient to transport their armies to the coast of Asia. [102] This

ships used in the navigation of the Euxine were of a very singular construction. They were slight flat-bottomed barks framed of timber

only, without the least mixture of iron, and occasionally covered with a shelving roof, on the appearance of a tempest. [103] In these floating

houses, the Goths carelessly trusted themselves to the mercy of an

unknown sea, under the conduct of sailors pressed into the service, and whose skill and fidelity were equally suspicious. But the hopes of

plunder had banished every idea of danger, and a natural fearlessness

of temper supplied in their minds the more rational confidence, which is the just result of knowledge and experience. Warriors of such a daring

spirit must have often murmured against the cowardice of their guides, who required the strongest assurances of a settled calm before they would venture to embark; and would scarcely ever be tempted to lose

sight of the land. Such, at least, is the practice of the modern Turks;

[104] and they are probably not inferior, in the art of navigation, to the ancient inhabitants of Bosphorus.

[Footnote 95: It is about half a league in breadth. Genealogical History

of the Tartars, p 598.]

[Footnote 96: M. de Peyssonel, who had been French Consul at Caffa, in

his Observations sur les Peuples Barbares, que ont habite les bords du danube]

[Footnote 97: Eeripides in Iphigenia in Taurid.]

[Footnote 98: Strabo, l. vii. p. 309. The first kings of Bosphorus were the allies of Athens.]

[Footnote 99: Appian in Mithridat.]

[Footnote 100: It was reduced by the arms of Agrippa. Orosius, vi. 21. eu tropius, vii. 9. The Romans once advanced within three days' march of the Tanais. Tacit. Annal. xii. 17.]

[Footnote 101: See the Toxaris of Lucian, if we credit the sincerity and the virtues of the Scythian, who relates a great war of his nation against the kings of Bosphorus.]

[Footnote 102: Zosimus, l. i. p. 28.]

[Footnote 103: Strabo, l. xi. Tacit. Hist. iii. 47. They were called camaroe.]

[Footnote 104: See a very natural picture of the Euxine navigation, in the xvith letter of Tournefort.]

the fleet of the Goths, leaving the coast of Circassia on the left

hand, first appeared before Pityus, [105] the utmost limits of the Roman

provinces; a city provided with a convenient port, and fortified with a strong wall. Here they met with a resistance more obstinate than they

had reason to expect from the feeble garrison of a distant fortress. they were repulsed; and their disappointment seemed to diminish the terror of the Gothic name. As long as Successianus, an officer of

superior rank and merit, defended that frontier, all their efforts were ineffectual; but as soon as he was removed by Valerian to a more

honorable but less important station, they resumed the attack of Pityus; and by the destruction of that city, obliterated the memory of their former disgrace. [106]

[Footnote 105: Arrian places the frontier garrison at Dioscurias, or

Sebastopolis, forty-four miles to the east of Pityus. The garrison of

Phasis consisted in his time of only four hundred foot. See the Periplus

of the Euxine. \* Note: Pityus is Pitchinda, according to D'Anville, ii.

115.--G. Rather Boukoun.--M. Dioscurias is Iskuriah.--G.]

[Footnote 106: Zosimus, l. i. p. 30.]

circling round the eastern extremity of the Euxine Sea, the navigation from Pityus to Trebizond is about three hundred miles. [107] The course

of the Goths carried them in sight of the country of Colchis, so famous by the expedition of the Argonauts; and they even attempted, though without success, to pillage a rich temple at the mouth of the River

Phasis. Trebizond, celebrated in the retreat of the ten thousand as an ancient colony of Greeks, [108] derived its wealth and splendor from the

magnificence of the emperor Hadrian, who had constructed an artificial

port on a coast left destitute by nature of secure harbors. [109] The city was large and populous; a double enclosure of walls seemed to defy the fury of the Goths, and the usual garrison had been strengthened by a reenforcement of ten thousand men. But there are not any advantages capable of supplying the absence of discipline and vigilance. The

numerous garrison of Trebizond, dissolved in riot and luxury, disdained to guard their impregnable fortifications. The Goths soon discovered the supine negligence of the besieged, erected a lofty pile of fascines, ascended the walls in the silence of the night, and entered the defenceless city sword in hand. A general massacre of the people ensued, whilst the affrighted soldiers escaped through the opposite gates of the town. The most holy temples, and the most splendid edifices, were

involved in a common destruction. The booty that fell into the hands

of the Goths was immense: the wealth of the adjacent countries had been deposited in Trebizond, as in a secure place of refuge. The number of captives was incredible, as the victorious barbarians ranged without

opposition through the extensive province of Pontus. [110] The rich

spoils of Trebizond filled a great fleet of ships that had been found in the port. The robust youth of the sea-coast were chained to the oar; and the Goths, satisfied with the success of their first naval expedition,

returned in triumph to their new establishment in the kingdom of bosphorus. [111]

[Footnote 107: Arrian (in Periplo Maris Euxine, p. 130) calls the distance 2610 stadia.]

[Footnote 108: Xenophon, Anabasis, l. iv. p. 348, edit. Hutchinson.

Note: Fallmerayer (Geschichte des Kaiserthums von Trapezunt, p. 6,

&c) assigns a very ancient date to the first (Pelasgic) foundation of trapezun (Trebizond)--M.]

[Footnote 109: Arrian, p. 129. The general observation is Tournefort's.]

[Footnote 110: See an epistle of Gregory Thaumaturgus, bishop of

Neo-Caeoarea, quoted by Mascou, v. 37.]

[Footnote 111: Zosimus, l. i. p. 32, 33.]

the second expedition of the Goths was undertaken with greater powers of

men and ships; but they steered a different course, and, disdaining the exhausted provinces of Pontus, followed the western coast of the Euxine,

passed before the wide mouths of the Borysthenes, the Niester, and the danube, and increasing their fleet by the capture of a great number

of fishing barks, they approached the narrow outlet through which the euxine Sea pours its waters into the Mediterranean, and divides the continents of Europe and Asia. The garrison of Chalcedon was encamped

near the temple of Jupiter Urius, on a promontory that commanded the entrance of the Strait; and so inconsiderable were the dreaded invasions

of the barbarians that this body of troops surpassed in number the

Gothic army. But it was in numbers alone that they surpassed it. They deserted with precipitation their advantageous post, and abandoned the town of Chalcedon, most plentifully stored with arms and money, to the discretion of the conquerors. Whilst they hesitated whether they

should prefer the sea or land Europe or Asia, for the scene of their

hostilities, a perfidious fugitive pointed out Nicomedia, [1111] once the capital of the kings of Bithynia, as a rich and easy conquest. He guided the march which was only sixty miles from the camp of Chalcedon, [112] directed the resistless attack, and partook of the booty; for the Goths

had learned sufficient policy to reward the traitor whom they detested.

Nice, Prusa, Apamaea, Cius, [1121] cities that had sometimes rivalled, or

imitated, the splendor of Nicomedia, were involved in the same calamity, which, in a few weeks, raged without control through the whole

province of Bithynia. Three hundred years of peace, enjoyed by the soft

inhabitants of Asia, had abolished the exercise of arms, and removed the apprehension of danger. The ancient walls were suffered to moulder away, and all the revenue of the most opulent cities was reserved for the construction of baths, temples, and theatres. [113]

[Footnote 1111: It has preserved its name, joined to the preposition of place in that of

Nikmid. D'Anv. Geog. Anc. ii. 28.--G.]

[Footnote 112: Itiner. Hierosolym. p. 572. Wesseling.]

[Footnote 1121: Now Isnik, Bursa, Mondania Ghio or Kemlik D'Anv. ii.

23.--G.]

[Footnote 113: Zosimus, l.. p. 32, 33.]

when the city of Cyzicus withstood the utmost effort of Mithridates,

[114] it was distinguished by wise laws, a nava power of two hundred

galleys, and three arsenals, of arms, of military engines, and of corn.

[115] It was still the seat of wealth and luxury; but of its ancient

strength, nothing remained except the situation, in a little island of the Propontis, connected with the continent of Asia only by two bridges. from the recent sack of Prusa, the Goths advanced within eighteen miles.

[116] of the city, which they had devoted to destruction; but the ruin of cyzicus was delayed by a fortunate accident. The season was rainy, and the Lake Apolloniates, the reservoir of all the springs of Mount

Olympus, rose to an uncommon height. The little river of Rhyndacus, which issues from the lake, swelled into a broad and rapid stream, and

stopped the progress of the Goths. Their retreat to the maritime city of

Heraclea, where the fleet had probably been stationed, was attended by a

long train of wagons, laden with the spoils of Bithynia, and was marked by the flames of Nico and Nicomedia, which they wantonly burnt. [117]

Some obscure hints are mentioned of a doubtful combat that secured their

retreat. [118] But even a complete victory would have been of little

moment, as the approach of the autumnal equinox summoned them to hasten their return. To navigate the Euxine before the month of May, or after that of September, is esteemed by the modern Turks the most

unquestionable instance of rashness and folly. [119]

[Footnote 114: He besieged the place with 400 galleys, 150,000 foot, and a numerous cavalry. See Plutarch in Lucul. Appian in Mithridat Cicero

pro Lege Manilia, c. 8.]

[Footnote 115: Strabo, l. xii. p. 573.]

[Footnote 116: Pocock's Description of the East, l. ii. c. 23, 24.]

[Footnote 117: Zosimus, l. i. p. 33.]

[Footnote 118: Syncellus tells an unintelligible story of Prince

Odenathus, who defeated the Goths, and who was killed by Prince

Odenathus.]

[Footnote 119: Voyages de Chardin, tom. i. p. 45. He sailed with the turks from Constantinople to Caffa.]

when we are informed that the third fleet, equipped by the Goths in the

ports of Bosphorus, consisted of five hundred sails of ships, [120]

our ready imagination instantly computes and multiplies the formidable armament; but, as we are assured by the judicious Strabo, [121] that the piratical vessels used by the barbarians of Pontus and the Lesser

Scythia, were not capable of containing more than twenty-five or thirty

men we may safely affirm, that fifteen thousand warriors, at the most, embarked in this great expedition. Impatient of the limits of the euxine, they steered their destructive course from the Cimmerian to the Thracian Bosphorus. When they had almost gained the middle of the

Straits, they were suddenly driven back to the entrance of them; till a favorable wind, springing up the next day, carried them in a few hours

into the placid sea, or rather lake, of the Propontis. Their landing on the little island of Cyzicus was attended with the ruin of that ancient and noble city. From thence issuing again through the narrow passage

of the Hellespont, they pursued their winding navigation amidst the

numerous islands scattered over the Archipelago, or the Aegean Sea. The assistance of captives and deserters must have been very necessary to

pilot their vessels, and to direct their various incursions, as well

on the coast of Greece as on that of Asia. At length the Gothic fleet anchored in the port of Piraeus, five miles distant from Athens, [122] which had attempted to make some preparations for a vigorous defence. cleodamus, one of the engineers employed by the emperor's orders to fortify the maritime cities against the Goths, had already begun to

repair the ancient walls, fallen to decay since the time of Scylla. The efforts of his skill were ineffectual, and the barbarians became masters

of the native seat of the muses and the arts. But while the conquerors abandoned themselves to the license of plunder and intemperance, their fleet, that lay with a slender guard in the harbor of Piraeus, was

unexpectedly attacked by the brave Dexippus, who, flying with the engineer Cleodamus from the sack of Athens, collected a hasty band of

volunteers, peasants as well as soldiers, and in some measure avenged the calamities of his country. [123]

[Footnote 120: Syncellus (p. 382) speaks of this expedition, as

undertaken by the Heruli.]

[Footnote 121: Strabo, l. xi. p. 495.]

[Footnote 122: Plin. Hist. Natur. iii. 7.]

[Footnote 123: Hist. August. p. 181. Victor, c. 33. Orosius, vii. 42.

Zosimus, l. i. p. 35. Zonaras, l. xii. 635. Syncellus, p. 382. It is

not without some attention, that we can explain and conciliate their

imperfect hints. We can still discover some traces of the partiality of dexippus, in the relation of his own and his countrymen's exploits. \*

Note: According to a new fragment of Dexippus, published by Mai, the 2000

men took up a strong position in a mountainous and woods district, and kept up a harassing warfare. He expresses a hope of being speedily

joined by the Imperial fleet. Dexippus in rov. Byzantinorum Collect a

Niebuhr, p. 26, 8--M.]

but this exploit, whatever lustre it might shed on the declining age of athens, served rather to irritate than to subdue the undaunted spirit

of the northern invaders. A general conflagration blazed out at the same time in every district of Greece. Thebes and Argos, Corinth and Sparta, which had formerly waged such memorable wars against each other, were

now unable to bring an army into the field, or even to defend their

ruined fortifications. The rage of war, both by land and by sea, spread from the eastern point of Sunium to the western coast of Epirus. The

Goths had already advanced within sight of Italy, when the approach of

such imminent danger awakened the indolent Gallienus from his dream of

pleasure. The emperor appeared in arms; and his presence seems to have checked the ardor, and to have divided the strength, of the enemy.

Naulobatus, a chief of the Heruli, accepted an honorable capitulation, entered with a large body of his countrymen into the service of Rome, and was invested with the ornaments of the consular dignity, which

had never before been profaned by the hands of a barbarian. [124] Great

numbers of the Goths, disgusted with the perils and hardships of a tedious voyage, broke into Maesia, with a design of forcing their way

over the Danube to their settlements in the Ukraine. The wild attempt would have proved inevitable destruction, if the discord of the Roman

generals had not opened to the barbarians the means of an escape. [125] the small remainder of this destroying host returned on board their

vessels; and measuring back their way through the Hellespont and the bosphorus, ravaged in their passage the shores of Troy, whose fame,

immortalized by Homer, will probably survive the memory of the Gothic conquests. As soon as they found themselves in safety within the basin

of the Euxine, they landed at Anchialus in Thrace, near the foot of

Mount Haemus; and, after all their toils, indulged themselves in the use

of those pleasant and salutary hot baths. What remained of the voyage was a short and easy navigation. [126] Such was the various fate of this third and greatest of their naval enterprises. It may seem difficult to conceive how the original body of fifteen thousand warriors could

sustain the losses and divisions of so bold an adventure. But as their

numbers were gradually wasted by the sword, by shipwrecks, and by the

influence of a warm climate, they were perpetually renewed by troops of banditti and deserters, who flocked to the standard of plunder, and by a crowd of fugitive slaves, often of German or Sarmatian extraction, who eagerly seized the glorious opportunity of freedom and revenge. In these expeditions, the Gothic nation claimed a superior share of honor and danger; but the tribes that fought under the Gothic banners are

sometimes distinguished and sometimes confounded in the imperfect

histories of that age; and as the barbarian fleets seemed to issue from the mouth of the Tanais, the vague but familiar appellation of Scythians was frequently bestowed on the mixed multitude. [127]

[Footnote 124: Syncellus, p. 382. This body of Heruli was for a long time faithful and famous.]

[Footnote 125: Claudius, who commanded on the Danube, thought with

propriety and acted with spirit. His colleague was jealous of his fame

Hist. August. p. 181.]

[Footnote 126: Jornandes, c. 20.]

[Footnote 127: Zosimus and the Greeks (as the author of the Philopatris)

give the name of Scythians to those whom Jornandes, and the Latin writers, constantly represent as Goths.]

chapter X: Emperors Decius, Gallus, Aemilianus, Valerian And Gallienus.--Part IV.

In the general calamities of mankind, the death of an individual,

however exalted, the ruin of an edifice, however famous, are passed over with careless inattention. Yet we cannot forget that the temple of diana at Ephesus, after having risen with increasing splendor from seven

repeated misfortunes, [128] was finally burnt by the Goths in their third naval invasion. The arts of Greece, and the wealth of Asia,

had conspired to erect that sacred and magnificent structure. It was

supported by a hundred and twenty-seven marble columns of the Ionic

order. They were the gifts of devout monarchs, and each was sixty feet

high. The altar was adorned with the masterly sculptures of Praxiteles, who had, perhaps, selected from the favorite legends of the place the birth of the divine children of Latona, the concealment of Apollo after the slaughter of the Cyclops, and the clemency of Bacchus to the

vanquished Amazons. [129] Yet the length of the temple of Ephesus was

only four hundred and twenty-five feet, about two thirds of the measure

of the church of St. Peter's at Rome. [130] In the other dimensions,

it was still more inferior to that sublime production of modern architecture. The spreading arms of a Christian cross require a much

greater breadth than the oblong temples of the Pagans; and the boldest artists of antiquity would have been startled at the proposal of raising

in the air a dome of the size and proportions of the Pantheon. The temple of Diana was, however, admired as one of the wonders of the world. Successive empires, the Persian, the Macedonian, and the Roman,

had revered its sanctity and enriched its splendor. [131] But the rude

savages of the Baltic were destitute of a taste for the elegant arts, and they despised the ideal terrors of a foreign superstition. [132]

[Footnote 128: Hist. Aug. p. 178. Jornandes, c. 20.]

[Footnote 129: Strabo, l. xiv. p. 640. Vitruvius, l. i. c. i. praefat l

vii. Tacit Annal. iii. 61. Plin. Hist. Nat. xxxvi. 14.]

[Footnote 130: The length of St. Peter's is 840 Roman palms; each palm

is very little short of nine English inches. See Greaves's Miscellanies

vol. i. p. 233; on the Roman Foot. \* Note: St. Paul's Cathedral is 500 feet. Dallaway on Architecture--M.]

[Footnote 131: The policy, however, of the Romans induced them to abridge the extent of the sanctuary or asylum, which by successive

privileges had spread itself two stadia round the temple. Strabo, l.

xiv. p. 641. Tacit. Annal. iii. 60, &c.]

[Footnote 132: They offered no sacrifices to the Grecian gods. See epistol Gregor. Thaumat.]

another circumstance is related of these invasions, which might deserve

our notice, were it not justly to be suspected as the fanciful conceit

of a recent sophist. We are told, that in the sack of Athens the Goths

had collected all the libraries, and were on the point of setting fire to this funeral pile of Grecian learning, had not one of their chiefs,

of more refined policy than his brethren, dissuaded them from the design; by the profound observation, that as long as the Greeks were addicted to the study of books, they would never apply themselves to the exercise of arms. [133] The sagacious counsellor (should the truth of the fact be admitted) reasoned like an ignorant barbarian. In the most

polite and powerful nations, genius of every kind has displayed itself about the same period; and the age of science has generally been the age

of military virtue and success.

[Footnote 133: Zonaras, l. xii. p. 635. Such an anecdote was perfectly

suited to the taste of Montaigne. He makes use of it in his agreeable essay on Pedantry, l. i. c. 24.]

IV. The new sovereign of Persia, Artaxerxes and his son Sapor, had triumphed (as we have already seen) over the house of Arsaces. Of the

many princes of that ancient race. Chosroes, king of Armenia, had alone

preserved both his life and his independence. He defended himself by the

natural strength of his country; by the perpetual resort of fugitives and malecontents; by the alliance of the Romans, and above all, by his

own courage.

Invincible in arms, during a thirty years' war, he was at length assassinated by the emissaries of Sapor, king of Persia. The patriotic

satraps of Armenia, who asserted the freedom and dignity of the crown,

implored the protection of Rome in favor of Tiridates, the lawful heir. but the son of Chosroes was an infant, the allies were at a distance, and the Persian monarch advanced towards the frontier at the head of an

irresistible force. Young Tiridates, the future hope of his country, was saved by the fidelity of a servant, and Armenia continued above twenty-seven years a reluctant province of the great monarchy of Persia.

[134] Elated with this easy conquest, and presuming on the distresses or the degeneracy of the Romans, Sapor obliged the strong garrisons of carrhae and Nisibis [1341] to surrender, and spread devastation and terror on either side of the Euphrates.

[Footnote 134: Moses Chorenensis, l. ii. c. 71, 73, 74. Zonaras, l. xii.

p. 628. The anthentic relation of the Armenian historian serves to

rectify the confused account of the Greek. The latter talks of the children of Tiridates, who at that time was himself an infant. (Compare

St Martin Memoires sur l'Armenie, i. p. 301.--M.)]

[Footnote 1341: Nisibis, according to Persian authors, was taken by a

miracle, the wall fell, in compliance with the prayers of the army.

Malcolm's Persia, l. 76.--M]

the loss of an important frontier, the ruin of a faithful and natural ally, and the rapid success of Sapor's ambition, affected Rome with a deep sense of the insult as well as of the danger. Valerian flattered

himself, that the vigilance of his lieutenants would sufficiently

provide for the safety of the Rhine and of the Danube; but he resolved,

notwithstanding his advanced age, to march in person to the defence of the Euphrates.

during his progress through Asia Minor, the naval enterprises of the

Goths were suspended, and the afflicted province enjoyed a transient and fallacious calm. He passed the Euphrates, encountered the Persian

monarch near the walls of Edessa, was vanquished, and taken prisoner by

Sapor. The particulars of this great event are darkly and imperfectly

represented; yet, by the glimmering light which is afforded us, we

may discover a long series of imprudence, of error, and of deserved

misfortunes on the side of the Roman emperor. He reposed an implicit confidence in Macrianus, his Praetorian praefect. [135] That worthless

minister rendered his master formidable only to the oppressed subjects, and contemptible to the enemies of Rome. [136] By his weak or wicked counsels, the Imperial army was betrayed into a situation where valor and military skill were equally unavailing. [137] The vigorous attempt of the Romans to cut their way through the Persian host was repulsed with

great slaughter; [138] and Sapor, who encompassed the camp with superior

numbers, patiently waited till the increasing rage of famine and

pestilence had insured his victory. The licentious murmurs of the

legions soon accused Valerian as the cause of their calamities; their

seditious clamors demanded an instant capitulation. An immense sum of

gold was offered to purchase the permission of a disgraceful retreat. but the Persian, conscious of his superiority, refused the money with disdain; and detaining the deputies, advanced in order of battle to the foot of the Roman rampart, and insisted on a personal conference with the emperor. Valerian was reduced to the necessity of intrusting his

life and dignity to the faith of an enemy. The interview ended as it was

natural to expect. The emperor was made a prisoner, and his astonished troops laid down their arms. [139] In such a moment of triumph, the

pride and policy of Sapor prompted him to fill the vacant throne with a successor entirely dependent on his pleasure. Cyriades, an obscure fugitive of Antioch, stained with every vice, was chosen to dishonor the

Roman purple; and the will of the Persian victor could not fail of being

ratified by the acclamations, however reluctant, of the captive army.

[140]

[Footnote 135: Hist. Aug. p. 191. As Macrianus was an enemy to the christians, they charged him with being a magician.]

[Footnote 136: Zosimus, l. i. p. 33.]

[Footnote 137: Hist. Aug. p. 174.]

[Footnote 138: Victor in Caesar. Eutropius, ix. 7.]

[Footnote 139: Zosimus, l. i. p. 33. Zonaras, l. xii. p. 630. Peter

Patricius, in the Excerpta Legat. p. 29.]

[Footnote 140: Hist. August. p. 185. The reign of Cyriades appears in that collection prior to the death of Valerian; but I have preferred a probable series of events to the doubtful chronology of a most

inaccurate writer]

the Imperial slave was eager to secure the favor of his master by an act

of treason to his native country. He conducted Sapor over the Euphrates, and, by the way of Chalcis, to the metropolis of the East. So rapid were the motions of the Persian cavalry, that, if we may credit a very

judicious historian, [141] the city of Antioch was surprised when the

idle multitude was fondly gazing on the amusements of the theatre. The

splendid buildings of Antioch, private as well as public, were either

pillaged or destroyed; and the numerous inhabitants were put to the

sword, or led away into captivity. [142] The tide of devastation was

stopped for a moment by the resolution of the high priest of Emesa. arrayed in his sacerdotal robes, he appeared at the head of a great body

of fanatic peasants, armed only with slings, and defended his god and

his property from the sacrilegious hands of the followers of Zoroaster.

[143] But the ruin of Tarsus, and of many other cities, furnishes a

melancholy proof that, except in this singular instance, the conquest of

Syria and Cilicia scarcely interrupted the progress of the Persian arms. the advantages of the narrow passes of Mount Taurus were abandoned, in which an invader, whose principal force consisted in his cavalry, would

have been engaged in a very unequal combat: and Sapor was permitted to form the siege of Caesarea, the capital of Cappadocia; a city, though of the second rank, which was supposed to contain four hundred thousand

inhabitants. Demosthenes commanded in the place, not so much by the commission of the emperor, as in the voluntary defence of his country. for a long time he deferred its fate; and when at last Caesarea was betrayed by the perfidy of a physician, he cut his way through the

Persians, who had been ordered to exert their utmost diligence to take

him alive. This heroic chief escaped the power of a foe who might either

have honored or punished his obstinate valor; but many thousands of his fellow-citizens were involved in a general massacre, and Sapor is accused of treating his prisoners with wanton and unrelenting cruelty.

[144] Much should undoubtedly be allowed for national animosity, much for humbled pride and impotent revenge; yet, upon the whole, it is certain, that the same prince, who, in Armenia, had displayed the mild aspect of a legislator, showed himself to the Romans under the stern features of a conqueror. He despaired of making any permanent establishment in the empire, and sought only to leave behind him a wasted desert, whilst he transported into Persia the people and the treasures of the provinces. [145]

[Footnote 141: The sack of Antioch, anticipated by some historians,

is assigned, by the decisive testimony of Ammianus Marcellinus, to the

reign of Gallienus, xxiii. 5. \* Note: Heyne, in his note on Zosimus, contests this opinion of Gibbon and observes, that the testimony of ammianus is in fact by no means clear, decisive. Gallienus and Valerian

reigned together. Zosimus, in a passage, l. iiii. 32, 8, distinctly

places this event before the capture of Valerian.--M.]

[Footnote 142: Zosimus, l. i. p. 35.]

[Footnote 143: John Malala, tom. i. p. 391. He corrupts this probable event by some fabulous circumstances.]

[Footnote 144: Zonaras, l. xii. p. 630. Deep valleys were filled up with the slain. Crowds of prisoners were driven to water like beasts, and

many perished for want of food.]

[Footnote 145: Zosimus, l. i. p. 25 asserts, that Sapor, had he not

preferred spoil to conquest, might have remained master of Asia.]

at the time when the East trembled at the name of Sapor, he received a present not unworthy of the greatest kings; a long train of camels,

laden with the most rare and valuable merchandises. The rich offering was accompanied with an epistle, respectful, but not servile, from

Odenathus, one of the noblest and most opulent senators of Palmyra. "Who

is this Odenathus," (said the haughty victor, and he commanded that the

present should be cast into the Euphrates,) "that he thus insolently

presumes to write to his lord? If he entertains a hope of mitigating his

punishment, let him fall prostrate before the foot of our throne, with

his hands bound behind his back. Should he hesitate, swift destruction

shall be poured on his head, on his whole race, and on his country."

[146] The desperate extremity to which the Palmyrenian was reduced, called into action all the latent powers of his soul. He met Sapor; but

he met him in arms.

Infusing his own spirit into a little army collected from the villages

of Syria [147] and the tents of the desert, [148] he hovered round the

Persian host, harassed their retreat, carried off part of the treasure, and, what was dearer than any treasure, several of the women of the

great king; who was at last obliged to repass the Euphrates with some

marks of haste and confusion. [149] By this exploit, Odenathus laid the foundations of his future fame and fortunes. The majesty of Rome,

oppressed by a Persian, was protected by a Syrian or Arab of Palmyra.

[Footnote 146: Peter Patricius in Excerpt. Leg. p. 29.]

[Footnote 147: Syrorum agrestium manu. Sextus Rufus, c. 23. Rufus Victor the Augustan History, (p. 192,) and several inscriptions, agree in

making Odenathus a citizen of Palmyra.]

[Footnote 148: He possessed so powerful an interest among the wandering tribes, that Procopius (Bell. Persic. l. ii. c. 5) and John Malala,

(tom. i. p. 391) style him Prince of the Saracens.]

[Footnote 149: Peter Patricius, p. 25.]

the voice of history, which is often little more than the organ of

hatred or flattery, reproaches Sapor with a proud abuse of the rights

of conquest. We are told that Valerian, in chains, but invested with the

Imperial purple, was exposed to the multitude, a constant spectacle

of fallen greatness; and that whenever the Persian monarch mounted

on horseback, he placed his foot on the neck of a Roman emperor.

Notwithstanding all the remonstrances of his allies, who repeatedly advised him to remember the vicissitudes of fortune, to dread the

returning power of Rome, and to make his illustrious captive the pledge

of peace, not the object of insult, Sapor still remained inflexible. when Valerian sunk under the weight of shame and grief, his skin,

stuffed with straw, and formed into the likeness of a human figure, was

preserved for ages in the most celebrated temple of Persia; a more real

monument of triumph, than the fancied trophies of brass and marble so

often erected by Roman vanity. [150] The tale is moral and pathetic, but the truth [1501] of it may very fairly be called in question. The letters

still extant from the princes of the East to Sapor are manifest forgeries; [151] nor is it natural to suppose that a jealous monarch

should, even in the person of a rival, thus publicly degrade the majesty

of kings. Whatever treatment the unfortunate Valerian might experience

in Persia, it is at least certain that the only emperor of Rome who had ever fallen into the hands of the enemy, languished away his life in

hopeless captivity.

[Footnote 150: The Pagan writers lament, the Christian insult, the

misfortunes of Valerian. Their various testimonies are accurately collected by Tillemont, tom. iii. p. 739, &c. So little has been

preserved of eastern history before Mahomet, that the modern Persians are totally ignorant of the victory Sapor, an event so glorious to their

nation. See Bibliotheque Orientale. \* Note: Malcolm appears to write from Persian authorities, i. 76.--M.]

[Footnote 1501: Yet Gibbon himself records a speech of the emperor Galerius, which alludes to the cruelties exercised against the living, and the

indignities to which they exposed the dead Valerian, vol. ii. ch. 13.

Respect for the kingly character would by no means prevent an eastern

monarch from ratifying his pride and his vengeance on a fallen foe.--M.]

[Footnote 151: One of these epistles is from Artavasdes, king of armenia; since Armenia was then a province of Persia, the king, the

kingdom, and the epistle must be fictitious.]

the emperor Gallienus, who had long supported with impatience the censorial severity of his father and colleague, received the

intelligence of his misfortunes with secret pleasure and avowed

indifference. "I knew that my father was a mortal," said he; "and since

he has acted as it becomes a brave man, I am satisfied." Whilst Rome

lamented the fate of her sovereign, the savage coldness of his son was extolled by the servile courtiers as the perfect firmness of a hero and a stoic. [152] It is difficult to paint the light, the various, the inconstant character of Gallienus, which he displayed without constraint, as soon as he became sole possessor of the empire. In every art that he attempted, his lively genius enabled him to succeed; and as

his genius was destitute of judgment, he attempted every art, except the important ones of war and government. He was a master of several curious, but useless sciences, a ready orator, an elegant poet, [153] a

skilful gardener, an excellent cook, and most contemptible prince. When the great emergencies of the state required his presence and attention,

he was engaged in conversation with the philosopher Plotinus, [154] wasting his time in trifling or licentious pleasures, preparing his

initiation to the Grecian mysteries, or soliciting a place in the arcopagus of Athens. His profuse magnificence insulted the general

poverty; the solemn ridicule of his triumphs impressed a deeper sense

of the public disgrace. [155] The repeated intelligence of invasions, defeats, and rebellions, he received with a careless smile; and singling

out, with affected contempt, some particular production of the lost

province, he carelessly asked, whether Rome must be ruined, unless it was supplied with linen from Egypt, and arras cloth from Gaul. There were, however, a few short moments in the life of Gallienus, when, exasperated by some recent injury, he suddenly appeared the intrepid

soldier and the cruel tyrant; till, satiated with blood, or fatigued by

resistance, he insensibly sunk into the natural mildness and indolence

of his character. [156]

[Footnote 152: See his life in the Augustan History.]

[Footnote 153: There is still extant a very pretty Epithalamium, composed by Gallienus for the nuptials of his nephews:--"Ite ait, O

juvenes, pariter sudate medullis Omnibus, inter vos: non murmura vestra columbae, Brachia non hederae, non vincant oscula conchae."]

[Footnote 154: He was on the point of giving Plotinus a ruined city of campania to try the experiment of realizing Plato's Republic. See the

Life of Plotinus, by Porphyry, in Fabricius's Biblioth. Graec. l. iv.]

[Footnote 155: A medal which bears the head of Gallienus has perplexed the antiquarians by its legend and reverse; the former Gallienoe augustoe, the latter Ubique Pax. M. Spanheim supposes that the coin was

struck by some of the enemies of Gallienus, and was designed as a severe

satire on that effeminate prince. But as the use of irony may seem

unworthy of the gravity of the Roman mint, M. de Vallemont has deduced from a passage of Trebellius Pollio (Hist. Aug. p. 198) an ingenious and natural solution. Galliena was first cousin to the emperor. By delivering Africa from the usurper Celsus, she deserved the title of augusta. On a medal in the French king's collection, we read a similar

inscription of Faustina Augusta round the head of Marcus Aurelius. with regard to the Ubique Pax, it is easily explained by the vanity of

Gallienus, who seized, perhaps, the occasion of some momentary calm. See

Nouvelles de la Republique des Lettres, Janvier, 1700, p. 21--34.]

[Footnote 156: This singular character has, I believe, been fairly transmitted to us. The reign of his immediate successor was short and busy; and the historians who wrote before the elevation of the family of constantine could not have the most remote interest to misrepresent the character of Gallienus.]

at the time when the reins of government were held with so loose a hand,

it is not surprising, that a crowd of usurpers should start up in every

province of the empire against the son of Valerian. It was probably some

ingenious fancy, of comparing the thirty tyrants of Rome with the thirty tyrants of Athens, that induced the writers of the Augustan History to

select that celebrated number, which has been gradually received into a popular appellation. [157] But in every light the parallel is idle and defective. What resemblance can we discover between a council of thirty

persons, the united oppressors of a single city, and an uncertain list

of independent rivals, who rose and fell in irregular succession through the extent of a vast empire? Nor can the number of thirty be completed,

unless we include in the account the women and children who were honored with the Imperial title. The reign of Gallienus, distracted as it was,

produced only nineteen pretenders to the throne: Cyriades, Macrianus, balista, Odenathus, and Zenobia, in the East; in Gaul, and the western

provinces, Posthumus, Lollianus, Victorinus, and his mother Victoria,

Marius, and Tetricus; in Illyricum and the confines of the Danube,

Ingenuus, Regillianus, and Aureolus; in Pontus, [158] Saturninus; in

Isauria, Trebellianus; Piso in Thessaly; Valens in Achaia; Aemilianus in egypt; and Celsus in Africa. [1581] To illustrate the obscure monuments of the life and death of each individual, would prove a laborious task, alike barren of instruction and of amusement. We may content ourselves with investigating some general characters, that most strongly mark the condition of the times, and the manners of the men, their pretensions, their motives, their fate, and their destructive consequences of their

usurpation. [159]

[Footnote 157: Pollio expresses the most minute anxiety to complete the

number. \* Note: Compare a dissertation of Manso on the thirty tyrants at the end of his Leben Constantius des Grossen. Breslau, 1817.--M.]

[Footnote 158: The place of his reign is somewhat doubtful; but there was a tyrant in Pontus, and we are acquainted with the seat of all the

others.]

[Footnote 1581: Captain Smyth, in his "Catalogue of Medals," p.

307, substitutes two new names to make up the number of nineteen, for those of Odenathus and Zenobia. He subjoins this list:--1. 2. 3. Of those whose coins Those whose coins Those of whom no are undoubtedly true. are suspected. coins are known. Posthumus. Cyriades. Valens.

Laelianus, (Lollianus, G.) Ingenuus. Balista Victorinus Celsus.

Saturninus. Marius. Piso Frugi. Trebellianus. Tetricus.

--M. 1815 Macrianus. Quietus. Regalianus (Regillianus, G.) Alex. aemilianus. Aureolus. Sulpicius Antoninus]

[Footnote 159: Tillemont, tom. iii. p. 1163, reckons them somewhat differently.]

It is sufficiently known, that the odious appellation of Tyrant was

often employed by the ancients to express the illegal seizure of

supreme power, without any reference to the abuse of it. Several of the

pretenders, who raised the standard of rebellion against the emperor

Gallienus, were shining models of virtue, and almost all possessed a considerable share of vigor and ability. Their merit had recommended them to the favor of Valerian, and gradually promoted them to the most

important commands of the empire. The generals, who assumed the title of augustus, were either respected by their troops for their able conduct and severe discipline, or admired for valor and success in war, or beloved for frankness and generosity. The field of victory was often the scene of their election; and even the armorer Marius, the most contemptible of all the candidates for the purple, was distinguished,

however by intrepid courage, matchless strength, and blunt honesty.

[160] His mean and recent trade cast, indeed, an air of ridicule on his elevation; [1601] but his birth could not be more obscure than was that of the greater part of his rivals, who were born of peasants, and enlisted

in the army as private soldiers. In times of confusion, every active

genius finds the place assigned him by nature: in a general state

of war, military merit is the road to glory and to greatness. Of the

nineteen tyrants Tetricus only was a senator; Piso alone was a noble. the blood of Numa, through twenty-eight successive generations, ran in the veins of Calphurnius Piso, [161] who, by female alliances, claimed a right of exhibiting, in his house, the images of Crassus and of the

great Pompey. [162] His ancestors had been repeatedly dignified with all the honors which the commonwealth could bestow; and of all the ancient families of Rome, the Calphurnian alone had survived the tyranny of the caesars. The personal qualities of Piso added new lustre to his race. the usurper Valens, by whose order he was killed, confessed, with deep

remorse, that even an enemy ought to have respected the sanctity of

Piso; and although he died in arms against Gallienus, the senate, with the emperor's generous permission, decreed the triumphal ornaments to the memory of so virtuous a rebel. [163] [See Roman Coins: From The british Museum. Number four depicts Crassus.]

[Footnote 160: See the speech of Marius in the Augustan History, p. 197. the accidental identity of names was the only circumstance that could tempt Pollio to imitate Sallust.]

[Footnote 1601: Marius was killed by a soldier, who had formerly served as a workman in his shop, and who exclaimed, as he struck, "Behold the

sword which thyself hast forged." Trob vita.--G.]

[Footnote 161: "Vos, O Pompilius sanguis!" is Horace's address to the Pisos See Art. Poet. v. 292, with Dacier's and Sanadon's notes.]

[Footnote 162: Tacit. Annal. xv. 48. Hist. i. 15. In the former of these passages we may venture to change paterna into materna. In every

generation from Augustus to Alexander Severus, one or more Pisos appear as consuls. A Piso was deemed worthy of the throne by Augustus, (Tacit. annal. i. 13;) a second headed a formidable conspiracy against Nero; and a third was adopted, and declared Caesar, by Galba.]

[Footnote 163: Hist. August. p. 195. The senate, in a moment of enthusiasm, seems to have presumed on the approbation of Gallienus.]

the lieutenants of Valerian were grateful to the father, whom they esteemed. They disdained to serve the luxurious indolence of his

unworthy son. The throne of the Roman world was unsupported by any

principle of loyalty; and treason against such a prince might easily be considered as patriotism to the state. Yet if we examine with candor the conduct of these usurpers, it will appear, that they were much oftener driven into rebellion by their fears, than urged to it by their ambition. They dreaded the cruel suspicions of Gallienus; they equally dreaded the capricious violence of their troops. If the dangerous favor

of the army had imprudently declared them deserving of the purple, they were marked for sure destruction; and even prudence would counsel them to secure a short enjoyment of empire, and rather to try the fortune of war than to expect the hand of an executioner.

when the clamor of the soldiers invested the reluctant victims with the ensigns of sovereign authority, they sometimes mourned in secret their approaching fate. "You have lost," said Saturninus, on the day of his elevation, "you have lost a useful commander, and you have made a very wretched emperor." [164]

[Footnote 164: Hist. August p. 196.]

the apprehensions of Saturninus were justified by the repeated experience of revolutions. Of the nineteen tyrants who started up under the reign of Gallienus, there was not one who enjoyed a life of peace,

or a natural death. As soon as they were invested with the bloody

purple, they inspired their adherents with the same fears and ambition which had occasioned their own revolt. Encompassed with domestic conspiracy, military sedition, and civil war, they trembled on the edge

of precipices, in which, after a longer or shorter term of anxiety, they were inevitably lost. These precarious monarchs received, however, such

honors as the flattery of their respective armies and provinces could bestow; but their claim, founded on rebellion, could never obtain the

sanction of law or history. Italy, Rome, and the senate, constantly adhered to the cause of Gallienus, and he alone was considered as the sovereign of the empire. That prince condescended, indeed, to acknowledge the victorious arms of Odenathus, who deserved the honorable distinction, by the respectful conduct which he always maintained towards the son of Valerian. With the general applause of the Romans, and the consent of Gallienus, the senate conferred the title of Augustus

on the brave Palmyrenian; and seemed to intrust him with the government

of the East, which he already possessed, in so independent a manner, that, like a private succession, he bequeathed it to his illustrious widow, Zenobia. [165]

[Footnote 165: The association of the brave Palmyrenian was the most

popular act of the whole reign of Gallienus. Hist. August. p. 180.]

the rapid and perpetual transitions from the cottage to the throne, and from the throne to the grave, might have amused an indifferent

philosopher; were it possible for a philosopher to remain indifferent amidst the general calamities of human kind. The election of these

precarious emperors, their power and their death, were equally destructive to their subjects and adherents. The price of their fatal elevation was instantly discharged to the troops by an immense donative, drawn from the bowels of the exhausted people. However virtuous was their character, however pure their intentions, they found themselves

reduced to the hard necessity of supporting their usurpation by frequent acts of rapine and cruelty. When they fell, they involved armies and

provinces in their fall. There is still extant a most savage mandate from Gallienus to one of his ministers, after the suppression of

Ingenuus, who had assumed the purple in Illyricum.

"It is not enough," says that soft but inhuman prince, "that you exterminate such as have appeared in arms; the chance of battle might

have served me as effectually. The male sex of every age must be extirpated; provided that, in the execution of the children and old men,

you can contrive means to save our reputation. Let every one die who has dropped an expression, who has entertained a thought against me, against

me, the son of Valerian, the father and brother of so many princes. [166]

Remember that Ingenuus was made emperor: tear, kill, hew in pieces.

I write to you with my own hand, and would inspire you with my own feelings." [167] Whilst the public forces of the state were dissipated

in private quarrels, the defenceless provinces lay exposed to every

invader. The bravest usurpers were compelled, by the perplexity of their

situation, to conclude ignominious treaties with the common enemy, to

purchase with oppressive tributes the neutrality or services of the barbarians, and to introduce hostile and independent nations into the

heart of the Roman monarchy. [168]

[Footnote 166: Gallienus had given the titles of Caesar and Augustus to

his son Saloninus, slain at Cologne by the usurper Posthumus. A second

son of Gallienus succeeded to the name and rank of his elder brother

Valerian, the brother of Gallienus, was also associated to the empire:

several other brothers, sisters, nephews, and nieces of the emperor formed a very numerous royal family. See Tillemont, tom iii, and M. de brequigny in the Memoires de l'Academie, tom xxxii p. 262.]

[Footnote 167: Hist. August. p. 188.]

[Footnote 168: Regillianus had some bands of Roxolani in his service;

Posthumus a body of Franks. It was, perhaps, in the character of auxiliaries that the latter introduced themselves into Spain.]

Such were the barbarians, and such the tyrants, who, under the reigns

of Valerian and Gallienus, dismembered the provinces, and reduced the empire to the lowest pitch of disgrace and ruin, from whence it seemed

impossible that it should ever emerge. As far as the barrenness of

materials would permit, we have attempted to trace, with order and

perspicuity, the general events of that calamitous period. There still

remain some particular facts; I. The disorders of Sicily; II. The tumults of Alexandria; and, III. The rebellion of the Isaurians, which

may serve to reflect a strong light on the horrid picture.

I. Whenever numerous troops of banditti, multiplied by success and

impunity, publicly defy, instead of eluding the justice of their country, we may safely infer, that the excessive weakness of the

government is felt and abused by the lowest ranks of the community. the situation of Sicily preserved it from the Barbarians; nor could the disarmed province have supported a usurper. The sufferings of that once flourishing and still fertile island were inflicted by baser hands. A

licentious crowd of slaves and peasants reigned for a while over the

plundered country, and renewed the memory of the servile wars of more ancient times. [169] Devastations, of which the husbandman was either the

victim or the accomplice, must have ruined the agriculture of Sicily; and as the principal estates were the property of the opulent senators

of Rome, who often enclosed within a farm the territory of an old

republic, it is not improbable, that this private injury might affect the capital more deeply, than all the conquests of the Goths or the

Persians.

[Footnote 169: The Augustan History, p. 177. See Diodor. Sicul. l.

xxxiv.]

II. The foundation of Alexandria was a noble design, at once conceived and executed by the son of Philip. The beautiful and regular form of that great city, second only to Rome itself, comprehended a circumference of fifteen miles; [170] it was peopled by three hundred thousand free inhabitants, besides at least an equal number of slaves.

[171] The lucrative trade of Arabia and India flowed through the port of alexandria, to the capital and provinces of the empire. [1711] Idleness was

unknown. Some were employed in blowing of glass, others in weaving of

linen, others again manufacturing the papyrus. Either sex, and every age, was engaged in the pursuits of industry, nor did even the blind or the lame want occupations suited to their condition. [172] But the people

of Alexandria, a various mixture of nations, united the vanity and

inconstancy of the Greeks with the superstition and obstinacy of the egyptians. The most trifling occasion, a transient scarcity of flesh

or lentils, the neglect of an accustomed salutation, a mistake of

precedency in the public baths, or even a religious dispute, [173] were at any time sufficient to kindle a sedition among that vast multitude, whose resentments were furious and implacable. [174] After the captivity

of Valerian and the insolence of his son had relaxed the authority of the laws, the Alexandrians abandoned themselves to the ungoverned rage

of their passions, and their unhappy country was the theatre of a civil war, which continued (with a few short and suspicious truces) above twelve years. [175] All intercourse was cut off between the several

quarters of the afflicted city, every street was polluted with blood, every building of strength converted into a citadel; nor did the tumults

subside till a considerable part of Alexandria was irretrievably ruined. the spacious and magnificent district of Bruchion, [1751] with its palaces and musaeum, the residence of the kings and philosophers of Egypt, is described above a century afterwards, as already reduced to its present

state of dreary solitude. [176]

[Footnote 170: Plin. Hist. Natur. v. 10.]

[Footnote 171: Diodor. Sicul. l. xvii. p. 590, edit. Wesseling.]

[Footnote 1711: Berenice, or Myos-Hormos, on the Red Sea, received the eastern commodities. From thence they were transported to the Nile, and down the Nile to Alexandria.--M.]

[Footnote 172: See a very curious letter of Hadrian, in the Augustan

History, p. 245.]

[Footnote 173: Such as the sacrilegious murder of a divine cat. See diodor. Sicul. l. i. \* Note: The hostility between the Jewish and

Grecian part of the population afterwards between the two former and the christian, were unfailing causes of tumult, sedition, and massacre. In

no place were the religious disputes, after the establishment of christianity, more frequent or more sanguinary. See Philo. de Legat.

Hist. of Jews, ii. 171, iii. 111, 198. Gibbon, iii c. xxi. viii. c.

xlvii.--M.]

[Footnote 174: Hist. August. p. 195. This long and terrible sedition was first occasioned by a dispute between a soldier and a townsman about a

pair of shoes.]

[Footnote 175: Dionysius apud. Euses. Hist. Eccles. vii. p. 21. Ammian

xxii. 16.]

[Footnote 1751: The Bruchion was a quarter of Alexandria which extended along the largest of the two ports, and contained many palaces,

inhabited by the Ptolemies. D'Anv. Geogr. Anc. iii. 10.--G.]

[Footnote 176: Scaliger. Animadver. ad Euseb. Chron. p. 258. Three dissertations of M. Bonamy, in the Mem. de l'Academie, tom. ix.]

III. The obscure rebellion of Trebellianus, who assumed the purple in

Isauria, a petty province of Asia Minor, was attended with strange and

memorable consequences. The pageant of royalty was soon destroyed by an

officer of Gallienus; but his followers, despairing of mercy, resolved to shake off their allegiance, not only to the emperor, but to the empire, and suddenly returned to the savage manners from which they

had never perfectly been reclaimed. Their craggy rocks, a branch of the wide-extended Taurus, protected their inaccessible retreat. The tillage

of some fertile valleys [177] supplied them with necessaries, and a habit

of rapine with the luxuries of life. In the heart of the Roman monarchy, the Isaurians long continued a nation of wild barbarians. Succeeding

princes, unable to reduce them to obedience, either by arms or policy, were compelled to acknowledge their weakness, by surrounding the hostile and independent spot with a strong chain of fortifications, [178] which

often proved insufficient to restrain the incursions of these domestic foes. The Isaurians, gradually extending their territory to the

sea-coast, subdued the western and mountainous part of Cilicia, formerly the nest of those daring pirates, against whom the republic had once been obliged to exert its utmost force, under the conduct of the great

Pompey. [179]

[Footnote 177: Strabo, l. xiii. p. 569.]

[Footnote 178: Hist. August. p. 197.]

[Footnote 179: See Cellarius, Geogr Antiq. tom. ii. p. 137, upon the

limits of Isauria.]

Our habits of thinking so fondly connect the order of the universe with the fate of man, that this gloomy period of history has been decorated with inundations, earthquakes, uncommon meteors, preternatural darkness, and a crowd of prodigies fictitious or exaggerated. [180] But a long and general famine was a calamity of a more serious kind. It was the

inevitable consequence of rapine and oppression, which extirpated the

produce of the present, and the hope of future harvests. Famine is almost always followed by epidemical diseases, the effect of scanty and

unwholesome food. Other causes must, however, have contributed to the furious plague, which, from the year two hundred and fifty to the

year two hundred and sixty-five, raged without interruption in every

province, every city, and almost every family, of the Roman empire. during some time five thousand persons died daily in Rome; and many towns, that had escaped the hands of the Barbarians, were entirely depopulated. [181]

[Footnote 180: Hist August p 177.]

[Footnote 181: Hist. August. p. 177. Zosimus, l. i. p. 24. Zonaras,

l. xii. p. 623. Euseb. Chronicon. Victor in Epitom. Victor in Caesar. eutropius, ix. 5. Orosius, vii. 21.]

we have the knowledge of a very curious circumstance, of some use

perhaps in the melancholy calculation of human calamities. An exact

register was kept at Alexandria of all the citizens entitled to receive the distribution of corn. It was found, that the ancient number of those comprised between the ages of forty and seventy, had been equal to the whole sum of claimants, from fourteen to fourscore years of age, who remained alive after the reign of Gallienus. [182] Applying this authentic fact to the most correct tables of mortality, it evidently

proves, that above half the people of Alexandria had perished; and could we venture to extend the analogy to the other provinces, we might

suspect, that war, pestilence, and famine, had consumed, in a few

years, the moiety of the human species. [183]

[Footnote 182: Euseb. Hist. Eccles. vii. 21. The fact is taken from the

Letters of Dionysius, who, in the time of those troubles, was bishop of alexandria.]

[Footnote 183: In a great number of parishes, 11,000 persons were found between fourteen and eighty; 5365 between forty and seventy. See Buffon,

Histoire Naturelle, tom. ii. p. 590.]

chapter XI: Reign Of Claudius, Defeat Of The Goths.--Part I.

Reign Of Claudius.--Defeat Of The Goths.--Victories,

Triumph, And Death Of Aurelian.

Under the deplorable reigns of Valerian and Gallienus, the empire was

oppressed and almost destroyed by the soldiers, the tyrants, and the barbarians. It was saved by a series of great princes, who derived their

obscure origin from the martial provinces of Illyricum. Within a period

of about thirty years, Claudius, Aurelian, Probus, Diocletian and his colleagues, triumphed over the foreign and domestic enemies of the

state, reestablished, with the military discipline, the strength of the frontiers, and deserved the glorious title of Restorers of the Roman world.

the removal of an effeminate tyrant made way for a succession of heroes. the indignation of the people imputed all their calamities to Gallienus, and the far greater part were indeed, the consequence of his dissolute

manners and careless administration. He was even destitute of a sense of

honor, which so frequently supplies the absence of public virtue; and as

long as he was permitted to enjoy the possession of Italy, a victory of the barbarians, the loss of a province, or the rebellion of a general,

seldom disturbed the tranquil course of his pleasures. At length, a considerable army, stationed on the Upper Danube, invested with the

Imperial purple their leader Aureolus; who, disdaining a confined and barren reign over the mountains of Rhaetia, passed the Alps, occupied

Milan, threatened Rome, and challenged Gallienus to dispute in the field the sovereignty of Italy. The emperor, provoked by the insult, and alarmed by the instant danger, suddenly exerted that latent vigor which

sometimes broke through the indolence of his temper. Forcing himself from the luxury of the palace, he appeared in arms at the head of his

legions, and advanced beyond the Po to encounter his competitor. The corrupted name of Pontirolo [1] still preserves the memory of a bridge

over the Adda, which, during the action, must have proved an object

of the utmost importance to both armies. The Rhaetian usurper, after

receiving a total defeat and a dangerous wound, retired into Milan. The

siege of that great city was immediately formed; the walls were battered with every engine in use among the ancients; and Aureolus, doubtful

of his internal strength, and hopeless of foreign succors already anticipated the fatal consequences of unsuccessful rebellion.

[Footnote 1: Pons Aureoli, thirteen miles from Bergamo, and thirty-two from Milan. See Cluver. Italia, Antiq. tom. i. p. 245. Near this place,

in the year 1703, the obstinate battle of Cassano was fought between the french and Austrians. The excellent relation of the Chevalier de Folard, who was present, gives a very distinct idea of the ground. See Polybe de folard, tom. iii. p. 233-248.]

His last resource was an attempt to seduce the loyalty of the besiegers.

He scattered libels through the camp, inviting the troops to desert an

unworthy master, who sacrificed the public happiness to his luxury, and the lives of his most valuable subjects to the slightest suspicions. the arts of Aureolus diffused fears and discontent among the principal

officers of his rival. A conspiracy was formed by Heraclianus the

Praetorian praefect, by Marcian, a general of rank and reputation, and by Cecrops, who commanded a numerous body of Dalmatian guards. The death

of Gallienus was resolved; and notwithstanding their desire of first terminating the siege of Milan, the extreme danger which accompanied every moment's delay obliged them to hasten the execution of their daring purpose. At a late hour of the night, but while the emperor still

protracted the pleasures of the table, an alarm was suddenly given, that aureolus, at the head of all his forces, had made a desperate sally from the town; Gallienus, who was never deficient in personal bravery,

started from his silken couch, and without allowing himself time either to put on his armor, or to assemble his guards, he mounted on

horseback, and rode full speed towards the supposed place of the attack. encompassed by his declared or concealed enemies, he soon, amidst the

nocturnal tumult, received a mortal dart from an uncertain hand. Before

he expired, a patriotic sentiment using in the mind of Gallienus,

induced him to name a deserving successor; and it was his last request, that the Imperial ornaments should be delivered to Claudius, who then commanded a detached army in the neighborhood of Pavia. The report at

least was diligently propagated, and the order cheerfully obeyed by the conspirators, who had already agreed to place Claudius on the throne.

On the first news of the emperor's death, the troops expressed some

suspicion and resentment, till the one was removed, and the other assuaged, by a donative of twenty pieces of gold to each soldier. They then ratified the election, and acknowledged the merit of their new

sovereign. [2]

[Footnote 2: On the death of Gallienus, see Trebellius Pollio in Hist. august. p. 181. Zosimus, l. i. p. 37. Zonaras, l. xii. p. 634. Eutrop.

ix. ll. Aurelius Victor in Epitom. Victor in Caesar. I have compared and blended them all, but have chiefly followed Aurelius Victor, who seems to have had the best memoirs.]

the obscurity which covered the origin of Claudius, though it was afterwards embellished by some flattering fictions, [3] sufficiently betrays the meanness of his birth. We can only discover that he was a

native of one of the provinces bordering on the Danube; that his youth was spent in arms, and that his modest valor attracted the favor and confidence of Decius. The senate and people already considered him as an excellent officer, equal to the most important trusts; and censured the

inattention of Valerian, who suffered him to remain in the subordinate

station of a tribune. But it was not long before that emperor distinguished the merit of Claudius, by declaring him general and chief

of the Illyrian frontier, with the command of all the troops in Thrace,

Maesia, Dacia, Pannonia, and Dalmatia, the appointments of the praefect

of Egypt, the establishment of the proconsul of Africa, and the sure

prospect of the consulship. By his victories over the Goths, he deserved from the senate the honor of a statue, and excited the jealous apprehensions of Gallienus. It was impossible that a soldier could esteem so dissolute a sovereign, nor is it easy to conceal a just contempt. Some unguarded expressions which dropped from Claudius were

officiously transmitted to the royal ear. The emperor's answer to an

officer of confidence describes in very lively colors his own character, and that of the times. "There is not any thing capable of giving me more

serious concern, than the intelligence contained in your last despatch;

[4] that some malicious suggestions have indisposed towards us the mind

of our friend and parent Claudius. As you regard your allegiance, use every means to appease his resentment, but conduct your negotiation with

secrecy; let it not reach the knowledge of the Dacian troops; they are already provoked, and it might inflame their fury. I myself have sent

him some presents: be it your care that he accept them with pleasure. above all, let him not suspect that I am made acquainted with his

imprudence. The fear of my anger might urge him to desperate counsels."

[5] The presents which accompanied this humble epistle, in which the

monarch solicited a reconciliation with his discontented subject, consisted of a considerable sum of money, a splendid wardrobe, and a valuable service of silver and gold plate. By such arts Gallienus

softened the indignation and dispelled the fears of his Illyrian

general; and during the remainder of that reign, the formidable sword of claudius was always drawn in the cause of a master whom he despised. at last, indeed, he received from the conspirators the bloody purple

of Gallienus: but he had been absent from their camp and counsels; and

however he might applaud the deed, we may candidly presume that he was

innocent of the knowledge of it. [6] When Claudius ascended the throne,

he was about fifty-four years of age.

[Footnote 3: Some supposed him, oddly enough, to be a bastard of the

younger Gordian. Others took advantage of the province of Dardania, to deduce his origin from Dardanus, and the ancient kings of Troy.]

[Footnote 4: Notoria, a periodical and official despatch which the emperor received from the frumentarii, or agents dispersed through the

provinces. Of these we may speak hereafter.]

[Footnote 5: Hist. August. p. 208. Gallienus describes the plate,

vestments, etc., like a man who loved and understood those splendid trifles.]

[Footnote 6: Julian (Orat. i. p. 6) affirms that Claudius acquired the empire in a just and even holy manner. But we may distrust the

partiality of a kinsman.]

the siege of Milan was still continued, and Aureolus soon discovered that the success of his artifices had only raised up a more determined adversary. He attempted to negotiate with Claudius a treaty of alliance and partition. "Tell him," replied the intrepid emperor, "that such

proposals should have been made to Gallienus; he, perhaps, might have

listened to them with patience, and accepted a colleague as despicable as himself." [7] This stern refusal, and a last unsuccessful effort,

obliged Aureolus to yield the city and himself to the discretion of the conqueror. The judgment of the army pronounced him worthy of death; and claudius, after a feeble resistance, consented to the execution of the

sentence. Nor was the zeal of the senate less ardent in the cause of their new sovereign. They ratified, perhaps with a sincere transport

of zeal, the election of Claudius; and, as his predecessor had shown

himself the personal enemy of their order, they exercised, under the

name of justice, a severe revenge against his friends and family. The

senate was permitted to discharge the ungrateful office of punishment, and the emperor reserved for himself the pleasure and merit of obtaining by his intercession a general act of indemnity. [8]

[Footnote 7: Hist. August. p. 203. There are some trifling differences concerning the circumstances of the last defeat and death of Aureolus]

[Footnote 8: Aurelius Victor in Gallien. The people loudly prayed for the damnation of Gallienus. The senate decreed that his relations and

servants should be thrown down headlong from the Gemonian stairs. An

obnoxious officer of the revenue had his eyes torn out whilst under examination. Note: The expression is curious, "terram matrem deosque

inferos impias uti Gallieno darent."--M.]

Such ostentatious clemency discovers less of the real character of claudius, than a trifling circumstance in which he seems to have consulted only the dictates of his heart. The frequent rebellions of the provinces had involved almost every person in the guilt of treason, almost every estate in the case of confiscation; and Gallienus often displayed his liberality by distributing among his officers the property

of his subjects. On the accession of Claudius, an old woman threw

herself at his feet, and complained that a general of the late emperor

had obtained an arbitrary grant of her patrimony. This general was claudius himself, who had not entirely escaped the contagion of the times. The emperor blushed at the reproach, but deserved the confidence which she had reposed in his equity. The confession of his fault was accompanied with immediate and ample restitution. [9]

[Footnote 9: Zonaras, l. xii. p. 137.]

In the arduous task which Claudius had undertaken, of restoring the empire to its ancient splendor, it was first necessary to revive among

his troops a sense of order and obedience. With the authority of a veteran commander, he represented to them that the relaxation of discipline had introduced a long train of disorders, the effects of which were at length experienced by the soldiers themselves; that a

people ruined by oppression, and indolent from despair, could no longer

supply a numerous army with the means of luxury, or even of subsistence; that the danger of each individual had increased with the despotism of the military order, since princes who tremble on the throne will guard their safety by the instant sacrifice of every obnoxious subject. the emperor expiated on the mischiefs of a lawless caprice, which the

soldiers could only gratify at the expense of their own blood; as their

seditious elections had so frequently been followed by civil wars, which consumed the flower of the legions either in the field of battle, or

in the cruel abuse of victory. He painted in the most lively colors the exhausted state of the treasury, the desolation of the provinces, the disgrace of the Roman name, and the insolent triumph of rapacious barbarians. It was against those barbarians, he declared, that he

intended to point the first effort of their arms. Tetricus might reign for a while over the West, and even Zenobia might preserve the dominion

of the East. [10] These usurpers were his personal adversaries; nor could he think of indulging any private resentment till he had saved an empire, whose impending ruin would, unless it was timely prevented, crush both the army and the people.

[Footnote 10: Zonaras on this occasion mentions Posthumus but the

registers of the senate (Hist. August. p. 203) prove that Tetricus was already emperor of the western provinces.]

the various nations of Germany and Sarmatia, who fought under the Gothic

standard, had already collected an armament more formidable than any which had yet issued from the Euxine. On the banks of the Niester,

one of the great rivers that discharge themselves into that sea, they constructed a fleet of two thousand, or even of six thousand vessels;

[11] numbers which, however incredible they may seem, would have been

insufficient to transport their pretended army of three hundred and twenty thousand barbarians. Whatever might be the real strength of the

Goths, the vigor and success of the expedition were not adequate to the

greatness of the preparations. In their passage through the Bosphorus, the unskilful pilots were overpowered by the violence of the current; and while the multitude of their ships were crowded in a narrow channel, many were dashed against each other, or against the shore. The barbarians made several descents on the coasts both of Europe and Asia; but the open country was already plundered, and they were repulsed with

shame and loss from the fortified cities which they assaulted. A spirit

of discouragement and division arose in the fleet, and some of their chiefs sailed away towards the islands of Crete and Cyprus; but the main body, pursuing a more steady course, anchored at length near the foot of

Mount Athos, and assaulted the city of Thessalonica, the wealthy capital

of all the Macedonian provinces. Their attacks, in which they displayed a fierce but artless bravery, were soon interrupted by the rapid approach of Claudius, hastening to a scene of action that deserved the

presence of a warlike prince at the head of the remaining powers of the empire. Impatient for battle, the Goths immediately broke up their camp,

relinquished the siege of Thessalonica, left their navy at the foot of

Mount Athos, traversed the hills of Macedonia, and pressed forwards to engage the last defence of Italy.

[Footnote 11: The Augustan History mentions the smaller, Zonaras the

larger number; the lively fancy of Montesquieu induced him to prefer the

latter.]

we still posses an original letter addressed by Claudius to the senate and people on this memorable occasion. "Conscript fathers," says the emperor, "know that three hundred and twenty thousand Goths have invaded the Roman territory. If I vanquish them, your gratitude will reward my

services. Should I fall, remember that I am the successor of Gallienus. the whole republic is fatigued and exhausted. We shall fight after

Valerian, after Ingenuus, Regillianus, Lollianus, Posthumus, Celsus, and a thousand others, whom a just contempt for Gallienus provoked into

rebellion. We are in want of darts, of spears, and of shields. The

strength of the empire, Gaul, and Spain, are usurped by Tetricus, and we blush to acknowledge that the archers of the East serve under the banners of Zenobia. Whatever we shall perform will be sufficiently

great." [12] The melancholy firmness of this epistle announces a hero careless of his fate, conscious of his danger, but still deriving a well-grounded hope from the resources of his own mind.

[Footnote 12: Trebell. Pollio in Hist. August. p. 204.]

the event surpassed his own expectations and those of the world. By the most signal victories he delivered the empire from this host of barbarians, and was distinguished by posterity under the glorious appellation of the Gothic Claudius. The imperfect historians of an irregular war [13] do not enable as to describe the order and circumstances of his exploits; but, if we could be indulged in the allusion, we might distribute into three acts this memorable tragedy.

I. The decisive battle was fought near Naissus, a city of Dardania. the legions at first gave way, oppressed by numbers, and dismayed by

misfortunes. Their ruin was inevitable, had not the abilities of their emperor prepared a seasonable relief. A large detachment, rising out of the secret and difficult passes of the mountains, which, by his order, they had occupied, suddenly assailed the rear of the victorious Goths.

the favorable instant was improved by the activity of Claudius. He

revived the courage of his troops, restored their ranks, and pressed the barbarians on every side. Fifty thousand men are reported to have been

slain in the battle of Naissus. Several large bodies of barbarians, covering their retreat with a movable fortification of wagons, retired,

or rather escaped, from the field of slaughter.

II. We may presume that some insurmountable difficulty, the fatigue,

perhaps, or the disobedience, of the conquerors, prevented Claudius from completing in one day the destruction of the Goths. The war was diffused

over the province of Maesia, Thrace, and Macedonia, and its operations drawn out into a variety of marches, surprises, and tumultuary engagements, as well by sea as by land. When the Romans suffered any

loss, it was commonly occasioned by their own cowardice or rashness; but the superior talents of the emperor, his perfect knowledge of the country, and his judicious choice of measures as well as officers, assured on most occasions the success of his arms. The immense booty, the fruit of so many victories, consisted for the greater part of cattle and slaves. A select body of the Gothic youth was received among the

Imperial troops; the remainder was sold into servitude; and so considerable was the number of female captives, that every soldier

obtained to his share two or three women. A circumstance from which we

may conclude, that the invaders entertained some designs of settlement as well as of plunder; since even in a naval expedition, they were accompanied by their families.

III. The loss of their fleet, which was either taken or sunk, had

intercepted the retreat of the Goths. A vast circle of Roman posts, distributed with skill, supported with firmness, and gradually closing towards a common centre, forced the barbarians into the most

inaccessible parts of Mount Haemus, where they found a safe refuge, but a very scanty subsistence. During the course of a rigorous winter in which they were besieged by the emperor's troops, famine and pestilence, desertion and the sword, continually diminished the imprisoned

multitude. On the return of spring, nothing appeared in arms except a

hardy and desperate band, the remnant of that mighty host which had embarked at the mouth of the Niester.

[Footnote 13: Hist. August. in Claud. Aurelian. et Prob. Zosimus, l.

i. p. 38-42. Zonaras, l. xii. p. 638. Aurel. Victor in Epitom. Victor

Junior in Caesar. Eutrop. ix ll. Euseb. in Chron.]

the pestilence which swept away such numbers of the barbarians, at

length proved fatal to their conqueror. After a short but glorious

reign of two years, Claudius expired at Sirmium, amidst the tears and acclamations of his subjects. In his last illness, he convened the

principal officers of the state and army, and in their presence

recommended Aurelian, [14] one of his generals, as the most deserving of the throne, and the best qualified to execute the great design which he

himself had been permitted only to undertake. The virtues of Claudius,

his valor, affability, justice, and temperance, his love of fame and of

his country, place him in that short list of emperors who added lustre to the Roman purple. Those virtues, however, were celebrated with

peculiar zeal and complacency by the courtly writers of the age of constantine, who was the great grandson of Crispus, the elder brother

of Claudius. The voice of flattery was soon taught to repeat, that gods, who so hastily had snatched Claudius from the earth, rewarded his merit and piety by the perpetual establishment of the empire in his family.

[15]

[Footnote 14: According to Zonaras, (l. xii. p. 638,) Claudius, before his death, invested him with the purple; but this singular fact

is rather contradicted than confirmed by other writers.]

[Footnote 15: See the Life of Claudius by Pollio, and the Orations of

Mamertinus, Eumenius, and Julian. See likewise the Caesars of Julian

p. 318. In Julian it was not adulation, but superstition and vanity.]

Notwithstanding these oracles, the greatness of the Flavian family (a

name which it had pleased them to assume) was deferred above twenty

years, and the elevation of Claudius occasioned the immediate ruin

of his brother Quintilius, who possessed not sufficient moderation or courage to descend into the private station to which the patriotism

of the late emperor had condemned him. Without delay or reflection, he assumed the purple at Aquileia, where he commanded a considerable force; and though his reign lasted only seventeen days, [151] he had time to

obtain the sanction of the senate, and to experience a mutiny of the troops.

as soon as he was informed that the great army of the Danube had

invested the well-known valor of Aurelian with Imperial power, he sunk

under the fame and merit of his rival; and ordering his veins to be

opened, prudently withdrew himself from the unequal contest. [16]

[Footnote 151: Such is the narrative of the greater part of the older

historians; but the number and the variety of his medals seem to require

more time, and give probability to the report of Zosimus, who makes him

reign some months.--G.]

[Footnote 16: Zosimus, l. i. p. 42. Pollio (Hist. August. p. 107) allows him virtues, and says, that, like Pertinax, he was killed by the

licentious soldiers. According to Dexippus, he died of a disease.]

the general design of this work will not permit us minutely to relate the actions of every emperor after he ascended the throne, much less to deduce the various fortunes of his private life. We shall only observe, that the father of Aurelian was a peasant of the territory of Sirmium, who occupied a small farm, the property of Aurelius, a rich senator.

His warlike son enlisted in the troops as a common soldier, successively

rose to the rank of a centurion, a tribune, the praefect of a legion, the inspector of the camp, the general, or, as it was then called, the duke, of a frontier; and at length, during the Gothic war, exercised the

important office of commander-in-chief of the cavalry. In every station

he distinguished himself by matchless valor, [17] rigid discipline, and

successful conduct. He was invested with the consulship by the emperor

Valerian, who styles him, in the pompous language of that age, the deliverer of Illyricum, the restorer of Gaul, and the rival of the

Scipios. At the recommendation of Valerian, a senator of the highest

rank and merit, Ulpius Crinitus, whose blood was derived from the same

source as that of Trajan, adopted the Pannonian peasant, gave him his daughter in marriage, and relieved with his ample fortune the honorable

poverty which Aurelian had preserved inviolate. [18]

[Footnote 17: Theoclius (as quoted in the Augustan History, p. 211) affirms that in one day he killed with his own hand forty-eight

Sarmatians, and in several subsequent engagements nine hundred and fifty. This heroic valor was admired by the soldiers, and celebrated in their rude songs, the burden of which was, mille, mile, mille, occidit.]

[Footnote 18: Acholius (ap. Hist. August. p. 213) describes the ceremony

of the adoption, as it was performed at Byzantium, in the presence of the emperor and his great officers.]

the reign of Aurelian lasted only four years and about nine months; but every instant of that short period was filled by some memorable achievement. He put an end to the Gothic war, chastised the Germans who

invaded Italy, recovered Gaul, Spain, and Britain out of the hands of tetricus, and destroyed the proud monarchy which Zenobia had erected in the East on the ruins of the afflicted empire.

It was the rigid attention of Aurelian, even to the minutest articles of discipline, which bestowed such uninterrupted success on his arms. His

military regulations are contained in a very concise epistle to one of

his inferior officers, who is commanded to enforce them, as he wishes to become a tribune, or as he is desirous to live. Gaming, drinking, and the arts of divination, were severely prohibited. Aurelian expected that

his soldiers should be modest, frugal, and laborous; that their armor

should be constantly kept bright, their weapons sharp, their clothing and horses ready for immediate service; that they should live in their

quarters with chastity and sobriety, without damaging the cornfields, without stealing even a sheep, a fowl, or a bunch of grapes, without exacting from their landlords, either salt, or oil, or wood. "The public allowance," continues the emperor, "is sufficient for their support; their wealth should be collected from the spoils of the enemy, not from the tears of the provincials." [19] A single instance will serve to display the rigor, and even cruelty, of Aurelian. One of the soldiers

had seduced the wife of his host. The guilty wretch was fastened to two trees forcibly drawn towards each other, and his limbs were torn asunder by their sudden separation. A few such examples impressed a salutary consternation. The punishments of Aurelian were terrible; but he had

seldom occasion to punish more than once the same offence. His own conduct gave a sanction to his laws, and the seditious legions dreaded a chief who had learned to obey, and who was worthy to command.

[Footnote 19: Hist. August, p. 211 This laconic epistle is truly the work of a soldier; it abounds with military phrases and words, some of which cannot be understood without difficulty. Ferramenta samiata is well explained by Salmasius. The former of the words means all weapons

of offence, and is contrasted with Arma, defensive armor The latter

signifies keen and well sharpened.]

chapter XI: Reign Of Claudius, Defeat Of The Goths.--Part II.

the death of Claudius had revived the fainting spirit of the Goths. The troops which guarded the passes of Mount Haemus, and the banks of the danube, had been drawn away by the apprehension of a civil war; and it

seems probable that the remaining body of the Gothic and Vandalic tribes embraced the favorable opportunity, abandoned their settlements of the Ukraine, traversed the rivers, and swelled with new multitudes the destroying host of their countrymen. Their united numbers were at length encountered by Aurelian, and the bloody and doubtful conflict ended only with the approach of night. [20] Exhausted by so many calamities, which they had mutually endured and inflicted during a twenty years' war, the

Goths and the Romans consented to a lasting and beneficial treaty. It was earnestly solicited by the barbarians, and cheerfully ratified by the legions, to whose suffrage the prudence of Aurelian referred the decision of that important question. The Gothic nation engaged to supply the armies of Rome with a body of two thousand auxiliaries, consisting entirely of cavalry, and stipulated in return an undisturbed retreat, with a regular market as far as the Danube, provided by the emperor's care, but at their own expense. The treaty was observed with such

religious fidelity, that when a party of five hundred men straggled from the camp in quest of plunder, the king or general of the barbarians commanded that the guilty leader should be apprehended and shot to death with darts, as a victim devoted to the sanctity of their engagements.

[201] It is, however, not unlikely, that the precaution of Aurelian, who

had exacted as hostages the sons and daughters of the Gothic chiefs, contributed something to this pacific temper. The youths he trained in the exercise of arms, and near his own person: to the damsels he gave a

liberal and Roman education, and by bestowing them in marriage on some

of his principal officers, gradually introduced between the two nations the closest and most endearing connections. [21]

[Footnote 20: Zosimus, l. i. p. 45.]

[Footnote 201: The five hundred stragglers were all slain.--M.]

[Footnote 21: Dexipphus (ap. Excerpta Legat. p. 12) relates the whole transaction under the name of Vandals. Aurelian married one of the

Gothic ladies to his general Bonosus, who was able to drink with the

Goths and discover their secrets. Hist. August. p. 247.]

but the most important condition of peace was understood rather than expressed in the treaty. Aurelian withdrew the Roman forces from Dacia, and tacitly relinquished that great province to the Goths and Vandals.

[22] His manly judgment convinced him of the solid advantages, and taught

him to despise the seeming disgrace, of thus contracting the frontiers

of the monarchy. The Dacian subjects, removed from those distant

possessions which they were unable to cultivate or defend, added

strength and populousness to the southern side of the Danube. A fertile territory, which the repetition of barbarous inroads had changed into a desert, was yielded to their industry, and a new province of Dacia still

preserved the memory of Trajan's conquests. The old country of that name detained, however, a considerable number of its inhabitants, who dreaded exile more than a Gothic master. [23] These degenerate Romans continued to serve the empire, whose allegiance they had renounced, by introducing among their conquerors the first notions of agriculture, the useful arts, and the conveniences of civilized life. An intercourse of commerce and language was gradually established between the opposite banks of the danube; and after Dacia became an independent state, it often proved the firmest barrier of the empire against the invasions of the savages of the North. A sense of interest attached these more settled barbarians to the alliance of Rome, and a permanent interest very frequently ripens

into sincere and useful friendship. This various colony, which filled the ancient province, and was insensibly blended into one great people,

still acknowledged the superior renown and authority of the Gothic tribe, and claimed the fancied honor of a Scandinavian origin. At the

same time, the lucky though accidental resemblance of the name of Getae,

[231] infused among the credulous Goths a vain persuasion, that in a

remote age, their own ancestors, already seated in the Dacian provinces,

had received the instructions of Zamolxis, and checked the victorious arms of Sesostris and Darius. [24]

[Footnote 22: Hist. August. p. 222. Eutrop. ix. 15. Sextus Rufus, c. 9. de Mortibus Persecutorum, c. 9.]

[Footnote 23: The Walachians still preserve many traces of the Latin

language and have boasted, in every age, of their Roman descent. They are surrounded by, but not mixed with, the barbarians. See a Memoir

of M. d'Anville on ancient Dacia, in the Academy of Inscriptions, tom.

xxx.]

[Footnote 231: The connection between the Getae and the Goths is still in

my opinion incorrectly maintained by some learned writers--M.]

[Footnote 24: See the first chapter of Jornandes. The Vandals, however,

(c. 22,) maintained a short independence between the Rivers Marisia and crissia, (Maros and Keres,) which fell into the Teiss.]

while the vigorous and moderate conduct of Aurelian restored the

Illyrian frontier, the nation of the Alemanni [25] violated the conditions of peace, which either Gallienus had purchased, or Claudius

had imposed, and, inflamed by their impatient youth, suddenly flew to arms. Forty thousand horse appeared in the field, [26] and the numbers

of the infantry doubled those of the cavalry. [27] The first objects

of their avarice were a few cities of the Rhaetian frontier; but their

hopes soon rising with success, the rapid march of the Alemanni traced a

line of devastation from the Danube to the Po. [28]

[Footnote 25: Dexippus, p. 7--12. Zosimus, l. i. p. 43. Vopiscus in aurelian in Hist. August. However these historians differ in names,

(Alemanni Juthungi, and Marcomanni,) it is evident that they mean the

same people, and the same war; but it requires some care to conciliate and explain them.]

[Footnote 26: Cantoclarus, with his usual accuracy, chooses to translate three hundred thousand: his version is equally repugnant to sense and to

grammar.]

[Footnote 27: We may remark, as an instance of bad taste, that Dexippus applies to the light infantry of the Alemanni the technical terms proper

only to the Grecian phalanx.]

[Footnote 28: In Dexippus, we at present read Rhodanus: M. de Valois

very judiciously alters the word to Eridanus.]

the emperor was almost at the same time informed of the irruption, and

of the retreat, of the barbarians. Collecting an active body of troops,

he marched with silence and celerity along the skirts of the Hercynian forest; and the Alemanni, laden with the spoils of Italy, arrived at the Danube, without suspecting, that on the opposite bank, and in an advantageous post, a Roman army lay concealed and prepared to intercept their return. Aurelian indulged the fatal security of the barbarians, and permitted about half their forces to pass the river without disturbance and without precaution. Their situation and astonishment

gave him an easy victory; his skilful conduct improved the advantage. disposing the legions in a semicircular form, he advanced the two horns

of the crescent across the Danube, and wheeling them on a sudden towards the centre, enclosed the rear of the German host. The dismayed barbarians, on whatsoever side they cast their eyes, beheld, with despair, a wasted country, a deep and rapid stream, a victorious and

implacable enemy.

Reduced to this distressed condition, the Alemanni no longer disdained to sue for peace. Aurelian received their ambassadors at the head of his camp, and with every circumstance of martial pomp that could display the greatness and discipline of Rome. The legions stood to their arms

in well-ordered ranks and awful silence. The principal commanders, distinguished by the ensigns of their rank, appeared on horseback on either side of the Imperial throne. Behind the throne the consecrated

images of the emperor, and his predecessors, [29] the golden eagles, and the various titles of the legions, engraved in letters of gold, were exalted in the air on lofty pikes covered with silver. When Aurelian assumed his seat, his manly grace and majestic figure [30] taught the barbarians to revere the person as well as the purple of their conqueror. The ambassadors fell prostrate on the ground in silence. They were commanded to rise, and permitted to speak. By the assistance of

interpreters they extenuated their perfidy, magnified their exploits, expatiated on the vicissitudes of fortune and the advantages of peace, and, with an ill-timed confidence, demanded a large subsidy, as the

price of the alliance which they offered to the Romans. The answer

of the emperor was stern and imperious. He treated their offer with contempt, and their demand with indignation, reproached the barbarians, that they were as ignorant of the arts of war as of the laws of peace, and finally dismissed them with the choice only of submitting to this

unconditional mercy, or awaiting the utmost severity of his resentment.

[31] Aurelian had resigned a distant province to the Goths; but it was dangerous to trust or to pardon these perfidious barbarians, whose formidable power kept Italy itself in perpetual alarms.

[Footnote 29: The emperor Claudius was certainly of the number; but we are ignorant how far this mark of respect was extended; if to Caesar and augustus, it must have produced a very awful spectacle; a long line of the masters of the world.]

[Footnote 30: Vopiscus in Hist. August. p. 210.]

[Footnote 31: Dexippus gives them a subtle and prolix oration, worthy of a Grecian sophist.]

Immediately after this conference, it should seem that some unexpected emergency required the emperor's presence in Pannonia.

He devolved on his lieutenants the care of finishing the destruction of the Alemanni, either by the sword, or by the surer operation of famine. but an active despair has often triumphed over the indolent assurance

of success. The barbarians, finding it impossible to traverse the Danube and the Roman camp, broke through the posts in their rear, which were

more feebly or less carefully guarded; and with incredible diligence, but by a different road, returned towards the mountains of Italy. [32] aurelian, who considered the war as totally extinguished, received the

mortifying intelligence of the escape of the Alemanni, and of the ravage which they already committed in the territory of Milan. The legions were commanded to follow, with as much expedition as those heavy bodies were capable of exerting, the rapid flight of an enemy whose infantry and cavalry moved with almost equal swiftness. A few days afterwards, the emperor himself marched to the relief of Italy, at the head of a chosen body of auxiliaries, (among whom were the hostages and cavalry of the

Vandals,) and of all the Praetorian guards who had served in the wars on the Danube. [33]

[Footnote 32: Hist. August. p. 215.]

[Footnote 33: Dexippus, p. 12.]

as the light troops of the Alemanni had spread themselves from the Alps to the Apennine, the incessant vigilance of Aurelian and his officers was exercised in the discovery, the attack, and the pursuit of the

numerous detachments. Notwithstanding this desultory war, three considerable battles are mentioned, in which the principal force of both armies was obstinately engaged. [34] The success was various. In the first, fought near Placentia, the Romans received so severe a blow, that, according to the expression of a writer extremely partial to aurelian, the immediate dissolution of the empire was apprehended. [35] the crafty barbarians, who had lined the woods, suddenly attacked the

legions in the dusk of the evening, and, it is most probable, after the fatigue and disorder of a long march.

the fury of their charge was irresistible; but, at length, after a dreadful slaughter, the patient firmness of the emperor rallied his troops, and restored, in some degree, the honor of his arms. The second battle was fought near Fano in Umbria; on the spot which, five hundred

years before, had been fatal to the brother of Hannibal. [36] Thus far the successful Germans had advanced along the Aemilian and Flaminian way, with a design of sacking the defenceless mistress of the world. but Aurelian, who, watchful for the safety of Rome, still hung on their

rear, found in this place the decisive moment of giving them a total and irretrievable defeat. [37] The flying remnant of their host was exterminated in a third and last battle near Pavia; and Italy was delivered from the inroads of the Alemanni.

[Footnote 34: Victor Junior in Aurelian.]

[Footnote 35: Vopiscus in Hist. August. p. 216.]

[Footnote 36: The little river, or rather torrent, of, Metaurus, near fano, has been immortalized, by finding such an historian as Livy, and

such a poet as Horace.]

[Footnote 37: It is recorded by an inscription found at Pesaro. See

Gruter cclxxvi. 3.]

fear has been the original parent of superstition, and every new calamity urges trembling mortals to deprecate the wrath of their

invisible enemies. Though the best hope of the republic was in the valor and conduct of Aurelian, yet such was the public consternation, when the barbarians were hourly expected at the gates of Rome, that, by a decree

of the senate the Sibylline books were consulted. Even the emperor

himself from a motive either of religion or of policy, recommended this

salutary measure, chided the tardiness of the senate, [38] and offered to supply whatever expense, whatever animals, whatever captives of any

nation, the gods should require. Notwithstanding this liberal offer, it does not appear, that any human victims expiated with their blood the

sins of the Roman people. The Sibylline books enjoined ceremonies of a

more harmless nature, processions of priests in white robes, attended by a chorus of youths and virgins; lustrations of the city and adjacent country; and sacrifices, whose powerful influence disabled the barbarians from passing the mystic ground on which they had been celebrated. However puerile in themselves, these superstitious arts were

subservient to the success of the war; and if, in the decisive battle of fano, the Alemanni fancied they saw an army of spectres combating on the side of Aurelian, he received a real and effectual aid from this

imaginary reenforcement. [39]

[Footnote 38: One should imagine, he said, that you were assembled in a christian church, not in the temple of all the gods.]

[Footnote 39: Vopiscus, in Hist. August. p. 215, 216, gives a long account of these ceremonies from the Registers of the senate.]

but whatever confidence might be placed in ideal ramparts, the experience of the past, and the dread of the future, induced the Romans to construct fortifications of a grosser and more substantial kind. The

seven hills of Rome had been surrounded, by the successors of Romulus, with an ancient wall of more than thirteen miles. [40] The vast enclosure

may seem disproportioned to the strength and numbers of the infant

state. But it was necessary to secure an ample extent of pasture and arable land, against the frequent and sudden incursions of the tribes

of Latium, the perpetual enemies of the republic. With the progress

of Roman greatness, the city and its inhabitants gradually increased, filled up the vacant space, pierced through the useless walls, covered the field of Mars, and, on every side, followed the public highways in

long and beautiful suburbs. [41] The extent of the new walls, erected by aurelian, and finished in the reign of Probus, was magnified by popular estimation to near fifty, [42] but is reduced by accurate measurement to about twenty-one miles. [43] It was a great but a melancholy labor, since the defence of the capital betrayed the decline of the monarchy. The

Romans of a more prosperous age, who trusted to the arms of the legions the safety of the frontier camps, [44] were very far from entertaining a suspicion, that it would ever become necessary to fortify the seat of empire against the inroads of the barbarians. [45]

[Footnote 40: Plin. Hist. Natur. iii. 5. To confirm our idea, we may

observe, that for a long time Mount Caelius was a grove of oaks, and

Mount Viminal was overrun with osiers; that, in the fourth century, the aventine was a vacant and solitary retirement; that, till the time of augustus, the Esquiline was an unwholesome burying-ground; and that the numerous inequalities, remarked by the ancients in the Quirinal,

sufficiently prove that it was not covered with buildings. Of the seven

hills, the Capitoline and Palatine only, with the adjacent valleys, were the primitive habitations of the Roman people. But this subject would

require a dissertation.]

[Footnote 41: Exspatiantia tecta multas addidere urbes, is the expression of Pliny.]

[Footnote 42: Hist. August. p. 222. Both Lipsius and Isaac Vossius have eagerly embraced this measure.]

[Footnote 43: See Nardini, Roman Antica, l. i. c. 8. \* Note: But compare

Gibbon, ch. xli. note 77.--M.]

[Footnote 44: Tacit. Hist. iv. 23.]

[Footnote 45: For Aurelian's walls, see Vopiscus in Hist. August. p.

216, 222. Zosimus, l. i. p. 43. Eutropius, ix. 15. Aurel. Victor in aurelian Victor Junior in Aurelian. Euseb. Hieronym. et Idatius in chronic]

the victory of Claudius over the Goths, and the success of Aurelian against the Alemanni, had already restored to the arms of Rome their ancient superiority over the barbarous nations of the North. To chastise domestic tyrants, and to reunite the dismembered parts of the empire, was a task reserved for the second of those warlike emperors. Though he was acknowledged by the senate and people, the frontiers of Italy, africa, Illyricum, and Thrace, confined the limits of his reign. Gaul,

Spain, and Britain, Egypt, Syria, and Asia Minor, were still possessed by two rebels, who alone, out of so numerous a list, had hitherto escaped the dangers of their situation; and to complete the ignominy of

Rome, these rival thrones had been usurped by women.

a rapid succession of monarchs had arisen and fallen in the provinces

of Gaul. The rigid virtues of Posthumus served only to hasten his destruction. After suppressing a competitor, who had assumed the purple at Mentz, he refused to gratify his troops with the plunder of the

rebellious city; and in the seventh year of his reign, became the victim

of their disappointed avarice. [46] The death of Victorinus, his friend and associate, was occasioned by a less worthy cause. The shining accomplishments [47] of that prince were stained by a licentious passion, which he indulged in acts of violence, with too little regard to the

laws of society, or even to those of love. [48] He was slain at Cologne, by a conspiracy of jealous husbands, whose revenge would have appeared

more justifiable, had they spared the innocence of his son. After the

murder of so many valiant princes, it is somewhat remarkable, that a female for a long time controlled the fierce legions of Gaul, and still

more singular, that she was the mother of the unfortunate Victorinus. the arts and treasures of Victoria enabled her successively to place

Marius and Tetricus on the throne, and to reign with a manly vigor under the name of those dependent emperors. Money of copper, of silver, and

of gold, was coined in her name; she assumed the titles of Augusta and

Mother of the Camps: her power ended only with her life; but her life was perhaps shortened by the ingratitude of Tetricus. [49]

[Footnote 46: His competitor was Lollianus, or Aelianus, if, indeed, these names mean the same person. See Tillemont, tom. iii. p. 1177.

Note: The medals which bear the name of Lollianus are considered forgeries except one in the museum of the Prince of Waldeck there are

many extent bearing the name of Laelianus, which appears to have been that of the competitor of Posthumus. Eckhel. Doct. Num. t. vi. 149--G.]

[Footnote 47: The character of this prince by Julius Aterianus (ap.

Hist. August. p. 187) is worth transcribing, as it seems fair and

impartial Victorino qui Post Junium Posthumium Gallias rexit neminem existemo praeferendum; non in virtute Trajanum; non Antoninum

in clementia; non in gravitate Nervam; non in gubernando aerario

Vespasianum; non in Censura totius vitae ac severitate militari

Pertinacem vel Severum. Sed omnia haec libido et cupiditas voluptatis

mulierriae sic perdidit, ut nemo audeat virtutes ejus in literas mittere

quem constat omnium judicio meruisse puniri.]

[Footnote 48: He ravished the wife of Attitianus, an actuary, or army agent, Hist. August. p. 186. Aurel. Victor in Aurelian.]

[Footnote 49: Pollio assigns her an article among the thirty tyrants.

Hist. August. p. 200.]

when, at the instigation of his ambitious patroness, Tetricus assumed the ensigns of royalty, he was governor of the peaceful province of aquitaine, an employment suited to his character and education. He

reigned four or five years over Gaul, Spain, and Britain, the slave and sovereign of a licentious army, whom he dreaded, and by whom he was despised. The valor and fortune of Aurelian at length opened the

prospect of a deliverance. He ventured to disclose his melancholy

situation, and conjured the emperor to hasten to the relief of his

unhappy rival. Had this secret correspondence reached the ears of the

soldiers, it would most probably have cost Tetricus his life; nor could

he resign the sceptre of the West without committing an act of treason against himself. He affected the appearances of a civil war, led

his forces into the field, against Aurelian, posted them in the most disadvantageous manner, betrayed his own counsels to his enemy, and with a few chosen friends deserted in the beginning of the action. The rebel

legions, though disordered and dismayed by the unexpected treachery of their chief, defended themselves with desperate valor, till they were cut in pieces almost to a man, in this bloody and memorable battle, which was fought near Chalons in Champagne. [50] The retreat of the

irregular auxiliaries, Franks and Batavians, [51] whom the conqueror

soon compelled or persuaded to repass the Rhine, restored the general tranquillity, and the power of Aurelian was acknowledged from the wall

of Antoninus to the columns of Hercules.

[Footnote 50: Pollio in Hist. August. p. 196. Vopiscus in Hist. August.

p. 220. The two Victors, in the lives of Gallienus and Aurelian. Eutrop.

ix. 13. Euseb. in Chron. Of all these writers, only the two last (but with strong probability) place the fall of Tetricus before that of

Zenobia. M. de Boze (in the Academy of Inscriptions, tom. xxx.) does not wish, and Tillemont (tom. iii. p. 1189) does not dare to follow them. I

have been fairer than the one, and bolder than the other.]

[Footnote 51: Victor Junior in Aurelian. Eumenius mentions Batavicoe;

some critics, without any reason, would fain alter the word to bagandicoe.] As early as the reign of Claudius, the city of Autun, alone and unassisted, had ventured to declare against the legions of

Gaul. After a siege of seven months, they stormed and plundered that

unfortunate city, already wasted by famine. [52] Lyons, on the contrary,

had resisted with obstinate disaffection the arms of Aurelian. We read

of the punishment of Lyons, [53] but there is not any mention of the

rewards of Autun. Such, indeed, is the policy of civil war; severely to

remember injuries, and to forget the most important services. Revenge is

profitable, gratitude is expensive.

[Footnote 52: Eumen. in Vet. Panegyr. iv. 8.]

[Footnote 53: Vopiscus in Hist. August. p. 246. Autun was not restored till the reign of Diocletian. See Eumenius de restaurandis scholis.]

aurelian had no sooner secured the person and provinces of Tetricus, than he turned his arms against Zenobia, the celebrated queen of Palmyra and the East. Modern Europe has produced several illustrious women who have sustained with glory the weight of empire; nor is our own age destitute of such distinguished characters. But if we except the doubtful achievements of Semiramis, Zenobia is perhaps the only female whose superior genius broke through the servile indolence imposed on her

sex by the climate and manners of Asia. [54] She claimed her descent from the Macedonian kings of Egypt, [541] equalled in beauty her ancestor cleopatra, and far surpassed that princess in chastity [55] and valor.

Zenobia was esteemed the most lovely as well as the most heroic of her

sex. She was of a dark complexion, (for in speaking of a lady these trifles become important.) Her teeth were of a pearly whiteness, and

her large black eyes sparkled with uncommon fire, tempered by the most attractive sweetness. Her voice was strong and harmonious. Her manly

understanding was strengthened and adorned by study. She was not

ignorant of the Latin tongue, but possessed in equal perfection the

Greek, the Syriac, and the Egyptian languages. She had drawn up for

her own use an epitome of oriental history, and familiarly compared the beauties of Homer and Plato under the tuition of the sublime Longinus.

[Footnote 54: Almost everything that is said of the manners of Odenathus and Zenobia is taken from their lives in the Augustan History, by trebeljus Pollio; see p. 192, 198.]

[Footnote 541: According to some Christian writers, Zenobia was a Jewess.

(Jost Geschichte der Israel. iv. 16. Hist. of Jews, iii. 175.)--M.]

[Footnote 55: She never admitted her husband's embraces but for the

sake of posterity. If her hopes were baffled, in the ensuing month she

reiterated the experiment.]

this accomplished woman gave her hand to Odenathus, [551] who, from a

private station, raised himself to the dominion of the East. She soon became the friend and companion of a hero. In the intervals of war,

Odenathus passionately delighted in the exercise of hunting; he pursued with ardor the wild beasts of the desert, lions, panthers, and bears; and the ardor of Zenobia in that dangerous amusement was not inferior to

his own. She had inured her constitution to fatigue, disdained the use

of a covered carriage, generally appeared on horseback in a military

habit, and sometimes marched several miles on foot at the head of the troops. The success of Odenathus was in a great measure ascribed to her

incomparable prudence and fortitude. Their splendid victories over the

Great King, whom they twice pursued as far as the gates of Ctesiphon,

laid the foundations of their united fame and power. The armies which they commanded, and the provinces which they had saved, acknowledged not any other sovereigns than their invincible chiefs. The senate and people

of Rome revered a stranger who had avenged their captive emperor, and even the insensible son of Valerian accepted Odenathus for his

legitimate colleague.

[Footnote 551: According to Zosimus, Odenathus was of a noble family in

Palmyra and according to Procopius, he was prince of the Saracens, who

inhabit the ranks of the Euphrates. Echhel. Doct. Num. vii. 489.--G.]

chapter XI: Reign Of Claudius, Defeat Of The Goths.--Part III.

after a successful expedition against the Gothic plunderers of Asia, the

Palmyrenian prince returned to the city of Emesa in Syria. Invincible

in war, he was there cut off by domestic treason, and his favorite amusement of hunting was the cause, or at least the occasion, of his death. [56] His nephew Maeonius presumed to dart his javelin before that

of his uncle; and though admonished of his error, repeated the same

insolence. As a monarch, and as a sportsman, Odenathus was provoked, took away his horse, a mark of ignominy among the barbarians, and chastised the rash youth by a short confinement. The offence was soon forgot, but the punishment was remembered; and Maeonius, with a few daring associates, assassinated his uncle in the midst of a great entertainment. Herod, the son of Odenathus, though not of Zenobia, a young man of a soft and effeminate temper, [57] was killed with his father. But Maeonius obtained only the pleasure of revenge by this bloody deed. He had scarcely time to assume the title of Augustus, before he was sacrificed by Zenobia to the memory of her husband. [58]

[Footnote 56: Hist. August. p. 192, 193. Zosimus, l. i. p. 36. Zonaras,

l. xii p. 633. The last is clear and probable, the others confused and inconsistent. The text of Syncellus, if not corrupt, is absolute

nonsense.]

[Footnote 57: Odenathus and Zenobia often sent him, from the

spoils of the enemy, presents of gems and toys, which he received with

infinite delight.]

[Footnote 58: Some very unjust suspicions have been cast on Zenobia, as

if she was accessory to her husband's death.]

with the assistance of his most faithful friends, she immediately filled the vacant throne, and governed with manly counsels Palmyra, Syria, and the East, above five years. By the death of Odenathus, that authority was at an end which the senate had granted him only as a personal distinction; but his martial widow, disdaining both the senate and

Gallienus, obliged one of the Roman generals, who was sent against her, to retreat into Europe, with the loss of his army and his reputation.

[59] Instead of the little passions which so frequently perplex a female

reign, the steady administration of Zenobia was guided by the most

judicious maxims of policy. If it was expedient to pardon, she could calm her resentment; if it was necessary to punish, she could impose

silence on the voice of pity. Her strict economy was accused of avarice;

yet on every proper occasion she appeared magnificent and liberal. The

neighboring states of Arabia, Armenia, and Persia, dreaded her enmity, and solicited her alliance. To the dominions of Odenathus, which extended from the Euphrates to the frontiers of Bithynia, his widow added the inheritance of her ancestors, the populous and fertile kingdom

of Egypt. [60] [601] The emperor Claudius acknowledged her merit, and was content, that, while he pursued the Gothic war, she should assert the dignity of the empire in the East. [61] The conduct, however, of Zenobia, was attended with some ambiguity; not is it unlikely that she had conceived the design of erecting an independent and hostile monarchy.

She blended with the popular manners of Roman princes the stately pomp

of the courts of Asia, and exacted from her subjects the same adoration that was paid to the successor of Cyrus. She bestowed on her three sons

[61] a Latin education, and often showed them to the troops adorned with the Imperial purple. For herself she reserved the diadem, with the

splendid but doubtful title of Queen of the East.

[Footnote 59: Hist. August. p. 180, 181.]

[Footnote 60: See, in Hist. August. p. 198, Aurelian's testimony to

her merit; and for the conquest of Egypt, Zosimus, l. i. p. 39, 40.]

[Footnote 601: This seems very doubtful. Claudius, during all his reign,

is represented as emperor on the medals of Alexandria, which are very

numerous. If Zenobia possessed any power in Egypt, it could only have been at the beginning of the reign of Aurelian. The same circumstance throws great improbability on her conquests in Galatia. Perhaps Zenobia administered Egypt in the name of Claudius, and emboldened by the death

of that prince, subjected it to her own power.--G.]

[Footnote 61: Timolaus, Herennianus, and Vaballathus. It is supposed that the two former were already dead before the war. On the last, aurelian bestowed a small province of Armenia, with the title of King;

several of his medals are still extant. See Tillemont, tom. 3, p. 1190.]

when Aurelian passed over into Asia, against an adversary whose sex alone could render her an object of contempt, his presence restored

obedience to the province of Bithynia, already shaken by the arms and

intrigues of Zenobia. [62] Advancing at the head of his legions, he accepted the submission of Ancyra, and was admitted into Tyana, after an obstinate siege, by the help of a perfidious citizen. The generous though fierce temper of Aurelian abandoned the traitor to the rage of the soldiers; a superstitious reverence induced him to treat with lenity the countrymen of Apollonius the philosopher. [63] Antioch was deserted

on his approach, till the emperor, by his salutary edicts, recalled the fugitives, and granted a general pardon to all, who, from necessity

rather than choice, had been engaged in the service of the Palmyrenian

Queen. The unexpected mildness of such a conduct reconciled the minds of the Syrians, and as far as the gates of Emesa, the wishes of the people

seconded the terror of his arms. [64]

[Footnote 62: Zosimus, l. i. p. 44.]

[Footnote 63: Vopiscus (in Hist. August. p. 217) gives us an authentic

letter and a doubtful vision, of Aurelian. Apollonius of Tyana was born about the same time as Jesus Christ. His life (that of the former) is

related in so fabulous a manner by his disciples, that we are at a loss to discover whether he was a sage, an impostor, or a fanatic.]

[Footnote 64: Zosimus, l. i. p. 46.]

Zenobia would have ill deserved her reputation, had she indolently

permitted the emperor of the West to approach within a hundred miles of

her capital. The fate of the East was decided in two great battles; so

similar in almost every circumstance, that we can scarcely distinguish them from each other, except by observing that the first was fought near antioch, [65] and the second near Emesa. [66] In both the queen of Palmyra animated the armies by her presence, and devolved the execution of her

orders on Zabdas, who had already signalized his military talents by the conquest of Egypt. The numerous forces of Zenobia consisted for the most

part of light archers, and of heavy cavalry clothed in complete steel. the Moorish and Illyrian horse of Aurelian were unable to sustain the

ponderous charge of their antagonists. They fled in real or affected disorder, engaged the Palmyrenians in a laborious pursuit, harassed them by a desultory combat, and at length discomfited this impenetrable but

unwieldy body of cavalry. The light infantry, in the mean time, when they had exhausted their quivers, remaining without protection against a closer onset, exposed their naked sides to the swords of the legions. aurelian had chosen these veteran troops, who were usually stationed

on the Upper Danube, and whose valor had been severely tried in the Alemannic war. [67] After the defeat of Emesa, Zenobia found it

impossible to collect a third army. As far as the frontier of Egypt, the

nations subject to her empire had joined the standard of the conqueror, who detached Probus, the bravest of his generals, to possess himself of the Egyptian provinces. Palmyra was the last resource of the widow

of Odenathus. She retired within the walls of her capital, made every preparation for a vigorous resistance, and declared, with the

intrepidity of a heroine, that the last moment of her reign and of

her life should be the same.

[Footnote 65: At a place called Immae. Eutropius, Sextus Rufus, and

Jerome, mention only this first battle.]

[Footnote 66: Vopiscus (in Hist. August. p. 217) mentions only the

second.]

[Footnote 67: Zosimus, l. i. p. 44--48. His account of the two battles is clear and circumstantial.]

amid the barren deserts of Arabia, a few cultivated spots rise like

islands out of the sandy ocean. Even the name of Tadmor, or Palmyra, by its signification in the Syriac as well as in the Latin language, denoted the multitude of palm-trees which afforded shade and verdure to that temperate region. The air was pure, and the soil, watered by some

invaluable springs, was capable of producing fruits as well as corn. a place possessed of such singular advantages, and situated at a convenient distance [68] between the Gulf of Persia and the

Mediterranean, was soon frequented by the caravans which conveyed to the

nations of Europe a considerable part of the rich commodities of India.

Palmyra insensibly increased into an opulent and independent city, and connecting the Roman and the Parthian monarchies by the mutual benefits

of commerce, was suffered to observe an humble neutrality, till at

length, after the victories of Trajan, the little republic sunk into the bosom of Rome, and flourished more than one hundred and fifty years in the subordinate though honorable rank of a colony. It was during that

peaceful period, if we may judge from a few remaining inscriptions, that the wealthy Palmyrenians constructed those temples, palaces, and

porticos of Grecian architecture, whose ruins, scattered over an extent

of several miles, have deserved the curiosity of our travellers. The elevation of Odenathus and Zenobia appeared to reflect new splendor on their country, and Palmyra, for a while, stood forth the rival of Rome: but the competition was fatal, and ages of prosperity were sacrificed to a moment of glory. [69]

[Footnote 68: It was five hundred and thirty-seven miles from Seleucia, and two hundred and three from the nearest coast of Syria, according to the reckoning of Pliny, who, in a few words, (Hist. Natur. v. 21,) gives an excellent description of Palmyra. \* Note: Talmor, or Palmyra, was

probably at a very early period the connecting link between the commerce

of Tyre and Babylon. Heeren, Ideen, v. i. p. ii. p. 125. Tadmor was

probably built by Solomon as a commercial station. Hist. of Jews, v. p.

271--M.]

[Footnote 69: Some English travellers from Aleppo discovered the ruins

of Palmyra about the end of the last century. Our curiosity has since been gratified in a more splendid manner by Messieurs Wood and Dawkins. for the history of Palmyra, we may consult the masterly dissertation

of Dr. Halley in the Philosophical Transactions: Lowthorp's Abridgment,

vol. iii. p. 518.]

In his march over the sandy desert between Emesa and Palmyra, the emperor Aurelian was perpetually harassed by the Arabs; nor could he always defend his army, and especially his baggage, from those flying troops of active and daring robbers, who watched the moment of surprise, and eluded the slow pursuit of the legions. The siege of Palmyra was an

object far more difficult and important, and the emperor, who, with

incessant vigor, pressed the attacks in person, was himself wounded with a dart. "The Roman people," says Aurelian, in an original letter, "speak with contempt of the war which I am waging against a woman. They are

ignorant both of the character and of the power of Zenobia. It is

impossible to enumerate her warlike preparations, of stones, of arrows, and of every species of missile weapons. Every part of the walls is

provided with two or three balistoe and artificial fires are thrown from

her military engines. The fear of punishment has armed her with a desperate courage. Yet still I trust in the protecting deities of Rome, who have hitherto been favorable to all my undertakings." [70] Doubtful,

however, of the protection of the gods, and of the event of the siege, aurelian judged it more prudent to offer terms of an advantageous capitulation; to the queen, a splendid retreat; to the citizens, their ancient privileges. His proposals were obstinately rejected, and the

refusal was accompanied with insult.

[Footnote 70: Vopiscus in Hist. August. p. 218.]

the firmness of Zenobia was supported by the hope, that in a very short time famine would compel the Roman army to repass the desert; and by the

reasonable expectation that the kings of the East, and particularly the

Persian monarch, would arm in the defence of their most natural ally. but fortune, and the perseverance of Aurelian, overcame every obstacle. the death of Sapor, which happened about this time, [71] distracted the councils of Persia, and the inconsiderable succors that attempted to

relieve Palmyra, were easily intercepted either by the arms or the liberality of the emperor. From every part of Syria, a regular

succession of convoys safely arrived in the camp, which was increased by the return of Probus with his victorious troops from the conquest

of Egypt. It was then that Zenobia resolved to fly. She mounted the fleetest of her dromedaries, [72] and had already reached the banks of the Euphrates, about sixty miles from Palmyra, when she was overtaken by the pursuit of Aurelian's light horse, seized, and brought back a captive to the feet of the emperor. Her capital soon afterwards

surrendered, and was treated with unexpected lenity. The arms, horses, and camels, with an immense treasure of gold, silver, silk, and precious

stones, were all delivered to the conqueror, who, leaving only a

garrison of six hundred archers, returned to Emesa, and employed some time in the distribution of rewards and punishments at the end of so

memorable a war, which restored to the obedience of Rome those provinces that had renounced their allegiance since the captivity of Valerian.

[Footnote 71: From a very doubtful chronology I have endeavored to extract the most probable date.]

[Footnote 72: Hist. August. p. 218. Zosimus, l. i. p. 50. Though the camel is a heavy beast of burden, the dromedary, which is either of the

same or of a kindred species, is used by the natives of Asia and Africa

on all occasions which require celerity. The Arabs affirm, that he will

run over as much ground in one day as their fleetest horses can perform

in eight or ten. See Buffon, Hist. Naturelle, tom. xi. p. 222, and

Shaw's Travels p. 167]

when the Syrian queen was brought into the presence of Aurelian, he

sternly asked her, How she had presumed to rise in arms against the emperors of Rome! The answer of Zenobia was a prudent mixture of respect and firmness. "Because I disdained to consider as Roman emperors an aureolus or a Gallienus. You alone I acknowledge as my conqueror and my

sovereign." [73] But as female fortitude is commonly artificial, so it

is seldom steady or consistent. The courage of Zenobia deserted her in the hour of trial; she trembled at the angry clamors of the soldiers, who called aloud for her immediate execution, forgot the generous despair of Cleopatra, which she had proposed as her model, and

ignominiously purchased life by the sacrifice of her fame and her friends. It was to their counsels, which governed the weakness of her

sex, that she imputed the guilt of her obstinate resistance; it was on their heads that she directed the vengeance of the cruel Aurelian. The fame of Longinus, who was included among the numerous and perhaps

innocent victims of her fear, will survive that of the queen who betrayed, or the tyrant who condemned him. Genius and learning were

incapable of moving a fierce unlettered soldier, but they had served to elevate and harmonize the soul of Longinus. Without uttering a complaint, he calmly followed the executioner, pitying his unhappy

mistress, and bestowing comfort on his afflicted friends. [74]

[Footnote 73: Pollio in Hist. August. p. 199.]

[Footnote 74: Vopiscus in Hist. August. p. 219. Zosimus, l. i. p. 51.]

Returning from the conquest of the East, Aurelian had already crossed the Straits which divided Europe from Asia, when he was provoked by the intelligence that the Palmyrenians had massacred the governor and

garrison which he had left among them, and again erected the standard

of revolt. Without a moment's deliberation, he once more turned his face towards Syria. Antioch was alarmed by his rapid approach, and the

helpless city of Palmyra felt the irresistible weight of his resentment. we have a letter of Aurelian himself, in which he acknowledges, [75] that old men, women, children, and peasants, had been involved in that dreadful execution, which should have been confined to armed rebellion; and although his principal concern seems directed to the reestablishment

of a temple of the Sun, he discovers some pity for the remnant of the Palmyrenians, to whom he grants the permission of rebuilding and

inhabiting their city. But it is easier to destroy than to restore. the seat of commerce, of arts, and of Zenobia, gradually sunk into an

obscure town, a trifling fortress, and at length a miserable village. the present citizens of Palmyra, consisting of thirty or forty families, have erected their mud cottages within the spacious court of a

magnificent temple.

[Footnote 75: Hist. August. p. 219.]

another and a last labor still awaited the indefatigable Aurelian; to

suppress a dangerous though obscure rebel, who, during the revolt of

Palmyra, had arisen on the banks of the Nile. Firmus, the friend and ally, as he proudly styled himself, of Odenathus and Zenobia, was no

more than a wealthy merchant of Egypt. In the course of his trade to

India, he had formed very intimate connections with the Saracens and the blemmyes, whose situation on either coast of the Red Sea gave them an easy introduction into the Upper Egypt. The Egyptians he inflamed with the hope of freedom, and, at the head of their furious multitude, broke

into the city of Alexandria, where he assumed the Imperial purple, coined money, published edicts, and raised an army, which, as he vainly boasted, he was capable of maintaining from the sole profits of his

paper trade. Such troops were a feeble defence against the approach of aurelian; and it seems almost unnecessary to relate, that Firmus was

routed, taken, tortured, and put to death. [76] Aurelian might now congratulate the senate, the people, and himself, that in little more than three years, he had restored universal peace and order to the Roman world.

[Footnote 76: See Vopiscus in Hist. August. p. 220, 242. As an

instance of luxury, it is observed, that he had glass windows. He was

remarkable for his strength and appetite, his courage and dexterity. from the letter of Aurelian, we may justly infer, that Firmus was the last of the rebels, and consequently that Tetricus was already

suppressed.]

Since the foundation of Rome, no general had more nobly deserved a triumph than Aurelian; nor was a triumph ever celebrated with superior

pride and magnificence. [77] The pomp was opened by twenty elephants, four royal tigers, and above two hundred of the most curious animals from every climate of the North, the East, and the South. They were followed by sixteen hundred gladiators, devoted to the cruel amusement

of the amphitheatre. The wealth of Asia, the arms and ensigns of so many conquered nations, and the magnificent plate and wardrobe of the

Syrian queen, were disposed in exact symmetry or artful disorder. The ambassadors of the most remote parts of the earth, of Aethiopia, Arabia,

Persia, Bactriana, India, and China, all remarkable by their rich or

singular dresses, displayed the fame and power of the Roman emperor, who exposed likewise to the public view the presents that he had received, and particularly a great number of crowns of gold, the offerings of

grateful cities.

the victories of Aurelian were attested by the long train of captives who reluctantly attended his triumph, Goths, Vandals, Sarmatians, alemanni, Franks, Gauls, Syrians, and Egyptians. Each people was distinguished by its peculiar inscription, and the title of Amazons was bestowed on ten martial heroines of the Gothie nation who had been taken

in arms. [78] But every eye, disregarding the crowd of captives, was fixed on the emperor Tetricus and the queen of the East. The former, as well as his son, whom he had created Augustus, was dressed in Gallic trousers, [79] a saffron tunic, and a robe of purple. The beauteous figure of Zenobia was confined by fetters of gold; a slave supported the

gold chain which encircled her neck, and she almost fainted under the

intolerable weight of jewels. She preceded on foot the magnificent chariot, in which she once hoped to enter the gates of Rome. It was followed by two other chariots, still more sumptuous, of Odenathus and

of the Persian monarch. The triumphal car of Aurelian (it had formerly been used by a Gothic king) was drawn, on this memorable occasion, either by four stags or by four elephants. [80] The most illustrious

of the senate, the people, and the army closed the solemn procession.

Unfeigned joy, wonder, and gratitude, swelled the acclamations of the multitude; but the satisfaction of the senate was clouded by the appearance of Tetricus; nor could they suppress a rising murmur, that the haughty emperor should thus expose to public ignominy the person of a Roman and a magistrate. [81]

[Footnote 77: See the triumph of Aurelian, described by Vopiscus.

He relates the particulars with his usual minuteness; and, on this

occasion, they happen to be interesting. Hist. August. p. 220.]

[Footnote 78: Among barbarous nations, women have often combated by the

side of their husbands. But it is almost impossible that a society of amazons should ever have existed either in the old or new world. \*

Note: Klaproth's theory on the origin of such traditions is at least

recommended by its ingenuity. The males of a tribe having gone out on a

marauding expedition, and having been cut off to a man, the females may

have endeavored, for a time, to maintain their independence in their camp village, till their children grew up. Travels, ch. xxx. Eng. trans--M.]

[Footnote 79: The use of braccoe, breeches, or trousers, was

still considered in Italy as a Gallic and barbarian fashion. The Romans,

however, had made great advances towards it. To encircle the legs and thighs with fascioe, or bands, was understood, in the time of Pompey and

Horace, to be a proof of ill health or effeminacy. In the age of Trajan, the custom was confined to the rich and luxurious. It gradually was adopted by the meanest of the people. See a very curious note of casaubon, ad Sueton. in August. c. 82.]

[Footnote 80: Most probably the former; the latter seen on the medals of aurelian, only denote (according to the learned Cardinal Norris) an

oriental victory.]

[Footnote 81: The expression of Calphurnius, (Eclog. i. 50) Nullos decet captiva triumphos, as applied to Rome, contains a very manifest allusion and censure.]

but however, in the treatment of his unfortunate rivals, Aurelian might

indulge his pride, he behaved towards them with a generous clemency, which was seldom exercised by the ancient conquerors. Princes who, without success, had defended their throne or freedom, were frequently

strangled in prison, as soon as the triumphal pomp ascended the Capitol. these usurpers, whom their defeat had convicted of the crime of treason, were permitted to spend their lives in affluence and honorable repose.

the emperor presented Zenobia with an elegant villa at Tibur, or Tivoli, about twenty miles from the capital; the Syrian queen insensibly sunk

into a Roman matron, her daughters married into noble families, and her

race was not yet extinct in the fifth century. [82] Tetricus and his son were reinstated in their rank and fortunes. They erected on the Caelian

hill a magnificent palace, and as soon as it was finished, invited aurelian to supper. On his entrance, he was agreeably surprised with a

picture which represented their singular history. They were delineated

offering to the emperor a civic crown and the sceptre of Gaul, and again

receiving at his hands the ornaments of the senatorial dignity. The father was afterwards invested with the government of Lucania, [83] and aurelian, who soon admitted the abdicated monarch to his friendship and conversation, familiarly asked him, Whether it were not more desirable to administer a province of Italy, than to reign beyond the Alps. The

son long continued a respectable member of the senate; nor was there any

one of the Roman nobility more esteemed by Aurelian, as well as by

his successors. [84]

[Footnote 82: Vopiscus in Hist. August. p. 199. Hieronym. in Chron.

Prosper in Chron. Baronius supposes that Zenobius, bishop of Florence in the time of St. Ambrose, was of her family.]

[Footnote 83: Vopisc. in Hist. August. p. 222. Eutropius, ix. 13. Victor

Junior. But Pollio, in Hist. August. p. 196, says, that Tetricus was

made corrector of all Italy.]

[Footnote 84: Hist. August. p. 197.]

So long and so various was the pomp of Aurelian's triumph, that although

it opened with the dawn of day, the slow majesty of the procession ascended not the Capitol before the ninth hour; and it was already dark when the emperor returned to the palace. The festival was protracted by theatrical representations, the games of the circus, the hunting of wild beasts, combats of gladiators, and naval engagements. Liberal donatives were distributed to the army and people, and several institutions, agreeable or beneficial to the city, contributed to perpetuate the

glory of Aurelian. A considerable portion of his oriental spoils was consecrated to the gods of Rome; the Capitol, and every other temple,

glittered with the offerings of his ostentatious piety; and the temple

of the Sun alone received above fifteen thousand pounds of gold. [85] this last was a magnificent structure, erected by the emperor on the

side of the Quirinal hill, and dedicated, soon after the triumph, to that deity whom Aurelian adored as the parent of his life and fortunes.

His mother had been an inferior priestess in a chapel of the Sun; a peculiar devotion to the god of Light was a sentiment which the fortunate peasant imbibed in his infancy; and every step of his elevation, every victory of his reign, fortified superstition by

gratitude. [86]

[Footnote 85: Vopiscus in Hist. August. 222. Zosimus, l. i. p. 56. He

placed in it the images of Belus and of the Sun, which he had brought from Palmyra. It was dedicated in the fourth year of his reign, (Euseb

in Chron.,) but was most assuredly begun immediately on his accession.]

[Footnote 86: See, in the Augustan History, p. 210, the omens of his fortune. His devotion to the Sun appears in his letters, on his medals, and is mentioned in the Caesars of Julian. Commentaire de Spanheim, p.

109.]

the arms of Aurelian had vanquished the foreign and domestic foes of the

republic. We are assured, that, by his salutary rigor, crimes and factions, mischievous arts and pernicious connivance, the luxurious

growth of a feeble and oppressive government, were eradicated throughout the Roman world. [87] But if we attentively reflect how much swifter is the progress of corruption than its cure, and if we remember that the

years abandoned to public disorders exceeded the months allotted to the

martial reign of Aurelian, we must confess that a few short intervals of

peace were insufficient for the arduous work of reformation. Even his attempt to restore the integrity of the coin was opposed by a formidable

insurrection. The emperor's vexation breaks out in one of his private

letters. "Surely," says he, "the gods have decreed that my life should be a perpetual warfare. A sedition within the walls has just now given birth to a very serious civil war. The workmen of the mint, at the

instigation of Felicissimus, a slave to whom I had intrusted an employment in the finances, have risen in rebellion. They are at length

suppressed; but seven thousand of my soldiers have been slain in the contest, of those troops whose ordinary station is in Dacia, and the camps along the Danube." [88] Other writers, who confirm the same fact, add likewise, that it happened soon after Aurelian's triumph; that the decisive engagement was fought on the Caelian hill; that the workmen of the mint had adulterated the coin; and that the emperor restored the

public credit, by delivering out good money in exchange for the bad, which the people was commanded to bring into the treasury. [89]

[Footnote 87: Vopiscus in Hist. August. p. 221.]

[Footnote 88: Hist. August. p. 222. Aurelian calls these soldiers Hiberi

Riporiences Castriani, and Dacisci.]

[Footnote 89: Zosimus, l. i. p. 56. Eutropius, ix. 14. Aurel Victor.]

we might content ourselves with relating this extraordinary transaction, but we cannot dissemble how much in its present form it appears to us

inconsistent and incredible. The debasement of the coin is indeed well

suited to the administration of Gallienus; nor is it unlikely that the

instruments of the corruption might dread the inflexible justice of aurelian. But the guilt, as well as the profit, must have been confined to a very few; nor is it easy to conceive by what arts they could arm a

people whom they had injured, against a monarch whom they had betrayed. we might naturally expect that such miscreants should have shared the public detestation with the informers and the other ministers of

oppression; and that the reformation of the coin should have been an action equally popular with the destruction of those obsolete accounts, which by the emperor's order were burnt in the forum of Trajan. [90] In an age when the principles of commerce were so imperfectly understood, the most desirable end might perhaps be effected by harsh and

injudicious means; but a temporary grievance of such a nature can

scarcely excite and support a serious civil war. The repetition of

intolerable taxes, imposed either on the land or on the necessaries of

life, may at last provoke those who will not, or who cannot, relinquish their country. But the case is far otherwise in every operation which, by whatsoever expedients, restores the just value of money. The transient evil is soon obliterated by the permanent benefit, the loss is divided among multitudes; and if a few wealthy individuals experience a sensible diminution of treasure, with their riches, they at the same time lose the degree of weight and importance which they derived from the possession of them. However Aurelian might choose to disguise the real cause of the insurrection, his reformation of the coin could furnish only a faint pretence to a party already powerful and discontented. Rome, though deprived of freedom, was distracted by faction. The people, towards whom the emperor, himself a plebeian, always expressed a peculiar fondness, lived in perpetual dissension with the senate, the equestrian order, and the Praetorian guards. [91] Nothing

less than the firm though secret conspiracy of those orders, of the authority of the first, the wealth of the second, and the arms of the third, could have displayed a strength capable of contending in battle with the veteran legions of the Danube, which, under the conduct of a martial sovereign, had achieved the conquest of the West and of the east.

[Footnote 90: Hist. August. p. 222. Aurel Victor.]

[Footnote 91: It already raged before Aurelian's return from Egypt. See

Vipiscus, who quotes an original letter. Hist. August. p. 244.]

whatever was the cause or the object of this rebellion, imputed with so

little probability to the workmen of the mint, Aurelian used his victory with unrelenting rigor. [92] He was naturally of a severe disposition. A

peasant and a soldier, his nerves yielded not easily to the impressions

of sympathy, and he could sustain without emotion the sight of tortures and death. Trained from his earliest youth in the exercise of arms, he

set too small a value on the life of a citizen, chastised by military execution the slightest offences, and transferred the stern discipline

of the camp into the civil administration of the laws. His love of

justice often became a blind and furious passion and whenever he deemed

his own or the public safety endangered, he disregarded the rules of evidence, and the proportion of punishments. The unprovoked rebellion with which the Romans rewarded his services, exasperated his haughty

spirit. The noblest families of the capital were involved in the guilt

or suspicion of this dark conspiracy. A nasty spirit of revenge urged the bloody prosecution, and it proved fatal to one of the nephews of the emperor. The the executioners (if we may use the expression of a contemporary poet) were fatigued, the prisons were crowded, and the

unhappy senate lamented the death or absence of its most illustrious

members. [93] Nor was the pride of Aurelian less offensive to that assembly than his cruelty. Ignorant or impatient of the restraints of civil institutions, he disdained to hold his power by any other title than that of the sword, and governed by right of conquest an empire which he had saved and subdued. [94]

[Footnote 92: Vopiscus in Hist. August p. 222. The two Victors. eutropius ix. 14. Zosimus (l. i. p. 43) mentions only three senators, and placed their death before the eastern war.]

[Footnote 93: Nulla catenati feralis pompa senatus Carnificum lassabit

opus; nec carcere pleno Infelix raros numerabit curia Patres. calphurn. Eclog. i. 60.]

[Footnote 94: According to the younger Victor, he sometimes wore the diadem, Deus and Dominus appear on his medals.]

It was observed by one of the most sagacious of the Roman princes, that the talents of his predecessor Aurelian were better suited to the command of an army, than to the government of an empire. [95] Conscious

of the character in which nature and experience had enabled him to excel, he again took the field a few months after his triumph. It was expedient to exercise the restless temper of the legions in some foreign war, and the Persian monarch, exulting in the shame of Valerian, still braved with impunity the offended majesty of Rome. At the head of an army, less formidable by its numbers than by its discipline and valor, the emperor advanced as far as the Straits which divide Europe from asia. He there experienced that the most absolute power is a weak defence against the effects of despair. He had threatened one of his

secretaries who was accused of extortion; and it was known that

he seldom threatened in vain. The last hope which remained for the criminal, was to involve some of the principal officers of the army

in his danger, or at least in his fears. Artfully counterfeiting his

master's hand, he showed them, in a long and bloody list, their own

names devoted to death. Without suspecting or examining the fraud, they

resolved to secure their lives by the murder of the emperor. On his

march, between Byzanthium and Heraclea, Aurelian was suddenly attacked by the conspirators, whose stations gave them a right to surround his

person, and after a short resistance, fell by the hand of Mucapor, a

general whom he had always loved and trusted. He died regretted by the army, detested by the senate, but universally acknowledged as a warlike and fortunate prince, the useful, though severe reformer of a degenerate

state. [96]

[Footnote 95: It was the observation of Dioclatian. See Vopiscus in

Hist. August. p. 224.]

[Footnote 96: Vopiscus in Hist. August. p. 221. Zosimus, l. i. p. 57. eutrop ix. 15. The two Victors.]

chapter XII: Reigns Of Tacitus, Probus, Carus And His Sons.--Part I.

Conduct Of The Army And Senate After The Death Of Aurelian.

--Reigns Of Tacitus, Probus, Carus, And His Sons.

Such was the unhappy condition of the Roman emperors, that, whatever

might be their conduct, their fate was commonly the same. A life of

pleasure or virtue, of severity or mildness, of indolence or glory, alike led to an untimely grave; and almost every reign is closed by the

same disgusting repetition of treason and murder. The death of Aurelian,

however, is remarkable by its extraordinary consequences. The legions admired, lamented, and revenged their victorious chief. The artifice of

his perfidious secretary was discovered and punished.

the deluded conspirators attended the funeral of their injured

sovereign, with sincere or well-feigned contrition, and submitted to the

unanimous resolution of the military order, which was signified by the following epistle: "The brave and fortunate armies to the senate and

people of Rome.--The crime of one man, and the error of many, have deprived us of the late emperor Aurelian. May it please you, venerable

lords and fathers! to place him in the number of the gods, and to appoint a successor whom your judgment shall declare worthy of the Imperial purple! None of those whose guilt or misfortune have contributed to our loss, shall ever reign over us." [1] The Roman

senators heard, without surprise, that another emperor had been assassinated in his camp; they secretly rejoiced in the fall of aurelian; and, besides the recent notoriety of the facts, constantly draws his materials from the Journals of the Senate, and the but the

modest and dutiful address of the legions, when it was communicated in full assembly by the consul, diffused the most pleasing astonishment.

Such honors as fear and perhaps esteem could extort, they liberally

poured forth on the memory of their deceased sovereign. Such acknowledgments as gratitude could inspire, they returned to the faithful armies of the republic, who entertained so just a sense of the legal authority of the senate in the choice of an emperor. Yet,

notwithstanding this flattering appeal, the most prudent of the assembly declined exposing their safety and dignity to the caprice of an armed

multitude. The strength of the legions was, indeed, a pledge of their

sincerity, since those who may command are seldom reduced to the

necessity of dissembling; but could it naturally be expected, that a

hasty repentance would correct the inveterate habits of fourscore years?

Should the soldiers relapse into their accustomed seditions, their

insolence might disgrace the majesty of the senate, and prove fatal to the object of its choice. Motives like these dictated a decree, by which the election of a new emperor was referred to the suffrage of the

military order.

[Footnote 1: Vopiscus in Hist. August. p. 222. Aurelius Victor mentions a formal deputation from the troops to the senate.]

the contention that ensued is one of the best attested, but most

improbable events in the history of mankind. [2] The troops, as if

satiated with the exercise of power, again conjured the senate to invest

one of its own body with the Imperial purple. The senate still persisted

in its refusal; the army in its request. The reciprocal offer was

pressed and rejected at least three times, and, whilst the obstinate

modesty of either party was resolved to receive a master from the hands

of the other, eight months insensibly elapsed; an amazing period of tranquil anarchy, during which the Roman world remained without a

sovereign, without a usurper, and without a sedition. [201] The generals and magistrates appointed by Aurelian continued to execute their

ordinary functions; and it is observed, that a proconsul of Asia was the

only considerable person removed from his office in the whole course of the interregnum.

[Footnote 2: Vopiscus, our principal authority, wrote at Rome, sixteen

years only after the death of Aurelian; and, besides the recent

notoriety of the facts, constantly draws his materials from the Journals

of the Senate, and the original papers of the Ulpian library. Zosimus and Zonaras appear as ignorant of this transaction as they were in

general of the Roman constitution.]

[Footnote 201: The interregnum could not be more than seven months; aurelian was assassinated in the middle of March, the year of Rome 1028. tacitus was elected the 25th September in the same year.--G.]

an event somewhat similar, but much less authentic, is supposed to have

happened after the death of Romulus, who, in his life and character, bore some affinity with Aurelian. The throne was vacant during twelve

months, till the election of a Sabine philosopher, and the public peace was guarded in the same manner, by the union of the several orders of the state. But, in the time of Numa and Romulus, the arms of the people were controlled by the authority of the Patricians; and the balance of freedom was easily preserved in a small and virtuous community. [3] The decline of the Roman state, far different from its infancy, was attended with every circumstance that could banish from an interregnum the

prospect of obedience and harmony: an immense and tumultuous capital, a wide extent of empire, the servile equality of despotism, an army

of four hundred thousand mercenaries, and the experience of frequent

revolutions. Yet, notwithstanding all these temptations, the discipline and memory of Aurelian still restrained the seditious temper of the troops, as well as the fatal ambition of their leaders. The flower of the legions maintained their stations on the banks of the Bosphorus, and the Imperial standard awed the less powerful camps of Rome and of the

provinces. A generous though transient enthusiasm seemed to animate the

military order; and we may hope that a few real patriots cultivated the

returning friendship of the army and the senate, as the only expedient capable of restoring the republic to its ancient beauty and vigor.

[Footnote 3: Liv. i. 17 Dionys. Halicarn. l. ii. p. 115. Plutarch

in Numa, p. 60. The first of these writers relates the story like an

orator, the second like a lawyer, and the third like a moralist, and

none of them probably without some intermixture of fable.]

On the twenty-fifth of September, near eight months after the murder of aurelian, the consul convoked an assembly of the senate, and reported the doubtful and dangerous situation of the empire. He slightly

insinuated, that the precarious loyalty of the soldiers depended on the chance of every hour, and of every accident; but he represented, with the most convincing eloquence, the various dangers that might attend any further delay in the choice of an emperor. Intelligence, he said, was already received, that the Germans had passed the Rhine, and occupied

some of the strongest and most opulent cities of Gaul. The ambition of the Persian king kept the East in perpetual alarms; Egypt, Africa, and

Illyricum, were exposed to foreign and domestic arms, and the levity of

Syria would prefer even a female sceptre to the sanctity of the Roman

laws. The consul, then addressing himself to Tacitus, the first of the

senators, [4] required his opinion on the important subject of a proper candidate for the vacant throne.

[Footnote 4: Vopiscus (in Hist. August p. 227) calls him "primae

sententia consularis;" and soon afterwards Princeps senatus. It is

natural to suppose, that the monarchs of Rome, disdaining that humble title, resigned it to the most ancient of the senators.]

If we can prefer personal merit to accidental greatness, we shall esteem the birth of Tacitus more truly noble than that of kings. He claimed his descent from the philosophic historian, whose writings will instruct the last generations of mankind. [5] The senator Tacitus was then

seventy-five years of age. [6] The long period of his innocent life was adorned with wealth and honors. He had twice been invested with the consular dignity, [7] and enjoyed with elegance and sobriety his ample

patrimony of between two and three millions sterling. [8] The experience

of so many princes, whom he had esteemed or endured, from the vain follies of Elagabalus to the useful rigor of Aurelian, taught him to form a just estimate of the duties, the dangers, and the temptations

of their sublime station. From the assiduous study of his immortal ancestor, he derived the knowledge of the Roman constitution, and of

human nature. [9] The voice of the people had already named Tacitus as the citizen the most worthy of empire. The ungrateful rumor reached his ears, and induced him to seek the retirement of one of his villas in campania. He had passed two months in the delightful privacy of Baiae, when he reluctantly obeyed the summons of the consul to resume his

honorable place in the senate, and to assist the republic with his counsels on this important occasion.

[Footnote 5: The only objection to this genealogy is, that the historian was named Cornelius, the emperor, Claudius. But under the lower empire,

surnames were extremely various and uncertain.]

[Footnote 6: Zonaras, l. xii. p. 637. The Alexandrian Chronicle, by an

obvious mistake, transfers that age to Aurelian.]

[Footnote 7: In the year 273, he was ordinary consul. But he must have been Suffectus many years before, and most probably under Valerian.]

[Footnote 8: Bis millies octingenties. Vopiscus in Hist. August p. 229. this sum, according to the old standard, was equivalent to eight hundred and forty thousand Roman pounds of silver, each of the value of three

pounds sterling. But in the age of Tacitus, the coin had lost much of

its weight and purity.]

[Footnote 9: After his accession, he gave orders that ten copies of the historian should be annually transcribed and placed in the public

libraries. The Roman libraries have long since perished, and the most

valuable part of Tacitus was preserved in a single Ms., and discovered

in a monastery of Westphalia. See Bayle, Dictionnaire, Art. Tacite, and

Lipsius ad Annal. ii. 9.]

He arose to speak, when from every quarter of the house, he was saluted with the names of Augustus and emperor. "Tacitus Augustus, the gods

preserve thee! we choose thee for our sovereign; to thy care we intrust the republic and the world. Accept the empire from the authority of the

senate. It is due to thy rank, to thy conduct, to thy manners." As soon as the tumult of acclamations subsided, Tacitus attempted to decline the dangerous honor, and to express his wonder, that they should elect his age and infirmities to succeed the martial vigor of Aurelian. "Are these

limbs, conscript fathers! fitted to sustain the weight of armor, or to

practise the exercises of the camp? The variety of climates, and the

hardships of a military life, would soon oppress a feeble constitution, which subsists only by the most tender management. My exhausted strength

scarcely enables me to discharge the duty of a senator; how insufficient would it prove to the arduous labors of war and government! Can you

hope, that the legions will respect a weak old man, whose days have been

spent in the shade of peace and retirement? Can you desire that I should ever find reason to regret the favorable opinion of the senate?" [10]

[Footnote 10: Vopiscus in Hist. August. p. 227.]

the reluctance of Tacitus (and it might possibly be sincere) was encountered by the affectionate obstinacy of the senate. Five hundred

voices repeated at once, in eloquent confusion, that the greatest of the

Roman princes, Numa, Trajan, Hadrian, and the Antonines, had ascended the throne in a very advanced season of life; that the mind, not the body, a sovereign, not a soldier, was the object of their choice; and that they expected from him no more than to guide by his wisdom the

valor of the legions. These pressing though tumultuary instances were

seconded by a more regular oration of Metius Falconius, the next on the consular bench to Tacitus himself. He reminded the assembly of the evils which Rome had endured from the vices of headstrong and capricious

youths, congratulated them on the election of a virtuous and experienced

senator, and, with a manly, though perhaps a selfish, freedom, exhorted tacitus to remember the reasons of his elevation, and to seek a

successor, not in his own family, but in the republic. The speech of falconius was enforced by a general acclamation. The emperor elect

submitted to the authority of his country, and received the voluntary

homage of his equals. The judgment of the senate was confirmed by the consent of the Roman people, and of the Praetorian guards. [11]

[Footnote 11: Hist. August. p. 228. Tacitus addressed the Praetorians by the appellation of sanctissimi milites, and the people by that of

sacratissim. Quirites.]

the administration of Tacitus was not unworthy of his life and

principles. A grateful servant of the senate, he considered that

national council as the author, and himself as the subject, of the laws.

[12] He studied to heal the wounds which Imperial pride, civil discord, and military violence, had inflicted on the constitution, and to

restore, at least, the image of the ancient republic, as it had been

preserved by the policy of Augustus, and the virtues of Trajan and the Antonines. It may not be useless to recapitulate some of the most

important prerogatives which the senate appeared to have regained by the election of Tacitus. [13] 1. To invest one of their body, under the title

of emperor, with the general command of the armies, and the government

of the frontier provinces. 2. To determine the list, or, as it was then

styled, the College of Consuls. They were twelve in number, who, in

successive pairs, each, during the space of two months, filled the year, and represented the dignity of that ancient office. The authority of the senate, in the nomination of the consuls, was exercised with such

independent freedom, that no regard was paid to an irregular request of the emperor in favor of his brother Florianus. "The senate," exclaimed tacitus, with the honest transport of a patriot, "understand the character of a prince whom they have chosen." 3. To appoint the

proconsuls and presidents of the provinces, and to confer on all the

magistrates their civil jurisdiction. 4. To receive appeals through the

intermediate office of the praefect of the city from all the tribunals

of the empire. 5. To give force and validity, by their decrees, to such as they should approve of the emperor's edicts. 6. To these several branches of authority we may add some inspection over the finances,

since, even in the stern reign of Aurelian, it was in their power to divert a part of the revenue from the public service. [14]

[Footnote 12: In his manumissions he never exceeded the number of a hundred, as limited by the Caninian law, which was enacted under augustus, and at length repealed by Justinian. See Casaubon ad locum

Vopisci.]

[Footnote 13: See the lives of Tacitus, Florianus, and Probus,

in the Augustan History; we may be well assured, that whatever the

soldier gave the senator had already given.]

[Footnote 14: Vopiscus in Hist. August. p. 216. The passage is perfectly clear, both Casaubon and Salmasius wish to correct it.]

circular epistles were sent, without delay, to all the principal cities

of the empire, Treves, Milan, Aquileia, Thessalo nica, Corinth, Athens, antioch, Alexandria, and Carthage, to claim their obedience, and to

inform them of the happy revolution, which had restored the Roman senate to its ancient dignity. Two of these epistles are still extant. we likewise possess two very singular fragments of the private correspondence of the senators on this occasion. They discover the most excessive joy, and the most unbounded hopes. "Cast away your indolence,"

it is thus that one of the senators addresses his friend, "emerge from

your retirements of Baiae and Puteoli. Give yourself to the city, to the

senate. Rome flourishes, the whole republic flourishes. Thanks to the

Roman army, to an army truly Roman; at length we have recovered our

just authority, the end of all our desires. We hear appeals, we appoint

proconsuls, we create emperors; perhaps too we may restrain them--to the wise a word is sufficient." [15] These lofty expectations were, however,

soon disappointed; nor, indeed, was it possible that the armies and the

provinces should long obey the luxurious and unwarlike nobles of Rome.

On the slightest touch, the unsupported fabric of their pride and power fell to the ground. The expiring senate displayed a sudden lustre, blazed for a moment and was extinguished forever.

[Footnote 15: Vopiscus in Hist. August. p. 230, 232, 233. The senators celebrated the happy restoration with hecatombs and public rejoicings.]

all that had yet passed at Rome was no more than a theatrical

representation, unless it was ratified by the more substantial power of the legions. Leaving the senators to enjoy their dream of freedom and ambition, Tacitus proceeded to the Thracian camp, and was there, by the

Praetorian praefect, presented to the assembled troops, as the prince whom they themselves had demanded, and whom the senate had bestowed. As

soon as the praefect was silent, the emperor addressed himself to the

soldiers with eloquence and propriety. He gratified their avarice by a

liberal distribution of treasure, under the names of pay and donative.

He engaged their esteem by a spirited declaration, that although his age

might disable him from the performance of military exploits, his counsels should never be unworthy of a Roman general, the successor of the brave Aurelian. [16]

[Footnote 16: Hist. August. p. 228.]

whilst the deceased emperor was making preparations for a second expedition into the East, he had negotiated with the Alani, [161] a

Scythian people, who pitched their tents in the neighborhood of the

Lake Moeotis. Those barbarians, allured by presents and subsidies, had

promised to invade Persia with a numerous body of light cavalry. They were faithful to their engagements; but when they arrived on the Roman frontier, Aurelian was already dead, the design of the Persian war was at least suspended, and the generals, who, during the interregnum, exercised a doubtful authority, were unprepared either to receive or to oppose them. Provoked by such treatment, which they considered as trifling and perfidious, the Alani had recourse to their own valor for their payment and revenge; and as they moved with the usual swiftness of tartars, they had soon spread themselves over the provinces of Pontus, cappadocia, Cilicia, and Galatia. The legions, who from the opposite

shores of the Bosphorus could almost distinguish the flames of the cities and villages, impatiently urged their general to lead them against the invaders. The conduct of Tacitus was suitable to his age and

station. He convinced the barbarians of the faith, as well as the power,

of the empire. Great numbers of the Alani, appeased by the punctual discharge of the engagements which Aurelian had contracted with them,

relinquished their booty and captives, and quietly retreated to their

own deserts, beyond the Phasis. Against the remainder, who refused

peace, the Roman emperor waged, in person, a successful war. Seconded by an army of brave and experienced veterans, in a few weeks he delivered the provinces of Asia from the terror of the Scythian invasion. [17]

[Footnote 161: On the Alani, see ch. xxvi. note 55.--M.]

[Footnote 17: Vopiscus in Hist. August. p. 230. Zosimus, l. i. p. 57.

Zonaras, l. xii. p. 637. Two passages in the life of Probus (p. 236,

238) convince me, that these Scythian invaders of Pontus were Alani. If we may believe Zosimus, (l. i. p. 58,) Florianus pursued them as far as the Cimmerian Bosphorus. But he had scarcely time for so long and difficult an expedition.]

but the glory and life of Tacitus were of short duration. Transported,

in the depth of winter, from the soft retirement of Campania to the foot of Mount Caucasus, he sunk under the unaccustomed hardships of a

military life. The fatigues of the body were aggravated by the cares of the mind. For a while, the angry and selfish passions of the soldiers

had been suspended by the enthusiasm of public virtue. They soon broke

out with redoubled violence, and raged in the camp, and even in the tent of the aged emperor. His mild and amiable character served only to

inspire contempt, and he was incessantly tormented with factions which

he could not assuage, and by demands which it was impossible to satisfy. whatever flattering expectations he had conceived of reconciling the

public disorders, Tacitus soon was convinced that the licentiousness of the army disdained the feeble restraint of laws, and his last hour was

hastened by anguish and disappointment. It may be doubtful whether the

soldiers imbrued their hands in the blood of this innocent prince.

[18] It is certain that their insolences was the cause of his death. He expired at Tyana in Cappadocia, after a reign of only six months and about twenty days. [19]

[Footnote 18: Eutropius and Aurelius Victor only say that he died;

Victor Junior adds, that it was of a fever. Zosimus and Zonaras affirm, that he was killed by the soldiers. Vopiscus mentions both accounts, and seems to hesitate. Yet surely these jarring opinions are easily

reconciled.]

[Footnote 19: According to the two Victors, he reigned exactly two

hundred days.]

the eyes of Tacitus were scarcely closed, before his brother Florianus

showed himself unworthy to reign, by the hasty usurpation of the purple, without expecting the approbation of the senate. The reverence for the

Roman constitution, which yet influenced the camp and the provinces, was

sufficiently strong to dispose them to censure, but not to provoke them to oppose, the precipitate ambition of Florianus. The discontent would

have evaporated in idle murmurs, had not the general of the East, the

heroic Probus, boldly declared himself the avenger of the senate.

the contest, however, was still unequal; nor could the most able leader, at the head of the effeminate troops of Egypt and Syria, encounter, with any hopes of victory, the legions of Europe, whose irresistible strength appeared to support the brother of Tacitus. But the fortune and activity

of Probus triumphed over every obstacle. The hardy veterans of his

rival, accustomed to cold climates, sickened and consumed away in the

sultry heats of Cilicia, where the summer proved remarkably unwholesome. their numbers were diminished by frequent desertion; the passes of the mountains were feebly defended; Tarsus opened its gates; and the

soldiers of Florianus, when they had permitted him to enjoy the Imperial title about three months, delivered the empire from civil war by the easy sacrifice of a prince whom they despised. [20]

[Footnote 20: Hist. August, p. 231. Zosimus, l. i. p. 58, 59. Zonaras,

l. xii. p. 637. Aurelius Victor says, that Probus assumed the empire in

Illyricum; an opinion which (though adopted by a very learned man) would throw that period of history into inextricable confusion.]

the perpetual revolutions of the throne had so perfectly erased every

notion of hereditary title, that the family of an unfortunate emperor was incapable of exciting the jealousy of his successors. The children

of Tacitus and Florianus were permitted to descend into a private

station, and to mingle with the general mass of the people. Their

poverty indeed became an additional safeguard to their innocence. When tacitus was elected by the senate, he resigned his ample patrimony to the public service; [21] an act of generosity specious in appearance, but which evidently disclosed his intention of transmitting the empire to his descendants. The only consolation of their fallen state was the

remembrance of transient greatness, and a distant hope, the child of a flattering prophecy, that at the end of a thousand years, a monarch of the race of Tacitus should arise, the protector of the senate, the

restorer of Rome, and the conqueror of the whole earth. [22]

[Footnote 21: Hist. August. p. 229]

[Footnote 22: He was to send judges to the Parthians, Persians, and

Sarmatians, a president to Taprobani, and a proconsul to the Roman

island, (supposed by Casaubon and Salmasius to mean Britain.) Such a

history as mine (says Vopiscus with proper modesty) will not subsist a thousand years, to expose or justify the prediction.]

the peasants of Illyricum, who had already given Claudius and Aurelian to the sinking empire, had an equal right to glory in the elevation of

Probus. [23] Above twenty years before, the emperor Valerian, with his

usual penetration, had discovered the rising merit of the young soldier,

on whom he conferred the rank of tribune, long before the age prescribed by the military regulations. The tribune soon justified his choice, by a

victory over a great body of Sarmatians, in which he saved the life of a near relation of Valerian; and deserved to receive from the emperor's

hand the collars, bracelets, spears, and banners, the mural and the civic crown, and all the honorable rewards reserved by ancient Rome for successful valor. The third, and afterwards the tenth, legion were

intrusted to the command of Probus, who, in every step of his promotion,

showed himself superior to the station which he filled. Africa and

Pontus, the Rhine, the Danube, the Euphrates, and the Nile, by turns afforded him the most splendid occasions of displaying his personal

prowess and his conduct in war. Aurelian was indebted for the honest courage with which he often checked the cruelty of his master. tacitus, who desired by the abilities of his generals to supply his own deficiency of military talents, named him commander-in-chief of all the eastern provinces, with five times the usual salary, the promise of the consulship, and the hope of a triumph. When Probus ascended the Imperial throne, he was about forty-four years of age; [24] in the full possession

of his fame, of the love of the army, and of a mature vigor of mind and body.

[Footnote 23: For the private life of Probus, see Vopiscus in Hist. august p. 234--237]

[Footnote 24: According to the Alexandrian chronicle, he was fifty at the time of his death.]

His acknowledge merit, and the success of his arms against Florianus,

left him without an enemy or a competitor. Yet, if we may credit his own

professions, very far from being desirous of the empire, he had accepted

it with the most sincere reluctance. "But it is no longer in my power,"

says Probus, in a private letter, "to lay down a title so full of envy and of danger. I must continue to personate the character which the

soldiers have imposed upon me." [25] His dutiful address to the senate displayed the sentiments, or at least the language, of a Roman patriot:

"When you elected one of your order, conscript fathers! to succeed the emperor Aurelian, you acted in a manner suitable to your justice and wisdom. For you are the legal sovereigns of the world, and the power which you derive from your ancestors will descend to your posterity.

Happy would it have been, if Florianus, instead of usurping the purple

of his brother, like a private inheritance, had expected what your

majesty might determine, either in his favor, or in that of other

person. The prudent soldiers have punished his rashness. To me they

have offered the title of Augustus. But I submit to your clemency my

pretensions and my merits." [26] When this respectful epistle was read by the consul, the senators were unable to disguise their satisfaction, that Probus should condescend thus numbly to solicit a sceptre which

he already possessed. They celebrated with the warmest gratitude

his virtues, his exploits, and above all his moderation. A decree

immediately passed, without a dissenting voice, to ratify the election

of the eastern armies, and to confer on their chief all the several branches of the Imperial dignity: the names of Caesar and Augustus, the title of Father of his country, the right of making in the same day three motions in the senate, [27] the office of Pontifex, Maximus, the tribunitian power, and the proconsular command; a mode of investiture, which, though it seemed to multiply the authority of the emperor, expressed the constitution of the ancient republic. The reign of Probus corresponded with this fair beginning. The senate was permitted to direct the civil administration of the empire. Their faithful general asserted the honor of the Roman arms, and often laid at their feet crowns of gold and barbaric trophies, the fruits of his numerous

victories. [28] Yet, whilst he gratified their vanity, he must secretly

have despised their indolence and weakness. Though it was every moment

in their power to repeal the disgraceful edict of Gallienus, the proud

successors of the Scipios patiently acquiesced in their exclusion from all military employments. They soon experienced, that those who refuse the sword must renounce the sceptre.

[Footnote 25: This letter was addressed to the Praetorian praefect, whom

(on condition of his good behavior) he promised to continue in his great

office. See Hist. August. p. 237.]

[Footnote 26: Vopiscus in Hist. August. p. 237. The date of the letter

is assuredly faulty. Instead of Nen. Februar. we may read Non August.]

[Footnote 27: Hist. August. p. 238. It is odd that the senate should treat Probus less favorably than Marcus Antoninus. That prince had

received, even before the death of Pius, Jus quintoe relationis. See capitolin. in Hist. August. p. 24.]

[Footnote 28: See the dutiful letter of Probus to the senate, after his

German victories. Hist. August. p. 239.]

chapter XII: Reigns Of Tacitus, Probus, Carus And His Sons.--Part II.

the strength of Aurelian had crushed on every side the enemies of Rome. after his death they seemed to revive with an increase of fury and of

numbers. They were again vanquished by the active vigor of Probus, who,

in a short reign of about six years, [29] equalled the fame of ancient

heroes, and restored peace and order to every province of the Roman world. The dangerous frontier of Rhaetia he so firmly secured, that he

left it without the suspicion of an enemy. He broke the wandering power

of the Sarmatian tribes, and by the terror of his arms compelled those barbarians to relinquish their spoil. The Gothic nation courted the alliance of so warlike an emperor. [30] He attacked the Isaurians in their mountains, besieged and took several of their strongest castles,

[31] and flattered himself that he had forever suppressed a domestic foe, whose independence so deeply wounded the majesty of the empire. The troubles excited by the usurper Firmus in the Upper Egypt had never been

perfectly appeased, and the cities of Ptolemais and Coptos, fortified by the alliance of the Blemmyes, still maintained an obscure rebellion. The chastisement of those cities, and of their auxiliaries the savages of the South, is said to have alarmed the court of Persia, [32] and the

Great King sued in vain for the friendship of Probus. Most of the exploits which distinguished his reign were achieved by the personal

valor and conduct of the emperor, insomuch that the writer of his life expresses some amazement how, in so short a time, a single man could be

present in so many distant wars. The remaining actions he intrusted to the care of his lieutenants, the judicious choice of whom forms

no inconsiderable part of his glory. Carus, Diocletian, Maximian, constantius, Galerius, Asclepiodatus, Annibalianus, and a crowd of other chiefs, who afterwards ascended or supported the throne, were trained to arms in the severe school of Aurelian and Probus. [33]

[Footnote 29: The date and duration of the reign of Probus are very correctly ascertained by Cardinal Noris in his learned work, De Epochis

Syro-Macedonum, p. 96--105. A passage of Eusebius connects the second

year of Probus with the aeras of several of the Syrian cities.]

[Footnote 30: Vopiscus in Hist. August. p. 239.]

[Footnote 31: Zosimus (l. i. p. 62--65) tells us a very long and trifling story of Lycius, the Isaurian robber.]

[Footnote 32: Zosim. l. i. p. 65. Vopiscus in Hist. August. p. 239,

240. But it seems incredible that the defeat of the savages of Aethiopia could affect the Persian monarch.]

[Footnote 33: Besides these well-known chiefs, several others are named by Vopiscus, (Hist. August. p. 241,) whose actions have not reached

knowledge.]

but the most important service which Probus rendered to the republic was the deliverance of Gaul, and the recovery of seventy flourishing cities

oppressed by the barbarians of Germany, who, since the death of aurelian, had ravaged that great province with impunity. [34] Among the

various multitude of those fierce invaders we may distinguish, with some degree of clearness, three great armies, or rather nations, successively

vanquished by the valor of Probus. He drove back the Franks into their

morasses; a descriptive circumstance from whence we may infer, that the confederacy known by the manly appellation of Free, already occupied the flat maritime country, intersected and almost overflown by the

stagnating waters of the Rhine, and that several tribes of the Frisians and Batavians had acceded to their alliance. He vanquished the burgundians, a considerable people of the Vandalic race. [341] They had wandered in quest of booty from the banks of the Oder to those of the

Seine. They esteemed themselves sufficiently fortunate to purchase, by the restitution of all their booty, the permission of an undisturbed

retreat. They attempted to elude that article of the treaty. Their

punishment was immediate and terrible. [35] But of all the invaders of

Gaul, the most formidable were the Lygians, a distant people, who

reigned over a wide domain on the frontiers of Poland and Silesia. [36]

In the Lygian nation, the Arii held the first rank by their numbers and fierceness. "The Arii" (it is thus that they are described by the energy

of Tacitus) "study to improve by art and circumstances the innate terrors of their barbarism. Their shields are black, their bodies are

painted black. They choose for the combat the darkest hour of the night. their host advances, covered as it were with a funeral shade; [37] nor do they often find an enemy capable of sustaining so strange and infernal an aspect. Of all our senses, the eyes are the first vanquished

in battle." [38] Yet the arms and discipline of the Romans easily discomfited these horrid phantoms. The Lygii were defeated in a general engagement, and Semno, the most renowned of their chiefs, fell alive

into the hands of Probus. That prudent emperor, unwilling to reduce a brave people to despair, granted them an honorable capitulation, and

permitted them to return in safety to their native country. But the

losses which they suffered in the march, the battle, and the retreat, broke the power of the nation: nor is the Lygian name ever repeated in the history either of Germany or of the empire. The deliverance of

Gaul is reported to have cost the lives of four hundred thousand of the

invaders; a work of labor to the Romans, and of expense to the emperor, who gave a piece of gold for the head of every barbarian. [39] But as the fame of warriors is built on the destruction of human kind, we may

naturally suspect, that the sanguinary account was multiplied by the avarice of the soldiers, and accepted without any very severe examination by the liberal vanity of Probus.

[Footnote 34: See the Caesars of Julian, and Hist. August. p. 238, 240,

241.]

[Footnote 341: It was only under the emperors Diocletian and Maximian, that the Burgundians, in concert with the Alemanni, invaded the interior

of Gaul; under the reign of Probus, they did no more than pass the river which separated them from the Roman Empire: they were repelled. Gatterer

presumes that this river was the Danube; a passage in Zosimus appears to

me rather to indicate the Rhine. Zos. l. i. p. 37, edit H. Etienne,

1581.--G. On the origin of the Burgundians may be consulted Malte Brun,

Geogr vi. p. 396, (edit. 1831,) who observes that all the remains of the burgundian language indicate that they spoke a Gothic dialect.--M.]

[Footnote 35: Zosimus, l. i. p. 62. Hist. August. p. 240. But the latter

supposes the punishment inflicted with the consent of their kings: if

so, it was partial, like the offence.]

[Footnote 36: See Cluver. Germania Antiqua, l. iii. Ptolemy places in their country the city of Calisia, probably Calish in Silesia. \*

Note: Luden (vol ii. 501) supposes that these have been erroneously

identified with the Lygii of Tacitus. Perhaps one fertile source

of mistakes has been, that the Romans have turned appellations into

national names. Malte Brun observes of the Lygii, "that their name appears Sclavonian, and signifies 'inhabitants of plains;' they are

probably the Lieches of the middle ages, and the ancestors of the Poles. we find among the Arii the worship of the two twin gods known in the

Sclavian mythology." Malte Brun, vol. i. p. 278, (edit. 1831.)--M. but compare Schafarik, Slawische Alterthumer, 1, p. 406. They were of

German or Keltish descent, occupying the Wendish (or Slavian) district,

Luhy.--M. 1845.]

[Footnote 37: Feralis umbra, is the expression of Tacitus: it is surely a very bold one.]

[Footnote 38: Tacit. Germania, (c. 43.)]

[Footnote 39: Vopiscus in Hist. August. p. 238]

Since the expedition of Maximin, the Roman generals had confined their ambition to a defensive war against the nations of Germany, who

perpetually pressed on the frontiers of the empire. The more daring

Probus pursued his Gallic victories, passed the Rhine, and displayed his

invincible eagles on the banks of the Elbe and the Necker. He was fully convinced that nothing could reconcile the minds of the barbarians to

peace, unless they experienced, in their own country, the calamities of war. Germany, exhausted by the ill success of the last emigration, was astonished by his presence. Nine of the most considerable princes

repaired to his camp, and fell prostrate at his feet. Such a treaty was

humbly received by the Germans, as it pleased the conqueror to dictate.

He exacted a strict restitution of the effects and captives which they

had carried away from the provinces; and obliged their own magistrates to punish the more obstinate robbers who presumed to detain any part of the spoil. A considerable tribute of corn, cattle, and horses, the only wealth of barbarians, was reserved for the use of the garrisons which

Probus established on the limits of their territory. He even entertained

some thoughts of compelling the Germans to relinquish the exercise of arms, and to trust their differences to the justice, their safety to the power, of Rome. To accomplish these salutary ends, the constant

residence of an Imperial governor, supported by a numerous army, was

indispensably requisite. Probus therefore judged it more expedient to defer the execution of so great a design; which was indeed rather of

specious than solid utility. [40] Had Germany been reduced into the state

of a province, the Romans, with immense labor and expense, would have acquired only a more extensive boundary to defend against the fiercer and more active barbarians of Scythia.

[Footnote 40: Hist. August. 238, 239. Vopiscus quotes a letter from the emperor to the senate, in which he mentions his design of reducing

Germany into a province.]

Instead of reducing the warlike natives of Germany to the condition of

subjects, Probus contented himself with the humble expedient of raising a bulwark against their inroads. The country which now forms the circle

of Swabia had been left desert in the age of Augustus by the emigration

of its ancient inhabitants. [41] The fertility of the soil soon attracted a new colony from the adjacent provinces of Gaul. Crowds of adventurers,

of a roving temper and of desperate fortunes, occupied the doubtful

possession, and acknowledged, by the payment of tithes the majesty

of the empire. [42] To protect these new subjects, a line of frontier

garrisons was gradually extended from the Rhine to the Danube. About the

reign of Hadrian, when that mode of defence began to be practised, these

garrisons were connected and covered by a strong intrenchment of trees and palisades. In the place of so rude a bulwark, the emperor Probus constructed a stone wall of a considerable height, and strengthened it by towers at convenient distances. From the neighborhood of Newstadt and

Ratisbon on the Danube, it stretched across hills, valleys, rivers, and

morasses, as far as Wimpfen on the Necker, and at length terminated

on the banks of the Rhine, after a winding course of near two hundred

miles. [43] This important barrier, uniting the two mighty streams that

protected the provinces of Europe, seemed to fill up the vacant space through which the barbarians, and particularly the Alemanni, could

penetrate with the greatest facility into the heart of the empire. But the experience of the world, from China to Britain, has exposed the

vain attempt of fortifying any extensive tract of country. [44] An active enemy, who can select and vary his points of attack, must, in the end, discover some feeble spot, on some unguarded moment. The strength, as well as the attention, of the defenders is divided; and such are the blind effects of terror on the firmest troops, that a line broken in a

single place is almost instantly deserted. The fate of the wall which

Probus erected may confirm the general observation. Within a few years after his death, it was overthrown by the Alemanni. Its scattered ruins,

universally ascribed to the power of the Daemon, now serve only to excite the wonder of the Swabian peasant.

[Footnote 41: Strabo, l. vii. According to Valleius Paterculus, (ii.

108,) Maroboduus led his Marcomanni into Bohemia; Cluverius (German. antiq. iii. 8) proves that it was from Swabia.]

[Footnote 42: These settlers, from the payment of tithes, were denominated Decunates. Tacit. Germania, c. 29]

[Footnote 43: See notes de l'Abbe de la Bleterie a la Germanie de tacite, p. 183. His account of the wall is chiefly borrowed (as he says

himself) from the Alsatia Illustrata of Schoepflin.]

[Footnote 44: See Recherches sur les Chinois et les Egyptiens, tom. ii.

p. 81--102. The anonymous author is well acquainted with the globe in

general, and with Germany in particular: with regard to the latter,

he quotes a work of M. Hanselman; but he seems to confound the wall of

Probus, designed against the Alemanni, with the fortification of the

Mattiaci, constructed in the neighborhood of Frankfort against the catti. \* Note: De Pauw is well known to have been the author of this work, as of the Recherches sur les Americains before quoted. The

judgment of M. Remusat on this writer is in a very different, I fear a

juster tone. Quand au lieu de rechercher, d'examiner, d'etudier, on se borne, comme cet ecrivain, a juger a prononcer, a decider, sans connoitre ni l'histoire. ni les langues, sans recourir aux sources, sans

meme se douter de leur existence, on peut en imposer pendant quelque temps a des lecteurs prevenus ou peu instruits; mais le mepris qui ne

manque guere de succeder a cet engouement fait bientot justice de ces assertions hazardees, et elles retombent dans l'oubli d'autant plus

promptement, qu'elles ont ete posees avec plus de confiance. Sur les l angues Tartares, p. 231.--M.]

among the useful conditions of peace imposed by Probus on the vanquished

nations of Germany, was the obligation of supplying the Roman army with

sixteen thousand recruits, the bravest and most robust of their youth. the emperor dispersed them through all the provinces, and distributed this dangerous reenforcement, in small bands of fifty or sixty each, among the national troops; judiciously observing, that the aid which the

republic derived from the barbarians should be felt but not seen. [45] their aid was now become necessary. The feeble elegance of Italy and the

internal provinces could no longer support the weight of arms. The hardy frontiers of the Rhine and Danube still produced minds and bodies equal to the labors of the camp; but a perpetual series of wars had gradually diminished their numbers. The infrequency of marriage, and the ruin

of agriculture, affected the principles of population, and not only destroyed the strength of the present, but intercepted the hope

of future, generations. The wisdom of Probus embraced a great and beneficial plan of replenishing the exhausted frontiers, by new colonies

of captive or fugitive barbarians, on whom he bestowed lands, cattle,

instruments of husbandry, and every encouragement that might engage them to educate a race of soldiers for the service of the republic. Into britain, and most probably into Cambridgeshire, [46] he transported a considerable body of Vandals. The impossibility of an escape reconciled them to their situation, and in the subsequent troubles of that island, they approved themselves the most faithful servants of the state. [47]

Great numbers of Franks and Gepidae were settled on the banks of the danube and the Rhine. A hundred thousand Bastarnae, expelled from their

own country, cheerfully accepted an establishment in Thrace, and soon

imbibed the manners and sentiments of Roman subjects. [48] But the expectations of Probus were too often disappointed. The impatience and idleness of the barbarians could ill brook the slow labors of agriculture. Their unconquerable love of freedom, rising against despotism, provoked them into hasty rebellions, alike fatal to themselves and to the provinces; [49] nor could these artificial

supplies, however repeated by succeeding emperors, restore the important

limit of Gaul and Illyricum to its ancient and native vigor.

[Footnote 45: He distributed about fifty or sixty barbarians to a

Numerus, as it was then called, a corps with whose established number we are not exactly acquainted.]

[Footnote 46: Camden's Britannia, Introduction, p. 136; but he speaks from a very doubtful conjecture.]

[Footnote 47: Zosimus, l. i. p. 62. According to Vopiscus, another body

of Vandals was less faithful.]

[Footnote 48: Hist. August. p. 240. They were probably expelled by the

Goths. Zosim. l. i. p. 66.]

[Footnote 49: Hist. August. p. 240.]

Of all the barbarians who abandoned their new settlements, and disturbed the public tranquillity, a very small number returned to their own country. For a short season they might wander in arms through the empire; but in the end they were surely destroyed by the power of a warlike emperor. The successful rashness of a party of Franks was attended, however, with such memorable consequences, that it ought not to be passed unnoticed. They had been established by Probus, on the

sea-coast of Pontus, with a view of strengthening the frontier against the inroads of the Alani. A fleet stationed in one of the harbors of the Euxine fell into the hands of the Franks; and they resolved, through

unknown seas, to explore their way from the mouth of the Phasis to that of the Rhine. They easily escaped through the Bosphorus and the Hellespont, and cruising along the Mediterranean, indulged their appetite for revenge and plunder by frequent descents on the

unsuspecting shores of Asia, Greece, and Africa. The opulent city of

Syracuse, in whose port the natives of Athens and Carthage had formerly been sunk, was sacked by a handful of barbarians, who massacred the

greatest part of the trembling inhabitants. From the Island of Sicily, the Franks proceeded to the columns of Hercules, trusted themselves to the ocean, coasted round Spain and Gaul, and steering their triumphant course through the British Channel, at length finished their surprising

voyage, by landing in safety on the Batavian or Frisian shores. [50] The example of their success, instructing their countrymen to conceive the advantages and to despise the dangers of the sea, pointed out to their enterprising spirit a new road to wealth and glory.

[Footnote 50: Panegyr. Vet. v. 18. Zosimus, l. i. p. 66.]

Notwithstanding the vigilance and activity of Probus, it was almost

impossible that he could at once contain in obedience every part of his wide-extended dominions. The barbarians, who broke their chains, had

seized the favorable opportunity of a domestic war. When the emperor

marched to the relief of Gaul, he devolved the command of the East on

Saturninus. That general, a man of merit and experience, was driven into

rebellion by the absence of his sovereign, the levity of the Alexandrian

people, the pressing instances of his friends, and his own fears; but from the moment of his elevation, he never entertained a hope of empire,

or even of life. "Alas!" he said, "the republic has lost a useful

servant, and the rashness of an hour has destroyed the services of many

years. You know not," continued he, "the misery of sovereign power; a

sword is perpetually suspended over our head. We dread our very guards, we distrust our companions. The choice of action or of repose is no

longer in our disposition, nor is there any age, or character, or conduct, that can protect us from the censure of envy. In thus exalting

me to the throne, you have doomed me to a life of cares, and to an

untimely fate. The only consolation which remains is, the assurance that

I shall not fall alone." [51] But as the former part of his prediction was verified by the victory, so the latter was disappointed by the clemency of Probus. That amiable prince attempted even to save the

unhappy Saturninus from the fury of the soldiers. He had more than once

solicited the usurper himself to place some confidence in the mercy of a

sovereign who so highly esteemed his character, that he had punished, as a malicious informer, the first who related the improbable news of his disaffection. [52] Saturninus might, perhaps, have embraced the generous

offer, had he not been restrained by the obstinate distrust of his adherents. Their guilt was deeper, and their hopes more sanguine, than those of their experienced leader.

[Footnote 51: Vopiscus in Hist. August. p. 245, 246. The unfortunate

orator had studied rhetoric at Carthage; and was therefore more probably a Moor (Zosim. l. i. p. 60) than a Gaul, as Vopiscus calls him.]

[Footnote 52: Zonaras, l. xii. p. 638.]

the revolt of Saturninus was scarcely extinguished in the East, before

new troubles were excited in the West, by the rebellion of Bonosus and

Proculus, in Gaul. The most distinguished merit of those two officers was their respective prowess, of the one in the combats of Bacchus, of the other in those of Venus, [53] yet neither of them was destitute

of courage and capacity, and both sustained, with honor, the august character which the fear of punishment had engaged them to assume, till they sunk at length beneath the superior genius of Probus. He used the

victory with his accustomed moderation, and spared the fortune, as well as the lives of their innocent families. [54]

[Footnote 53: A very surprising instance is recorded of the prowess of

Procufus. He had taken one hundred Sarmatian virgins. The rest of the

story he must relate in his own language: "Ex his una necte decem inivi;

omnes tamen, quod in me erat, mulieres intra dies quindecim reddidi."

Vopiscus in Hist. August. p. 246.]

[Footnote 54: Proculus, who was a native of Albengue, on the Genoese coast armed two thousand of his own slaves. His riches were great, but they were acquired by robbery. It was afterwards a saying of his family,

sibi non placere esse vel principes vel latrones. Vopiscus in Hist. august. p. 247.]

the arms of Probus had now suppressed all the foreign and domestic enemies of the state. His mild but steady administration confirmed the

reestablishment of the public tranquillity; nor was there left in the

provinces a hostile barbarian, a tyrant, or even a robber, to revive the

memory of past disorders. It was time that the emperor should revisit

Rome, and celebrate his own glory and the general happiness. The triumph due to the valor of Probus was conducted with a magnificence suitable to

his fortune, and the people who had so lately admired the trophies of aurelian, gazed with equal pleasure on those of his heroic successor.

[55] We cannot, on this occasion, forget the desperate courage of about fourscore gladiators, reserved, with near six hundred others, for the

inhuman sports of the amphitheatre. Disdaining to shed their blood for the amusement of the populace, they killed their keepers, broke from the

place of their confinement, and filled the streets of Rome with blood and confusion. After an obstinate resistance, they were overpowered and cut in pieces by the regular forces; but they obtained at least an

honorable death, and the satisfaction of a just revenge. [56]

[Footnote 55: Hist. August. p. 240.]

[Footnote 56: Zosim. l. i. p. 66.]

the military discipline which reigned in the camps of Probus was less cruel than that of Aurelian, but it was equally rigid and exact. The

latter had punished the irregularities of the soldiers with unrelenting

severity, the former prevented them by employing the legions in constant and useful labors. When Probus commanded in Egypt, he executed many considerable works for the splendor and benefit of that rich country. the navigation of the Nile, so important to Rome itself, was improved; and temples, buildings, porticos, and palaces were constructed by the

hands of the soldiers, who acted by turns as architects, as engineers, and as husbandmen. [57] It was reported of Hannibal, that in order to

preserve his troops from the dangerous temptations of idleness, he had

obliged them to form large plantations of olive-trees along the coast

of Africa. [58] From a similar principle, Probus exercised his legions

in covering with rich vineyards the hills of Gaul and Pannonia, and two considerable spots are described, which were entirely dug and planted by military labor. [59] One of these, known under the name of Mount Almo, was situated near Sirmium, the country where Probus was born, for which

he ever retained a partial affection, and whose gratitude he endeavored to secure, by converting into tillage a large and unhealthy tract

of marshy ground. An army thus employed constituted perhaps the most

useful, as well as the bravest, portion of Roman subjects.

[Footnote 57: Hist. August. p. 236.]

[Footnote 58: Aurel. Victor. in Prob. But the policy of Hannibal,

unnoticed by any more ancient writer, is irreconcilable with the history

of his life. He left Africa when he was nine years old, returned to it when he was forty-five, and immediately lost his army in the decisive battle of Zama. Livilus, xxx. 37.]

[Footnote 59: Hist. August. p. 240. Eutrop. ix. 17. Aurel. Victor. in

Prob. Victor Junior. He revoked the prohibition of Domitian, and granted a general permission of planting vines to the Gauls, the Britons, and the Pannonians.]

but in the prosecution of a favorite scheme, the best of men, satisfied with the rectitude of their intentions, are subject to forget the bounds

of moderation; nor did Probus himself sufficiently consult the patience and disposition of his fierce legionaries. [60] The dangers of the

military profession seem only to be compensated by a life of pleasure and idleness; but if the duties of the soldier are incessantly aggravated by the labors of the peasant, he will at last sink under the

intolerable burden, or shake it off with indignation. The imprudence of

Probus is said to have inflamed the discontent of his troops. More attentive to the interests of mankind than to those of the army, he expressed the vain hope, that, by the establishment of universal peace,

he should soon abolish the necessity of a standing and mercenary force.

[61] The unguarded expression proved fatal to him. In one of the hottest days of summer, as he severely urged the unwholesome labor of draining the marshes of Sirmium, the soldiers, impatient of fatigue, on a sudden threw down their tools, grasped their arms, and broke out into a furious

mutiny. The emperor, conscious of his danger, took refuge in a lofty tower, constructed for the purpose of surveying the progress of the work. [62] The tower was instantly forced, and a thousand swords were

plunged at once into the bosom of the unfortunate Probus. The rage of the troops subsided as soon as it had been gratified. They then lamented their fatal rashness, forgot the severity of the emperor, whom they had

massacred, and hastened to perpetuate, by an honorable monument, the

memory of his virtues and victories. [63]

[Footnote 60: Julian bestows a severe, and indeed excessive, censure

on the rigor of Probus, who, as he thinks, almost deserved his fate.]

[Footnote 61: Vopiscus in Hist. August. p. 241. He lavishes on this idle

hope a large stock of very foolish eloquence.]

[Footnote 62: Turris ferrata. It seems to have been a movable tower, and cased with iron.]

[Footnote 63: Probus, et vere probus situs est; Victor omnium gentium barbararum; victor etiam tyrannorum.]

when the legions had indulged their grief and repentance for the death

of Probus, their unanimous consent declared Carus, his Praetorian

praefect, the most deserving of the Imperial throne. Every circumstance that relates to this prince appears of a mixed and doubtful nature.

He gloried in the title of Roman Citizen; and affected to compare the

purity of his blood with the foreign and even barbarous origin of the

preceding emperors; yet the most inquisitive of his contemporaries, very far from admitting his claim, have variously deduced his own birth,

or that of his parents, from Illyricum, from Gaul, or from Africa. [64] though a soldier, he had received a learned education; though a senator,

he was invested with the first dignity of the army; and in an age when the civil and military professions began to be irrecoverably

separated from each other, they were united in the person of Carus.

Notwithstanding the severe justice which he exercised against the assassins of Probus, to whose favor and esteem he was highly indebted,

he could not escape the suspicion of being accessory to a deed from whence he derived the principal advantage. He enjoyed, at least, before

his elevation, an acknowledged character of virtue and abilities;

[65] but his austere temper insensibly degenerated into moroseness and cruelty; and the imperfect writers of his life almost hesitate whether they shall not rank him in the number of Roman tyrants. [66] When Carus assumed the purple, he was about sixty years of age, and his two sons, carinus and Numerian had already attained the season of manhood. [67]

[Footnote 64: Yet all this may be conciliated. He was born at Narbonne

in Illyricum, confounded by Eutropius with the more famous city of that

name in Gaul. His father might be an African, and his mother a

noble Roman. Carus himself was educated in the capital. See Scaliger animadversion. ad Euseb. Chron. p. 241.]

[Footnote 65: Probus had requested of the senate an equestrian statue and a marble palace, at the public expense, as a just recompense of the

singular merit of Carus. Vopiscus in Hist. August. p. 249.]

[Footnote 66: Vopiscus in Hist. August. p. 242, 249. Julian excludes the emperor Carus and both his sons from the banquet of the Caesars.]

[Footnote 67: John Malala, tom. i. p. 401. But the authority of that

ignorant Greek is very slight. He ridiculously derives from Carus the city of Carrhae, and the province of Caria, the latter of which is

mentioned by Homer.]

the authority of the senate expired with Probus; nor was the repentance

of the soldiers displayed by the same dutiful regard for the civil

power, which they had testified after the unfortunate death of Aurelian. the election of Carus was decided without expecting the approbation of the senate, and the new emperor contented himself with announcing, in a cold and stately epistle, that he had ascended the vacant throne. [68] A behavior so very opposite to that of his amiable predecessor afforded

no favorable presage of the new reign: and the Romans, deprived of power and freedom, asserted their privilege of licentious murmurs. [69] The

voice of congratulation and flattery was not, however, silent; and we

may still peruse, with pleasure and contempt, an eclogue, which was composed on the accession of the emperor Carus. Two shepherds, avoiding the noontide heat, retire into the cave of Faunus. On a spreading beech they discover some recent characters. The rural deity had described, in

prophetic verses, the felicity promised to the empire under the reign

of so great a prince. Faunus hails the approach of that hero, who,

receiving on his shoulders the sinking weight of the Roman world, shall extinguish war and faction, and once again restore the innocence and

security of the golden age. [70]

[Footnote 68: Hist. August. p. 249. Carus congratulated the senate, that

one of their own order was made emperor.]

[Footnote 69: Hist. August. p. 242.]

[Footnote 70: See the first eclogue of Calphurnius. The design of it

is preferes by Fontenelle to that of Virgil's Pollio. See tom. iii. p.

148.]

It is more than probable, that these elegant trifles never reached the ears of a veteran general, who, with the consent of the legions, was preparing to execute the long-suspended design of the Persian war. before his departure for this distant expedition, Carus conferred on his two sons, Carinus and Numerian, the title of Caesar, and investing the former with almost an equal share of the Imperial power, directed the

young prince, first to suppress some troubles which had arisen in Gaul, and afterwards to fix the seat of his residence at Rome, and to assume the government of the Western provinces. [71] The safety of Illyricum was confirmed by a memorable defeat of the Sarmatians; sixteen thousand

of those barbarians remained on the field of battle, and the number of captives amounted to twenty thousand. The old emperor, animated with the fame and prospect of victory, pursued his march, in the midst of winter, through the countries of Thrace and Asia Minor, and at length, with his

younger son, Numerian, arrived on the confines of the Persian monarchy. there, encamping on the summit of a lofty mountain, he pointed out to

his troops the opulence and luxury of the enemy whom they were about to

invade.

[Footnote 71: Hist. August. p. 353. Eutropius, ix. 18. Pagi. Annal.]

the successor of Artaxerxes, [711] Varanes, or Bahram, though he had subdued the Segestans, one of the most warlike nations of Upper Asia, [72] was alarmed at the approach of the Romans, and endeavored to retard their

progress by a negotiation of peace. [721]

His ambassadors entered the camp about sunset, at the time when the troops were satisfying their hunger with a frugal repast. The Persians expressed their desire of being introduced to the presence of the Roman emperor. They were at length conducted to a soldier, who was seated

on the grass. A piece of stale bacon and a few hard peas composed his

supper. A coarse woollen garment of purple was the only circumstance that announced his dignity. The conference was conducted with the same disregard of courtly elegance. Carus, taking off a cap which he wore to conceal his baldness, assured the ambassadors, that, unless their master acknowledged the superiority of Rome, he would speedily render Persia as naked of trees as his own head was destitute of hair. [73]

Notwithstanding some traces of art and preparation, we may discover in this scene the manners of Carus, and the severe simplicity which the

martial princes, who succeeded Gallienus, had already restored in the

Roman camps. The ministers of the Great King trembled and retired.

[Footnote 711: Three monarchs had intervened, Sapor, (Shahpour,)

Hormisdas, (Hormooz,) Varanes; Baharam the First.--M.]

[Footnote 72: Agathias, l. iv. p. 135. We find one of his sayings in the Bibliotheque Orientale of M. d'Herbelot. "The definition of humanity

includes all other virtues."]

[Footnote 721: The manner in which his life was saved by the Chief Pontiff from a conspiracy of his nobles, is as remarkable as his saying. "By the advice (of the Pontiff) all the nobles absented themselves from court. the king wandered through his palace alone. He saw no one; all was

silence around. He became alarmed and distressed. At last the Chief

Pontiff appeared, and bowed his head in apparent misery, but spoke not a word. The king entreated him to declare what had happened. The virtuous

man boldly related all that had passed, and conjured Bahram, in the name

of his glorious ancestors, to change his conduct and save himself from destruction. The king was much moved, professed himself most penitent, and said he was resolved his future life should prove his sincerity. the overjoyed High Priest, delighted at this success, made a signal, at which all the nobles and attendants were in an instant, as if by magic,

in their usual places. The monarch now perceived that only one opinion

prevailed on his past conduct. He repeated therefore to his nobles all

he had said to the Chief Pontiff, and his future reign was unstained by cruelty or oppression." Malcolm's Persia,--M.]

[Footnote 73: Synesius tells this story of Carinus; and it is much more

natural to understand it of Carus, than (as Petavius and Tillemont choose to do) of Probus.]

the threats of Carus were not without effect. He ravaged Mesopotamia, cut in pieces whatever opposed his passage, made himself master of the great cities of Seleucia and Ctesiphon, (which seemed to have

surrendered without resistance,) and carried his victorious arms beyond the Tigris. [74] He had seized the favorable moment for an invasion. The

Persian councils were distracted by domestic factions, and the greater

part of their forces were detained on the frontiers of India. Rome and the East received with transports the news of such important advantages. flattery and hope painted, in the most lively colors, the fall of

Persia, the conquest of Arabia, the submission of Egypt, and a lasting deliverance from the inroads of the Scythian nations. [75] But the reign

of Carus was destined to expose the vanity of predictions. They were

scarcely uttered before they were contradicted by his death; an event attended with such ambiguous circumstances, that it may be related in a

letter from his own secretary to the praefect of the city. "Carus," says

he, "our dearest emperor, was confined by sickness to his bed, when a furious tempest arose in the camp. The darkness which overspread the sky was so thick, that we could no longer distinguish each other; and the

incessant flashes of lightning took from us the knowledge of all that

passed in the general confusion. Immediately after the most violent clap

of thunder, we heard a sudden cry that the emperor was dead; and it soon appeared, that his chamberlains, in a rage of grief, had set fire to the

royal pavilion; a circumstance which gave rise to the report that Carus was killed by lightning. But, as far as we have been able to investigate the truth, his death was the natural effect of his disorder." [76]

[Footnote 74: Vopiscus in Hist. August. p. 250. Eutropius, ix. 18. The two Victors.]

[Footnote 75: To the Persian victory of Carus I refer the dialogue of the Philopatris, which has so long been an object of dispute among the learned. But to explain and justify my opinion, would require a dissertation. Note: Niebuhr, in the new edition of the Byzantine

Historians, (vol. x.) has boldly assigned the Philopatris to the tenth century, and to the reign of Nicephorus Phocas. An opinion so decisively

pronounced by Niebuhr and favorably received by Hase, the learned editor

of Leo Diaconus, commands respectful consideration. But the whole tone

of the work appears to me altogether inconsistent with any period in which philosophy did not stand, as it were, on some ground of equality with Christianity. The doctrine of the Trinity is sarcastically

introduced rather as the strange doctrine of a new religion, than the established tenet of a faith universally prevalent. The argument, adopted from Solanus, concerning the formula of the procession of the

Holy Ghost, is utterly worthless, as it is a mere quotation in the words

of the Gospel of St. John, xv. 26. The only argument of any value is the

historic one, from the allusion to the recent violation of many virgins

in the Island of Crete. But neither is the language of Niebuhr quite accurate, nor his reference to the Acroases of Theodosius satisfactory. when, then, could this occurrence take place? Why not in the devastation

of the island by the Gothic pirates, during the reign of Claudius. Hist. aug. in Claud. p. 814. edit. Var. Lugd. Bat 1661.--M.]

[Footnote 76: Hist. August. p. 250. Yet Eutropius, Festus, Rufus, the two Victors, Jerome, Sidonius Apollinaris, Syncellus, and Zonaras, all ascribe the death of Carus to lightning.]

chapter XII: Reigns Of Tacitus, Probus, Carus And His Sons.--Part III.

the vacancy of the throne was not productive of any disturbance. The ambition of the aspiring generals was checked by their natural fears, and young Numerian, with his absent brother Carinus, were unanimously acknowledged as Roman emperors.

the public expected that the successor of Carus would pursue his father's footsteps, and, without allowing the Persians to recover from their consternation, would advance sword in hand to the palaces of

Susa and Ecbatana. [77] But the legions, however strong in numbers and discipline, were dismayed by the most abject superstition.

Notwithstanding all the arts that were practised to disguise the manner

of the late emperor's death, it was found impossible to remove the

opinion of the multitude, and the power of opinion is irresistible.

Places or persons struck with lightning were considered by the ancients with pious horror, as singularly devoted to the wrath of Heaven. [78] an oracle was remembered, which marked the River Tigris as the fatal boundary of the Roman arms. The troops, terrified with the fate of Carus and with their own danger, called aloud on young Numerian to obey the will of the gods, and to lead them away from this inauspicious scene of war. The feeble emperor was unable to subdue their obstinate prejudice, and the Persians wondered at the unexpected retreat of a victorious enemy. [79]

[Footnote 77: See Nemesian. Cynegeticon, v. 71, &c.]

[Footnote 78: See Festus and his commentators on the word Scribonianum.

Places struck by lightning were surrounded with a wall; things were buried with mysterious ceremony.]

[Footnote 79: Vopiscus in Hist. August. p. 250. Aurelius Victor seems to believe the prediction, and to approve the retreat.]

the intelligence of the mysterious fate of the late emperor was soon carried from the frontiers of Persia to Rome; and the senate, as well as the provinces, congratulated the accession of the sons of Carus. These fortunate youths were strangers, however, to that conscious superiority, either of birth or of merit, which can alone render the possession of a throne easy, and as it were natural. Born and educated in a private

station, the election of their father raised them at once to the rank of

princes; and his death, which happened about sixteen months afterwards,

left them the unexpected legacy of a vast empire. To sustain with temper this rapid elevation, an uncommon share of virtue and prudence was

requisite; and Carinus, the elder of the brothers, was more than commonly deficient in those qualities. In the Gallic war he discovered

some degree of personal courage; [80] but from the moment of his arrival at Rome, he abandoned himself to the luxury of the capital, and to the abuse of his fortune. He was soft, yet cruel; devoted to pleasure, but destitute of taste; and though exquisitely susceptible of vanity,

indifferent to the public esteem. In the course of a few months, he

successively married and divorced nine wives, most of whom he left

pregnant; and notwithstanding this legal inconstancy, found time to

indulge such a variety of irregular appetites, as brought dishonor on

himself and on the noblest houses of Rome. He beheld with inveterate

hatred all those who might remember his former obscurity, or censure

his present conduct. He banished, or put to death, the friends and counsellors whom his father had placed about him, to guide his

inexperienced youth; and he persecuted with the meanest revenge his

school-fellows and companions who had not sufficiently respected the

latent majesty of the emperor.

with the senators, Carinus affected a lofty and regal demeanor, frequently declaring, that he designed to distribute their estates among the populace of Rome. From the dregs of that populace he selected his favorites, and even his ministers. The palace, and even the Imperial table, were filled with singers, dancers, prostitutes, and all the

various retinue of vice and folly. One of his doorkeepers [81] he

intrusted with the government of the city. In the room of the Praetorian

praefect, whom he put to death, Carinus substituted one of the ministers

of his looser pleasures. Another, who possessed the same, or even a

more infamous, title to favor, was invested with the consulship. A confidential secretary, who had acquired uncommon skill in the art of forgery, delivered the indolent emperor, with his own consent from the

irksome duty of signing his name.

[Footnote 80: Nemesian. Cynegeticon, v 69. He was a contemporary, but a

poet.]

[Footnote 81: Cancellarius. This word, so humble in its origin, has, by a singular fortune, risen into the title of the first great office of

state in the monarchies of Europe. See Casaubon and Salmasius, ad Hist. august, p. 253.]

when the emperor Carus undertook the Persian war, he was induced, by

motives of affection as well as policy, to secure the fortunes of

his family, by leaving in the hands of his eldest son the armies and

provinces of the West. The intelligence which he soon received of the conduct of Carinus filled him with shame and regret; nor had he concealed his resolution of satisfying the republic by a severe act of

justice, and of adopting, in the place of an unworthy son, the brave and

virtuous Constantius, who at that time was governor of Dalmatia. But the elevation of Constantius was for a while deferred; and as soon as the father's death had released Carinus from the control of fear or decency,

he displayed to the Romans the extravagancies of Elagabalus, aggravated by the cruelty of Domitian. [82]

[Footnote 82: Vopiscus in Hist. August. p. 253, 254. Eutropius, x.

19. Vic to Junior. The reign of Diocletian indeed was so long and

prosperous, that it must have been very unfavorable to the reputation of carinus.]

the only merit of the administration of Carinus that history could

record, or poetry celebrate, was the uncommon splendor with which, in

his own and his brother's name, he exhibited the Roman games of the theatre, the circus, and the amphitheatre. More than twenty years afterwards, when the courtiers of Diocletian represented to their frugal

sovereign the fame and popularity of his munificent predecessor, he acknowledged that the reign of Carinus had indeed been a reign of

pleasure. [83] But this vain prodigality, which the prudence of diocletian might justly despise, was enjoyed with surprise and transport by the Roman people. The oldest of the citizens, recollecting the

spectacles of former days, the triumphal pomp of Probus or Aurelian, and the secular games of the emperor Philip, acknowledged that they were all

surpassed by the superior magnificence of Carinus. [84]

[Footnote 83: Vopiscus in Hist. August. p. 254. He calls him Carus, but the sense is sufficiently obvious, and the words were often confounded.]

[Footnote 84: See Calphurnius, Eclog. vii. 43. We may observe, that the

spectacles of Probus were still recent, and that the poet is seconded by the historian.]

the spectacles of Carinus may therefore be best illustrated by the

observation of some particulars, which history has condescended to

relate concerning those of his predecessors. If we confine ourselves

solely to the hunting of wild beasts, however we may censure the vanity

of the design or the cruelty of the execution, we are obliged to confess that neither before nor since the time of the Romans so much art and expense have ever been lavished for the amusement of the people. [85] by the order of Probus, a great quantity of large trees, torn up by the

roots, were transplanted into the midst of the circus. The spacious and shady forest was immediately filled with a thousand ostriches, a thousand stags, a thousand fallow deer, and a thousand wild boars; and all this variety of game was abandoned to the riotous impetuosity of the

multitude. The tragedy of the succeeding day consisted in the massacre

of a hundred lions, an equal number of lionesses, two hundred leopards, and three hundred bears. [86] The collection prepared by the younger

Gordian for his triumph, and which his successor exhibited in the

secular games, was less remarkable by the number than by the singularity

of the animals. Twenty zebras displayed their elegant forms and

variegated beauty to the eyes of the Roman people. [87] Ten elks, and as

many camelopards, the loftiest and most harmless creatures that wander

over the plains of Sarmatia and Aethiopia, were contrasted with thirty african hyaenas and ten Indian tigers, the most implacable savages of the torrid zone. The unoffending strength with which Nature has endowed the greater quadrupeds was admired in the rhinoceros, the hippopotamus

of the Nile, [88] and a majestic troop of thirty-two elephants. [89] while the populace gazed with stupid wonder on the splendid show, the

naturalist might indeed observe the figure and properties of so many different species, transported from every part of the ancient world into the amphitheatre of Rome. But this accidental benefit, which science

might derive from folly, is surely insufficient to justify such a wanton abuse of the public riches. There occurs, however, a single instance in the first Punic war, in which the senate wisely connected this amusement

of the multitude with the interest of the state. A considerable number

of elephants, taken in the defeat of the Carthaginian army, were driven through the circus by a few slaves, armed only with blunt javelins. [90] the useful spectacle served to impress the Roman soldier with a just contempt for those unwieldy animals; and he no longer dreaded to encounter them in the ranks of war.

[Footnote 85: The philosopher Montaigne (Essais, l. iii. 6) gives a

very just and lively view of Roman magnificence in these spectacles.]

[Footnote 86: Vopiscus in Hist. August. p. 240.]

[Footnote 87: They are called Onagri; but the number is too

inconsiderable for mere wild asses. Cuper (de Elephantis Exercitat. ii.

7) has proved from Oppian, Dion, and an anonymous Greek, that zebras

had been seen at Rome. They were brought from some island of the ocean,

perhaps Madagascar.]

[Footnote 88: Carinus gave a hippopotamus, (see Calphurn. Eclog. vi.

66.) In the latter spectacles, I do not recollect any crocodiles, of which Augustus once exhibited thirty-six. Dion Cassius, l. lv. p. 781.]

[Footnote 89: Capitolin. in Hist. August. p. 164, 165. We are not acquainted with the animals which he calls archeleontes; some read argoleontes others agrioleontes: both corrections are very nugatory]

[Footnote 90: Plin. Hist. Natur. viii. 6, from the annals of Piso.]

the hunting or exhibition of wild beasts was conducted with a

magnificence suitable to a people who styled themselves the masters of the world; nor was the edifice appropriated to that entertainment less expressive of Roman greatness. Posterity admires, and will long admire, the awful remains of the amphitheatre of Titus, which so well deserved the epithet of Colossal. [91] It was a building of an elliptic figure, five hundred and sixty-four feet in length, and four hundred and

sixty-seven in breadth, founded on fourscore arches, and rising, with four

successive orders of architecture, to the height of one hundred and forty feet. [92] The outside of the edifice was encrusted with marble, and decorated with statues. The slopes of the vast concave, which formed the inside, were filled and surrounded with sixty or eighty rows of

seats of marble likewise, covered with cushions, and capable of

receiving with ease about fourscore thousand spectators. [93] Sixty-four

vomitories (for by that name the doors were very aptly distinguished)

poured forth the immense multitude; and the entrances, passages, and

staircases were contrived with such exquisite skill, that each person, whether of the senatorial, the equestrian, or the plebeian order, arrived at his destined place without trouble or confusion. [94] Nothing was omitted, which, in any respect, could be subservient to the convenience and pleasure of the spectators.

they were protected from the sun and rain by an ample canopy,

occasionally drawn over their heads. The air was continally refreshed by the playing of fountains, and profusely impregnated by the grateful

scent of aromatics. In the centre of the edifice, the arena, or stage, was strewed with the finest sand, and successively assumed the most different forms. At one moment it seemed to rise out of the earth, like the garden of the Hesperides, and was afterwards broken into the rocks and caverns of Thrace. The subterraneous pipes conveyed an inexhaustible

supply of water; and what had just before appeared a level plain, might be suddenly converted into a wide lake, covered with armed vessels, and replenished with the monsters of the deep. [95] In the decoration of these scenes, the Roman emperors displayed their wealth and liberality; and we read on various occasions that the whole furniture of the amphitheatre consisted either of silver, or of gold, or of amber. [96] the poet who describes the games of Carinus, in the character of a

shepherd, attracted to the capital by the fame of their magnificence, affirms that the nets designed as a defence against the wild beasts, were of gold wire; that the porticos were gilded; and that the belt or circle which divided the several ranks of spectators from each other was

studded with a precious mosaic of beautiful stones. [97]

[Footnote 91:

See Maffei, Verona Illustrata, p. iv. l. i. c. 2.]

[Footnote 92: Maffei,

l. ii. c. 2. The height was very much exaggerated by the ancients. It

reached almost to the heavens, according to Calphurnius, (Eclog.

vii. 23,) and surpassed the ken of human sight, according to Ammianus

Marcellinus (xvi. 10.) Yet how trifling to the great pyramid of Egypt, which rises 500 feet perpendicular]

[Footnote 93: According to different copies of Victor, we read 77,000,

or 87,000 spectators; but Maffei (l. ii. c. 12) finds room on the open

seats for no more than 34,000. The remainder were contained in the upper covered galleries.]

[Footnote 94: See Maffei, l. ii. c. 5--12. He treats the very difficult

subject with all possible clearness, and like an architect, as well as an antiquarian.]

[Footnote 95: Calphurn. Eclog vii. 64, 73. These lines are curious, and the whole eclogue has been of infinite use to Maffei. Calphurnius, as well as Martial, (see his first book,) was a poet; but when they described the amphitheatre, they both wrote from their own senses, and to those of the Romans.]

[Footnote 96: Consult Plin. Hist. Natur. xxxiii. 16, xxxvii. 11.]

[Footnote 97: Balteus en gemmis, en inlita porticus auro Certatim

radiant, &c. Calphurn. vii.]

In the midst of this glittering pageantry, the emperor Carinus, secure

of his fortune, enjoyed the acclamations of the people, the flattery

of his courtiers, and the songs of the poets, who, for want of a more essential merit, were reduced to celebrate the divine graces of his

person. [98] In the same hour, but at the distance of nine hundred miles from Rome, his brother expired; and a sudden revolution transferred into the hands of a stranger the sceptre of the house of Carus. [99]

[Footnote 98: Et Martis vultus et Apollinis esse putavi, says calphurnius; but John Malala, who had perhaps seen pictures of Carinus, describes him as thick, short, and white, tom. i. p. 403.]

[Footnote 99: With regard to the time when these Roman games were celebrated, Scaliger, Salmasius, and Cuper have given themselves a great deal of trouble to perplex a very clear subject.]

the sons of Carus never saw each other after their father's death. The arrangements which their new situation required were probably deferred till the return of the younger brother to Rome, where a triumph was decreed to the young emperors for the glorious success of the Persian war. [100] It is uncertain whether they intended to divide between them the administration, or the provinces, of the empire; but it is very

unlikely that their union would have proved of any long duration. the jealousy of power must have been inflamed by the opposition of characters. In the most corrupt of times, Carinus was unworthy to live:

Numerian deserved to reign in a happier period. His affable manners and

gentle virtues secured him, as soon as they became known, the regard and affections of the public. He possessed the elegant accomplishments of a poet and orator, which dignify as well as adorn the humblest and the

most exalted station. His eloquence, however it was applauded by the

senate, was formed not so much on the model of Cicero, as on that of the modern declaimers; but in an age very far from being destitute of

poetical merit, he contended for the prize with the most celebrated

of his contemporaries, and still remained the friend of his rivals; a circumstance which evinces either the goodness of his heart, or the

superiority of his genius. [101] But the talents of Numerian were

rather of the contemplative than of the active kind. When his father's elevation reluctantly forced him from the shade of retirement, neither

his temper nor his pursuits had qualified him for the command of armies.

His constitution was destroyed by the hardships of the Persian war; and

he had contracted, from the heat of the climate, [102] such a weakness

in his eyes, as obliged him, in the course of a long retreat, to confine

himself to the solitude and darkness of a tent or litter.

the administration of all affairs, civil as well as military, was devolved on Arrius Aper, the Praetorian praefect, who to the power of

his important office added the honor of being father-in-law to Numerian. the Imperial pavilion was strictly guarded by his most trusty adherents; and during many days, Aper delivered to the army the supposed mandates

of their invisible sovereign. [103]

[Footnote 100: Nemesianus (in the Cynegeticon) seems to anticipate in

his fancy that auspicious day.]

[Footnote 101: He won all the crowns from Nemesianus, with whom he vied

in didactic poetry. The senate erected a statue to the son of Carus, with a very ambiguous inscription, "To the most powerful of orators."

See Vopiscus in Hist. August. p. 251.]

[Footnote 102: A more natural cause, at least, than that assigned by

Vopiscus, (Hist. August. p. 251,) incessantly weeping for his father's death.]

[Footnote 103: In the Persian war, Aper was suspected of a design to betray Carus. Hist. August. p. 250.]

It was not till eight months after the death of Carus, that the Roman army, returning by slow marches from the banks of the Tigris, arrived

on those of the Thracian Bosphorus. The legions halted at Chalcedon in asia, while the court passed over to Heraclea, on the European side of the Propontis. [104] But a report soon circulated through the camp, at first in secret whispers, and at length in loud clamors, of the emperor's death, and of the presumption of his ambitious minister, who

still exercised the sovereign power in the name of a prince who was no

more. The impatience of the soldiers could not long support a state of

suspense. With rude curiosity they broke into the Imperial tent, and discovered only the corpse of Numerian. [105] The gradual decline of his

health might have induced them to believe that his death was natural; but the concealment was interpreted as an evidence of guilt, and the measures which Aper had taken to secure his election became the

immediate occasion of his ruin Yet, even in the transport of their rage and grief, the troops observed a regular proceeding, which proves how firmly discipline had been reestablished by the martial successors of

Gallienus. A general assembly of the army was appointed to be held at chalcedon, whither Aper was transported in chains, as a prisoner and a criminal. A vacant tribunal was erected in the midst of the camp, and the generals and tribunes formed a great military council. They soon announced to the multitude that their choice had fallen on Diocletian, commander of the domestics or body-guards, as the person the most capable of revenging and succeeding their beloved emperor. The future fortunes of the candidate depended on the chance or conduct of the

present hour. Conscious that the station which he had filled exposed him to some suspicions, Diocletian ascended the tribunal, and raising his eyes towards the Sun, made a solemn profession of his own innocence, in the presence of that all-seeing Deity. [106] Then, assuming the tone of a sovereign and a judge, he commanded that Aper should be brought

in chains to the foot of the tribunal. "This man," said he, "is the

murderer of Numerian;" and without giving him time to enter on a dangerous justification, drew his sword, and buried it in the breast of the unfortunate praefect. A charge supported by such decisive proof was admitted without contradiction, and the legions, with repeated acclamations, acknowledged the justice and authority of the emperor diocletian. [107]

[Footnote 104: We are obliged to the Alexandrian Chronicle, p. 274, for the knowledge of the time and place where Diocletian was elected emperor.]

[Footnote 105: Hist. August. p. 251. Eutrop. ix. 88. Hieronym. in Chron. according to these judicious writers, the death of Numerian was discovered by the stench of his dead body. Could no aromatics be found

in the Imperial household?]

[Footnote 106: Aurel. Victor. Eutropius, ix. 20. Hieronym. in Chron.]

[Footnote 107: Vopiscus in Hist. August. p. 252. The reason why diocletian killed Aper, (a wild boar,) was founded on a prophecy and a

pun, as foolish as they are well known.]

before we enter upon the memorable reign of that prince, it will be

proper to punish and dismiss the unworthy brother of Numerian. Carinus

possessed arms and treasures sufficient to support his legal title to the empire. But his personal vices overbalanced every advantage of birth and situation. The most faithful servants of the father despised the

incapacity, and dreaded the cruel arrogance, of the son. The hearts of the people were engaged in favor of his rival, and even the senate was inclined to prefer a usurper to a tyrant. The arts of Diocletian

inflamed the general discontent; and the winter was employed in secret

intrigues, and open preparations for a civil war. In the spring, the forces of the East and of the West encountered each other in the plains

of Margus, a small city of Maesia, in the neighborhood of the Danube.

[108] The troops, so lately returned from the Persian war, had acquired their glory at the expense of health and numbers; nor were they in a condition to contend with the unexhausted strength of the legions of europe. Their ranks were broken, and, for a moment, Diocletian despaired

of the purple and of life. But the advantage which Carinus had obtained by the valor of his soldiers, he quickly lost by the infidelity of his

officers. A tribune, whose wife he had seduced, seized the opportunity

of revenge, and, by a single blow, extinguished civil discord in the blood of the adulterer. [109]

[Footnote 108: Eutropius marks its situation very accurately; it was between the Mons Aureus and Viminiacum. M. d'Anville (Geographic ancienne, tom. i. p. 304) places Margus at Kastolatz in Servia, a little below Belgrade and Semendria. \* Note: Kullieza--Eton Atlas--M.]

[Footnote 109: Hist. August. p. 254. Eutropius, ix. 20. Aurelius Victor et Epitome]

chapter XIII: Reign Of Diocletian And This Three Associates.--Part I.

The Reign Of Diocletian And His Three Associates, Maximian,

Galerius, And Constantius.--General Reestablishment Of

Order And Tranquillity.--The Persian War, Victory, And

Triumph.--The New Form Of Administration.--Abdication And

Retirement Of Diocletian And Maximian.

as the reign of Diocletian was more illustrious than that of any of

his predecessors, so was his birth more abject and obscure. The strong claims of merit and of violence had frequently superseded the ideal

prerogatives of nobility; but a distinct line of separation was hitherto

preserved between the free and the servile part of mankind. The parents

of Diocletian had been slaves in the house of Anulinus, a Roman senator;

nor was he himself distinguished by any other name than that which he derived from a small town in Dalmatia, from whence his mother deduced

her origin. [1] It is, however, probable that his father obtained the freedom of the family, and that he soon acquired an office of scribe, which was commonly exercised by persons of his condition. [2] Favorable

oracles, or rather the consciousness of superior merit, prompted his aspiring son to pursue the profession of arms and the hopes of fortune; and it would be extremely curious to observe the gradation of arts and accidents which enabled him in the end to fulfil those oracles, and to display that merit to the world. Diocletian was successively promoted to the government of Maesia, the honors of the consulship, and the

important command of the guards of the palace. He distinguished his abilities in the Persian war; and after the death of Numerian, the

slave, by the confession and judgment of his rivals, was declared the

most worthy of the Imperial throne. The malice of religious zeal, whilst it arraigns the savage fierceness of his colleague Maximian,

has affected to cast suspicions on the personal courage of the emperor diocletian. [3] It would not be easy to persuade us of the cowardice of a

soldier of fortune, who acquired and preserved the esteem of the legions as well as the favor of so many warlike princes. Yet even calumny is

sagacious enough to discover and to attack the most vulnerable part. The

valor of Diocletian was never found inadequate to his duty, or to the

occasion; but he appears not to have possessed the daring and generous

spirit of a hero, who courts danger and fame, disdains artifice, and boldly challenges the allegiance of his equals. His abilities were

useful rather than splendid; a vigorous mind, improved by the experience and study of mankind; dexterity and application in business; a judicious

mixture of liberality and economy, of mildness and rigor; profound dissimulation, under the disguise of military frankness; steadiness to pursue his ends; flexibility to vary his means; and, above all, the

great art of submitting his own passions, as well as those of others, to the interest of his ambition, and of coloring his ambition with the

most specious pretences of justice and public utility. Like Augustus, diocletian may be considered as the founder of a new empire. Like the adopted son of Caesar, he was distinguished as a statesman rather than as a warrior; nor did either of those princes employ force, whenever their purpose could be effected by policy.

[Footnote 1: Eutrop. ix. 19. Victor in Epitome. The town seems to have been properly called Doclia, from a small tribe of Illyrians, (see cellarius, Geograph. Antiqua, tom. i. p. 393;) and the original name of the fortunate slave was probably Docles; he first lengthened it to the Grecian harmony of Diocles, and at length to the Roman majesty of diocletianus. He likewise assumed the Patrician name of Valerius and it

is usually given him by Aurelius Victor.]

[Footnote 2: See Dacier on the sixth satire of the second book of Horace cornel. Nepos, 'n Vit. Eumen. c. l.]

[Footnote 3: Lactantius (or whoever was the author of the little treatise De Mortibus Persecutorum) accuses Diocletian of timidity in two places, c. 7. 8. In chap. 9 he says of him, "erat in omni tumultu

meticulosu et animi disjectus."]

the victory of Diocletian was remarkable for its singular mildness. A

people accustomed to applaud the clemency of the conqueror, if the usual

punishments of death, exile, and confiscation, were inflicted with any degree of temper and equity, beheld, with the most pleasing astonishment, a civil war, the flames of which were extinguished in the field of battle. Diocletian received into his confidence Aristobulus, the principal minister of the house of Carus, respected the lives, the fortunes, and the dignity, of his adversaries, and even continued in their respective stations the greater number of the servants of Carinus.

[4] It is not improbable that motives of prudence might assist the

humanity of the artful Dalmatian; of these servants, many had purchased

his favor by secret treachery; in others, he esteemed their grateful fidelity to an unfortunate master. The discerning judgment of Aurelian,

of Probus, and of Carus, had filled the several departments of the

state and army with officers of approved merit, whose removal would

have injured the public service, without promoting the interest of his

successor. Such a conduct, however, displayed to the Roman world the fairest prospect of the new reign, and the emperor affected to confirm this favorable prepossession, by declaring, that, among all the virtues

of his predecessors, he was the most ambitious of imitating the humane

philosophy of Marcus Antoninus. [5]

[Footnote 4: In this encomium, Aurelius Victor seems to convey a just, though indirect, censure of the cruelty of Constantius. It appears from the Fasti, that Aristobulus remained praefect of the city, and that

he ended with Diocletian the consulship which he had commenced with carinus.]

[Footnote 5: Aurelius Victor styles Diocletian, "Parentum potius quam dominum." See Hist. August. p. 30.]

the first considerable action of his reign seemed to evince his

sincerity as well as his moderation. After the example of Marcus, he

gave himself a colleague in the person of Maximian, on whom he bestowed at first the title of Caesar, and afterwards that of Augustus. [6] But the motives of his conduct, as well as the object of his choice, were

of a very different nature from those of his admired predecessor. By

investing a luxurious youth with the honors of the purple, Marcus had discharged a debt of private gratitude, at the expense, indeed, of the

happiness of the state. By associating a friend and a fellow-soldier to the labors of government, Diocletian, in a time of public danger,

provided for the defence both of the East and of the West. Maximian was born a peasant, and, like Aurelian, in the territory of Sirmium.

Ignorant of letters, [7] careless of laws, the rusticity of his appearance and manners still betrayed in the most elevated fortune the

meanness of his extraction. War was the only art which he professed. In a long course of service, he had distinguished himself on every frontier

of the empire; and though his military talents were formed to obey

rather than to command, though, perhaps, he never attained the skill

of a consummate general, he was capable, by his valor, constancy, and experience, of executing the most arduous undertakings. Nor were the

vices of Maximian less useful to his benefactor. Insensible to pity, and fearless of consequences, he was the ready instrument of every act of cruelty which the policy of that artful prince might at once suggest and disclaim. As soon as a bloody sacrifice had been offered to prudence

or to revenge, Diocletian, by his seasonable intercession, saved the

remaining few whom he had never designed to punish, gently censured the

severity of his stern colleague, and enjoyed the comparison of a golden and an iron age, which was universally applied to their opposite maxims

of government. Notwithstanding the difference of their characters, the two emperors maintained, on the throne, that friendship which they

had contracted in a private station. The haughty, turbulent spirit of

Maximian, so fatal, afterwards, to himself and to the public peace, was accustomed to respect the genius of Diocletian, and confessed the ascendant of reason over brutal violence. [8] From a motive either of

pride or superstition, the two emperors assumed the titles, the one of

Jovius, the other of Herculius. Whilst the motion of the world (such was the language of their venal orators) was maintained by the all-seeing wisdom of Jupiter, the invincible arm of Hercules purged the earth from

monsters and tyrants. [9]

[Footnote 6: The question of the time when Maximian received the honors

of Caesar and Augustus has divided modern critics, and given occasion to a great deal of learned wrangling. I have followed M. de Tillemont,

(Histoire des Empereurs, tom. iv. p. 500-505,) who has weighed the

several reasons and difficulties with his scrupulous accuracy. \*

Note: Eckbel concurs in this view, viii p. 15.--M.]

[Footnote 7: In an oration delivered before him, (Panegyr. Vet. ii. 8,)

Mamertinus expresses a doubt, whether his hero, in imitating the conduct

of Hannibal and Scipio, had ever heard of their names. From thence we

may fairly infer, that Maximian was more desirous of being considered as a soldier than as a man of letters; and it is in this manner that we can

often translate the language of flattery into that of truth.]

[Footnote 8: Lactantius de M. P. c. 8. Aurelius Victor. As among the

Panegyrics, we find orations pronounced in praise of Maximian, and

others which flatter his adversaries at his expense, we derive some

knowledge from the contrast.]

[Footnote 9: See the second and third Panegyrics, particularly iii.

3, 10, 14 but it would be tedious to copy the diffuse and affected expressions of their false eloquence. With regard to the titles, consult aurel. Victor Lactantius de M. P. c. 52. Spanheim de Usu Numismatum, &c.

xii 8.]

but even the omnipotence of Jovius and Herculius was insufficient to sustain the weight of the public administration. The prudence of diocletian discovered that the empire, assailed on every side by the barbarians, required on every side the presence of a great army, and of an emperor. With this view, he resolved once more to divide his unwieldy

power, and with the inferior title of Caesars, [901] to confer on two

generals of approved merit an unequal share of the sovereign authority.

[10] Galerius, surnamed Armentarius, from his original profession of a

herdsman, and Constantius, who from his pale complexion had acquired the denomination of Chlorus, [11] were the two persons invested with the second honors of the Imperial purple. In describing the country, extraction, and manners of Herculius, we have already delineated those

of Galerius, who was often, and not improperly, styled the younger

Maximian, though, in many instances both of virtue and ability, he appears to have possessed a manifest superiority over the elder. The birth of Constantius was less obscure than that of his colleagues. eutropius, his father, was one of the most considerable nobles of dardania, and his mother was the niece of the emperor Claudius. [12] although the youth of Constantius had been spent in arms, he was endowed with a mild and amiable disposition, and the popular voice had long

since acknowledged him worthy of the rank which he at last attained. To

strengthen the bonds of political, by those of domestic, union, each of the emperors assumed the character of a father to one of the Caesars, diocletian to Galerius, and Maximian to Constantius; and each, obliging them to repudiate their former wives, bestowed his daughter in marriage

or his adopted son. [13] These four princes distributed among themselves the wide extent of the Roman empire. The defence of Gaul, Spain, [14] and Britain, was intrusted to Constantius: Galerius was stationed on the banks of the Danube, as the safeguard of the Illyrian provinces. Italy and Africa were considered as the department of Maximian; and for

his peculiar portion, Diocletian reserved Thrace, Egypt, and the rich countries of Asia. Every one was sovereign with his own jurisdiction; but their united authority extended over the whole monarchy, and each

of them was prepared to assist his colleagues with his counsels or

presence. The Caesars, in their exalted rank, revered the majesty of the emperors, and the three younger princes invariably acknowledged, by their gratitude and obedience, the common parent of their fortunes. The

suspicious jealousy of power found not any place among them; and the

singular happiness of their union has been compared to a chorus of

music, whose harmony was regulated and maintained by the skilful hand of the first artist. [15]

[Footnote 901: On the relative power of the Augusti and the Caesars, consult a dissertation at the end of Manso's Leben Constantius des

Grossen--M.]

[Footnote 10: Aurelius Victor. Victor in Epitome. Eutrop. ix. 22.

Lactant de M. P. c. 8. Hieronym. in Chron.]

[Footnote 11: It is only among the modern Greeks that Tillemont can discover his appellation of Chlorus. Any remarkable degree of paleness

seems inconsistent with the rubor mentioned in Panegyric, v. 19.]

[Footnote 12: Julian, the grandson of Constantius, boasts that his family was derived from the warlike Maesians. Misopogon, p. 348. The dardanians dwelt on the edge of Maesia.]

[Footnote 13: Galerius married Valeria, the daughter of Diocletian;

if we speak with strictness, Theodora, the wife of Constantius, was daughter only to the wife of Maximian. Spanheim, Dissertat, xi. 2.]

[Footnote 14: This division agrees with that of the four praefectures;

yet there is some reason to doubt whether Spain was not a province of

Maximian. See Tillemont, tom. iv. p. 517. \* Note: According to Aurelius

Victor and other authorities, Thrace belonged to the division of

Galerius. See Tillemont, iv. 36. But the laws of Diocletian are in

general dated in Illyria or Thrace.--M.]

[Footnote 15: Julian in Caesarib. p. 315. Spanheim's notes to the French translation, p. 122.]

this important measure was not carried into execution till about six

years after the association of Maximian, and that interval of time had

not been destitute of memorable incidents. But we have preferred, for the sake of perspicuity, first to describe the more perfect form of diocletian's government, and afterwards to relate the actions of his

reign, following rather the natural order of the events, than the dates

of a very doubtful chronology.

the first exploit of Maximian, though it is mentioned in a few words by

our imperfect writers, deserves, from its singularity, to be recorded

in a history of human manners. He suppressed the peasants of Gaul, who, under the appellation of Bagaudae, [16] had risen in a general

insurrection; very similar to those which in the fourteenth century

successively afflicted both France and England. [17] It should seem that

very many of those institutions, referred by an easy solution to the feudal system, are derived from the Celtic barbarians. When Caesar

subdued the Gauls, that great nation was already divided into three

orders of men; the clergy, the nobility, and the common people. The first governed by superstition, the second by arms, but the third and

last was not of any weight or account in their public councils. It was

very natural for the plebeians, oppressed by debt, or apprehensive of

injuries, to implore the protection of some powerful chief, who acquired

over their persons and property the same absolute right as, among the

Greeks and Romans, a master exercised over his slaves. [18] The greatest

part of the nation was gradually reduced into a state of servitude; compelled to perpetual labor on the estates of the Gallic nobles, and confined to the soil, either by the real weight of fetters, or by the no

less cruel and forcible restraints of the laws. During the long series

of troubles which agitated Gaul, from the reign of Gallienus to that

of Diocletian, the condition of these servile peasants was peculiarly

miserable; and they experienced at once the complicated tyranny of their

masters, of the barbarians, of the soldiers, and of the officers of the revenue. [19]

[Footnote 16: The general name of Bagaudoe (in the signification of

rebels) continued till the fifth century in Gaul. Some critics derive it from a Celtic word Bagad, a tumultuous assembly. Scaliger ad Euseb. Du cange Glossar. (Compare S. Turner, Anglo-Sax. History, i. 214.--M.)]

[Footnote 17: Chronique de Froissart, vol. i. c. 182, ii. 73, 79. The

naivete of his story is lost in our best modern writers.]

[Footnote 18: Caesar de Bell. Gallic. vi. 13. Orgetorix, the Helvetian, could arm for his defence a body of ten thousand slaves.]

[Footnote 19: Their oppression and misery are acknowledged by Eumenius

(Panegyr. vi. 8,) Gallias efferatas injuriis.]

their patience was at last provoked into despair. On every side they

rose in multitudes, armed with rustic weapons, and with irresistible fury. The ploughman became a foot soldier, the shepherd mounted on

horseback, the deserted villages and open towns were abandoned to the flames, and the ravages of the peasants equalled those of the fiercest barbarians. [20] They asserted the natural rights of men, but they asserted those rights with the most savage cruelty. The Gallic nobles,

justly dreading their revenge, either took refuge in the fortified cities, or fled from the wild scene of anarchy. The peasants reigned without control; and two of their most daring leaders had the folly and

rashness to assume the Imperial ornaments. [21] Their power soon expired at the approach of the legions. The strength of union and discipline

obtained an easy victory over a licentious and divided multitude. [22] A

severe retaliation was inflicted on the peasants who were found in arms; the affrighted remnant returned to their respective habitations, and their unsuccessful effort for freedom served only to confirm their

slavery. So strong and uniform is the current of popular passions, that we might almost venture, from very scanty materials, to relate the

particulars of this war; but we are not disposed to believe that the

principal leaders, Aelianus and Amandus, were Christians, [23] or to

insinuate, that the rebellion, as it happened in the time of Luther, was

occasioned by the abuse of those benevolent principles of Christianity, which inculcate the natural freedom of mankind.

[Footnote 20: Panegyr. Vet. ii. 4. Aurelius Victor.]

[Footnote 21: Aelianus and Amandus. We have medals coined by them

Goltzius in Thes. R. A. p. 117, 121.]

[Footnote 22: Levibus proeliis domuit. Eutrop. ix. 20.]

[Footnote 23: The fact rests indeed on very slight authority, a life of

St. Babolinus, which is probably of the seventh century. See Duchesne

Scriptores Rer. Francicar. tom. i. p. 662.]

Maximian had no sooner recovered Gaul from the hands of the peasants, than he lost Britain by the usurpation of Carausius. Ever since the rash but successful enterprise of the Franks under the reign of Probus, their daring countrymen had constructed squadrons of light brigantines, in which they incessantly ravaged the provinces adjacent to the ocean. [24] to repel their desultory incursions, it was found necessary to create a

naval power; and the judicious measure was prosecuted with prudence and

vigor. Gessoriacum, or Boulogne, in the straits of the British Channel, was chosen by the emperor for the station of the Roman fleet; and the command of it was intrusted to Carausius, a Menapian of the meanest

origin, [25] but who had long signalized his skill as a pilot, and his

valor as a soldier. The integrity of the new admiral corresponded

not with his abilities. When the German pirates sailed from their own

harbors, he connived at their passage, but he diligently intercepted their return, and appropriated to his own use an ample share of the

spoil which they had acquired. The wealth of Carausius was, on this

occasion, very justly considered as an evidence of his guilt; and

Maximian had already given orders for his death. But the crafty Menapian foresaw and prevented the severity of the emperor. By his liberality he

had attached to his fortunes the fleet which he commanded, and secured the barbarians in his interest. From the port of Boulogne he sailed over to Britain, persuaded the legion, and the auxiliaries which guarded that

island, to embrace his party, and boldly assuming, with the Imperial

purple, the title of Augustus defied the justice and the arms of his

injured sovereign. [26]

[Footnote 24: Aurelius Victor calls them Germans. Eutropius (ix. 21)

gives them the name of Saxons. But Eutropius lived in the ensuing century, and seems to use the language of his own times.]

[Footnote 25: The three expressions of Eutropius, Aurelius Victor, and eumenius, "vilissime natus," "Bataviae alumnus," and "Menapiae civis,"

give us a very doubtful account of the birth of Carausius. Dr. Stukely,

however, (Hist. of Carausius, p. 62,) chooses to make him a native of

St. David's and a prince of the blood royal of Britain. The former idea

he had found in Richard of Cirencester, p. 44. \* Note: The Menapians were settled between the Scheldt and the Meuse, is the northern part of brabant. D'Anville, Geogr. Anc. i. 93.--G.]

[Footnote 26: Panegyr. v. 12. Britain at this time was secure, and

slightly guarded.]

when Britain was thus dismembered from the empire, its importance was

sensibly felt, and its loss sincerely lamented. The Romans celebrated, and perhaps magnified, the extent of that noble island, provided on every side with convenient harbors; the temperature of the climate, and the fertility of the soil, alike adapted for the production of corn

or of vines; the valuable minerals with which it abounded; its rich

pastures covered with innumerable flocks, and its woods free from wild beasts or venomous serpents. Above all, they regretted the large amount

of the revenue of Britain, whilst they confessed, that such a province well deserved to become the seat of an independent monarchy. [27] During the space of seven years it was possessed by Carausius; and fortune continued propitious to a rebellion supported with courage and ability. the British emperor defended the frontiers of his dominions against the caledonians of the North, invited, from the continent, a great number

of skilful artists, and displayed, on a variety of coins that are still extant, his taste and opulence. Born on the confines of the Franks,

he courted the friendship of that formidable people, by the flattering

imitation of their dress and manners. The bravest of their youth he enlisted among his land or sea forces; and, in return for their useful alliance, he communicated to the barbarians the dangerous knowledge of

military and naval arts. Carausius still preserved the possession of boulogne and the adjacent country. His fleets rode triumphant in the channel, commanded the mouths of the Seine and of the Rhine, ravaged the coasts of the ocean, and diffused beyond the columns of Hercules the terror of his name. Under his command, Britain, destined in a future age to obtain the empire of the sea, already assumed its natural and

respectable station of a maritime power. [28]

[Footnote 27: Panegyr. Vet v 11, vii. 9. The orator Eumenius wished to exalt the glory of the hero (Constantius) with the importance of the conquest. Notwithstanding our laudable partiality for our native country, it is difficult to conceive, that, in the beginning of the fourth century England deserved all these commendations. A century and a

half before, it hardly paid its own establishment.]

[Footnote 28: As a great number of medals of Carausius are still

preserved, he is become a very favorite object of antiquarian curiosity, and every circumstance of his life and actions has been investigated with sagacious accuracy. Dr. Stukely, in particular, has devoted a large

volume to the British emperor. I have used his materials, and rejected

most of his fanciful conjectures.]

by seizing the fleet of Boulogne, Carausius had deprived his master of the means of pursuit and revenge. And when, after a vast expense of time and labor, a new armament was launched into the water, [29] the Imperial troops, unaccustomed to that element, were easily baffled and defeated by the veteran sailors of the usurper. This disappointed effort was

soon productive of a treaty of peace. Diocletian and his colleague, who

justly dreaded the enterprising spirit of Carausius, resigned to him the sovereignty of Britain, and reluctantly admitted their perfidious

servant to a participation of the Imperial honors. [30] But the adoption

of the two Caesars restored new vigor to the Romans arms; and while the Rhine was guarded by the presence of Maximian, his brave associate constantius assumed the conduct of the British war. His first enterprise was against the important place of Boulogne. A stupendous mole, raised across the entrance of the harbor, intercepted all hopes of relief. The town surrendered after an obstinate defence; and a considerable part of the naval strength of Carausius fell into the hands of the besiegers. during the three years which Constantius employed in preparing a fleet adequate to the conquest of Britain, he secured the coast of Gaul,

invaded the country of the Franks, and deprived the usurper of the assistance of those powerful allies.

[Footnote 29: When Mamertinus pronounced his first panegyric, the naval

preparations of Maximian were completed; and the orator presaged an assured victory. His silence in the second panegyric might alone inform

us that the expedition had not succeeded.]

[Footnote 30: Aurelius Victor, Eutropius, and the medals, (Pax Augg.)

inform us of this temporary reconciliation; though I will not presume

(as Dr. Stukely has done, Medallic History of Carausius, p. 86, &c) to

insert the identical articles of the treaty.]

before the preparations were finished, Constantius received the

intelligence of the tyrant's death, and it was considered as a sure

presage of the approaching victory. The servants of Carausius imitated the example of treason which he had given. He was murdered by his first

minister, Allectus, and the assassin succeeded to his power and to his danger. But he possessed not equal abilities either to exercise the one

or to repel the other.

He beheld, with anxious terror, the opposite shores of the continent already filled with arms, with troops, and with vessels; for Constantius

had very prudently divided his forces, that he might likewise divide the attention and resistance of the enemy. The attack was at length made by the principal squadron, which, under the command of the praefect asclepiodatus, an officer of distinguished merit, had been assembled

in the north of the Seine. So imperfect in those times was the art

of navigation, that orators have celebrated the daring courage of the

Romans, who ventured to set sail with a side-wind, and on a stormy day. the weather proved favorable to their enterprise. Under the cover of a thick fog, they escaped the fleet of Allectus, which had been stationed

off the Isle of Wight to receive them, landed in safety on some part

of the western coast, and convinced the Britons, that a superiority

of naval strength will not always protect their country from a foreign

invasion. Asclepiodatus had no sooner disembarked the imperial troops, then he set fire to his ships; and, as the expedition proved fortunate,

his heroic conduct was universally admired. The usurper had posted

himself near London, to expect the formidable attack of Constantius, who commanded in person the fleet of Boulogne; but the descent of a new enemy required his immediate presence in the West. He performed this

long march in so precipitate a manner, that he encountered the whole force of the praefect with a small body of harassed and disheartened troops. The engagement was soon terminated by the total defeat and death

of Allectus; a single battle, as it has often happened, decided the fate

of this great island; and when Constantius landed on the shores of Kent,

he found them covered with obedient subjects. Their acclamations were

loud and unanimous; and the virtues of the conqueror may induce us to believe, that they sincerely rejoiced in a revolution, which, after a separation of ten years, restored Britain to the body of the Roman empire. [31]

[Footnote 31: With regard to the recovery of Britain, we obtain a few

hints from Aurelius Victor and Eutropius.]

chapter XIII: Reign Of Diocletian And This Three Associates.--Part II.

britain had none but domestic enemies to dread; and as long as the

governors preserved their fidelity, and the troops their discipline, the incursions of the naked savages of Scotland or Ireland could never

materially affect the safety of the province.

the peace of the continent, and the defence of the principal rivers which bounded the empire, were objects of far greater difficulty and

importance. The policy of Diocletian, which inspired the councils of his associates, provided for the public tranquility, by encouraging a

spirit of dissension among the barbarians, and by strengthening the fortifications of the Roman limit. In the East he fixed a line of camps from Egypt to the Persian dominions, and for every camp, he instituted an adequate number of stationary troops, commanded by their respective

officers, and supplied with every kind of arms, from the new arsenals which he had formed at Antioch, Emesa, and Damascus. [32] Nor was the

precaution of the emperor less watchful against the well-known valor

of the barbarians of Europe. From the mouth of the Rhine to that of the Danube, the ancient camps, towns, and citidels, were diligently

reestablished, and, in the most exposed places, new ones were skilfully constructed: the strictest vigilance was introduced among the garrisons

of the frontier, and every expedient was practised that could render the long chain of fortifications firm and impenetrable. [33] A barrier so

respectable was seldom violated, and the barbarians often turned against each other their disappointed rage. The Goths, the Vandals, the

Gepidae, the Burgundians, the Alemanni, wasted each other's strength by destructive hostilities: and whosoever vanquished, they vanquished the enemies of Rome. The subjects of Diocletian enjoyed the bloody

spectacle, and congratulated each other, that the mischiefs of civil war were now experienced only by the barbarians. [34]

[Footnote 32: John Malala, in Chron, Antiochen. tom. i. p. 408, 409.]

[Footnote 33: Zosim. l. i. p. 3. That partial historian seems to celebrate the vigilance of Diocletian with a design of exposing the

negligence of Constantine; we may, however, listen to an orator: "Nam

quid ego alarum et cohortium castra percenseam, toto Rheni et Istri et euphraus limite restituta." Panegyr. Vet. iv. 18.]

[Footnote 34: Ruunt omnes in sanguinem suum populi, quibus ron contigilesse Romanis, obstinataeque feritatis poenas nunc sponte

persolvunt. Panegyr. Vet. iii. 16. Mamertinus illustrates the fact by the example of almost all the nations in the world.]

Notwithstanding the policy of Diocletian, it was impossible to maintain an equal and undisturbed tranquillity during a reign of twenty years, and along a frontier of many hundred miles. Sometimes the barbarians

suspended their domestic animosities, and the relaxed vigilance of the garrisons sometimes gave a passage to their strength or dexterity. whenever the provinces were invaded, Diocletian conducted himself with that calm dignity which he always affected or possessed; reserved his

presence for such occasions as were worthy of his interposition, never exposed his person or reputation to any unnecessary danger, insured his

success by every means that prudence could suggest, and displayed, with ostentation, the consequences of his victory. In wars of a more difficult nature, and more doubtful event, he employed the rough valor

of Maximian; and that faithful soldier was content to ascribe his

own victories to the wise counsels and auspicious influence of his benefactor. But after the adoption of the two Caesars, the emperors themselves, retiring to a less laborious scene of action, devolved

on their adopted sons the defence of the Danube and of the Rhine. The

vigilant Galerius was never reduced to the necessity of vanquishing an army of barbarians on the Roman territory. [35] The brave and active contsantius delivered Gaul from a very furious inroad of the Alemanni; and his victories of Langres and Vindonissa appear to have been actions

of considerable danger and merit. As he traversed the open country with a feeble guard, he was encompassed on a sudden by the superior multitude

of the enemy. He retreated with difficulty towards Langres; but, in the

general consternation, the citizens refused to open their gates, and the wounded prince was drawn up the wall by the means of a rope. But, on the

news of his distress, the Roman troops hastened from all sides to his

relief, and before the evening he had satisfied his honor and revenge by the slaughter of six thousand Alemanni. [36] From the monuments of those times, the obscure traces of several other victories over the barbarians

of Sarmatia and Germany might possibly be collected; but the tedious

search would not be rewarded either with amusement or with instruction.

[Footnote 35: He complained, though not with the strictest truth,

"Jam fluxisse annos quindecim in quibus, in Illyrico, ad ripam Danubii

relegatus cum gentibus barbaris luctaret." Lactant. de M. P. c. 18.]

[Footnote 36: In the Greek text of Eusebius, we read six thousand, a

number which I have preferred to the sixty thousand of Jerome, Orosius eutropius, and his Greek translator Paeanius.]

the conduct which the emperor Probus had adopted in the disposal of the

vanquished, was imitated by Diocletian and his associates. The captive barbarians, exchanging death for slavery, were distributed among the

provincials, and assigned to those districts (in Gaul, the territories

of Amiens, Beauvais, Cambray, Treves, Langres, and Troyes, are

particularly specified [37] which had been depopulated by the calamities

of war. They were usefully employed as shepherds and husbandmen, but were denied the exercise of arms, except when it was found expedient to enroll them in the military service. Nor did the emperors refuse the

property of lands, with a less servile tenure, to such of the barbarians as solicited the protection of Rome. They granted a settlement to

several colonies of the Carpi, the Bastarnae, and the Sarmatians; and, by a dangerous indulgence, permitted them in some measure to retain their national manners and independence. [38] Among the provincials, it was a subject of flattering exultation, that the barbarian, so lately an

object of terror, now cultivated their lands, drove their cattle to the

neighboring fair, and contributed by his labor to the public plenty. they congratulated their masters on the powerful accession of subjects and soldiers; but they forgot to observe, that multitudes of secret enemies, insolent from favor, or desperate from oppression, were

introduced into the heart of the empire. [39]

[Footnote 37: Panegyr. Vet. vii. 21.]

[Footnote 38: There was a settlement of the Sarmatians in the

neighborhood of Treves, which seems to have been deserted by those lazy barbarians. Ausonius speaks of them in his Mosella:---- "Unde iter

ingrediens nemorosa per avia solum, Et nulla humani spectans vestigia cultus; ........ Arvaque Sauromatum nuper metata colonis."]

[Footnote 39: There was a town of the Carpi in the Lower Maesia. See the

rhetorical exultation of Eumenius.]

while the Caesars exercised their valor on the banks of the Rhine and Danube, the presence of the emperors was required on the southern confines of the Roman world. From the Nile to Mount Atlas Africa was in arms. A confederacy of five Moorish nations issued from their deserts to invade the peaceful provinces. [40] Julian had assumed the purple at carthage. [41] Achilleus at Alexandria, and even the Blemmyes, renewed,

or rather continued, their incursions into the Upper Egypt. Scarcely any circumstances have been preserved of the exploits of Maximian in the western parts of Africa; but it appears, by the event, that the progress

of his arms was rapid and decisive, that he vanquished the fiercest barbarians of Mauritania, and that he removed them from the mountains, whose inaccessible strength had inspired their inhabitants with a lawless confidence, and habituated them to a life of rapine and

violence. [42] Diocletian, on his side, opened the campaign in Egypt by the siege of Alexandria, cut off the aqueducts which conveyed the waters

of the Nile into every quarter of that immense city, [43] and rendering

his camp impregnable to the sallies of the besieged multitude, he pushed

his reiterated attacks with caution and vigor. After a siege of eight

months, Alexandria, wasted by the sword and by fire, implored the clemency of the conqueror, but it experienced the full extent of his

severity. Many thousands of the citizens perished in a promiscuous

slaughter, and there were few obnoxious persons in Egypt who escaped a

sentence either of death or at least of exile. [44] The fate of Busiris and of Coptos was still more melancholy than that of Alexandria: those

proud cities, the former distinguished by its antiquity, the latter enriched by the passage of the Indian trade, were utterly destroyed by the arms and by the severe order of Diocletian. [45] The character of the egyptian nation, insensible to kindness, but extremely susceptible

of fear, could alone justify this excessive rigor. The seditions of alexandria had often affected the tranquillity and subsistence of Rome

itself. Since the usurpation of Firmus, the province of Upper Egypt,

incessantly relapsing into rebellion, had embraced the alliance of the

savages of Aethiopia. The number of the Blemmyes, scattered between the Island of Meroe and the Red Sea, was very inconsiderable, their disposition was unwarlike, their weapons rude and inoffensive. [46] Yet

in the public disorders, these barbarians, whom antiquity, shocked with the deformity of their figure, had almost excluded from the human

species, presumed to rank themselves among the enemies of Rome. [47] Such

had been the unworthy allies of the Egyptians; and while the attention

of the state was engaged in more serious wars, their vexations inroads

might again harass the repose of the province. With a view of opposing to the Blemmyes a suitable adversary, Diocletian persuaded the Nobatae,

or people of Nubia, to remove from their ancient habitations in the deserts of Libya, and resigned to them an extensive but unprofitable territory above Syene and the cataracts of the Nile, with the

stipulation, that they should ever respect and guard the frontier of the empire. The treaty long subsisted; and till the establishment of christianity introduced stricter notions of religious worship, it was annually ratified by a solemn sacrifice in the Isle of Elephantine, in which the Romans, as well as the barbarians, adored the same visible or

invisible powers of the universe. [48]

[Footnote 40: Scaliger (Animadvers. ad Euseb. p. 243) decides, in his

usual manner, that the Quinque gentiani, or five African nations, were the five great cities, the Pentapolis of the inoffensive province of cyrene.]

[Footnote 41: After his defeat, Julian stabbed himself with a dagger, and immediately leaped into the flames. Victor in Epitome.]

[Footnote 42: Tu ferocissimos Mauritaniae populos inaccessis

montium jugis et naturali munitione fidentes, expugnasti, recepisti, transtulisti. Panegyr Vet. vi. 8.]

[Footnote 43: See the description of Alexandria, in Hirtius de Bel. alexandrin c. 5.]

[Footnote 44: Eutrop. ix. 24. Orosius, vii. 25. John Malala in Chron. antioch. p. 409, 410. Yet Eumenius assures us, that Egypt was pacified by the clemency of Diocletian.]

[Footnote 45: Eusebius (in Chron.) places their destruction several

years sooner and at a time when Egypt itself was in a state of rebellion against the Romans.]

[Footnote 46: Strabo, l. xvii. p. 172. Pomponius Mela, l. i. c. 4.

His words are curious: "Intra, si credere libet vix, homines magisque

semiferi Aegipanes, et Blemmyes, et Satyri."]

[Footnote 47: Ausus sese inserere fortunae et provocare arma Romana.]

[Footnote 48: See Procopius de Bell. Persic. l. i. c. 19. Note: Compare,

on the epoch of the final extirpation of the rites of Paganism from the Isle of Philae, (Elephantine,) which subsisted till the edict of theodosius, in the sixth century, a dissertation of M. Letronne,

on certain Greek inscriptions. The dissertation contains some very

interesting observations on the conduct and policy of Diocletian

in Egypt. Mater pour l'Hist. du Christianisme en Egypte, Nubie et abyssinie, Paris 1817--M.]

at the same time that Diocletian chastised the past crimes of the egyptians, he provided for their future safety and happiness by many wise regulations, which were confirmed and enforced under the succeeding

reigns. [49] One very remarkable edict which he published, instead of being condemned as the effect of jealous tyranny, deserves to be applauded as an act of prudence and humanity. He caused a diligent

inquiry to be made "for all the ancient books which treated of the admirable art of making gold and silver, and without pity, committed them to the flames; apprehensive, as we are assumed, lest the opulence

of the Egyptians should inspire them with confidence to rebel against the empire." [50] But if Diocletian had been convinced of the reality of that valuable art, far from extinguishing the memory, he would have converted the operation of it to the benefit of the public revenue. It

is much more likely, that his good sense discovered to him the folly of

such magnificent pretensions, and that he was desirous of preserving the

reason and fortunes of his subjects from the mischievous pursuit. It may be remarked, that these ancient books, so liberally ascribed to

Pythagoras, to Solomon, or to Hermes, were the pious frauds of more

recent adepts. The Greeks were inattentive either to the use or to the abuse of chemistry. In that immense register, where Pliny has deposited the discoveries, the arts, and the errors of mankind, there is not the

least mention of the transmutation of metals; and the persecution of diocletian is the first authentic event in the history of alchemy. The conquest of Egypt by the Arabs diffused that vain science over the

globe. Congenial to the avarice of the human heart, it was studied in china as in Europe, with equal eagerness, and with equal success. The darkness of the middle ages insured a favorable reception to every tale

of wonder, and the revival of learning gave new vigor to hope, and

suggested more specious arts of deception. Philosophy, with the aid of experience, has at length banished the study of alchemy; and the present age, however desirous of riches, is content to seek them by the humbler

means of commerce and industry. [51]

[Footnote 49: He fixed the public allowance of corn, for the people

of Alexandria, at two millions of medimni; about four hundred thousand

quarters. Chron. Paschal. p. 276 Procop. Hist. Arcan. c. 26.]

[Footnote 50: John Antioch, in Excerp. Valesian. p. 834. Suidas in diocletian.]

[Footnote 51: See a short history and confutation of Alchemy, in the works of that philosophical compiler, La Mothe le Vayer, tom. i. p. 32--353.]

the reduction of Egypt was immediately followed by the Persian war. It was reserved for the reign of Diocletian to vanquish that powerful

nation, and to extort a confession from the successors of Artaxerxes, of the superior majesty of the Roman empire.

we have observed, under the reign of Valerian, that Armenia was subdued by the perfidy and the arms of the Persians, and that, after the assassination of Chosroes, his son Tiridates, the infant heir of the

monarchy, was saved by the fidelity of his friends, and educated under the protection of the emperors. Tiridates derived from his exile such advantages as he could never have obtained on the throne of Armenia; the early knowledge of adversity, of mankind, and of the Roman discipline.

He signalized his youth by deeds of valor, and displayed a matchless dexterity, as well as strength, in every martial exercise, and even in the less honorable contests of the Olympian games. [52] Those qualities were more nobly exerted in the defence of his benefactor Licinius. [53] that officer, in the sedition which occasioned the death of Probus, was exposed to the most imminent danger, and the enraged soldiers were forcing their way into his tent, when they were checked by the single arm of the Armenian prince. The gratitude of Tiridates contributed soon afterwards to his restoration. Licinius was in every station the friend and companion of Galerius, and the merit of Galerius, long before he was raised to the dignity of Caesar, had been known and esteemed by diocletian. In the third year of that emperor's reign Tiridates was

invested with the kingdom of Armenia. The justice of the measure was

not less evident than its expediency. It was time to rescue from the

usurpation of the Persian monarch an important territory, which, since the reign of Nero, had been always granted under the protection of the empire to a younger branch of the house of Arsaces. [54]

[Footnote 52: See the education and strength of Tiridates in the armenian history of Moses of Chorene, l. ii. c. 76. He could seize two wild bulls by the horns, and break them off with his hands.]

[Footnote 53: If we give credit to the younger Victor, who supposes that

in the year 323 Licinius was only sixty years of age, he could scarcely be the same person as the patron of Tiridates; but we know from much better authority, (Euseb. Hist. Ecclesiast. l. x. c. 8,) that Licinius was at that time in the last period of old age: sixteen years before, he

is represented with gray hairs, and as the contemporary of Galerius. See

Lactant. c. 32. Licinius was probably born about the year 250.]

[Footnote 54: See the sixty-second and sixty-third books of Dion cassius.]

when Tiridates appeared on the frontiers of Armenia, he was received with an unfeigned transport of joy and loyalty. During twenty-six years, the country had experienced the real and imaginary hardships of a foreign yoke. The Persian monarchs adorned their new conquest with

magnificent buildings; but those monuments had been erected at the expense of the people, and were abhorred as badges of slavery. The apprehension of a revolt had inspired the most rigorous precautions:

oppression had been aggravated by insult, and the consciousness of the

public hatred had been productive of every measure that could render it

still more implacable. We have already remarked the intolerant spirit of the Magian religion. The statues of the deified kings of Armenia, and the sacred images of the sun and moon, were broke in pieces by the zeal

of the conqueror; and the perpetual fire of Ormuzd was kindled and

preserved upon an altar erected on the summit of Mount Bagavan. [55] It was natural, that a people exasperated by so many injuries, should arm with zeal in the cause of their independence, their religion, and their

hereditary sovereign. The torrent bore down every obstacle, and the

Persian garrisons retreated before its fury. The nobles of Armenia flew to the standard of Tiridates, all alleging their past merit, offering their future service, and soliciting from the new king those honors and

rewards from which they had been excluded with disdain under the foreign

government. [56] The command of the army was bestowed on Artavasdes, whose father had saved the infancy of Tiridates, and whose family had been massacred for that generous action. The brother of Artavasdes

obtained the government of a province. One of the first military dignities was conferred on the satrap Otas, a man of singular temperance and fortitude, who presented to the king his sister [57] and a considerable treasure, both of which, in a sequestered fortress, Otas

had preserved from violation. Among the Armenian nobles appeared an ally, whose fortunes are too remarkable to pass unnoticed. His name was

Mamgo, [571] his origin was Scythian, and the horde which acknowledge his authority had encamped a very few years before on the skirts of the chinese empire, [58] which at that time extended as far as the

neighborhood of Sogdiana. [59] Having incurred the displeasure of his

master, Mamgo, with his followers, retired to the banks of the Oxus, and

implored the protection of Sapor. The emperor of China claimed the fugitive, and alleged the rights of sovereignty. The Persian monarch

pleaded the laws of hospitality, and with some difficulty avoided a war, by the promise that he would banish Mamgo to the uttermost parts of the west, a punishment, as he described it, not less dreadful than death

itself. Armenia was chosen for the place of exile, and a large district was assigned to the Scythian horde, on which they might feed their flocks and herds, and remove their encampment from one place to another, according to the different seasons of the year.

they were employed to repel the invasion of Tiridates; but their leader, after weighing the obligations and injuries which he had received from the Persian monarch, resolved to abandon his party.

the Armenian prince, who was well acquainted with this merit as well as power of Mamgo, treated him with distinguished respect; and, by admitting him into his confidence, acquired a brave and faithful

servant, who contributed very effectually to his restoration. [60]

[Footnote 55: Moses of Chorene. Hist. Armen. l. ii. c. 74. The statues

had been erected by Valarsaces, who reigned in Armenia about 130 years before Christ, and was the first king of the family of Arsaces, (see

Moses, Hist. Armen. l. ii. 2, 3.) The deification of the Arsacides is

mentioned by Justin, (xli. 5,) and by Ammianus Marcellinus, (xxiii. 6.)]

[Footnote 56: The Armenian nobility was numerous and powerful. Moses

mentions many families which were distinguished under the reign of

Valarsaces, (l. ii. 7,) and which still subsisted in his own time, about the middle of the fifth century. See the preface of his Editors.]

[Footnote 57: She was named Chosroiduchta, and had not the os patulum

like other women. (Hist. Armen. l. ii. c. 79.) I do not understand the expression. \* Note: Os patulum signifies merely a large and widely

opening mouth. Ovid (Metam. xv. 513) says, speaking of the monster who attacked Hippolytus, patulo partem maris evomit ore. Probably a wide

mouth was a common defect among the Armenian women.--G.]

[Footnote 571: Mamgo (according to M. St. Martin, note to Le Beau. ii.

213) belonged to the imperial race of Hon, who had filled the throne of china for four hundred years. Dethroned by the usurping race of Wei,

Mamgo found a hospitable reception in Persia in the reign of Ardeschir. the emperor of china having demanded the surrender of the fugitive and

his partisans, Sapor, then king, threatened with war both by Rome and china, counselled Mamgo to retire into Armenia. "I have expelled him from my dominions, (he answered the Chinese ambassador;) I have banished

him to the extremity of the earth, where the sun sets; I have dismissed

him to certain death." Compare Mem. sur l'Armenie, ii. 25.--M.]

[Footnote 58: In the Armenian history, (l. ii. 78,) as well as in the Geography, (p. 367,) China is called Zenia, or Zenastan. It is characterized by the production of silk, by the opulence of the natives, and by their love of peace, above all the other nations of the earth. \*

Note: See St. Martin, Mem. sur l'Armenie, i. 304.]

[Footnote 59: Vou-ti, the first emperor of the seventh dynasty, who then

reigned in China, had political transactions with Fergana, a province

of Sogdiana, and is said to have received a Roman embassy, (Histoire des Huns, tom. i. p. 38.) In those ages the Chinese kept a garrison at

Kashgar, and one of their generals, about the time of Trajan, marched as far as the Caspian Sea. With regard to the intercourse between China and the Western countries, a curious memoir of M. de Guignes may be consulted, in the Academie des Inscriptions, tom. xxii. p. 355. \* Note: the Chinese Annals mention, under the ninth year of Yan-hi, which corresponds with the year 166 J. C., an embassy which arrived from tathsin, and was sent by a prince called An-thun, who can be no other than Marcus Aurelius Antoninus, who then ruled over the Romans. St.

Martin, Mem. sur l'Armaenic. ii. 30. See also Klaproth, Tableaux

Historiques de l'Asie, p. 69. The embassy came by Jy-nan, Tonquin.--M.]

[Footnote 60: See Hist. Armen. l. ii. c. 81.]

for a while, fortune appeared to favor the enterprising valor of tiridates. He not only expelled the enemies of his family and country from the whole extent of Armenia, but in the prosecution of his revenge

he carried his arms, or at least his incursions, into the heart of assyria. The historian, who has preserved the name of Tiridates from

oblivion, celebrates, with a degree of national enthusiasm, his personal

prowess: and, in the true spirit of eastern romance, describes the

giants and the elephants that fell beneath his invincible arm. It is from other information that we discover the distracted state of the

Persian monarchy, to which the king of Armenia was indebted for some

part of his advantages. The throne was disputed by the ambition of contending brothers; and Hormuz, after exerting without success the

strength of his own party, had recourse to the dangerous assistance of the barbarians who inhabited the banks of the Caspian Sea. [61] The civil war was, however, soon terminated, either by a victor or by a

reconciliation; and Narses, who was universally acknowledged as king of

Persia, directed his whole force against the foreign enemy. The contest then became too unequal; nor was the valor of the hero able to withstand the power of the monarch, Tiridates, a second time expelled from the throne of Armenia, once more took refuge in the court of the emperors.

[611] Narses soon reestablished his authority over the revolted province; and loudly complaining of the protection afforded by the Romans to

rebels and fugitives, aspired to the conquest of the East. [62]

[Footnote 61: Ipsos Persas ipsumque Regem ascitis Saccis, et Russis, et

Gellis, petit frater Ormies. Panegyric. Vet. iii. 1. The Saccae were a

nation of wandering Scythians, who encamped towards the sources of the

Oxus and the Jaxartes. The Gelli where the inhabitants of Ghilan, along the Caspian Sea, and who so long, under the name of Dilemines, infested the Persian monarchy. See d'Herbelot, Bibliotheque]

[Footnote 611: M St. Martin represents this differently. Le roi de Perse

\* \* \* profits d'un voyage que Tiridate avoit fait a Rome pour attaquer ce royaume. This reads like the evasion of the national historians to disguise the fact discreditable to their hero. See Mem. sur l'Armenie,

i. 304.--M.]

[Footnote 62: Moses of Chorene takes no notice of this second

revolution, which I have been obliged to collect from a passage of ammianus Marcellinus, (l. xxiii. c. 5.) Lactantius speaks of the ambition of Narses: "Concitatus domesticis exemplis avi sui Saporis ad

occupandum orientem magnis copiis inhiabat." De Mort. Persecut. c. 9.]

Neither prudence nor honor could permit the emperors to forsake the cause of the Armenian king, and it was resolved to exert the force of the empire in the Persian war. Diocletian, with the calm dignity which

he constantly assumed, fixed his own station in the city of Antioch, from whence he prepared and directed the military operations. [63] The conduct of the legions was intrusted to the intrepid valor of Galerius, who, for that important purpose, was removed from the banks of the danube to those of the Euphrates. The armies soon encountered each other

in the plains of Mesopotamia, and two battles were fought with various and doubtful success; but the third engagement was of a more decisive

nature; and the Roman army received a total overthrow, which is attributed to the rashness of Galerius, who, with an inconsiderable body

of troops, attacked the innumerable host of the Persians. [64] But the consideration of the country that was the scene of action, may suggest another reason for his defeat. The same ground on which Galerius was

vanquished, had been rendered memorable by the death of Crassus, and the

slaughter of ten legions. It was a plain of more than sixty miles, which extended from the hills of Carrhae to the Euphrates; a smooth and barren

surface of sandy desert, without a hillock, without a tree, and without a spring of fresh water. [65] The steady infantry of the Romans, fainting with heat and thirst, could neither hope for victory if they preserved their ranks, nor break their ranks without exposing themselves to the

most imminent danger. In this situation they were gradually encompassed by the superior numbers, harassed by the rapid evolutions, and destroyed by the arrows of the barbarian cavalry.

the king of Armenia had signalized his valor in the battle, and acquired

personal glory by the public misfortune. He was pursued as far as the euphrates; his horse was wounded, and it appeared impossible for him to escape the victorious enemy. In this extremity Tiridates embraced the

only refuge which appeared before him: he dismounted and plunged into the stream. His armor was heavy, the river very deep, and at those

parts at least half a mile in breadth; [66] yet such was his strength and dexterity, that he reached in safety the opposite bank. [67] With regard to the Roman general, we are ignorant of the circumstances of his escape; but when he returned to Antioch, Diocletian received him, not with the tenderness of a friend and colleague, but with the indignation

of an offended sovereign. The haughtiest of men, clothed in his purple, but humbled by the sense of his fault and misfortune, was obliged to follow the emperor's chariot above a mile on foot, and to exhibit, before the whole court, the spectacle of his disgrace. [68]

[Footnote 63: We may readily believe, that Lactantius ascribes to cowardice the conduct of Diocletian. Julian, in his oration, says, that he remained with all the forces of the empire; a very hyperbolical expression.]

[Footnote 64: Our five abbreviators, Eutropius, Festus, the two Victors, and Orosius, all relate the last and great battle; but Orosius is the

only one who speaks of the two former.]

[Footnote 65: The nature of the country is finely described by Plutarch,

in the life of Crassus; and by Xenophon, in the first book of the anabasis]

[Footnote 66: See Foster's Dissertation in the second volume of the translation of the Anabasis by Spelman; which I will venture to

recommend as one of the best versions extant.]

[Footnote 67: Hist. Armen. l. ii. c. 76. I have transferred this exploit

of Tiridates from an imaginary defeat to the real one of Galerius.]

[Footnote 68: Ammian. Marcellin. l. xiv. The mile, in the hands of eutropoius, (ix. 24,) of Festus (c. 25,) and of Orosius, (vii 25), easily increased to several miles]

as soon as Diocletian had indulged his private resentment, and asserted the majesty of supreme power, he yielded to the submissive entreaties of the Caesar, and permitted him to retrieve his own honor, as well as that

of the Roman arms. In the room of the unwarlike troops of Asia, which

had most probably served in the first expedition, a second army was drawn from the veterans and new levies of the Illyrian frontier, and a considerable body of Gothic auxiliaries were taken into the Imperial

pay. [69] At the head of a chosen army of twenty-five thousand men,

Galerius again passed the Euphrates; but, instead of exposing his

legions in the open plains of Mesopotamia he advanced through the

mountains of Armenia, where he found the inhabitants devoted to his cause, and the country as favorable to the operations of infantry as it was inconvenient for the motions of cavalry. [70] Adversity had confirmed the Roman discipline, while the barbarians, elated by success, were become so negligent and remiss, that in the moment when they least expected it, they were surprised by the active conduct of Galerius, who, attended only by two horsemen, had with his own eyes secretly examined the state and position of their camp. A surprise, especially in the

night time, was for the most part fatal to a Persian army. "Their horses were tied, and generally shackled, to prevent their running away; and

if an alarm happened, a Persian had his housing to fix, his horse to bridle, and his corselet to put on, before he could mount." [71] On this

occasion, the impetuous attack of Galerius spread disorder and dismay

over the camp of the barbarians. A slight resistance was followed by a dreadful carnage, and, in the general confusion, the wounded monarch

(for Narses commanded his armies in person) fled towards the deserts

of Media. His sumptuous tents, and those of his satraps, afforded an

immense booty to the conqueror; and an incident is mentioned, which

proves the rustic but martial ignorance of the legions in the elegant

superfluities of life. A bag of shining leather, filled with pearls, fell into the hands of a private soldier; he carefully preserved the bag, but he threw away its contents, judging that whatever was of no use could not possibly be of any value. [72] The principal loss of Narses was

of a much more affecting nature. Several of his wives, his sisters, and children, who had attended the army, were made captives in the defeat. but though the character of Galerius had in general very little affinity with that of Alexander, he imitated, after his victory, the amiable behavior of the Macedonian towards the family of Darius. The wives and children of Narses were protected from violence and rapine, conveyed to a place of safety, and treated with every mark of respect and tenderness, that was due from a generous enemy to their age, their sex, and their royal dignity. [73]

[Footnote 69: Aurelius Victor. Jornandes de Rebus Geticis, c. 21.]

[Footnote 70: Aurelius Victor says, "Per Armeniam in hostes contendit,

quae fermo sola, seu facilior vincendi via est." He followed the conduct

of Trajan, and the idea of Julius Caesar.]

[Footnote 71: Xenophon's Anabasis, l. iii. For that reason the Persian cavalry encamped sixty stadia from the enemy.]

[Footnote 72: The story is told by Ammianus, l. xxii. Instead of saccum,

some read scutum.]

[Footnote 73: The Persians confessed the Roman superiority in morals as well as in arms. Eutrop. ix. 24. But this respect and gratitude of enemies is very seldom to be found in their own accounts.]

chapter XIII: Reign Of Diocletian And This Three Associates.--Part III.

while the East anxiously expected the decision of this great contest, the emperor Diocletian, having assembled in Syria a strong army of

observation, displayed from a distance the resources of the Roman

power, and reserved himself for any future emergency of the war. On the intelligence of the victory he condescended to advance towards the frontier, with a view of moderating, by his presence and counsels, the

pride of Galerius. The interview of the Roman princes at Nisibis was accompanied with every expression of respect on one side, and of esteem on the other. It was in that city that they soon afterwards gave audience to the ambassador of the Great King. [74] The power, or at

least the spirit, of Narses, had been broken by his last defeat; and

he considered an immediate peace as the only means that could stop the progress of the Roman arms. He despatched Apharban, a servant who

possessed his favor and confidence, with a commission to negotiate a treaty, or rather to receive whatever conditions the conqueror should

impose. Apharban opened the conference by expressing his master's

gratitude for the generous treatment of his family, and by soliciting the liberty of those illustrious captives. He celebrated the valor of

Galerius, without degrading the reputation of Narses, and thought it

no dishonor to confess the superiority of the victorious Caesar, over a monarch who had surpassed in glory all the princes of his race.

Notwithstanding the justice of the Persian cause, he was empowered to submit the present differences to the decision of the emperors themselves; convinced as he was, that, in the midst of prosperity, they would not be unmindful of the vicissitudes of fortune. Apharban concluded his discourse in the style of eastern allegory, by observing that the Roman and Persian monarchies were the two eyes of the world, which would remain imperfect and mutilated if either of them should be

put out.

[Footnote 74: The account of the negotiation is taken from the fragments

of Peter the Patrician, in the Excerpta Legationum, published in the byzantine Collection. Peter lived under Justinian; but it is very evident, by the nature of his materials, that they are drawn from the

most authentic and respectable writers.]

"It well becomes the Persians," replied Galerius, with a transport of fury, which seemed to convulse his whole frame, "it well becomes the

Persians to expatiate on the vicissitudes of fortune, and calmly to read

us lectures on the virtues of moderation. Let them remember their own

moderation, towards the unhappy Valerian. They vanquished him by fraud, they treated him with indignity. They detained him till the last moment

of his life in shameful captivity, and after his death they exposed

his body to perpetual ignominy." Softening, however, his tone, Galerius

insinuated to the ambassador, that it had never been the practice of the

Romans to trample on a prostrate enemy; and that, on this occasion, they should consult their own dignity rather than the Persian merit.

He dismissed Apharban with a hope that Narses would soon be informed on what conditions he might obtain, from the clemency of the emperors, a

lasting peace, and the restoration of his wives and children. In this conference we may discover the fierce passions of Galerius, as well as

his deference to the superior wisdom and authority of Diocletian. The ambition of the former grasped at the conquest of the East, and had

proposed to reduce Persia into the state of a province. The prudence

of the latter, who adhered to the moderate policy of Augustus and the Antonines, embraced the favorable opportunity of terminating a

successful war by an honorable and advantageous peace. [75]

[Footnote 75: Adeo victor (says Aurelius) ut ni Valerius, cujus nutu

omnis gerebantur, abnuisset, Romani fasces in provinciam novam ferrentur

Verum pars terrarum tamen nobis utilior quaesita.]

In pursuance of their promise, the emperors soon afterwards appointed

Sicorius Probus, one of their secretaries, to acquaint the Persian court with their final resolution. As the minister of peace, he was received with every mark of politeness and friendship; but, under the pretence of allowing him the necessary repose after so long a journey, the audience

of Probus was deferred from day to day; and he attended the slow motions

of the king, till at length he was admitted to his presence, near the

River Asprudus in Media. The secret motive of Narses, in this delay,

had been to collect such a military force as might enable him, though

sincerely desirous of peace, to negotiate with the greater weight and dignity. Three persons only assisted at this important conference, the

minister Apharban, the praefect of the guards, and an officer who had commanded on the Armenian frontier. [76] The first condition proposed by the ambassador is not at present of a very intelligible nature; that the city of Nisibis might be established for the place of mutual exchange,

or, as we should formerly have termed it, for the staple of trade, between the two empires. There is no difficulty in conceiving the

intention of the Roman princes to improve their revenue by some

restraints upon commerce; but as Nisibis was situated within their own dominions, and as they were masters both of the imports and exports, it

should seem that such restraints were the objects of an internal law,

rather than of a foreign treaty. To render them more effectual, some

stipulations were probably required on the side of the king of Persia, which appeared so very repugnant either to his interest or to his dignity, that Narses could not be persuaded to subscribe them. As this was the only article to which he refused his consent, it was no longer

insisted on; and the emperors either suffered the trade to flow in its

natural channels, or contented themselves with such restrictions, as it depended on their own authority to establish.

[Footnote 76: He had been governor of Sumium, (Pot. Patricius in excerpt. Legat. p. 30.) This province seems to be mentioned by Moses of chorene, (Geograph. p. 360,) and lay to the east of Mount Ararat. \*

Note: The Siounikh of the Armenian writers St. Martin i. 142.--M.]

as soon as this difficulty was removed, a solemn peace was concluded and

ratified between the two nations. The conditions of a treaty so glorious to the empire, and so necessary to Persia Persian, may deserve a

more peculiar attention, as the history of Rome presents very few transactions of a similar nature; most of her wars having either been terminated by absolute conquest, or waged against barbarians ignorant of the use of letters. I. The Aboras, or, as it is called by Xenophon, the araxes, was fixed as the boundary between the two monarchies. [77] That

river, which rose near the Tigris, was increased, a few miles below

Nisibis, by the little stream of the Mygdonius, passed under the walls

of Singara, and fell into the Euphrates at Circesium, a frontier town, which, by the care of Diocletian, was very strongly fortified. [78]

Mesopotomia, the object of so many wars, was ceded to the empire; and the Persians, by this treaty, renounced all pretensions to that great

province. II. They relinquished to the Romans five provinces beyond the Tigris. [79] Their situation formed a very useful barrier, and their

natural strength was soon improved by art and military skill. Four of these, to the north of the river, were districts of obscure fame and

inconsiderable extent; Intiline, Zabdicene, Arzanene, and Moxoene;

[791] but on the east of the Tigris, the empire acquired the large and

mountainous territory of Carduene, the ancient seat of the Carduchians, who preserved for many ages their manly freedom in the heart of the despotic monarchies of Asia. The ten thousand Greeks traversed their country, after a painful march, or rather engagement, of seven days; and it is confessed by their leader, in his incomparable relation of the retreat, that they suffered more from the arrows of the Carduchians, than from the power of the Great King. [80] Their posterity, the Curds, with very little alteration either of name or manners, [801] acknowledged the nominal sovereignty of the Turkish sultan. III. It is almost

needless to observe, that Tiridates, the faithful ally of Rome, was

restored to the throne of his fathers, and that the rights of the

Imperial supremacy were fully asserted and secured. The limits of armenia were extended as far as the fortress of Sintha in Media, and this increase of dominion was not so much an act of liberality as of

justice. Of the provinces already mentioned beyond the Tigris, the four first had been dismembered by the Parthians from the crown of armenia; [81] and when the Romans acquired the possession of them, they

stipulated, at the expense of the usurpers, an ample compensation, which invested their ally with the extensive and fertile country of atropatene. Its principal city, in the same situation perhaps as the

modern Tauris, was frequently honored by the residence of Tiridates; and as it sometimes bore the name of Ecbatana, he imitated, in the buildings and fortifications, the splendid capital of the Medes. [82] IV. The country of Iberia was barren, its inhabitants rude and savage. But they were accustomed to the use of arms, and they separated from the empire barbarians much fiercer and more formidable than themselves. The narrow defiles of Mount Caucasus were in their hands, and it was in their choice, either to admit or to exclude the wandering tribes of Sarmatia, whenever a rapacious spirit urged them to penetrate into the richer climes of the South. [83] The nomination of the kings of Iberia, which was resigned by the Persian monarch to the emperors, contributed to the

strength and security of the Roman power in Asia. [84] The East enjoyed a profound tranquillity during forty years; and the treaty between the

rival monarchies was strictly observed till the death of Tiridates; when a new generation, animated with different views and different passions,

succeeded to the government of the world; and the grandson of Narses

undertook a long and memorable war against the princes of the house of constantine.

[Footnote 77: By an error of the geographer Ptolemy, the position of

Singara is removed from the Aboras to the Tigris, which may have

produced the mistake of Peter, in assigning the latter river for the boundary, instead of the former. The line of the Roman frontier traversed, but never followed, the course of the Tigris. \* Note: There are here several errors. Gibbon has confounded the streams, and the towns which they pass. The Aboras, or rather the Chaboras, the Araxes of

Xenophon, has its source above Ras-Ain or Re-Saina, (Theodosiopolis,) about twenty-seven leagues from the Tigris; it receives the waters of the Mygdonius, or Saocoras, about thirty-three leagues below Nisibis. at a town now called Al Nahraim; it does not pass under the walls of

Singara; it is the Saocoras that washes the walls of that town: the

latter river has its source near Nisibis. at five leagues from the tigris. See D'Anv. l'Euphrate et le Tigre, 46, 49, 50, and the map.---- to the east of the Tigris is another less considerable river, named also the Chaboras, which D'Anville calls the Centrites, Khabour, Nicephorius, without quoting the authorities on which he gives those names. Gibbon did not mean to speak of this river, which does not pass by Singara, and does not fall into the Euphrates. See Michaelis, Supp. ad Lex. Hebraica.

3d part, p. 664, 665.--G.]

[Footnote 78: Procopius de Edificiis, l. ii. c. 6.]

[Footnote 79: Three of the provinces, Zabdicene, Arzanene, and Carduene, are allowed on all sides. But instead of the other two, Peter (in excerpt. Leg. p. 30) inserts Rehimene and Sophene. I have preferred ammianus, (l. xxv. 7,) because it might be proved that Sophene was never

in the hands of the Persians, either before the reign of Diocletian, or after that of Jovian. For want of correct maps, like those of M. d'Anville, almost all the moderns, with Tillemont and Valesius at their

head, have imagined, that it was in respect to Persia, and not to Rome, that the five provinces were situate beyond the Tigris.]

[Footnote 791: See St. Martin, note on Le Beau, i. 380. He would read, for

Intiline, Ingeleme, the name of a small province of Armenia, near the

sources of the Tigris, mentioned by St. Epiphanius, (Haeres, 60;) for the unknown name Arzacene, with Gibbon, Arzanene. These provinces do

not appear to have made an integral part of the Roman empire; Roman

garrisons replaced those of Persia, but the sovereignty remained in the

hands of the feudatory princes of Armenia. A prince of Carduene, ally or dependent on the empire, with the Roman name of Jovianus, occurs in the

reign of Julian.--M.]

[Footnote 80: Xenophon's Anabasis, l. iv. Their bows were three cubits

in length, their arrows two; they rolled down stones that were each a wagon load. The Greeks found a great many villages in that rude country.]

[Footnote 801: I travelled through this country in 1810, and should

judge, from what I have read and seen of its inhabitants, that they have

remained unchanged in their appearance and character for more than twenty centuries Malcolm, note to Hist. of Persia, vol. i. p. 82.--M.]

[Footnote 81: According to Eutropius, (vi. 9, as the text is represented by the best Mss.,) the city of Tigranocerta was in Arzanene. The names and situation of the other three may be faintly traced.]

[Footnote 82: Compare Herodotus, l. i. c. 97, with Moses Choronens.

Hist Armen. l. ii. c. 84, and the map of Armenia given by his editors.]

[Footnote 83: Hiberi, locorum potentes, Caspia via Sarmatam in Armenios

raptim effundunt. Tacit. Annal. vi. 34. See Strabon. Geograph. l. xi. p.

764, edit. Casaub.]

[Footnote 84: Peter Patricius (in Excerpt. Leg. p. 30) is the only writer who mentions the Iberian article of the treaty.]

the arduous work of rescuing the distressed empire from tyrants and barbarians had now been completely achieved by a succession of Illyrian

peasants. As soon as Diocletian entered into the twentieth year of his

reign, he celebrated that memorable aera, as well as the success of his arms, by the pomp of a Roman triumph. [85] Maximian, the equal partner

of his power, was his only companion in the glory of that day. The two caesars had fought and conquered, but the merit of their exploits was ascribed, according to the rigor of ancient maxims, to the auspicious

influence of their fathers and emperors. [86] The triumph of Diocletian and Maximian was less magnificent, perhaps, than those of Aurelian and

Probus, but it was dignified by several circumstances of superior fame and good fortune. Africa and Britain, the Rhine, the Danube, and the

Nile, furnished their respective trophies; but the most distinguished

ornament was of a more singular nature, a Persian victory followed by an important conquest. The representations of rivers, mountains, and

provinces, were carried before the Imperial car. The images of the captive wives, the sisters, and the children of the Great King, afforded a new and grateful spectacle to the vanity of the people. [87] In the eyes of posterity, this triumph is remarkable, by a distinction of a

less honorable kind. It was the last that Rome ever beheld. Soon after this period, the emperors ceased to vanquish, and Rome ceased to be the capital of the empire.

[Footnote 85: Euseb. in Chron. Pagi ad annum. Till the discovery of the treatise De Mortibus Persecutorum, it was not certain that the triumph and the Vicennalia was celebrated at the same time.]

[Footnote 86: At the time of the Vicennalia, Galerius seems to have kept

station on the Danube. See Lactant. de M. P. c. 38.]

[Footnote 87: Eutropius (ix. 27) mentions them as a part of the triumph. as the persons had been restored to Narses, nothing more than their

images could be exhibited.]

the spot on which Rome was founded had been consecrated by ancient ceremonies and imaginary miracles. The presence of some god, or the

memory of some hero, seemed to animate every part of the city, and the empire of the world had been promised to the Capitol. [88] The native

Romans felt and confessed the power of this agreeable illusion. It was derived from their ancestors, had grown up with their earliest habits

of life, and was protected, in some measure, by the opinion of political

utility. The form and the seat of government were intimately blended together, nor was it esteemed possible to transport the one without destroying the other. [89] But the sovereignty of the capital was

gradually annihilated in the extent of conquest; the provinces rose to the same level, and the vanquished nations acquired the name and

privileges, without imbibing the partial affections, of Romans. During a long period, however, the remains of the ancient constitution, and the

influence of custom, preserved the dignity of Rome. The emperors, though

perhaps of African or Illyrian extraction, respected their adopted country, as the seat of their power, and the centre of their extensive dominions. The emergencies of war very frequently required their

presence on the frontiers; but Diocletian and Maximian were the first

Roman princes who fixed, in time of peace, their ordinary residence

in the provinces; and their conduct, however it might be suggested by private motives, was justified by very specious considerations of

policy. The court of the emperor of the West was, for the most part, established at Milan, whose situation, at the foot of the Alps, appeared far more convenient than that of Rome, for the important purpose of watching the motions of the barbarians of Germany. Milan soon assumed the splendor of an Imperial city. The houses are described as numerous and well built; the manners of the people as polished and liberal. A circus, a theatre, a mint, a palace, baths, which bore the name of their founder Maximian; porticos adorned with statues, and a double circumference of walls, contributed to the beauty of the new capital;

nor did it seem oppressed even by the proximity of Rome. [90] To rival the majesty of Rome was the ambition likewise of Diocletian, who employed his leisure, and the wealth of the East, in the embellishment

of Nicomedia, a city placed on the verge of Europe and Asia, almost at an equal distance between the Danube and the Euphrates. By the taste of the monarch, and at the expense of the people, Nicomedia acquired, in the space of a few years, a degree of magnificence which might appear to have required the labor of ages, and became inferior only to Rome, alexandria, and Antioch, in extent of populousness. [91] The life of diocletian and Maximian was a life of action, and a considerable portion

of it was spent in camps, or in the long and frequent marches; but whenever the public business allowed them any relaxation, they seemed to

have retired with pleasure to their favorite residences of Nicomedia and

Milan. Till Diocletian, in the twentieth year of his reign, celebrated

his Roman triumph, it is extremely doubtful whether he ever visited the ancient capital of the empire. Even on that memorable occasion his stay did not exceed two months. Disgusted with the licentious familiarity of the people, he quitted Rome with precipitation thirteen days before it was expected that he should have appeared in the senate, invested with the ensigns of the consular dignity. [92]

[Footnote 88: Livy gives us a speech of Camillus on that subject, (v.

51--55,) full of eloquence and sensibility, in opposition to a design

of removing the seat of government from Rome to the neighboring city of

Veii.]

[Footnote 89: Julius Caesar was reproached with the intention of

removing the empire to Ilium or Alexandria. See Sueton. in Caesar. c.

79. According to the ingenious conjecture of Le Fevre and Dacier, the ode of the third book of Horace was intended to divert from the execution of a similar design.]

[Footnote 90: See Aurelius Victor, who likewise mentions the buildings erected by Maximian at Carthage, probably during the Moorish war. We

shall insert some verses of Ausonius de Clar. Urb. v.---- Et Mediolani

miraeomnia: copia rerum; Innumerae cultaeque domus; facunda virorum

Ingenia, et mores laeti: tum duplice muro Amplificata loci species;

populique voluptas Circus; et inclusi moles cuneata Theatri; Templa,

Palatinaeque arces, opulensque Moneta, Et regio Herculei celebris sub

honore lavacri. Cunctaque marmoreis ornata Peristyla signis; Moeniaque

in valli formam circumdata labro, Omnia quae magnis operum velut aemula formis Excellunt: nec juncta premit vicinia Romae.]

[Footnote 91: Lactant. de M. P. c. 17. Libanius, Orat. viii. p. 203.]

[Footnote 92: Lactant. de M. P. c. 17. On a similar occasion, Ammianus

mentions the dicacitas plebis, as not very agreeable to an Imperial ear.

(See l. xvi. c. 10.)]

the dislike expressed by Diocletian towards Rome and Roman freedom, was

not the effect of momentary caprice, but the result of the most artful policy. That crafty prince had framed a new system of Imperial

government, which was afterwards completed by the family of Constantine; and as the image of the old constitution was religiously preserved in the senate, he resolved to deprive that order of its small remains of

power and consideration. We may recollect, about eight years before the elevation, of Diocletian the transient greatness, and the ambitious

hopes, of the Roman senate. As long as that enthusiasm prevailed, many

of the nobles imprudently displayed their zeal in the cause of freedom; and after the successes of Probus had withdrawn their countenance from the republican party, the senators were unable to disguise their

impotent resentment. As the sovereign of Italy, Maximian was intrusted with the care of extinguishing this troublesome, rather than dangerous

spirit, and the task was perfectly suited to his cruel temper. The most

illustrious members of the senate, whom Diocletian always affected to esteem, were involved, by his colleague, in the accusation of imaginary

plots; and the possession of an elegant villa, or a well-cultivated estate, was interpreted as a convincing evidence of guilt. [93] The camp

of the Praetorians, which had so long oppressed, began to protect, the majesty of Rome; and as those haughty troops were conscious of the decline of their power, they were naturally disposed to unite their

strength with the authority of the senate. By the prudent measures of diocletian, the numbers of the Praetorians were insensibly reduced, their privileges abolished, [94] and their place supplied by two faithful legions of Illyricum, who, under the new titles of Jovians and Herculians, were appointed to perform the service of the Imperial

guards. [95] But the most fatal though secret wound, which the senate

received from the hands of Diocletian and Maximian, was inflicted by the

inevitable operation of their absence. As long as the emperors resided at Rome, that assembly might be oppressed, but it could scarcely be

neglected. The successors of Augustus exercised the power of dictating whatever laws their wisdom or caprice might suggest; but those laws were

ratified by the sanction of the senate. The model of ancient freedom was preserved in its deliberations and decrees; and wise princes, who

respected the prejudices of the Roman people, were in some measure

obliged to assume the language and behavior suitable to the general and first magistrate of the republic. In the armies and in the provinces, they displayed the dignity of monarchs; and when they fixed their

residence at a distance from the capital, they forever laid aside the dissimulation which Augustus had recommended to his successors. In the exercise of the legislative as well as the executive power, the

sovereign advised with his ministers, instead of consulting the great council of the nation. The name of the senate was mentioned with honor till the last period of the empire; the vanity of its members was still flattered with honorary distinctions; [96] but the assembly which had

so long been the source, and so long the instrument of power, was

respectfully suffered to sink into oblivion. The senate of Rome, losing all connection with the Imperial court and the actual constitution, was

left a venerable but useless monument of antiquity on the Capitoline

hill.

[Footnote 93: Lactantius accuses Maximian of destroying fictis criminationibus lumina senatus, (De M. P. c. 8.) Aurelius Victor

speaks very doubtfully of the faith of Diocletian towards his friends.]

[Footnote 94: Truncatae vires urbis, imminuto praetoriarum cohortium atque in armis vulgi numero. Aurelius Victor. Lactantius attributes to

Galerius the prosecution of the same plan, (c. 26.)]

[Footnote 95: They were old corps stationed in Illyricum; and according to the ancient establishment, they each consisted of six thousand men. they had acquired much reputation by the use of the plumbatoe, or darts

loaded with lead. Each soldier carried five of these, which he darted from a considerable distance, with great strength and dexterity. See

Vegetius, i. 17.]

[Footnote 96: See the Theodosian Code, l. vi. tit. ii. with Godefroy's commentary.]

chapter XIII: Reign Of Diocletian And This Three Associates.--Part IV.

when the Roman princes had lost sight of the senate and of their ancient capital, they easily forgot the origin and nature of their legal power. the civil offices of consul, of proconsul, of censor, and of tribune, by the union of which it had been formed, betrayed to the people its

republican extraction. Those modest titles were laid aside; [97] and

if they still distinguished their high station by the appellation

of Emperor, or Imperator, that word was understood in a new and more dignified sense, and no longer denoted the general of the Roman armies, but the sovereign of the Roman world. The name of Emperor, which was at first of a military nature, was associated with another of a

more servile kind. The epithet of Dominus, or Lord, in its primitive

signification, was expressive, not of the authority of a prince over his

subjects, or of a commander over his soldiers, but of the despotic power

of a master over his domestic slaves. [98] Viewing it in that odious

light, it had been rejected with abhorrence by the first Caesars. Their

resistance insensibly became more feeble, and the name less odious; till at length the style of our Lord and Emperor was not only bestowed by flattery, but was regularly admitted into the laws and public monuments.

Such lofty epithets were sufficient to elate and satisfy the most excessive vanity; and if the successors of Diocletian still declined the title of King, it seems to have been the effect not so much of their

moderation as of their delicacy. Wherever the Latin tongue was in use,

(and it was the language of government throughout the empire,) the

Imperial title, as it was peculiar to themselves, conveyed a more

respectable idea than the name of king, which they must have shared with a hundred barbarian chieftains; or which, at the best, they could derive

only from Romulus, or from Tarquin. But the sentiments of the East were very different from those of the West. From the earliest period

of history, the sovereigns of Asia had been celebrated in the Greek

language by the title of Basileus, or King; and since it was considered as the first distinction among men, it was soon employed by the servile

provincials of the East, in their humble addresses to the Roman throne.

[99] Even the attributes, or at least the titles, of the Divinity, were

usurped by Diocletian and Maximian, who transmitted them to a succession

of Christian emperors. [100] Such extravagant compliments, however, soon

lose their impiety by losing their meaning; and when the ear is once accustomed to the sound, they are heard with indifference, as vague though excessive professions of respect.

[Footnote 97: See the 12th dissertation in Spanheim's excellent work de

Usu Numismatum. From medals, inscriptions, and historians, he examines every title separately, and traces it from Augustus to the moment of its disappearing.]

[Footnote 98: Pliny (in Panegyr. c. 3, 55, &c.) speaks of Dominus with execration, as synonymous to Tyrant, and opposite to Prince. And the

same Pliny regularly gives that title (in the tenth book of the epistles) to his friend rather than master, the virtuous Trajan. This

strange contradiction puzzles the commentators, who think, and the translators, who can write.]

[Footnote 99: Synesius de Regno, edit. Petav. p. 15. I am indebted for this quotation to the Abbe de la Bleterie.]

[Footnote 100: Soe Vandale de Consecratione, p. 354, &c. It was customary for the emperors to mention (in the preamble of laws) their

numen, sacreo majesty, divine oracles, &c. According to Tillemont,

Gregory Nazianzen complains most bitterly of the profanation, especially when it was practised by an Arian emperor. \* Note: In the time of the

republic, says Hegewisch, when the consuls, the praetors, and the other

magistrates appeared in public, to perform the functions of their

office, their dignity was announced both by the symbols which use had consecrated, and the brilliant cortege by which they were accompanied. but this dignity belonged to the office, not to the individual; this

pomp belonged to the magistrate, not to the man. \* \* The consul, followed, in the comitia, by all the senate, the praetors, the

quaestors, the aediles, the lictors, the apparitors, and the heralds, on

reentering his house, was served only by freedmen and by his slaves. The first emperors went no further. Tiberius had, for his personal attendance, only a moderate number of slaves, and a few freedmen.

(Tacit. Ann. iv. 7.) But in proportion as the republican forms disappeared, one after another, the inclination of the emperors to environ themselves with personal pomp, displayed itself more and more.

\*\* The magnificence and the ceremonial of the East were entirely

introduced by Diocletian, and were consecrated by Constantine to the

Imperial use. Thenceforth the palace, the court, the table, all the

personal attendance, distinguished the emperor from his subjects, still

more than his superior dignity. The organization which Diocletian gave to his new court, attached less honor and distinction to rank than to

services performed towards the members of the Imperial family.

Hegewisch, Essai, Hist. sur les Finances Romains. Few historians have characterized, in a more philosophic manner, the influence of a new

institution.--G.----It is singular that the son of a slave reduced the

haughty aristocracy of Home to the offices of servitude.--M.]

from the time of Augustus to that of Diocletian, the Roman princes, conversing in a familiar manner among their fellow-citizens, were

saluted only with the same respect that was usually paid to senators and

magistrates. Their principal distinction was the Imperial or military

robe of purple; whilst the senatorial garment was marked by a broad, and the equestrian by a narrow, band or stripe of the same honorable color. the pride, or rather the policy, of Diocletian, engaged that artful

prince to introduce the stately magnificence of the court of Persia.

[101] He ventured to assume the diadem, an ornament detested by the

Romans as the odious ensign of royalty, and the use of which had been considered as the most desperate act of the madness of Caligula. It was

no more than a broad white fillet set with pearls, which encircled the emperor's head. The sumptuous robes of Diocletian and his successors were of silk and gold; and it is remarked with indignation, that even their shoes were studded with the most precious gems. The access to their sacred person was every day rendered more difficult by the

institution of new forms and ceremonies. The avenues of the palace were

strictly guarded by the various schools, as they began to be called, of domestic officers. The interior apartments were intrusted to the jealous

vigilance of the eunuchs, the increase of whose numbers and influence was the most infallible symptom of the progress of despotism. When a

subject was at length admitted to the Imperial presence, he was obliged, whatever might be his rank, to fall prostrate on the ground, and to adore, according to the eastern fashion, the divinity of his lord and master. [102] Diocletian was a man of sense, who, in the course

of private as well as public life, had formed a just estimate both of

himself and of mankind: nor is it easy to conceive, that in substituting the manners of Persia to those of Rome, he was seriously actuated by

so mean a principle as that of vanity. He flattered himself, that an

ostentation of splendor and luxury would subdue the imagination of the

multitude; that the monarch would be less exposed to the rude license of the people and the soldiers, as his person was secluded from the public

view; and that habits of submission would insensibly be productive of

sentiments of veneration. Like the modesty affected by Augustus, the

state maintained by Diocletian was a theatrical representation; but it

must be confessed, that of the two comedies, the former was of a much

more liberal and manly character than the latter. It was the aim of the

one to disguise, and the object of the other to display, the unbounded

power which the emperors possessed over the Roman world.

[Footnote 101: See Spanheim de Usu Numismat. Dissert. xii.]

[Footnote 102: Aurelius Victor. Eutropius, ix. 26. It appears by the

Panegyrists, that the Romans were soon reconciled to the name and ceremony of adoration.]

Ostentation was the first principle of the new system instituted by Diocletian. The second was division. He divided the empire, the provinces, and every branch of the civil as well as military administration. He multiplied the wheels of the machine of government, and rendered its operations less rapid, but more secure. Whatever advantages and whatever defects might attend these innovations, they

must be ascribed in a very great degree to the first inventor; but as the new frame of policy was gradually improved and completed by succeeding princes, it will be more satisfactory to delay the consideration of it till the season of its full maturity and perfection.

[103] Reserving, therefore, for the reign of Constantine a more exact

picture of the new empire, we shall content ourselves with describing the principal and decisive outline, as it was traced by the hand of diocletian. He had associated three colleagues in the exercise of the

supreme power; and as he was convinced that the abilities of a single

man were inadequate to the public defence, he considered the joint administration of four princes not as a temporary expedient, but as a fundamental law of the constitution. It was his intention, that the two elder princes should be distinguished by the use of the diadem, and the title of Augusti; that, as affection or esteem might direct their choice, they should regularly call to their assistance two subordinate colleagues; and that the Coesars, rising in their turn to the first

rank, should supply an uninterrupted succession of emperors. The empire was divided into four parts. The East and Italy were the most honorable, the Danube and the Rhine the most laborious stations. The former claimed the presence of the Augusti, the latter were intrusted to the administration of the Coesars. The strength of the legions was in the hands of the four partners of sovereignty, and the despair of

successively vanquishing four formidable rivals might intimidate the ambition of an aspiring general. In their civil government, the emperors were supposed to exercise the undivided power of the monarch, and their edicts, inscribed with their joint names, were received in all the

provinces, as promulgated by their mutual councils and authority.

Notwithstanding these precautions, the political union of the Roman world was gradually dissolved, and a principle of division was

introduced, which, in the course of a few years, occasioned the

perpetual separation of the Eastern and Western Empires.

[Footnote 103: The innovations introduced by Diocletian are chiefly deduced, 1st, from some very strong passages in Lactantius; and, 2dly, from the new and various offices which, in the Theodosian code, appear already established in the beginning of the reign of Constantine.]

the system of Diocletian was accompanied with another very material disadvantage, which cannot even at present be totally overlooked; a more expensive establishment, and consequently an increase of taxes, and the oppression of the people. Instead of a modest family of slaves and freedmen, such as had contented the simple greatness of Augustus and trajan, three or four magnificent courts were established in the various

parts of the empire, and as many Roman kings contended with each other and with the Persian monarch for the vain superiority of pomp and

luxury. The number of ministers, of magistrates, of officers, and

of servants, who filled the different departments of the state, was

multiplied beyond the example of former times; and (if we may borrow the warm expression of a contemporary) "when the proportion of those who received, exceeded the proportion of those who contributed, the

provinces were oppressed by the weight of tributes." [104] From this

period to the extinction of the empire, it would be easy to deduce an uninterrupted series of clamors and complaints. According to his

religion and situation, each writer chooses either Diocletian, or constantine, or Valens, or Theodosius, for the object of his invectives; but they unanimously agree in representing the burden of the public

impositions, and particularly the land tax and capitation, as the

intolerable and increasing grievance of their own times. From such a concurrence, an impartial historian, who is obliged to extract truth from satire, as well as from panegyric, will be inclined to divide the blame among the princes whom they accuse, and to ascribe their exactions

much less to their personal vices, than to the uniform system of their administration. [1041] The emperor Diocletian was indeed the author of that

system; but during his reign, the growing evil was confined within the bounds of modesty and discretion, and he deserves the reproach of establishing pernicious precedents, rather than of exercising actual

oppression. [105] It may be added, that his revenues were managed with prudent economy; and that after all the current expenses were discharged, there still remained in the Imperial treasury an ample

provision either for judicious liberality or for any emergency of the

state.

[Footnote 104: Lactant. de M. P. c. 7.]

[Footnote 1041: The most curious document which has come to light since the publication of Gibbon's History, is the edict of Diocletian,

published from an inscription found at Eskihissar, (Stratoniccia,) by col. Leake. This inscription was first copied by Sherard, afterwards

much more completely by Mr. Bankes. It is confirmed and illustrated by a

more imperfect copy of the same edict, found in the Levant by a

gentleman of Aix, and brought to this country by M. Vescovali. This edict was issued in the name of the four Caesars, Diocletian, Maximian, constantius, and Galerius. It fixed a maximum of prices throughout the empire, for all the necessaries and commodities of life. The preamble

insists, with great vehemence on the extortion and inhumanity of the

venders and merchants. Quis enim adeo obtunisi (obtusi) pectores (is) et a sensu inhumanitatis extorris est qui ignorare potest immo non senserit

in venalibus rebus quaevel in mercimoniis aguntur vel diurna urbium conversatione tractantur, in tantum se licen liam defusisse, ut effraenata libido rapien--rum copia nec annorum ubertatibus mitigaretur. the edict, as Col. Leake clearly shows, was issued A. C. 303. Among the articles of which the maximum value is assessed, are oil, salt, honey, butchers' meat, poultry, game, fish, vegetables, fruit the wages of

laborers and artisans, schoolmasters and skins, boots and shoes,

harness, timber, corn, wine, and beer, (zythus.) The depreciation in the

value of money, or the rise in the price of commodities, had been so

great during the past century, that butchers' meat, which, in the second century of the empire, was in Rome about two denaril the pound, was now fixed at a maximum of eight. Col. Leake supposes the average price could

not be less than four: at the same time the maximum of the wages of the agricultural laborers was twenty-five. The whole edict is, perhaps, the

most gigantic effort of a blind though well-intentioned despotism, to control that which is, and ought to be, beyond the regulation of the

government. See an Edict of Diocletian, by Col. Leake, London, 1826. col. Leake has not observed that this Edict is expressly named in the treatise de Mort. Persecut. ch. vii. Idem cum variis iniquitatibus

immensam faceret caritatem, legem pretiis rerum venalium statuere conatus.--M]

[Footnote 105: Indicta lex nova quae sane illorum temporum modestia tolerabilis, in perniciem processit. Aurel. Victor., who has treated the character of Diocletian with good sense, though in bad Latin.]

It was in the twenty first year of his reign that Diocletian executed his memorable resolution of abdicating the empire; an action

more naturally to have been expected from the elder or the younger antoninus, than from a prince who had never practised the lessons of

philosophy either in the attainment or in the use of supreme power. diocletian acquired the glory of giving to the world the first example

of a resignation, [106] which has not been very frequently imitated by

succeeding monarchs. The parallel of Charles the Fifth, however, will

naturally offer itself to our mind, not only since the eloquence of a modern historian has rendered that name so familiar to an English

reader, but from the very striking resemblance between the characters

of the two emperors, whose political abilities were superior to their

military genius, and whose specious virtues were much less the effect

of nature than of art. The abdication of Charles appears to have been

hastened by the vicissitude of fortune; and the disappointment of

his favorite schemes urged him to relinquish a power which he found

inadequate to his ambition. But the reign of Diocletian had flowed with a tide of uninterrupted success; nor was it till after he had vanquished all his enemies, and accomplished all his designs, that he seems to

have entertained any serious thoughts of resigning the empire. Neither charles nor Diocletian were arrived at a very advanced period of life;

since the one was only fifty-five, and the other was no more than fifty-nine years of age; but the active life of those princes, their wars and journeys, the cares of royalty, and their application to business, had already impaired their constitution, and brought on the

infirmities of a premature old age. [107]

[Footnote 106: Solus omnium post conditum Romanum Imperium, qui extanto fastigio sponte ad privatae vitae statum civilitatemque remearet, eutrop. ix. 28.]

[Footnote 107: The particulars of the journey and illness are taken from Laclantius, c. 17, who may sometimes be admitted as an evidence of

public facts, though very seldom of private anecdotes.]

Notwithstanding the severity of a very cold and rainy winter, Diocletian

left Italy soon after the ceremony of his triumph, and began his

progress towards the East round the circuit of the Illyrian provinces. from the inclemency of the weather, and the fatigue of the journey, he

soon contracted a slow illness; and though he made easy marches, and was

generally carried in a close litter, his disorder, before he arrived at Nicomedia, about the end of the summer, was become very serious and alarming. During the whole winter he was confined to his palace: his danger inspired a general and unaffected concern; but the people could

only judge of the various alterations of his health, from the joy or consternation which they discovered in the countenances and behavior

of his attendants. The rumor of his death was for some time universally believed, and it was supposed to be concealed with a view to prevent the troubles that might have happened during the absence of the Caesar

Galerius. At length, however, on the first of March, Diocletian once

more appeared in public, but so pale and emaciated, that he could

scarcely have been recognized by those to whom his person was the most familiar. It was time to put an end to the painful struggle, which he

had sustained during more than a year, between the care of his health and that of his dignity. The former required indulgence and relaxation, the latter compelled him to direct, from the bed of sickness, the administration of a great empire. He resolved to pass the remainder of

his days in honorable repose, to place his glory beyond the reach of fortune, and to relinquish the theatre of the world to his younger and

more active associates. [108]

[Footnote 108: Aurelius Victor ascribes the abdication, which had been

so variously accounted for, to two causes: 1st, Diocletian's contempt of ambition; and 2dly, His apprehension of impending troubles. One of the

panegyrists (vi. 9) mentions the age and infirmities of Diocletian as a

very natural reason for his retirement. \* Note: Constantine (Orat. ad

Sanct. c. 401) more than insinuated that derangement of mind, connected with the conflagration of the palace at Nicomedia by lightning, was the cause of his abdication. But Heinichen. in a very sensible note on this

passage in Eusebius, while he admits that his long illness might produce a temporary depression of spirits, triumphantly appeals to the

philosophical conduct of Diocletian in his retreat, and the influence which he still retained on public affairs.--M.]

the ceremony of his abdication was performed in a spacious plain, about three miles from Nicomedia. The emperor ascended a lofty throne, and in a speech, full of reason and dignity, declared his intention, both to the people and to the soldiers who were assembled on this extraordinary

occasion. As soon as he had divested himself of his purple, he withdrew from the gazing multitude; and traversing the city in a covered chariot,

proceeded, without delay, to the favorite retirement which he had chosen

in his native country of Dalmatia. On the same day, which was the first

of May, [109] Maximian, as it had been previously concerted, made his

resignation of the Imperial dignity at Milan.

even in the splendor of the Roman triumph, Diocletian had meditated

his design of abdicating the government. As he wished to secure the

obedience of Maximian, he exacted from him either a general assurance that he would submit his actions to the authority of his benefactor, or a particular promise that he would descend from the throne, whenever he

should receive the advice and the example. This engagement, though

it was confirmed by the solemnity of an oath before the altar of the capitoline Jupiter, [110] would have proved a feeble restraint on the fierce temper of Maximian, whose passion was the love of power, and who neither desired present tranquility nor future reputation. But he

yielded, however reluctantly, to the ascendant which his wiser colleague

had acquired over him, and retired, immediately after his abdication, to a villa in Lucania, where it was almost impossible that such an

impatient spirit could find any lasting tranquility.

[Footnote 109: The difficulties as well as mistakes attending the dates both of the year and of the day of Diocletian's abdication are perfectly cleared up by Tillemont, Hist. des Empereurs, tom. iv. p 525, note 19, and by Pagi ad annum.]

[Footnote 110: See Panegyr. Veter. vi. 9. The oration was pronounced after Maximian had resumed the purple.]

diocletian, who, from a servile origin, had raised himself to the throne, passed the nine last years of his life in a private condition.

Reason had dictated, and content seems to have accompanied, his retreat,

in which he enjoyed, for a long time, the respect of those princes to whom he had resigned the possession of the world. [111] It is seldom that

minds long exercised in business have formed the habits of conversing with themselves, and in the loss of power they principally regret the want of occupation. The amusements of letters and of devotion, which afford so many resources in solitude, were incapable of fixing the attention of Diocletian; but he had preserved, or at least he soon

recovered, a taste for the most innocent as well as natural pleasures, and his leisure hours were sufficiently employed in building, planting, and gardening. His answer to Maximian is deservedly celebrated. He was

solicited by that restless old man to reassume the reins of government, and the Imperial purple. He rejected the temptation with a smile of

pity, calmly observing, that if he could show Maximian the cabbages which he had planted with his own hands at Salona, he should no longer be urged to relinquish the enjoyment of happiness for the pursuit

of power. [112] In his conversations with his friends, he frequently acknowledged, that of all arts, the most difficult was the art of

reigning; and he expressed himself on that favorite topic with a degree

of warmth which could be the result only of experience. "How often," was

he accustomed to say, "is it the interest of four or five ministers to combine together to deceive their sovereign! Secluded from mankind by

his exalted dignity, the truth is concealed from his knowledge; he can

see only with their eyes, he hears nothing but their misrepresentations.

He confers the most important offices upon vice and weakness, and disgraces the most virtuous and deserving among his subjects. By such

infamous arts," added Diocletian, "the best and wisest princes are sold to the venal corruption of their courtiers." [113] A just estimate of

greatness, and the assurance of immortal fame, improve our relish for the pleasures of retirement; but the Roman emperor had filled too

important a character in the world, to enjoy without alloy the comforts and security of a private condition. It was impossible that he could

remain ignorant of the troubles which afflicted the empire after his abdication. It was impossible that he could be indifferent to their consequences. Fear, sorrow, and discontent, sometimes pursued him into the solitude of Salona. His tenderness, or at least his pride, was deeply wounded by the misfortunes of his wife and daughter; and the last

moments of Diocletian were imbittered by some affronts, which Licinius and Constantine might have spared the father of so many emperors, and the first author of their own fortune. A report, though of a very doubtful nature, has reached our times, that he prudently withdrew

himself from their power by a voluntary death. [114]

[Footnote 111: Eumenius pays him a very fine compliment: "At enim divinum illum virum, qui primus imperium et participavit et posuit, consilii et fact isui non poenitet; nec amisisse se putat quod sponte transcripsit. Felix beatusque vere quem vestra, tantorum principum, colunt privatum." Panegyr. Vet. vii. 15.]

[Footnote 112: We are obliged to the younger Victor for this celebrated

item. Eutropius mentions the thing in a more general manner.]

[Footnote 113: Hist. August. p. 223, 224. Vopiscus had learned this conversation from his father.]

[Footnote 114: The younger Victor slightly mentions the report. But as diocletian had disobliged a powerful and successful party, his memory

has been loaded with every crime and misfortune. It has been affirmed that he died raving mad, that he was condemned as a criminal by the

Roman senate, &c.]

before we dismiss the consideration of the life and character of diocletian, we may, for a moment, direct our view to the place of his

retirement. Salona, a principal city of his native province of Dalmatia, was near two hundred Roman miles (according to the measurement of the

public highways) from Aquileia and the confines of Italy, and about two

hundred and seventy from Sirmium, the usual residence of the emperors whenever they visited the Illyrian frontier. [115] A miserable village

still preserves the name of Salona; but so late as the sixteenth century, the remains of a theatre, and a confused prospect of broken arches and marble columns, continued to attest its ancient splendor.

[116] About six or seven miles from the city, Diocletian constructed a

magnificent palace, and we may infer, from the greatness of the work,

how long he had meditated his design of abdicating the empire. The choice of a spot which united all that could contribute either to health

or to luxury, did not require the partiality of a native. "The soil was dry and fertile, the air is pure and wholesome, and though extremely

hot during the summer months, this country seldom feels those sultry and

noxious winds, to which the coasts of Istria and some parts of Italy are exposed. The views from the palace are no less beautiful than the soil and climate were inviting. Towards the west lies the fertile shore that

stretches along the Adriatic, in which a number of small islands are scattered in such a manner, as to give this part of the sea the appearance of a great lake. On the north side lies the bay, which led to the ancient city of Salona; and the country beyond it, appearing in

sight, forms a proper contrast to that more extensive prospect of water, which the Adriatic presents both to the south and to the east. Towards the north, the view is terminated by high and irregular mountains,

situated at a proper distance, and in many places covered with villages, woods, and vineyards." [117]

[Footnote 115: See the Itiner. p. 269, 272, edit. Wessel.]

[Footnote 116: The Abate Fortis, in his Viaggio in Dalmazia, p. 43,

(printed at Venice in the year 1774, in two small volumes in quarto,)

quotes a Ms account of the antiquities of Salona, composed by

Giambattista Giustiniani about the middle of the xvith century.]

[Footnote 117: Adam's Antiquities of Diocletian's Palace at Spalatro,

p. 6. We may add a circumstance or two from the Abate Fortis: the little

stream of the Hyader, mentioned by Lucan, produces most exquisite trout, which a sagacious writer, perhaps a monk, supposes to have been one of the principal reasons that determined Diocletian in the choice of his

retirement. Fortis, p. 45. The same author (p. 38) observes, that a taste for agriculture is reviving at Spalatro; and that an experimental farm has lately been established near the city, by a society of

gentlemen.]

though Constantine, from a very obvious prejudice, affects to

mention the palace of Diocletian with contempt, [118] yet one of their

successors, who could only see it in a neglected and mutilated state, celebrates its magnificence in terms of the highest admiration. [119] It covered an extent of ground consisting of between nine and ten English acres. The form was quadrangular, flanked with sixteen towers. Two of the sides were near six hundred, and the other two near seven hundred feet in length. The whole was constructed of a beautiful freestone, extracted from the neighboring quarries of Trau, or Tragutium, and very

little inferior to marble itself. Four streets, intersecting each other at right angles, divided the several parts of this great edifice, and the approach to the principal apartment was from a very stately entrance, which is still denominated the Golden Gate. The approach was terminated by a peristylium of granite columns, on one side of which we discover the square temple of Aesculapius, on the other the octagon temple of Jupiter. The latter of those deities Diocletian revered as the

patron of his fortunes, the former as the protector of his health. by comparing the present remains with the precepts of Vitruvius, the

several parts of the building, the baths, bed-chamber, the atrium, the basilica, and the Cyzicene, Corinthian, and Egyptian halls have been described with some degree of precision, or at least of probability. their forms were various, their proportions just; but they all were attended with two imperfections, very repugnant to our modern notions

of taste and conveniency. These stately rooms had neither windows nor chimneys. They were lighted from the top, (for the building seems to

have consisted of no more than one story,) and they received their heat by the help of pipes that were conveyed along the walls. The range of

principal apartments was protected towards the south-west by a portico five hundred and seventeen feet long, which must have formed a very

noble and delightful walk, when the beauties of painting and sculpture were added to those of the prospect.

[Footnote 118: Constantin. Orat. ad Coetum Sanct. c. 25. In this sermon, the emperor, or the bishop who composed it for him, affects to relate the miserable end of all the persecutors of the church.]

[Footnote 119: Constantin. Porphyr. de Statu Imper. p. 86.]

Had this magnificent edifice remained in a solitary country, it would

have been exposed to the ravages of time; but it might, perhaps, have escaped the rapacious industry of man. The village of Aspalathus, [120] and, long afterwards, the provincial town of Spalatro, have grown out of

its ruins. The Golden Gate now opens into the market-place. St. John the baptist has usurped the honors of Aesculapius; and the temple of

Jupiter, under the protection of the Virgin, is converted into the cathedral church.

for this account of Diocletian's palace we are principally indebted to an ingenious artist of our own time and country, whom a very liberal curiosity carried into the heart of Dalmatia. [121] But there is room to suspect that the elegance of his designs and engraving has somewhat flattered the objects which it was their purpose to represent. We are

informed by a more recent and very judicious traveller, that the awful

ruins of Spalatro are not less expressive of the decline of the art than

of the greatness of the Roman empire in the time of Diocletian. [122]

If such was indeed the state of architecture, we must naturally believe that painting and sculpture had experienced a still more sensible decay. the practice of architecture is directed by a few general and even

mechanical rules. But sculpture, and above all, painting, propose to themselves the imitation not only of the forms of nature, but of the characters and passions of the human soul. In those sublime arts, the dexterity of the hand is of little avail, unless it is animated by fancy, and guided by the most correct taste and observation.

[Footnote 120: D'Anville, Geographie Ancienne, tom. i. p. 162.]

[Footnote 121: Messieurs Adam and Clerisseau, attended by two draughtsmen visited Spalatro in the month of July, 1757. The magnificent work which their journey produced was published in London seven years afterwards.]

[Footnote 122: I shall quote the words of the Abate Fortis.

"E'bastevolmente agli amatori dell' Architettura, e dell' Antichita,

l'opera del Signor Adams, che a donato molto a que' superbi vestigi coll'abituale eleganza del suo toccalapis e del bulino. In generale la

rozzezza del scalpello, e'l cattivo gusto del secolo vi gareggiano colla

magnificenz del fabricato." See Viaggio in Dalmazia, p. 40.]

It is almost unnecessary to remark, that the civil distractions of the empire, the license of the soldiers, the inroads of the barbarians, and the progress of despotism, had proved very unfavorable to genius, and even to learning. The succession of Illyrian princes restored the empire without restoring the sciences. Their military education was not calculated to inspire them with the love of letters; and even the mind

of Diocletian, however active and capacious in business, was totally

uninformed by study or speculation. The professions of law and physic are of such common use and certain profit, that they will always secure a sufficient number of practitioners, endowed with a reasonable degree

of abilities and knowledge; but it does not appear that the students in those two faculties appeal to any celebrated masters who have flourished within that period. The voice of poetry was silent. History was reduced to dry and confused abridgments, alike destitute of amusement and

instruction. A languid and affected eloquence was still retained in the pay and service of the emperors, who encouraged not any arts except those which contributed to the gratification of their pride, or the defence of their power. [123]

[Footnote 123: The orator Eumenius was secretary to the emperors

Maximian and Constantius, and Professor of Rhetoric in the college of autun. His salary was six hundred thousand sesterces, which, according to the lowest computation of that age, must have exceeded three thousand

pounds a year. He generously requested the permission of employing it in

rebuilding the college. See his Oration De Restaurandis Scholis; which, though not exempt from vanity, may atone for his panegyrics.]

the declining age of learning and of mankind is marked, however, by the

rise and rapid progress of the new Platonists. The school of Alexandria

silenced those of Athens; and the ancient sects enrolled themselves

under the banners of the more fashionable teachers, who recommended their system by the novelty of their method, and the austerity of their

manners. Several of these masters, Ammonius, Plotinus, Amelius, and

Porphyry, [124] were men of profound thought and intense application; but by mistaking the true object of philosophy, their labors contributed

much less to improve than to corrupt the human understanding. The

knowledge that is suited to our situation and powers, the whole compass

of moral, natural, and mathematical science, was neglected by the new

Platonists; whilst they exhausted their strength in the verbal disputes

of metaphysics, attempted to explore the secrets of the invisible world, and studied to reconcile Aristotle with Plato, on subjects of which both these philosophers were as ignorant as the rest of mankind. Consuming their reason in these deep but unsubstantial meditations, their minds were exposed to illusions of fancy. They flattered themselves that they

possessed the secret of disengaging the soul from its corporal prison; claimed a familiar intercourse with demons and spirits; and, by a very

singular revolution, converted the study of philosophy into that of

magic. The ancient sages had derided the popular superstition; after disguising its extravagance by the thin pretence of allegory, the disciples of Plotinus and Porphyry became its most zealous defenders. as they agreed with the Christians in a few mysterious points of faith, they attacked the remainder of their theological system with all the fury of civil war. The new Platonists would scarcely deserve a place in the history of science, but in that of the church the mention of them will very frequently occur.

[Footnote 124: Porphyry died about the time of Diocletian's abdication. the life of his master Plotinus, which he composed, will give us the

most complete idea of the genius of the sect, and the manners of its

professors. This very curious piece is inserted in Fabricius Bibliotheca

Graeca tom. iv. p. 88--148.]

chapter XIV: Six Emperors At The Same Time, Reunion Of The Empire.--Part I.

Troubles After The Abdication Of Diocletian.--Death Of

Constantius.--Elevation Of Constantine And Maxen Tius.--

Six Emperors At The Same Time.--Death Of Maximian And

Galerius.--Victories Of Constantine Over Maxentius And

Licinus.--Reunion Of The Empire Under The Authority Of

Constantine.

the balance of power established by Diocletian subsisted no longer than while it was sustained by the firm and dexterous hand of the founder. It

required such a fortunate mixture of different tempers and abilities, as could scarcely be found or even expected a second time; two emperors without jealousy, two Caesars without ambition, and the same general

interest invariably pursued by four independent princes. The abdication

of Diocletian and Maximian was succeeded by eighteen years of discord and confusion. The empire was afflicted by five civil wars; and the

remainder of the time was not so much a state of tranquillity as a

suspension of arms between several hostile monarchs, who, viewing each other with an eye of fear and hatred, strove to increase their

respective forces at the expense of their subjects.

as soon as Diocletian and Maximian had resigned the purple, their

station, according to the rules of the new constitution, was filled by the two Caesars, Constantius and Galerius, who immediately assumed the title of Augustus. [1]

[Footnote 1: M. de Montesquieu (Considerations sur la Grandeur et La decadence des Romains, c. 17) supposes, on the authority of Orosius and eusebius, that, on this occasion, the empire, for the first time, was

really divided into two parts. It is difficult, however, to discover in what respect the plan of Galerius differed from that of Diocletian.]

the honors of seniority and precedence were allowed to the former of those princes, and he continued under a new appellation to administer

his ancient department of Gaul, Spain, and Britain.

the government of those ample provinces was sufficient to exercise

his talents and to satisfy his ambition. Clemency, temperance, and

moderation, distinguished the amiable character of Constantius, and his fortunate subjects had frequently occasion to compare the virtues of their sovereign with the passions of Maximian, and even with the arts

of Diocletian. [2] Instead of imitating their eastern pride and

magnificence, Constantius preserved the modesty of a Roman prince. He declared, with unaffected sincerity, that his most valued treasure was in the hearts of his people, and that, whenever the dignity of the throne, or the danger of the state, required any extraordinary supply,

he could depend with confidence on their gratitude and liberality. [3] the provincials of Gaul, Spain, and Britain, sensible of his worth, and

of their own happiness, reflected with anxiety on the declining health

of the emperor Constantius, and the tender age of his numerous family, the issue of his second marriage with the daughter of Maximian.

[Footnote 2: Hic non modo amabilis, sed etiam venerabilis Gallis fuit; praecipuc quod Diocletiani suspectam prudentiam, et Maximiani

sanguinariam violentiam imperio ejus evaserant. Eutrop. Breviar. x. i.]

[Footnote 3: Divitiis Provincialium (mel. provinciarum) ac privatorum

studens, fisci commoda non admodum affectans; ducensque melius publicas

opes a privatis haberi, quam intra unum claustrum reservari. Id. ibid.

He carried this maxim so far, that whenever he gave an entertainment, he was obliged to borrow a service of plate.]

the stern temper of Galerius was cast in a very different mould; and while he commanded the esteem of his subjects, he seldom condescended to

solicit their affections. His fame in arms, and, above all, the success

of the Persian war, had elated his haughty mind, which was naturally

impatient of a superior, or even of an equal. If it were possible to

rely on the partial testimony of an injudicious writer, we might ascribe the abdication of Diocletian to the menaces of Galerius, and relate the

particulars of a private conversation between the two princes, in which the former discovered as much pusillanimity as the latter displayed

ingratitude and arrogance. [4] But these obscure anecdotes are

sufficiently refuted by an impartia view of the character and conduct of diocletian. Whatever might otherwise have been his intentions, if he

had apprehended any danger from the violence of Galerius, his good sense would have instructed him to prevent the ignominious contest; and as

he had held the sceptre with glory, he would have resigned it without disgrace.

[Footnote 4: Lactantius de Mort. Persecutor. c. 18. Were the particulars

of this conference more consistent with truth and decency, we might

still ask how they came to the knowledge of an obscure rhetorician. But there are many historians who put us in mind of the admirable saying of the great Conde to Cardinal de Retz: "Ces coquins nous font parlor et agir, comme ils auroient fait eux-memes a notre place." \* Note: This attack upon Lactantius is unfounded. Lactantius was so far from having been an obscure rhetorician, that he had taught rhetoric publicly, and with the greatest success, first in Africa, and afterwards in Nicomedia.

His reputation obtained him the esteem of Constantine, who invited him to his court, and intrusted to him the education of his son Crispus. The facts which he relates took place during his own time; he cannot be accused of dishonesty or imposture. Satis me vixisse arbitrabor et

officium hominis implesse si labor meus aliquos homines, ab erroribus

iberatos, ad iter coeleste direxerit. De Opif. Dei, cap. 20. The eloquence of Lactantius has caused him to be called the Christian cicero. Annon Gent.--G. ----Yet no unprejudiced person can read this coarse and particular private conversation of the two emperors, without assenting to the justice of Gibbon's severe sentence. But the authorship

of the treatise is by no means certain. The fame of Lactantius for eloquence as well as for truth, would suffer no loss if it should be adjudged to some more "obscure rhetorician." Manso, in his Leben constantins des Grossen, concurs on this point with Gibbon Beylage, iv.

--M.]

after the elevation of Constantius and Galerius to the rank of Augusti, two new Coesars were required to supply their place, and to complete the

system of the Imperial government. Diocletian, was sincerely desirous

of withdrawing himself from the world; he considered Galerius, who had

married his daughter, as the firmest support of his family and of the empire; and he consented, without reluctance, that his successor should assume the merit as well as the envy of the important nomination. It was fixed without consulting the interest or inclination of the princes of the West. Each of them had a son who was arrived at the age of manhood, and who might have been deemed the most natural candidates for the

vacant honor. But the impotent resentment of Maximian was no longer to be dreaded; and the moderate Constantius, though he might despise the dangers, was humanely apprehensive of the calamities, of civil war. the two persons whom Galerius promoted to the rank of Caesar, were much better suited to serve the views of his ambition; and their principal

recommendation seems to have consisted in the want of merit or personal consequence. The first of these was Daza, or, as he was afterwards called, Maximin, whose mother was the sister of Galerius. The

unexperienced youth still betrayed, by his manners and language, his

rustic education, when, to his own astonishment, as well as that of the world, he was invested by Diocletian with the purple, exalted to the dignity of Caesar, and intrusted with the sovereign command of Egypt and Syria. [5] At the same time, Severus, a faithful servant, addicted to

pleasure, but not incapable of business, was sent to Milan, to receive, from the reluctant hands of Maximian, the Caesarian ornaments, and the possession of Italy and Africa. According to the forms of the constitution, Severus acknowledged the supremacy of the western emperor; but he was absolutely devoted to the commands of his benefactor

Galerius, who, reserving to himself the intermediate countries from the confines of Italy to those of Syria, firmly established his power

over three fourths of the monarchy. In the full confidence that the approaching death of Constantius would leave him sole master of the

Roman world, we are assured that he had arranged in his mind a long

succession of future princes, and that he meditated his own retreat from

public life, after he should have accomplished a glorious reign of about twenty years. [7]

[Footnote 5: Sublatus nuper a pecoribus et silvis (says Lactantius de M.

P. c. 19) statim Scutarius, continuo Protector, mox Tribunus, postridie caesar, accepit Orientem. Aurelius Victor is too liberal in giving

him the whole portion of Diocletian.]

[Footnote 6: His diligence and fidelity are acknowledged even by

Lactantius, de M. P. c. 18.]

[Footnote 7: These schemes, however, rest only on the very doubtful authority of Lactantius de M. P. c. 20.]

but within less than eighteen months, two unexpected revolutions

overturned the ambitious schemes of Galerius. The hopes of uniting the western provinces to his empire were disappointed by the elevation of constantine, whilst Italy and Africa were lost by the successful revolt

of Maxentius.

I. The fame of Constantine has rendered posterity attentive to the most

minute circumstances of his life and actions. The place of his birth, as well as the condition of his mother Helena, have been the subject, not

only of literary, but of national disputes. Notwithstanding the recent tradition, which assigns for her father a British king, [8] we are

obliged to confess, that Helena was the daughter of an innkeeper; but at the same time, we may defend the legality of her marriage, against those who have represented her as the concubine of Constantius. [9] The great constantine was most probably born at Naissus, in Dacia; [10] and it is

not surprising that, in a family and province distinguished only by the

profession of arms, the youth should discover very little inclination to improve his mind by the acquisition of knowledge. [11] He was about eighteen years of age when his father was promoted to the rank of caesar; but that fortunate event was attended with his mother's divorce; and the splendor of an Imperial alliance reduced the son of Helena to a

state of disgrace and humiliation. Instead of following Constantius in the West, he remained in the service of Diocletian, signalized his valor

in the wars of Egypt and Persia, and gradually rose to the honorable

station of a tribune of the first order. The figure of Constantine was tall and majestic; he was dexterous in all his exercises, intrepid in war, affable in peace; in his whole conduct, the active spirit of youth was tempered by habitual prudence; and while his mind was engrossed by ambition, he appeared cold and insensible to the allurements of

pleasure. The favor of the people and soldiers, who had named him as a worthy candidate for the rank of Caesar, served only to exasperate the jealousy of Galerius; and though prudence might restrain him from exercising any open violence, an absolute monarch is seldom at a loss

now to execute a sure and secret revenge. [12] Every hour increased the danger of Constantine, and the anxiety of his father, who, by repeated

letters, expressed the warmest desire of embracing his son. For some time the policy of Galerius supplied him with delays and excuses; but

it was impossible long to refuse so natural a request of his associate, without maintaining his refusal by arms. The permission of the journey was reluctantly granted, and whatever precautions the emperor might have taken to intercept a return, the consequences of which he, with so

much reason, apprehended, they were effectually disappointed by the

incredible diligence of Constantine. [13] Leaving the palace of Nicomedia

in the night, he travelled post through Bithynia, Thrace, Dacia,

Pannonia, Italy, and Gaul, and, amidst the joyful acclamations of the

people, reached the port of Boulogne in the very moment when his father was preparing to embark for Britain. [14]

[Footnote 8: This tradition, unknown to the contemporaries of constantine was invented in the darkness of monestaries, was embellished by Jeffrey of Monmouth, and the writers of the xiith century, has been defended by our antiquarians of the last age, and is seriously related

in the ponderous History of England, compiled by Mr. Carte, (vol. i. p.

147.) He transports, however, the kingdom of Coil, the imaginary father

of Helena, from Essex to the wall of Antoninus.]

[Footnote 9: Eutropius (x. 2) expresses, in a few words, the real truth, and the occasion of the error "ex obscuriori matrimonio ejus filius."

Zosimus (l. ii. p. 78) eagerly seized the most unfavorable report, and is followed by Orosius, (vii. 25,) whose authority is oddly enough

overlooked by the indefatigable, but partial Tillemont. By insisting on the divorce of Helena, Diocletian acknowledged her marriage.]

[Footnote 10: There are three opinions with regard to the place of constantine's birth. 1. Our English antiquarians were used to dwell with rapture on the words of his panegyrist, "Britannias illic oriendo

nobiles fecisti." But this celebrated passage may be referred with as

much propriety to the accession, as to the nativity of Constantine.

2. Some of the modern Greeks have ascribed the honor of his birth to drepanum, a town on the Gulf of Nicomedia, (Cellarius, tom. ii. p. 174,) which Constantine dignified with the name of Helenopolis, and Justinian adorned with many splendid buildings, (Procop. de Edificiis, v. 2.) It

is indeed probable enough, that Helena's father kept an inn at Drepanum, and that Constantius might lodge there when he returned from a Persian embassy, in the reign of Aurelian. But in the wandering life of a

soldier, the place of his marriage, and the places where his children are born, have very little connection with each other. 3. The claim of

Naissus is supported by the anonymous writer, published at the end of ammianus, p. 710, and who in general copied very good materials; and

it is confirmed by Julius Firmicus, (de Astrologia, l. i. c. 4,) who flourished under the reign of Constantine himself. Some objections have been raised against the integrity of the text, and the application of the passage of Firmicus but the former is established by the best Mss., and the latter is very ably defended by Lipsius de Magnitudine Romana,

l. iv. c. 11, et Supplement.]

[Footnote 11: Literis minus instructus. Anonym. ad Ammian. p. 710.]

[Footnote 12: Galerius, or perhaps his own courage, exposed him to

single combat with a Sarmatian, (Anonym. p. 710,) and with a monstrous

lion. See Praxagoras apud Photium, p. 63. Praxagoras, an Athenian

philosopher, had written a life of Constantine in two books, which are

now lost. He was a contemporary.]

[Footnote 13: Zosimus, l. ii. p. 78, 79. Lactantius de M. P. c. 24. The former tells a very foolish story, that Constantine caused all the

post-horses which he had used to be hamstrung. Such a bloody execution, without preventing a pursuit, would have scattered suspicions, and might

have stopped his journey. \* Note: Zosimus is not the only writer who tells this story. The younger Victor confirms it. Ad frustrandos

insequentes, publica jumenta, quaqua iter ageret, interficiens. Aurelius

Victor de Caesar says the same thing, G. as also the Anonymus Valesii.--

M. ----Manso, (Leben Constantins,) p. 18, observes that the story has been exaggerated; he took this precaution during the first stage of his

journey.--M.]

[Footnote 14: Anonym. p. 710. Panegyr. Veter. vii. 4. But Zosimus, l.

ii. p. 79, Eusebius de Vit. Constant. l. i. c. 21, and Lactantius de M.

P. c. 24. suppose, with less accuracy, that he found his father on

his death-bed.]

the British expedition, and an easy victory over the barbarians of caledonia, were the last exploits of the reign of Constantius. He ended

his life in the Imperial palace of York, fifteen months after he had

received the title of Augustus, and almost fourteen years and a half after he had been promoted to the rank of Caesar. His death was

immediately succeeded by the elevation of Constantine. The ideas of

inheritance and succession are so very familiar, that the generality of

mankind consider them as founded, not only in reason, but in nature

itself. Our imagination readily transfers the same principles from

private property to public dominion: and whenever a virtuous father

leaves behind him a son whose merit seems to justify the esteem, or even the hopes, of the people, the joint influence of prejudice and of affection operates with irresistible weight. The flower of the western armies had followed Constantius into Britain, and the national troops were reenforced by a numerous body of Alemanni, who obeyed the orders of crocus, one of their hereditary chieftains. [15] The opinion of their

own importance, and the assurance that Britain, Gaul, and Spain would acquiesce in their nomination, were diligently inculcated to the legions by the adherents of Constantine. The soldiers were asked, whether they could hesitate a moment between the honor of placing at their head the worthy son of their beloved emperor, and the ignominy of tamely expecting the arrival of some obscure stranger, on whom it might please the sovereign of Asia to bestow the armies and provinces of the West. It was insinuated to them, that gratitude and liberality held a distinguished place among the virtues of Constantine; nor did that artful prince show himself to the troops, till they were prepared to

salute him with the names of Augustus and Emperor. The throne was the

object of his desires; and had he been less actuated by ambition, it was

his only means of safety. He was well acquainted with the character and

sentiments of Galerius, and sufficiently apprised, that if he wished to

live he must determine to reign. The decent and even obstinate

resistance which he chose to affect, [16] was contrived to justify his

usurpation; nor did he yield to the acclamations of the army, till he

had provided the proper materials for a letter, which he immediately despatched to the emperor of the East. Constantine informed him of the

melancholy event of his father's death, modestly asserted his natural claim to the succession, and respectfully lamented, that the affectionate violence of his troops had not permitted him to solicit the

Imperial purple in the regular and constitutional manner. The first emotions of Galerius were those of surprise, disappointment, and rage; and as he could seldom restrain his passions, he loudly threatened, that

he would commit to the flames both the letter and the messenger. But his

resentment insensibly subsided; and when he recollected the doubtful chance of war, when he had weighed the character and strength of his adversary, he consented to embrace the honorable accommodation which the

prudence of Constantine had left open to him. Without either condemning

or ratifying the choice of the British army, Galerius accepted the son

of his deceased colleague as the sovereign of the provinces beyond the alps; but he gave him only the title of Caesar, and the fourth rank among the Roman princes, whilst he conferred the vacant place of augustus on his favorite Severus. The apparent harmony of the empire was

still preserved, and Constantine, who already possessed the substance, expected, without impatience, an opportunity of obtaining the honors, of

supreme power. [17]

[Footnote 15: Cunctis qui aderant, annitentibus, sed praecipue Croco

(alii Eroco) [Erich?] Alamannorum Rege, auxilii gratia Constantium comitato, imperium capit. Victor Junior, c. 41. This is perhaps the first instance of a barbarian king, who assisted the Roman arms with an

independent body of his own subjects. The practice grew familiar and at last became fatal.]

[Footnote 16: His panegyrist Eumenius (vii. 8) ventures to affirm in the

presence of Constantine, that he put spurs to his horse, and tried, but

in vain, to escape from the hands of his soldiers.]

[Footnote 17: Lactantius de M. P. c. 25. Eumenius (vii. 8.) gives a

rhetorical turn to the whole transaction.]

the children of Constantius by his second marriage were six in number, three of either sex, and whose Imperial descent might have solicited a preference over the meaner extraction of the son of Helena. But constantine was in the thirty-second year of his age, in the full vigor both of mind and body, at the time when the eldest of his brothers could

not possibly be more than thirteen years old. His claim of superior

merit had been allowed and ratified by the dying emperor. [18] In his

last moments Constantius bequeathed to his eldest son the care of the

safety as well as greatness of the family; conjuring him to assume both the authority and the sentiments of a father with regard to the children

of Theodora. Their liberal education, advantageous marriages, the secure dignity of their lives, and the first honors of the state with which they were invested, attest the fraternal affection of Constantine; and as those princes possessed a mild and grateful disposition, they

submitted without reluctance to the superiority of his genius and fortune. [19]

[Footnote 18: The choice of Constantine, by his dying father, which is warranted by reason, and insinuated by Eumenius, seems to be confirmed by the most unexceptionable authority, the concurring evidence of

Lactantius (de M. P. c. 24) and of Libanius, (Oratio i.,) of Eusebius

(in Vit. Constantin. l. i. c. 18, 21) and of Julian, (Oratio i)]

[Footnote 19: Of the three sisters of Constantine, Constantia married the emperor Licinius, Anastasia the Caesar Bassianus, and Eutropia the consul Nepotianus. The three brothers were, Dalmatius, Julius constantius, and Annibalianus, of whom we shall have occasion to speak

hereafter.]

II. The ambitious spirit of Galerius was scarcely reconciled to the disappointment of his views upon the Gallic provinces, before the

unexpected loss of Italy wounded his pride as well as power in a still

more sensible part. The long absence of the emperors had filled Rome with discontent and indignation; and the people gradually discovered, that the preference given to Nicomedia and Milan was not to be ascribed to the particular inclination of Diocletian, but to the permanent form

of government which he had instituted. It was in vain that, a few months after his abdication, his successors dedicated, under his name, those

magnificent baths, whose ruins still supply the ground as well as the

materials for so many churches and convents. [20] The tranquility of those elegant recesses of ease and luxury was disturbed by the impatient

murmurs of the Romans, and a report was insensibly circulated, that the sums expended in erecting those buildings would soon be required at their hands. About that time the avarice of Galerius, or perhaps the exigencies of the state, had induced him to make a very strict and

rigorous inquisition into the property of his subjects, for the purpose

of a general taxation, both on their lands and on their persons. A very

minute survey appears to have been taken of their real estates; and wherever there was the slightest suspicion of concealment, torture was

very freely employed to obtain a sincere declaration of their personal wealth. [21] The privileges which had exalted Italy above the rank of the

provinces were no longer regarded: [211] and the officers of the revenue already began to number the Roman people, and to settle the proportion

of the new taxes. Even when the spirit of freedom had been utterly extinguished, the tamest subjects have sometimes ventured to resist an unprecedented invasion of their property; but on this occasion the

injury was aggravated by the insult, and the sense of private interest was quickened by that of national honor. The conquest of Macedonia, as we have already observed, had delivered the Roman people from the weight

of personal taxes.

though they had experienced every form of despotism, they had now enjoyed that exemption near five hundred years; nor could they patiently brook the insolence of an Illyrian peasant, who, from his distant

residence in Asia, presumed to number Rome among the tributary cities

of his empire. The rising fury of the people was encouraged by the authority, or at least the connivance, of the senate; and the feeble

remains of the Praetorian guards, who had reason to apprehend their

own dissolution, embraced so honorable a pretence, and declared their

readiness to draw their swords in the service of their oppressed country. It was the wish, and it soon became the hope, of every citizen, that after expelling from Italy their foreign tyrants, they should elect a prince who, by the place of his residence, and by his maxims

of government, might once more deserve the title of Roman emperor. The

name, as well as the situation, of Maxentius determined in his favor the

popular enthusiasm.

[Footnote 20: See Gruter. Inscrip. p. 178. The six princes are all

mentioned, Diocletian and Maximian as the senior Augusti, and fathers

of the emperors. They jointly dedicate, for the use of their own Romans, this magnificent edifice. The architects have delineated the ruins of these Thermoe, and the antiquarians, particularly Donatus and Nardini,

have ascertained the ground which they covered. One of the great rooms

is now the Carthusian church; and even one of the porter's lodges is

sufficient to form another church, which belongs to the Feuillans.]

[Footnote 21: See Lactantius de M. P. c. 26, 31. ]

[Footnote 211: Saviguy, in his memoir on Roman taxation, (Mem. Berl. academ. 1822, 1823, p. 5,) dates from this period the abolition of the

Jus Italicum. He quotes a remarkable passage of Aurelius Victor. Hinc denique parti Italiae invec tum tributorum ingens malum. Aur. Vict. c.

39. It was a necessary consequence of the division of the empire: it became impossible to maintain a second court and executive, and leave

so large and fruitful a part of the territory exempt from contribution.--M.]

Maxentius was the son of the emperor Maximian, and he had married the daughter of Galerius. His birth and alliance seemed to offer him the fairest promise of succeeding to the empire; but his vices and

incapacity procured him the same exclusion from the dignity of Caesar, which Constantine had deserved by a dangerous superiority of merit. The

policy of Galerius preferred such associates as would never disgrace the choice, nor dispute the commands, of their benefactor. An obscure

stranger was therefore raised to the throne of Italy, and the son of the late emperor of the West was left to enjoy the luxury of a private fortune in a villa a few miles distant from the capital. The gloomy

passions of his soul, shame, vexation, and rage, were inflamed by envy

on the news of Constantine's success; but the hopes of Maxentius revived with the public discontent, and he was easily persuaded to unite his

personal injury and pretensions with the cause of the Roman people. two Praetorian tribunes and a commissary of provisions undertook the

management of the conspiracy; and as every order of men was actuated by the same spirit, the immediate event was neither doubtful nor difficult. the praefect of the city, and a few magistrates, who maintained their fidelity to Severus, were massacred by the guards; and Maxentius,

invested with the Imperial ornaments, was acknowledged by the applauding

senate and people as the protector of the Roman freedom and dignity.

It is uncertain whether Maximian was previously acquainted with the conspiracy; but as soon as the standard of rebellion was erected at

Rome, the old emperor broke from the retirement where the authority of diocletian had condemned him to pass a life of melancholy and solitude, and concealed his returning ambition under the disguise of paternal tenderness. At the request of his son and of the senate, he condescended to reassume the purple. His ancient dignity, his experience, and his fame in arms, added strength as well as reputation to the party of

Maxentius. [22]

[Footnote 22: The sixth Panegyric represents the conduct of Maximian

in the most favorable light, and the ambiguous expression of Aurelius

Victor, "retractante diu," may signify either that he contrived, or that

he opposed, the conspiracy. See Zosimus, l. ii. p. 79, and Lactantius de M. P. c. 26.]

according to the advice, or rather the orders, of his colleague, the emperor Severus immediately hastened to Rome, in the full confidence, that, by his unexpected celerity, he should easily suppress the tumult

of an unwarlike populace, commanded by a licentious youth. But he found

on his arrival the gates of the city shut against him, the walls filled with men and arms, an experienced general at the head of the rebels, and

his own troops without spirit or affection. A large body of Moors deserted to the enemy, allured by the promise of a large donative; and,

if it be true that they had been levied by Maximian in his African war,

preferring the natural feelings of gratitude to the artificial ties of allegiance. Anulinus, the Praetorian praefect, declared himself in favor

of Maxentius, and drew after him the most considerable part of the troops, accustomed to obey his commands.

Rome, according to the expression of an orator, recalled her armies; and the unfortunate Severus, destitute of force and of counsel, retired, or

rather fled, with precipitation, to Ravenna.

Here he might for some time have been safe. The fortifications of

Ravenna were able to resist the attempts, and the morasses that

surrounded the town, were sufficient to prevent the approach, of the

Italian army. The sea, which Severus commanded with a powerful fleet,

secured him an inexhaustible supply of provisions, and gave a free entrance to the legions, which, on the return of spring, would advance to his assistance from Illyricum and the East. Maximian, who conducted the siege in person, was soon convinced that he might waste his time and

his army in the fruitless enterprise, and that he had nothing to hope either from force or famine. With an art more suitable to the character

of Diocletian than to his own, he directed his attack, not so much against the walls of Ravenna, as against the mind of Severus. The treachery which he had experienced disposed that unhappy prince to distrust the most sincere of his friends and adherents. The emissaries

of Maximian easily persuaded his credulity, that a conspiracy was formed to betray the town, and prevailed upon his fears not to expose himself to the discretion of an irritated conqueror, but to accept the faith of an honorable capitulation. He was at first received with humanity and treated with respect. Maximian conducted the captive emperor to Rome, and gave him the most solemn assurances that he had secured his life by the resignation of the purple. But Severus, could obtain only an easy death and an Imperial funeral. When the sentence was signified to him, the manner of executing it was left to his own choice; he preferred the favorite mode of the ancients, that of opening his veins; and as soon as he expired, his body was carried to the sepulchre which had been constructed for the family of Gallienus. [23]

[Footnote 23: The circumstances of this war, and the death of Severus, are very doubtfully and variously told in our ancient fragments,

(see Tillemont, Hist. des Empereurs, tom. iv. part i. p. 555.) I have endeavored to extract from them a consistent and probable narration.

\* Note: Manso justly observes that two totally different narratives might be formed, almost upon equal authority. Beylage, iv.--M.]

chapter XIV: Six Emperors At The Same Time, Reunion Of The Empire.--Part II.

though the characters of Constantine and Maxentius had very little affinity with each other, their situation and interest were the same; and prudence seemed to require that they should unite their forces against the common enemy. Notwithstanding the superiority of his age and dignity, the indefatigable Maximian passed the Alps, and, courting a personal interview with the sovereign of Gaul, carried with him his daughter Fausta as the pledge of the new alliance. The marriage was celebrated at Arles with every circumstance of magnificence; and the ancient colleague of Diocletian, who again asserted his claim to the western empire, conferred on his son-in-law and ally the title of augustus. By consenting to receive that honor from Maximian, Constantine

seemed to embrace the cause of Rome and of the senate; but his

professions were ambiguous, and his assistance slow and ineffectual. He considered with attention the approaching contest between the masters of

Italy and the emperor of the East, and was prepared to consult his own

safety or ambition in the event of the war. [24]

[Footnote 24: The sixth Panegyric was pronounced to celebrate the elevation of Constantine; but the prudent orator avoids the mention either of Galerius or of Maxentius. He introduces only one slight allusion to the actual troubles, and to the majesty of Rome. \*

Note: Compare Manso, Beylage, iv. p. 302. Gibbon's account is at least as probable as that of his critic.--M.]

the importance of the occasion called for the presence and abilities of

Galerius. At the head of a powerful army, collected from Illyricum and the East, he entered Italy, resolved to revenge the death of Severus, and to chastise the rebellions Romans; or, as he expressed his

intentions, in the furious language of a barbarian, to extirpate the senate, and to destroy the people by the sword. But the skill of

Maximian had concerted a prudent system of defence. The invader found every place hostile, fortified, and inaccessible; and though he forced

his way as far as Narni, within sixty miles of Rome, his dominion in

Italy was confined to the narrow limits of his camp. Sensible of the

increasing difficulties of his enterprise, the haughty Galerius made the first advances towards a reconciliation, and despatched two of his

most considerable officers to tempt the Roman princes by the offer of a conference, and the declaration of his paternal regard for Maxentius, who might obtain much more from his liberality than he could hope from the doubtful chance of war. [25] The offers of Galerius were rejected with firmness, his perfidious friendship refused with contempt, and

it was not long before he discovered, that, unless he provided for his

safety by a timely retreat, he had some reason to apprehend the fate

of Severus. The wealth which the Romans defended against his rapacious tyranny, they freely contributed for his destruction. The name of

Maximian, the popular arts of his son, the secret distribution of large

sums, and the promise of still more liberal rewards, checked the ardor and corrupted the fidelity of the Illyrian legions; and when Galerius at

length gave the signal of the retreat, it was with some difficulty that

he could prevail on his veterans not to desert a banner which had so

often conducted them to victory and honor. A contemporary writer assigns two other causes for the failure of the expedition; but they are both of

such a nature, that a cautious historian will scarcely venture to adopt them. We are told that Galerius, who had formed a very imperfect notion

of the greatness of Rome by the cities of the East with which he was acquainted, found his forces inadequate to the siege of that immense capital.

but the extent of a city serves only to render it more accessible to the enemy: Rome had long since been accustomed to submit on the approach of a conqueror; nor could the temporary enthusiasm of the people have

long contended against the discipline and valor of the legions. We are

likewise informed that the legions themselves were struck with horror and remorse, and that those pious sons of the republic refused to

violate the sanctity of their venerable parent. [26] But when we

recollect with how much ease, in the more ancient civil wars, the zeal

of party and the habits of military obedience had converted the native citizens of Rome into her most implacable enemies, we shall be inclined to distrust this extreme delicacy of strangers and barbarians, who had

never beheld Italy till they entered it in a hostile manner. Had they

not been restrained by motives of a more interested nature, they would

probably have answered Galerius in the words of Caesar's veterans: "If

our general wishes to lead us to the banks of the Tyber, we are prepared to trace out his camp. Whatsoever walls he has determined to level with the ground, our hands are ready to work the engines: nor shall we

hesitate, should the name of the devoted city be Rome itself." These are indeed the expressions of a poet; but of a poet who has been distinguished, and even censured, for his strict adherence to the truth

of history. [27]

[Footnote 25: With regard to this negotiation, see the fragments of an anonymous historian, published by Valesius at the end of his edition

of Ammianus Marcellinus, p. 711. These fragments have furnished with

several curious, and, as it should seem, authentic anecdotes.]

[Footnote 26: Lactantius de M. P. c. 28. The former of these reasons

is probably taken from Virgil's Shepherd: "Illam \* \* \* ego huic notra

similem, Meliboee, putavi," &c. Lactantius delights in these poetical

illusions.]

[Footnote 27: Castra super Tusci si ponere Tybridis undas; (jubeus)

Hesperios audax veniam metator in agros. Tu quoscunque voles in planum effundere muros, His aries actus disperget saxa lacertis; Illa licet

penitus tolli quam jusseris urbem Roma sit. Lucan. Pharsal. i. 381.]

the legions of Galerius exhibited a very melancholy proof of their disposition, by the ravages which they committed in their retreat. They

murdered, they ravished, they plundered, they drove away the flocks and herds of the Italians; they burnt the villages through which they

passed, and they endeavored to destroy the country which it had not been in their power to subdue. During the whole march, Maxentius hung

on their rear, but he very prudently declined a general engagement with those brave and desperate veterans. His father had undertaken a second

journey into Gaul, with the hope of persuading Constantine, who had assembled an army on the frontier, to join in the pursuit, and to complete the victory. But the actions of Constantine were guided by

reason, and not by resentment. He persisted in the wise resolution of

maintaining a balance of power in the divided empire, and he no longer

hated Galerius, when that aspiring prince had ceased to be an object of terror. [28]

[Footnote 28: Lactantius de M. P. c. 27. Zosim. l. ii. p. 82. The

latter, that Constantine, in his interview with Maximian, had promised to declare war against Galerius.]

the mind of Galerius was the most susceptible of the sterner passions, but it was not, however, incapable of a sincere and lasting friendship.

Licinius, whose manners as well as character, were not unlike his own,

seems to have engaged both his affection and esteem. Their intimacy had commenced in the happier period perhaps of their youth and obscurity.

It had been cemented by the freedom and dangers of a military life; they

had advanced almost by equal steps through the successive honors of the

service; and as soon as Galerius was invested with the Imperial dignity,

he seems to have conceived the design of raising his companion to the

same rank with himself. During the short period of his prosperity,

he considered the rank of Caesar as unworthy of the age and merit of

Licinius, and rather chose to reserve for him the place of Constantius, and the empire of the West. While the emperor was employed in the

Italian war, he intrusted his friend with the defence of the Danube; and immediately after his return from that unfortunate expedition, he

invested Licinius with the vacant purple of Severus, resigning to

his immediate command the provinces of Illyricum. [29] The news of

his promotion was no sooner carried into the East, than Maximin, who governed, or rather oppressed, the countries of Egypt and Syria, betrayed his envy and discontent, disdained the inferior name of Caesar, and, notwithstanding the prayers as well as arguments of Galerius, exacted, almost by violence, the equal title of Augustus. [30] For the first, and indeed for the last time, the Roman world was administered by six emperors. In the West, Constantine and Maxentius affected to

reverence their father Maximian. In the East, Licinius and Maximin

honored with more real consideration their benefactor Galerius. The

opposition of interest, and the memory of a recent war, divided the empire into two great hostile powers; but their mutual fears produced an apparent tranquillity, and even a feigned reconciliation, till the death

of the elder princes, of Maximian, and more particularly of Galerius,

gave a new direction to the views and passions of their surviving associates.

[Footnote 29: M. de Tillemont (Hist. des Empereurs, tom. iv.

part i. p. 559) has proved that Licinius, without passing through the intermediate rank of Caesar, was declared Augustus, the 11th of

November, A. D. 307, after the return of Galerius from Italy.]

[Footnote 30: Lactantius de M. P. c. 32. When Galerius declared Licinius augustus with himself, he tried to satisfy his younger associates, by

inventing for Constantine and Maximin (not Maxentius; see Baluze, p. 81) the new title of sons of the Augusti. But when Maximin acquainted him that he had been saluted Augustus by the army, Galerius was obliged to acknowledge him as well as Constantine, as equal associates in the

Imperial dignity.]

when Maximian had reluctantly abdicated the empire, the venal orators of the times applauded his philosophic moderation. When his ambition excited, or at least encouraged, a civil war, they returned thanks to

his generous patriotism, and gently censured that love of ease and

retirement which had withdrawn him from the public service. [31] But it was impossible that minds like those of Maximian and his son could long

possess in harmony an undivided power. Maxentius considered himself as the legal sovereign of Italy, elected by the Roman senate and people;

nor would he endure the control of his father, who arrogantly declared that by his name and abilities the rash youth had been established on the throne. The cause was solemnly pleaded before the Praetorian guards; and those troops, who dreaded the severity of the old emperor, espoused the party of Maxentius. [32] The life and freedom of Maximian were,

however, respected, and he retired from Italy into Illyricum, affecting to lament his past conduct, and secretly contriving new mischiefs. But

Galerius, who was well acquainted with his character, soon obliged him to leave his dominions, and the last refuge of the disappointed Maximian was the court of his son-in-law Constantine. [33] He was received with

respect by that artful prince, and with the appearance of filial tenderness by the empress Fausta. That he might remove every suspicion,

he resigned the Imperial purple a second time, [34] professing himself at length convinced of the vanity of greatness and ambition. Had he

persevered in this resolution, he might have ended his life with less dignity, indeed, than in his first retirement, yet, however, with comfort and reputation. But the near prospect of a throne brought back to his remembrance the state from whence he was fallen, and he resolved, by a desperate effort either to reign or to perish. An incursion of the franks had summoned Constantine, with a part of his army, to the banks

of the Rhine; the remainder of the troops were stationed in the southern

provinces of Gaul, which lay exposed to the enterprises of the Italian emperor, and a considerable treasure was deposited in the city of Arles.

Maximian either craftily invented, or easily credited, a vain report of the death of Constantine. Without hesitation he ascended the throne,

seized the treasure, and scattering it with his accustomed profusion among the soldiers, endeavored to awake in their minds the memory of his ancient dignity and exploits. Before he could establish his authority,

or finish the negotiation which he appears to have entered into with his

son Maxentius, the celerity of Constantine defeated all his hopes. On the first news of his perfidy and ingratitude, that prince returned by

rapid marches from the Rhine to the Saone, embarked on the last

mentioned river at Chalons, and at Lyons trusting himself to the

rapidity of the Rhone, arrived at the gates of Arles, with a military force which it was impossible for Maximian to resist, and which scarcely

permitted him to take refuge in the neighboring city of Marseilles. The

narrow neck of land which joined that place to the continent was fortified against the besiegers, whilst the sea was open, either for the escape of Maximian, or for the succor of Maxentius, if the latter should choose to disguise his invasion of Gaul under the honorable pretence of defending a distressed, or, as he might allege, an injured father. apprehensive of the fatal consequences of delay, Constantine gave orders for an immediate assault; but the scaling-ladders were found too short for the height of the walls, and Marseilles might have sustained as long a siege as it formerly did against the arms of Caesar, if the garrison, conscious either of their fault or of their danger, had not purchased their pardon by delivering up the city and the person of Maximian. A

secret but irrevocable sentence of death was pronounced against the

usurper; he obtained only the same favor which he had indulged to

Severus, and it was published to the world, that, oppressed by the

remorse of his repeated crimes, he strangled himself with his own hands. after he had lost the assistance, and disdained the moderate counsels of diocletian, the second period of his active life was a series of public calamities and personal mortifications, which were terminated, in about three years, by an ignominious death. He deserved his fate; but we

should find more reason to applaud the humanity of Constantine, if he

had spared an old man, the benefactor of his father, and the father of

his wife. During the whole of this melancholy transaction, it appears that Fausta sacrificed the sentiments of nature to her conjugal duties.

[35]

[Footnote 31: See Panegyr. Vet. vi. 9. Audi doloris nostri liberam

vocem, &c. The whole passage is imagined with artful flattery, and expressed with an easy flow of eloquence.]

[Footnote 32: Lactantius de M. P. c. 28. Zosim. l. ii. p. 82. A report was spread, that Maxentius was the son of some obscure Syrian, and had been substituted by the wife of Maximian as her own child. See Aurelius

Victor, Anonym. Valesian, and Panegyr. Vet. ix. 3, 4.]

[Footnote 33: Ab urbe pulsum, ab Italia fugatum, ab Illyrico repudiatum,

provinciis, tuis copiis, tuo palatio recepisti. Eumen. in Panegyr Vet.

vii. 14.]

[Footnote 34: Lactantius de M. P. c. 29. Yet, after the resignation of the purple, Constantine still continued to Maximian the pomp and honors

of the Imperial dignity; and on all public occasions gave the right hand

place to his father-in-law. Panegyr. Vet. viii. 15.]

[Footnote 35: Zosim. l. ii. p. 82. Eumenius in Panegyr. Vet. vii.

16--21. The latter of these has undoubtedly represented the whole affair in the most favorable light for his sovereign. Yet even from this partial narrative we may conclude, that the repeated clemency

of Constantine, and the reiterated treasons of Maximian, as they are described by Lactantius, (de M. P. c. 29, 30,) and copied by the

moderns, are destitute of any historical foundation. Note: Yet some

pagan authors relate and confirm them. Aurelius Victor speaking of

Maximin, says, cumque specie officii, dolis compositis, Constantinum

generum tentaret acerbe, jure tamen interierat. Aur. Vict. de Caesar l.

p. 623. Eutropius also says, inde ad Gallias profectus est (Maximianus) composito tamquam a filio esset expulsus, ut Constantino genero jun

geretur: moliens tamen Constantinum, reperta occasione, interficere, dedit justissimo exitu. Eutrop. x. p. 661. (Anon. Gent.)--G. ---- these writers hardly confirm more than Gibbon admits; he denies the

repeated clemency of Constantine, and the reiterated treasons of

Maximian Compare Manso, p. 302.--M.]

the last years of Galerius were less shameful and unfortunate; and though he had filled with more glory the subordinate station of Caesar than the superior rank of Augustus, he preserved, till the moment of his death, the first place among the princes of the Roman world. He survived

his retreat from Italy about four years; and wisely relinquishing his

views of universal empire, he devoted the remainder of his life to the enjoyment of pleasure, and to the execution of some works of public

utility, among which we may distinguish the discharging into the Danube the superfluous waters of the Lake Pelso, and the cutting down the

immense forests that encompassed it; an operation worthy of a monarch,

since it gave an extensive country to the agriculture of his Pannonian

subjects. [36] His death was occasioned by a very painful and lingering disorder. His body, swelled by an intemperate course of life to an unwieldy corpulence, was covered with ulcers, and devoured by

innumerable swarms of those insects which have given their name to a

most loathsome disease; [37] but as Galerius had offended a very zealous and powerful party among his subjects, his sufferings, instead of exciting their compassion, have been celebrated as the visible effects

of divine justice. [38] He had no sooner expired in his palace of

Nicomedia, than the two emperors who were indebted for their purple to

his favors, began to collect their forces, with the intention either

of disputing, or of dividing, the dominions which he had left without a

master. They were persuaded, however, to desist from the former design, and to agree in the latter. The provinces of Asia fell to the share

of Maximin, and those of Europe augmented the portion of Licinius. The

Hellespont and the Thracian Bosphorus formed their mutual boundary, and the banks of those narrow seas, which flowed in the midst of the Roman world, were covered with soldiers, with arms, and with fortifications. the deaths of Maximian and of Galerius reduced the number of emperors to four. The sense of their true interest soon connected Licinius and Constantine; a secret alliance was concluded between Maximin and

Maxentius, and their unhappy subjects expected with terror the bloody consequences of their inevitable dissensions, which were no longer

restrained by the fear or the respect which they had entertained for

Galerius. [39]

[Footnote 36: Aurelius Victor, c. 40. But that lake was situated on the

upper Pannonia, near the borders of Noricum; and the province of Valeria

(a name which the wife of Galerius gave to the drained country)

undoubtedly lay between the Drave and the Danube, (Sextus Rufus, c. 9.)

I should therefore suspect that Victor has confounded the Lake Pelso with the Volocean marshes, or, as they are now called, the Lake Sabaton.

It is placed in the heart of Valeria, and its present extent is not less than twelve Hungarian miles (about seventy English) in length, and two

in breadth. See Severini Pannonia, l. i. c.

9.]

[Footnote 37: Lactantius (de M. P. c. 33) and Eusebius (l. viii. c.

16) describe the symptoms and progress of his disorder with singular accuracy and apparent pleasure.]

[Footnote 38: If any (like the late Dr. Jortin, Remarks on ecclesiastical History, vol. ii. p. 307--356) still delight in recording the wonderful deaths of the persecutors, I would recommend to their

perusal an admirable passage of Grotius (Hist. l. vii. p. 332) concerning the last illness of Philip II. of Spain.]

[Footnote 39: See Eusebius, l. ix. 6, 10. Lactantius de M. P. c. 36.

Zosimus is less exact, and evidently confounds Maximian with Maximin.]

among so many crimes and misfortunes, occasioned by the passions of the

Roman princes, there is some pleasure in discovering a single action which may be ascribed to their virtue. In the sixth year of his reign, constantine visited the city of Autun, and generously remitted the arrears of tribute, reducing at the same time the proportion of their assessment from twenty-five to eighteen thousand heads, subject to the

real and personal capitation. [40] Yet even this indulgence affords the most unquestionable proof of the public misery. This tax was so extremely oppressive, either in itself or in the mode of collecting it, that whilst the revenue was increased by extortion, it was diminished by despair: a considerable part of the territory of Autun was left

uncultivated; and great numbers of the provincials rather chose to live as exiles and outlaws, than to support the weight of civil society. It

is but too probable, that the bountiful emperor relieved, by a partial act of liberality, one among the many evils which he had caused by his

general maxims of administration. But even those maxims were less the effect of choice than of necessity. And if we except the death of

Maximian, the reign of Constantine in Gaul seems to have been the most

innocent and even virtuous period of his life.

the provinces were protected by his presence from the inroads of the barbarians, who either dreaded or experienced his active valor. After a signal victory over the Franks and Alemanni, several of their princes were exposed by his order to the wild beasts in the amphitheatre of treves, and the people seem to have enjoyed the spectacle, without discovering, in such a treatment of royal captives, any thing that was

repugnant to the laws of nations or of humanity. [41]

[Footnote 40: See the viiith Panegyr., in which Eumenius displays, in the presence of Constantine, the misery and the gratitude of the city of autun.]

[Footnote 41: Eutropius, x. 3. Panegyr. Veter. vii. 10, 11, 12. a great number of the French youth were likewise exposed to the same cruel and ignominious death.]

[Footnote 41: Yet the panegyric assumes something of an apologetic tone. te vero Constantine, quantumlibet oderint hoses, dum perhorrescant. Haec est enim vera virtus, ut non ament et quiescant. The orator appeals to the ancient ideal of the republic.--M.]

the virtues of Constantine were rendered more illustrious by the vices

of Maxentius. Whilst the Gallic provinces enjoyed as much happiness as the condition of the times was capable of receiving, Italy and Africa

groaned under the dominion of a tyrant, as contemptible as he was

odious. The zeal of flattery and faction has indeed too frequently

sacrificed the reputation of the vanquished to the glory of their

successful rivals; but even those writers who have revealed, with the most freedom and pleasure, the faults of Constantine, unanimously confess that Maxentius was cruel, rapacious, and profligate. [42] He had the good fortune to suppress a slight rebellion in Africa. The governor and a few adherents had been guilty; the province suffered for their crime. The flourishing cities of Cirtha and Carthage, and the whole extent of that fertile country, were wasted by fire and sword. The abuse

of victory was followed by the abuse of law and justice. A formidable army of sycophants and delators invaded Africa; the rich and the noble were easily convicted of a connection with the rebels; and those among them who experienced the emperor's clemency, were only punished by the confiscation of their estates. [43] So signal a victory was celebrated by a magnificent triumph, and Maxentius exposed to the eyes of the people the spoils and captives of a Roman province. The state of the capital was no less deserving of compassion than that of Africa. The wealth of

Rome supplied an inexhaustible fund for his vain and prodigal expenses, and the ministers of his revenue were skilled in the arts of rapine.

It was under his reign that the method of exacting a free gift from the

senators was first invented; and as the sum was insensibly increased, the pretences of levying it, a victory, a birth, a marriage, or an

imperial consulship, were proportionably multiplied. [44] Maxentius

had imbibed the same implacable aversion to the senate, which had characterized most of the former tyrants of Rome; nor was it possible for his ungrateful temper to forgive the generous fidelity which had

raised him to the throne, and supported him against all his enemies. the lives of the senators were exposed to his jealous suspicions, the dishonor of their wives and daughters heightened the gratification of

his sensual passions. [45] It may be presumed, that an Imperial lover was seldom reduced to sigh in vain; but whenever persuasion proved

ineffectual, he had recourse to violence; and there remains one

memorable example of a noble matron, who preserved her chastity by a voluntary death. The soldiers were the only order of men whom he appeared to respect, or studied to please. He filled Rome and Italy with armed troops, connived at their tumults, suffered them with impunity to

plunder, and even to massacre, the defenceless people; [46] and indulging them in the same licentiousness which their emperor enjoyed, Maxentius

often bestowed on his military favorites the splendid villa, or the beautiful wife, of a senator. A prince of such a character, alike

incapable of governing, either in peace or in war, might purchase the

support, but he could never obtain the esteem, of the army. Yet his

pride was equal to his other vices. Whilst he passed his indolent life either within the walls of his palace, or in the neighboring gardens of

Sallust, he was repeatedly heard to declare, that he alone was emperor, and that the other princes were no more than his lieutenants, on whom he

had devolved the defence of the frontier provinces, that he might enjoy without interruption the elegant luxury of the capital. Rome, which had

so long regretted the absence, lamented, during the six years of his

reign, the presence of her sovereign. [47]

[Footnote 42: Julian excludes Maxentius from the banquet of the Caesars with abhorrence and contempt; and Zosimus (l. ii. p. 85) accuses him of every kind of cruelty and profligacy.]

[Footnote 43: Zosimus, l. ii. p. 83--85. Aurelius Victor.]

[Footnote 44: The passage of Aurelius Victor should be read in the following manner: Primus instituto pessimo, munerum specie, Patres

Oratores que pecuniam conferre prodigenti sibi cogeret.]

[Footnote 45: Panegyr. Vet. ix. 3. Euseb. Hist Eccles. viii. 14, et in

Vit. Constant i. 33, 34. Rufinus, c. 17. The virtuous matron who stabbed

herself to escape the violence of Maxentius, was a Christian, wife to the praefect of the city, and her name was Sophronia. It still remains a question among the casuists, whether, on such occasions, suicide is

justifiable.]

[Footnote 46: Praetorianis caedem vulgi quondam annueret, is the vague expression of Aurelius Victor. See more particular, though somewhat different, accounts of a tumult and massacre which happened at Rome, in eusebius, (l. viii. c. 14,) and in Zosimus, (l. ii. p. 84.)]

[Footnote 47: See, in the Panegyrics, (ix. 14,) a lively description of the indolence and vain pride of Maxentius. In another place the orator

observes that the riches which Rome had accumulated in a period of 1060

years, were lavished by the tyrant on his mercenary bands; redemptis ad civile latrocinium manibus in gesserat.]

though Constantine might view the conduct of Maxentius with abhorrence, and the situation of the Romans with compassion, we have no reason to

presume that he would have taken up arms to punish the one or to

relieve the other. But the tyrant of Italy rashly ventured to provoke a formidable enemy, whose ambition had been hitherto restrained by considerations of prudence, rather than by principles of justice. [48] after the death of Maximian, his titles, according to the established custom, had been erased, and his statues thrown down with ignominy. His

son, who had persecuted and deserted him when alive, effected to display the most pious regard for his memory, and gave orders that a similar treatment should be immediately inflicted on all the statues that had been erected in Italy and Africa to the honor of Constantine.

that wise prince, who sincerely wished to decline a war, with the difficulty and importance of which he was sufficiently acquainted, at first dissembled the insult, and sought for redress by the milder expedient of negotiation, till he was convinced that the hostile and ambitious designs of the Italian emperor made it necessary for him to arm in his own defence. Maxentius, who openly avowed his pretensions to the whole monarchy of the West, had already prepared a very considerable force to invade the Gallic provinces on the side of Rhaetia; and though

he could not expect any assistance from Licinius, he was flattered with the hope that the legions of Illyricum, allured by his presents and

promises, would desert the standard of that prince, and unanimously declare themselves his soldiers and subjects. [49] Constantine no longer

hesitated. He had deliberated with caution, he acted with vigor. He gave a private audience to the ambassadors, who, in the name of the senate and people, conjured him to deliver Rome from a detested tyrant; and without regarding the timid remonstrances of his council, he resolved to

prevent the enemy, and to carry the war into the heart of Italy. [50]

[Footnote 48: After the victory of Constantine, it was universally allowed, that the motive of delivering the republic from a detested tyrant, would, at any time, have justified his expedition into Italy. euseb in Vi'. Constantin. l. i. c. 26. Panegyr. Vet. ix. 2.]

[Footnote 49: Zosimus, l. ii. p. 84, 85. Nazarius in Panegyr. x. 7--13.]

[Footnote 50: See Panegyr. Vet. ix. 2. Omnibus fere tuis Comitibus et Ducibus non solum tacite mussantibus, sed etiam aperte timentibus; contra consilia hominum, contra Haruspicum monita, ipse per temet

liberandae arbis tempus venisse sentires. The embassy of the Romans is

mentioned only by Zonaras, (l. xiii.,) and by Cedrenus, (in Compend.

Hist. p. 370;) but those modern Greeks had the opportunity of consulting

many writers which have since been lost, among which we may reckon the

life of Constantine by Praxagoras. Photius (p. 63) has made a short extract from that historical work.]

the enterprise was as full of danger as of glory; and the unsuccessful event of two former invasions was sufficient to inspire the most serious apprehensions. The veteran troops, who revered the name of Maximian, had embraced in both those wars the party of his son, and were now

restrained by a sense of honor, as well as of interest, from entertaining an idea of a second desertion. Maxentius, who considered the Praetorian guards as the firmest defence of his throne, had

increased them to their ancient establishment; and they composed,

including the rest of the Italians who were enlisted into his service, a formidable body of fourscore thousand men. Forty thousand Moors and carthaginians had been raised since the reduction of Africa. Even Sicily furnished its proportion of troops; and the armies of Maxentius amounted to one hundred and seventy thousand foot and eighteen thousand horse. the wealth of Italy supplied the expenses of the war; and the adjacent

provinces were exhausted, to form immense magazines of corn and every

other kind of provisions.

the whole force of Constantine consisted of ninety thousand foot and eight thousand horse; [51] and as the defence of the Rhine required an extraordinary attention during the absence of the emperor, it was not

in his power to employ above half his troops in the Italian expedition,

unless he sacrificed the public safety to his private quarrel. [52] At the head of about forty thousand soldiers he marched to encounter an enemy whose numbers were at least four times superior to his own. but the armies of Rome, placed at a secure distance from danger, were enervated by indulgence and luxury. Habituated to the baths and theatres

of Rome, they took the field with reluctance, and were chiefly composed

of veterans who had almost forgotten, or of new levies who had never acquired, the use of arms and the practice of war. The hardy legions

of Gaul had long defended the frontiers of the empire against the barbarians of the North; and in the performance of that laborious

service, their valor was exercised and their discipline confirmed. There appeared the same difference between the leaders as between the armies. caprice or flattery had tempted Maxentius with the hopes of conquest; but these aspiring hopes soon gave way to the habits of pleasure and the consciousness of his inexperience. The intrepid mind of Constantine had been trained from his earliest youth to war, to action, and to military command.

[Footnote 51: Zosimus (l. ii. p. 86) has given us this curious account

of the forces on both sides. He makes no mention of any naval armaments, though we are assured (Panegyr. Vet. ix. 25) that the war was carried on by sea as well as by land; and that the fleet of Constantine took

possession of Sardinia, Corsica, and the ports of Italy.]

[Footnote 52: Panegyr. Vet. ix. 3. It is not surprising that the orator

should diminish the numbers with which his sovereign achieved the conquest of Italy; but it appears somewhat singular that he should esteem the tyrant's army at no more than 100,000 men.]

chapter XIV: Six Emperors At The Same Time, Reunion Of The Empire.--Part III.

when Hannibal marched from Gaul into Italy, he was obliged, first to discover, and then to open, a way over mountains, and through savage

nations, that had never yielded a passage to a regular army. [53] the Alps were then guarded by nature, they are now fortified by art. citadels, constructed with no less skill than labor and expense, command every avenue into the plain, and on that side render Italy almost

inaccessible to the enemies of the king of Sardinia. [54] But in the course of the intermediate period, the generals, who have attempted the

passage, have seldom experienced any difficulty or resistance. In the age of Constantine, the peasants of the mountains were civilized and

obedient subjects; the country was plentifully stocked with provisions, and the stupendous highways, which the Romans had carried over the Alps,

opened several communications between Gaul and Italy. [55] Constantine

preferred the road of the Cottian Alps, or, as it is now called, of

Mount Cenis, and led his troops with such active diligence, that he descended into the plain of Piedmont before the court of Maxentius had

received any certain intelligence of his departure from the banks of the

Rhine. The city of Susa, however, which is situated at the foot of

Mount Cenis, was surrounded with walls, and provided with a garrison

sufficiently numerous to check the progress of an invader; but the

impatience of Constantine's troops disdained the tedious forms of a

siege. The same day that they appeared before Susa, they applied fire to the gates, and ladders to the walls; and mounting to the assault amidst a shower of stones and arrows, they entered the place sword in hand, and cut in pieces the greatest part of the garrison. The flames were extinguished by the care of Constantine, and the remains of Susa

preserved from total destruction. About forty miles from thence, a more

severe contest awaited him. A numerous army of Italians was assembled

under the lieutenants of Maxentius, in the plains of Turin. Its

principal strength consisted in a species of heavy cavalry, which the

Romans, since the decline of their discipline, had borrowed from the

nations of the East. The horses, as well as the men, were clothed in complete armor, the joints of which were artfully adapted to the motions

of their bodies. The aspect of this cavalry was formidable, their weight almost irresistible; and as, on this occasion, their generals had drawn them up in a compact column or wedge, with a sharp point, and with

spreading flanks, they flattered themselves that they could easily break and trample down the army of Constantine. They might, perhaps, have

succeeded in their design, had not their experienced adversary embraced the same method of defence, which in similar circumstances had been

practised by Aurelian. The skilful evolutions of Constantine divided and baffled this massy column of cavalry. The troops of Maxentius fled in confusion towards Turin; and as the gates of the city were shut against them, very few escaped the sword of the victorious pursuers. By this

important service, Turin deserved to experience the clemency and even favor of the conqueror. He made his entry into the Imperial palace of

Milan, and almost all the cities of Italy between the Alps and the Po

not only acknowledged the power, but embraced with zeal the party, of constantine. [56]

[Footnote 53: The three principal passages of the Alps between Gaul and

Italy, are those of Mount St. Bernard, Mount Cenis, and Mount Genevre. tradition, and a resemblance of names, (Alpes Penninoe,) had assigned the first of these for the march of Hannibal, (see Simler de Alpibus.) the Chevalier de Folard (Polyp. tom. iv.) and M. d'Anville have led him

over Mount Genevre. But notwithstanding the authority of an experienced

officer and a learned geographer, the pretensions of Mount Cenis are

supported in a specious, not to say a convincing, manner, by M. Grosley.

Observations sur l'Italie, tom. i. p. 40, &c. ----The dissertation of

Messrs. Cramer and Wickham has clearly shown that the Little St. Bernard

must claim the honor of Hannibal's passage. Mr. Long (London, 1831) has added some sensible corrections re Hannibal's march to the Alps.--M]

[Footnote 54: La Brunette near Suse, Demont, Exiles, Fenestrelles, Coni,

&c.]

[Footnote 55: See Ammian. Marcellin. xv. 10. His description of the

roads over the Alps is clear, lively, and accurate.]

[Footnote 56: Zosimus as well as Eusebius hasten from the passage of the Alps to the decisive action near Rome. We must apply to the two

Panegyrics for the intermediate actions of Constantine.]

from Milan to Rome, the Aemilian and Flaminian highways offered an easy

march of about four hundred miles; but though Constantine was impatient to encounter the tyrant, he prudently directed his operations against another army of Italians, who, by their strength and position, might either oppose his progress, or, in case of a misfortune, might intercept

his retreat. Ruricius Pompeianus, a general distinguished by his valor and ability, had under his command the city of Verona, and all the troops that were stationed in the province of Venetia. As soon as he was

informed that Constantine was advancing towards him, he detached a large body of cavalry which was defeated in an engagement near Brescia, and pursued by the Gallic legions as far as the gates of Verona. The

necessity, the importance, and the difficulties of the siege of Verona,

immediately presented themselves to the sagacious mind of Constantine.

[57] The city was accessible only by a narrow peninsula towards the west, as the other three sides were surrounded by the Adige, a rapid river, which covered the province of Venetia, from whence the besieged derived an inexhaustible supply of men and provisions. It was not without great difficulty, and after several fruitless attempts, that Constantine found

means to pass the river at some distance above the city, and in a place where the torrent was less violent. He then encompassed Verona with

strong lines, pushed his attacks with prudent vigor, and repelled a desperate sally of Pompeianus. That intrepid general, when he had used every means of defence that the strength of the place or that of the

garrison could afford, secretly escaped from Verona, anxious not for

his own, but for the public safety. With indefatigable diligence he soon collected an army sufficient either to meet Constantine in the field, or to attack him if he obstinately remained within his lines. The emperor, attentive to the motions, and informed of the approach of so formidable an enemy, left a part of his legions to continue the operations of the

siege, whilst, at the head of those troops on whose valor and fidelity

he more particularly depended, he advanced in person to engage the

general of Maxentius. The army of Gaul was drawn up in two lines, according to the usual practice of war; but their experienced leader,

perceiving that the numbers of the Italians far exceeded his own,

suddenly changed his disposition, and, reducing the second, extended the front of his first line to a just proportion with that of the enemy.

Such evolutions, which only veteran troops can execute without confusion

in a moment of danger, commonly prove decisive; but as this engagement began towards the close of the day, and was contested with great

obstinacy during the whole night, there was less room for the conduct of the generals than for the courage of the soldiers. The return of light displayed the victory of Constantine, and a field of carnage covered with many thousands of the vanquished Italians. Their general,

Pompeianus, was found among the slain; Verona immediately surrendered at discretion, and the garrison was made prisoners of war. [58] When the officers of the victorious army congratulated their master on this

important success, they ventured to add some respectful complaints,

of such a nature, however, as the most jealous monarchs will listen to without displeasure. They represented to Constantine, that, not contented with all the duties of a commander, he had exposed his own

person with an excess of valor which almost degenerated into rashness; and they conjured him for the future to pay more regard to the

preservation of a life in which the safety of Rome and of the empire was

involved. [59]

[Footnote 57: The Marquis Maffei has examined the siege and battle of

Verona with that degree of attention and accuracy which was due to a

memorable action that happened in his native country. The fortifications

of that city, constructed by Gallienus, were less extensive than the

modern walls, and the amphitheatre was not included within their circumference. See Verona Illustrata, part i. p. 142 150.]

[Footnote 58: They wanted chains for so great a multitude of captives; and the whole council was at a loss; but the sagacious conqueror

imagined the happy expedient of converting into fetters the swords of the vanquished. Panegyr. Vet. ix. 11.]

[Footnote 59: Panegyr. Vet. ix. 11.]

while Constantine signalized his conduct and valor in the field, the

sovereign of Italy appeared insensible of the calamities and danger of a civil war which reigned in the heart of his dominions. Pleasure was

still the only business of Maxentius. Concealing, or at least attempting to conceal, from the public knowledge the misfortunes of his arms, [60]

he indulged himself in a vain confidence which deferred the remedies of the approaching evil, without deferring the evil itself. [61] The rapid

progress of Constantine [62] was scarcely sufficient to awaken him from his fatal security; he flattered himself, that his well-known

liberality, and the majesty of the Roman name, which had already delivered him from two invasions, would dissipate with the same facility the rebellious army of Gaul. The officers of experience and ability, who

had served under the banners of Maximian, were at length compelled to inform his effeminate son of the imminent danger to which he was

reduced; and, with a freedom that at once surprised and convinced him, to urge the necessity of preventing his ruin, by a vigorous exertion of

his remaining power. The resources of Maxentius, both of men and money, were still considerable. The Praetorian guards felt how strongly their

own interest and safety were connected with his cause; and a third army was soon collected, more numerous than those which had been lost in the battles of Turin and Verona. It was far from the intention of the emperor to lead his troops in person. A stranger to the exercises of war, he trembled at the apprehension of so dangerous a contest; and as fear is commonly superstitious, he listened with melancholy attention to the rumors of omens and presages which seemed to menace his life and empire. Shame at length supplied the place of courage, and forced him to take the field. He was unable to sustain the contempt of the Roman

people. The circus resounded with their indignant clamors, and they tumultuously besieged the gates of the palace, reproaching the

pusillanimity of their indolent sovereign, and celebrating the heroic

spirit of Constantine. [63] Before Maxentius left Rome, he consulted the

Sibylline books. The guardians of these ancient oracles were as well

versed in the arts of this world as they were ignorant of the secrets

of fate; and they returned him a very prudent answer, which might adapt

itself to the event, and secure their reputation, whatever should be the chance of arms. [64]

[Footnote 60: Literas calamitatum suarum indices supprimebat. Panegyr

Vet. ix. 15.]

[Footnote 61: Remedia malorum potius quam mala differebat, is the fine censure which Tacitus passes on the supine indolence of Vitellius.]

[Footnote 62: The Marquis Maffei has made it extremely probable that constantine was still at Verona, the 1st of September, A.D. 312, and that the memorable aera of the indications was dated from his conquest

of the Cisalpine Gaul.]

[Footnote 63: See Panegyr. Vet. xi. 16. Lactantius de M. P. c. 44.]

[Footnote 64: Illo die hostem Romanorum esse periturum. The vanquished became of course the enemy of Rome.]

the celerity of Constantine's march has been compared to the rapid conquest of Italy by the first of the Caesars; nor is the flattering

parallel repugnant to the truth of history, since no more than fifty-eight days elapsed between the surrender of Verona and the final decision of the war. Constantine had always apprehended that the tyrant would consult the dictates of fear, and perhaps of prudence; and that,

instead of risking his last hopes in a general engagement, he would shut

himself up within the walls of Rome. His ample magazines secured him against the danger of famine; and as the situation of Constantine admitted not of delay, he might have been reduced to the sad necessity

of destroying with fire and sword the Imperial city, the noblest reward

of his victory, and the deliverance of which had been the motive, or

rather indeed the pretence, of the civil war. [65] It was with equal

surprise and pleasure, that on his arrival at a place called Saxa Rubra, about nine miles from Rome, [66] he discovered the army of Maxentius

prepared to give him battle. [67] Their long front filled a very spacious

plain, and their deep array reached to the banks of the Tyber, which covered their rear, and forbade their retreat. We are informed, and we

may believe, that Constantine disposed his troops with consummate

skill, and that he chose for himself the post of honor and danger. distinguished by the splendor of his arms, he charged in person the cavalry of his rival; and his irresistible attack determined the fortune

of the day. The cavalry of Maxentius was principally composed either of

unwieldy cuirassiers, or of light Moors and Numidians. They yielded to the vigor of the Gallic horse, which possessed more activity than the

one, more firmness than the other. The defeat of the two wings left the

infantry without any protection on its flanks, and the undisciplined

Italians fled without reluctance from the standard of a tyrant whom they had always hated, and whom they no longer feared. The Praetorians, conscious that their offences were beyond the reach of mercy, were animated by revenge and despair. Notwithstanding their repeated efforts, those brave veterans were unable to recover the victory: they obtained,

however, an honorable death; and it was observed that their bodies covered the same ground which had been occupied by their ranks. [68] The confusion then became general, and the dismayed troops of Maxentius,

pursued by an implacable enemy, rushed by thousands into the deep and

rapid stream of the Tyber. The emperor himself attempted to escape back

into the city over the Milvian bridge; but the crowds which pressed together through that narrow passage forced him into the river, where he was immediately drowned by the weight of his armor. [69] His body, which

had sunk very deep into the mud, was found with some difficulty the

next day. The sight of his head, when it was exposed to the eyes of the people, convinced them of their deliverance, and admonished them to receive with acclamations of loyalty and gratitude the fortunate constantine, who thus achieved by his valor and ability the most

splendid enterprise of his life. [70]

[Footnote 65: See Panegyr. Vet. ix. 16, x. 27. The former of these

orators magnifies the hoards of corn, which Maxentius had collected from africa and the Islands. And yet, if there is any truth in the scarcity

mentioned by Eusebius, (in Vit. Constantin. l. i. c. 36,) the Imperial

granaries must have been open only to the soldiers.]

[Footnote 66: Maxentius... tandem urbe in Saxa Rubra, millia ferme novem aegerrime progressus. Aurelius Victor. See Cellarius Geograph. Antiq. tom. i. p. 463. Saxa Rubra was in the neighborhood of the Cremera, a trifling rivulet, illustrated by the valor and glorious death of the three hundred Fabii.]

[Footnote 67: The post which Maxentius had taken, with the Tyber in his

rear is very clearly described by the two Panegyrists, ix. 16, x.

28.]

[Footnote 68: Exceptis latrocinii illius primis auctoribus, qui desperata venia ocum quem pugnae sumpserant texere corporibus. Panegyr.

Vet 17.]

[Footnote 69: A very idle rumor soon prevailed, that Maxentius, who had not taken any precaution for his own retreat, had contrived a very artful snare to destroy the army of the pursuers; but that the wooden bridge, which was to have been loosened on the approach

of Constantine, unluckily broke down under the weight of the flying

Italians. M. de Tillemont (Hist. des Empereurs, tom. iv. part i. p. 576)

very seriously examines whether, in contradiction to common sense, the testimony of Eusebius and Zosimus ought to prevail over the silence of

Lactantius, Nazarius, and the anonymous, but contemporary orator, who composed the ninth Panegyric. \* Note: Manso (Beylage, vi.) examines the

question, and adduces two manifest allusions to the bridge, from the

Life of Constantine by Praxagoras, and from Libanius. Is it not very

probable that such a bridge was thrown over the river to facilitate the advance, and to secure the retreat, of the army of Maxentius? In case of defeat, orders were given for destroying it, in order to check the

pursuit: it broke down accidentally, or in the confusion was destroyed, as has not unfrequently been the case, before the proper time.--M.]

[Footnote 70: Zosimus, l. ii. p. 86-88, and the two Panegyrics, the former of which was pronounced a few months afterwards, afford the clearest notion of this great battle. Lactantius, Eusebius, and even the epitomes, supply several useful hints.]

In the use of victory, Constantine neither deserved the praise of clemency, nor incurred the censure of immoderate rigor. [71] He inflicted the same treatment to which a defeat would have exposed his own person and family, put to death the two sons of the tyrant, and carefully extirpated his whole race. The most distinguished adherents of Maxentius

must have expected to share his fate, as they had shared his prosperity and his crimes; but when the Roman people loudly demanded a greater

number of victims, the conqueror resisted with firmness and humanity, those servile clamors, which were dictated by flattery as well as by

resentment. Informers were punished and discouraged; the innocent, who had suffered under the late tyranny, were recalled from exile, and

restored to their estates. A general act of oblivion quieted the minds and settled the property of the people, both in Italy and in Africa. [72] the first time that Constantine honored the senate with his presence, he

recapitulated his own services and exploits in a modest oration, assured that illustrious order of his sincere regard, and promised to

reestablish its ancient dignity and privileges. The grateful senate

repaid these unmeaning professions by the empty titles of honor, which

it was yet in their power to bestow; and without presuming to ratify the authority of Constantine, they passed a decree to assign him the first

rank among the three Augusti who governed the Roman world. [73] Games and festivals were instituted to preserve the fame of his victory, and

several edifices, raised at the expense of Maxentius, were dedicated to the honor of his successful rival. The triumphal arch of Constantine

still remains a melancholy proof of the decline of the arts, and a

singular testimony of the meanest vanity. As it was not possible to find

in the capital of the empire a sculptor who was capable of adorning that

public monument, the arch of Trajan, without any respect either for his

memory or for the rules of propriety, was stripped of its most elegant figures. The difference of times and persons, of actions and characters, was totally disregarded. The Parthian captives appear prostrate at the feet of a prince who never carried his arms beyond the Euphrates; and curious antiquarians can still discover the head of Trajan on the trophies of Constantine. The new ornaments which it was necessary to

introduce between the vacancies of ancient sculpture are executed in the

rudest and most unskillful manner. [74]

[Footnote 71: Zosimus, the enemy of Constantine, allows (l. ii. p. 88) that only a few of the friends of Maxentius were put to death; but we

may remark the expressive passage of Nazarius, (Panegyr. Vet. x. 6.)

Omnibus qui labefactari statum ejus poterant cum stirpe deletis. The

other orator (Panegyr. Vet. ix. 20, 21) contents himself with observing, that Constantine, when he entered Rome, did not imitate the cruel

massacres of Cinna, of Marius, or of Sylla. \* Note: This may refer to the son or sons of Maxentius.--M.]

[Footnote 72: See the two Panegyrics, and the laws of this and the ensuing year, in the Theodosian Code.]

[Footnote 73: Panegyr. Vet. ix. 20. Lactantius de M. P. c. 44. Maximin, who was confessedly the eldest Caesar, claimed, with some show of

reason, the first rank among the Augusti.]

[Footnote 74: Adhuc cuncta opera quae magnifice construxerat, urbis fanum atque basilicam, Flavii meritis patres sacravere. Aurelius Victor. with regard to the theft of Trajan's trophies, consult Flaminius Vacca, apud Montfaucon, Diarium Italicum, p. 250, and l'Antiquite Expliquee of the latter, tom. iv. p. 171.]

the final abolition of the Praetorian guards was a measure of prudence as well as of revenge. Those haughty troops, whose numbers and

privileges had been restored, and even augmented, by Maxentius, were forever suppressed by Constantine. Their fortified camp was destroyed, and the few Praetorians who had escaped the fury of the sword were dispersed among the legions, and banished to the frontiers of the empire, where they might be serviceable without again becoming dangerous. [75] By suppressing the troops which were usually stationed in

Rome, Constantine gave the fatal blow to the dignity of the senate and

people, and the disarmed capital was exposed without protection to the

insults or neglect of its distant master. We may observe, that in this

last effort to preserve their expiring freedom, the Romans, from the apprehension of a tribute, had raised Maxentius to the throne. He exacted that tribute from the senate under the name of a free gift. They

implored the assistance of Constantine. He vanquished the tyrant, and converted the free gift into a perpetual tax. The senators, according to the declaration which was required of their property, were divided into

several classes. The most opulent paid annually eight pounds of gold, the next class paid four, the last two, and those whose poverty might

have claimed an exemption, were assessed, however, at seven pieces

of gold. Besides the regular members of the senate, their sons, their descendants, and even their relations, enjoyed the vain privileges, and

supported the heavy burdens, of the senatorial order; nor will it any

longer excite our surprise, that Constantine should be attentive to

increase the number of persons who were included under so useful a description. [76] After the defeat of Maxentius, the victorious emperor

passed no more than two or three months in Rome, which he visited twice during the remainder of his life, to celebrate the solemn festivals

of the tenth and of the twentieth years of his reign. Constantine was almost perpetually in motion, to exercise the legions, or to inspect the

state of the provinces. Treves, Milan, Aquileia, Sirmium, Naissus, and Thessalonica, were the occasional places of his residence, till he founded a new Rome on the confines of Europe and Asia. [77]

[Footnote 75: Praetoriae legiones ac subsidia factionibus aptiora quam

urbi Romae, sublata penitus; simul arma atque usus indumenti militaris aurelius Victor. Zosimus (l. ii. p. 89) mentions this fact as an

historian, and it is very pompously celebrated in the ninth Panegyric.]

[Footnote 76: Ex omnibus provinciis optimates viros Curiae tuae

pigneraveris ut Senatus dignitas.... ex totius Orbis flore consisteret.

Nazarius in Panegyr. Vet x. 35. The word pigneraveris might almost seem

maliciously chosen. Concerning the senatorial tax, see Zosimus, l. ii.

p. 115, the second title of the sixth book of the Theodosian Code, with

Godefroy's Commentary, and Memoires de l'Academic des Inscriptions, tom.

xxviii. p. 726.]

[Footnote 77: From the Theodosian Code, we may now begin to trace the

motions of the emperors; but the dates both of time and place have frequently been altered by the carelessness of transcribers.]

before Constantine marched into Italy, he had secured the friendship,

or at least the neutrality, of Licinius, the Illyrian emperor. He had

promised his sister Constantia in marriage to that prince; but the celebration of the nuptials was deferred till after the conclusion

of the war, and the interview of the two emperors at Milan, which was appointed for that purpose, appeared to cement the union of their families and interests. [78] In the midst of the public festivity they were suddenly obliged to take leave of each other. An inroad of the franks summoned Constantine to the Rhime, and the hostile approach

of the sovereign of Asia demanded the immediate presence of Licinius.

Maximin had been the secret ally of Maxentius, and without being discouraged by his fate, he resolved to try the fortune of a civil war.

He moved out of Syria, towards the frontiers of Bithynia, in the depth

of winter. The season was severe and tempestuous; great numbers of men as well as horses perished in the snow; and as the roads were broken up by incessant rains, he was obliged to leave behind him a considerable

part of the heavy baggage, which was unable to follow the rapidity

of his forced marches. By this extraordinary effort of diligence,

he arrived with a harassed but formidable army, on the banks of the thracian Bosphorus before the lieutenants of Licinius were apprised of

his hostile intentions. Byzantium surrendered to the power of Maximin, after a siege of eleven days. He was detained some days under the walls

of Heraclea; and he had no sooner taken possession of that city, than he was alarmed by the intelligence, that Licinius had pitched his camp at the distance of only eighteen miles. After a fruitless negotiation, in which the two princes attempted to seduce the fidelity of each other's adherents, they had recourse to arms. The emperor of the East commanded a disciplined and veteran army of above seventy thousand men; and

Licinius, who had collected about thirty thousand Illyrians, was at first oppressed by the superiority of numbers. His military skill, and the firmness of his troops, restored the day, and obtained a decisive

victory. The incredible speed which Maximin exerted in his flight is

much more celebrated than his prowess in the battle. Twenty-four hours afterwards he was seen, pale, trembling, and without his Imperial

ornaments, at Nicomedia, one hundred and sixty miles from the place

of his defeat. The wealth of Asia was yet unexhausted; and though the flower of his veterans had fallen in the late action, he had still

power, if he could obtain time, to draw very numerous levies from Syria and Egypt. But he survived his misfortune only three or four months. His death, which happened at Tarsus, was variously ascribed to despair, to

poison, and to the divine justice. As Maximin was alike destitute of abilities and of virtue, he was lamented neither by the people nor by the soldiers. The provinces of the East, delivered from the terrors of civil war, cheerfully acknowledged the authority of Licinius. [79]

[Footnote 78: Zosimus (l. ii. p. 89) observes, that before the war the

sister of Constantine had been betrothed to Licinius. According to the younger Victor, Diocletian was invited to the nuptials; but having

ventured to plead his age and infirmities, he received a second letter, filled with reproaches for his supposed partiality to the cause of

Maxentius and Maximin.]

[Footnote 79: Zosimus mentions the defeat and death of Maximin as

ordinary events; but Lactantius expatiates on them, (de M. P. c. 45-50,) ascribing them to the miraculous interposition of Heaven. Licinius at that time was one of the protectors of the church.]

the vanquished emperor left behind him two children, a boy of about eight, and a girl of about seven, years old. Their inoffensive age

might have excited compassion; but the compassion of Licinius was a very feeble resource, nor did it restrain him from extinguishing the name and memory of his adversary. The death of Severianus will admit of

less excuse, as it was dictated neither by revenge nor by policy. The conqueror had never received any injury from the father of that unhappy

youth, and the short and obscure reign of Severus, in a distant part of the empire, was already forgotten. But the execution of Candidianus was an act of the blackest cruelty and ingratitude. He was the natural son

of Galerius, the friend and benefactor of Licinius. The prudent father

had judged him too young to sustain the weight of a diadem; but he hoped that, under the protection of princes who were indebted to his favor for the Imperial purple, Candidianus might pass a secure and honorable life.

He was now advancing towards the twentieth year of his age, and the

royalty of his birth, though unsupported either by merit or ambition, was sufficient to exasperate the jealous mind of Licinius. [80] To these

innocent and illustrious victims of his tyranny, we must add the wife and daughter of the emperor Diocletian. When that prince conferred on

Galerius the title of Caesar, he had given him in marriage his daughter

Valeria, whose melancholy adventures might furnish a very singular

subject for tragedy. She had fulfilled and even surpassed the duties of a wife. As she had not any children herself, she condescended to adopt the illegitimate son of her husband, and invariably displayed towards the unhappy Candidianus the tenderness and anxiety of a real mother. after the death of Galerius, her ample possessions provoked the avarice, and her personal attractions excited the desires, of his successor,

Maximin. [81] He had a wife still alive; but divorce was permitted by the

Roman law, and the fierce passions of the tyrant demanded an immediate

gratification. The answer of Valeria was such as became the daughter and widow of emperors; but it was tempered by the prudence which her defenceless condition compelled her to observe. She represented to the

persons whom Maximin had employed on this occasion, "that even if honor could permit a woman of her character and dignity to entertain a thought

of second nuptials, decency at least must forbid her to listen to his addresses at a time when the ashes of her husband, and his benefactor were still warm, and while the sorrows of her mind were still expressed by her mourning garments. She ventured to declare, that she could

place very little confidence in the professions of a man whose cruel

inconstancy was capable of repudiating a faithful and affectionate wife." [82] On this repulse, the love of Maximin was converted into fury; and as witnesses and judges were always at his disposal, it was easy for

him to cover his fury with an appearance of legal proceedings, and to assault the reputation as well as the happiness of Valeria. Her estates were confiscated, her eunuchs and domestics devoted to the most inhuman tortures; and several innocent and respectable matrons, who were honored with her friendship, suffered death, on a false accusation of adultery. the empress herself, together with her mother Prisca, was condemned to exile; and as they were ignominiously hurried from place to place before they were confined to a sequestered village in the deserts of Syria, they exposed their shame and distress to the provinces of the East, which, during thirty years, had respected their august dignity. diocletian made several ineffectual efforts to alleviate the misfortunes

of his daughter; and, as the last return that he expected for the

Imperial purple, which he had conferred upon Maximin, he entreated that

Valeria might be permitted to share his retirement of Salona, and to close the eyes of her afflicted father. [83] He entreated; but as he could no longer threaten, his prayers were received with coldness and disdain; and the pride of Maximin was gratified, in treating Diocletian as a suppliant, and his daughter as a criminal. The death of Maximin

seemed to assure the empresses of a favorable alteration in their fortune. The public disorders relaxed the vigilance of their guard, and they easily found means to escape from the place of their exile, and to

repair, though with some precaution, and in disguise, to the court

of Licinius. His behavior, in the first days of his reign, and the

honorable reception which he gave to young Candidianus, inspired Valeria with a secret satisfaction, both on her own account and on that of her adopted son. But these grateful prospects were soon succeeded by horror and astonishment; and the bloody executions which stained the palace

of Nicomedia sufficiently convinced her that the throne of Maximin was filled by a tyrant more inhuman than himself. Valeria consulted her

safety by a hasty flight, and, still accompanied by her mother Prisca, they wandered above fifteen months [84] through the provinces, concealed

in the disguise of plebeian habits. They were at length discovered at thessalonica; and as the sentence of their death was already pronounced, they were immediately beheaded, and their bodies thrown into the sea. the people gazed on the melancholy spectacle; but their grief and

indignation were suppressed by the terrors of a military guard. Such was the unworthy fate of the wife and daughter of Diocletian. We lament their misfortunes, we cannot discover their crimes; and whatever idea we

may justly entertain of the cruelty of Licinius, it remains a matter

of surprise that he was not contented with some more secret and decent

method of revenge. [85]

[Footnote 80: Lactantius de M. P. c. 50. Aurelius Victor touches on the different conduct of Licinius, and of Constantine, in the use of

victory.]

[Footnote 81: The sensual appetites of Maximin were gratified at the expense of his subjects. His eunuchs, who forced away wives and virgins, examined their naked charms with anxious curiosity, lest any part of their body should be found unworthy of the royal embraces. Coyness and disdain were considered as treason, and the obstinate fair one was condemned to be drowned. A custom was gradually introduced, that no

person should marry a wife without the permission of the emperor, "ut

ipse in omnibus nuptiis praegustator esset." Lactantius de M. P. c. 38.]

[Footnote 82: Lactantius de M. P. c. 39.]

[Footnote 83: Diocletian at last sent cognatum suum, quendam militarem ae potentem virum, to intercede in favor of his daughter, (Lactantius de M. P. c. 41.) We are not sufficiently acquainted with the history of these times to point out the person who was employed.]

[Footnote 84: Valeria quoque per varias provincias quindecim mensibus

plebeio cultu pervagata. Lactantius de M. P. c. 51. There is some doubt whether we should compute the fifteen months from the moment of her exile, or from that of her escape. The expression of parvagata seems to denote the latter; but in that case we must suppose that the treatise

of Lactantius was written after the first civil war between Licinius and constantine. See Cuper, p. 254.]

[Footnote 85: Ita illis pudicitia et conditio exitio fuit. Lactantius de M. P. c. 51. He relates the misfortunes of the innocent wife and daughter of Discletian with a very natural mixture of pity and exultation.]

the Roman world was now divided between Constantine and Licinius, the former of whom was master of the West, and the latter of the East. It

might perhaps have been expected that the conquerors, fatigued with civil war, and connected by a private as well as public alliance, would

have renounced, or at least would have suspended, any further designs of ambition. And yet a year had scarcely elapsed after the death of

Maximin, before the victorious emperors turned their arms against each

other. The genius, the success, and the aspiring temper of Constantine,

may seem to mark him out as the aggressor; but the perfidious character

of Licinius justifies the most unfavorable suspicions, and by the faint

light which history reflects on this transaction, [86] we may discover a conspiracy fomented by his arts against the authority of his colleague. constantine had lately given his sister Anastasia in marriage to bassianus, a man of a considerable family and fortune, and had elevated

his new kinsman to the rank of Caesar. According to the system of

government instituted by Diocletian, Italy, and perhaps Africa, were designed for his department in the empire. But the performance of the

promised favor was either attended with so much delay, or accompanied with so many unequal conditions, that the fidelity of Bassianus was alienated rather than secured by the honorable distinction which he had

obtained. His nomination had been ratified by the consent of Licinius; and that artful prince, by the means of his emissaries, soon contrived to enter into a secret and dangerous correspondence with the new Caesar, to irritate his discontents, and to urge him to the rash enterprise of extorting by violence what he might in vain solicit from the justice of constantine. But the vigilant emperor discovered the conspiracy before

it was ripe for execution; and after solemnly renouncing the alliance of bassianus, despoiled him of the purple, and inflicted the deserved

punishment on his treason and ingratitude. The haughty refusal of

Licinius, when he was required to deliver up the criminals who had taken

refuge in his dominions, confirmed the suspicions already entertained of

his perfidy; and the indignities offered at Aemona, on the frontiers of

Italy, to the statues of Constantine, became the signal of discord between the two princes. [87]

[Footnote 86: The curious reader, who consults the Valesian fragment, p.

713, will probably accuse me of giving a bold and licentious paraphrase; but if he considers it with attention, he will acknowledge that my

interpretation is probable and consistent.]

[Footnote 87: The situation of Aemona, or, as it is now called, Laybach,

in Carniola, (D'Anville, Geographie Ancienne, tom. i. p. 187,) may

suggest a conjecture. As it lay to the north-east of the Julian Alps, that important territory became a natural object of dispute between the

sovereigns of Italy and of Illyricum.]

the first battle was fought near Cibalis, a city of Pannonia, situated

on the River Save, about fifty miles above Sirmium. [88] From the

inconsiderable forces which in this important contest two such powerful

monarchs brought into the field, it may be inferred that the one was

suddenly provoked, and that the other was unexpectedly surprised. The emperor of the West had only twenty thousand, and the sovereign of the east no more than five and thirty thousand, men. The inferiority

of number was, however, compensated by the advantage of the ground. constantine had taken post in a defile about half a mile in breadth, between a steep hill and a deep morass, and in that situation he

steadily expected and repulsed the first attack of the enemy. He pursued

his success, and advanced into the plain. But the veteran legions of

Illyricum rallied under the standard of a leader who had been trained to arms in the school of Probus and Diocletian. The missile weapons on both

sides were soon exhausted; the two armies, with equal valor, rushed to a closer engagement of swords and spears, and the doubtful contest had already lasted from the dawn of the day to a late hour of the evening, when the right wing, which Constantine led in person, made a vigorous and decisive charge. The judicious retreat of Licinius saved the

remainder of his troops from a total defeat; but when he computed his

loss, which amounted to more than twenty thousand men, he thought it

unsafe to pass the night in the presence of an active and victorious enemy. Abandoning his camp and magazines, he marched away with secrecy and diligence at the head of the greatest part of his cavalry, and was

soon removed beyond the danger of a pursuit. His diligence preserved

his wife, his son, and his treasures, which he had deposited at Sirmium.

Licinius passed through that city, and breaking down the bridge on the

Save, hastened to collect a new army in Dacia and Thrace. In his flight

he bestowed the precarious title of Caesar on Valens, his general of the

Illyrian frontier. [89]

[Footnote 88: Cibalis or Cibalae (whose name is still preserved in the

obscure ruins of Swilei) was situated about fifty miles from Sirmium, the capital of Illyricum, and about one hundred from Taurunum, or belgrade, and the conflux of the Danube and the Save. The Roman

garrisons and cities on those rivers are finely illustrated by M. d'Anville in a memoir inserted in l'Academie des Inscriptions, tom.

xxviii.]

[Footnote 89: Zosimus (l. ii. p. 90, 91) gives a very particular account

of this battle; but the descriptions of Zosimus are rhetorical rather than military]

chapter XIV: Six Emperors At The Same Time, Reunion Of The Empire.--Part IV.

the plain of Mardia in Thrace was the theatre of a second battle no less

obstinate and bloody than the former. The troops on both sides displayed the same valor and discipline; and the victory was once more decided by the superior abilities of Constantine, who directed a body of five thousand men to gain an advantageous height, from whence, during the

heat of the action, they attacked the rear of the enemy, and made a very considerable slaughter. The troops of Licinius, however, presenting a double front, still maintained their ground, till the approach of

night put an end to the combat, and secured their retreat towards the

mountains of Macedonia. [90] The loss of two battles, and of his bravest

veterans, reduced the fierce spirit of Licinius to sue for peace. His ambassador Mistrianus was admitted to the audience of Constantine: he expatiated on the common topics of moderation and humanity, which are

so familiar to the eloquence of the vanquished; represented in the most

insinuating language, that the event of the war was still doubtful, whilst its inevitable calamities were alike pernicious to both the contending parties; and declared that he was authorized to propose a

lasting and honorable peace in the name of the two emperors his

masters. Constantine received the mention of Valens with indignation and contempt. "It was not for such a purpose," he sternly replied, "that we

have advanced from the shores of the western ocean in an uninterrupted course of combats and victories, that, after rejecting an ungrateful

kinsman, we should accept for our colleague a contemptible slave. The abdication of Valens is the first article of the treaty." [91] It was

necessary to accept this humiliating condition; and the unhappy Valens, after a reign of a few days, was deprived of the purple and of his life. as soon as this obstacle was removed, the tranquillity of the Roman world was easily restored. The successive defeats of Licinius had

ruined his forces, but they had displayed his courage and abilities. His

situation was almost desperate, but the efforts of despair are sometimes formidable, and the good sense of Constantine preferred a great and certain advantage to a third trial of the chance of arms. He consented to leave his rival, or, as he again styled Licinius, his friend and brother, in the possession of Thrace, Asia Minor, Syria, and Egypt; but the provinces of Pannonia, Dalmatia, Dacia, Macedonia, and Greece, were

yielded to the Western empire, and the dominions of Constantine

now extended from the confines of Caledonia to the extremity of

Peloponnesus. It was stipulated by the same treaty, that three royal

youths, the sons of emperors, should be called to the hopes of the

succession. Crispus and the young Constantine were soon afterwards declared Caesars in the West, while the younger Licinius was invested with the same dignity in the East. In this double proportion of honors, the conqueror asserted the superiority of his arms and power. [92]

[Footnote 90: Zosimus, l. ii. p. 92, 93. Anonym. Valesian. p. 713. The epitomes furnish some circumstances; but they frequently confound the two wars between Licinius and Constantine.]

[Footnote 91: Petrus Patricius in Excerpt. Legat. p. 27. If it should be thought that signifies more properly a son-in-law, we might conjecture that Constantine, assuming the name as well as the duties of a father,

had adopted his younger brothers and sisters, the children of Theodora. but in the best authors sometimes signifies a husband, sometimes a father-in-law, and sometimes a kinsman in general. See Spanheim,

Observat. ad Julian. Orat. i. p. 72.]

[Footnote 92: Zosimus, l. ii. p. 93. Anonym. Valesian. p. 713. eutropius, x. v. Aurelius Victor, Euseb. in Chron. Sozomen, l. i. c. 2. four of these writers affirm that the promotion of the Caesars was an article of the treaty. It is, however, certain, that the younger constantine and Licinius were not yet born; and it is highly probable that the promotion was made the 1st of March, A. D. 317. The treaty

had probably stipulated that the two Caesars might be created by the western, and one only by the eastern emperor; but each of them reserved to himself the choice of the persons.]

the reconciliation of Constantine and Licinius, though it was imbittered by resentment and jealousy, by the remembrance of recent injuries, and by the apprehension of future dangers, maintained, however, above eight

years, the tranquility of the Roman world. As a very regular series of the Imperial laws commences about this period, it would not be difficult to transcribe the civil regulations which employed the leisure of constantine. But the most important of his institutions are intimately connected with the new system of policy and religion, which was not

perfectly established till the last and peaceful years of his reign. there are many of his laws, which, as far as they concern the rights and

property of individuals, and the practice of the bar, are more properly

referred to the private than to the public jurisprudence of the empire; and he published many edicts of so local and temporary a nature, that they would ill deserve the notice of a general history. Two laws,

however, may be selected from the crowd; the one for its importance, the

other for its singularity; the former for its remarkable benevolence, the latter for its excessive severity. 1. The horrid practice, so familiar to the ancients, of exposing or murdering their new-born

infants, was become every day more frequent in the provinces, and especially in Italy. It was the effect of distress; and the distress was

principally occasioned by the intolerant burden of taxes, and by the

vexatious as well as cruel prosecutions of the officers of the revenue against their insolvent debtors. The less opulent or less industrious

part of mankind, instead of rejoicing in an increase of family, deemed

it an act of paternal tenderness to release their children from the

impending miseries of a life which they themselves were unable to

support. The humanity of Constantine; moved, perhaps, by some recent and extraordinary instances of despair, engaged him to address an edict to all the cities of Italy, and afterwards of Africa, directing

immediate and sufficient relief to be given to those parents who should

produce before the magistrates the children whom their own poverty would

not allow them to educate. But the promise was too liberal, and the

provision too vague, to effect any general or permanent benefit. [93] the law, though it may merit some praise, served rather to display than to alleviate the public distress. It still remains an authentic monument to contradict and confound those venal orators, who were too well

satisfied with their own situation to discover either vice or misery

under the government of a generous sovereign. [94] 2. The laws of constantine against rapes were dictated with very little indulgence for the most amiable weaknesses of human nature; since the description of that crime was applied not only to the brutal violence which compelled, but even to the gentle seduction which might persuade, an unmarried woman, under the age of twenty-five, to leave the house of her parents.

"The successful ravisher was punished with death;" and as if simple death was inadequate to the enormity of his guilt, he was either burnt alive,

or torn in pieces by wild beasts in the amphitheatre. The virgin's declaration, that she had been carried away with her own consent,

instead of saving her lover, exposed her to share his fate. The duty of a public prosecution was intrusted to the parents of the guilty or

unfortunate maid; and if the sentiments of nature prevailed on them to dissemble the injury, and to repair by a subsequent marriage the honor

of their family, they were themselves punished by exile and confiscation. The slaves, whether male or female, who were convicted of

having been accessory to rape or seduction, were burnt alive, or put to death by the ingenious torture of pouring down their throats a quantity

of melted lead. As the crime was of a public kind, the accusation was

permitted even to strangers.[9401]

[Footnote 9401: This explanation appears to me little probable. Godefroy

has made a much more happy conjecture, supported by all the historical circumstances which relate to this edict. It was published the 12th of

May, A. D. 315. at Naissus in Pannonia, the birthplace of Constantine. the 8th of October, in that year, Constantine gained the victory of cibalis over Licinius. He was yet uncertain as to the fate of the war: the Christians, no doubt, whom he favored, had prophesied his victory.

Lactantius, then preceptor of Crispus, had just written his work upon christianity, (his Divine Institutes;) he had dedicated it to constantine. In this book he had inveighed with great force against

infanticide, and the exposure of infants, (l. vi. c. 20.) Is it not

probable that Constantine had read this work, that he had conversed on the subject with Lactantius, that he was moved, among other things, by the passage to which I have referred, and in the first transport of his enthusiasm, he published the edict in question? The whole of the edict bears the character of precipitation, of excitement, (entrainement,)

rather than of deliberate reflection--the extent of the promises, the

indefiniteness of the means, of the conditions, and of the time during which the parents might have a right to the succor of the state. Is there not reason to believe that the humanity of Constantine was excited by the influence of Lactantius, by that of the principles of christianity, and of the Christians themselves, already in high esteem with the emperor, rather than by some "extraordinary instances of despair"? \* \* \* See Hegewisch, Essai Hist. sur les Finances Romaines. the edict for Africa was not published till 322: of that we may say in truth that its origin was in the misery of the times. Africa had

suffered much from the cruelty of Maxentius. Constantine says expressly, that he had learned that parents, under the pressure of distress, were there selling their children. This decree is more distinct, more

maturely deliberated than the former; the succor which was to be given to the parents, and the source from which it was to be derived, are determined. (Code Theod. l. xi. tit. 27, c 2.) If the direct utility of these laws may not have been very extensive, they had at least the great and happy effect of establishing a decisive opposition between the

principles of the government and those which, at this time, had

prevailed among the subjects of the empire.--G.]

the commencement of the action was not limited to any term of years, and the consequences of the sentence were extended to the innocent offspring

of such an irregular union. [95] But whenever the offence inspires less

horror than the punishment, the rigor of penal law is obliged to give way to the common feelings of mankind. The most odious parts of this edict were softened or repealed in the subsequent reigns; [96] and even constantine himself very frequently alleviated, by partial acts of

mercy, the stern temper of his general institutions. Such, indeed, was the singular humor of that emperor, who showed himself as indulgent, and even remiss, in the execution of his laws, as he was severe, and even cruel, in the enacting of them. It is scarcely possible to observe a more decisive symptom of weakness, either in the character of the

prince, or in the constitution of the government. [97]

[Footnote 93: Codex Theodosian. l. xi. tit. 27, tom. iv. p. 188, with

Godefroy's observations. See likewise l. v. tit. 7, 8.]

[Footnote 94: Omnia foris placita, domi prospera, annonae ubertate, fructuum copia, &c. Panegyr. Vet. x. 38. This oration of Nazarius was

pronounced on the day of the Quinquennalia of the Caesars, the 1st of

March, A. D. 321.]

[Footnote 95: See the edict of Constantine, addressed to the Roman people, in the Theodosian Code, l. ix. tit. 24, tom. iii.

p. 189.]

[Footnote 96: His son very fairly assigns the true reason of the repeal:

"Na sub specie atrocioris judicii aliqua in ulciscendo crimine dilatio

nae ceretur." Cod. Theod. tom. iii. p. 193]

[Footnote 97: Eusebius (in Vita Constant. l. iii. c. 1) chooses to affirm, that in the reign of this hero, the sword of justice hung idle

in the hands of the magistrates. Eusebius himself, (l. iv. c. 29, 54,) and the Theodosian Code, will inform us that this excessive lenity was

not owing to the want either of atrocious criminals or of penal laws.]

the civil administration was sometimes interrupted by the military defence of the empire. Crispus, a youth of the most amiable character, who had received with the title of Caesar the command of the Rhine, distinguished his conduct, as well as valor, in several victories over the Franks and Alemanni, and taught the barbarians of that frontier to dread the eldest son of Constantine, and the grandson of Constantius.

[98] The emperor himself had assumed the more difficult and important

province of the Danube. The Goths, who in the time of Claudius and aurelian had felt the weight of the Roman arms, respected the power

of the empire, even in the midst of its intestine divisions. But the

strength of that warlike nation was now restored by a peace of near fifty years; a new generation had arisen, who no longer remembered the

misfortunes of ancient days; the Sarmatians of the Lake Maeotis followed the Gothic standard either as subjects or as allies, and their united force was poured upon the countries of Illyricum. Campona, Margus, and benonia, [981] appear to have been the scenes of several memorable sieges and battles; [99] and though Constantine encountered a very obstinate

resistance, he prevailed at length in the contest, and the Goths were compelled to purchased an ignominious retreat, by restoring the booty and prisoners which they had taken. Nor was this advantage sufficient to

satisfy the indignation of the emperor. He resolved to chastise as well as to repulse the insolent barbarians who had dared to invade the territories of Rome. At the head of his legions he passed the Danube after repairing the bridge which had been constructed by Trajan,

penetrated into the strongest recesses of Dacia, [100] and when he had

inflicted a severe revenge, condescended to give peace to the suppliant

Goths, on condition that, as often as they were required, they should

supply his armies with a body of forty thousand soldiers. [101] Exploits

like these were no doubt honorable to Constantine, and beneficial to the state; but it may surely be questioned, whether they can justify the exaggerated assertion of Eusebius, that All Scythia, as far as the extremity of the North, divided as it was into so many names and nations

of the most various and savage manners, had been added by his victorious arms to the Roman empire. [102]

[Footnote 98: Nazarius in Panegyr. Vet. x. The victory of Crispus over the Alemanni is expressed on some medals. \* Note: Other medals are extant, the legends of which commemorate the success of Constantine over the Sarmatians and other barbarous nations, Sarmatia Devicta. Victoria

Gothica. Debellatori Gentium Barbarorum. Exuperator Omnium Gentium. St.

Martin, note on Le Beau, i. 148.--M.]

[Footnote 981]: Campona, Old Buda in Hungary; Margus, Benonia, Widdin, in

Maesia--G and M.]

[Footnote 99: See Zosimus, l. ii. p. 93, 94; though the narrative

of that historian is neither clear nor consistent. The Panegyric of

Optatianus (c. 23) mentions the alliance of the Sarmatians with the carpi and Getae, and points out the several fields of battle. It is

supposed that the Sarmatian games, celebrated in the month of November, derived their origin from the success of this war.]

[Footnote 100: In the Caesars of Julian, (p. 329. Commentaire de

Spanheim, p. 252.) Constantine boasts, that he had recovered the

province (Dacia) which Trajan had subdued. But it is insinuated by

Silenus, that the conquests of Constantine were like the gardens of adonis, which fade and wither almost the moment they appear.]

[Footnote 101: Jornandes de Rebus Geticis, c. 21. I know not whether we

may entirely depend on his authority. Such an alliance has a very recent air, and scarcely is suited to the maxims of the beginning of the fourth century.]

[Footnote 102: Eusebius in Vit. Constantin. l. i. c. 8. This

passage, however, is taken from a general declamation on the greatness

of Constantine, and not from any particular account of the Gothic war.]

In this exalted state of glory, it was impossible that Constantine

should any longer endure a partner in the empire. Confiding in the

superiority of his genius and military power, he determined, without any

previous injury, to exert them for the destruction of Licinius, whose advanced age and unpopular vices seemed to offer a very easy conquest.

[103] But the old emperor, awakened by the approaching danger, deceived the expectations of his friends, as well as of his enemies. Calling forth that spirit and those abilities by which he had deserved the friendship of Galerius and the Imperial purple, he prepared himself for the contest, collected the forces of the East, and soon filled the

plains of Hadrianople with his troops, and the Straits of the Hellespont with his fleet. The army consisted of one hundred and fifty thousand foot, and fifteen thousand horse; and as the cavalry was drawn, for the

most part, from Phrygia and Cappadocia, we may conceive a more favorable

opinion of the beauty of the horses, than of the courage and dexterity

of their riders. The fleet was composed of three hundred and fifty

galleys of three ranks of oars. A hundred and thirty of these were furnished by Egypt and the adjacent coast of Africa. A hundred and ten sailed from the ports of Phoenicia and the Isle of Cyprus; and the

maritime countries of Bithynia, Ionia, and Caria, were likewise obliged to provide a hundred and ten galleys. The troops of Constantine were

ordered to a rendezvous at Thessalonica; they amounted to above a

hundred and twenty thousand horse and foot. [104] Their emperor was

satisfied with their martial appearance, and his army contained more

soldiers, though fewer men, than that of his eastern competitor. The

legions of Constantine were levied in the warlike provinces of Europe; action had confirmed their discipline, victory had elevated their

hopes, and there were among them a great number of veterans, who, after

seventeen glorious campaigns under the same leader, prepared themselves to deserve an honorable dismission by a last effort of their valor. [105] but the naval preparations of Constantine were in every respect much

inferior to those of Licinius. The maritime cities of Greece sent their

respective quotas of men and ships to the celebrated harbor of Piraeus, and their united forces consisted of no more than two hundred small

vessels--a very feeble armament, if it is compared with those formidable fleets which were equipped and maintained by the republic of Athens during the Peloponnesian war. [106] Since Italy was no longer the seat

of government, the naval establishments of Misenum and Ravenna had been

gradually neglected; and as the shipping and mariners of the empire were supported by commerce rather than by war, it was natural that they

should the most abound in the industrious provinces of Egypt and Asia.

It is only surprising that the eastern emperor, who possessed so great a

superiority at sea, should have neglected the opportunity of carrying an

offensive war into the centre of his rival's dominions.

[Footnote 103: Constantinus tamen, vir ingens, et omnia efficere nitens

quae animo praeparasset, simul principatum totius urbis affectans,

Licinio bellum intulit. Eutropius, x. 5. Zosimus, l. ii. p 89. The

reasons which they have assigned for the first civil war, may, with more

propriety, be applied to the second.]

[Footnote 104: Zosimus, l. ii. p. 94, 95.]

[Footnote 105: Constantine was very attentive to the privileges and comforts of his fellow-veterans, (Conveterani,) as he now began to style them. See the Theodosian Code, l. vii. tit. 10, tom. ii. p. 419, 429.]

[Footnote 106: Whilst the Athenians maintained the empire of the sea, their fleet consisted of three, and afterwards of four, hundred galleys

of three ranks of oars, all completely equipped and ready for immediate

service. The arsenal in the port of Piraeus had cost the republic a thousand talents, about two hundred and sixteen thousand pounds. See thucydides de Bel. Pelopon. l. ii. c. 13, and Meursius de Fortuna attica, c. 19.]

Instead of embracing such an active resolution, which might have changed the whole face of the war, the prudent Licinius expected the approach of

his rival in a camp near Hadrianople, which he had fortified with an anxious care, that betrayed his apprehension of the event. Constantine directed his march from Thessalonica towards that part of Thrace, till

he found himself stopped by the broad and rapid stream of the Hebrus, and discovered the numerous army of Licinius, which filled the steep ascent of the hill, from the river to the city of Hadrianople. Many days were spent in doubtful and distant skirmishes; but at length the

obstacles of the passage and of the attack were removed by the intrepid conduct of Constantine. In this place we might relate a wonderful exploit of Constantine, which, though it can scarcely be paralleled either in poetry or romance, is celebrated, not by a venal orator devoted to his fortune, but by an historian, the partial enemy of his fame. We are assured that the valiant emperor threw himself into the

River Hebrus, accompanied only by twelve horsemen, and that by the effort or terror of his invincible arm, he broke, slaughtered, and put to flight a host of a hundred and fifty thousand men. The credulity of

Zosimus prevailed so strongly over his passion, that among the events of the memorable battle of Hadrianople, he seems to have selected and embellished, not the most important, but the most marvellous. The valor and danger of Constantine are attested by a slight wound which he

received in the thigh; but it may be discovered even from an imperfect

narration, and perhaps a corrupted text, that the victory was obtained

no less by the conduct of the general than by the courage of the hero; that a body of five thousand archers marched round to occupy a thick wood in the rear of the enemy, whose attention was diverted by the construction of a bridge, and that Licinius, perplexed by so many artful evolutions, was reluctantly drawn from his advantageous post to combat

on equal ground on the plain. The contest was no longer equal. His confused multitude of new levies was easily vanquished by the experienced veterans of the West. Thirty-four thousand men are reported to have been slain. The fortified camp of Licinius was taken by assault the evening of the battle; the greater part of the fugitives, who had

retired to the mountains, surrendered themselves the next day to the discretion of the conqueror; and his rival, who could no longer keep the field, confined himself within the walls of Byzantium. [107]

[Footnote 107: Zosimus, l. ii. p. 95, 96. This great battle is described

in the Valesian fragment, (p. 714,) in a clear though concise manner.

"Licinius vero circum Hadrianopolin maximo exercitu latera ardui montis

impleverat; illuc toto agmine Constantinus inflexit. Cum bellum terra marique traheretur, quamvis per arduum suis nitentibus, attamen disciplina militari et felicitate, Constantinus Licinu confusum et sine

ordine agentem vicit exercitum; leviter femore sau ciatus."]

the siege of Byzantium, which was immediately undertaken by Constantine, was attended with great labor and uncertainty. In the late civil wars, the fortifications of that place, so justly considered as the key of europe and Asia, had been repaired and strengthened; and as long as

Licinius remained master of the sea, the garrison was much less exposed to the danger of famine than the army of the besiegers. The naval commanders of Constantine were summoned to his camp, and received his

positive orders to force the passage of the Hellespont, as the fleet

of Licinius, instead of seeking and destroying their feeble enemy, continued inactive in those narrow straits, where its superiority of

numbers was of little use or advantage. Crispus, the emperor's eldest

son, was intrusted with the execution of this daring enterprise, which

he performed with so much courage and success, that he deserved the esteem, and most probably excited the jealousy, of his father. The engagement lasted two days; and in the evening of the first, the contending fleets, after a considerable and mutual loss, retired into their respective harbors of Europe and Asia. The second day, about noon, a strong south wind [108] sprang up, which carried the vessels of Crispus against the enemy; and as the casual advantage was improved by his

skilful intrepidity, he soon obtained a complete victory. A hundred and thirty vessels were destroyed, five thousand men were slain, and amandus, the admiral of the Asiatic fleet, escaped with the utmost difficulty to the shores of Chalcedon. As soon as the Hellespont was open, a plentiful convoy of provisions flowed into the camp of constantine, who had already advanced the operations of the siege.

He constructed artificial mounds of earth of an equal height with the

ramparts of Byzantium. The lofty towers which were erected on that foundation galled the besieged with large stones and darts from the

military engines, and the battering rams had shaken the walls in several

places. If Licinius persisted much longer in the defence, he exposed

himself to be involved in the ruin of the place. Before he was

surrounded, he prudently removed his person and treasures to Chalcedon

in Asia; and as he was always desirous of associating companions to the

hopes and dangers of his fortune, he now bestowed the title of Caesar

on Martinianus, who exercised one of the most important offices of the empire. [109]

[Footnote 108: Zosimus, l. ii. p. 97, 98. The current always sets out

of the Hellespont; and when it is assisted by a north wind, no vessel can attempt the passage. A south wind renders the force of the current almost imperceptible. See Tournefort's Voyage au Levant, Let. xi.]

[Footnote 109: Aurelius Victor. Zosimus, l. ii. p. 93. According to the

latter, Martinianus was Magister Officiorum, (he uses the Latin appellation in Greek.) Some medals seem to intimate, that during his

short reign he received the title of Augustus.]

Such were still the resources, and such the abilities, of Licinius, that, after so many successive defeats, he collected in Bithynia a new army of fifty or sixty thousand men, while the activity of Constantine was employed in the siege of Byzantium. The vigilant emperor did not,

however, neglect the last struggles of his antagonist. A considerable

part of his victorious army was transported over the Bosphorus in small

vessels, and the decisive engagement was fought soon after their landing

on the heights of Chrysopolis, or, as it is now called, of Scutari. The troops of Licinius, though they were lately raised, ill armed, and worse disciplined, made head against their conquerors with fruitless but desperate valor, till a total defeat, and a slaughter of five and twenty thousand men, irretrievably determined the fate of their leader. [110]

He retired to Nicomedia, rather with the view of gaining some time for

negotiation, than with the hope of any effectual defence. Constantia,

his wife, and the sister of Constantine, interceded with her brother in favor of her husband, and obtained from his policy, rather than from

his compassion, a solemn promise, confirmed by an oath, that after the

sacrifice of Martinianus, and the resignation of the purple, Licinius

himself should be permitted to pass the remainder of this life in peace and affluence. The behavior of Constantia, and her relation to the contending parties, naturally recalls the remembrance of that virtuous

matron who was the sister of Augustus, and the wife of Antony. But the temper of mankind was altered, and it was no longer esteemed infamous for a Roman to survive his honor and independence. Licinius solicited and accepted the pardon of his offences, laid himself and his purple at the feet of his lord and master, was raised from the ground with

insulting pity, was admitted the same day to the Imperial banquet, and

soon afterwards was sent away to Thessalonica, which had been chosen for the place of his confinement. [111] His confinement was soon terminated by death, and it is doubtful whether a tumult of the soldiers, or a decree of the senate, was suggested as the motive for his execution. according to the rules of tyranny, he was accused of forming a conspiracy, and of holding a treasonable correspondence with the barbarians; but as he was never convicted, either by his own conduct or by any legal evidence, we may perhaps be allowed, from his weakness, to presume his innocence. [112] The memory of Licinius was branded with

infamy, his statues were thrown down, and by a hasty edict, of such

mischievous tendency that it was almost immediately corrected, all

his laws, and all the judicial proceedings of his reign, were at once abolished. [113] By this victory of Constantine, the Roman world was again united under the authority of one emperor, thirty-seven years after Diocletian had divided his power and provinces with his associate

Maximian.

[Footnote 110: Eusebius (in Vita Constantin. I. ii. c. 16, 17) ascribes this decisive victory to the pious prayers of the emperor. The Valesian fragment (p. 714) mentions a body of Gothic auxiliaries, under their chief Aliquaca, who adhered to the party of Licinius.]

[Footnote 111: Zosimus, l. ii. p. 102. Victor Junior in Epitome. anonym. Valesian. p. 714.]

[Footnote 112: Contra religionem sacramenti Thessalonicae privatus

occisus est. Eutropius, x. 6; and his evidence is confirmed by Jerome

(in Chronic.) as well as by Zosimus, l. ii. p. 102. The Valesian writer

is the only one who mentions the soldiers, and it is Zonaras alone who calls in the assistance of the senate. Eusebius prudently slides over this delicate transaction. But Sozomen, a century afterwards, ventures to assert the treasonable practices of Licinius.]

[Footnote 113: See the Theodosian Code, l. xv. tit. 15, tom. v. p

404, 405. These edicts of Constantine betray a degree of passion and

precipitation very unbecoming the character of a lawgiver.]

the successive steps of the elevation of Constantine, from his first assuming the purple at York, to the resignation of Licinius, at

Nicomedia, have been related with some minuteness and precision, not

only as the events are in themselves both interesting and important, but still more, as they contributed to the decline of the empire by the expense of blood and treasure, and by the perpetual increase, as well

of the taxes, as of the military establishment. The foundation of constantinople, and the establishment of the Christian religion, were the immediate and memorable consequences of this revolution.

chapter XV: Progress Of The Christian Religion.--Part I.

The Progress Of The Christian Religion, And The Sentiments,

Manners, Numbers, And Condition Of The Primitive Christians.

[101]

[Footnote 101: In spite of my resolution, Lardner led me to look through the famous fifteenth and sixteenth chapters of Gibbon. I could not lay them down without finishing them. The causes assigned, in the fifteenth chapter, for the diffusion of Christianity, must, no doubt, have contributed to it materially; but I doubt whether he saw them all.

Perhaps those which he enumerates are among the most obvious. They might all be safely adopted by a Christian writer, with some change in the

language and manner. Mackintosh see Life, i. p. 244.--M.]

a candid but rational inquiry into the progress and establishment of christianity may be considered as a very essential part of the history

of the Roman empire. While that great body was invaded by open

violence, or undermined by slow decay, a pure and humble religion

gently insinuated itself into the minds of men, grew up in silence and

obscurity, derived new vigor from opposition, and finally erected the triumphant banner of the Cross on the ruins of the Capitol. Nor was the

influence of Christianity confined to the period or to the limits of the

Roman empire. After a revolution of thirteen or fourteen centuries, that religion is still professed by the nations of Europe, the most distinguished portion of human kind in arts and learning as well as

in arms. By the industry and zeal of the Europeans, it has been widely diffused to the most distant shores of Asia and Africa; and by the means

of their colonies has been firmly established from Canada to Chili, in a world unknown to the ancients.

but this inquiry, however useful or entertaining, is attended with two peculiar difficulties. The scanty and suspicious materials of ecclesiastical history seldom enable us to dispel the dark cloud that

hangs over the first age of the church. The great law of impartiality too often obliges us to reveal the imperfections of the uninspired teachers and believers of the gospel; and, to a careless observer, their faults may seem to cast a shade on the faith which they professed. But the scandal of the pious Christian, and the fallacious triumph of the

Infidel, should cease as soon as they recollect not only by whom, but

likewise to whom, the Divine Revelation was given. The theologian may

indulge the pleasing task of describing Religion as she descended from

Heaven, arrayed in her native purity. A more melancholy duty is imposed

on the historian. He must discover the inevitable mixture of error and corruption, which she contracted in a long residence upon earth, among a weak and degenerate race of beings. [102]

[Footnote 102: The art of Gibbon, or at least the unfair impression

produced by these two memorable chapters, consists in confounding together, in one undistinguishable mass, the origin and apostolic

propagation of the Christian religion with its later progress. The main

question, the divine origin of the religion, is dexterously eluded or

speciously conceded; his plan enables him to commence his account, in

most parts, below the apostolic times; and it is only by the strength

of the dark coloring with which he has brought out the failings and the follies of succeeding ages, that a shadow of doubt and suspicion is thrown back on the primitive period of Christianity. Divest this whole

passage of the latent sarcasm betrayed by the subsequent one of the whole disquisition, and it might commence a Christian history, written

in the most Christian spirit of candor.--M.]

Our curiosity is naturally prompted to inquire by what means the christian faith obtained so remarkable a victory over the established

religions of the earth. To this inquiry, an obvious but satisfactory answer may be returned; that it was owing to the convincing evidence of the doctrine itself, and to the ruling providence of its great Author. but as truth and reason seldom find so favorable a reception in the world, and as the wisdom of Providence frequently condescends to use the

passions of the human heart, and the general circumstances of mankind, as instruments to execute its purpose, we may still be permitted, though with becoming submission, to ask, not indeed what were the first, but what were the secondary causes of the rapid growth of the Christian church. It will, perhaps, appear, that it was most effectually favored and assisted by the five following causes: I. The inflexible, and if we

may use the expression, the intolerant zeal of the Christians, derived,

it is true, from the Jewish religion, but purified from the narrow and

unsocial spirit, which, instead of inviting, had deterred the Gentiles from embracing the law of Moses.

II. The doctrine of a future life, improved by every additional circumstance which could give weight and efficacy to that important truth. III. The miraculous powers ascribed to the primitive church. IV. the pure and austere morals of the Christians.

V. The union and discipline of the Christian republic, which gradually formed an independent and increasing state in the heart of the Roman empire.

[Footnote!: Though we are thus far agreed with respect to the

inflexibility and intolerance of Christian zeal, yet as to the principle from which it was derived, we are, toto coelo, divided in opinion. You deduce it from the Jewish religion; I would refer it to a more adequate and a more obvious source, a full persuasion of the truth of christianity. Watson. Letters Gibbon, i. 9.--M.]

I. We have already described the religious harmony of the ancient world, and the facility [104] with which the most different and even hostile

nations embraced, or at least respected, each other's superstitions. A

single people refused to join in the common intercourse of mankind. The

Jews, who, under the Assyrian and Persian monarchies, had languished for many ages the most despised portion of their slaves, [1] emerged from

obscurity under the successors of Alexander; and as they multiplied to a surprising degree in the East, and afterwards in the West, they

soon excited the curiosity and wonder of other nations. [2] The sullen

obstinacy with which they maintained their peculiar rites and unsocial

manners, seemed to mark them out as a distinct species of men, who boldly professed, or who faintly disguised, their implacable habits to the rest of human kind. [3] Neither the violence of Antiochus, nor the arts of Herod, nor the example of the circumjacent nations, could ever persuade the Jews to associate with the institutions of Moses the elegant mythology of the Greeks. [4] According to the maxims of universal toleration, the Romans protected a superstition which they despised. [5] the polite Augustus condescended to give orders, that sacrifices should be offered for his prosperity in the temple of Jerusalem; [6] whilst the meanest of the posterity of Abraham, who should have paid the same

homage to the Jupiter of the Capitol, would have been an object of abhorrence to himself and to his brethren.

but the moderation of the conquerors was insufficient to appease the

jealous prejudices of their subjects, who were alarmed and scandalized at the ensigns of paganism, which necessarily introduced themselves into a Roman province. [7] The mad attempt of Caligula to place his own statue

in the temple of Jerusalem was defeated by the unanimous resolution of a

people who dreaded death much less than such an idolatrous profanation.

[8] Their attachment to the law of Moses was equal to their detestation

of foreign religions. The current of zeal and devotion, as it was contracted into a narrow channel, ran with the strength, and sometimes with the fury, of a torrent.

[Footnote 102: This facility has not always prevented intolerance, which

seems inherent in the religious spirit, when armed with authority. The

separation of the ecclesiastical and civil power, appears to be the only

means of at once maintaining religion and tolerance: but this is a very

modern notion. The passions, which mingle themselves with opinions, made the Pagans very often intolerant and persecutors; witness the Persians, the Egyptians even the Greeks and Romans.

1st. The Persians.--Cambyses, conqueror of the Egyptians, condemned to death the magistrates of Memphis, because they had offered divine honors to their god. Apis: he caused the god to be brought before him, struck

him with his dagger, commanded the priests to be scourged, and ordered a general massacre of all the Egyptians who should be found celebrating the festival of the statues of the gods to be burnt. Not content with this intolerance, he sent an army to reduce the Ammonians to slavery, and to set on fire the temple in which Jupiter delivered his oracles.

See Herod. iii. 25--29, 37. Xerxes, during his invasion of Greece, acted

on the same principles: l c destroyed all the temples of Greece and

Ionia, except that of Ephesus. See Paus. l. vii. p. 533, and x. p. 887.

Strabo, l. xiv. b. 941. 2d. The Egyptians.--They thought themselves defiled when they had drunk from the same cup or eaten at the same table with a man of a different belief from their own. "He who has voluntarily

killed any sacred animal is punished with death; but if any one, even

involuntarily, has killed a cat or an ibis, he cannot escape the extreme

penalty: the people drag him away, treat him in the most cruel manner,

sometimes without waiting for a judicial sentence. \* \* \* Even at the time when King Ptolemy was not yet the acknowledged friend of the

Roman people, while the multitude were paying court with all possible attention to the strangers who came from Italy \* \* a Roman having killed a cat, the people rushed to his house, and neither the entreaties of the

nobles, whom the king sent to them, nor the terror of the Roman name, were sufficiently powerful to rescue the man from punishment, though he

had committed the crime involuntarily." Diod. Sic. i 83. Juvenal, in his

13th Satire, describes the sanguinary conflict between the inhabitants

of Ombos and of Tentyra, from religious animosity. The fury was carried

so far, that the conquerors tore and devoured the quivering limbs of the conquered.

ardet adhuc Ombos et Tentyra, summus utrinque Inde furor vulgo, quod

numina vicinorum Odit uterque locus; quum solos credat habendos Esse deos quos ipse colit. Sat. xv. v. 85.

3d. The Greeks.--"Let us not here," says the Abbe Guenee, "refer to the cities of Peloponnesus and their severity against atheism; the Ephesians

prosecuting Heraclitus for impiety; the Greeks armed one against the

other by religious zeal, in the Amphictyonic war. Let us say nothing either of the frightful cruelties inflicted by three successors of alexander upon the Jews, to force them to abandon their religion, nor

of Antiochus expelling the philosophers from his states. Let us not seek

our proofs of intolerance so far off. Athens, the polite and learned athens, will supply us with sufficient examples. Every citizen made a public and solemn vow to conform to the religion of his country, to defend it, and to cause it to be respected. An express law severely

punished all discourses against the gods, and a rigid decree ordered the denunciation of all who should deny their existence. \* \* \* The practice was in unison with the severity of the law. The proceedings commenced against Protagoras; a price set upon the head of Diagoras; the danger of alcibiades; Aristotle obliged to fly; Stilpo banished; Anaxagoras hardly escaping death; Pericles himself, after all his services to his country, and all the glory he had acquired, compelled to appear before the tribunals and make his defence; \* \* a priestess executed for having

introduced strange gods; Socrates condemned and drinking the hemlock, because he was accused of not recognizing those of his country, &c.; these facts attest too loudly, to be called in question, the religious

intolerance of the most humane and enlightened people in Greece."

Lettres de quelques Juifs a Mons. Voltaire, i. p. 221. (Compare Bentley

on Freethinking, from which much of this is derived.)--M.

4th. The Romans.--The laws of Rome were not less express and severe. The

intolerance of foreign religions reaches, with the Romans, as high as the laws of the twelve tables; the prohibitions were afterwards renewed at different times. Intolerance did not discontinue under the emperors; witness the counsel of Maecenas to Augustus. This counsel is so

remarkable, that I think it right to insert it entire. "Honor the gods

yourself," says Maecenas to Augustus, "in every way according to the

usage of your ancestors, and compel others to worship them. Hate and

punish those who introduce strange gods, not only for the sake of the

gods, (he who despises them will respect no one,) but because those who

introduce new gods engage a multitude of persons in foreign laws and customs. From hence arise unions bound by oaths and confederacies, and associations, things dangerous to a monarchy." Dion Cass. l. ii. c. 36.

(But, though some may differ from it, see Gibbon's just observation on this passage in Dion Cassius, ch. xvi. note 117; impugned, indeed, by M.

Guizot, note in loc.)--M.

even the laws which the philosophers of Athens and of Rome wrote for their imaginary republics are intolerant. Plato does not leave to his citizens freedom of religious worship; and Cicero expressly prohibits them from having other gods than those of the state. Lettres de quelques

Juifs a Mons. Voltaire, i. p. 226.--G.

according to M. Guizot's just remarks, religious intolerance will always ally itself with the passions of man, however different those passions

may be. In the instances quoted above, with the Persians it was the

pride of despotism; to conquer the gods of a country was the last mark

of subjugation. With the Egyptians, it was the gross Fetichism of the

superstitious populace, and the local jealousy of neighboring towns. In

Greece, persecution was in general connected with political party;

in Rome, with the stern supremacy of the law and the interests of the

state. Gibbon has been mistaken in attributing to the tolerant spirit

of Paganism that which arose out of the peculiar circumstances of the times. 1st. The decay of the old Polytheism, through the progress of

reason and intelligence, and the prevalence of philosophical opinions among the higher orders.

2d. The Roman character, in which the political always predominated over the religious party. The Romans were contented with having bowed the world to a uniformity of subjection to their power, and cared not for establishing the (to them) less important uniformity of religion.--M.

[Footnote 1: Dum Assyrios penes, Medosque, et Persas Oriens fuit, despectissima pars servientium. Tacit. Hist. v. 8. Herodotus, who

visited Asia whilst it obeyed the last of those empires, slightly

mentions the Syrians of Palestine, who, according to their own confession, had received from Egypt the rite of circumcision. See l. ii. c. 104.]

[Footnote 2: Diodorus Siculus, l. xl. Dion Cassius, l. xxxvii. p. 121. tacit Hist. v. 1--9. Justin xxxvi. 2, 3.]

[Footnote 3: Tradidit arcano quaecunque volumine Moses, Non monstrare

vias cadem nisi sacra colenti, Quaesitum ad fontem solos deducere

verpas. The letter of this law is not to be found in the present volume

of Moses. But the wise, the humane Maimonides openly teaches that if an

idolater fall into the water, a Jew ought not to save him from instant death. See Basnage, Histoire des Juifs, l. vi. c. 28. \* Note: It is diametrically opposed to its spirit and to its letter, see, among other

passages, Deut. v. 18. 19, (God) "loveth the stranger in giving him food and raiment. Love ye, therefore, the stranger: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt." Comp. Lev. xxiii. 25. Juvenal is a satirist, whose

strong expressions can hardly be received as historic evidence; and he wrote after the horrible cruelties of the Romans, which, during and after the war, might give some cause for the complete isolation of the

Jew from the rest of the world. The Jew was a bigot, but his religion was not the only source of his bigotry. After how many centuries of

mutual wrong and hatred, which had still further estranged the Jew from

mankind, did Maimonides write?--M.]

[Footnote 4: A Jewish sect, which indulged themselves in a sort

of occasional conformity, derived from Herod, by whose example and authority they had been seduced, the name of Herodians. But their

numbers were so inconsiderable, and their duration so short, that

Josephus has not thought them worthy of his notice. See Prideaux's connection, vol. ii. p. 285. \* Note: The Herodians were probably more of a political party than a religious sect, though Gibbon is most likely

right as to their occasional conformity. See Hist. of the Jews, ii.

108.--M.]

[Footnote 5: Cicero pro Flacco, c. 28. \* Note: The edicts of Julius caesar, and of some of the cities in Asia Minor (Krebs. Decret. pro

Judaeis,) in favor of the nation in general, or of the Asiatic Jews,

speak a different language.--M.]

[Footnote 6: Philo de Legatione. Augustus left a foundation for a

perpetual sacrifice. Yet he approved of the neglect which his grandson caius expressed towards the temple of Jerusalem. See Sueton. in August. c. 93, and Casaubon's notes on that passage.]

[Footnote 7: See, in particular, Joseph. Antiquitat. xvii. 6, xviii. 3; and de Bell. Judiac. i. 33, and ii. 9, edit. Havercamp. \* Note: This was during the government of Pontius Pilate. (Hist. of Jews, ii. 156.)

Probably in part to avoid this collision, the Roman governor, in

general, resided at Caesarea.--M.]

[Footnote 8: Jussi a Caio Caesare, effigiem ejus in templo locare, arma potius sumpsere. Tacit. Hist. v. 9. Philo and Josephus gave a very circumstantial, but a very rhetorical, account of this transaction, which exceedingly perplexed the governor of Syria. At the first mention

of this idolatrous proposal, King Agrippa fainted away; and did not

recover his senses until the third day. (Hist. of Jews, ii. 181, &c.)]

this inflexible perseverance, which appeared so odious or so ridiculous to the ancient world, assumes a more awful character, since Providence

has deigned to reveal to us the mysterious history of the chosen people. but the devout and even scrupulous attachment to the Mosaic religion,

so conspicuous among the Jews who lived under the second temple, becomes

still more surprising, if it is compared with the stubborn incredulity

of their forefathers. When the law was given in thunder from Mount

Sinai, when the tides of the ocean and the course of the planets were

suspended for the convenience of the Israelites, and when temporal

rewards and punishments were the immediate consequences of their piety

or disobedience, they perpetually relapsed into rebellion against the

visible majesty of their Divine King, placed the idols of the nations in the sanctuary of Jehovah, and imitated every fantastic ceremony that was

practised in the tents of the Arabs, or in the cities of Phoenicia. [9] as the protection of Heaven was deservedly withdrawn from the ungrateful

race, their faith acquired a proportionable degree of vigor and purity.

the contemporaries of Moses and Joshua had beheld with careless

indifference the most amazing miracles. Under the pressure of every calamity, the belief of those miracles has preserved the Jews of a later

period from the universal contagion of idolatry; and in contradiction to every known principle of the human mind, that singular people seems to

have yielded a stronger and more ready assent to the traditions of their

remote ancestors, than to the evidence of their own senses. [10]

[Footnote 9: For the enumeration of the Syrian and Arabian deities, it

may be observed, that Milton has comprised in one hundred and thirty

very beautiful lines the two large and learned syntagmas which Selden

had composed on that abstruse subject.]

[Footnote 10: "How long will this people provoke me? and how long will

it be ere they believe me, for all the signs which I have shown among them?" (Numbers xiv. 11.) It would be easy, but it would be unbecoming, to justify the complaint of the Deity from the whole tenor of the Mosaic

history. Note: Among a rude and barbarous people, religious impressions are easily made, and are as soon effaced. The ignorance which multiplies

imaginary wonders, would weaken and destroy the effect of real miracle. at the period of the Jewish history, referred to in the passage from

Numbers, their fears predominated over their faith,--the fears of an

unwarlike people, just rescued from debasing slavery, and commanded to attack a fierce, a well-armed, a gigantic, and a far more numerous race, the inhabitants of Canaan. As to the frequent apostasy of the Jews, their religion was beyond their state of civilization. Nor is it

uncommon for a people to cling with passionate attachment to that of which, at first, they could not appreciate the value. Patriotism and

national pride will contend, even to death, for political rights which

have been forced upon a reluctant people. The Christian may at

least retort, with justice, that the great sign of his religion, the

resurrection of Jesus, was most ardently believed, and most resolutely asserted, by the eye witnesses of the fact.--M.]

the Jewish religion was admirably fitted for defence, but it was

never designed for conquest; and it seems probable that the number of

proselytes was never much superior to that of apostates. The divine

promises were originally made, and the distinguishing rite of circumcision was enjoined, to a single family. When the posterity of abraham had multiplied like the sands of the sea, the Deity, from whose

mouth they received a system of laws and ceremonies, declared himself the proper and as it were the national God of Israel and with the most

jealous care separated his favorite people from the rest of mankind. The conquest of the land of Canaan was accompanied with so many wonderful and with so many bloody circumstances, that the victorious Jews were

left in a state of irreconcilable hostility with all their neighbors. they had been commanded to extirpate some of the most idolatrous tribes, and the execution of the divine will had seldom been retarded by the weakness of humanity.

with the other nations they were forbidden to contract any marriages or alliances; and the prohibition of receiving them into the congregation, which in some cases was perpetual, almost always extended to the third, to the seventh, or even to the tenth generation. The obligation of

preaching to the Gentiles the faith of Moses had never been inculcated as a precept of the law, nor were the Jews inclined to impose it on themselves as a voluntary duty.

In the admission of new citizens, that unsocial people was actuated by the selfish vanity of the Greeks, rather than by the generous policy of

Rome. The descendants of Abraham were flattered by the opinion that they alone were the heirs of the covenant, and they were apprehensive of diminishing the value of their inheritance by sharing it too easily with the strangers of the earth. A larger acquaintance with mankind extended their knowledge without correcting their prejudices; and whenever the

God of Israel acquired any new votaries, he was much more indebted to the inconstant humor of polytheism than to the active zeal of his own

missionaries. [11] The religion of Moses seems to be instituted for a particular country as well as for a single nation; and if a strict

obedience had been paid to the order, that every male, three times in the year, should present himself before the Lord Jehovah, it would have been impossible that the Jews could ever have spread themselves beyond the narrow limits of the promised land. [12] That obstacle was indeed

removed by the destruction of the temple of Jerusalem; but the

most considerable part of the Jewish religion was involved in its destruction; and the Pagans, who had long wondered at the strange report

of an empty sanctuary, [13] were at a loss to discover what could be the object, or what could be the instruments, of a worship which was destitute of temples and of altars, of priests and of sacrifices.

Yet even in their fallen state, the Jews, still asserting their lofty and exclusive privileges, shunned, instead of courting, the society of

strangers. They still insisted with inflexible rigor on those parts

of the law which it was in their power to practise. Their peculiar distinctions of days, of meats, and a variety of trivial though burdensome observances, were so many objects of disgust and aversion for the other nations, to whose habits and prejudices they were diametrically opposite. The painful and even dangerous rite of circumcision was alone capable of repelling a willing proselyte from the door of the synagogue. [14]

[Footnote 11: All that relates to the Jewish proselytes has been very ably by Basnage, Hist. des Juifs, l. vi. c. 6, 7.]

[Footnote 12: See Exod. xxiv. 23, Deut. xvi. 16, the commentators, and a

very sensible note in the Universal History, vol. i. p. 603, edit. fol.]

[Footnote 13: When Pompey, using or abusing the right of conquest, entered into the Holy of Holies, it was observed with amazement, "Nulli

intus Deum effigie, vacuam sedem et inania arcana." Tacit. Hist. v. 9.

It was a popular saying, with regard to the Jews, "Nil praeter nubes et coeli numen adorant."]

[Footnote 14: A second kind of circumcision was inflicted on a Samaritan

or Egyptian proselyte. The sullen indifference of the Talmudists, with

respect to the conversion of strangers, may be seen in Basnage Histoire des Juifs, l. xi. c. 6.]

Under these circumstances, Christianity offered itself to the world, armed with the strength of the Mosaic law, and delivered from the weight

of its fetters. An exclusive zeal for the truth of religion, and the

unity of God, was as carefully inculcated in the new as in the ancient

system: and whatever was now revealed to mankind concerning the nature and designs of the Supreme Being, was fitted to increase their reverence for that mysterious doctrine. The divine authority of Moses and the

prophets was admitted, and even established, as the firmest basis of christianity. From the beginning of the world, an uninterrupted series

of predictions had announced and prepared the long-expected coming of the Messiah, who, in compliance with the gross apprehensions of the

Jews, had been more frequently represented under the character of a King and Conqueror, than under that of a Prophet, a Martyr, and the Son of

God. By his expiatory sacrifice, the imperfect sacrifices of the temple were at once consummated and abolished. The ceremonial law, which consisted only of types and figures, was succeeded by a pure and

spiritual worship, equally adapted to all climates, as well as to every condition of mankind; and to the initiation of blood was substituted a

more harmless initiation of water. The promise of divine favor, instead

of being partially confined to the posterity of Abraham, was universally

proposed to the freeman and the slave, to the Greek and to the barbarian, to the Jew and to the Gentile. Every privilege that could

raise the proselyte from earth to heaven, that could exalt his devotion,

secure his happiness, or even gratify that secret pride which, under the

semblance of devotion, insinuates itself into the human heart, was still

reserved for the members of the Christian church; but at the same time all mankind was permitted, and even solicited, to accept the glorious distinction, which was not only proffered as a favor, but imposed as an

obligation. It became the most sacred duty of a new convert to diffuse among his friends and relations the inestimable blessing which he had

received, and to warn them against a refusal that would be severely

punished as a criminal disobedience to the will of a benevolent but all-powerful Deity.

chapter XV: Progress Of The Christian Religion.--Part II.

the enfranchisement of the church from the bonds of the synagogue was a work, however, of some time and of some difficulty. The Jewish converts, who acknowledged Jesus in the character of the Messiah foretold by their ancient oracles, respected him as a prophetic teacher of virtue and

religion; but they obstinately adhered to the ceremonies of their ancestors, and were desirous of imposing them on the Gentiles, who continually augmented the number of believers. These Judaizing christians seem to have argued with some degree of plausibility from the divine origin of the Mosaic law, and from the immutable perfections

of its great Author. They affirmed, that if the Being, who is the same through all eternity, had designed to abolish those sacred rites which

had served to distinguish his chosen people, the repeal of them would

have been no less clear and solemn than their first promulgation: that,

instead of those frequent declarations, which either suppose or assert the perpetuity of the Mosaic religion, it would have been represented as a provisionary scheme intended to last only to the coming of the

Messiah, who should instruct mankind in a more perfect mode of faith and of worship: [15] that the Messiah himself, and his disciples who conversed with him on earth, instead of authorizing by their example the

most minute observances of the Mosaic law, [16] would have published to the world the abolition of those useless and obsolete ceremonies, without suffering Christianity to remain during so many years obscurely confounded among the sects of the Jewish church. Arguments like these appear to have been used in the defence of the expiring cause of the

Mosaic law; but the industry of our learned divines has abundantly explained the ambiguous language of the Old Testament, and the ambiguous conduct of the apostolic teachers. It was proper gradually to unfold the system of the gospel, and to pronounce, with the utmost caution and tenderness, a sentence of condemnation so repugnant to the inclination and prejudices of the believing Jews.

[Footnote 15: These arguments were urged with great ingenuity by the

Jew Orobio, and refuted with equal ingenuity and candor by the Christian

Limborch. See the Amica Collatio, (it well deserves that name,) or account of the dispute between them.]

[Footnote 16: Jesus... circumcisus erat; cibis utebatur Judaicis;

vestitu simili; purgatos scabie mittebat ad sacerdotes; Paschata et alios dies festos religiose observabat: Si quos sanavit sabbatho,

ostendit non tantum ex lege, sed et exceptis sententiis, talia opera

sabbatho non interdicta. Grotius de Veritate Religionis Christianae,

l. v. c. 7. A little afterwards, (c. 12,) he expatiates on the condescension of the apostles.]

the history of the church of Jerusalem affords a lively proof of the

necessity of those precautions, and of the deep impression which the

Jewish religion had made on the minds of its sectaries. The first fifteen bishops of Jerusalem were all circumcised Jews; and the congregation over which they presided united the law of Moses with the doctrine of Christ. [17] It was natural that the primitive tradition of a church which was founded only forty days after the death of Christ, and was governed almost as many years under the immediate inspection of

his apostle, should be received as the standard of orthodoxy. [18] The distant churches very frequently appealed to the authority of their

venerable Parent, and relieved her distresses by a liberal contribution

of alms. But when numerous and opulent societies were established in the

great cities of the empire, in Antioch, Alexandria, Ephesus, Corinth, and Rome, the reverence which Jerusalem had inspired to all the christian colonies insensibly diminished. The Jewish converts, or, as they were afterwards called, the Nazarenes, who had laid the foundations

of the church, soon found themselves overwhelmed by the increasing

multitudes, that from all the various religions of polytheism enlisted

under the banner of Christ: and the Gentiles, who, with the approbation

of their peculiar apostle, had rejected the intolerable weight of the

Mosaic ceremonies, at length refused to their more scrupulous brethren the same toleration which at first they had humbly solicited for their

own practice. The ruin of the temple of the city, and of the public

religion of the Jews, was severely felt by the Nazarenes; as in their

manners, though not in their faith, they maintained so intimate a connection with their impious countrymen, whose misfortunes were attributed by the Pagans to the contempt, and more justly ascribed by the Christians to the wrath, of the Supreme Deity. The Nazarenes retired from the ruins of Jerusalem [18] to the little town of Pella beyond the Jordan, where that ancient church languished above sixty years in

solitude and obscurity. [19] They still enjoyed the comfort of making frequent and devout visits to the Holy City, and the hope of being one day restored to those seats which both nature and religion taught them to love as well as to revere. But at length, under the reign of Hadrian, the desperate fanaticism of the Jews filled up the measure of their calamities; and the Romans, exasperated by their repeated rebellions, exercised the rights of victory with unusual rigor. The emperor founded,

under the name of Aelia Capitolina, a new city on Mount Sion, [20] to which he gave the privileges of a colony; and denouncing the severest

penalties against any of the Jewish people who should dare to approach

its precincts, he fixed a vigilant garrison of a Roman cohort to enforce the execution of his orders. The Nazarenes had only one way left to escape the common proscription, and the force of truth was on this

occasion assisted by the influence of temporal advantages. They elected

Marcus for their bishop, a prelate of the race of the Gentiles, and most

probably a native either of Italy or of some of the Latin provinces. At

his persuasion, the most considerable part of the congregation renounced the Mosaic law, in the practice of which they had persevered above a century. By this sacrifice of their habits and prejudices, they

purchased a free admission into the colony of Hadrian, and more firmly cemented their union with the Catholic church. [21]

[Footnote 17: Paene omnes Christum Deum sub legis observatione credebant

Sulpicius Severus, ii. 31. See Eusebius, Hist. Ecclesiast. l. iv. c.

5.]

[Footnote 18: Mosheim de Rebus Christianis ante Constantinum

Magnum, page 153. In this masterly performance, which I shall often

have occasion to quote he enters much more fully into the state of the

primitive church than he has an opportunity of doing in his General

History.]

[Footnote 18: This is incorrect: all the traditions concur in placing the abandonment of the city by the Christians, not only before it was

in ruins, but before the seige had commenced. Euseb. loc. cit., and

Le Clerc.--M.]

[Footnote 19: Eusebius, l. iii. c. 5. Le Clerc, Hist. ecclesiast. p. 605. During this occasional absence, the bishop and church of Pella still retained the title of Jerusalem. In the same

manner, the Roman pontiffs resided seventy years at Avignon; and the

patriarchs of Alexandria have long since transferred their episcopal

seat to Cairo.]

[Footnote 20: Dion Cassius, l. lxix. The exile of the Jewish nation from

Jerusalem is attested by Aristo of Pella, (apud Euseb. l. iv. c. 6,) and

is mentioned by several ecclesiastical writers; though some of them too

hastily extend this interdiction to the whole country of Palestine.]

[Footnote 21: Eusebius, l. iv. c. 6. Sulpicius Severus, ii. 31. By comparing their unsatisfactory accounts, Mosheim (p. 327, &c.) has drawn

out a very distinct representation of the circumstances and motives of this revolution.]

when the name and honors of the church of Jerusalem had been restored to

Mount Sion, the crimes of heresy and schism were imputed to the obscure

remnant of the Nazarenes, which refused to accompany their Latin bishop. they still preserved their former habitation of Pella, spread themselves

into the villages adjacent to Damascus, and formed an inconsiderable church in the city of Beroea, or, as it is now called, of Aleppo, in

Syria. [22] The name of Nazarenes was deemed too honorable for those christian Jews, and they soon received, from the supposed poverty of their understanding, as well as of their condition, the contemptuous epithet of Ebionites. [23] In a few years after the return of the church

of Jerusalem, it became a matter of doubt and controversy, whether a man who sincerely acknowledged Jesus as the Messiah, but who still continued to observe the law of Moses, could possibly hope for salvation. The

humane temper of Justin Martyr inclined him to answer this question in the affirmative; and though he expressed himself with the most guarded diffidence, he ventured to determine in favor of such an imperfect christian, if he were content to practise the Mosaic ceremonies, without

pretending to assert their general use or necessity. But when Justin was

pressed to declare the sentiment of the church, he confessed that there were very many among the orthodox Christians, who not only excluded their Judaizing brethren from the hope of salvation, but who declined any intercourse with them in the common offices of friendship,

hospitality, and social life. [24] The more rigorous opinion prevailed, as it was natural to expect, over the milder; and an eternal bar of

separation was fixed between the disciples of Moses and those of Christ. the unfortunate Ebionites, rejected from one religion as apostates, and from the other as heretics, found themselves compelled to assume a more decided character; and although some traces of that obsolete sect may be discovered as late as the fourth century, they insensibly melted away, either into the church or the synagogue. [25]

[Footnote 22: Le Clerc (Hist. Ecclesiast. p. 477, 535) seems to have collected from Eusebius, Jerome, Epiphanius, and other writers, all the

principal circumstances that relate to the Nazarenes or Ebionites. The

nature of their opinions soon divided them into a stricter and a milder

sect; and there is some reason to conjecture, that the family of Jesus christ remained members, at least, of the latter and more moderate

party.]

[Footnote 23: Some writers have been pleased to create an Ebion, the imaginary author of their sect and name. But we can more safely

rely on the learned Eusebius than on the vehement Tertullian, or the credulous Epiphanius. According to Le Clerc, the Hebrew word Ebjonim may be translated into Latin by that of Pauperes. See Hist. Ecclesiast. p.

477. \* Note: The opinion of Le Clerc is generally admitted; but Neander has

suggested some good reasons for supposing that this term only applied to

poverty of condition. The obscure history of their tenets and divisions,

is clearly and rationally traced in his History of the Church, vol. i.

part ii. p. 612, &c., Germ. edit.--M.]

[Footnote 24: See the very curious Dialogue of Justin Martyr with the

Jew Tryphon. The conference between them was held at Ephesus, in the

reign of Antoninus Pius, and about twenty years after the return of the church of Pella to Jerusalem. For this date consult the accurate note of tillemont, Memoires Ecclesiastiques, tom. ii. p. 511. \* Note: Justin

Martyr makes an important distinction, which Gibbon has neglected to

notice. \* \* \* There were some who were not content with observing the

Mosaic law themselves, but enforced the same observance, as necessary to

salvation, upon the heathen converts, and refused all social intercourse with them if they did not conform to the law. Justin Martyr himself freely admits those who kept the law themselves to Christian communion, though he acknowledges that some, not the Church, thought otherwise; of the other party, he himself thought less favorably. The former by some are considered the Nazarenes the atter the Ebionites--G and M.]

[Footnote 25: Of all the systems of Christianity, that of Abyssinia is the only one which still adheres to the Mosaic rites. (Geddes's Church

History of Aethiopia, and Dissertations de La Grand sur la Relation du

P. Lobo.) The eunuch of the queen Candace might suggest some suspicious; but as we are assured (Socrates, i. 19. Sozomen, ii. 24. Ludolphus, p.

281) that the Aethiopians were not converted till the fourth century, it

is more reasonable to believe that they respected the sabbath, and distinguished the forbidden meats, in imitation of the Jews, who, in a

very early period, were seated on both sides of the Red Sea. circumcision had been practised by the most ancient Aethiopians, from

motives of health and cleanliness, which seem to be explained in the

Recherches Philosophiques sur les Americains, tom. ii. p. 117.]

while the orthodox church preserved a just medium between excessive

veneration and improper contempt for the law of Moses, the various

heretics deviated into equal but opposite extremes of error and extravagance. From the acknowledged truth of the Jewish religion, the ebionites had concluded that it could never be abolished. From its

supposed imperfections, the Gnostics as hastily inferred that it never was instituted by the wisdom of the Deity. There are some objections against the authority of Moses and the prophets, which too readily

present themselves to the sceptical mind; though they can only be derived from our ignorance of remote antiquity, and from our incapacity to form an adequate judgment of the divine economy. These objections were eagerly embraced and as petulantly urged by the vain science of the

Gnostics. [26] As those heretics were, for the most part, averse to the pleasures of sense, they morosely arraigned the polygamy of the

patriarchs, the gallantries of David, and the seraglio of Solomon. The conquest of the land of Canaan, and the extirpation of the unsuspecting

natives, they were at a loss how to reconcile with the common notions of

humanity and justice. [261] But when they recollected the sanguinary list

of murders, of executions, and of massacres, which stain almost every

page of the Jewish annals, they acknowledged that the barbarians of

Palestine had exercised as much compassion towards their idolatrous enemies, as they had ever shown to their friends or countrymen. [27]

Passing from the sectaries of the law to the law itself, they asserted that it was impossible that a religion which consisted only of bloody

sacrifices and trifling ceremonies, and whose rewards as well as

punishments were all of a carnal and temporal nature, could inspire the love of virtue, or restrain the impetuosity of passion. The Mosaic account of the creation and fall of man was treated with profane derision by the Gnostics, who would not listen with patience to the

repose of the Deity after six days' labor, to the rib of Adam, the

garden of Eden, the trees of life and of knowledge, the speaking

serpent, the forbidden fruit, and the condemnation pronounced against

human kind for the venial offence of their first progenitors. [28] The

God of Israel was impiously represented by the Gnostics as a being

liable to passion and to error, capricious in his favor, implacable

in his resentment, meanly jealous of his superstitious worship, and confining his partial providence to a single people, and to this transitory life. In such a character they could discover none of the features of the wise and omnipotent Father of the universe. [29] They allowed that the religion of the Jews was somewhat less criminal than the idolatry of the Gentiles; but it was their fundamental doctrine, that the Christ whom they adored as the first and brightest emanation

of the Deity appeared upon earth to rescue mankind from their various errors, and to reveal a new system of truth and perfection. The

most learned of the fathers, by a very singular condescension, have

imprudently admitted the sophistry of the Gnostics. [291] Acknowledging that the literal sense is repugnant to every principle of faith as well as reason, they deem themselves secure and invulnerable behind the ample

veil of allegory, which they carefully spread over every tender part of the Mosaic dispensation. [30]

[Footnote 26: Beausobre, Histoire du Manicheisme, l. i. c. 3, has

stated their objections, particularly those of Faustus, the adversary of augustin, with the most learned impartiality.]

[Footnote 261: On the "war law" of the Jews, see Hist. of Jews, i.

137.--M.]

[Footnote 27: Apud ipsos fides obstinata, misericordia in promptu: adversus amnes alios hostile odium. Tacit. Hist. v. 4. Surely Tacitus

had seen the Jews with too favorable an eye. The perusal of Josephus

must have destroyed the antithesis. \* Note: Few writers have suspected tacitus of partiality towards the Jews. The whole later history of the

Jews illustrates as well their strong feelings of humanity to their brethren, as their hostility to the rest of mankind. The character and the position of Josephus with the Roman authorities, must be kept in

mind during the perusal of his History. Perhaps he has not exaggerated the ferocity and fanaticism of the Jews at that time; but

insurrectionary warfare is not the best school for the humaner virtues, and much must be allowed for the grinding tyranny of the later Roman

governors. See Hist. of Jews, ii. 254.--M.]

[Footnote 28: Dr. Burnet (Archaeologia, l. ii. c. 7) has discussed the first chapters of Genesis with too much wit and freedom. \* Note: Dr. burnet apologized for the levity with which he had conducted some of his arguments, by the excuse that he wrote in a learned language for

scholars alone, not for the vulgar. Whatever may be thought of his

success in tracing an Eastern allegory in the first chapters of Genesis,

his other works prove him to have been a man of great genius, and of

sincere piety.--M]

[Footnote 29: The milder Gnostics considered Jehovah, the Creator, as a being of a mixed nature between God and the Daemon. Others confounded

him with an evil principle. Consult the second century of the general

history of Mosheim, which gives a very distinct, though concise, account

of their strange opinions on this subject.]

[Footnote 291: The Gnostics, and the historian who has stated these

plausible objections with so much force as almost to make them his own, would have shown a more considerate and not less reasonable philosophy,

if they had considered the religion of Moses with reference to the age

in which it was promulgated; if they had done justice to its sublime as well as its more imperfect views of the divine nature; the humane and civilizing provisions of the Hebrew law, as well as those adapted for an

infant and barbarous people. See Hist of Jews, i. 36, 37, &c.--M.]

[Footnote 30: See Beausobre, Hist. du Manicheisme, l. i. c. 4. Origen and St. Augustin were among the allegorists.]

It has been remarked with more ingenuity than truth, that the virgin

purity of the church was never violated by schism or heresy before the

reign of Trajan or Hadrian, about one hundred years after the death of christ. [31] We may observe with much more propriety, that, during that

period, the disciples of the Messiah were indulged in a freer latitude, both of faith and practice, than has ever been allowed in succeeding ages. As the terms of communion were insensibly narrowed, and the

spiritual authority of the prevailing party was exercised with

increasing severity, many of its most respectable adherents, who were called upon to renounce, were provoked to assert their private opinions, to pursue the consequences of their mistaken principles, and openly to erect the standard of rebellion against the unity of the church. The

Gnostics were distinguished as the most polite, the most learned, and the most wealthy of the Christian name; and that general appellation, which expressed a superiority of knowledge, was either assumed by their

own pride, or ironically bestowed by the envy of their adversaries. They were almost without exception of the race of the Gentiles, and their

principal founders seem to have been natives of Syria or Egypt, where the warmth of the climate disposes both the mind and the body to

indolent and contemplative devotion. The Gnostics blended with the faith of Christ many sublime but obscure tenets, which they derived from

oriental philosophy, and even from the religion of Zoroaster, concerning the eternity of matter, the existence of two principles, and the

mysterious hierarchy of the invisible world. [32] As soon as they

launched out into that vast abyss, they delivered themselves to the

guidance of a disordered imagination; and as the paths of error are

various and infinite, the Gnostics were imperceptibly divided into more than fifty particular sects, [33] of whom the most celebrated appear to

have been the Basilidians, the Valentinians, the Marcionites, and, in a

still later period, the Manichaeans. Each of these sects could boast

of its bishops and congregations, of its doctors and martyrs; [34] and,

instead of the Four Gospels adopted by the church, [341] the heretics

produced a multitude of histories, in which the actions and discourses

of Christ and of his apostles were adapted to their respective tenets.

[35] The success of the Gnostics was rapid and extensive. [36] They covered Asia and Egypt, established themselves in Rome, and sometimes

penetrated into the provinces of the West. For the most part they arose

in the second century, flourished during the third, and were suppressed

in the fourth or fifth, by the prevalence of more fashionable controversies, and by the superior ascendant of the reigning power. though they constantly disturbed the peace, and frequently disgraced the

name, of religion, they contributed to assist rather than to retard the progress of Christianity. The Gentile converts, whose strongest

objections and prejudices were directed against the law of Moses, could find admission into many Christian societies, which required not from their untutored mind any belief of an antecedent revelation. Their faith was insensibly fortified and enlarged, and the church was ultimately benefited by the conquests of its most inveterate enemies. [37]

[Footnote 31: Hegesippus, ap. Euseb. l. iii. 32, iv. 22. Clemens alexandrin Stromat. vii. 17. \* Note: The assertion of Hegesippus is not

so positive: it is sufficient to read the whole passage in Eusebius, to

see that the former part is modified by the matter. Hegesippus adds, that up to this period the church had remained pure and immaculate as a

virgin. Those who labored to corrupt the doctrines of the gospel worked as yet in obscurity--G]

[Footnote 32: In the account of the Gnostics of the second and third centuries, Mosheim is ingenious and candid; Le Clerc dull, but exact; beausobre almost always an apologist; and it is much to be feared that the primitive fathers are very frequently calumniators. \* Note The

Histoire du Gnosticisme of M. Matter is at once the fairest and most complete account of these sects.--M.]

[Footnote 33: See the catalogues of Irenaeus and Epiphanius. It must

indeed be allowed, that those writers were inclined to multiply the

number of sects which opposed the unity of the church.]

[Footnote 34: Eusebius, l. iv. c. 15. Sozomen, l. ii. c. 32. See in bayle, in the article of Marcion, a curious detail of a dispute on that

subject. It should seem that some of the Gnostics (the Basilidians) declined, and even refused the honor of Martyrdom. Their reasons were

singular and abstruse. See Mosheim, p. 539.]

[Footnote 341: M. Hahn has restored the Marcionite Gospel with great

ingenuity. His work is reprinted in Thilo. Codex. Apoc. Nov. Test. vol.

i.--M.]

[Footnote 35: See a very remarkable passage of Origen, (Proem. ad Lucam.) That indefatigable writer, who had consumed his life in the

study of the Scriptures, relies for their authenticity on the inspired authority of the church. It was impossible that the Gnostics could

receive our present Gospels, many parts of which (particularly in the

resurrection of Christ) are directly, and as it might seem designedly,

pointed against their favorite tenets. It is therefore somewhat singular that Ignatius (Epist. ad Smyrn. Patr. Apostol. tom. ii. p. 34) should choose to employ a vague and doubtful tradition, instead of quoting the certain testimony of the evangelists. Note: Bishop Pearson has attempted

very happily to explain this singularity.' The first Christians were acquainted with a number of sayings of Jesus Christ, which are not

related in our Gospels, and indeed have never been written. Why might

not St. Ignatius, who had lived with the apostles or their disciples,

repeat in other words that which St. Luke has related, particularly at a time when, being in prison, he could have the Gospels at hand? Pearson,

Vind Ign. pp. 2, 9 p. 396 in tom. ii. Patres Apost. ed. Coteler--G.]

[Footnote 36: Faciunt favos et vespae; faciunt ecclesias et Marcionitae,

is the strong expression of Tertullian, which I am obliged to quote from memory. In the time of Epiphanius (advers. Haereses, p. 302) the

Marcionites were very numerous in Italy, Syria, Egypt, Arabia, and

Persia.]

[Footnote 37: Augustin is a memorable instance of this gradual progress from reason to faith. He was, during several years, engaged in the

Manichaear sect.]

but whatever difference of opinion might subsist between the Orthodox, the Ebionites, and the Gnostics, concerning the divinity or the

obligation of the Mosaic law, they were all equally animated by the

same exclusive zeal; and by the same abhorrence for idolatry, which had distinguished the Jews from the other nations of the ancient world. The

philosopher, who considered the system of polytheism as a composition of

human fraud and error, could disguise a smile of contempt under the

mask of devotion, without apprehending that either the mockery, or the compliance, would expose him to the resentment of any invisible, or, as

he conceived them, imaginary powers. But the established religions of

Paganism were seen by the primitive Christians in a much more odious and formidable light. It was the universal sentiment both of the church and

of heretics, that the daemons were the authors, the patrons, and the

objects of idolatry. [38] Those rebellious spirits who had been degraded from the rank of angels, and cast down into the infernal pit, were still

permitted to roam upon earth, to torment the bodies, and to seduce the

minds, of sinful men. The daemons soon discovered and abused the natural

propensity of the human heart towards devotion, and artfully withdrawing the adoration of mankind from their Creator, they usurped the place and honors of the Supreme Deity. By the success of their malicious contrivances, they at once gratified their own vanity and revenge, and

obtained the only comfort of which they were yet susceptible, the hope

of involving the human species in the participation of their guilt and

misery. It was confessed, or at least it was imagined, that they

had distributed among themselves the most important characters of

polytheism, one daemon assuming the name and attributes of Jupiter, another of Aesculapius, a third of Venus, and a fourth perhaps of apollo; [39] and that, by the advantage of their long experience and aerial nature, they were enabled to execute, with sufficient skill and dignity, the parts which they had undertaken. They lurked in the temples, instituted festivals and sacrifices, invented fables,

pronounced oracles, and were frequently allowed to perform miracles. The christians, who, by the interposition of evil spirits, could so readily explain every preternatural appearance, were disposed and even desirous to admit the most extravagant fictions of the Pagan mythology. But the belief of the Christian was accompanied with horror. The most trifling

mark of respect to the national worship he considered as a direct homage

yielded to the daemon, and as an act of rebellion against the majesty of

God.

[Footnote 38: The unanimous sentiment of the primitive church is very clearly explained by Justin Martyr, Apolog. Major, by Athenagoras,

Legat. c. 22. &c., and by Lactantius, Institut. Divin. ii. 14--19.]

[Footnote 39: Tertullian (Apolog. c. 23) alleges the confession of the daemons themselves as often as they were tormented by the Christian exorcists]

chapter XV: Progress Of The Christian Religion.--Part III.

In consequence of this opinion, it was the first but arduous duty of a Christian to preserve himself pure and undefiled by the practice

of idolatry. The religion of the nations was not merely a speculative doctrine professed in the schools or preached in the temples. The

innumerable deities and rites of polytheism were closely interwoven with every circumstance of business or pleasure, of public or of

private life; and it seemed impossible to escape the observance of them, without, at the same time, renouncing the commerce of mankind, and all the offices and amusements of society. [40] The important transactions of

peace and war were prepared or concluded by solemn sacrifices, in which the magistrate, the senator, and the soldier, were obliged to preside or to participate. [41] The public spectacles were an essential part of the cheerful devotion of the Pagans, and the gods were supposed to accept, as the most grateful offering, the games that the prince and people celebrated in honor of their peculiar festivals. [42] The Christians, who with pious horror avoided the abomination of the circus or the theatre, found himself encompassed with infernal snares in every convivial entertainment, as often as his friends, invoking the hospitable deities,

poured out libations to each other's happiness. [43] When the bride,

struggling with well-affected reluctance, was forced into hymenaeal pomp

over the threshold of her new habitation, [44] or when the sad procession

of the dead slowly moved towards the funeral pile; [45] the Christian,

on these interesting occasions, was compelled to desert the persons who were the dearest to him, rather than contract the guilt inherent to those impious ceremonies. Every art and every trade that was in the

least concerned in the framing or adorning of idols was polluted by the

stain of idolatry; [46] a severe sentence, since it devoted to eternal

misery the far greater part of the community, which is employed in the exercise of liberal or mechanic professions. If we cast our eyes over the numerous remains of antiquity, we shall perceive, that besides the

immediate representations of the gods, and the holy instruments of their worship, the elegant forms and agreeable fictions consecrated by the

imagination of the Greeks, were introduced as the richest ornaments of the houses, the dress, and the furniture of the Pagan. [47] Even the arts

of music and painting, of eloquence and poetry, flowed from the same

impure origin. In the style of the fathers, Apollo and the Muses were the organs of the infernal spirit; Homer and Virgil were the most eminent of his servants; and the beautiful mythology which pervades and animates the compositions of their genius, is destined to celebrate the glory of the daemons. Even the common language of Greece and Rome abounded with familiar but impious expressions, which the imprudent christian might too carelessly utter, or too patiently hear. [48]

[Footnote 40: Tertullian has written a most severe treatise against

idolatry, to caution his brethren against the hourly danger of incurring that guilt. Recogita sylvam, et quantae latitant spinae. De Corona

Militis, c. 10.]

[Footnote 41: The Roman senate was always held in a temple or consecrated place. (Aulus Gellius, xiv. 7.) Before they entered on business, every senator dropped some wine and frankincense on the altar.

Sueton. in August. c. 35.]

[Footnote 42: See Tertullian, De Spectaculis. This severe reformer

shows no more indulgence to a tragedy of Euripides, than to a combat of

gladiators. The dress of the actors particularly offends him. By the

use of the lofty buskin, they impiously strive to add a cubit to their

stature. c. 23.]

[Footnote 43: The ancient practice of concluding the entertainment with

libations, may be found in every classic. Socrates and Seneca, in their

last moments, made a noble application of this custom. Postquam stagnum, calidae aquae introiit, respergens proximos servorum, addita voce,

libare se liquorem illum Jovi Liberatori. Tacit. Annal. xv. 64.]

[Footnote 44: See the elegant but idolatrous hymn of Catullus, on the

nuptials of Manlius and Julia. O Hymen, Hymenaee Io! Quis huic Deo compararier ausit?]

[Footnote 45: The ancient funerals (in those of Misenus and Pallas) are

no less accurately described by Virgil, than they are illustrated by his commentator Servius. The pile itself was an altar, the flames were fed with the blood of victims, and all the assistants were sprinkled with

lustral water.]

[Footnote 46: Tertullian de Idololatria, c. 11. \* Note: The exaggerated and declamatory opinions of Tertullian ought not to be taken as the

general sentiment of the early Christians. Gibbon has too often allowed

himself to consider the peculiar notions of certain Fathers of the church as inherent in Christianity. This is not accurate.--G.]

[Footnote 47: See every part of Montfaucon's Antiquities. Even the

reverses of the Greek and Roman coins were frequently of an idolatrous

nature. Here indeed the scruples of the Christian were suspended by a

stronger passion. Note: All this scrupulous nicety is at variance with the decision of St. Paul about meat offered to idols, 1, Cor. x. 21--

32.--M.]

[Footnote 48: Tertullian de Idololatria, c. 20, 21, 22. If a Pagan friend (on the occasion perhaps of sneezing) used the familiar expression of "Jupiter bless you," the Christian was obliged to protest against the divinity of Jupiter.]

the dangerous temptations which on every side lurked in ambush to

surprise the unguarded believer, assailed him with redoubled violence on the days of solemn festivals. So artfully were they framed and disposed throughout the year, that superstition always wore the appearance of

pleasure, and often of virtue. Some of the most sacred festivals in the

Roman ritual were destined to salute the new calends of January with

vows of public and private felicity; to indulge the pious remembrance of the dead and living; to ascertain the inviolable bounds of property; to hail, on the return of spring, the genial powers of fecundity; to

perpetuate the two memorable areas of Rome, the foundation of the city and that of the republic, and to restore, during the humane license

of the Saturnalia, the primitive equality of mankind. Some idea may be conceived of the abhorrence of the Christians for such impious ceremonies, by the scrupulous delicacy which they displayed on a much

less alarming occasion. On days of general festivity, it was the custom

of the ancients to adorn their doors with lamps and with branches

of laurel, and to crown their heads with a garland of flowers. This

innocent and elegant practice might perhaps have been tolerated as a

mere civil institution. But it most unluckily happened that the doors were under the protection of the household gods, that the laurel was

sacred to the lover of Daphne, and that garlands of flowers, though frequently worn as a symbol of joy or mourning, had been dedicated

in their first origin to the service of superstition. The trembling christians, who were persuaded in this instance to comply with the fashion of their country, and the commands of the magistrate, labored

under the most gloomy apprehensions, from the reproaches of his own conscience, the censures of the church, and the denunciations of divine

vengeance. [50]

[Footnote 49: Consult the most labored work of Ovid, his imperfect fasti. He finished no more than the first six months of the year. The compilation of Macrobius is called the Saturnalia, but it is only a

small part of the first book that bears any relation to the title.]

[Footnote 50: Tertullian has composed a defence, or rather panegyric, of the rash action of a Christian soldier, who, by throwing away his crown

of laurel, had exposed himself and his brethren to the most imminent danger. By the mention of the emperors, (Severus and Caracalla,) it is evident, notwithstanding the wishes of M. de Tillemont, that Tertullian composed his treatise De Corona long before he was engaged in the errors

of the Montanists. See Memoires Ecclesiastiques, tom. iii. p. 384. Note: the soldier did not tear off his crown to throw it down with contempt;

he did not even throw it away; he held it in his hand, while others were

it on their heads. Solus libero capite, ornamento in manu otioso.--G

Note: Tertullian does not expressly name the two emperors, Severus and caracalla: he speaks only of two emperors, and of a long peace which the church had enjoyed. It is generally agreed that Tertullian became a Montanist about the year 200: his work, de Corona Militis, appears to have been written, at the earliest about the year 202 before the persecution of Severus: it may be maintained, then, that it is

subsequent to the Montanism of the author. See Mosheim, Diss. de Apol. tertull. p. 53. Biblioth. Amsterd. tom. x. part ii. p. 292. Cave's Hist.

Lit. p. 92, 93.--G. ----The state of Tertullian's opinions at the

particular period is almost an idle question. "The fiery African" is not at any time to be considered a fair representative of Christianity.--M.]

Such was the anxious diligence which was required to guard the chastity

of the gospel from the infectious breath of idolatry. The superstitious

observances of public or private rites were carelessly practised, from education and habit, by the followers of the established religion. But as often as they occurred, they afforded the Christians an opportunity

of declaring and confirming their zealous opposition. By these frequent

protestations their attachment to the faith was continually fortified; and in proportion to the increase of zeal, they combated with the more ardor and success in the holy war, which they had undertaken against the empire of the demons.

II. The writings of Cicero [51] represent in the most lively colors the

ignorance, the errors, and the uncertainty of the ancient philosophers with regard to the immortality of the soul. When they are desirous of arming their disciples against the fear of death, they inculcate, as an obvious, though melancholy position, that the fatal stroke of our dissolution releases us from the calamities of life; and that those can

no longer suffer, who no longer exist. Yet there were a few sages of

Greece and Rome who had conceived a more exalted, and, in some respects, a juster idea of human nature, though it must be confessed, that in the sublime inquiry, their reason had been often guided by their

imagination, and that their imagination had been prompted by their

vanity. When they viewed with complacency the extent of their own mental

powers, when they exercised the various faculties of memory, of fancy, and of judgment, in the most profound speculations, or the most

important labors, and when they reflected on the desire of fame, which transported them into future ages, far beyond the bounds of death and of the grave, they were unwilling to confound themselves with the beasts

of the field, or to suppose that a being, for whose dignity they entertained the most sincere admiration, could be limited to a spot of earth, and to a few years of duration. With this favorable prepossession they summoned to their aid the science, or rather the language, of

Metaphysics. They soon discovered, that as none of the properties of

matter will apply to the operations of the mind, the human soul must consequently be a substance distinct from the body, pure, simple, and

spiritual, incapable of dissolution, and susceptible of a much higher degree of virtue and happiness after the release from its corporeal

prison. From these specious and noble principles, the philosophers who trod in the footsteps of Plato deduced a very unjustifiable conclusion,

since they asserted, not only the future immortality, but the past eternity, of the human soul, which they were too apt to consider as a

portion of the infinite and self-existing spirit, which pervades and

sustains the universe. [52] A doctrine thus removed beyond the senses and the experience of mankind, might serve to amuse the leisure of a

philosophic mind; or, in the silence of solitude, it might sometimes

impart a ray of comfort to desponding virtue; but the faint impression which had been received in the schools, was soon obliterated by the commerce and business of active life. We are sufficiently acquainted with the eminent persons who flourished in the age of Cicero, and of the first Caesars, with their actions, their characters, and their motives, to be assured that their conduct in this life was never regulated by any

serious conviction of the rewards or punishments of a future state. at the bar and in the senate of Rome the ablest orators were not apprehensive of giving offence to their hearers, by exposing that doctrine as an idle and extravagant opinion, which was rejected with contempt by every man of a liberal education and understanding. [53]

[Footnote 51: In particular, the first book of the Tusculan Questions, and the treatise De Senectute, and the Somnium Scipionis, contain, in the most beautiful language, every thing that Grecian philosophy, on

Roman good sense, could possibly suggest on this dark but important

object.]

[Footnote 52: The preexistence of human souls, so far at least as that doctrine is compatible with religion, was adopted by many of the

Greek and Latin fathers. See Beausobre, Hist. du Manicheisme, l. vi. c.

4.]

[Footnote 53: See Cicero pro Cluent. c. 61. Caesar ap. Sallust. de bell. Catilis n 50. Juvenal. Satir. ii. 149. ----Esse aliquid manes, et

subterranea regna, ----------Nec pueri credunt, nisi qui nondum aeree

lavantae.]

Since therefore the most sublime efforts of philosophy can extend no further than feebly to point out the desire, the hope, or, at most, the probability, of a future state, there is nothing, except a divine revelation, that can ascertain the existence, and describe the condition, of the invisible country which is destined to receive the

souls of men after their separation from the body. But we may perceive

several defects inherent to the popular religions of Greece and Rome, which rendered them very unequal to so arduous a task. 1. The general

system of their mythology was unsupported by any solid proofs; and the wisest among the Pagans had already disclaimed its usurped authority. 2. the description of the infernal regions had been abandoned to the fancy

of painters and of poets, who peopled them with so many phantoms and

monsters, who dispensed their rewards and punishments with so little equity, that a solemn truth, the most congenial to the human heart, was

opposed and disgraced by the absurd mixture of the wildest fictions.

[54] 3. The doctrine of a future state was scarcely considered among the devout polytheists of Greece and Rome as a fundamental article of faith. the providence of the gods, as it related to public communities rather than to private individuals, was principally displayed on the visible theatre of the present world. The petitions which were offered on the altars of Jupiter or Apollo, expressed the anxiety of their worshippers for temporal happiness, and their ignorance or indifference concerning a future life. [55] The important truth of the of the immortality of the

soul was inculcated with more diligence, as well as success, in India,

in Assyria, in Egypt, and in Gaul; and since we cannot attribute such a difference to the superior knowledge of the barbarians, we we must ascribe it to the influence of an established priesthood, which employed the motives of virtue as the instrument of ambition. [56]

[Footnote 54: The xith book of the Odyssey gives a very dreary and

incoherent account of the infernal shades. Pindar and Virgil have embellished the picture; but even those poets, though more correct than their great model, are guilty of very strange inconsistencies. See bayle, Responses aux Questions d'un Provincial, part iii. c. 22.]

[Footnote 55: See xvith epistle of the first book of Horace, the

xiiith Satire of Juvenal, and the iid Satire of Persius: these popular discourses express the sentiment and language of the multitude.]

[Footnote 56: If we confine ourselves to the Gauls, we may observe, that they intrusted, not only their lives, but even their money, to the security of another world. Vetus ille mos Gallorum occurrit (says

Valerius Maximus, l. ii. c. 6, p. 10) quos, memoria proditum est

pecunias montuas, quae his apud inferos redderentur, dare solitos. the same custom is more darkly insinuated by Mela, l. iii. c. 2. It is almost needless to add, that the profits of trade hold a just proportion to the credit of the merchant, and that the Druids derived from their

holy profession a character of responsibility, which could scarcely be claimed by any other order of men.]

we might naturally expect that a principle so essential to religion, would have been revealed in the clearest terms to the chosen people of

Palestine, and that it might safely have been intrusted to the

hereditary priesthood of Aaron. It is incumbent on us to adore the

mysterious dispensations of Providence, [57] when we discover that the doctrine of the immortality of the soul is omitted in the law of Moses

it is darkly insinuated by the prophets; and during the long period which clasped between the Egyptian and the Babylonian servitudes, the

hopes as well as fears of the Jews appear to have been confined within the narrow compass of the present life. [58] After Cyrus had permitted the exiled nation to return into the promised land, and after Ezra had

restored the ancient records of their religion, two celebrated sects, the Sadducees and the Pharisees, insensibly arose at Jerusalem. [59] The former, selected from the more opulent and distinguished ranks of

society, were strictly attached to the literal sense of the Mosaic law, and they piously rejected the immortality of the soul, as an opinion that received no countenance from the divine book, which they revered as the only rule of their faith. To the authority of Scripture the

Pharisees added that of tradition, and they accepted, under the name of traditions, several speculative tenets from the philosophy or religion

of the eastern nations. The doctrines of fate or predestination, of angels and spirits, and of a future state of rewards and punishments, were in the number of these new articles of belief; and as the

Pharisees, by the austerity of their manners, had drawn into their party the body of the Jewish people, the immortality of the soul became the

prevailing sentiment of the synagogue, under the reign of the Asmonaean

princes and pontiffs. The temper of the Jews was incapable of contenting

itself with such a cold and languid assent as might satisfy the mind of a Polytheist; and as soon as they admitted the idea of a future state, they embraced it with the zeal which has always formed the characteristic of the nation. Their zeal, however, added nothing to its evidence, or even probability: and it was still necessary that the doctrine of life and immortality, which had been dictated by nature, approved by reason, and received by superstition, should obtain the

sanction of divine truth from the authority and example of Christ.

[Footnote 57: The right reverend author of the Divine Legation of Moses as signs a very curious reason for the omission, and most ingeniously

retorts it on the unbelievers. \* Note: The hypothesis of Warburton concerning this remarkable fact, which, as far as the Law of Moses, is

unquestionable, made few disciples; and it is difficult to suppose that

it could be intended by the author himself for more than a display of

intellectual strength. Modern writers have accounted in various ways for the silence of the Hebrew legislator on the immortality of the soul. according to Michaelis, "Moses wrote as an historian and as a lawgiver;

he regulated the ecclesiastical discipline, rather than the religious belief of his people; and the sanctions of the law being temporal, he

had no occasion, and as a civil legislator could not with propriety, threaten punishments in another world." See Michaelis, Laws of Moses, art. 272, vol. iv. p. 209, Eng. Trans.; and Syntagma Commentationum, p.

80, quoted by Guizot. M. Guizot adds, the "ingenious conjecture of a

philosophic theologian," which approximates to an opinion long entertained by the Editor. That writer believes, that in the state of civilization at the time of the legislator, this doctrine, become

popular among the Jews, would necessarily have given birth to a

multitude of idolatrous superstitions which he wished to prevent. His

primary object was to establish a firm theocracy, to make his people the conservators of the doctrine of the Divine Unity, the basis upon which christianity was hereafter to rest. He carefully excluded everything which could obscure or weaken that doctrine. Other nations had strangely abused their notions on the immortality of the soul; Moses wished to

prevent this abuse: hence he forbade the Jews from consulting

necromancers, (those who evoke the spirits of the dead.) Deut. xviii.

11. Those who reflect on the state of the Pagans and the Jews, and on the facility with which idolatry crept in on every side, will not be astonished that Moses has not developed a doctrine of which the

influence might be more pernicious than useful to his people. Orat. fest. de Vitae Immort. Spe., &c., auct. Ph. Alb. Stapfer, p. 12 13, 20. berne, 1787. ----Moses, as well from the intimations scattered in his writings, the passage relating to the translation of Enoch, (Gen. v.

24,) the prohibition of necromancy, (Michaelis believes him to be the author of the Book of Job though this opinion is in general rejected;

other learned writers consider this Book to be coeval with and known to

Moses,) as from his long residence in Egypt, and his acquaintance with egyptian wisdom, could not be ignorant of the doctrine of the

immortality of the soul. But this doctrine if popularly known among the

Jews, must have been purely Egyptian, and as so, intimately connected with the whole religious system of that country. It was no doubt moulded

up with the tenet of the transmigration of the soul, perhaps with

notions analogous to the emanation system of India in which the human

soul was an efflux from or indeed a part of, the Deity. The Mosaic

religion drew a wide and impassable interval between the Creator and created human beings: in this it differed from the Egyptian and all the eastern religions. As then the immortality of the soul was thus

inseparably blended with those foreign religions which were altogether to be effaced from the minds of the people, and by no means necessary for the establishment of the theocracy, Moses maintained silence on this

point and a purer notion of it was left to be developed at a more favorable period in the history of man.--M.]

[Footnote 58: See Le Clerc (Prolegomena ad Hist. Ecclesiast. sect. 1, c.

8) His authority seems to carry the greater weight, as he has written a

learned and judicious commentary on the books of the Old Testament.]

[Footnote 59: Joseph. Antiquitat. l. xiii. c. 10. De Bell. Jud. ii. 8. according to the most natural interpretation of his words, the Sadducees admitted only the Pentateuch; but it has pleased some modern critics to add the Prophets to their creed, and to suppose that they contented themselves with rejecting the traditions of the Pharisees. Dr. Jortin

has argued that point in his Remarks on Ecclesiastical History, vol. ii.

p. 103.]

when the promise of eternal happiness was proposed to mankind

on condition of adopting the faith, and of observing the precepts, of the gospel, it is no wonder that so advantageous an offer should have been accepted by great numbers of every religion, of every rank, and of every province in the Roman empire. The ancient Christians were animated by a contempt for their present existence, and by a just confidence of

immortality, of which the doubtful and imperfect faith of modern ages cannot give us any adequate notion. In the primitive church, the

influence of truth was very powerfully strengthened by an opinion, which, however it may deserve respect for its usefulness and antiquity,

has not been found agreeable to experience. It was universally believed, that the end of the world, and the kingdom of heaven, were at hand.

[591] The near approach of this wonderful event had been predicted by the apostles; the tradition of it was preserved by their earliest disciples, and those who understood in their literal senses the discourse of Christ

himself, were obliged to expect the second and glorious coming of the Son of Man in the clouds, before that generation was totally extinguished, which had beheld his humble condition upon earth, and which might still be witness of the calamities of the Jews under

Vespasian or Hadrian. The revolution of seventeen centuries has

instructed us not to press too closely the mysterious language of

prophecy and revelation; but as long as, for wise purposes, this error was permitted to subsist in the church, it was productive of the most

salutary effects on the faith and practice of Christians, who lived in the awful expectation of that moment, when the globe itself, and all the various race of mankind, should tremble at the appearance of their divine Judge. [60]

[Footnote 591: This was, in fact, an integral part of the Jewish notion

of the Messiah, from which the minds of the apostles themselves were but

gradually detached. See Bertholdt, Christologia Judaeorum, concluding chapters--M.]

[Footnote 60: This expectation was countenanced by the twenty-fourth chapter of St. Matthew, and by the first epistle of St. Paul to the thessalonians. Erasmus removes the difficulty by the help of allegory and metaphor; and the learned Grotius ventures to insinuate, that, for wise purposes, the pious deception was permitted to take place. \* Note:

Some modern theologians explain it without discovering either allegory

or deception. They say, that Jesus Christ, after having proclaimed the

ruin of Jerusalem and of the Temple, speaks of his second coming and the

sings which were to precede it; but those who believed that the moment was near deceived themselves as to the sense of two words, an error which still subsists in our versions of the Gospel according to St.

Matthew, xxiv. 29, 34. In verse 29, we read, "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened," &c. The Greek word

signifies all at once, suddenly, not immediately; so that it signifies

only the sudden appearance of the signs which Jesus Christ announces not the shortness of the interval which was to separate them from the "days

of tribulation," of which he was speaking. The verse 34 is this "Verily

I say unto you, This generation shall not pass till all these things

shall be fulfilled." Jesus, speaking to his disciples, uses these words, which the translators have rendered by this generation, but which means the race, the filiation of my disciples; that is, he speaks of a class

of men, not of a generation. The true sense then, according to these

learned men, is, In truth I tell you that this race of men, of which you are the commencement, shall not pass away till this shall take place; that is to say, the succession of Christians shall not cease till his coming. See Commentary of M. Paulus on the New Test., edit. 1802, tom.

iii. p. 445,--446.--G. ----Others, as Rosenmuller and Kuinoel, in loc., confine this passage to a highly figurative description of the ruins of the Jewish city and polity.--M.]

chapter XV: Progress Of The Christian Religion.--Part IV.

the ancient and popular doctrine of the Millennium was intimately connected with the second coming of Christ. As the works of the creation

had been finished in six days, their duration in their present state, according to a tradition which was attributed to the prophet Elijah, was fixed to six thousand years. [61] By the same analogy it was inferred, that this long period of labor and contention, which was now almost elapsed, [62] would be succeeded by a joyful Sabbath of a thousand years; and that Christ, with the triumphant band of the saints and the elect who had escaped death, or who had been miraculously revived, would

reign upon earth till the time appointed for the last and general

resurrection. So pleasing was this hope to the mind of believers, that the New Jerusalem, the seat of this blissful kingdom, was quickly adorned with all the gayest colors of the imagination. A felicity consisting only of pure and spiritual pleasure would have appeared too

refined for its inhabitants, who were still supposed to possess their

human nature and senses. A garden of Eden, with the amusements of the

pastoral life, was no longer suited to the advanced state of society which prevailed under the Roman empire. A city was therefore erected of

gold and precious stones, and a supernatural plenty of corn and wine was bestowed on the adjacent territory; in the free enjoyment of whose

spontaneous productions, the happy and benevolent people was never to be

restrained by any jealous laws of exclusive property. [63] The assurance

of such a Millennium was carefully inculcated by a succession of fathers from Justin Martyr, [64] and Irenaeus, who conversed with the immediate disciples of the apostles, down to Lactantius, who was preceptor to the

son of Constantine. [65] Though it might not be universally received, it appears to have been the reigning sentiment of the orthodox believers; and it seems so well adapted to the desires and apprehensions of

mankind, that it must have contributed in a very considerable degree to the progress of the Christian faith. But when the edifice of the church was almost completed, the temporary support was laid aside. The doctrine of Christ's reign upon earth was at first treated as a profound allegory, was considered by degrees as a doubtful and useless opinion, and was at length rejected as the absurd invention of heresy and fanaticism. [66] A mysterious prophecy, which still forms a part of the

sacred canon, but which was thought to favor the exploded sentiment, has

very narrowly escaped the proscription of the church. [67]

[Footnote 61: See Burnet's Sacred Theory, part iii. c. 5. This tradition

may be traced as high as the the author of Epistle of Barnabas, who wrote in the first century, and who seems to have been half a Jew. \*

Note: In fact it is purely Jewish. See Mosheim, De Reb. Christ. ii. 8.

Lightfoot's Works, 8vo. edit. vol. iii. p. 37. Bertholdt, Christologia

Judaeorum ch. 38.--M.]

[Footnote 62: The primitive church of Antioch computed almost 6000 years from the creation of the world to the birth of Christ. Africanus,

Lactantius, and the Greek church, have reduced that number to 5500, and eusebius has contented himself with 5200 years. These calculations were formed on the Septuagint, which was universally received during the six first centuries. The authority of the vulgate and of the Hebrew text has determined the moderns, Protestants as well as Catholics, to prefer a

period of about 4000 years; though, in the study of profane antiquity, they often find themselves straitened by those narrow limits. \* Note:

Most of the more learned modern English Protestants, Dr. Hales, Mr. faber, Dr. Russel, as well as the Continental writers, adopt the larger chronology. There is little doubt that the narrower system was framed by the Jews of Tiberias; it was clearly neither that of St. Paul, nor of

Josephus, nor of the Samaritan Text. It is greatly to be regretted that the chronology of the earlier Scriptures should ever have been made a

religious question--M.]

[Footnote 63: Most of these pictures were borrowed from a

misrepresentation of Isaiah, Daniel, and the Apocalypse. One of the

grossest images may be found in Irenaeus, (l. v. p. 455,) the disciple

of Papias, who had seen the apostle St. John.]

[Footnote 64: See the second dialogue of Justin with Triphon, and the seventh book of Lactantius. It is unnecessary to allege all the

intermediate fathers, as the fact is not disputed. Yet the curious

reader may consult Daille de Uus Patrum, l. ii. c. 4.]

[Footnote 65: The testimony of Justin of his own faith and that of his

orthodox brethren, in the doctrine of a Millennium, is delivered in the clearest and most solemn manner, (Dialog. cum Tryphonte Jud. p. 177,

178, edit. Benedictin.) If in the beginning of this important passage there is any thing like an inconsistency, we may impute it, as we think

proper, either to the author or to his transcribers. \* Note: The

Millenium is described in what once stood as the XLIst Article of the english Church (see Collier, Eccles. Hist., for Articles of Edw. VI.) as

"a fable of Jewish dotage." The whole of these gross and earthly images

may be traced in the works which treat on the Jewish traditions, in

Lightfoot, Schoetgen, and Eisenmenger; "Das enthdeckte Judenthum" t. ii

809; and briefly in Bertholdt, i. c. 38, 39.--M.]

[Footnote 66: Dupin, Bibliotheque Ecclesiastique, tom. i. p. 223, tom.

ii. p. 366, and Mosheim, p. 720; though the latter of these learned divines is not altogether candid on this occasion.]

[Footnote 67: In the council of Laodicea, (about the year 360,) the apocalypse was tacitly excluded from the sacred canon, by the same churches of Asia to which it is addressed; and we may learn from the complaint of Sulpicius Severus, that their sentence had been ratified by the greater number of Christians of his time. From what causes then is the Apocalypse at present so generally received by the Greek, the Roman, and the Protestant churches? The following ones may be assigned. 1. The

Greeks were subdued by the authority of an impostor, who, in the sixth century, assumed the character of Dionysius the Areopagite. 2. A just apprehension that the grammarians might become more important than the theologians, engaged the council of Trent to fix the seal of their

infallibility on all the books of Scripture contained in the Latin

Vulgate, in the number of which the Apocalypse was fortunately included.

(Fr. Paolo, Istoria del Concilio Tridentino, l. ii.) 3. The advantage

of turning those mysterious prophecies against the See of Rome, inspired the Protestants with uncommon veneration for so useful an ally. See the

ingenious and elegant discourses of the present bishop of Litchfield on that unpromising subject. \* Note: The exclusion of the Apocalypse is

not improbably assigned to its obvious unfitness to be read in churches. It is to be feared that a history of the interpretation of the apocalypse would not give a very favorable view either of the wisdom

or the charity of the successive ages of Christianity. Wetstein's

interpretation, differently modified, is adopted by most Continental

scholars.--M.]

whilst the happiness and glory of a temporal reign were promised to the disciples of Christ, the most dreadful calamities were denounced against an unbelieving world. The edification of a new Jerusalem was to advance by equal steps with the destruction of the mystic Babylon; and as

long as the emperors who reigned before Constantine persisted in the

profession of idolatry, the epithet of babylon was applied to the city and to the empire of Rome. A regular series was prepared of all the

moral and physical evils which can afflict a flourishing nation;

intestine discord, and the invasion of the fiercest barbarians from the unknown regions of the North; pestilence and famine, comets and eclipses, earthquakes and inundations. [68] All these were only so many

preparatory and alarming signs of the great catastrophe of Rome, when the country of the Scipios and Caesars should be consumed by a flame from Heaven, and the city of the seven hills, with her palaces, her temples, and her triumphal arches, should be buried in a vast lake of fire and brimstone. It might, however, afford some consolation to Roman

vanity, that the period of their empire would be that of the world

itself; which, as it had once perished by the element of water, was destined to experience a second and a speedy destruction from the element of fire. In the opinion of a general conflagration, the faith of the Christian very happily coincided with the tradition of the East, the philosophy of the Stoics, and the analogy of Nature; and even the country, which, from religious motives, had been chosen for the origin and principal scene of the conflagration, was the best adapted for that

purpose by natural and physical causes; by its deep caverns, beds of

sulphur, and numero is volcanoes, of which those of Aetna, of Vesuvius, and of Lipari, exhibit a very imperfect representation. The calmest and most intrepid sceptic could not refuse to acknowledge that the destruction of the present system of the world by fire, was in itself extremely probable. The Christian, who founded his belief much less on the fallacious arguments of reason than on the authority of tradition and the interpretation of Scripture, expected it with terror and confidence as a certain and approaching event; and as his mind was

perpetually filled with the solemn idea, he considered every disaster that happened to the empire as an infallible symptom of an expiring world. [69]

[Footnote 68: Lactantius (Institut. Divin. vii. 15, &c.) relates the dismal talk of futurity with great spirit and eloquence. \* Note:

Lactantius had a notion of a great Asiatic empire, which was previously to rise on the ruins of the Roman: quod Romanum nomen animus dicere, sed dicam. quia futurum est tolletur de terra, et impere. Asiam

revertetur.--M.]

[Footnote 69: On this subject every reader of taste will be entertained with the third part of Burnet's Sacred Theory. He blends philosophy,

Scripture, and tradition, into one magnificent system; in the description of which he displays a strength of fancy not inferior to that of Milton himself.]

the condemnation of the wisest and most

virtuous of the Pagans, on account of their ignorance or disbelief of the divine truth, seems to offend the reason and the humanity of the

present age. [70] But the primitive church, whose faith was of a much firmer consistence, delivered over, without hesitation, to eternal torture, the far greater part of the human species. A charitable hope

might perhaps be indulged in favor of Socrates, or some other sages

of antiquity, who had consulted the light of reason before that of the

gospel had arisen. [71] But it was unanimously affirmed, that those who,

since the birth or the death of Christ, had obstinately persisted in the worship of the daemons, neither deserved nor could expect a pardon from the irritated justice of the Deity. These rigid sentiments, which had been unknown to the ancient world, appear to have infused a spirit of bitterness into a system of love and harmony. The ties of blood and friendship were frequently torn asunder by the difference of religious faith; and the Christians, who, in this world, found themselves

oppressed by the power of the Pagans, were sometimes seduced by

resentment and spiritual pride to delight in the prospect of their future triumph. "You are fond of spectacles," exclaims the stern tertullian; "expect the greatest of all spectacles, the last and eternal

judgment of the universe. How shall I admire, how laugh, how rejoice,

how exult, when I behold so many proud monarchs, so many fancied gods,

groaning in the lowest abyss of darkness; so many magistrates, who

persecuted the name of the Lord, liquefying in fiercer fires than they ever kindled against the Christians; so many sage philosophers blushing

in red-hot flames with their deluded scholars; so many celebrated poets trembling before the tribunal, not of Minos, but of Christ; so many tragedians, more tuneful in the expression of their own sufferings; so

many dancers."

[711] But the humanity of the reader will permit me to draw a veil over the

rest of this infernal description, which the zealous African pursues in a long variety of affected and unfeeling witticisms. [72]

[Footnote 70: And yet whatever may be the language of

individuals, it is still the public doctrine of all the Christian churches; nor can even our own refuse to admit the conclusions which

must be drawn from the viiith and the xviiith of her Articles. The

Jansenists, who have so diligently studied the works of the fathers,

maintain this sentiment with distinguished zeal; and the learned M. de tillemont never dismisses a virtuous emperor without pronouncing his damnation. Zuinglius is perhaps the only leader of a party who has ever adopted the milder sentiment, and he gave no less offence to the

Lutherans than to the Catholics. See Bossuet, Histoire des Variations des Eglises Protestantes, l. ii. c. 19--22.]

[Footnote 71: Justin and Clemens of Alexandria allow that some of the philosophers were instructed by the Logos; confounding its double

signification of the human reason, and of the Divine Word.]

[Footnote 711: This translation is not exact: the first sentence is imperfect. tertullian says, Ille dies nationibus insperatus, ille derisus, cum tanta sacculi vetustas et tot ejus nativitates uno igne haurientur. the text does not authorize the exaggerated expressions, so many

magistrates, so many sago philosophers, so many poets, &c.; but simply

magistrates, philosophers, poets.--G. --It is not clear that Gibbon's

version or paraphrase is incorrect: Tertullian writes, tot tantosque

reges item praesides, &c.--M.]

[Footnote 72: Tertullian, de Spectaculis, c. 30. In order to ascertain the degree of authority which the zealous African had acquired it may be

sufficient to allege the testimony of Cyprian, the doctor and guide of all the western churches. (See Prudent. Hym. xiii. 100.) As often as he applied himself to his daily study of the writings of Tertullian, he was accustomed to say, "Da mihi magistrum, Give me my master." (Hieronym. de

Viris Illustribus, tom. i. p. 284.)]

[Footnote 72: The object of Tertullian's vehemence in his Treatise, was to keep the Christians away from the secular games celebrated by the emperor Severus: It has not prevented him from showing himself in other

places full of benevolence and charity towards unbelievers: the spirit

of the gospel has sometimes prevailed over the violence of human

passions: Qui ergo putaveris nihil nos de salute Caesaris curare (he

says in his Apology) inspice Dei voces, literas nostras. Scitote ex

illis praeceptum esse nobis ad redudantionem, benignitates etiam pro

inimicis Deum orare, et pro persecutoribus cona precari. Sed etiam

nominatim atque manifeste orate inquit (Christus) pro regibus et pro

principibus et potestatibus ut omnia sint tranquilla vobis Tert. Apol. c. 31.--G. ----It would be wiser for Christianity, retreating upon its

genuine records in the New Testament, to disclaim this fierce African, than to identify itself with his furious invectives by unsatisfactory apologies for their unchristian fanaticism.--M.]

doubtless there were many among the primitive Christians of a temper

more suitable to the meekness and charity of their profession. There were many who felt a sincere compassion for the danger of their friends and countrymen, and who exerted the most benevolent zeal to save them from the impending destruction.

the careless Polytheist, assailed by new and unexpected terrors, against which neither his priests nor his philosophers could afford him any certain protection, was very frequently terrified and subdued by the

menace of eternal tortures. His fears might assist the progress of his faith and reason; and if he could once persuade himself to suspect that the Christian religion might possibly be true, it became an easy task to convince him that it was the safest and most prudent party that he could

possibly embrace.

III. The supernatural gifts, which even in this life were ascribed to the Christians above the rest of mankind, must have conduced to their

own comfort, and very frequently to the conviction of infidels. Besides the occasional prodigies, which might sometimes be effected by the

immediate interposition of the Deity when he suspended the laws of

Nature for the service of religion, the Christian church, from the time of the apostles and their first disciples, [73] has claimed an

uninterrupted succession of miraculous powers, the gift of tongues, of

vision, and of prophecy, the power of expelling daemons, of healing the

sick, and of raising the dead. The knowledge of foreign languages was frequently communicated to the contemporaries of Irenaeus, though

Irenaeus himself was left to struggle with the difficulties of a barbarous dialect, whilst he preached the gospel to the natives of Gaul.

[74] The divine inspiration, whether it was conveyed in the form of a waking or of a sleeping vision, is described as a favor very liberally bestowed on all ranks of the faithful, on women as on elders, on boys as well as upon bishops. When their devout minds were sufficiently prepared by a course of prayer, of fasting, and of vigils, to receive the extraordinary impulse, they were transported out of their senses, and delivered in ecstasy what was inspired, being mere organs of the Holy

Spirit, just as a pipe or flute is of him who blows into it. [75] We may add, that the design of these visions was, for the most part, either to disclose the future history, or to guide the present administration,

of the church. The expulsion of the daemons from the bodies of those

unhappy persons whom they had been permitted to torment, was considered as a signal though ordinary triumph of religion, and is repeatedly alleged by the ancient apoligists, as the most convincing evidence of the truth of Christianity. The awful ceremony was usually performed in a

public manner, and in the presence of a great number of spectators; the patient was relieved by the power or skill of the exorcist, and the

vanquished daemon was heard to confess that he was one of the fabled

gods of antiquity, who had impiously usurped the adoration of mankind.

[76] But the miraculous cure of diseases of the most inveterate or even preternatural kind, can no longer occasion any surprise, when we

recollect, that in the days of Iranaeus, about the end of the second century, the resurrection of the dead was very far from being esteemed an uncommon event; that the miracle was frequently performed on

necessary occasions, by great fasting and the joint supplication of the church of the place, and that the persons thus restored to their prayers

had lived afterwards among them many years. [77] At such a period, when faith could boast of so many wonderful victories over death, it seems difficult to account for the scepticism of those philosophers, who still

rejected and derided the doctrine of the resurrection. A noble Grecian

had rested on this important ground the whole controversy, and promised theophilus, Bishop of Antioch, that if he could be gratified with the

sight of a single person who had been actually raised from the dead,

he would immediately embrace the Christian religion. It is somewhat

remarkable, that the prelate of the first eastern church, however anxious for the conversion of his friend, thought proper to decline this fair and reasonable challenge. [78]

[Footnote 73: Notwithstanding the evasions of Dr. Middleton, it is

impossible to overlook the clear traces of visions and inspiration, which may be found in the apostolic fathers. \* Note: Gibbon should have

noticed the distinct and remarkable passage from Chrysostom, quoted by

Middleton, (Works, vol. i. p. 105,) in which he affirms the long discontinuance of miracles as a notorious fact.--M.]

[Footnote 74: Irenaeus adv. Haeres. Proem. p.3 Dr. Middleton (Free

Inquiry, p. 96, &c.) observes, that as this pretension of all others was the most difficult to support by art, it was the soonest given up. The

observation suits his hypothesis. \* Note: This passage of Irenaeus contains no allusion to the gift of tongues; it is merely an apology for a rude and unpolished Greek style, which could not be expected from one who passed his life in a remote and barbarous province, and was continually obliged to speak the Celtic language.--M. Note: Except in the life of Pachomius, an Egyptian monk of the fourth century. (see

Jortin, Ecc. Hist. i. p. 368, edit. 1805,) and the latter (not earlier)

lives of Xavier, there is no claim laid to the gift of tongues since the time of Irenaeus; and of this claim, Xavier's own letters are profoundly

silent. See Douglas's Criterion, p. 76 edit. 1807.--M.]

[Footnote 75: Athenagoras in Legatione. Justin Martyr, Cohort. ad Gentes tertullian advers. Marcionit. l. iv. These descriptions are not

very unlike the prophetic fury, for which Cicero (de Divinat.ii. 54) expresses so little reverence.]

[Footnote 76: Tertullian (Apolog. c. 23) throws out a bold defiance to the Pagan magistrates. Of the primitive miracles, the power of exorcising is the only one which has been assumed by Protestants. \*

Note: But by Protestants neither of the most enlightened ages nor most

reasoning minds.--M.]

[Footnote 77: Irenaeus adv. Haereses, l. ii. 56, 57, l. v. c. 6. Mr. dodwell (Dissertat. ad Irenaeum, ii. 42) concludes, that the second century was still more fertile in miracles than the first. \* Note: It is difficult to answer Middleton's objection to this statement of Irenae

us: "It is very strange, that from the time of the apostles there is not a single instance of this miracle to be found in the three first centuries; except a single case, slightly intimated in Eusebius, from the Works of Papias; which he seems to rank among the other fabulous

stories delivered by that weak man." Middleton, Works, vol. i. p. 59. bp. Douglas (Criterion, p 389) would consider Irenaeus to speak of what

had "been performed formerly." not in his own time.--M.]

[Footnote 78: Theophilus ad Autolycum, l. i. p. 345. Edit. Benedictin.

Paris, 1742. \* Note: A candid sceptic might discern some impropriety in the Bishop being called upon to perform a miracle on demand.--M.]

the miracles of the primitive church, after obtaining the sanction of ages, have been lately attacked in a very free and ingenious inquiry,

[79] which, though it has met with the most favorable reception from the

public, appears to have excited a general scandal among the divines of

our own as well as of the other Protestant churches of Europe. [80] Our different sentiments on this subject will be much less influenced by any

particular arguments, than by our habits of study and reflection; and, above all, by the degree of evidence which we have accustomed ourselves to require for the proof of a miraculous event. The duty of an historian does not call upon him to interpose his private judgment in this nice and important controversy; but he ought not to dissemble the difficulty

of adopting such a theory as may reconcile the interest of religion with that of reason, of making a proper application of that theory, and of defining with precision the limits of that happy period, exempt from error and from deceit, to which we might be disposed to extend the gift

of supernatural powers. From the first of the fathers to the last of the

popes, a succession of bishops, of saints, of martyrs, and of miracles,

is continued without interruption; and the progress of superstition was so gradual, and almost imperceptible, that we know not in what

particular link we should break the chain of tradition. Every age bears testimony to the wonderful events by which it was distinguished, and

its testimony appears no less weighty and respectable than that of the

preceding generation, till we are insensibly led on to accuse our own

inconsistency, if in the eighth or in the twelfth century we deny to the

venerable Bede, or to the holy Bernard, the same degree of confidence which, in the second century, we had so liberally granted to Justin or to Irenaeus. [81] If the truth of any of those miracles is appreciated by their apparent use and propriety, every age had unbelievers to convince,

heretics to confute, and idolatrous nations to convert; and sufficient

motives might always be produced to justify the interposition of Heaven. and yet, since every friend to revelation is persuaded of the reality, and every reasonable man is convinced of the cessation, of miraculous

powers, it is evident that there must have been some period in which they were either suddenly or gradually withdrawn from the Christian church. Whatever aera is chosen for that purpose, the death of the apostles, the conversion of the Roman empire, or the extinction of the arian heresy, [82] the insensibility of the Christians who lived at that time will equally afford a just matter of surprise. They still supported their pretensions after they had lost their power. Credulity performed the office of faith; fanaticism was permitted to assume the language of

inspiration, and the effects of accident or contrivance were ascribed to supernatural causes. The recent experience of genuine miracles should

have instructed the Christian world in the ways of Providence, and

habituated their eye (if we may use a very inadequate expression) to the

style of the divine artist. Should the most skilful painter of modern

Italy presume to decorate his feeble imitations with the name of Raphael

or of Correggio, the insolent fraud would be soon discovered, and

indignantly rejected.

[Footnote 79: Dr. Middleton sent out his Introduction in the year 1747,

published his Free Inquiry in 1749, and before his death, which happened

in 1750, he had prepared a vindication of it against his numerous adversaries.]

[Footnote 80: The university of Oxford conferred degrees

on his opponents. From the indignation of Mosheim, (p. 221,) we may discover the sentiments of the Lutheran divines. \* Note: Yet many

Protestant divines will now without reluctance confine miracles to the time of the apostles, or at least to the first century.--M]

[Footnote 81: It may seem somewhat remarkable, that Bernard of clairvaux, who records so many miracles of his friend St. Malachi, never takes any notice of his own, which, in their turn, however, are carefully related by his companions and disciples. In the long series of ecclesiastical history, does there exist a single instance of a saint asserting that he himself possessed the gift of miracles?]

[Footnote 82: The conversion of Constantine is the aera which is most

usually fixed by Protestants. The more rational divines are unwilling to admit the miracles of the ivth, whilst the more credulous are unwilling to reject those of the vth century. \* Note: All this appears to proceed

on the principle that any distinct line can be drawn in an unphilosophic age between wonders and miracles, or between what piety, from their

unexpected and extraordinary nature, the marvellous concurrence of

secondary causes to some remarkable end, may consider providential

interpositions, and miracles strictly so called, in which the laws of

nature are suspended or violated. It is impossible to assign, on one

side, limits to human credulity, on the other, to the influence of the

imagination on the bodily frame; but some of the miracles recorded in the Gospels are such palpable impossibilities, according to the known

laws and operations of nature, that if recorded on sufficient evidence, and the evidence we believe to be that of eye-witnesses, we cannot

reject them, without either asserting, with Hume, that no evidence can

prove a miracle, or that the Author of Nature has no power of suspending

its ordinary laws. But which of the post-apostolic miracles will bear this test?--M.]

whatever opinion may be entertained of the miracles of the primitive church since the time of the apostles, this unresisting softness of temper, so conspicuous among the believers of the second and third centuries, proved of some accidental benefit to the cause of truth and

religion. In modern times, a latent and even involuntary scepticism adheres to the most pious dispositions. Their admission of supernatural truths is much less an active consent than a cold and passive acquiescence. Accustomed long since to observe and to respect the

variable order of Nature, our reason, or at least our imagination, is

not sufficiently prepared to sustain the visible action of the Deity.

but, in the first ages of Christianity, the situation of mankind was extremely different. The most curious, or the most credulous, among the

Pagans, were often persuaded to enter into a society which asserted an actual claim of miraculous powers. The primitive Christians perpetually trod on mystic ground, and their minds were exercised by the habits of believing the most extraordinary events. They felt, or they fancied, that on every side they were incessantly assaulted by daemons, comforted by visions, instructed by prophecy, and surprisingly delivered from danger, sickness, and from death itself, by the supplications of the church. The real or imaginary prodigies, of which they so frequently conceived themselves to be the objects, the instruments, or the

spectators, very happily disposed them to adopt with the same ease, but with far greater justice, the authentic wonders of the evangelic

history; and thus miracles that exceeded not the measure of their own experience, inspired them with the most lively assurance of mysteries which were acknowledged to surpass the limits of their understanding. It

is this deep impression of supernatural truths, which has been so much celebrated under the name of faith; a state of mind described as the surest pledge of the divine favor and of future felicity, and

recommended as the first, or perhaps the only merit of a Christian. according to the more rigid doctors, the moral virtues, which may be equally practised by infidels, are destitute of any value or efficacy in the work of our justification.

chapter XV: Progress Of The Christian Religion.--Part V.

IV. But the primitive Christian demonstrated his faith by his virtues; and it was very justly supposed that the divine persuasion, which enlightened or subdued the understanding, must, at the same time, purify the heart, and direct the actions, of the believer. The first apologists

of Christianity who justify the innocence of their brethren, and the writers of a later period who celebrate the sanctity of their ancestors, display, in the most lively colors, the reformation of manners which was

introduced into the world by the preaching of the gospel. As it is my

intention to remark only such human causes as were permitted to second the influence of revelation, I shall slightly mention two motives which

might naturally render the lives of the primitive Christians much purer and more austere than those of their Pagan contemporaries, or their degenerate successors; repentance for their past sins, and the laudable desire of supporting the reputation of the society in which they were engaged. [83]

[Footnote 83: These, in the opinion of the editor, are the most uncandid

paragraphs in Gibbon's History. He ought either, with manly courage, to

have denied the moral reformation introduced by Christianity, or fairly to have investigated all its motives; not to have confined himself to an insidious and sarcastic description of the less pure and generous elements of the Christian character as it appeared even at that early time.--M.]

It is a very ancient reproach, suggested by the ignorance or the malice

of infidelity, that the Christians allured into their party the most atrocious criminals, who, as soon as they were touched by a sense of

remorse, were easily persuaded to wash away, in the water of baptism, the guilt of their past conduct, for which the temples of the gods

refused to grant them any expiation. But this reproach, when it is cleared from misrepresentation, contributes as much to the honor as it did to the increase of the church. [83] The friends of Christianity may acknowledge without a blush, that many of the most eminent saints had been before their baptism the most abandoned sinners. Those persons, who

in the world had followed, though in an imperfect manner, the dictates

of benevolence and propriety, derived such a calm satisfaction from the

opinion of their own rectitude, as rendered them much less susceptible

of the sudden emotions of shame, of grief, and of terror, which have

given birth to so many wonderful conversions. After the example of their divine Master, the missionaries of the gospel disdained not the society

of men, and especially of women, oppressed by the consciousness, and

very often by the effects, of their vices. As they emerged from sin and superstition to the glorious hope of immortality, they resolved to devote themselves to a life, not only of virtue, but of penitence. The desire of perfection became the ruling passion of their soul; and it is well known, that while reason embraces a cold mediocrity, our passions

hurry us, with rapid violence, over the space which lies between the

most opposite extremes.

[Footnote 83: The imputations of Celsus and Julian, with the defence of the fathers, are very fairly stated by Spanheim, Commentaire sur les cesars de Julian, p. 468.]

when the new converts had been enrolled in the number of the faithful, and were admitted to the sacraments of the church, they found themselves

restrained from relapsing into their past disorders by another consideration of a less spiritual, but of a very innocent and

respectable nature. Any particular society that has departed from the great body of the nation, or the religion to which it belonged,

immediately becomes the object of universal as well as invidious

observation. In proportion to the smallness of its numbers, the character of the society may be affected by the virtues and vices of the

persons who compose it; and every member is engaged to watch with the

most vigilant attention over his own behavior, and over that of his brethren, since, as he must expect to incur a part of the common disgrace, he may hope to enjoy a share of the common reputation. When the Christians of Bithynia were brought before the tribunal of the

younger Pliny, they assured the proconsul, that, far from being engaged

in any unlawful conspiracy, they were bound by a solemn obligation to abstain from the commission of those crimes which disturb the private

or public peace of society, from theft, robbery, adultery, perjury, and fraud. [84] [841] Near a century afterwards, Tertullian with an honest

pride, could boast, that very few Christians had suffered by the hand of the executioner, except on account of their religion. [85] Their serious and sequestered life, averse to the gay luxury of the age, inured them to chastity, temperance, economy, and all the sober and domestic

virtues. As the greater number were of some trade or profession, it was

incumbent on them, by the strictest integrity and the fairest dealing, to remove the suspicions which the profane are too apt to conceive against the appearances of sanctity. The contempt of the world exercised them in the habits of humility, meekness, and patience. The more they were persecuted, the more closely they adhered to each other. Their

mutual charity and unsuspecting confidence has been remarked by

infidels, and was too often abused by perfidious friends. [86]

[Footnote 84: Plin. Epist. x. 97. \* Note: Is not the sense of Tertullian

rather, if guilty of any other offence, he had thereby ceased to be a christian?--M.]

[Footnote 841: And this blamelessness was fully admitted by the candid and enlightened Roman.--M.]

[Footnote 85: Tertullian, Apolog. c. 44. He adds, however, with some degree of hesitation, "Aut si aliud, jam non Christianus." \* Note: tertullian says positively no Christian, nemo illic Christianus; for the

rest, the limitation which he himself subjoins, and which Gibbon quotes

in the foregoing note, diminishes the force of this assertion, and appears to prove that at least he knew none such.--G.]

[Footnote 86: The philosopher Peregrinus (of whose life and death Lucian

has left us so entertaining an account) imposed, for a long time, on the credulous simplicity of the Christians of Asia.]

It is a very honorable circumstance for the morals of the primitive christians, that even their faults, or rather errors, were derived from an excess of virtue. The bishops and doctors of the church, whose evidence attests, and whose authority might influence, the professions, the principles, and even the practice of their contemporaries, had

studied the Scriptures with less skill than devotion; and they often

received, in the most literal sense, those rigid precepts of Christ and the apostles, to which the prudence of succeeding commentators has applied a looser and more figurative mode of interpretation. Ambitious to exalt the perfection of the gospel above the wisdom of philosophy, the zealous fathers have carried the duties of self-mortification, of

purity, and of patience, to a height which it is scarcely possible to attain, and much less to preserve, in our present state of weakness and corruption. A doctrine so extraordinary and so sublime must inevitably command the veneration of the people; but it was ill calculated to

obtain the suffrage of those worldly philosophers, who, in the conduct

of this transitory life, consult only the feelings of nature and the

interest of society. [87]

[Footnote 87: See a very judicious treatise of Barbeyrac sur la Morale des Peres.]

there are two very natural propensities which we may distinguish in the

most virtuous and liberal dispositions, the love of pleasure and the

love of action. If the former is refined by art and learning, improved by the charms of social intercourse, and corrected by a just regard to economy, to health, and to reputation, it is productive of the greatest

part of the happiness of private life. The love of action is a principle

of a much stronger and more doubtful nature. It often leads to anger, to ambition, and to revenge; but when it is guided by the sense of

propriety and benevolence, it becomes the parent of every virtue, and if those virtues are accompanied with equal abilities, a family, a state,

or an empire, may be indebted for their safety and prosperity to the

undaunted courage of a single man. To the love of pleasure we may therefore ascribe most of the agreeable, to the love of action we

may attribute most of the useful and respectable, qualifications. The character in which both the one and the other should be united and

harmonized, would seem to constitute the most perfect idea of human

nature. The insensible and inactive disposition, which should be

supposed alike destitute of both, would be rejected, by the common consent of mankind, as utterly incapable of procuring any happiness to the individual, or any public benefit to the world. But it was not

in this world, that the primitive Christians were desirous of making themselves either agreeable or useful. [\*871]

[Footnote 871: El que me fait cette homelie semi-stoicienne,

semi-epicurienne? t'on jamais regarde l'amour du plaisir comme l'un des

principes de la perfection morale? Et de quel droit faites vous de

l'amour de l'action, et de l'amour du plaisir, les seuls elemens de

l'etre humain? Est ce que vous faites abstraction de la verite en elle-meme, de la conscience et du sentiment du devoir? Est ce que vous ne

sentez point, par exemple, que le sacrifice du moi a la justice et a la

verite, est aussi dans le coeur de l'homme: que tout n'est pas pour lui action ou plaisir, et que dans le bien ce n'est pas le mouvement, mais

la verite, qu'il cherche? Et puis \* \* Thucy dide et Tacite. ces maitres de l'histoire, ont ils jamais introduits dans leur recits un fragment de dissertation sur le plaisir et sur l'action. Villemain Cours de Lit. franc part ii. Lecon v.--M.]

the acquisition of knowledge, the exercise of our reason or fancy, and the cheerful flow of unguarded conversation, may employ the leisure of a liberal mind. Such amusements, however, were rejected with abhorrence,

or admitted with the utmost caution, by the severity of the fathers, who despised all knowledge that was not useful to salvation, and who considered all levity of discours eas a criminal abuse of the gift of

speech. In our present state of existence the body is so inseparably connected with the soul, that it seems to be our interest to taste, with innocence and moderation, the enjoyments of which that faithful companion is susceptible. Very different was the reasoning of our devout

predecessors; vainly aspiring to imitate the perfection of angels, they disdained, or they affected to disdain, every earthly and corporeal delight. [88] Some of our senses indeed are necessary for our

preservation, others for our subsistence, and others again for our

information; and thus far it was impossible to reject the use of them. the first sensation of pleasure was marked as the first moment of their abuse. The unfeeling candidate for heaven was instructed, not only to

resist the grosser allurements of the taste or smell, but even to

shut his ears against the profane harmony of sounds, and to view with

indifference the most finished productions of human art. Gay apparel,

magnificent houses, and elegant furniture, were supposed to unite the double guilt of pride and of sensuality; a simple and mortified appearance was more suitable to the Christian who was certain of his

sins and doubtful of his salvation. In their censures of luxury, the fathers are extremely minute and circumstantial; [89] and among the

various articles which excite their pious indignation, we may enumerate false hair, garments of any color except white, instruments of music,

vases of gold or silver, downy pillows, (as Jacob reposed his head on a

stone,) white bread, foreign wines, public salutations, the use of warm baths, and the practice of shaving the beard, which, according to the expression of Tertullian, is a lie against our own faces, and an impious attempt to improve the works of the Creator. [90] When Christianity was introduced among the rich and the polite, the observation of these

singular laws was left, as it would be at present, to the few who were ambitious of superior sanctity. But it is always easy, as well as agreeable, for the inferior ranks of mankind to claim a merit from the contempt of that pomp and pleasure which fortune has placed beyond their

reach. The virtue of the primitive Christians, like that of the first

Romans, was very frequently guarded by poverty and ignorance.

[Footnote 88: Lactant. Institut. Divin. l. vi. c. 20, 21, 22.]

[Footnote 89: Consult a work of Clemens of Alexandria, entitled The

Paedagogue, which contains the rudiments of ethics, as they were taught

in the most celebrated of the Christian schools.]

[Footnote 90: Tertullian, de Spectaculis, c. 23. Clemens Alexandrin.

Paedagog. l. iii. c. 8.]

the chaste severity of the fathers, in whatever related to the commerce

of the two sexes, flowed from the same principle; their abhorrence

of every enjoyment which might gratify the sensual, and degrade the

spiritual, nature of man. It was their favorite opinion, that if Adam

had preserved his obedience to the Creator, he would have lived forever

in a state of virgin purity, and that some harmless mode of vegetation

might have peopled paradise with a race of innocent and immortal beings.

[91] The use of marriage was permitted only to his fallen posterity, as a necessary expedient to continue the human species, and as a restraint,

however imperfect, on the natural licentiousness of desire. The

hesitation of the orthodox casuists on this interesting subject, betrays the perplexity of men, unwilling to approve an institution which they were compelled to tolerate. [92] The enumeration of the very whimsical

laws, which they most circumstantially imposed on the marriage-bed, would force a smile from the young and a blush from the fair. It was their unanimous sentiment, that a first marriage was adequate to all the

purposes of nature and of society. The sensual connection was refined

into a resemblance of the mystic union of Christ with his church, and was pronounced to be indissoluble either by divorce or by death. the practice of second nuptials was branded with the name of a egal adultery; and the persons who were guilty of so scandalous an offence against Christian purity, were soon excluded from the honors, and even from the alms, of the church. [93] Since desire was imputed as a crime, and marriage was tolerated as a defect, it was consistent with the same

principles to consider a state of celibacy as the nearest approach to the divine perfection. It was with the utmost difficulty that ancient

Rome could support the institution of six vestals; [94] but the primitive church was filled with a great number of persons of either sex, who had devoted themselves to the profession of perpetual chastity. [95] A few of these, among whom we may reckon the learned Origen, judged it the most

prudent to disarm the tempter. [96] Some were insensible and some were

invincible against the assaults of the flesh. Disdaining an ignominious flight, the virgins of the warm climate of Africa encountered the enemy

in the closest engagement; they permitted priests and deacons to share their bed, and gloried amidst the flames in their unsullied purity. But

insulted Nature sometimes vindicated her rights, and this new species

of martyrdom served only to introduce a new scandal into the church. [97] among the Christian ascetics, however, (a name which they soon acquired from their painful exercise,) many, as they were less presumptuous, were

probably more successful. The loss of sensual pleasure was supplied and compensated by spiritual pride. Even the multitude of Pagans were inclined to estimate the merit of the sacrifice by its apparent difficulty; and it was in the praise of these chaste spouses of christ that the fathers have poured forth the troubled stream of their eloquence. [98] Such are the early traces of monastic principles and

institutions, which, in a subsequent age, have counterbalanced all the temporal advantages of Christianity. [99]

[Footnote 91: Beausobro, Hist. Critique du Manicheisme, l. vii. c.

3. Justin, Gregory of Nyssa, Augustin, &c., strongly incline to this

opinion. Note: But these were Gnostic or Manichean opinions. Beausobre distinctly describes Autustine's bias to his recent escape from

Manicheism; and adds that he afterwards changed his views.--M.]

[Footnote 92: Some of the Gnostic heretics were more consistent; they

rejected the use of marriage.]

[Footnote 93: See a chain of tradition, from Justin Martyr to Jerome, in the Morale des Peres, c. iv. 6--26.]

[Footnote 94: See a very curious Dissertation on the Vestals, in the Memoires de l'Academie des Inscriptions, tom. iv. p. 161--227.

Notwithstanding the honors and rewards which were bestowed on those

virgins, it was difficult to procure a sufficient number; nor could the dread of the most horrible death always restrain their incontinence.]

[Footnote 95: Cupiditatem procreandi aut unam scimus aut nullam.

Minutius Faelix, c. 31. Justin. Apolog. Major. Athenagoras in Legat. c

28. Tertullian de Cultu Foemin. l. ii.]

[Footnote 96: Eusebius, l. vi. 8. Before the fame of Origen had excited envy and persecution, this extraordinary action was rather admired than censured. As it was his general practice to allegorize Scripture, it

seems unfortunate that in this instance only, he should have adopted the

literal sense.]

[Footnote 97: Cyprian. Epist. 4, and Dodwell, Dissertat. Cyprianic. iii.

Something like this rash attempt was long afterwards imputed to the founder of the order of Fontevrault. Bayle has amused himself and his

readers on that very delicate subject.]

[Footnote 98: Dupin (Bibliotheque Ecclesiastique, tom. i. p. 195) gives a particular account of the dialogue of the ten virgins, as it was composed by Methodius, Bishop of Tyre. The praises of virginity are excessive.]

[Footnote 99: The Ascetics (as early as the second century) made a

public profession of mortifying their bodies, and of abstaining from the

use of flesh and wine. Mosheim, p. 310.]

the Christians were not less averse to the business than to the

pleasures of this world. The defence of our persons and property they

knew not how to reconcile with the patient doctrine which enjoined an

unlimited forgiveness of past injuries, and commanded them to invite the

repetition of fresh insults. Their simplicity was offended by the use of

oaths, by the pomp of magistracy, and by the active contention of public

life; nor could their humane ignorance be convinced that it was lawful

on any occasion to shed the blood of our fellow-creatures, either by the sword of justice, or by that of war; even though their criminal

or hostile attempts should threaten the peace and safety of the whole community. [100] It was acknowledged, that, under a less perfect law, the powers of the Jewish constitution had been exercised, with the approbation of Heaven, by inspired prophets and by anointed kings. The christians felt and confessed that such institutions might be necessary for the present system of the world, and they cheerfully submitted to the authority of their Pagan governors. But while they inculcated the

maxims of passive obedience, they refused to take any active part in the civil administration or the military defence of the empire. Some

indulgence might, perhaps, be allowed to those persons who, before their conversion, were already engaged in such violent and sanguinary

occupations; [101] but it was impossible that the Christians, without

renouncing a more sacred duty, could assume the character of soldiers,

of magistrates, or of princes. [102] This indolent, or even criminal disregard to the public welfare, exposed them to the contempt and

reproaches of the Pagans who very frequently asked, what must be the fate of the empire, attacked on every side by the barbarians, if all

mankind should adopt the pusillanimous sentiments of the new sect. [103] to this insulting question the Christian apologists returned obscure and ambiguous answers, as they were unwilling to reveal the secret cause of their security; the expectation that, before the conversion of mankind was accomplished, war, government, the Roman empire, and the world

itself, would be no more. It may be observed, that, in this instance

likewise, the situation of the first Christians coincided very happily with their religious scruples, and that their aversion to an active life contributed rather to excuse them from the service, than to exclude them from the honors, of the state and army.

[Footnote 100: See the Morale des Peres. The same patient principles

have been revived since the Reformation by the Socinians, the modern anabaptists, and the Quakers. Barclay, the Apologist of the Quakers, has

protected his brethren by the authority of the primitive Christian; p.

542-549]

[Footnote 101: Tertullian, Apolog. c. 21. De Idololatria, c. 17, 18.

Origen contra Celsum, l. v. p. 253, l. vii. p. 348, l. viii.

p. 423-428.]

[Footnote 102: Tertullian (de Corona Militis, c. 11) suggested to them the expedient of deserting; a counsel which, if it had been

generally known, was not very proper to conciliate the favor of the emperors towards the Christian sect. \* Note: There is nothing which

ought to astonish us in the refusal of the primitive Christians to take

part in public affairs; it was the natural consequence of the contrariety of their principles to the customs, laws, and active life of the Pagan world. As Christians, they could not enter into the senate, which, according to Gibbon himself, always assembled in a temple or consecrated place, and where each senator, before he took his seat, made a libation of a few drops of wine, and burnt incense on the altar; as christians, they could not assist at festivals and banquets, which always terminated with libations, &c.; finally, as "the innumerable deities and rites of polytheism were closely interwoven with every circumstance of public and private life," the Christians could not

participate in them without incurring, according to their principles, the guilt of impiety. It was then much less by an effect of their doctrine, than by the consequence of their situation, that they stood aloof from public business. Whenever this situation offered no

impediment, they showed as much activity as the Pagans. Proinde, says

Justin Martyr, (Apol. c. 17,) nos solum Deum adoramus, et vobis in rebus aliis laeti inservimus.--G. -----This latter passage, M. Guizot quotes

in Latin; if he had consulted the original, he would have found it to be altogether irrelevant: it merely relates to the payment of taxes.--M. --

--Tertullian does not suggest to the soldiers the expedient of deserting; he says that they ought to be constantly on their guard to do

nothing during their service contrary to the law of God, and to resolve to suffer martyrdom rather than submit to a base compliance, or openly to renounce the service. (De Cor. Mil. ii. p. 127.) He does not

positively decide that the military service is not permitted to christians; he ends, indeed, by saying, Puta denique licere militiam

usque ad causam coronae.--G. ----M. Guizot is. I think, again

unfortunate in his defence of Tertullian. That father says, that many christian soldiers had deserted, aut deserendum statim sit, ut a multis actum. The latter sentence, Puta, &c, &c., is a concession for the sake

of argument: wha follows is more to the purpose.--M. Many other passages

of Tertullian prove that the army was full of Christians, Hesterni sumus et vestra omnia implevimus, urbes, insulas, castella, municipia, conciliabula, castra ipsa. (Apol. c. 37.) Navigamus et not vobiscum et

militamus. (c. 42.) Origen, in truth, appears to have maintained a more

rigid opinion, (Cont. Cels. l. viii.;) but he has often renounced this exaggerated severity, perhaps necessary to produce great results, and he

speaks of the profession of arms as an honorable one. (l. iv. c. 218.)--

G. ----On these points Christian opinion, it should seem, was much divided Tertullian, when he wrote the De Cor. Mil., was evidently

inclining to more ascetic opinions, and Origen was of the same class.

See Neander, vol. l part ii. p. 305, edit. 1828.--M.]

[Footnote 103: As well as we can judge from the mutilated representation

of Origen, (1. viii. p. 423,) his adversary, Celsus, had urged his

objection with great force and candor.]

chapter XV: Progress Of The Christian Religion.--Part VI.

V. But the human character, however it may be exalted or depressed by a temporary enthusiasm, will return by degrees to its proper and natural

level, and will resume those passions that seem the most adapted to its

present condition. The primitive Christians were dead to the business and pleasures of the world; but their love of action, which could never be entirely extinguished, soon revived, and found a new occupation in the government of the church. A separate society, which attacked the established religion of the empire, was obliged to adopt some form

of internal policy, and to appoint a sufficient number of ministers,

intrusted not only with the spiritual functions, but even with the temporal direction of the Christian commonwealth. The safety of that

society, its honor, its aggrandizement, were productive, even in the

most pious minds, of a spirit of patriotism, such as the first of the Romans had felt for the republic, and sometimes of a similar

indifference, in the use of whatever means might probably conduce to so desirable an end. The ambition of raising themselves or their friends to the honors and offices of the church, was disguised by the laudable

intention of devoting to the public benefit the power and consideration, which, for that purpose only, it became their duty to solicit. In the exercise of their functions, they were frequently called upon to detect the errors of heresy or the arts of faction, to oppose the designs

of perfidious brethren, to stigmatize their characters with deserved

infamy, and to expel them from the bosom of a society whose peace and

happiness they had attempted to disturb. The ecclesiastical governors of the Christians were taught to unite the wisdom of the serpent with the

innocence of the dove; but as the former was refined, so the latter was

insensibly corrupted, by the habits of government. If the church as well as in the world, the persons who were placed in any public station

rendered themselves considerable by their eloquence and firmness, by their knowledge of mankind, and by their dexterity in business; and while they concealed from others, and perhaps from themselves, the

secret motives of their conduct, they too frequently relapsed into all the turbulent passions of active life, which were tinctured with an additional degree of bitterness and obstinacy from the infusion of

spiritual zeal.

the government of the church has often been the subject, as well as the prize, of religious contention. The hostile disputants of Rome,

of Paris, of Oxford, and of Geneva, have alike struggled to reduce the

primitive and apostolic model [104] to the respective standards of their

own policy. The few who have pursued this inquiry with more candor and

impartiality, are of opinion, [105] that the apostles declined the office

of legislation, and rather chose to endure some partial scandals and divisions, than to exclude the Christians of a future age from the

liberty of varying their forms of ecclesiastical government according to the changes of times and circumstances. The scheme of policy, which,

under their approbation, was adopted for the use of the first century,

may be discovered from the practice of Jerusalem, of Ephesus, or of corinth. The societies which were instituted in the cities of the Roman empire, were united only by the ties of faith and charity. Independence and equality formed the basis of their internal constitution. The want of discipline and human learning was supplied by the occasional assistance of the prophets, [106] who were called to that function without distinction of age, of sex, [1061] or of natural abilities, and who, as often as they felt the divine impulse, poured forth the effusions

of the Spirit in the assembly of the faithful. But these extraordinary

gifts were frequently abused or misapplied by the prophetic teachers. they displayed them at an improper season, presumptuously disturbed the service of the assembly, and, by their pride or mistaken zeal, they

introduced, particularly into the apostolic church of Corinth, a long and melancholy train of disorders. [107] As the institution of prophets became useless, and even pernicious, their powers were withdrawn, and their office abolished. The public functions of religion were solely

intrusted to the established ministers of the church, the bishops and the presbyters; two appellations which, in their first origin, appear to have distinguished the same office and the same order of persons. the name of Presbyter was expressive of their age, or rather of their

gravity and wisdom. The title of Bishop denoted their inspection over the faith and manners of the Christians who were committed to their

pastoral care. In proportion to the respective numbers of the faithful, a larger or smaller number of these episcopal presbyters guided each

infant congregation with equal authority and with united counsels.

[108]

[Footnote 104: The aristocratical party in France, as well as in england, has strenuously maintained the divine origin of bishops. but the Calvinistical presbyters were impatient of a superior; and the

Roman Pontiff refused to acknowledge an equal. See Fra Paolo.]

[Footnote 105: In the history of the Christian hierarchy, I have, for the most part, followed the learned and candid Mosheim.]

[Footnote 106: For the prophets of the primitive church, see Mosheim, dissertationes ad Hist. Eccles. pertinentes, tom. ii. p. 132--208.]

[Footnote 1061: St. Paul distinctly reproves the intrusion of females into the prophets office. 1 Cor. xiv. 34, 35. 1 Tim. ii. 11.--M.]

[Footnote 107: See the epistles of St. Paul, and of Clemens, to the corinthians. \* Note: The first ministers established in the church were the deacons, appointed at Jerusalem, seven in number; they were charged with the distribution of the alms; even females had a share in this employment. After the deacons came the elders or priests, charged with the maintenance of order and decorum in the community, and to act every where in its name. The bishops were afterwards charged to watch over the faith and the instruction of the disciples: the apostles themselves appointed several bishops. Tertullian, (adv. Marium, c. v.,) Clement of alexandria, and many fathers of the second and third century, do not

permit us to doubt this fact. The equality of rank between these different functionaries did not prevent their functions being, even in their origin, distinct; they became subsequently still more so. See

Plank, Geschichte der Christ. Kirch. Verfassung., vol. i. p. 24.--G. On this extremely obscure subject, which has been so much perplexed by

passion and interest, it is impossible to justify any opinion without entering into long and controversial details.----It must be admitted, in

opposition to Plank, that in the New Testament, several words are

sometimes indiscriminately used. (Acts xx. v. 17, comp. with 28 Tit. i.

5 and 7. Philip. i. 1.) But it is as clear, that as soon as we can discern the form of church government, at a period closely bordering

upon, if not within, the apostolic age, it appears with a bishop at the

head of each community, holding some superiority over the presbyters. whether he was, as Gibbon from Mosheim supposes, merely an elective head

of the College of Presbyters, (for this we have, in fact, no valid authority,) or whether his distinct functions were established on apostolic authority, is still contested. The universal submission to this episcopacy, in every part of the Christian world appears to me

strongly to favor the latter view.--M.]

[Footnote 108: Hooker's Ecclesiastical Polity, l. vii.]

but the most perfect equality of freedom requires the directing hand

of a superior magistrate: and the order of public deliberations soon

introduces the office of a president, invested at least with the authority of collecting the sentiments, and of executing the

resolutions, of the assembly. A regard for the public tranquillity, which would so frequently have been interrupted by annual or by

occasional elections, induced the primitive Christians to constitute an

honorable and perpetual magistracy, and to choose one of the wisest and

most holy among their presbyterians to execute, during his life, the duties of their ecclesiastical governor. It was under these circumstances that the lofty title of Bishop began to raise itself above the humble appellation of Presbyter; and while the latter remained the

most natural distinction for the members of every Christian senate, the former was appropriated to the dignity of its new president. [109] The advantages of this episcopal form of government, which appears to

have been introduced before the end of the first century, [110] were

so obvious, and so important for the future greatness, as well as the

present peace, of Christianity, that it was adopted without delay by all the societies which were already scattered over the empire, had acquired

in a very early period the sanction of antiquity, [111] and is still

revered by the most powerful churches, both of the East and of the West, as a primitive and even as a divine establishment. [112] It is needless to observe, that the pious and humble presbyters, who were first dignified with the episcopal title, could not possess, and would

probably have rejected, the power and pomp which now encircles the tiara of the Roman pontiff, or the mitre of a German prelate. But we

may define, in a few words, the narrow limits of their original

jurisdiction, which was chiefly of a spiritual, though in some instances

of a temporal nature. [113] It consisted in the administration of the sacraments and discipline of the church, the superintendency of

religious ceremonies, which imperceptibly increased in number and

variety, the consecration of ecclesiastical ministers, to whom the bishop assigned their respective functions, the management of the public fund, and the determination of all such differences as the faithful were

unwilling to expose before the tribunal of an idolatrous judge. These

powers, during a short period, were exercised according to the advice

of the presbyteral college, and with the consent and approbation of the assembly of Christians. The primitive bishops were considered only as the first of their equals, and the honorable servants of a free people. whenever the episcopal chair became vacant by death, a new president was chosen among the presbyters by the suffrages of the whole congregation, every member of which supposed himself invested with a sacred and

sacerdotal character. [114]

[Footnote 109: See Jerome and Titum, c. i. and Epistol. 85, (in the benedictine edition, 101,) and the elaborate apology of Blondel, pro

sententia Hieronymi. The ancient state, as it is described by Jerome, of the bishop and presbyters of Alexandria, receives a remarkable confirmation from the patriarch Eutychius, (Annal. tom. i. p. 330, Vers

Pocock;) whose testimony I know not how to reject, in spite of all the

objections of the learned Pearson in his Vindiciae Ignatianae, part i. c. 11.]

[Footnote 110: See the introduction to the Apocalypse. Bishops, under the name of angels, were already instituted in the seven cities of Asia. and yet the epistle of Clemens (which is probably of as ancient a date) does not lead us to discover any traces of episcopacy either at Corinth

or Rome.]

[Footnote 111: Nulla Ecclesia sine Episcopo, has been a fact as well as a maxim since the time of Tertullian and Irenaeus.]

[Footnote 112: After we have passed the difficulties of the first century, we find the episcopal government universally established, till

it was interrupted by the republican genius of the Swiss and German

reformers.]

[Footnote 113: See Mosheim in the first and second centuries. Ignatius

(ad Smyrnaeos, c. 3, &c.) is fond of exalting the episcopal dignity. Le clerc (Hist. Eccles. p. 569) very bluntly censures his conduct, Mosheim, with a more critical judgment, (p. 161,) suspects the purity even of the

smaller epistles.]

[Footnote 114: Nonne et Laici sacerdotes sumus? Tertullian, Exhort. ad castitat. c. 7. As the human heart is still the same, several of the

observations which Mr. Hume has made on Enthusiasm, (Essays, vol. i. p.

76, quarto edit.) may be applied even to real inspiration. \* Note: This expression was employed by the earlier Christian writers in the sense

used by St. Peter, 1 Ep ii. 9. It was the sanctity and virtue not the

power of priesthood, in which all Christians were to be equally distinguished.--M.]

Such was the mild and equal constitution by which the Christians were

governed more than a hundred years after the death of the apostles. every society formed within itself a separate and independent republic; and although the most distant of these little states maintained a

mutual as well as friendly intercourse of letters and deputations, the Christian world was not yet connected by any supreme authority or

legislative assembly. As the numbers of the faithful were gradually

multiplied, they discovered the advantages that might result from a closer union of their interest and designs. Towards the end of the

second century, the churches of Greece and Asia adopted the useful

institutions of provincial synods, [1141] and they may justly be supposed to

have borrowed the model of a representative council from the celebrated examples of their own country, the Amphictyons, the Achaean league, or the assemblies of the Ionian cities. It was soon established as a custom and as a law, that the bishops of the independent churches should meet

in the capital of the province at the stated periods of spring and autumn. Their deliberations were assisted by the advice of a few distinguished presbyters, and moderated by the presence of a listening

multitude. [115] Their decrees, which were styled Canons, regulated every

important controversy of faith and discipline; and it was natural to believe that a liberal effusion of the Holy Spirit would be poured

on the united assembly of the delegates of the Christian people. The

institution of synods was so well suited to private ambition, and to public interest, that in the space of a few years it was received throughout the whole empire. A regular correspondence was established between the provincial councils, which mutually communicated and approved their respective proceedings; and the catholic church soon assumed the form, and acquired the strength, of a great foederative

republic. [116]

[Footnote 1141: The synods were not the first means taken by the insulated churches to enter into communion and to assume a corporate character. the dioceses were first formed by the union of several country churches with a church in a city: many churches in one city uniting among themselves, or joining a more considerable church, became metropolitan. the dioceses were not formed before the beginning of the second century: before that time the Christians had not established sufficient churches

in the country to stand in need of that union. It is towards the

middle of the same century that we discover the first traces of the

metropolitan constitution. (Probably the country churches were founded

in general by missionaries from those in the city, and would preserve a

natural connection with the parent church.)--M. ----The provincial

synods did not commence till towards the middle of the third century, and were not the first synods. History gives us distinct notions of the

synods, held towards the end of the second century, at Ephesus at

Jerusalem, at Pontus, and at Rome, to put an end to the disputes which

had arisen between the Latin and Asiatic churches about the celebration

of Easter. But these synods were not subject to any regular form or

periodical return; this regularity was first established with the

provincial synods, which were formed by a union of the bishops of a district, subject to a metropolitan. Plank, p. 90. Geschichte der christ. Kirch. Verfassung--G]

[Footnote 115: Acta Concil. Carthag. apud Cyprian. edit. Fell, p. 158. this council was composed of eighty-seven bishops from the provinces of

Mauritania, Numidia, and Africa; some presbyters and deacons assisted at the assembly; praesente plebis maxima parte.]

[Footnote 116: Aguntur praeterea per Graecias illas, certis in locis concilia, &c Tertullian de Jejuniis, c. 13. The African mentions it as a

recent and foreign institution. The coalition of the Christian churches

is very ably explained by Mosheim, p. 164 170.]

as the legislative authority of the particular churches was insensibly

superseded by the use of councils, the bishops obtained by their alliance a much larger share of executive and arbitrary power; and as

soon as they were connected by a sense of their common interest, they were enabled to attack with united vigor, the original rights of their clergy and people. The prelates of the third century imperceptibly changed the language of exhortation into that of command, scattered the

seeds of future usurpations, and supplied, by scripture allegories and declamatory rhetoric, their deficiency of force and of reason. They exalted the unity and power of the church, as it was represented in the episcopal Office, of which every bishop enjoyed an equal and undivided

portion. [117] Princes and magistrates, it was often repeated, might boast an earthly claim to a transitory dominion; it was the episcopal authority alone which was derived from the Deity, and extended itself

over this and over another world. The bishops were the vicegerents of christ, the successors of the apostles, and the mystic substitutes

of the high priest of the Mosaic law. Their exclusive privilege of conferring the sacerdotal character, invaded the freedom both of clerical and of popular elections; and if, in the administration of the church, they still consulted the judgment of the presbyters, or the

inclination of the people, they most carefully inculcated the merit of

such a voluntary condescension. The bishops acknowledged the supreme authority which resided in the assembly of their brethren; but in the

government of his peculiar diocese, each of them exacted from his flock the same implicit obedience as if that favorite metaphor had been

literally just, and as if the shepherd had been of a more exalted nature than that of his sheep. [118] This obedience, however, was not imposed without some efforts on one side, and some resistance on the other. The democratical part of the constitution was, in many places, very warmly

supported by the zealous or interested opposition of the inferior clergy. But their patriotism received the ignominious epithets of faction and schism; and the episcopal cause was indebted for its rapid

progress to the labors of many active prelates, who, like Cyprian of carthage, could reconcile the arts of the most ambitious statesman with the Christian virtues which seem adapted to the character of a saint and

martyr. [119]

[Footnote 117: Cyprian, in his admired treatise De Unitate Ecclesiae. p.

75--86]

[Footnote 118: We may appeal to the whole tenor of Cyprian's conduct, of

his doctrine, and of his epistles. Le Clerc, in a short life of Cyprian,

(Bibliotheque Universelle, tom. xii. p. 207--378,) has laid him open with great freedom and accuracy.]

[Footnote 119: If Novatus, Felicissimus, &c., whom the Bishop of carthage expelled from his church, and from Africa, were not the most detestable monsters of wickedness, the zeal of Cyprian must occasionally

have prevailed over his veracity. For a very just account of these

obscure quarrels, see Mosheim, p. 497--512.]

the same causes which at first had destroyed the equality of the

presbyters introduced among the bishops a preeminence of rank, and from thence a superiority of jurisdiction. As often as in the spring and autumn they met in provincial synod, the difference of personal merit and reputation was very sensibly felt among the members of the assembly, and the multitude was governed by the wisdom and eloquence of the few. but the order of public proceedings required a more regular and less

invidious distinction; the office of perpetual presidents in the councils of each province was conferred on the bishops of the principal city; and these aspiring prelates, who soon acquired the lofty titles of

Metropolitans and Primates, secretly prepared themselves to usurp over their episcopal brethren the same authority which the bishops had so

lately assumed above the college of presbyters. [120] Nor was it long before an emulation of preeminence and power prevailed among the

Metropolitans themselves, each of them affecting to display, in the most

pompous terms, the temporal honors and advantages of the city over which

he presided; the numbers and opulence of the Christians who were subject to their pastoral care; the saints and martyrs who had arisen among them; and the purity with which they preserved the tradition of the faith, as it had been transmitted through a series of orthodox bishops from the apostle or the apostolic disciple, to whom the foundation of their church was ascribed. [121] From every cause, either of a civil or

of an ecclesiastical nature, it was easy to foresee that Rome must enjoy the respect, and would soon claim the obedience of the provinces. The

society of the faithful bore a just proportion to the capital of the empire; and the Roman church was the greatest, the most numerous, and, in regard to the West, the most ancient of all the Christian establishments, many of which had received their religion from the pious

labors of her missionaries. Instead of one apostolic founder, the utmost boast of Antioch, of Ephesus, or of Corinth, the banks of the Tyber were

supposed to have been honored with the preaching and martyrdom of the two most eminent among the apostles; [122] and the bishops of Rome

very prudently claimed the inheritance of whatsoever prerogatives were attributed either to the person or to the office of St. Peter. [123] the bishops of Italy and of the provinces were disposed to allow them a primacy of order and association (such was their very accurate expression) in the Christian aristocracy. [124] But the power of a

monarch was rejected with abhorrence, and the aspiring genius of

Rome experienced from the nations of Asia and Africa a more vigorous

resistance to her spiritual, than she had formerly done to her temporal, dominion. The patriotic Cyprian, who ruled with the most absolute

sway the church of Carthage and the provincial synods, opposed with

resolution and success the ambition of the Roman pontiff, artfully connected his own cause with that of the eastern bishops, and, like

Hannibal, sought out new allies in the heart of Asia. [125] If this Punic war was carried on without any effusion of blood, it was owing much

less to the moderation than to the weakness of the contending prelates.

Invectives and excommunications were their only weapons; and these, during the progress of the whole controversy, they hurled against each

other with equal fury and devotion. The hard necessity of censuring either a pope, or a saint and martyr, distresses the modern Catholics whenever they are obliged to relate the particulars of a dispute in which the champions of religion indulged such passions as seem much more adapted to the senate or to the camp. [126]

[Footnote 120: Mosheim, p. 269, 574. Dupin, Antiquae Eccles. Disciplin.

p. 19, 20.]

[Footnote 121: Tertullian, in a distinct treatise, has pleaded against the heretics the right of prescription, as it was held by the apostolic churches.]

[Footnote 122: The journey of St. Peter to Rome is mentioned by most of the ancients, (see Eusebius, ii. 25,) maintained by all the Catholics, allowed by some Protestants, (see Pearson and Dodwell de Success. episcop. Roman,) but has been vigorously attacked by Spanheim,

(Miscellanes Sacra, iii. 3.) According to Father Hardouin, the monks of the thirteenth century, who composed the Aeneid, represented St. Peter

under the allegorical character of the Trojan hero. \* Note: It is quite clear that, strictly speaking, the church of Rome was not founded by either of these apostles. St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans proves

undeniably the flourishing state of the church before his visit to the city; and many Roman Catholic writers have given up the impracticable task of reconciling with chronology any visit of St. Peter to Rome before the end of the reign of Claudius, or the beginning of that of

Nero.--M.]

[Footnote 123: It is in French only that the famous allusion to St. Peter's name is exact. Tu es Pierre, et sur cette

pierre.--The same is imperfect in Greek, Latin, Italian, &c., and totally unintelligible in our Tentonic languages. \* Note: It is exact in

Syro-Chaldaic, the language in which it was spoken by Jesus Christ. (St.

Matt. xvi. 17.) Peter was called Cephas; and cepha signifies base, foundation, rock--G.]

[Footnote 124: Irenaeus adv. Haereses, iii. 3. Tertullian de

Praescription. c. 36, and Cyprian, Epistol. 27, 55, 71, 75. Le clere (Hist. Eccles. p. 764) and Mosheim (p. 258, 578) labor in the

interpretation of these passages. But the loose and rhetorical style of the fathers often appears favorable to the pretensions of Rome.]

[Footnote 125: See the sharp epistle from Firmilianus, bishop of caesarea, to Stephen, bishop of Rome, ap. Cyprian, Epistol. 75.]

[Footnote 126: Concerning this dispute of the rebaptism of heretics, see the epistles of Cyprian, and the seventh book of Eusebius.]

the progress of the ecclesiastical authority gave birth to the memorable distinction of the laity and of the clergy, which had been unknown to the Greeks and Romans. [127] The former of these appellations comprehended the body of the Christian people; the latter, according to the signification of the word, was appropriated to the chosen portion that had been set apart for the service of religion; a celebrated order

of men, which has furnished the most important, though not always the

most edifying, subjects for modern history. Their mutual hostilities

sometimes disturbed the peace of the infant church, but their zeal and activity were united in the common cause, and the love of power, which

(under the most artful disguises) could insinuate itself into the breasts of bishops and martyrs, animated them to increase the number of their subjects, and to enlarge the limits of the Christian empire. They were destitute of any temporal force, and they were for a long time discouraged and oppressed, rather than assisted, by the civil

magistrate; but they had acquired, and they employed within their own

society, the two most efficacious instruments of government, rewards and

punishments; the former derived from the pious liberality, the latter from the devout apprehensions, of the faithful.

[Footnote 127: For the origin of these words, see Mosheim, p. 141.

Spanheim, Hist. Ecclesiast. p. 633. The distinction of Clerus and Iaicus was established before the time of Tertullian.]

chapter XV: Progress Of The Christian Religion.--Part VII

I. The community of goods, which had so agreeably amused the imagination

of Plato, [128] and which subsisted in some degree among the austere sect

of the Essenians, [129] was adopted for a short time in the primitive church. The fervor of the first proselytes prompted them to sell those worldly possessions, which they despised, to lay the price of them at the feet of the apostles, and to content themselves with receiving an equal share out of the general distribution. [130] The progress of the christian religion relaxed, and gradually abolished, this generous

institution, which, in hands less pure than those of the apostles, would too soon have been corrupted and abused by the returning selfishness

of human nature; and the converts who embraced the new religion were

permitted to retain the possession of their patrimony, to receive

legacies and inheritances, and to increase their separate property by all the lawful means of trade and industry. Instead of an absolute

sacrifice, a moderate proportion was accepted by the ministers of the

gospel; and in their weekly or monthly assemblies, every believer, according to the exigency of the occasion, and the measure of his wealth and piety, presented his voluntary offering for the use of the common fund. [131] Nothing, however inconsiderable, was refused; but it was diligently inculcated; that, in the article of Tithes, the Mosaic law was still of divine obligation; and that since the Jews, under a less

perfect discipline, had been commanded to pay a tenth part of all that they possessed, it would become the disciples of Christ to distinguish themselves by a superior degree of liberality, [132] and to acquire

some merit by resigning a superfluous treasure, which must so soon be annihilated with the world itself. [133] It is almost unnecessary to

observe, that the revenue of each particular church, which was of so

uncertain and fluctuating a nature, must have varied with the poverty

or the opulence of the faithful, as they were dispersed in obscure

villages, or collected in the great cities of the empire. In the time

of the emperor Decius, it was the opinion of the magistrates, that the christians of Rome were possessed of very considerable wealth; that

vessels of gold and silver were used in their religious worship, and that many among their proselytes had sold their lands and houses to

increase the public riches of the sect, at the expense, indeed, of their unfortunate children, who found themselves beggars, because their

parents had been saints. [134] We should listen with distrust to the

suspicions of strangers and enemies: on this occasion, however, they

receive a very specious and probable color from the two following circumstances, the only ones that have reached our knowledge, which define any precise sums, or convey any distinct idea. Almost at the same

period, the bishop of Carthage, from a society less opulent than that of

Rome, collected a hundred thousand sesterces, (above eight hundred and fifty pounds sterling,) on a sudden call of charity to redeem the brethren of Numidia, who had been carried away captives by the barbarians of the desert. [135] About a hundred years before the reign of decius, the Roman church had received, in a single donation, the sum of two hundred thousand sesterces from a stranger of Pontus, who proposed to fix his residence in the capital. [136] These oblations, for the

most part, were made in money; nor was the society of Christians either desirous or capable of acquiring, to any considerable degree, the encumbrance of landed property. It had been provided by several laws, which were enacted with the same design as our statutes of mortmain, that no real estates should be given or bequeathed to any corporate body, without either a special privilege or a particular dispensation from the emperor or from the senate; [137] who were seldom disposed to

grant them in favor of a sect, at first the object of their contempt, and at last of their fears and jealousy. A transaction, however, is

related under the reign of Alexander Severus, which discovers that the

restraint was sometimes eluded or suspended, and that the Christians were permitted to claim and to possess lands within the limits of Rome

itself. [138] The progress of Christianity, and the civil confusion of the empire, contributed to relax the severity of the laws; and before the close of the third century many considerable estates were bestowed

on the opulent churches of Rome, Milan, Carthage, Antioch, Alexandria, and the other great cities of Italy and the provinces.

[Footnote 128: The community instituted by Plato is more perfect than that which Sir Thomas More had imagined for his Utopia. The community

of women, and that of temporal goods, may be considered as inseparable

parts of the same system.]

[Footnote 129: Joseph. Antiquitat. xviii. 2. Philo, de Vit. contemplativ.]

[Footnote 130: See the Acts of the Apostles, c. 2, 4, 5, with Grotius's commentary. Mosheim, in a particular dissertation, attacks the common

opinion with very inconclusive arguments. \* Note: This is not the

general judgment on Mosheim's learned dissertation. There is no trace in the latter part of the New Testament of this community of goods, and

many distinct proofs of the contrary. All exhortations to almsgiving would have been unmeaning if property had been in common--M.]

[Footnote 131: Justin Martyr, Apolog. Major, c. 89. Tertullian, Apolog. c. 39.]

[Footnote 132: Irenaeus ad Haeres. l. iv. c. 27, 34. Origen in Num. Hom.

ii Cyprian de Unitat. Eccles. Constitut. Apostol. l. ii. c. 34, 35, with the notes of Cotelerius. The Constitutions introduce this divine

precept, by declaring that priests are as much above kings as the soul

is above the body. Among the tithable articles, they enumerate corn, wine, oil, and wool. On this interesting subject, consult Prideaux's

History of Tithes, and Fra Paolo delle Materie Beneficiarie; two writers

of a very different character.]

[Footnote 133: The same opinion which prevailed about the year one thousand, was productive of the same effects. Most of the Donations express their motive, "appropinquante mundi fine." See Mosheim's General

History of the Church, vol. i. p. 457.]

[Footnote 134: Tum summa cura est fratribus (Ut sermo testatur loquax.)

Offerre, fundis venditis Sestertiorum millia. Addicta avorum praedia foedis sub auctionibus, Successor exheres gemit Sanctis egens

Parentibus. Haec occuluntur abditis Ecclesiarum in angulis. Et summa

pietas creditur Nudare dulces liberos.----Prudent. Hymn 2. the subsequent conduct of the deacon Laurence only proves how proper a

use was made of the wealth of the Roman church; it was undoubtedly

very considerable; but Fra Paolo (c. 3) appears to exaggerate, when he

supposes that the successors of Commodus were urged to persecute the christians by their own avarice, or that of their Praetorian praefects.]

[Footnote 135: Cyprian, Epistol. 62.]

[Footnote 136: Tertullian de Praescriptione, c. 30.]

[Footnote 137: Diocletian gave a rescript, which is only a declaration

of the old law; "Collegium, si nullo speciali privilegio subnixum sit,

haereditatem capere non posse, dubium non est." Fra Paolo (c. 4) thinks that these regulations had been much neglected since the reign of

Valerian.]

[Footnote 138: Hist. August. p. 131. The ground had been public; and was

row disputed between the society of Christians and that of butchers.

Note \*: Carponarii, rather victuallers.--M.]

the bishop was the natural steward of the church; the public stock was

intrusted to his care without account or control; the presbyters were confined to their spiritual functions, and the more dependent order of the deacons was solely employed in the management and distribution of the ecclesiastical revenue. [139] If we may give credit to the vehement declamations of Cyprian, there were too many among his African brethren, who, in the execution of their charge, violated every precept, not only

of evangelical perfection, but even of moral virtue. By some of these

unfaithful stewards the riches of the church were lavished in sensual

pleasures; by others they were perverted to the purposes of private

gain, of fraudulent purchases, and of rapacious usury. [140] But as

long as the contributions of the Christian people were free and

unconstrained, the abuse of their confidence could not be very frequent, and the general uses to which their liberality was applied reflected

honor on the religious society. A decent portion was reserved for the

maintenance of the bishop and his clergy; a sufficient sum was allotted for the expenses of the public worship, of which the feasts of love, the agapoe, as they were called, constituted a very pleasing part. The whole remainder was the sacred patrimony of the poor. According to the discretion of the bishop, it was distributed to support widows and

orphans, the lame, the sick, and the aged of the community; to comfort

strangers and pilgrims, and to alleviate the misfortunes of prisoners and captives, more especially when their sufferings had been occasioned by their firm attachment to the cause of religion. [141] A generous

intercourse of charity united the most distant provinces, and the

smaller congregations were cheerfully assisted by the alms of their more

opulent brethren. [142] Such an institution, which paid less regard to the merit than to the distress of the object, very materially conduced to the progress of Christianity. The Pagans, who were actuated by a

sense of humanity, while they derided the doctrines, acknowledged the benevolence, of the new sect. [143] The prospect of immediate relief and

of future protection allured into its hospitable bosom many of those

unhappy persons whom the neglect of the world would have abandoned to the miseries of want, of sickness, and of old age. There is some reason

likewise to believe that great numbers of infants, who, according to the

inhuman practice of the times, had been exposed by their parents, were frequently rescued from death, baptized, educated, and maintained by the

piety of the Christians, and at the expense of the public treasure. [144]

[Footnote 139: Constitut. Apostol. ii. 35.]

[Footnote 140: Cyprian de Lapsis, p. 89. Epistol. 65. The charge is confirmed by the 19th and 20th canon of the council of Illiberis.]

[Footnote 141: See the apologies of Justin, Tertullian, &c.]

[Footnote 142: The wealth and liberality of the Romans to their most distant brethren is gratefully celebrated by Dionysius of Corinth, ap. Euseb. l.

iv. c. 23.]

[Footnote 143: See Lucian iu Peregrin. Julian (Epist. 49) seems

mortified that the Christian charity maintains not only their own, but

likewise the heathen poor.]

[Footnote 144: Such, at least, has been the laudable conduct of more

modern missionaries, under the same circumstances. Above three thousand

new-born infants are annually exposed in the streets of Pekin. See Le comte, Memoires sur la Chine, and the Recherches sur les Chinois et

les Egyptians, tom. i. p. 61.]

II. It is the undoubted right of every society to exclude from its communion and benefits such among its members as reject or violate those

regulations which have been established by general consent. In the exercise of this power, the censures of the Christian church were chiefly directed against scandalous sinners, and particularly those who were guilty of murder, of fraud, or of incontinence; against the authors

or the followers of any heretical opinions which had been condemned by the judgment of the episcopal order; and against those unhappy persons, who, whether from choice or compulsion, had polluted themselves after their baptism by any act of idolatrous worship. The consequences of excommunication were of a temporal as well as a spiritual nature. The christian against whom it was pronounced, was deprived of any part in the oblations of the faithful. The ties both of religious and of private friendship were dissolved: he found himself a profane object of abhorrence to the persons whom he the most esteemed, or by whom he had been the most tenderly beloved; and as far as an expulsion from a

respectable society could imprint on his character a mark of disgrace,

he was shunned or suspected by the generality of mankind. The situation

of these unfortunate exiles was in itself very painful and melancholy; but, as it usually happens, their apprehensions far exceeded their

sufferings. The benefits of the Christian communion were those of eternal life; nor could they erase from their minds the awful opinion, that to those ecclesiastical governors by whom they were condemned, the deity had committed the keys of Hell and of Paradise. The heretics,

indeed, who might be supported by the consciousness of their intentions, and by the flattering hope that they alone had discovered the true path

of salvation, endeavored to regain, in their separate assemblies, those comforts, temporal as well as spiritual, which they no longer derived from the great society of Christians. But almost all those who had

reluctantly yielded to the power of vice or idolatry were sensible of their fallen condition, and anxiously desirous of being restored to the benefits of the Christian communion.

with regard to the treatment of these penitents, two opposite opinions, the one of justice, the other of mercy, divided the primitive church. the more rigid and inflexible casuists refused them forever, and without exception, the meanest place in the holy community, which they had disgraced or deserted; and leaving them to the remorse of a guilty conscience, indulged them only with a faint ray of hope that the contrition of their life and death might possibly be accepted by the

Supreme Being. [145] A milder sentiment was embraced in practice as well as in theory, by the purest and most respectable of the Christian churches. [146] The gates of reconciliation and of heaven were seldom

shut against the returning penitent; but a severe and solemn form of discipline was instituted, which, while it served to expiate his crime,

might powerfully deter the spectators from the imitation of his example.

Humbled by a public confession, emaciated by fasting and clothed in

sackcloth, the penitent lay prostrate at the door of the assembly,

imploring with tears the pardon of his offences, and soliciting the

prayers of the faithful. [147] If the fault was of a very heinous nature, whole years of penance were esteemed an inadequate satisfaction to the divine justice; and it was always by slow and painful gradations that the sinner, the heretic, or the apostate, was readmitted into the bosom

of the church. A sentence of perpetual excommunication was, however,

reserved for some crimes of an extraordinary magnitude, and particularly for the inexcusable relapses of those penitents who had already experienced and abused the clemency of their ecclesiastical superiors. according to the circumstances or the number of the guilty, the exercise

of the Christian discipline was varied by the discretion of the bishops. the councils of Ancyra and Illiberis were held about the same time, the

one in Galatia, the other in Spain; but their respective canons, which are still extant, seem to breathe a very different spirit. The Galatian, who after his baptism had repeatedly sacrificed to idols, might obtain

his pardon by a penance of seven years; and if he had seduced others to

imitate his example, only three years more were added to the term of his exile. But the unhappy Spaniard, who had committed the same offence, was deprived of the hope of reconciliation, even in the article of death; and his idolatry was placed at the head of a list of seventeen other crimes, against which a sentence no less terrible was pronounced. Among these we may distinguish the inexpiable guilt of calumniating a bishop, a presbyter, or even a deacon. [148]

[Footnote 145: The Montanists and the Novatians, who adhered to this

opinion with the greatest rigor and obstinacy, found themselves at last

in the number of excommunicated heretics. See the learned and copious

Mosheim, Secul. ii. and iii.]

[Footnote 146: Dionysius ap. Euseb. iv. 23. Cyprian, de Lapsis.]

[Footnote 147: Cave's Primitive Christianity, part iii. c. 5. The admirers of antiquity regret the loss of this public penance.]

[Footnote 148: See in Dupin, Bibliotheque Ecclesiastique, tom. ii.

p. 304--313, a short but rational exposition of the canons of those councils, which were assembled in the first moments of tranquillity, after the persecution of Diocletian. This persecution had been much less

severely felt in Spain than in Galatia; a difference which may, in some

measure account for the contrast of their regulations.]

the well-tempered mixture of liberality and rigor, the judicious dispensation of rewards and punishments, according to the maxims of

policy as well as justice, constituted the human strength of the church. the Bishops, whose paternal care extended itself to the government of both worlds, were sensible of the importance of these prerogatives; and covering their ambition with the fair pretence of the love of order, they were jealous of any rival in the exercise of a discipline so

necessary to prevent the desertion of those troops which had enlisted themselves under the banner of the cross, and whose numbers every day became more considerable. From the imperious declamations of Cyprian, we should naturally conclude that the doctrines of excommunication and

penance formed the most essential part of religion; and that it was much

less dangerous for the disciples of Christ to neglect the observance of the moral duties, than to despise the censures and authority of their bishops. Sometimes we might imagine that we were listening to the voice

of Moses, when he commanded the earth to open, and to swallow up, in consuming flames, the rebellious race which refused obedience to the

priesthood of Aaron; and we should sometimes suppose that we hear a

Roman consul asserting the majesty of the republic, and declaring his

inflexible resolution to enforce the rigor of the laws. "If such

irregularities are suffered with impunity," (it is thus that the bishop

of Carthage chides the lenity of his colleague,) "if such irregularities are suffered, there is an end of Episcopal Vigor; [149] an end of the

sublime and divine power of governing the Church, an end of Christianity

itself." Cyprian had renounced those temporal honors, which it is

probable he would never have obtained; but the acquisition of

such absolute command over the consciences and understanding of a congregation, however obscure or despised by the world, is more truly

grateful to the pride of the human heart, than the possession of the

most despotic power, imposed by arms and conquest on a reluctant people.

[Footnote 1491]: Gibbon has been accused of injustice to the character of cyprian, as exalting the "censures and authority of the church above the

observance of the moral duties." Felicissimus had been condemned by a

synod of bishops, (non tantum mea, sed plurimorum coepiscorum, sententia condemnatum,) on the charge not only of schism, but of embezzlement of

public money, the debauching of virgins, and frequent acts of adultery.

His violent menaces had extorted his readmission into the church, against which Cyprian protests with much vehemence: ne pecuniae commissae sibi fraudator, ne stuprator virginum, ne matrimoniorum

multorum depopulator et corruptor, ultra adhuc sponsam Christi

incorruptam praesentiae suae dedecore, et impudica atque incesta contagione, violaret. See Chelsum's Remarks, p. 134. If these charges against Felicissimus were true, they were something more than

"irregularities," A Roman censor would have been a fairer subject of comparison than a consul. On the other hand, it must be admitted that the charge of adultery deepens very rapidly as the controversy becomes

more violent. It is first represented as a single act, recently detected, and which men of character were prepared to substantiate: adulterii etiam crimen accedit. quod patres nostri graves viri deprehendisse se nuntiaverunt, et probaturos se asseverarunt. Epist.

xxxviii. The heretic has now darkened into a man of notorious and

general profligacy. Nor can it be denied that of the whole long epistle,

very far the larger and the more passionate part dwells on the breach

of ecclesiastical unity rather than on the violation of Christian

holiness.--M.]

[Footnote 149: Cyprian Epist. 69.]

[Footnote 1491: This supposition appears unfounded: the birth and the talents of Cyprian might make us presume the contrary. Thascius caecilius Cyprianus, Carthaginensis, artis oratoriae professione clarus,

magnam sibi gloriam, opes, honores acquisivit, epularibus caenis et

largis dapibus assuetus, pretiosa veste conspicuus, auro atque purpura fulgens, fascibus oblectatus et honoribus, stipatus clientium cuneis, frequentiore comitatu officii agminis honestatus, ut ipse de se loquitur

in Epistola ad Donatum. See De Cave, Hist. Liter. b. i. p. 87.--G. cave has rather embellished Cyprian's language.--M.]

In the course of this important, though perhaps tedious inquiry, I have attempted to display the secondary causes which so efficaciously assisted the truth of the Christian religion. If among these causes we

have discovered any artificial ornaments, any accidental circumstances,

or any mixture of error and passion, it cannot appear surprising that

mankind should be the most sensibly affected by such motives as were

suited to their imperfect nature. It was by the aid of these causes, exclusive zeal, the immediate expectation of another world, the claim of

miracles, the practice of rigid virtue, and the constitution of the

primitive church, that Christianity spread itself with so much success

in the Roman empire. To the first of these the Christians were indebted for their invincible valor, which disdained to capitulate with the enemy whom they were resolved to vanquish. The three succeeding causes

supplied their valor with the most formidable arms. The last of these causes united their courage, directed their arms, and gave their efforts that irresistible weight, which even a small band of well-trained and

intrepid volunteers has so often possessed over an undisciplined

multitude, ignorant of the subject, and careless of the event of the war. In the various religions of Polytheism, some wandering fanatics of egypt and Syria, who addressed themselves to the credulous superstition

of the populace, were perhaps the only order of priests [150] that derived their whole support and credit from their sacerdotal profession, and were very deeply affected by a personal concern for the safety or

prosperity of their tutelar deities. The ministers of Polytheism, both

in Rome and in the provinces, were, for the most part, men of a noble birth, and of an affluent fortune, who received, as an honorable distinction, the care of a celebrated temple, or of a public sacrifice, exhibited, very frequently at their own expense, the sacred games, [151] and with cold indifference performed the ancient rites, according to the

laws and fashion of their country. As they were engaged in the ordinary

occupations of life, their zeal and devotion were seldom animated by a

sense of interest, or by the habits of an ecclesiastical character. confined to their respective temples and cities, they remained without any connection of discipline or government; and whilst they acknowledged the supreme jurisdiction of the senate, of the college of pontiffs, and

of the emperor, those civil magistrates contented themselves with the easy task of maintaining in peace and dignity the general worship of

mankind. We have already seen how various, how loose, and how uncertain were the religious sentiments of Polytheists. They were abandoned, almost without control, to the natural workings of a superstitious fancy. The accidental circumstances of their life and situation determined the object as well as the degree of their devotion; and as

long as their adoration was successively prostituted to a thousand deities, it was scarcely possible that their hearts could be susceptible

of a very sincere or lively passion for any of them.

[Footnote 150: The arts, the manners, and the vices of the priests of the Syrian goddess are very humorously described by Apuleius, in the eighth book of his Metamorphosis.]

[Footnote 151: The office of Asiarch was of this nature, and it is frequently mentioned in Aristides, the Inscriptions, &c. It was annual and elective. None but the vainest citizens could desire the honor;

none but the most wealthy could support the expense. See, in the Patres apostol. tom. ii. p. 200, with how much indifference Philip the Asiarch conducted himself in the martyrdom of Polycarp. There were likewise bithyniarchs, Lyciarchs, &c.]

when Christianity appeared in the world, even these faint and imperfect

impressions had lost much of their original power. Human reason, which by its unassisted strength is incapable of perceiving the mysteries of faith, had already obtained an easy triumph over the folly of Paganism; and when Tertullian or Lactantius employ their labors in exposing its falsehood and extravagance, they are obliged to transcribe the eloquence

of Cicero or the wit of Lucian. The contagion of these sceptical writings had been diffused far beyond the number of their readers. The fashion of incredulity was communicated from the philosopher to the man

of pleasure or business, from the noble to the plebeian, and from the

master to the menial slave who waited at his table, and who eagerly

listened to the freedom of his conversation. On public occasions the

philosophic part of mankind affected to treat with respect and decency the religious institutions of their country; but their secret contempt

penetrated through the thin and awkward disguise; and even the people, when they discovered that their deities were rejected and derided by those whose rank or understanding they were accustomed to reverence, were filled with doubts and apprehensions concerning the truth of those doctrines, to which they had yielded the most implicit belief. The decline of ancient prejudice exposed a very numerous portion of human

kind to the danger of a painful and comfortless situation. A state of

scepticism and suspense may amuse a few inquisitive minds. But the

practice of superstition is so congenial to the multitude, that if they are forcibly awakened, they still regret the loss of their pleasing

vision. Their love of the marvellous and supernatural, their curiosity with regard to future events, and their strong propensity to extend their hopes and fears beyond the limits of the visible world, were the

principal causes which favored the establishment of Polytheism. So

urgent on the vulgar is the necessity of believing, that the fall of any

system of mythology will most probably be succeeded by the introduction

of some other mode of superstition. Some deities of a more recent and fashionable cast might soon have occupied the deserted temples of

Jupiter and Apollo, if, in the decisive moment, the wisdom of Providence

had not interposed a genuine revelation, fitted to inspire the most

rational esteem and conviction, whilst, at the same time, it was adorned with all that could attract the curiosity, the wonder, and the

veneration of the people. In their actual disposition, as many were almost disengaged from their artificial prejudices, but equally

susceptible and desirous of a devout attachment; an object much less deserving would have been sufficient to fill the vacant place in their

hearts, and to gratify the uncertain eagerness of their passions. Those who are inclined to pursue this reflection, instead of viewing with astonishment the rapid progress of Christianity, will perhaps be

surprised that its success was not still more rapid and still more

universal. It has been observed, with truth as well as propriety, that the conquests of Rome prepared and facilitated those of Christianity. In the second chapter of this work we have attempted to explain in what

manner the most civilized provinces of Europe, Asia, and Africa were

united under the dominion of one sovereign, and gradually connected by the most intimate ties of laws, of manners, and of language. The Jews of

Palestine, who had fondly expected a temporal deliverer, gave so cold a

reception to the miracles of the divine prophet, that it was found

unnecessary to publish, or at least to preserve, any Hebrew gospel.

[152] The authentic histories of the actions of Christ were composed in the Greek language, at a considerable distance from Jerusalem, and after the Gentile converts were grown extremely numerous. [153] As soon as those histories were translated into the Latin tongue, they were

perfectly intelligible to all the subjects of Rome, excepting only to the peasants of Syria and Egypt, for whose benefit particular versions were afterwards made. The public highways, which had been constructed for the use of the legions, opened an easy passage for the Christian

missionaries from Damascus to Corinth, and from Italy to the extremity

of Spain or Britain; nor did those spiritual conquerors encounter any of the obstacles which usually retard or prevent the introduction of a foreign religion into a distant country. There is the strongest reason to believe, that before the reigns of Diocletian and Constantine, the faith of Christ had been preached in every province, and in all the

great cities of the empire; but the foundation of the several congregations, the numbers of the faithful who composed them, and their

proportion to the unbelieving multitude, are now buried in obscurity, or disguised by fiction and declamation. Such imperfect circumstances,

however, as have reached our knowledge concerning the increase of the christian name in Asia and Greece, in Egypt, in Italy, and in the West, we shall now proceed to relate, without neglecting the real or imaginary acquisitions which lay beyond the frontiers of the Roman empire.

[Footnote 152: The modern critics are not disposed to believe what the fathers almost unanimously assert, that St. Matthew composed a Hebrew

gospel, of which only the Greek translation is extant. It seems,

however, dangerous to reject their testimony. \* Note: Strong reasons appear to confirm this testimony. Papias, contemporary of the Apostle

St. John, says positively that Matthew had written the discourses of

Jesus Christ in Hebrew, and that each interpreted them as he could. This

Hebrew was the Syro-Chaldaic dialect, then in use at Jerusalem: Origen,

Irenaeus, Eusebius, Jerome, Epiphanius, confirm this statement. Jesus christ preached himself in Syro-Chaldaic, as is proved by many words which he used, and which the Evangelists have taken the pains to translate. St. Paul, addressing the Jews, used the same language: Acts

xxi. 40, xxii. 2, xxvi. 14. The opinions of some critics prove nothing against such undeniable testimonies. Moreover, their principal objection

is, that St. Matthew quotes the Old Testament according to the Greek

version of the LXX., which is inaccurate; for of ten quotations, found

in his Gospel, seven are evidently taken from the Hebrew text; the threo

others offer little that differ: moreover, the latter are not literal

quotations. St. Jerome says positively, that, according to a copy which

he had seen in the library of Caesarea, the quotations were made in

Hebrew (in Catal.) More modern critics, among others Michaelis, do not entertain a doubt on the subject. The Greek version appears to have been

made in the time of the apostles, as St. Jerome and St. Augustus affirm,

perhaps by one of them.--G. ----Among modern critics, Dr. Hug has asserted the Greek original of St. Matthew, but the general opinion of the most learned biblical writer, supports the view of M. Guizot.--M.]

[Footnote 153: Under the reigns of Nero and Domitian, and in the cities

of Alexandria, Antioch, Rome, and Ephesus. See Mill. Prolegomena ad Nov. testament, and Dr. Lardner's fair and extensive collection, vol.

xv. Note: This question has, it is well known, been most elaborately discussed since the time of Gibbon. The Preface to the Translation of

Schleier Macher's Version of St. Luke contains a very able summary of the various theories.--M.]

chapter XV: Progress Of The Christian Religion.--Part VIII.

the rich provinces that extend from the Euphrates to the Ionian

Sea, were the principal theatre on which the apostle of the Gentiles displayed his zeal and piety. The seeds of the gospel, which he

had scattered in a fertile soil, were diligently cultivated by his disciples; and it should seem that, during the two first centuries, the

most considerable body of Christians was contained within those limits. among the societies which were instituted in Syria, none were more ancient or more illustrious than those of Damascus, of Berea or Aleppo, and of Antioch. The prophetic introduction of the Apocalypse has described and immortalized the seven churches of Asia; Ephesus, Smyrna,

Pergamus, Thyatira, [154] Sardes, Laodicea and Philadelphia; and their colonies were soon diffused over that populous country. In a very early

period, the islands of Cyprus and Crete, the provinces of Thrace and

Macedonia, gave a favorable reception to the new religion; and Christian

republics were soon founded in the cities of Corinth, of Sparta, and of athens. [155] The antiquity of the Greek and Asiatic churches allowed a

sufficient space of time for their increase and multiplication; and even the swarms of Gnostics and other heretics serve to display the flourishing condition of the orthodox church, since the appellation of

hereties has always been applied to the less numerous party. To these domestic testimonies we may add the confession, the complaints, and the apprehensions of the Gentiles themselves. From the writings of Lucian, a

philosopher who had studied mankind, and who describes their manners in the most lively colors, we may learn that, under the reign of Commodus,

his native country of Pontus was filled with Epicureans and Christians.

[156] Within fourscore years after the death of Christ, [157] the humane

Pliny laments the magnitude of the evil which he vainly attempted to eradicate. In his very curious epistle to the emperor Trajan, he affirms, that the temples were almost deserted, that the sacred victims

scarcely found any purchasers, and that the superstition had not only

infected the cities, but had even spread itself into the villages and the open country of Pontus and Bithynia. [158]

[Footnote 154: The Alogians (Epiphanius de Haeres. 51) disputed the

genuineness of the Apocalypse, because the church of Thyatira was not

yet founded. Epiphanius, who allows the fact, extricates himself from the difficulty by ingeniously supposing that St. John wrote in the

spirit of prophecy. See Abauzit, Discours sur l'Apocalypse.]

[Footnote 155: The epistles of Ignatius and Dionysius (ap. Euseb. iv.

23) point out many churches in Asia and Greece. That of Athens seems to

have been one of the least flourishing.]

[Footnote 156: Lucian in Alexandro, c. 25. Christianity however, must

have been very unequally diffused over Pontus; since, in the middle of the third century, there was no more than seventeen believers in the extensive diocese of Neo-Caesarea. See M. de Tillemont, Memoires ecclesiast. tom. iv. p. 675, from Basil and Gregory of Nyssa, who were themselves natives of Cappadocia. Note: Gibbon forgot the conclusion of this story, that Gregory left only seventeen heathens in his diocese. the antithesis is suspicious, and both numbers may have been chosen to

magnify the spiritual fame of the wonder-worker.--M.]

[Footnote 157: According to the ancients, Jesus Christ suffered under the consulship of the two Gemini, in the year 29 of our present aera.

Pliny was sent into Bithynia (according to Pagi) in the year 110.]

[Footnote 158: Plin. Epist. x. 97.]

without descending into a minute scrutiny of the expressions or of the

motives of those writers who either celebrate or lament the progress of christianity in the East, it may in general be observed, that none

of them have left us any grounds from whence a just estimate might be formed of the real numbers of the faithful in those provinces. One circumstance, however, has been fortunately preserved, which seems to cast a more distinct light on this obscure but interesting subject.

Under the reign of Theodosius, after Christianity had enjoyed, during

more than sixty years, the sunshine of Imperial favor, the ancient and

illustrious church of Antioch consisted of one hundred thousand persons, three thousand of whom were supported out of the public oblations. [159] the splendor and dignity of the queen of the East, the acknowledged

populousness of Caesarea, Seleucia, and Alexandria, and the destruction

of two hundred and fifty thousand souls in the earthquake which afflicted Antioch under the elder Justin, [160] are so many convincing

proofs that the whole number of its inhabitants was not less than half a

million, and that the Christians, however multiplied by zeal and

power, did not exceed a fifth part of that great city. How different a proportion must we adopt when we compare the persecuted with the triumphant church, the West with the East, remote villages with populous towns, and countries recently converted to the faith with the place where the believers first received the appellation of Christians! It

must not, however, be dissembled, that, in another passage, Chrysostom, to whom we are indebted for this useful information, computes the

multitude of the faithful as even superior to that of the Jews and

Pagans. [161] But the solution of this apparent difficulty is easy and

obvious. The eloquent preacher draws a parallel between the civil and the ecclesiastical constitution of Antioch; between the list of christians who had acquired heaven by baptism, and the list of citizens who had a right to share the public liberality. Slaves, strangers, and infants were comprised in the former; they were excluded from the

latter.

[Footnote 159: Chrysostom. Opera, tom. vii. p. 658, 810, (edit.

Savil. ii. 422, 329.)]

[Footnote 160: John Malala, tom. ii. p. 144. He draws the same conclusion with regard to the populousness of antioch.]

[Footnote 161: Chrysostom. tom. i. p. 592. I am indebted for these

passages, though not for my inference, to the learned Dr. Lardner. credibility of the Gospel of History, vol. xii. p. 370. \* Note: The

statements of Chrysostom with regard to the population of Antioch, whatever may be their accuracy, are perfectly consistent. In one passage

he reckons the population at 200,000. In a second the Christians at

100,000. In a third he states that the Christians formed more than half the population. Gibbon has neglected to notice the first passage, and

has drawn by estimate of the population of Antioch from other sources. the 8000 maintained by alms were widows and virgins alone--M.]

the extensive commerce of Alexandria, and its proximity to Palestine,

gave an easy entrance to the new religion. It was at first embraced by

great numbers of the Theraputae, or Essenians, of the Lake Mareotis, a Jewish sect which had abated much of its reverence for the Mosaic ceremonies. The austere life of the Essenians, their fasts and excommunications, the community of goods, the love of celibacy, their

zeal for martyrdom, and the warmth though not the purity of their faith, already offered a very lively image of the primitive discipline. [162] It was in the school of Alexandria that the Christian theology appears to

have assumed a regular and scientific form; and when Hadrian visited egypt, he found a church composed of Jews and of Greeks, sufficiently

important to attract the notice of that inquisitive prince. [163] But the

progress of Christianity was for a long time confined within the limits

of a single city, which was itself a foreign colony, and till the close of the second century the predecessors of Demetrius were the only

prelates of the Egyptian church. Three bishops were consecrated by the hands of Demetrius, and the number was increased to twenty by his

successor Heraclas. [164] The body of the natives, a people distinguished by a sullen inflexibility of temper, [165] entertained the new doctrine with coldness and reluctance; and even in the time of Origen, it was

rare to meet with an Egyptian who had surmounted his early prejudices

in favor of the sacred animals of his country. [166] As soon, indeed, as christianity ascended the throne, the zeal of those barbarians obeyed the prevailing impulsion; the cities of Egypt were filled with bishops, and the deserts of Thebais swarmed with hermits.

[Footnote 162: Basnage, Histoire des Juifs, l. 2, c. 20, 21, 22, 23, has examined with the most critical accuracy the curious treatise of Philo, which describes the Therapeutae. By proving that it was composed as early as the time of Augustus, Basnage has demonstrated, in spite

of Eusebius (l. ii. c. 17) and a crowd of modern Catholics, that the therapeutae were neither Christians nor monks. It still remains probable that they changed their name, preserved their manners, adopted some

new articles of faith, and gradually became the fathers of the Egyptian ascetics.]

[Footnote 163: See a letter of Hadrian in the Augustan History, p.

245.]

[Footnote 164: For the succession of Alexandrian bishops, consult

Renaudot's History, p. 24, &c. This curious fact is preserved by the

patriarch Eutychius, (Annal. tom. i. p. 334, Vers. Pocock,) and its

internal evidence would alone be a sufficient answer to all the

objections which Bishop Pearson has urged in the Vindiciae Ignatianae.]

[Footnote 165: Ammian. Marcellin. xxii. 16.]

[Footnote 166: Origen contra Celsum, l. i. p. 40.]

a perpetual stream of strangers and provincials flowed into the capacious bosom of Rome. Whatever was strange or odious, whoever was

guilty or suspected, might hope, in the obscurity of that immense capital, to elude the vigilance of the law. In such a various conflux

of nations, every teacher, either of truth or falsehood, every founder, whether of a virtuous or a criminal association, might easily multiply

his disciples or accomplices. The Christians of Rome, at the time of the accidental persecution of Nero, are represented by Tacitus as already amounting to a very great multitude, [167] and the language of that

great historian is almost similar to the style employed by Livy, when

he relates the introduction and the suppression of the rites of Bacchus. after the Bacchanals had awakened the severity of the senate, it was

likewise apprehended that a very great multitude, as it were another

people, had been initiated into those abhorred mysteries. A more careful

inquiry soon demonstrated, that the offenders did not exceed seven thousand; a number indeed sufficiently alarming, when considered as the

object of public justice. [168] It is with the same candid allowance that we should interpret the vague expressions of Tacitus, and in a former

instance of Pliny, when they exaggerate the crowds of deluded fanatics who had forsaken the established worship of the gods. The church of Rome was undoubtedly the first and most populous of the empire; and we are

possessed of an authentic record which attests the state of religion in that city about the middle of the third century, and after a peace of thirty-eight years. The clergy, at that time, consisted of a bishop, forty-six presbyters, seven deacons, as many sub-deacons, forty-two acolythes, and fifty readers, exorcists, and porters. The number of widows, of the infirm, and of the poor, who were maintained by the

oblations of the faithful, amounted to fifteen hundred. [169] From

reason, as well as from the analogy of Antioch, we may venture to estimate the Christians of Rome at about fifty thousand. The

populousness of that great capital cannot perhaps be exactly ascertained; but the most modest calculation will not surely reduce

it lower than a million of inhabitants, of whom the Christians might constitute at the most a twentieth part. [170]

[Footnote 167: Ingens multitudo is the expression of Tacitus, xv. 44.]

[Footnote 168: T. Liv. xxxix. 13, 15, 16, 17. Nothing could exceed the horror and consternation of the senate on the discovery of the bacchanalians, whose depravity is described, and perhaps exaggerated, by

Livy.]

[Footnote 169: Eusebius, l. vi. c. 43. The Latin translator (M. de Valois) has thought proper to reduce the number of presbyters to forty-four.]

[Footnote 170: This proportion of the presbyters and of the poor, to the rest of the people, was originally fixed by Burnet,

(Travels into Italy, p. 168,) and is approved by Moyle, (vol. ii. p.

151.) They were both unacquainted with the passage of Chrysostom, which converts their conjecture almost into a fact.]

the western provincials appeared to have derived the knowledge of christianity from the same source which had diffused among them the

language, the sentiments, and the manners of Rome.

In this more important circumstance, Africa, as well as Gaul, was

gradually fashioned to the imitation of the capital. Yet notwithstanding the many favorable occasions which might invite the Roman missionaries to visit their Latin provinces, it was late before they passed either the sea or the Alps; [171] nor can we discover in those great countries any assured traces either of faith or of persecution that ascend higher than the reign of the Antonines. [172] The slow progress of the gospel

in the cold climate of Gaul, was extremely different from the eagerness with which it seems to have been received on the burning sands of africa. The African Christians soon formed one of the principal members

of the primitive church. The practice introduced into that province of appointing bishops to the most inconsiderable towns, and very frequently to the most obscure villages, contributed to multiply the splendor and

importance of their religious societies, which during the course of the third century were animated by the zeal of Tertullian, directed by the abilities of Cyprian, and adorned by the eloquence of Lactantius.

but if, on the contrary, we turn our eyes towards Gaul, we must content

ourselves with discovering, in the time of Marcus Antoninus, the feeble and united congregations of Lyons and Vienna; and even as late as the

reign of Decius, we are assured, that in a few cities only, Arles,

Narbonne, Thoulouse, Limoges, Clermont, Tours, and Paris, some scattered churches were supported by the devotion of a small number of Christians.

[173] Silence is indeed very consistent with devotion; but as it is

seldom compatible with zeal, we may perceive and lament the languid

state of Christianity in those provinces which had exchanged the celtic for the Latin tongue, since they did not, during the three first centuries, give birth to a single ecclesiastical writer. From Gaul, which claimed a just preeminence of learning and authority over all the countries on this side of the Alps, the light of the gospel was more faintly reflected on the remote provinces of Spain and Britain; and if we may credit the vehement assertions of Tertullian, they had already

received the first rays of the faith, when he addressed his apology to the magistrates of the emperor Severus. [174] But the obscure and imperfect origin of the western churches of Europe has been so

negligently recorded, that if we would relate the time and manner of their foundation, we must supply the silence of antiquity by those

legends which avarice or superstition long afterwards dictated to the

monks in the lazy gloom of their convents. [175] Of these holy romances, that of the apostle St. James can alone, by its singular extravagance, deserve to be mentioned. From a peaceful fisherman of the Lake of

Gennesareth, he was transformed into a valorous knight, who charged at the head of the Spanish chivalry in their battles against the Moors. The

gravest historians have celebrated his exploits; the miraculous shrine

of Compostella displayed his power; and the sword of a military order, assisted by the terrors of the Inquisition, was sufficient to remove every objection of profane criticism. [176]

[Footnote 171: Serius trans Alpes, religione Dei suscepta. Sulpicius

Severus, l. ii. With regard to Africa, see Tertullian ad Scapulam, c. 3.

It is imagined that the Scyllitan martyrs were the first, (Acta Sincera

Rumart. p. 34.) One of the adversaries of Apuleius seems to have been a christian. Apolog. p. 496, 497, edit. Delphin.]

[Footnote 172: Tum primum intra Gallias martyria visa. Sulp. Severus,

l. ii. These were the celebrated martyrs of Lyons. See Eusebius, v. i. tillemont, Mem. Ecclesiast. tom. ii. p. 316. According to the Donatists, whose assertion is confirmed by the tacit acknowledgment of Augustin, africa was the last of the provinces which received the gospel. tillemont, Mem. Ecclesiast. tom. i. p. 754.]

[Footnote 173: Rarae in aliquibus civitatibus ecclesiae, paucorum christianorum devotione, resurgerent. Acta Sincera, p. 130. Gregory of tours, l i. c. 28. Mosheim, p. 207, 449. There is some reason to believe that in the beginning of the fourth century, the extensive dioceses of

Liege, of Treves, and of Cologne, composed a single bishopric, which had been very recently founded. See Memoires de Tillemont, tom vi. part i.

p. 43, 411.]

[Footnote 174: The date of Tertullian's Apology is fixed, in a dissertation of Mosheim, to the year 198.]

[Footnote 175: In the fifteenth century, there were few who had either

inclination or courage to question, whether Joseph of Arimathea founded the monastery of Glastonbury, and whether Dionysius the Areopagite

preferred the residence of Paris to that of Athens.]

[Footnote 176: The stupendous metamorphosis was performed in the ninth century. See Mariana, (Hist. Hispan. l. vii. c. 13, tom. i. p. 285, edit. Hag. Com. 1733,) who, in every sense, imitates Livy, and the

honest detection of the legend of St. James by Dr. Geddes, Miscellanies,

vol. ii. p. 221.]

the progress of Christianity was not confined to the Roman empire; and according to the primitive fathers, who interpret facts by prophecy, the

new religion, within a century after the death of its divine Author, had already visited every part of the globe. "There exists not," says Justin

Martyr, "a people, whether Greek or Barbarian, or any other race of men, by whatsoever appellation or manners they may be distinguished, however

ignorant of arts or agriculture, whether they dwell under tents, or wander about in covered wagons, among whom prayers are not offered up in the name of a crucified Jesus to the Father and Creator of all things."

[177] But this splendid exaggeration, which even at present it would be extremely difficult to reconcile with the real state of mankind, can be considered only as the rash sally of a devout but careless writer, the

measure of whose belief was regulated by that of his wishes. But neither the belief nor the wishes of the fathers can alter the truth of history.

It will still remain an undoubted fact, that the barbarians of Scythia and Germany, who afterwards subverted the Roman monarchy, were involved

in the darkness of paganism; and that even the conversion of Iberia, of armenia, or of Aethiopia, was not attempted with any degree of success till the sceptre was in the hands of an orthodox emperor. [178] Before that time, the various accidents of war and commerce might indeed diffuse an imperfect knowledge of the gospel among the tribes of caledonia, [179] and among the borderers of the Rhine, the Danube, and the Euphrates. [180] Beyond the last-mentioned river, Edessa was distinguished by a firm and early adherence to the faith. [181] From edessa the principles of Christianity were easily introduced into the

Greek and Syrian cities which obeyed the successors of Artaxerxes; but they do not appear to have made any deep impression on the minds of the

Persians, whose religious system, by the labors of a well disciplined

order of priests, had been constructed with much more art and solidity than the uncertain mythology of Greece and Rome. [182]

[Footnote 177: Justin Martyr, Dialog. cum Tryphon. p. 341. Irenaeus adv.

Haeres. l. i. c. 10. Tertullian adv. Jud. c. 7. See Mosheim, p. 203.]

[Footnote 178: See the fourth century of Mosheim's History of the church. Many, though very confused circumstances, that relate to the conversion of Iberia and Armenia, may be found in Moses of Chorene, l.

ii. c. 78--89. Note: Mons. St. Martin has shown that Armenia was the first nation that embraced Christianity. Memoires sur l'Armenie, vol. i.

p. 306, and notes to Le Beae. Gibbon, indeed had expressed his intention

of withdrawing the words "of Armenia" from the text of future editions.

(Vindication, Works, iv. 577.) He was bitterly taunted by Person for

neglecting or declining to fulfil his promise. Preface to Letters to travis.--M.]

[Footnote 179: According to Tertullian, the Christian faith had

penetrated into parts of Britain inaccessible to the Roman arms. About a century afterwards, Ossian, the son of Fingal, is said to have disputed,

in his extreme old age, with one of the foreign missionaries, and the dispute is still extant, in verse, and in the Erse language. See Mr.

Macpher son's Dissertation on the Antiquity of Ossian's Poems, p. 10.]

[Footnote 180: The Goths, who ravaged Asia in the reign of Gallienus, carried away great numbers of captives; some of whom were Christians, and became missionaries. See Tillemont, Memoires Ecclesiast. tom. iv. p.

44.]

[Footnote 181: The legends of Abgarus, fabulous as it is, affords a decisive proof, that many years before Eusebius wrote his history, the

greatest part of the inhabitants of Edessa had embraced Christianity. their rivals, the citizens of Carrhae, adhered, on the contrary, to the cause of Paganism, as late as the sixth century.]

[Footnote 182: According to Bardesanes (ap. Euseb. Praepar. Evangel.) there were some Christians in Persia before the end of the second century. In the time of Constantine (see his epistle to Sapor, Vit. l.

iv. c. 13) they composed a flourishing church. Consult Beausobre, Hist. cristique du Manicheisme, tom. i. p. 180, and the Bibliotheca Orietalis

of Assemani.]

chapter XV: Progress Of The Christian Religion.--Part IX.

from this impartial though imperfect survey of the progress of christianity, it may perhaps seem probable, that the number of its

proselytes has been excessively magnified by fear on the one side, and by devotion on the other. According to the irreproachable testimony of

Origen, [183] the proportion of the faithful was very inconsiderable, when compared with the multitude of an unbelieving world; but, as we are

left without any distinct information, it is impossible to determine, and it is difficult even to conjecture, the real numbers of the

primitive Christians. The most favorable calculation, however, that can be deduced from the examples of Antioch and of Rome, will not permit

us to imagine that more than a themselves under the banner of the cross before the important conversion of Constantine. But their habits of faith, of zeal, and of union, seemed to multiply their numbers; and the

same causes which contributed to their future increase, served to render their actual strength more apparent and more formidable.

[Footnote 183: Origen contra Celsum, l. viii. p. 424.]

Such is the constitution of civil society, that whilst a few persons are distinguished by riches, by honors, and by knowledge, the body of the

people is condemned to obscurity, ignorance and poverty. The Christian

religion, which addressed itself to the whole human race, must consequently collect a far greater number of proselytes from the

lower than from the superior ranks of life. This innocent and natural circumstance has been improved into a very odious imputation, which

seems to be less strenuously denied by the apologists, than it is urged by the adversaries, of the faith; that the new sect of Christians was almost entirely composed of the dregs of the populace, of peasants and

mechanics, of boys and women, of beggars and slaves, the last of whom

might sometimes introduce the missionaries into the rich and noble families to which they belonged. These obscure teachers (such was the charge of malice and infidelity) are as mute in public as they are

loquacious and dogmatical in private. Whilst they cautiously avoid the dangerous encounter of philosophers, they mingle with the rude and

illiterate crowd, and insinuate themselves into those minds, whom their age, their sex, or their education, has the best disposed to receive the

impression of superstitious terrors. [184]

[Footnote 184: Minucius Felix, c. 8, with Wowerus's notes. Celsus ap.

Origen, l. iii. p. 138, 142. Julian ap. Cyril. l. vi. p. 206, edit.

Spanheim.]

this unfavorable picture, though not devoid of a faint resemblance, betrays, by its dark coloring and distorted features, the pencil of an enemy. As the humble faith of Christ diffused itself through the world,

it was embraced by several persons who derived some consequence from the advantages of nature or fortune. Aristides, who presented an eloquent apology to the emperor Hadrian, was an Athenian philosopher. [185] Justin

Martyr had sought divine knowledge in the schools of Zeno, of Aristotle,

of Pythagoras, and of Plato, before he fortunately was accosted by the

old man, or rather the angel, who turned his attention to the study

of the Jewish prophets. [186] Clemens of Alexandria had acquired much

various reading in the Greek, and Tertullian in the Latin, language.

Julius Africanus and Origen possessed a very considerable share of the learning of their times; and although the style of Cyprian is very different from that of Lactantius, we might almost discover that both those writers had been public teachers of rhetoric. Even the study of

philosophy was at length introduced among the Christians, but it was not always productive of the most salutary effects; knowledge was as often the parent of heresy as of devotion, and the description which was designed for the followers of Artemon, may, with equal propriety, be applied to the various sects that resisted the successors of the apostles. "They presume to alter the Holy Scriptures, to abandon the ancient rule of faith, and to form their opinions according to the

subtile precepts of logic. The science of the church is neglected for the study of geometry, and they lose sight of heaven while they are employed in measuring the earth. Euclid is perpetually in their hands. aristotle and Theophrastus are the objects of their admiration; and they express an uncommon reverence for the works of Galen. Their errors are derived from the abuse of the arts and sciences of the infidels, and they corrupt the simplicity of the gospel by the refinements of human

reason." [187]

[Footnote 185: Euseb. Hist. Eccles. iv. 3. Hieronym. Epist. 83.]

[Footnote 186: The story is prettily told in Justin's Dialogues. tillemont, (Mem Ecclesiast. tom. ii. p. 384,) who relates it after him

is sure that the old man was a disguised angel.]

[Footnote 187: Eusebius, v. 28. It may be hoped, that none, except the

heretics, gave occasion to the complaint of Celsus, (ap. Origen, l. ii.

p. 77,) that the Christians were perpetually correcting and altering their Gospels. \* Note: Origen states in reply, that he knows of none who

had altered the Gospels except the Marcionites, the Valentinians, and

perhaps some followers of Lucanus.--M.]

Nor can it be affirmed with truth, that the advantages of birth and fortune were always separated from the profession of Christianity.

Several Roman citizens were brought before the tribunal of Pliny, and he

soon discovered, that a great number of persons of every order of men

in Bithynia had deserted the religion of their ancestors. [188] His

unsuspected testimony may, in this instance, obtain more credit than the bold challenge of Tertullian, when he addresses himself to the fears as well as the humanity of the proconsul of Africa, by assuring him, that

if he persists in his cruel intentions, he must decimate Carthage, and that he will find among the guilty many persons of his own rank,

senators and matrons of nobles' extraction, and the friends or relations

of his most intimate friends. [189] It appears, however, that about forty

years afterwards the emperor Valerian was persuaded of the truth of this assertion, since in one of his rescripts he evidently supposes, that

senators, Roman knights, and ladies of quality, were engaged in the christian sect. [190] The church still continued to increase its

outward splendor as it lost its internal purity; and, in the reign

of Diocletian, the palace, the courts of justice, and even the army, concealed a multitude of Christians, who endeavored to reconcile the

interests of the present with those of a future life.

[Footnote 188: Plin. Epist. x. 97. Fuerunt alii similis amentiae, cives

Romani---Multi enim omnis aetatis, omnis ordinis, utriusque sexus, etiam

vocuntur in periculum et vocabuntur.]

[Footnote 189: Tertullian ad Scapulum. Yet even his rhetoric rises no

higher than to claim a tenth part of Carthage.]

[Footnote 190: Cyprian. Epist. 70.]

and yet these exceptions are either too few in number, or too recent in time, entirely to remove the imputation of ignorance and obscurity which

has been so arrogantly cast on the first proselytes of Christianity. [1901]

Instead of employing in our defence the fictions of later ages, it will be more prudent to convert the occasion of scandal into a subject of edification. Our serious thoughts will suggest to us, that the apostles themselves were chosen by Providence among the fishermen of Galilee, and that the lower we depress the temporal condition of the first christians, the more reason we shall find to admire their merit and

success. It is incumbent on us diligently to remember, that the kingdom

of heaven was promised to the poor in spirit, and that minds afflicted by calamity and the contempt of mankind, cheerfully listen to the divine

promise of future happiness; while, on the contrary, the fortunate are

satisfied with the possession of this world; and the wise abuse in doubt and dispute their vain superiority of reason and knowledge.

[Footnote 1901: This incomplete enumeration ought to be increased by the

names of several Pagans converted at the dawn of Christianity, and whose conversion weakens the reproach which the historian appears to support.

Such are, the Proconsul Sergius Paulus, converted at Paphos, (Acts

xiii. 7--12.) Dionysius, member of the Areopagus, converted with several

others, al Athens, (Acts xvii. 34;) several persons at the court of

Nero, (Philip. iv 22;) Erastus, receiver at Corinth, (Rom. xvi.23;)

some Asiarchs, (Acts xix. 31) As to the philosophers, we may add Tatian, athenagoras, Theophilus of Antioch, Hegesippus, Melito, Miltiades,

Pantaenus, Ammenius, all distinguished for their genius and

learning.--G.]

we stand in need of such reflections to comfort us for the loss of some

illustrious characters, which in our eyes might have seemed the most worthy of the heavenly present. The names of Seneca, of the elder and the younger Pliny, of Tacitus, of Plutarch, of Galen, of the slave epictetus, and of the emperor Marcus Antoninus, adorn the age in which they flourished, and exalt the dignity of human nature. They filled with

glory their respective stations, either in active or contemplative life; their excellent understandings were improved by study; Philosophy had

purified their minds from the prejudices of the popular superstition; and their days were spent in the pursuit of truth and the practice of

virtue. Yet all these sages (it is no less an object of surprise than of concern) overlooked or rejected the perfection of the Christian system. their language or their silence equally discover their contempt for the

growing sect, which in their time had diffused itself over the Roman empire. Those among them who condescended to mention the Christians, consider them only as obstinate and perverse enthusiasts, who exacted an

implicit submission to their mysterious doctrines, without being able to produce a single argument that could engage the attention of men of

sense and learning. [191]

[Footnote 191: Dr. Lardner, in his first and second volumes of Jewish and Christian testimonies, collects and illustrates those of Pliny the younger, of Tacitus, of Galen, of Marcus Antoninus, and perhaps of epictetus, (for it is doubtful whether that philosopher means to speak

of the Christians.) The new sect is totally unnoticed by Seneca, the elder Pliny, and Plutarch.]

It is at least doubtful whether any of these

philosophers perused the apologies [1911] which the primitive Christians

repeatedly published in behalf of themselves and of their religion; but

it is much to be lamented that such a cause was not defended by abler advocates. They expose with superfluous with and eloquence the extravagance of Polytheism. They interest our compassion by displaying the innocence and sufferings of their injured brethren. But when they would demonstrate the divine origin of Christianity, they insist much

more strongly on the predictions which announced, than on the miracles which accompanied, the appearance of the Messiah. Their favorite argument might serve to edify a Christian or to convert a Jew,

since both the one and the other acknowledge the authority of those

prophecies, and both are obliged, with devout reverence, to search for their sense and their accomplishment. But this mode of persuasion loses

much of its weight and influence, when it is addressed to those who

neither understand nor respect the Mosaic dispensation and the prophetic

style. [192] In the unskilful hands of Justin and of the succeeding apologists, the sublime meaning of the Hebrew oracles evaporates in distant types, affected conceits, and cold allegories; and even their authenticity was rendered suspicious to an unenlightened Gentile, by the

mixture of pious forgeries, which, under the names of Orpheus, Hermes, and the Sibyls, [193] were obtruded on him as of equal value with the

genuine inspirations of Heaven. The adoption of fraud and sophistry

in the defence of revelation too often reminds us of the injudicious conduct of those poets who load their invulnerable heroes with a useless weight of cumbersome and brittle armor.

[Footnote 1911: The emperors Hadrian, Antoninus &c., read with astonishment the apologies of Justin Martyr, of Aristides, of Melito, &c. (See St.

Hieron. ad mag. orat. Orosius, lviii. c. 13.) Eusebius says expressly, that the cause of Christianity was defended before the senate, in a very elegant discourse, by Apollonius the Martyr.--G. ----Gibbon, in his

severer spirit of criticism, may have questioned the authority of Jerome and Eusebius. There are some difficulties about Apollonius, which

Heinichen (note in loc. Eusebii) would solve, by suppose lag him to have been, as Jerome states, a senator.--M.]

[Footnote 192: If the famous prophecy of the Seventy Weeks had been alleged to a Roman philosopher, would he not have replied in the words

of Cicero, "Quae tandem ista auguratio est, annorum potius quam aut

raensium aut dierum?" De Divinatione, ii. 30. Observe with what

irreverence Lucian, (in Alexandro, c. 13.) and his friend Celsus ap.

Origen, (l. vii. p. 327,) express themselves concerning the Hebrew

prophets.]

[Footnote 193: The philosophers who derided the more ancient predictions

of the Sibyls, would easily have detected the Jewish and Christian forgeries, which have been so triumphantly quoted by the fathers, from

Justin Martyr to Lactantius. When the Sibylline verses had performed their appointed task, they, like the system of the millennium, were

quietly laid aside. The Christian Sybil had unluckily fixed the ruin of

Rome for the year 195, A. U. C. 948.]

but how shall we excuse the supine inattention of the Pagan and

philosophic world, to those evidences which were represented by the hand

of Omnipotence, not to their reason, but to their senses? During the age

of Christ, of his apostles, and of their first disciples, the doctrine which they preached was confirmed by innumerable prodigies. The lame walked, the blind saw, the sick were healed, the dead were raised, daemons were expelled, and the laws of Nature were frequently suspended for the benefit of the church. But the sages of Greece and Rome turned aside from the awful spectacle, and, pursuing the ordinary occupations

of life and study, appeared unconscious of any alterations in the moral

or physical government of the world. Under the reign of Tiberius, the whole earth, [194] or at least a celebrated province of the Roman empire,

[195] was involved in a preternatural darkness of three hours. Even this

miraculous event, which ought to have excited the wonder, the curiosity, and the devotion of mankind, passed without notice in an age of science and history. [196] It happened during the lifetime of Seneca and the elder Pliny, who must have experienced the immediate effects, or

received the earliest intelligence, of the prodigy. Each of these

philosophers, in a laborious work, has recorded all the great phenomena

of Nature, earthquakes, meteors comets, and eclipses, which his

indefatigable curiosity could collect. [197] Both the one and the other

have omitted to mention the greatest phenomenon to which the mortal eye

has been witness since the creation of the globe. A distinct chapter

of Pliny [198] is designed for eclipses of an extraordinary nature and

unusual duration; but he contents himself with describing the singular defect of light which followed the murder of Caesar, when, during the

greatest part of a year, the orb of the sun appeared pale and without

splendor. The season of obscurity, which cannot surely be compared with the preternatural darkness of the Passion, had been already celebrated by most of the poets [199] and historians of that memorable age. [200]

[Footnote 194: The fathers, as they are drawn out in battle array by dom Calmet, (Dissertations sur la Bible, tom. iii. p. 295--308,) seem to cover the whole earth with darkness, in which they are followed by most

of the moderns.]

[Footnote 195: Origen ad Matth. c. 27, and a few modern critics, Beza,

Le Clerc, Lardner, &c., are desirous of confining it to the land of

Judea.]

[Footnote 196: The celebrated passage of Phlegon is now wisely abandoned. When Tertullian assures the Pagans that the mention of the

prodigy is found in Arcanis (not Archivis) vestris, (see his Apology, c.

21,) he probably appeals to the Sibylline verses, which relate it exactly in the words of the Gospel. \* Note: According to some learned theologians a misunderstanding of the text in the Gospel has given rise to this mistake, which has employed and wearied so many laborious commentators, though Origen had already taken the pains to preinform them. The expression does not mean, they assert, an eclipse, but any

kind of obscurity occasioned in the atmosphere, whether by clouds or any

other cause. As this obscuration of the sun rarely took place in

Palestine, where in the middle of April the sky was usually clear, it assumed, in the eyes of the Jews and Christians, an importance conformable to the received notion, that the sun concealed at midday was a sinister presage. See Amos viii. 9, 10. The word is often taken in this sense by contemporary writers; the Apocalypse says the sun was concealed, when speaking of an obscuration caused by smoke and dust.

(Revel. ix. 2.) Moreover, the Hebrew word ophal, which in the LXX. answers to the Greek, signifies any darkness; and the Evangelists, who

have modelled the sense of their expressions by those of the LXX., must

have taken it in the same latitude. This darkening of the sky usually

precedes earthquakes. (Matt. xxvii. 51.) The Heathen authors furnish us a number of examples, of which a miraculous explanation was given at the time. See Ovid. ii. v. 33, l. xv. v. 785. Pliny, Hist. Nat. l. ii. c 30. wetstein has collected all these examples in his edition of the New testament. We need not, then, be astonished at the silence of the Pagan authors concerning a phenomenon which did not extend beyond Jerusalem, and which might have nothing contrary to the laws of nature; although the Christians and the Jews may have regarded it as a sinister presage.

See Michaelia Notes on New Testament, v. i. p. 290. Paulus, Commentary

on New Testament, iii. p. 760.--G.]

[Footnote 197: Seneca, Quaest. Natur. l. i. 15, vi. l. vii. 17. Plin.

Hist. Natur. l. ii.]

[Footnote 198: Plin. Hist. Natur. ii. 30.]

[Footnote 199: Virgil. Georgic. i. 466. Tibullus, l. i. Eleg. v. ver.

75. Ovid Metamorph. xv. 782. Lucan. Pharsal. i. 540. The last of these

poets places this prodigy before the civil war.]

[Footnote 200: See a public epistle of M. Antony in Joseph. Antiquit.

xiv. 12. Plutarch in Caesar. p. 471. Appian. Bell. Civil. l. iv. Dion cassius, l. xlv. p. 431. Julius Obsequens, c. 128. His little treatise

is an abstract of Livy's prodigies.]

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HISTORY OF THE DECLINE AND FALL OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE, VOLUME 2

edward Gibbon, Esq.

with notes by the Rev. H. H. Milman

1782 (Written), 1845 (Revised)

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The Conduct Of The Roman Government Towards The Christians,

From The Reign Of Nero To That Of Constantine.

If we seriously consider the purity of the Christian religion, the

sanctity of its moral precepts, and the innocent as well as austere

lives of the greater number of those who during the first ages embraced the faith of the gospel, we should naturally suppose, that so benevolent a doctrine would have been received with due reverence, even by the

unbelieving world; that the learned and the polite, however they may deride the miracles, would have esteemed the virtues, of the new sect; and that the magistrates, instead of persecuting, would have protected an order of men who yielded the most passive obedience to the laws, though they declined the active cares of war and government. If, on the

other hand, we recollect the universal toleration of Polytheism, as it was invariably maintained by the faith of the people, the incredulity of

philosophers, and the policy of the Roman senate and emperors, we are at a loss to discover what new offence the Christians had committed, what

new provocation could exasperate the mild indifference of antiquity, and what new motives could urge the Roman princes, who beheld without concern a thousand forms of religion subsisting in peace under their

gentle sway, to inflict a severe punishment on any part of their

subjects, who had chosen for themselves a singular but an inoffensive

mode of faith and worship.

the religious policy of the ancient world seems to have assumed a more

stern and intolerant character, to oppose the progress of Christianity. about fourscore years after the death of Christ, his innocent disciples were punished with death by the sentence of a proconsul of the most amiable and philosophic character, and according to the laws of an emperor distinguished by the wisdom and justice of his general administration. The apologies which were repeatedly addressed to the

successors of Trajan are filled with the most pathetic complaints, that the Christians, who obeyed the dictates, and solicited the liberty,

of conscience, were alone, among all the subjects of the Roman empire, excluded from the common benefits of their auspicious government. The deaths of a few eminent martyrs have been recorded with care; and from the time that Christianity was invested with the supreme power, the

governors of the church have been no less diligently employed in displaying the cruelty, than in imitating the conduct, of their Pagan adversaries. To separate (if it be possible) a few authentic as well as

interesting facts from an undigested mass of fiction and error, and to relate, in a clear and rational manner, the causes, the extent, the duration, and the most important circumstances of the persecutions to which the first Christians were exposed, is the design of the present chapter. \*

the sectaries of a persecuted religion, depressed by fear animated with

resentment, and perhaps heated by enthusiasm, are seldom in a proper temper of mind calmly to investigate, or candidly to appreciate, the motives of their enemies, which often escape the impartial and discerning view even of those who are placed at a secure distance from the flames of persecution. A reason has been assigned for the conduct of the emperors towards the primitive Christians, which may appear the more

specious and probable as it is drawn from the acknowledged genius of

Polytheism. It has already been observed, that the religious concord of the world was principally supported by the implicit assent and reverence which the nations of antiquity expressed for their respective traditions and ceremonies. It might therefore be expected, that they would unite with indignation against any sect or people which should separate itself from the communion of mankind, and claiming the exclusive possession of divine knowledge, should disdain every form of worship, except its own, as impious and idolatrous. The rights of toleration were held by mutual

indulgence: they were justly forfeited by a refusal of the accustomed tribute. As the payment of this tribute was inflexibly refused by the

Jews, and by them alone, the consideration of the treatment which they experienced from the Roman magistrates, will serve to explain how far these speculations are justified by facts, and will lead us to discover the true causes of the persecution of Christianity.

without repeating what has already been mentioned of the reverence of the Roman princes and governors for the temple of Jerusalem, we

shall only observe, that the destruction of the temple and city was accompanied and followed by every circumstance that could exasperate the

minds of the conquerors, and authorize religious persecution by the most

specious arguments of political justice and the public safety. From the

reign of Nero to that of Antoninus Pius, the Jews discovered a fierce

impatience of the dominion of Rome, which repeatedly broke out in the

most furious massacres and insurrections. Humanity is shocked at the

recital of the horrid cruelties which they committed in the cities

of Egypt, of Cyprus, and of Cyrene, where they dwelt in treacherous friendship with the unsuspecting natives; and we are tempted to applaud the severe retaliation which was exercised by the arms of the legions against a race of fanatics, whose dire and credulous superstition seemed to render them the implacable enemies not only of the Roman government, but of human kind. The enthusiasm of the Jews was supported by the

opinion, that it was unlawful for them to pay taxes to an idolatrous

master; and by the flattering promise which they derived from their ancient oracles, that a conquering Messiah would soon arise, destined to break their fetters, and to invest the favorites of heaven with the empire of the earth. It was by announcing himself as their long-expected deliverer, and by calling on all the descendants of Abraham to assert the hope of Isræl, that the famous Barchochebas collected a formidable army, with which he resisted during two years the power of the emperor

Hadrian.

Notwithstanding these repeated provocations, the resentment of the

Roman princes expired after the victory; nor were their apprehensions continued beyond the period of war and danger. By the general indulgence

of polytheism, and by the mild temper of Antoninus Pius, the Jews were restored to their ancient privileges, and once more obtained the

permission of circumcising their children, with the easy restraint, that they should never confer on any foreign proselyte that distinguishing

mark of the Hebrew race. The numerous remains of that people, though they were still excluded from the precincts of Jerusalem, were permitted to form and to maintain considerable establishments both in Italy and

in the provinces, to acquire the freedom of Rome, to enjoy municipal

honors, and to obtain at the same time an exemption from the burdensome and expensive offices of society. The moderation or the contempt of the

Romans gave a legal sanction to the form of ecclesiastical police which was instituted by the vanquished sect. The patriarch, who had fixed

his residence at Tiberias, was empowered to appoint his subordinate

ministers and apostles, to exercise a domestic jurisdiction, and to receive from his dispersed brethren an annual contribution. New

synagogues were frequently erected in the principal cities of the empire; and the sabbaths, the fasts, and the festivals, which were either commanded by the Mosaic law, or enjoined by the traditions of the Rabbis, were celebrated in the most solemn and public manner. Such

gentle treatment insensibly assuaged the stern temper of the Jews. awakened from their dream of prophecy and conquest, they assumed the behavior of peaceable and industrious subjects. Their irreconcilable

hatred of mankind, instead of flaming out in acts of blood and violence, evaporated in less dangerous gratifications. They embraced every

opportunity of overreaching the idolaters in trade; and they pronounced

secret and ambiguous imprecations against the haughty kingdom of Edom.

Since the Jews, who rejected with abhorrence the deities adored by their sovereign and by their fellow-subjects, enjoyed, however, the free exercise of their unsocial religion, there must have existed some other cause, which exposed the disciples of Christ to those severities from which the posterity of Abraham was exempt. The difference between them

is simple and obvious; but, according to the sentiments of antiquity,

it was of the highest importance. The Jews were a nation; the Christians were a sect: and if it was natural for every community to respect the

sacred institutions of their neighbors, it was incumbent on them to persevere in those of their ancestors. The voice of oracles, the

precepts of philosophers, and the authority of the laws, unanimously enforced this national obligation. By their lofty claim of superior

sanctity the Jews might provoke the Polytheists to consider them as an

odious and impure race. By disdaining the intercourse of other nations, they might deserve their contempt. The laws of Moses might be for the

most part frivolous or absurd; yet, since they had been received during

many ages by a large society, his followers were justified by the example of mankind; and it was universally acknowledged, that they had a right to practise what it would have been criminal in them to neglect. but this principle, which protected the Jewish synagogue, afforded not any favor or security to the primitive church. By embracing the faith of the gospel, the Christians incurred the supposed guilt of an unnatural and unpardonable offence. They dissolved the sacred ties of custom and education, violated the religious institutions of their country, and

presumptuously despised whatever their fathers had believed as true,

or had reverenced as sacred. Nor was this apostasy (if we may use the expression) merely of a partial or local kind; since the pious deserter who withdrew himself from the temples of Egypt or Syria, would equally disdain to seek an asylum in those of Athens or Carthage. Every christian rejected with contempt the superstitions of his family, his city, and his province. The whole body of Christians unanimously refused to hold any communion with the gods of Rome, of the empire, and of

mankind. It was in vain that the oppressed believer asserted the

inalienable rights of conscience and private judgment. Though his

situation might excite the pity, his arguments could never reach the

understanding, either of the philosophic or of the believing part of the Pagan world. To their apprehensions, it was no less a matter

of surprise, that any individuals should entertain scruples against complying with the established mode of worship, than if they had conceived a sudden abhorrence to the manners, the dress, or the language

of their native country. \*

the surprise of the Pagans was soon succeeded by resentment; and the

most pious of men were exposed to the unjust but dangerous imputation of

impiety. Malice and prejudice concurred in representing the Christians as a society of atheists, who, by the most daring attack on the

religious constitution of the empire, had merited the severest animadversion of the civil magistrate. They had separated themselves

(they gloried in the confession) from every mode of superstition which was received in any part of the globe by the various temper of

polytheism: but it was not altogether so evident what deity, or what form of worship, they had substituted to the gods and temples of antiquity. The pure and sublime idea which they entertained of the

Supreme Being escaped the gross conception of the Pagan multitude, who were at a loss to discover a spiritual and solitary God, that was

neither represented under any corporeal figure or visible symbol, nor was adored with the accustomed pomp of libations and festivals, of altars and sacrifices. The sages of Greece and Rome, who had elevated their minds to the contemplation of the existence and attributes of the First Cause, were induced by reason or by vanity to reserve for themselves and their chosen disciples the privilege of this

philosophical devotion. They were far from admitting the prejudices of

mankind as the standard of truth, but they considered them as flowing from the original disposition of human nature; and they supposed that any popular mode of faith and worship which presumed to disclaim the assistance of the senses, would, in proportion as it receded from

superstition, find itself incapable of restraining the wanderings of the fancy, and the visions of fanaticism. The careless glance which men

of wit and learning condescended to cast on the Christian revelation,

served only to confirm their hasty opinion, and to persuade them that the principle, which they might have revered, of the Divine Unity, was defaced by the wild enthusiasm, and annihilated by the airy

speculations, of the new sectaries. The author of a celebrated dialogue, which has been attributed to Lucian, whilst he affects to treat the

mysterious subject of the Trinity in a style of ridicule and contempt, betrays his own ignorance of the weakness of human reason, and of the

inscrutable nature of the divine perfections.

It might appear less surprising, that the founder of Christianity should

not only be revered by his disciples as a sage and a prophet, but that

he should be adored as a God. The Polytheists were disposed to adopt every article of faith, which seemed to offer any resemblance, however distant or imperfect, with the popular mythology; and the legends of bacchus, of Hercules, and of Æsculapius, had, in some measure, prepared their imagination for the appearance of the Son of God under a human form. But they were astonished that the Christians should abandon the temples of those ancient heroes, who, in the infancy of the world, had

invented arts, instituted laws, and vanquished the tyrants or monsters who infested the earth, in order to choose for the exclusive object of their religious worship an obscure teacher, who, in a recent age, and among a barbarous people, had fallen a sacrifice either to the malice

of his own countrymen, or to the jealousy of the Roman government. The

Pagan multitude, reserving their gratitude for temporal benefits alone,

rejected the inestimable present of life and immortality, which was

offered to mankind by Jesus of Nazareth. His mild constancy in the midst

of cruel and voluntary sufferings, his universal benevolence, and the

sublime simplicity of his actions and character, were insufficient, in the opinion of those carnal men, to compensate for the want of fame,

of empire, and of success; and whilst they refused to acknowledge his

stupendous triumph over the powers of darkness and of the grave, they

misrepresented, or they insulted, the equivocal birth, wandering life, and ignominious death, of the divine Author of Christianity.

the personal guilt which every Christian had contracted, in thus

preferring his private sentiment to the national religion, was aggravated in a very high degree by the number and union of the criminals. It is well known, and has been already observed, that Roman

policy viewed with the utmost jealousy and distrust any association among its subjects; and that the privileges of private corporations, though formed for the most harmless or beneficial purposes, were bestowed with a very sparing hand. The religious assemblies of the christians who had separated themselves from the public worship, appeared of a much less innocent nature; they were illegal in their

principle, and in their consequences might become dangerous; nor were the emperors conscious that they violated the laws of justice, when, for the peace of society, they prohibited those secret and sometimes

nocturnal meetings. The pious disobedience of the Christians made their conduct, or perhaps their designs, appear in a much more serious and criminal light; and the Roman princes, who might perhaps have suffered themselves to be disarmed by a ready submission, deeming their honor concerned in the execution of their commands, sometimes attempted, by

rigorous punishments, to subdue this independent spirit, which boldly acknowledged an authority superior to that of the magistrate. The extent and duration of this spiritual conspiracy seemed to render it everyday

more deserving of his animadversion. We have already seen that the active and successful zeal of the Christians had insensibly diffused them through every province and almost every city of the empire. The new converts seemed to renounce their family and country, that they might connect themselves in an indissoluble band of union with a peculiar

society, which every where assumed a different character from the rest

of mankind. Their gloomy and austere aspect, their abhorrence of the common business and pleasures of life, and their frequent predictions of

impending calamities, inspired the Pagans with the apprehension of some danger, which would arise from the new sect, the more alarming as it was the more obscure. "Whatever," says Pliny, "may be the principle of their conduct, their inflexible obstinacy appeared deserving of punishment."

the precautions with which the disciples of Christ performed the offices

of religion were at first dictated by fear and necessity; but they were continued from choice. By imitating the awful secrecy which reigned in the Eleusinian mysteries, the Christians had flattered themselves that they should render their sacred institutions more respectable in the eyes of the Pagan world. But the event, as it often happens to the operations of subtile policy, deceived their wishes and their expectations. It was concluded, that they only concealed what they would have blushed to disclose. Their mistaken prudence afforded an

opportunity for malice to invent, and for suspicious credulity to believe, the horrid tales which described the Christians as the most wicked of human kind, who practised in their dark recesses every abomination that a depraved fancy could suggest, and who solicited the favor of their unknown God by the sacrifice of every moral virtue. There were many who pretended to confess or to relate the ceremonies of this abhorred society. It was asserted, "that a new-born infant, entirely covered over with flour, was presented, like some mystic symbol of

initiation, to the knife of the proselyte, who unknowingly inflicted

many a secret and mortal wound on the innocent victim of his error; that as soon as the cruel deed was perpetrated, the sectaries drank up the blood, greedily tore asunder the quivering members, and pledged themselves to eternal secrecy, by a mutual consciousness of guilt. It was as confidently affirmed, that this inhuman sacrifice was succeeded by a suitable entertainment, in which intemperance served as a

provocative to brutal lust; till, at the appointed moment, the lights were suddenly extinguished, shame was banished, nature was forgotten; and, as accident might direct, the darkness of the night was polluted by the incestuous commerce of sisters and brothers, of sons and of

mothers."

but the perusal of the ancient apologies was sufficient to remove even the slightest suspicion from the mind of a candid adversary. The christians, with the intrepid security of innocence, appeal from the

voice of rumor to the equity of the magistrates. They acknowledge, that

if any proof can be produced of the crimes which calumny has imputed to them, they are worthy of the most severe punishment. They provoke the

punishment, and they challenge the proof. At the same time they urge, with equal truth and propriety, that the charge is not less devoid of

probability, than it is destitute of evidence; they ask, whether any

one can seriously believe that the pure and holy precepts of the gospel, which so frequently restrain the use of the most lawful enjoyments,

should inculcate the practice of the most abominable crimes; that a

large society should resolve to dishonor itself in the eyes of its own

members; and that a great number of persons of either sex, and every age and character, insensible to the fear of death or infamy, should consent to violate those principles which nature and education had imprinted

most deeply in their minds. Nothing, it should seem, could weaken the force or destroy the effect of so unanswerable a justification, unless

it were the injudicious conduct of the apologists themselves, who betrayed the common cause of religion, to gratify their devout hatred to the domestic enemies of the church. It was sometimes faintly insinuated, and sometimes boldly asserted, that the same bloody sacrifices, and the same incestuous festivals, which were so falsely ascribed to the

orthodox believers, were in reality celebrated by the Marcionites, by the Carpocratians, and by several other sects of the Gnostics, who,

notwithstanding they might deviate into the paths of heresy, were still actuated by the sentiments of men, and still governed by the precepts

of Christianity. Accusations of a similar kind were retorted upon the church by the schismatics who had departed from its communion, and it was confessed on all sides, that the most scandalous licentiousness of

manners prevailed among great numbers of those who affected the name

of Christians. A Pagan magistrate, who possessed neither leisure nor abilities to discern the almost imperceptible line which divides the

orthodox faith from heretical pravity, might easily have imagined that their mutual animosity had extorted the discovery of their common guilt.

It was fortunate for the repose, or at least for the reputation, of the first Christians, that the magistrates sometimes proceeded with more temper and moderation than is usually consistent with religious zeal, and that they reported, as the impartial result of their judicial

inquiry, that the sectaries, who had deserted the established worship, appeared to them sincere in their professions, and blameless in their

manners; however they might incur, by their absurd and excessive

superstition, the censure of the laws.

chapter XVI: Conduct Towards The Christians, From Nero To constantine.--Part II.

History, which undertakes to record the transactions of the past, for the instruction of future ages, would ill deserve that honorable office,

if she condescended to plead the cause of tyrants, or to justify the

maxims of persecution. It must, however, be acknowledged, that the conduct of the emperors who appeared the least favorable to the

primitive church, is by no means so criminal as that of modern

sovereigns, who have employed the arm of violence and terror against the religious opinions of any part of their subjects. From their

reflections, or even from their own feelings, a Charles V. or a Lewis

XIV. might have acquired a just knowledge of the rights of conscience,

of the obligation of faith, and of the innocence of error. But the

princes and magistrates of ancient Rome were strangers to those

principles which inspired and authorized the inflexible obstinacy of the christians in the cause of truth, nor could they themselves discover in their own breasts any motive which would have prompted them to refuse a

legal, and as it were a natural, submission to the sacred institutions

of their country. The same reason which contributes to alleviate the

guilt, must have tended to abate the vigor, of their persecutions. as they were actuated, not by the furious zeal of bigots, but by the temperate policy of legislators, contempt must often have relaxed, and

humanity must frequently have suspended, the execution of those laws which they enacted against the humble and obscure followers of Christ. from the general view of their character and motives we might naturally conclude: I. That a considerable time elapsed before they considered the

new sectaries as an object deserving of the attention of government. II. that in the conviction of any of their subjects who were accused of so

very singular a crime, they proceeded with caution and reluctance. III. that they were moderate in the use of punishments; and, IV. That the afflicted church enjoyed many intervals of peace and tranquility.

Notwithstanding the careless indifference which the most copious and the most minute of the Pagan writers have shown to the affairs of the Christians, it may still be in our power to confirm each of these

probable suppositions, by the evidence of authentic facts.

1. By the wise dispensation of Providence, a mysterious veil was cast

over the infancy of the church, which, till the faith of the Christians was matured, and their numbers were multiplied, served to protect them

not only from the malice but even from the knowledge of the Pagan world. the slow and gradual abolition of the Mosaic ceremonies afforded a safe and innocent disguise to the more early proselytes of the gospel. As they were, for the greater part, of the race of Abraham, they were distinguished by the peculiar mark of circumcision, offered up their devotions in the Temple of Jerusalem till its final destruction, and

received both the Law and the Prophets as the genuine inspirations of the Deity. The Gentile converts, who by a spiritual adoption had been associated to the hope of Isræl, were likewise confounded under the

garb and appearance of Jews, and as the Polytheists paid less regard to articles of faith than to the external worship, the new sect, which carefully concealed, or faintly announced, its future greatness and ambition, was permitted to shelter itself under the general toleration which was granted to an ancient and celebrated people in the Roman empire. It was not long, perhaps, before the Jews themselves, animated with a fiercer zeal and a more jealous faith, perceived the gradual

separation of their Nazarene brethren from the doctrine of the

synagogue; and they would gladly have extinguished the dangerous heresy

in the blood of its adherents. But the decrees of Heaven had already disarmed their malice; and though they might sometimes exert the

licentious privilege of sedition, they no longer possessed the administration of criminal justice; nor did they find it easy to infuse

into the calm breast of a Roman magistrate the rancor of their own zeal and prejudice. The provincial governors declared themselves ready to

listen to any accusation that might affect the public safety; but as

soon as they were informed that it was a question not of facts but of words, a dispute relating only to the interpretation of the Jewish laws and prophecies, they deemed it unworthy of the majesty of Rome seriously to discuss the obscure differences which might arise among a barbarous and superstitious people. The innocence of the first Christians was

protected by ignorance and contempt; and the tribunal of the Pagan

magistrate often proved their most assured refuge against the fury of the synagogue. If indeed we were disposed to adopt the traditions of a too credulous antiquity, we might relate the distant peregrinations, the wonderful achievements, and the various deaths of the twelve apostles: but a more accurate inquiry will induce us to doubt, whether any of those persons who had been witnesses to the miracles of Christ were

permitted, beyond the limits of Palestine, to seal with their blood the truth of their testimony. From the ordinary term of human life, it may

very naturally be presumed that most of them were deceased before the discontent of the Jews broke out into that furious war, which was terminated only by the ruin of Jerusalem. During a long period, from the death of Christ to that memorable rebellion, we cannot discover any traces of Roman intolerance, unless they are to be found in the sudden, the transient, but the cruel persecution, which was exercised by Nero against the Christians of the capital, thirty-five years after the former, and only two years before the latter, of those great events. the character of the philosophic historian, to whom we are principally

indebted for the knowledge of this singular transaction, would alone be

sufficient to recommend it to our most attentive consideration.

In the tenth year of the reign of Nero, the capital of the empire was afflicted by a fire which raged beyond the memory or example of former ages. The monuments of Grecian art and of Roman virtue, the trophies of the Punic and Gallic wars, the most holy temples, and the most splendid

palaces, were involved in one common destruction. Of the fourteen

regions or quarters into which Rome was divided, four only subsisted entire, three were levelled with the ground, and the remaining seven, which had experienced the fury of the flames, displayed a melancholy

prospect of ruin and desolation. The vigilance of government appears not to have neglected any of the precautions which might alleviate the sense

of so dreadful a calamity. The Imperial gardens were thrown open to the distressed multitude, temporary buildings were erected for their accommodation, and a plentiful supply of corn and provisions was distributed at a very moderate price. The most generous policy seemed to

have dictated the edicts which regulated the disposition of the streets and the construction of private houses; and as it usually happens, in an age of prosperity, the conflagration of Rome, in the course of a few

years, produced a new city, more regular and more beautiful than the former. But all the prudence and humanity affected by Nero on this

occasion were insufficient to preserve him from the popular suspicion. every crime might be imputed to the assassin of his wife and mother; nor could the prince who prostituted his person and dignity on the theatre be deemed incapable of the most extravagant folly. The voice of rumor accused the emperor as the incendiary of his own capital; and as the

most incredible stories are the best adapted to the genius of an enraged people, it was gravely reported, and firmly believed, that

Nero, enjoying the calamity which he had occasioned, amused himself with singing to his lyre the destruction of ancient Troy. To divert a suspicion, which the power of despotism was unable to suppress, the emperor resolved to substitute in his own place some fictitious criminals. "With this view," continues Tacitus, "he inflicted the most exquisite tortures on those men, who, under the vulgar appellation of christians, were already branded with deserved infamy. They derived their name and origin from Christ, who in the reign of Tiberius had

suffered death by the sentence of the procurator Pontius Pilate. For a while this dire superstition was checked; but it again burst forth;

\* and not only spread itself over Judæa, the first seat of this

mischievous sect, but was even introduced into Rome, the common asylum which receives and protects whatever is impure, whatever is atrocious. the confessions of those who were seized discovered a great multitude

of their accomplices, and they were all convicted, not so much for the crime of setting fire to the city, as for their hatred of human kind. they died in torments, and their torments were imbittered by insult and derision. Some were nailed on crosses; others sewn up in the skins of wild beasts, and exposed to the fury of dogs; others again, smeared

over with combustible materials, were used as torches to illuminate the darkness of the night. The gardens of Nero were destined for the

melancholy spectacle, which was accompanied with a horse-race and

honored with the presence of the emperor, who mingled with the populace

in the dress and attitude of a charioteer. The guilt of the Christians deserved indeed the most exemplary punishment, but the public abhorrence was changed into commiseration, from the opinion that those unhappy wretches were sacrificed, not so much to the public welfare, as to the cruelty of a jealous tyrant." Those who survey with a curious eye the

revolutions of mankind, may observe, that the gardens and circus of

Nero on the Vatican, which were polluted with the blood of the first christians, have been rendered still more famous by the triumph and by the abuse of the persecuted religion. On the same spot, a temple, which far surpasses the ancient glories of the Capitol, has been since erected by the Christian Pontiffs, who, deriving their claim of universal dominion from an humble fisherman of Galilee, have succeeded to the throne of the Cæsars, given laws to the barbarian conquerors of Rome, and extended their spiritual jurisdiction from the coast of the Baltic to the shores of the Pacific Ocean.

but it would be improper to dismiss this account of Nero's persecution, till we have made some observations that may serve to remove the difficulties with which it is perplexed, and to throw some light on the

subsequent history of the church.

1. The most sceptical criticism is obliged to respect the truth of this extraordinary fact, and the integrity of this celebrated passage of tacitus. The former is confirmed by the diligent and accurate Suetonius, who mentions the punishment which Nero inflicted on the Christians, a

sect of men who had embraced a new and criminal superstition. The latter

may be proved by the consent of the most ancient manuscripts; by the

inimitable character of the style of Tacitus by his reputation, which

guarded his text from the interpolations of pious fraud; and by the

purport of his narration, which accused the first Christians of the most atrocious crimes, without insinuating that they possessed any miraculous

or even magical powers above the rest of mankind. 2. Notwithstanding it

is probable that Tacitus was born some years before the fire of Rome,

he could derive only from reading and conversation the knowledge of an event which happened during his infancy. Before he gave himself to the

public, he calmly waited till his genius had attained its full maturity, and he was more than forty years of age, when a grateful regard for the memory of the virtuous Agricola extorted from him the most early of those historical compositions which will delight and instruct the most distant posterity. After making a trial of his strength in the life of agricola and the description of Germany, he conceived, and at length executed, a more arduous work; the history of Rome, in thirty books, from the fall of Nero to the accession of Nerva. The administration

of Nerva introduced an age of justice and propriety, which Tacitus had destined for the occupation of his old age; but when he took a nearer

view of his subject, judging, perhaps, that it was a more honorable or a less invidious office to record the vices of past tyrants, than to celebrate the virtues of a reigning monarch, he chose rather to relate,

under the form of annals, the actions of the four immediate successors

of Augustus. To collect, to dispose, and to adorn a series of fourscore

years, in an immortal work, every sentence of which is pregnant with the deepest observations and the most lively images, was an undertaking

sufficient to exercise the genius of Tacitus himself during the greatest

part of his life. In the last years of the reign of Trajan, whilst the

victorious monarch extended the power of Rome beyond its ancient limits, the historian was describing, in the second and fourth books of his annals, the tyranny of Tiberius; and the emperor Hadrian must have

succeeded to the throne, before Tacitus, in the regular prosecution of

his work, could relate the fire of the capital, and the cruelty of Nero towards the unfortunate Christians. At the distance of sixty years, it was the duty of the annalist to adopt the narratives of contemporaries; but it was natural for the philosopher to indulge himself in the description of the origin, the progress, and the character of the new

sect, not so much according to the knowledge or prejudices of the age

of Nero, as according to those of the time of Hadrian. 3 Tacitus very frequently trusts to the curiosity or reflection of his readers to

supply those intermediate circumstances and ideas, which, in his extreme conciseness, he has thought proper to suppress. We may therefore presume to imagine some probable cause which could direct the cruelty of Nero against the Christians of Rome, whose obscurity, as well as innocence,

should have shielded them from his indignation, and even from his

notice. The Jews, who were numerous in the capital, and oppressed in their own country, were a much fitter object for the suspicions of the emperor and of the people: nor did it seem unlikely that a vanquished

nation, who already discovered their abhorrence of the Roman yoke, might

have recourse to the most atrocious means of gratifying their implacable

revenge. But the Jews possessed very powerful advocates in the palace, and even in the heart of the tyrant; his wife and mistress, the beautiful Poppæa, and a favorite player of the race of Abraham, who had already employed their intercession in behalf of the obnoxious people.

In their room it was necessary to offer some other victims, and it might easily be suggested that, although the genuine followers of Moses were

innocent of the fire of Rome, there had arisen among them a new and

pernicious sect of Galilæans, which was capable of the most horrid crimes. Under the appellation of Galilæans, two distinctions of men were confounded, the most opposite to each other in their manners and principles; the disciples who had embraced the faith of Jesus of

Nazareth, and the zealots who had followed the standard of Judas the

Gaulonite. The former were the friends, the latter were the enemies, of

human kind; and the only resemblance between them consisted in the same

inflexible constancy, which, in the defence of their cause, rendered them insensible of death and tortures. The followers of Judas, who

impelled their countrymen into rebellion, were soon buried under the

ruins of Jerusalem; whilst those of Jesus, known by the more celebrated

name of Christians, diffused themselves over the Roman empire. How

natural was it for Tacitus, in the time of Hadrian, to appropriate to the Christians the guilt and the sufferings, \* which he might, with far

greater truth and justice, have attributed to a sect whose odious memory was almost extinguished! 4. Whatever opinion may be entertained of this conjecture, (for it is no more than a conjecture,) it is evident that the effect, as well as the cause, of Nero's persecution, was confined to the walls of Rome, that the religious tenets of the Galilæans or christians, were never made a subject of punishment, or even of inquiry; and that, as the idea of their sufferings was for a long time connected with the idea of cruelty and injustice, the moderation of succeeding

princes inclined them to spare a sect, oppressed by a tyrant, whose rage

had been usually directed against virtue and innocence.

It is somewhat remarkable that the flames of war consumed, almost at the same time, the temple of Jerusalem and the Capitol of Rome; and it appears no less singular, that the tribute which devotion had destined to the former, should have been converted by the power of an assaulting

victor to restore and adorn the splendor of the latter. The emperors

levied a general capitation tax on the Jewish people; and although the

sum assessed on the head of each individual was inconsiderable, the use for which it was designed, and the severity with which it was exacted, were considered as an intolerable grievance. Since the officers of the

revenue extended their unjust claim to many persons who were strangers to the blood or religion of the Jews, it was impossible that the christians, who had so often sheltered themselves under the shade of the

synagogue, should now escape this rapacious persecution. Anxious as they were to avoid the slightest infection of idolatry, their conscience forbade them to contribute to the honor of that dæmon who had assumed the character of the Capitoline Jupiter. As a very numerous though declining party among the Christians still adhered to the law of Moses, their efforts to dissemble their Jewish origin were detected by the decisive test of circumcision; nor were the Roman magistrates at leisure to inquire into the difference of their religious tenets. Among the christians who were brought before the tribunal of the emperor, or, as it seems more probable, before that of the procurator of Judæa, two

persons are said to have appeared, distinguished by their extraction, which was more truly noble than that of the greatest monarchs. These were the grandsons of St. Jude the apostle, who himself was the brother

of Jesus Christ. Their natural pretensions to the throne of David might

perhaps attract the respect of the people, and excite the jealousy of the governor; but the meanness of their garb, and the simplicity of their answers, soon convinced him that they were neither desirous

nor capable of disturbing the peace of the Roman empire. They frankly confessed their royal origin, and their near relation to the Messiah; but they disclaimed any temporal views, and professed that his kingdom, which they devoutly expected, was purely of a spiritual and angelic

nature. When they were examined concerning their fortune and occupation, they showed their hands, hardened with daily labor, and declared that they derived their whole subsistence from the cultivation of a farm near the village of Cocaba, of the extent of about twenty-four English acres, and of the value of nine thousand drachms, or three hundred pounds

sterling. The grandsons of St. Jude were dismissed with compassion and contempt.

but although the obscurity of the house of David might protect them from the suspicions of a tyrant, the present greatness of his own family alarmed the pusillanimous temper of Domitian, which could only be appeased by the blood of those Romans whom he either feared, or hated,

or esteemed. Of the two sons of his uncle Flavius Sabinus, the elder was

soon convicted of treasonable intentions, and the younger, who bore the name of Flavius Clemens, was indebted for his safety to his want

of courage and ability. The emperor for a long time, distinguished so

harmless a kinsman by his favor and protection, bestowed on him his own

niece Domitilla, adopted the children of that marriage to the hope

of the succession, and invested their father with the honors of the consulship.

but he had scarcely finished the term of his annual magistracy, when, on a slight pretence, he was condemned and executed; Domitilla was banished to a desolate island on the coast of Campania; and sentences either of death or of confiscation were pronounced against a great number of who were involved in the same accusation. The guilt imputed to their charge was that of Atheism and Jewish manners; a singular association of ideas, which cannot with any propriety be applied except to the Christians, as they were obscurely and imperfectly viewed by the magistrates and by the writers of that period. On the strength of so probable an

interpretation, and too eagerly admitting the suspicions of a tyrant as an evidence of their honorable crime, the church has placed both Clemens and Domitilla among its first martyrs, and has branded the cruelty of domitian with the name of the second persecution. But this persecution

(if it deserves that epithet) was of no long duration. A few months after the death of Clemens, and the banishment of Domitilla, Stephen, a freedman belonging to the latter, who had enjoyed the favor, but who

had not surely embraced the faith, of his mistress, \* assassinated the emperor in his palace. The memory of Domitian was condemned by the

senate; his acts were rescinded; his exiles recalled; and under the

gentle administration of Nerva, while the innocent were restored to their rank and fortunes, even the most guilty either obtained pardon or escaped punishment.

II. About ten years afterwards, under the reign of Trajan, the younger

Pliny was intrusted by his friend and master with the government of bithynia and Pontus. He soon found himself at a loss to determine by what rule of justice or of law he should direct his conduct in the execution of an office the most repugnant to his humanity. Pliny had

never assisted at any judicial proceedings against the Christians, with whose lame alone he seems to be acquainted; and he was totally

uninformed with regard to the nature of their guilt, the method of their conviction, and the degree of their punishment. In this perplexity he

had recourse to his usual expedient, of submitting to the wisdom of trajan an impartial, and, in some respects, a favorable account of the

new superstition, requesting the emperor, that he would condescend to

resolve his doubts, and to instruct his ignorance. The life of Pliny had been employed in the acquisition of learning, and in the business of the world. Since the age of nineteen he had pleaded with distinction in the tribunals of Rome, filled a place in the senate, had been invested with the honors of the consulship, and had formed very numerous connections with every order of men, both in Italy and in the provinces. From his

ignorance therefore we may derive some useful information. We may assure

ourselves, that when he accepted the government of Bithynia, there were no general laws or decrees of the senate in force against the christians; that neither Trajan nor any of his virtuous predecessors, whose edicts were received into the civil and criminal jurisprudence,

had publicly declared their intentions concerning the new sect; and that whatever proceedings had been carried on against the Christians, there were none of sufficient weight and authority to establish a precedent for the conduct of a Roman magistrate.

chapter XVI: Conduct Towards The Christians, From Nero To constantine.--Part III.

the answer of Trajan, to which the Christians of the succeeding age have frequently appealed, discovers as much regard for justice and humanity as could be reconciled with his mistaken notions of religious policy.

Instead of displaying the implacable zeal of an inquisitor, anxious to discover the most minute particles of heresy, and exulting in the number

of his victims, the emperor expresses much more solicitude to protect the security of the innocent, than to prevent the escape of the guilty.

He acknowledged the difficulty of fixing any general plan; but he lays down two salutary rules, which often afforded relief and support to the distressed Christians. Though he directs the magistrates to punish such

persons as are legally convicted, he prohibits them, with a very

humane inconsistency, from making any inquiries concerning the supposed criminals. Nor was the magistrate allowed to proceed on every kind of

information. Anonymous charges the emperor rejects, as too repugnant to the equity of his government; and he strictly requires, for the conviction of those to whom the guilt of Christianity is imputed, the

positive evidence of a fair and open accuser. It is likewise probable, that the persons who assumed so invidiuous an office, were obliged to declare the grounds of their suspicions, to specify (both in respect to time and place) the secret assemblies, which their Christian adversary

had frequented, and to disclose a great number of circumstances, which were concealed with the most vigilant jealousy from the eye of the

profane. If they succeeded in their prosecution, they were exposed to the resentment of a considerable and active party, to the censure of the

more liberal portion of mankind, and to the ignominy which, in every age and country, has attended the character of an informer. If, on the contrary, they failed in their proofs, they incurred the severe and

perhaps capital penalty, which, according to a law published by the emperor Hadrian, was inflicted on those who falsely attributed to their fellow-citizens the crime of Christianity. The violence of personal or

superstitious animosity might sometimes prevail over the most natural apprehensions of disgrace and danger but it cannot surely be imagined, that accusations of so unpromising an appearance were either lightly or frequently undertaken by the Pagan subjects of the Roman empire. \*

the expedient which was employed to elude the prudence of the laws, affords a sufficient proof how effectually they disappointed the

mischievous designs of private malice or superstitious zeal. In a large and tumultuous assembly, the restraints of fear and shame, so forcible

on the minds of individuals, are deprived of the greatest part of their

influence. The pious Christian, as he was desirous to obtain, or to escape, the glory of martyrdom, expected, either with impatience or with terror, the stated returns of the public games and festivals. On those occasions the inhabitants of the great cities of the empire were collected in the circus or the theatre, where every circumstance of the

place, as well as of the ceremony, contributed to kindle their devotion, and to extinguish their humanity. Whilst the numerous spectators, crowned with garlands, perfumed with incense, purified with the blood

of victims, and surrounded with the altars and statues of their tutelar deities, resigned themselves to the enjoyment of pleasures, which they considered as an essential part of their religious worship, they

recollected, that the Christians alone abhorred the gods of mankind, and by their absence and melancholy on these solemn festivals, seemed to insult or to lament the public felicity. If the empire had been afflicted by any recent calamity, by a plague, a famine, or an

unsuccessful war; if the Tyber had, or if the Nile had not, risen beyond

its banks; if the earth had shaken, or if the temperate order of the

seasons had been interrupted, the superstitious Pagans were convinced that the crimes and the impiety of the Christians, who were spared by the excessive lenity of the government, had at length provoked the divine justice. It was not among a licentious and exasperated populace, that the forms of legal proceedings could be observed; it was not in an amphitheatre, stained with the blood of wild beasts and gladiators, that the voice of compassion could be heard. The impatient clamors of the

multitude denounced the Christians as the enemies of gods and men, doomed them to the severest tortures, and venturing to accuse by name

some of the most distinguished of the new sectaries, required with

irresistible vehemence that they should be instantly apprehended and cast to the lions. The provincial governors and magistrates who

presided in the public spectacles were usually inclined to gratify the

inclinations, and to appease the rage, of the people, by the sacrifice

of a few obnoxious victims. But the wisdom of the emperors protected the church from the danger of these tumultuous clamors and irregular accusations, which they justly censured as repugnant both to the firmness and to the equity of their administration. The edicts of

Hadrian and of Antoninus Pius expressly declared, that the voice of the

multitude should never be admitted as legal evidence to convict or to

punish those unfortunate persons who had embraced the enthusiasm of the christians.

III. Punishment was not the inevitable consequence of conviction, and the Christians, whose guilt was the most clearly proved by the testimony

of witnesses, or even by their voluntary confession, still retained in their own power the alternative of life or death. It was not so much the

past offence, as the actual resistance, which excited the indignation

of the magistrate. He was persuaded that he offered them an easy pardon,

since, if they consented to cast a few grains of incense upon the altar, they were dismissed from the tribunal in safety and with applause. It was esteemed the duty of a humane judge to endeavor to reclaim, rather than to punish, those deluded enthusiasts. Varying his tone according to the age, the sex, or the situation of the prisoners, he frequently condescended to set before their eyes every circumstance which could

render life more pleasing, or death more terrible; and to solicit, nay, to entreat, them, that they would show some compassion to themselves, to their families, and to their friends. If threats and persuasions proved

ineffectual, he had often recourse to violence; the scourge and the rack were called in to supply the deficiency of argument, and every art of cruelty was employed to subdue such inflexible, and, as it appeared to the Pagans, such criminal, obstinacy. The ancient apologists of christianity have censured, with equal truth and severity, the irregular conduct of their persecutors who, contrary to every principle of

judicial proceeding, admitted the use of torture, in order to obtain,

not a confession, but a denial, of the crime which was the object of their inquiry. The monks of succeeding ages, who, in their peaceful

solitudes, entertained themselves with diversifying the deaths and

sufferings of the primitive martyrs, have frequently invented torments

of a much more refined and ingenious nature. In particular, it has

pleased them to suppose, that the zeal of the Roman magistrates, disdaining every consideration of moral virtue or public decency, endeavored to seduce those whom they were unable to vanquish, and that by their orders the most brutal violence was offered to those whom they found it impossible to seduce. It is related, that females, who were

prepared to despise death, were sometimes condemned to a more severe trial, and called upon to determine whether they set a higher value

on their religion or on their chastity. The youths to whose licentious embraces they were abandoned, received a solemn exhortation from the

judge, to exert their most strenuous efforts to maintain the honor of

Venus against the impious virgin who refused to burn incense on her altars. Their violence, however, was commonly disappointed, and the

seasonable interposition of some miraculous power preserved the chaste

spouses of Christ from the dishonor even of an involuntary defeat. We

should not indeed neglect to remark, that the more ancient as well as authentic memorials of the church are seldom polluted with these extravagant and indecent fictions.

the total disregard of truth and probability in the representation of these primitive martyrdoms was occasioned by a very natural mistake. The ecclesiastical writers of the fourth or fifth centuries ascribed to the

magistrates of Rome the same degree of implacable and unrelenting zeal which filled their own breasts against the heretics or the idolaters

of their own times. It is not improbable that some of those persons who were raised to the dignities of the empire, might have imbibed the

prejudices of the populace, and that the cruel disposition of others

might occasionally be stimulated by motives of avarice or of personal

resentment. But it is certain, and we may appeal to the grateful confessions of the first Christians, that the greatest part of those

magistrates who exercised in the provinces the authority of the emperor,

or of the senate, and to whose hands alone the jurisdiction of life and death was intrusted, behaved like men of polished manners and liberal education, who respected the rules of justice, and who were conversant with the precepts of philosophy. They frequently declined the odious task of persecution, dismissed the charge with contempt, or suggested to the accused Christian some legal evasion, by which he might elude the

severity of the laws. Whenever they were invested with a discretionary

power, they used it much less for the oppression, than for the relief and benefit of the afflicted church. They were far from condemning all the Christians who were accused before their tribunal, and very far from punishing with death all those who were convicted of an obstinate adherence to the new superstition. Contenting themselves, for the most

part, with the milder chastisements of imprisonment, exile, or slavery

in the mines, they left the unhappy victims of their justice some reason to hope, that a prosperous event, the accession, the marriage, or the triumph of an emperor, might speedily restore them, by a general pardon, to their former state. The martyrs, devoted to immediate execution by the Roman magistrates, appear to have been selected from the most

opposite extremes. They were either bishops and presbyters, the persons the most distinguished among the Christians by their rank and influence, and whose example might strike terror into the whole sect; or else they were the meanest and most abject among them, particularly those of the

servile condition, whose lives were esteemed of little value, and whose sufferings were viewed by the ancients with too careless an

indifference. The learned Origen, who, from his experience as well as

reading, was intimately acquainted with the history of the Christians, declares, in the most express terms, that the number of martyrs was very

inconsiderable. His authority would alone be sufficient to annihilate that formidable army of martyrs, whose relics, drawn for the most part from the catacombs of Rome, have replenished so many churches, and whose

marvellous achievements have been the subject of so many volumes of

Holy Romance. But the general assertion of Origen may be explained and confirmed by the particular testimony of his friend Dionysius, who, in the immense city of Alexandria, and under the rigorous persecution

of Decius, reckons only ten men and seven women who suffered for the

profession of the Christian name.

during the same period of persecution, the zealous, the eloquent, the ambitious Cyprian governed the church, not only of Carthage, but even of africa. He possessed every quality which could engage the reverence

of the faithful, or provoke the suspicions and resentment of the Pagan

magistrates. His character as well as his station seemed to mark out that holy prelate as the most distinguished object of envy and danger. the experience, however, of the life of Cyprian, is sufficient to prove that our fancy has exaggerated the perilous situation of a Christian bishop; and the dangers to which he was exposed were less imminent than those which temporal ambition is always prepared to encounter in the

pursuit of honors. Four Roman emperors, with their families, their favorites, and their adherents, perished by the sword in the space of ten years, during which the bishop of Carthage guided by his authority and eloquence the councils of the African church. It was only in the third year of his administration, that he had reason, during a few

months, to apprehend the severe edicts of Decius, the vigilance of the

magistrate and the clamors of the multitude, who loudly demanded, that cyprian, the leader of the Christians, should be thrown to the lions.

Prudence suggested the necessity of a temporary retreat, and the voice

of prudence was obeyed. He withdrew himself into an obscure solitude, from whence he could maintain a constant correspondence with the clergy and people of Carthage; and, concealing himself till the tempest was

past, he preserved his life, without relinquishing either his power or

his reputation. His extreme caution did not, however, escape the censure

of the more rigid Christians, who lamented, or the reproaches of his

personal enemies, who insulted, a conduct which they considered as a pusillanimous and criminal desertion of the most sacred duty. The

propriety of reserving himself for the future exigencies of the church, the example of several holy bishops, and the divine admonitions, which, as he declares himself, he frequently received in visions and ecstacies, were the reasons alleged in his justification. But his best apology

may be found in the cheerful resolution, with which, about eight years afterwards, he suffered death in the cause of religion. The authentic

history of his martyrdom has been recorded with unusual candor and

impartiality. A short abstract, therefore, of its most important circumstances, will convey the clearest information of the spirit, and

of the forms, of the Roman persecutions.

chapter XVI: Conduct Towards The Christians, From Nero To constantine.--Part IV.

when Valerian was consul for the third, and Gallienus for the fourth time, Paternus, proconsul of Africa, summoned Cyprian to appear in

his private council-chamber. He there acquainted him with the Imperial

mandate which he had just received, that those who had abandoned the Roman religion should immediately return to the practice of the ceremonies of their ancestors. Cyprian replied without hesitation, that

he was a Christian and a bishop, devoted to the worship of the true and

only Deity, to whom he offered up his daily supplications for the safety and prosperity of the two emperors, his lawful sovereigns. With modest confidence he pleaded the privilege of a citizen, in refusing to give any answer to some invidious and indeed illegal questions which the

proconsul had proposed. A sentence of banishment was pronounced as the

penalty of Cyprian's disobedience; and he was conducted without delay to Curubis, a free and maritime city of Zeugitania, in a pleasant

situation, a fertile territory, and at the distance of about forty miles from Carthage. The exiled bishop enjoyed the conveniences of life and the consciousness of virtue. His reputation was diffused over Africa and

Italy; an account of his behavior was published for the edification of the Christian world; and his solitude was frequently interrupted by the

letters, the visits, and the congratulations of the faithful. On the arrival of a new proconsul in the province the fortune of Cyprian appeared for some time to wear a still more favorable aspect. He was

recalled from banishment; and though not yet permitted to return to carthage, his own gardens in the neighborhood of the capital were assigned for the place of his residence.

at length, exactly one year after Cyprian was first apprehended,

Galerius Maximus, proconsul of Africa, received the Imperial warrant for the execution of the Christian teachers. The bishop of Carthage was

sensible that he should be singled out for one of the first victims; and the frailty of nature tempted him to withdraw himself, by a

secret flight, from the danger and the honor of martyrdom; \* but soon

recovering that fortitude which his character required, he returned to

his gardens, and patiently expected the ministers of death. Two officers

of rank, who were intrusted with that commission, placed Cyprian between them in a chariot, and as the proconsul was not then at leisure, they conducted him, not to a prison, but to a private house in Carthage, which belonged to one of them. An elegant supper was provided for the entertainment of the bishop, and his Christian friends were permitted for the last time to enjoy his society, whilst the streets were filled with a multitude of the faithful, anxious and alarmed at the approaching fate of their spiritual father. In the morning he appeared before the tribunal of the proconsul, who, after informing himself of the name and

situation of Cyprian, commanded him to offer sacrifice, and pressed

him to reflect on the consequences of his disobedience. The refusal of cyprian was firm and decisive; and the magistrate, when he had taken the

opinion of his council, pronounced with some reluctance the sentence of death. It was conceived in the following terms: "That Thascius Cyprianus

should be immediately beheaded, as the enemy of the gods of Rome, and as the chief and ringleader of a criminal association, which he had seduced

into an impious resistance against the laws of the most holy emperors,

Valerian and Gallienus." The manner of his execution was the mildest and least painful that could be inflicted on a person convicted of any capital offence; nor was the use of torture admitted to obtain from the bishop of Carthage either the recantation of his principles or the discovery of his accomplices.

as soon as the sentence was proclaimed, a general cry of "We will die with him," arose at once among the listening multitude of Christians who waited before the palace gates. The generous effusions of their zeal and their affection were neither serviceable to Cyprian nor dangerous to themselves. He was led away under a guard of tribunes and centurions, without resistance and without insult, to the place of his execution, a spacious and level plain near the city, which was already filled with

great numbers of spectators. His faithful presbyters and deacons were

permitted to accompany their holy bishop. \* They assisted him in

laying aside his upper garment, spread linen on the ground to catch the precious relics of his blood, and received his orders to bestow five-and-twenty pieces of gold on the executioner. The martyr then covered his face with his hands, and at one blow his head was separated from his body. His corpse remained during some hours exposed to the curiosity of the Gentiles: but in the night it was removed, and transported in a triumphal procession, and with a splendid illumination, to the burial-place of the Christians. The funeral of Cyprian was

publicly celebrated without receiving any interruption from the Roman

magistrates; and those among the faithful, who had performed the last

offices to his person and his memory, were secure from the danger of

inquiry or of punishment. It is remarkable, that of so great a multitude

of bishops in the province of Africa, Cyprian was the first who was esteemed worthy to obtain the crown of martyrdom.

It was in the choice of Cyprian, either to die a martyr, or to live an apostate; but on the choice depended the alternative of honor or infamy. could we suppose that the bishop of Carthage had employed the profession

of the Christian faith only as the instrument of his avarice or ambition, it was still incumbent on him to support the character he had assumed; and if he possessed the smallest degree of manly fortitude,

rather to expose himself to the most cruel tortures, than by a single act to exchange the reputation of a whole life, for the abhorrence of

his Christian brethren, and the contempt of the Gentile world. But if the zeal of Cyprian was supported by the sincere conviction of the truth

of those doctrines which he preached, the crown of martyrdom must have appeared to him as an object of desire rather than of terror. It is

not easy to extract any distinct ideas from the vague though eloquent declamations of the Fathers, or to ascertain the degree of immortal

glory and happiness which they confidently promised to those who were

so fortunate as to shed their blood in the cause of religion. They

inculcated with becoming diligence, that the fire of martyrdom supplied every defect and expiated every sin; that while the souls of ordinary christians were obliged to pass through a slow and painful purification, the triumphant sufferers entered into the immediate fruition of eternal bliss, where, in the society of the patriarchs, the apostles, and the

prophets, they reigned with Christ, and acted as his assessors in the

universal judgment of mankind. The assurance of a lasting reputation

upon earth, a motive so congenial to the vanity of human nature, often

served to animate the courage of the martyrs. The honors which Rome or athens bestowed on those citizens who had fallen in the cause of their country, were cold and unmeaning demonstrations of respect, when compared with the ardent gratitude and devotion which the primitive church expressed towards the victorious champions of the faith. The annual commemoration of their virtues and sufferings was observed as a

sacred ceremony, and at length terminated in religious worship. Among the Christians who had publicly confessed their religious principles, those who (as it very frequently happened) had been dismissed from the tribunal or the prisons of the Pagan magistrates, obtained such honors as were justly due to their imperfect martyrdom and their generous

resolution. The most pious females courted the permission of imprinting

kisses on the fetters which they had worn, and on the wounds which they

had received. Their persons were esteemed holy, their decisions were admitted with deference, and they too often abused, by their spiritual

pride and licentious manners, the preeminence which their zeal and

intrepidity had acquired. Distinctions like these, whilst they display the exalted merit, betray the inconsiderable number of those who

suffered, and of those who died, for the profession of Christianity.

the sober discretion of the present age will more readily censure than admire, but can more easily admire than imitate, the fervor of the first Christians, who, according to the lively expressions of

Sulpicius Severus, desired martyrdom with more eagerness than his

own contemporaries solicited a bishopric. The epistles which Ignatius composed as he was carried in chains through the cities of Asia, breathe

sentiments the most repugnant to the ordinary feelings of human nature.

He earnestly beseeches the Romans, that when he should be exposed in the amphitheatre, they would not, by their kind but unseasonable

intercession, deprive him of the crown of glory; and he declares his

resolution to provoke and irritate the wild beasts which might be employed as the instruments of his death. Some stories are related

of the courage of martyrs, who actually performed what Ignatius had

intended; who exasperated the fury of the lions, pressed the executioner to hasten his office, cheerfully leaped into the fires which were

kindled to consume them, and discovered a sensation of joy and pleasure

in the midst of the most exquisite tortures. Several examples have been

preserved of a zeal impatient of those restraints which the emperors

had provided for the security of the church. The Christians sometimes

supplied by their voluntary declaration the want of an accuser, rudely disturbed the public service of paganism, and rushing in crowds round the tribunal of the magistrates, called upon them to pronounce and to

inflict the sentence of the law. The behavior of the Christians was too

remarkable to escape the notice of the ancient philosophers; but they

seem to have considered it with much less admiration than astonishment.

Incapable of conceiving the motives which sometimes transported the fortitude of believers beyond the bounds of prudence or reason, they treated such an eagerness to die as the strange result of obstinate despair, of stupid insensibility, or of superstitious frenzy. "Unhappy

men!" exclaimed the proconsul Antoninus to the Christians of Asia;

"unhappy men! if you are thus weary of your lives, is it so difficult for you to find ropes and precipices?" He was extremely cautious (as it

is observed by a learned and pious historian) of punishing men who had found no accusers but themselves, the Imperial laws not having made any provision for so unexpected a case: condemning therefore a few as a warning to their brethren, he dismissed the multitude with indignation and contempt. Notwithstanding this real or affected disdain, the

intrepid constancy of the faithful was productive of more salutary effects on those minds which nature or grace had disposed for the easy

reception of religious truth. On these melancholy occasions, there were

many among the Gentiles who pitied, who admired, and who were converted. the generous enthusiasm was communicated from the sufferer to the

spectators; and the blood of martyrs, according to a well-known

observation, became the seed of the church.

but although devotion had raised, and eloquence continued to inflame, this fever of the mind, it insensibly gave way to the more natural hopes and fears of the human heart, to the love of life, the apprehension

of pain, and the horror of dissolution. The more prudent rulers of the church found themselves obliged to restrain the indiscreet ardor of their followers, and to distrust a constancy which too often abandoned them in the hour of trial. As the lives of the faithful became less

mortified and austere, they were every day less ambitious of the honors

of martyrdom; and the soldiers of Christ, instead of distinguishing themselves by voluntary deeds of heroism, frequently deserted their

post, and fled in confusion before the enemy whom it was their duty to

resist. There were three methods, however, of escaping the flames of

persecution, which were not attended with an equal degree of guilt: first, indeed, was generally allowed to be innocent; the second was of a doubtful, or at least of a venial, nature; but the third implied a direct and criminal apostasy from the Christian faith.

I. A modern inquisitor would hear with surprise, that whenever an

information was given to a Roman magistrate of any person within his

jurisdiction who had embraced the sect of the Christians, the charge was communicated to the party accused, and that a convenient time was allowed him to settle his domestic concerns, and to prepare an answer to the crime which was imputed to him. If he entertained any doubt of his

own constancy, such a delay afforded him the opportunity of preserving

his life and honor by flight, of withdrawing himself into some obscure

retirement or some distant province, and of patiently expecting the

return of peace and security. A measure so consonant to reason was soon authorized by the advice and example of the most holy prelates; and

seems to have been censured by few except by the Montanists, who deviated into heresy by their strict and obstinate adherence to the

rigor of ancient discipline. II. The provincial governors, whose zeal was less prevalent than their avarice, had countenanced the practice of

selling certificates, (or libels, as they were called,) which attested, that the persons therein mentioned had complied with the laws, and

sacrificed to the Roman deities. By producing these false declarations, the opulent and timid Christians were enabled to silence the malice of an informer, and to reconcile in some measure their safety with their

religion. A slight penance atoned for this profane dissimulation. \* III.

In every persecution there were great numbers of unworthy Christians who

publicly disowned or renounced the faith which they had professed; and who confirmed the sincerity of their abjuration, by the legal acts of burning incense or of offering sacrifices. Some of these apostates had

yielded on the first menace or exhortation of the magistrate; whilst the patience of others had been subdued by the length and repetition

of tortures. The affrighted countenances of some betrayed their inward

remorse, while others advanced with confidence and alacrity to the altars of the gods. But the disguise which fear had imposed, subsisted

no longer than the present danger. As soon as the severity of the

persecution was abated, the doors of the churches were assailed by the returning multitude of penitents who detested their idolatrous

submission, and who solicited with equal ardor, but with various

success, their readmission into the society of Christians.

IV. Notwithstanding the general rules established for the conviction and punishment of the Christians, the fate of those sectaries, in an extensive and arbitrary government, must still in a great measure, have depended on their own behavior, the circumstances of the times, and the temper of their supreme as well as subordinate rulers. Zeal might

sometimes provoke, and prudence might sometimes avert or assuage, the

superstitious fury of the Pagans. A variety of motives might dispose the

provincial governors either to enforce or to relax the execution of the

laws; and of these motives the most forcible was their regard not only for the public edicts, but for the secret intentions of the emperor, a glance from whose eye was sufficient to kindle or to extinguish the flames of persecution. As often as any occasional severities were exercised in the different parts of the empire, the primitive Christians

lamented and perhaps magnified their own sufferings; but the celebrated

number of ten persecutions has been determined by the ecclesiastical writers of the fifth century, who possessed a more distinct view of the

prosperous or adverse fortunes of the church, from the age of Nero to that of Diocletian. The ingenious parallels of the ten plagues of Egypt, and of the ten horns of the Apocalypse, first suggested this calculation to their minds; and in their application of the faith of prophecy to the truth of history, they were careful to select those reigns which were

indeed the most hostile to the Christian cause. But these transient

persecutions served only to revive the zeal and to restore the discipline of the faithful; and the moments of extraordinary rigor were compensated by much longer intervals of peace and security. The

indifference of some princes, and the indulgence of others, permitted the Christians to enjoy, though not perhaps a legal, yet an actual and

public, toleration of their religion.

chapter XVI: Conduct Towards The Christians, From Nero To constantine.--Part V.

the apology of Tertullian contains two very ancient, very singular, but at the same time very suspicious, instances of Imperial clemency; the edicts published by Tiberius, and by Marcus Antoninus, and designed not

only to protect the innocence of the Christians, but even to proclaim those stupendous miracles which had attested the truth of their doctrine. The first of these examples is attended with some difficulties which might perplex a sceptical mind. We are required to believe, that

Pontius Pilate informed the emperor of the unjust sentence of death which he had pronounced against an innocent, and, as it appeared, a divine, person; and that, without acquiring the merit, he exposed

himself to the danger of martyrdom; that Tiberius, who avowed his contempt for all religion, immediately conceived the design of placing the Jewish Messiah among the gods of Rome; that his servile senate

ventured to disobey the commands of their master; that Tiberius, instead

of resenting their refusal, contented himself with protecting the christians from the severity of the laws, many years before such laws were enacted, or before the church had assumed any distinct name or existence; and lastly, that the memory of this extraordinary transaction was preserved in the most public and authentic records, which escaped the knowledge of the historians of Greece and Rome, and were only

visible to the eyes of an African Christian, who composed his apology

one hundred and sixty years after the death of Tiberius. The edict of

Marcus Antoninus is supposed to have been the effect of his devotion and

gratitude for the miraculous deliverance which he had obtained in the

Marcomannic war. The distress of the legions, the seasonable tempest of

rain and hail, of thunder and of lightning, and the dismay and defeat of the barbarians, have been celebrated by the eloquence of several Pagan writers. If there were any Christians in that army, it was natural that they should ascribe some merit to the fervent prayers, which, in the

moment of danger, they had offered up for their own and the public

safety. But we are still assured by monuments of brass and marble, by the Imperial medals, and by the Antonine column, that neither the prince

nor the people entertained any sense of this signal obligation, since they unanimously attribute their deliverance to the providence of

Jupiter, and to the interposition of Mercury. During the whole course of

his reign, Marcus despised the Christians as a philosopher, and punished them as a sovereign. \*

by a singular fatality, the hardships which they had endured under the

government of a virtuous prince, immediately ceased on the accession of a tyrant; and as none except themselves had experienced the injustice

of Marcus, so they alone were protected by the lenity of Commodus. The celebrated Marcia, the most favored of his concubines, and who at length contrived the murder of her Imperial lover, entertained a singular affection for the oppressed church; and though it was impossible that

she could reconcile the practice of vice with the precepts of the

gospel, she might hope to atone for the frailties of her sex and

profession by declaring herself the patroness of the Christians. Under the gracious protection of Marcia, they passed in safety the thirteen

years of a cruel tyranny; and when the empire was established in the

house of Severus, they formed a domestic but more honorable connection with the new court. The emperor was persuaded, that in a dangerous

sickness, he had derived some benefit, either spiritual or physical, from the holy oil, with which one of his slaves had anointed him. He always treated with peculiar distinction several persons of both sexes who had embraced the new religion. The nurse as well as the preceptor

of Caracalla were Christians; \* and if that young prince ever betrayed a

sentiment of humanity, it was occasioned by an incident, which, however trifling, bore some relation to the cause of Christianity. Under the

reign of Severus, the fury of the populace was checked; the rigor of ancient laws was for some time suspended; and the provincial governors were satisfied with receiving an annual present from the churches within their jurisdiction, as the price, or as the reward, of their moderation. the controversy concerning the precise time of the celebration of easter, armed the bishops of Asia and Italy against each other, and was considered as the most important business of this period of leisure and tranquillity. Nor was the peace of the church interrupted, till the

increasing numbers of proselytes seem at length to have attracted the attention, and to have alienated the mind of Severus. With the design of

restraining the progress of Christianity, he published an edict, which, though it was designed to affect only the new converts, could not be carried into strict execution, without exposing to danger and punishment the most zealous of their teachers and missionaries. In this mitigated

persecution we may still discover the indulgent spirit of Rome and of

Polytheism, which so readily admitted every excuse in favor of those who

practised the religious ceremonies of their fathers.

but the laws which Severus had enacted soon expired with the authority

of that emperor; and the Christians, after this accidental tempest, enjoyed a calm of thirty-eight years. Till this period they had usually

held their assemblies in private houses and sequestered places. They were now permitted to erect and consecrate convenient edifices for the

purpose of religious worship; to purchase lands, even at Rome itself, for the use of the community; and to conduct the elections of their ecclesiastical ministers in so public, but at the same time in so exemplary a manner, as to deserve the respectful attention of the

Gentiles. This long repose of the church was accompanied with dignity. the reigns of those princes who derived their extraction from the asiatic provinces, proved the most favorable to the Christians; the eminent persons of the sect, instead of being reduced to implore the

protection of a slave or concubine, were admitted into the palace in the

honorable characters of priests and philosophers; and their mysterious doctrines, which were already diffused among the people, insensibly attracted the curiosity of their sovereign. When the empress Mammæa

passed through Antioch, she expressed a desire of conversing with the celebrated Origen, the fame of whose piety and learning was spread over the East. Origen obeyed so flattering an invitation, and though he could not expect to succeed in the conversion of an artful and ambitious woman, she listened with pleasure to his eloquent exhortations, and

honorably dismissed him to his retirement in Palestine. The sentiments

of Mammæa were adopted by her son Alexander, and the philosophic devotion of that emperor was marked by a singular but injudicious regard for the Christian religion. In his domestic chapel he placed the statues

of Abraham, of Orpheus, of Apollonius, and of Christ, as an honor justly due to those respectable sages who had instructed mankind in the various

modes of addressing their homage to the supreme and universal Deity. a purer faith, as well as worship, was openly professed and practised among his household. Bishops, perhaps for the first time, were seen at court; and, after the death of Alexander, when the inhuman Maximin discharged his fury on the favorites and servants of his unfortunate benefactor, a great number of Christians of every rank and of both

sexes, were involved the promiscuous massacre, which, on their account,

has improperly received the name of Persecution. \*

Notwithstanding the cruel disposition of Maximin, the effects of his

resentment against the Christians were of a very local and temporary

nature, and the pious Origen, who had been proscribed as a devoted

victim, was still reserved to convey the truths of the gospel to the ear of monarchs. He addressed several edifying letters to the emperor

Philip, to his wife, and to his mother; and as soon as that prince, who was born in the neighborhood of Palestine, had usurped the Imperial

sceptre, the Christians acquired a friend and a protector. The public and even partial favor of Philip towards the sectaries of the new

religion, and his constant reverence for the ministers of the church,

gave some color to the suspicion, which prevailed in his own times, that the emperor himself was become a convert to the faith; and afforded

some grounds for a fable which was afterwards invented, that he had been purified by confession and penance from the guilt contracted by the

murder of his innocent predecessor. The fall of Philip introduced, with the change of masters, a new system of government, so oppressive to the Christians, that their former condition, ever since the time of domitian, was represented as a state of perfect freedom and security,

if compared with the rigorous treatment which they experienced under the

short reign of Decius. The virtues of that prince will scarcely allow

us to suspect that he was actuated by a mean resentment against the favorites of his predecessor; and it is more reasonable to believe, that

in the prosecution of his general design to restore the purity of Roman

manners, he was desirous of delivering the empire from what he condemned as a recent and criminal superstition. The bishops of the most considerable cities were removed by exile or death: the vigilance of the magistrates prevented the clergy of Rome during sixteen months from

proceeding to a new election; and it was the opinion of the Christians, that the emperor would more patiently endure a competitor for the

purple, than a bishop in the capital. Were it possible to suppose that the penetration of Decius had discovered pride under the disguise of

humility, or that he could foresee the temporal dominion which might

insensibly arise from the claims of spiritual authority, we might be

less surprised, that he should consider the successors of St. Peter, as the most formidable rivals to those of Augustus.

the administration of Valerian was distinguished by a levity and

inconstancy ill suited to the gravity of the Roman Censor. In the first

part of his reign, he surpassed in clemency those princes who had been

suspected of an attachment to the Christian faith. In the last three

years and a half, listening to the insinuations of a minister addicted to the superstitions of Egypt, he adopted the maxims, and imitated the

severity, of his predecessor Decius. The accession of Gallienus, which

increased the calamities of the empire, restored peace to the church; and the Christians obtained the free exercise of their religion by an edict addressed to the bishops, and conceived in such terms as seemed to acknowledge their office and public character. The ancient laws, without being formally repealed, were suffered to sink into oblivion; and

(excepting only some hostile intentions which are attributed to the emperor Aurelian ) the disciples of Christ passed above forty years in a state of prosperity, far more dangerous to their virtue than the

severest trials of persecution.

the story of Paul of Samosata, who filled the metropolitan see of antioch, while the East was in the hands of Odenathus and Zenobia, may

serve to illustrate the condition and character of the times. The wealth

of that prelate was a sufficient evidence of his guilt, since it was

neither derived from the inheritance of his fathers, nor acquired by the arts of honest industry. But Paul considered the service of the church as a very lucrative profession. His ecclesiastical jurisdiction was

venal and rapacious; he extorted frequent contributions from the most

opulent of the faithful, and converted to his own use a considerable

part of the public revenue. By his pride and luxury, the Christian

religion was rendered odious in the eyes of the Gentiles. His council chamber and his throne, the splendor with which he appeared in public, the suppliant crowd who solicited his attention, the multitude of

letters and petitions to which he dictated his answers, and the

perpetual hurry of business in which he was involved, were circumstances

much better suited to the state of a civil magistrate, than to the

humility of a primitive bishop. When he harangued his people from the

pulpit, Paul affected the figurative style and the theatrical gestures

of an Asiatic sophist, while the cathedral resounded with the loudest and most extravagant acclamations in the praise of his divine eloquence. against those who resisted his power, or refused to flatter his vanity, the prelate of Antioch was arrogant, rigid, and inexorable; but he

relaxed the discipline, and lavished the treasures of the church on

his dependent clergy, who were permitted to imitate their master in the

gratification of every sensual appetite. For Paul indulged himself

very freely in the pleasures of the table, and he had received into the episcopal palace two young and beautiful women as the constant companions of his leisure moments.

Notwithstanding these scandalous vices, if Paul of Samosata had

preserved the purity of the orthodox faith, his reign over the capital

of Syria would have ended only with his life; and had a seasonable

persecution intervened, an effort of courage might perhaps have placed

him in the rank of saints and martyrs. \* Some nice and subtle errors, which he imprudently adopted and obstinately maintained, concerning the doctrine of the Trinity, excited the zeal and indignation of the Eastern churches. From Egypt to the Euxine Sea, the bishops were in arms and

in motion. Several councils were held, confutations were published, excommunications were pronounced, ambiguous explanations were by turns accepted and refused, treaties were concluded and violated, and at

length Paul of Samosata was degraded from his episcopal character, by the sentence of seventy or eighty bishops, who assembled for that

purpose at Antioch, and who, without consulting the rights of the clergy

or people, appointed a successor by their own authority. The

manifest irregularity of this proceeding increased the numbers of the discontented faction; and as Paul, who was no stranger to the arts of courts, had insinuated himself into the favor of Zenobia, he maintained above four years the possession of the episcopal house and office. \* The

victory of Aurelian changed the face of the East, and the two contending

parties, who applied to each other the epithets of schism and heresy, were either commanded or permitted to plead their cause before the tribunal of the conqueror. This public and very singular trial affords a convincing proof that the existence, the property, the privileges, and the internal policy of the Christians, were acknowledged, if not by the

laws, at least by the magistrates, of the empire. As a Pagan and as a

soldier, it could scarcely be expected that Aurelian should enter

into the discussion, whether the sentiments of Paul or those of his adversaries were most agreeable to the true standard of the orthodox faith. His determination, however, was founded on the general principles

of equity and reason. He considered the bishops of Italy as the most

impartial and respectable judges among the Christians, and as soon as

he was informed that they had unanimously approved the sentence of the council, he acquiesced in their opinion, and immediately gave orders that Paul should be compelled to relinquish the temporal possessions belonging to an office, of which, in the judgment of his brethren, he

had been regularly deprived. But while we applaud the justice, we should

not overlook the policy, of Aurelian, who was desirous of restoring and cementing the dependence of the provinces on the capital, by every means which could bind the interest or prejudices of any part of his subjects.

amidst the frequent revolutions of the empire, the Christians still flourished in peace and prosperity; and notwithstanding a celebrated æra

of martyrs has been deduced from the accession of Diocletian, the

new system of policy, introduced and maintained by the wisdom of that

prince, continued, during more than eighteen years, to breathe the

mildest and most liberal spirit of religious toleration. The mind of diocletian himself was less adapted indeed to speculative inquiries, than to the active labors of war and government. His prudence rendered

him averse to any great innovation, and though his temper was not very

susceptible of zeal or enthusiasm, he always maintained an habitual

regard for the ancient deities of the empire. But the leisure of the two empresses, of his wife Prisca, and of Valeria, his daughter, permitted them to listen with more attention and respect to the truths of christianity, which in every age has acknowledged its important

obligations to female devotion. The principal eunuchs, Lucian and dorotheus, Gorgonius and Andrew, who attended the person, possessed the favor, and governed the household of Diocletian, protected by their

powerful influence the faith which they had embraced. Their example was

imitated by many of the most considerable officers of the palace, who,

in their respective stations, had the care of the Imperial ornaments,

of the robes, of the furniture, of the jewels, and even of the private treasury; and, though it might sometimes be incumbent on them to accompany the emperor when he sacrificed in the temple, they enjoyed, with their wives, their children, and their slaves, the free exercise

of the Christian religion. Diocletian and his colleagues frequently conferred the most important offices on those persons who avowed their abhorrence for the worship of the gods, but who had displayed abilities

proper for the service of the state. The bishops held an honorable rank

in their respective provinces, and were treated with distinction and

respect, not only by the people, but by the magistrates themselves. almost in every city, the ancient churches were found insufficient to contain the increasing multitude of proselytes; and in their place more

stately and capacious edifices were erected for the public worship of the faithful. The corruption of manners and principles, so forcibly

lamented by Eusebius, may be considered, not only as a consequence, but as a proof, of the liberty which the Christians enjoyed and abused

under the reign of Diocletian. Prosperity had relaxed the nerves of discipline. Fraud, envy, and malice prevailed in every congregation. The

presbyters aspired to the episcopal office, which every day became an

object more worthy of their ambition. The bishops, who contended with each other for ecclesiastical preeminence, appeared by their conduct to claim a secular and tyrannical power in the church; and the lively faith which still distinguished the Christians from the Gentiles, was shown

much less in their lives, than in their controversial writings.

Notwithstanding this seeming security, an attentive observer might discern some symptoms that threatened the church with a more violent

persecution than any which she had yet endured. The zeal and rapid

progress of the Christians awakened the Polytheists from their supine

indifference in the cause of those deities, whom custom and education

had taught them to revere. The mutual provocations of a religious war, which had already continued above two hundred years, exasperated the animosity of the contending parties. The Pagans were incensed at the

rashness of a recent and obscure sect, which presumed to accuse their countrymen of error, and to devote their ancestors to eternal misery. the habits of justifying the popular mythology against the invectives

of an implacable enemy, produced in their minds some sentiments of faith and reverence for a system which they had been accustomed to consider with the most careless levity. The supernatural powers assumed by the church inspired at the same time terror and emulation. The followers

of the established religion intrenched themselves behind a similar fortification of prodigies; invented new modes of sacrifice, of expiation, and of initiation; attempted to revive the credit of their expiring oracles; and listened with eager credulity to every impostor, who flattered their prejudices by a tale of wonders. Both parties seemed to acknowledge the truth of those miracles which were claimed by their adversaries; and while they were contented with ascribing them to the arts of magic, and to the power of dæmons, they mutually concurred in

restoring and establishing the reign of superstition. Philosophy, her

most dangerous enemy, was now converted into her most useful ally. The

groves of the academy, the gardens of Epicurus, and even the portico

of the Stoics, were almost deserted, as so many different schools of

scepticism or impiety; and many among the Romans were desirous that the writings of Cicero should be condemned and suppressed by the authority

of the senate. The prevailing sect of the new Platonicians judged

it prudent to connect themselves with the priests, whom perhaps they despised, against the Christians, whom they had reason to fear. These fashionable Philosophers prosecuted the design of extracting allegorical wisdom from the fictions of the Greek poets; instituted mysterious

rites of devotion for the use of their chosen disciples; recommended the worship of the ancient gods as the emblems or ministers of the Supreme deity, and composed against the faith of the gospel many elaborate treatises, which have since been committed to the flames by the prudence

of orthodox emperors.

chapter XVI: Conduct Towards The Christians, From Nero To constantine.--Part VI.

although the policy of Diocletian and the humanity of Constantius

inclined them to preserve inviolate the maxims of toleration, it was

soon discovered that their two associates, Maximian and Galerius, entertained the most implacable aversion for the name and religion of the Christians. The minds of those princes had never been enlightened by science; education had never softened their temper. They owed their

greatness to their swords, and in their most elevated fortune they still

retained their superstitious prejudices of soldiers and peasants. In the

general administration of the provinces they obeyed the laws which their benefactor had established; but they frequently found occasions of exercising within their camp and palaces a secret persecution, for which the imprudent zeal of the Christians sometimes offered the most specious

pretences. A sentence of death was executed upon Maximilianus, an african youth, who had been produced by his own father \*before the

magistrate as a sufficient and legal recruit, but who obstinately

persisted in declaring, that his conscience would not permit him to embrace the profession of a soldier. It could scarcely be expected that any government should suffer the action of Marcellus the Centurion to

pass with impunity. On the day of a public festival, that officer threw away his belt, his arms, and the ensigns of his office, and exclaimed with a loud voice, that he would obey none but Jesus Christ the eternal

King, and that he renounced forever the use of carnal weapons, and the

service of an idolatrous master. The soldiers, as soon as they recovered from their astonishment, secured the person of Marcellus. He was examined in the city of Tingi by the president of that part of

Mauritania; and as he was convicted by his own confession, he was condemned and beheaded for the crime of desertion. Examples of such a

nature savor much less of religious persecution than of martial or even civil law; but they served to alienate the mind of the emperors, to

justify the severity of Galerius, who dismissed a great number of christian officers from their employments; and to authorize the opinion, that a sect of enthusiastics, which avowed principles so repugnant to the public safety, must either remain useless, or would soon become dangerous, subjects of the empire.

after the success of the Persian war had raised the hopes and the

reputation of Galerius, he passed a winter with Diocletian in the palace

of Nicomedia; and the fate of Christianity became the object of their

secret consultations. The experienced emperor was still inclined to

pursue measures of lenity; and though he readily consented to exclude the Christians from holding any employments in the household or the army, he urged in the strongest terms the danger as well as cruelty

of shedding the blood of those deluded fanatics. Galerius at length extorted from him the permission of summoning a council, composed of a few persons the most distinguished in the civil and military departments

of the state. The important question was agitated in their presence, and those ambitious courtiers easily discerned, that it was incumbent

on them to second, by their eloquence, the importunate violence of the cæsar. It may be presumed, that they insisted on every topic which might

interest the pride, the piety, or the fears, of their sovereign in the destruction of Christianity. Perhaps they represented, that the glorious work of the deliverance of the empire was left imperfect, as long as an

independent people was permitted to subsist and multiply in the heart

of the provinces. The Christians, (it might specially be alleged,)

renouncing the gods and the institutions of Rome, had constituted a distinct republic, which might yet be suppressed before it had acquired any military force; but which was already governed by its own laws and

magistrates, was possessed of a public treasure, and was intimately connected in all its parts by the frequent assemblies of the bishops, to whose decrees their numerous and opulent congregations yielded an

implicit obedience. Arguments like these may seem to have determined the

reluctant mind of Diocletian to embrace a new system of persecution; but though we may suspect, it is not in our power to relate, the secret

intrigues of the palace, the private views and resentments, the jealousy

of women or eunuchs, and all those trifling but decisive causes which

so often influence the fate of empires, and the councils of the wisest

monarchs.

the pleasure of the emperors was at length signified to the Christians, who, during the course of this melancholy winter, had expected, with anxiety, the result of so many secret consultations. The twenty-third of february, which coincided with the Roman festival of the Terminalia, was appointed (whether from accident or design) to set bounds to the

progress of Christianity. At the earliest dawn of day, the Prætorian

præfect, accompanied by several generals, tribunes, and officers of the revenue, repaired to the principal church of Nicomedia, which was

situated on an eminence in the most populous and beautiful part of the city. The doors were instantly broke open; they rushed into the

sanctuary; and as they searched in vain for some visible object of worship, they were obliged to content themselves with committing to the flames the volumes of the holy Scripture. The ministers of Diocletian were followed by a numerous body of guards and pioneers, who marched in

order of battle, and were provided with all the instruments used in the destruction of fortified cities. By their incessant labor, a sacred edifice, which towered above the Imperial palace, and had long excited the indignation and envy of the Gentiles, was in a few hours levelled with the ground.

the next day the general edict of persecution was published; and though diocletian, still averse to the effusion of blood, had moderated the fury of Galerius, who proposed, that every one refusing to offer

sacrifice should immediately be burnt alive, the penalties inflicted on the obstinacy of the Christians might be deemed sufficiently rigorous and effectual. It was enacted, that their churches, in all the provinces

of the empire, should be demolished to their foundations; and the

punishment of death was denounced against all who should presume to

hold any secret assemblies for the purpose of religious worship. The

philosophers, who now assumed the unworthy office of directing the blind

zeal of persecution, had diligently studied the nature and genius of the christian religion; and as they were not ignorant that the speculative doctrines of the faith were supposed to be contained in the writings

of the prophets, of the evangelists, and of the apostles, they most

probably suggested the order, that the bishops and presbyters should deliver all their sacred books into the hands of the magistrates; who were commanded, under the severest penalties, to burn them in a public and solemn manner. By the same edict, the property of the church was at

once confiscated; and the several parts of which it might consist were either sold to the highest bidder, united to the Imperial domain, bestowed on the cities and corporations, or granted to the solicitations

of rapacious courtiers. After taking such effectual measures to abolish the worship, and to dissolve the government of the Christians, it was thought necessary to subject to the most intolerable hardships the condition of those perverse individuals who should still reject the

religion of nature, of Rome, and of their ancestors. Persons of a liberal birth were declared incapable of holding any honors or employments; slaves were forever deprived of the hopes of freedom, and the whole body of the people were put out of the protection of the law. the judges were authorized to hear and to determine every action that was brought against a Christian. But the Christians were not permitted to complain of any injury which they themselves had suffered; and thus those unfortunate sectaries were exposed to the severity, while they were excluded from the benefits, of public justice. This new species of

martyrdom, so painful and lingering, so obscure and ignominious, was,

perhaps, the most proper to weary the constancy of the faithful: nor can

it be doubted that the passions and interest of mankind were disposed on this occasion to second the designs of the emperors. But the policy of a well-ordered government must sometimes have interposed in behalf of the oppressed Christians; \* nor was it possible for the Roman princes entirely to remove the apprehension of punishment, or to connive at every act of fraud and violence, without exposing their own authority and the rest of their subjects to the most alarming dangers.

this edict was scarcely exhibited to the public view, in the most conspicuous place of Nicomedia, before it was torn down by the hands

of a Christian, who expressed at the same time, by the bitterest

invectives, his contempt as well as abhorrence for such impious and tyrannical governors. His offence, according to the mildest laws, amounted to treason, and deserved death. And if it be true that he was a person of rank and education, those circumstances could serve only to aggravate his guilt. He was burnt, or rather roasted, by a slow fire; and his executioners, zealous to revenge the personal insult which had been offered to the emperors, exhausted every refinement of cruelty, without being able to subdue his patience, or to alter the steady and

insulting smile which in his dying agonies he still preserved in his countenance. The Christians, though they confessed that his conduct

had not been strictly conformable to the laws of prudence, admired the divine fervor of his zeal; and the excessive commendations which they

lavished on the memory of their hero and martyr, contributed to fix a deep impression of terror and hatred in the mind of Diocletian.

His fears were soon alarmed by the view of a danger from which he very

narrowly escaped. Within fifteen days the palace of Nicomedia, and even the bed-chamber of Diocletian, were twice in flames; and though both times they were extinguished without any material damage, the singular

repetition of the fire was justly considered as an evident proof that it

had not been the effect of chance or negligence. The suspicion naturally fell on the Christians; and it was suggested, with some degree of

probability, that those desperate fanatics, provoked by their present

sufferings, and apprehensive of impending calamities, had entered into a conspiracy with their faithful brethren, the eunuchs of the

palace, against the lives of two emperors, whom they detested as the

irreconcilable enemies of the church of God. Jealousy and resentment

prevailed in every breast, but especially in that of Diocletian. A great

number of persons, distinguished either by the offices which they had filled, or by the favor which they had enjoyed, were thrown into prison. every mode of torture was put in practice, and the court, as well as city, was polluted with many bloody executions. But as it was found

impossible to extort any discovery of this mysterious transaction, it

seems incumbent on us either to presume the innocence, or to admire the

resolution, of the sufferers. A few days afterwards Galerius hastily withdrew himself from Nicomedia, declaring, that if he delayed his departure from that devoted palace, he should fall a sacrifice to the

rage of the Christians. The ecclesiastical historians, from whom alone we derive a partial and imperfect knowledge of this persecution, are at a loss how to account for the fears and dangers of the emperors. Two

of these writers, a prince and a rhetorician, were eye-witnesses of the fire of Nicomedia. The one ascribes it to lightning, and the divine wrath; the other affirms, that it was kindled by the malice of Galerius

himself.

as the edict against the Christians was designed for a general law of the whole empire, and as Diocletian and Galerius, though they might not wait for the consent, were assured of the concurrence, of the Western

princes, it would appear more consonant to our ideas of policy, that the

governors of all the provinces should have received secret instructions to publish, on one and the same day, this declaration of war within their respective departments. It was at least to be expected, that the convenience of the public highways and established posts would have enabled the emperors to transmit their orders with the utmost despatch from the palace of Nicomedia to the extremities of the Roman world; and that they would not have suffered fifty days to elapse, before the edict was published in Syria, and near four months before it was signified to the cities of Africa. This delay may perhaps be imputed to the cautious temper of Diocletian, who had yielded a reluctant consent to the

measures of persecution, and who was desirous of trying the experiment

under his more immediate eye, before he gave way to the disorders and discontent which it must inevitably occasion in the distant provinces. at first, indeed, the magistrates were restrained from the effusion

of blood; but the use of every other severity was permitted, and even recommended to their zeal; nor could the Christians, though they cheerfully resigned the ornaments of their churches, resolve to

interrupt their religious assemblies, or to deliver their sacred books to the flames. The pious obstinacy of Felix, an African bishop, appears to have embarrassed the subordinate ministers of the government. The curator of his city sent him in chains to the proconsul. The proconsul transmitted him to the Prætorian præfect of Italy; and Felix, who disdained even to give an evasive answer, was at length beheaded at

Venusia, in Lucania, a place on which the birth of Horace has conferred fame. This precedent, and perhaps some Imperial rescript, which was

issued in consequence of it, appeared to authorize the governors of

provinces, in punishing with death the refusal of the Christians to deliver up their sacred books. There were undoubtedly many persons who embraced this opportunity of obtaining the crown of martyrdom; but there were likewise too many who purchased an ignominious life, by discovering and betraying the holy Scripture into the hands of infidels. A great

number even of bishops and presbyters acquired, by this criminal compliance, the opprobrious epithet of Traditors; and their offence was

productive of much present scandal and of much future discord in the african church.

the copies as well as the versions of Scripture, were already so

multiplied in the empire, that the most severe inquisition could no

longer be attended with any fatal consequences; and even the sacrifice

of those volumes, which, in every congregation, were preserved for

public use, required the consent of some treacherous and unworthy christians. But the ruin of the churches was easily effected by the authority of the government, and by the labor of the Pagans. In some

provinces, however, the magistrates contented themselves with shutting

up the places of religious worship. In others, they more literally complied with the terms of the edict; and after taking away the doors, the benches, and the pulpit, which they burnt as it were in a funeral

pile, they completely demolished the remainder of the edifice. It

is perhaps to this melancholy occasion that we should apply a very

remarkable story, which is related with so many circumstances of variety and improbability, that it serves rather to excite than to satisfy

our curiosity. In a small town in Phrygia, of whose names as well as

situation we are left ignorant, it should seem that the magistrates and the body of the people had embraced the Christian faith; and as some

resistance might be apprehended to the execution of the edict, the

governor of the province was supported by a numerous detachment of

legionaries. On their approach the citizens threw themselves into the church, with the resolution either of defending by arms that sacred edifice, or of perishing in its ruins. They indignantly rejected the

notice and permission which was given them to retire, till the soldiers,

provoked by their obstinate refusal, set fire to the building on all

sides, and consumed, by this extraordinary kind of martyrdom, a great

number of Phrygians, with their wives and children.

Some slight disturbances, though they were suppressed almost as soon as excited, in Syria and the frontiers of Armenia, afforded the enemies of the church a very plausible occasion to insinuate, that those troubles

had been secretly fomented by the intrigues of the bishops, who

had already forgotten their ostentatious professions of passive and

unlimited obedience. The resentment, or the fears, of Diocletian, at

length transported him beyond the bounds of moderation, which he had

hitherto preserved, and he declared, in a series of cruel edicts,

his intention of abolishing the Christian name. By the first of these edicts, the governors of the provinces were directed to apprehend all

persons of the ecclesiastical order; and the prisons, destined for the vilest criminals, were soon filled with a multitude of bishops,

presbyters, deacons, readers, and exorcists. By a second edict, the

magistrates were commanded to employ every method of severity, which

might reclaim them from their odious superstition, and oblige them to

return to the established worship of the gods. This rigorous order was extended, by a subsequent edict, to the whole body of Christians, who were exposed to a violent and general persecution. Instead of those

salutary restraints, which had required the direct and solemn testimony

of an accuser, it became the duty as well as the interest of the

Imperial officers to discover, to pursue, and to torment the most

obnoxious among the faithful. Heavy penalties were denounced against all who should presume to save a prescribed sectary from the just

indignation of the gods, and of the emperors. Yet, notwithstanding the

severity of this law, the virtuous courage of many of the Pagans, in concealing their friends or relations, affords an honorable proof, that the rage of superstition had not extinguished in their minds the

sentiments of nature and humanity.

chapter XVI: Conduct Towards The Christians, From Nero To constantine.--Part VII.

diocletian had no sooner published his edicts against the Christians, than, as if he had been desirous of committing to other hands the work of persecution, he divested himself of the Imperial purple. The character and situation of his colleagues and successors sometimes urged them to enforce and sometimes inclined them to suspend, the execution of these rigorous laws; nor can we acquire a just and distinct idea of this important period of ecclesiastical history, unless we separately consider the state of Christianity, in the different parts of the empire, during the space of ten years, which elapsed between the first edicts of Diocletian and the final peace of the church.

the mild and humane temper of Constantius was averse to the oppression

of any part of his subjects. The principal offices of his palace were exercised by Christians. He loved their persons, esteemed their fidelity, and entertained not any dislike to their religious principles. but as long as Constantius remained in the subordinate station of Cæsar,

it was not in his power openly to reject the edicts of Diocletian, or to disobey the commands of Maximian. His authority contributed, however, to alleviate the sufferings which he pitied and abhorred. He consented with

reluctance to the ruin of the churches; but he ventured to protect the christians themselves from the fury of the populace, and from the rigor

of the laws. The provinces of Gaul (under which we may probably include those of Britain) were indebted for the singular tranquillity which they enjoyed, to the gentle interposition of their sovereign. But Datianus, the president or governor of Spain, actuated either by zeal or policy, chose rather to execute the public edicts of the emperors, than to

understand the secret intentions of Constantius; and it can scarcely be doubted, that his provincial administration was stained with the blood

of a few martyrs. The elevation of Constantius to the supreme and

independent dignity of Augustus, gave a free scope to the exercise of

his virtues, and the shortness of his reign did not prevent him from establishing a system of toleration, of which he left the precept and the example to his son Constantine. His fortunate son, from the first

moment of his accession, declaring himself the protector of the church, at length deserved the appellation of the first emperor who publicly

professed and established the Christian religion. The motives of his conversion, as they may variously be deduced from benevolence, from

policy, from conviction, or from remorse, and the progress of the

revolution, which, under his powerful influence and that of his sons,

rendered Christianity the reigning religion of the Roman empire, will form a very interesting and important chapter in the present volume of this history. At present it may be sufficient to observe, that every

victory of Constantine was productive of some relief or benefit to the church.

the provinces of Italy and Africa experienced a short but violent

persecution. The rigorous edicts of Diocletian were strictly and cheerfully executed by his associate Maximian, who had long hated the christians, and who delighted in acts of blood and violence. In the autumn of the first year of the persecution, the two emperors met at

Rome to celebrate their triumph; several oppressive laws appear to

have issued from their secret consultations, and the diligence of the

magistrates was animated by the presence of their sovereigns., After diocletian had divested himself of the purple, Italy and Africa were administered under the name of Severus, and were exposed, without defence, to the implacable resentment of his master Galerius. Among the

martyrs of Rome, Adauctus deserves the notice of posterity. He was of a noble family in Italy, and had raised himself, through the successive

honors of the palace, to the important office of treasurer of the

private Jemesnes. Adauctus is the more remarkable for being the only

person of rank and distinction who appears to have suffered death, during the whole course of this general persecution.

the revolt of Maxentius immediately restored peace to the churches of

Italy and Africa; and the same tyrant who oppressed every other class of

his subjects, showed himself just, humane, and even partial, towards the afflicted Christians. He depended on their gratitude and affection, and

very naturally presumed, that the injuries which they had suffered, and the dangers which they still apprehended from his most inveterate enemy, would secure the fidelity of a party already considerable by their

numbers and opulence. Even the conduct of Maxentius towards the bishops

of Rome and Carthage may be considered as the proof of his toleration,

since it is probable that the most orthodox princes would adopt the same

measures with regard to their established clergy. Marcellus, the former

of these prelates, had thrown the capital into confusion, by the severe

penance which he imposed on a great number of Christians, who, during the late persecution, had renounced or dissembled their religion. The

rage of faction broke out in frequent and violent seditions; the blood of the faithful was shed by each other's hands, and the exile of

Marcellus, whose prudence seems to have been less eminent than his

zeal, was found to be the only measure capable of restoring peace to the distracted church of Rome. The behavior of Mensurius, bishop of carthage, appears to have been still more reprehensible. A deacon of that city had published a libel against the emperor. The offender took

refuge in the episcopal palace; and though it was somewhat early to advance any claims of ecclesiastical immunities, the bishop refused to deliver him up to the officers of justice. For this treasonable

resistance, Mensurius was summoned to court, and instead of receiving a

legal sentence of death or banishment, he was permitted, after a short examination, to return to his diocese. Such was the happy condition of the Christian subjects of Maxentius, that whenever they were desirous of

procuring for their own use any bodies of martyrs, they were obliged to

purchase them from the most distant provinces of the East. A story is

related of Aglæ, a Roman lady, descended from a consular family, and

possessed of so ample an estate, that it required the management of

seventy-three stewards. Among these Boniface was the favorite of his

mistress; and as Aglæ mixed love with devotion, it is reported that he was admitted to share her bed. Her fortune enabled her to gratify the pious desire of obtaining some sacred relics from the East. She

intrusted Boniface with a considerable sum of gold, and a large quantity

of aromatics; and her lover, attended by twelve horsemen and three covered chariots, undertook a remote pilgrimage, as far as Tarsus in cilicia.

the sanguinary temper of Galerius, the first and principal author of the

persecution, was formidable to those Christians whom their misfortunes

had placed within the limits of his dominions; and it may fairly be

presumed that many persons of a middle rank, who were not confined by the chains either of wealth or of poverty, very frequently deserted their native country, and sought a refuge in the milder climate of the West. As long as he commanded only the armies and provinces of

Illyricum, he could with difficulty either find or make a considerable

number of martyrs, in a warlike country, which had entertained the

missionaries of the gospel with more coldness and reluctance than any

other part of the empire. But when Galerius had obtained the supreme

power, and the government of the East, he indulged in their fullest extent his zeal and cruelty, not only in the provinces of Thrace and asia, which acknowledged his immediate jurisdiction, but in those

of Syria, Palestine, and Egypt, where Maximin gratified his own

inclination, by yielding a rigorous obedience to the stern commands of

his benefactor. The frequent disappointments of his ambitious views, the experience of six years of persecution, and the salutary reflections which a lingering and painful distemper suggested to the mind of

Galerius, at length convinced him that the most violent efforts of despotism are insufficient to extirpate a whole people, or to subdue their religious prejudices. Desirous of repairing the mischief that he

had occasioned, he published in his own name, and in those of Licinius and Constantine, a general edict, which, after a pompous recital of the

Imperial titles, proceeded in the following manner:--

"Among the important cares which have occupied our mind for the utility and preservation of the empire, it was our intention to correct and reestablish all things according to the ancient laws and public discipline of the Romans. We were particularly desirous of reclaiming

into the way of reason and nature, the deluded Christians who had

renounced the religion and ceremonies instituted by their fathers; and presumptuously despising the practice of antiquity, had invented extravagant laws and opinions, according to the dictates of their fancy, and had collected a various society from the different provinces of our empire. The edicts, which we have published to enforce the worship of the gods, having exposed many of the Christians to danger and distress,

many having suffered death, and many more, who still persist in their

impious folly, being left destitute of any public exercise of religion, we are disposed to extend to those unhappy men the effects of our wonted clemency. We permit them therefore freely to profess their private

opinions, and to assemble in their conventicles without fear or

molestation, provided always that they preserve a due respect to the established laws and government. By another rescript we shall signify

our intentions to the judges and magistrates; and we hope that our

indulgence will engage the Christians to offer up their prayers to the deity whom they adore, for our safety and prosperity for their own, and for that of the republic." It is not usually in the language of edicts and manifestos that we should search for the real character or the

secret motives of princes; but as these were the words of a dying emperor, his situation, perhaps, may be admitted as a pledge of his

sincerity.

when Galerius subscribed this edict of toleration, he was well assured that Licinius would readily comply with the inclinations of his friend and benefactor, and that any measures in favor of the Christians would

obtain the approbation of Constantine. But the emperor would not venture to insert in the preamble the name of Maximin, whose consent was of the greatest importance, and who succeeded a few days afterwards to the

provinces of Asia. In the first six months, however, of his new reign,

Maximin affected to adopt the prudent counsels of his predecessor; and though he never condescended to secure the tranquillity of the church by a public edict, Sabinus, his Prætorian præfect, addressed a circular letter to all the governors and magistrates of the provinces, expatiating on the Imperial clemency, acknowledging the invincible

obstinacy of the Christians, and directing the officers of justice to cease their ineffectual prosecutions, and to connive at the secret assemblies of those enthusiasts. In consequence of these orders, great

numbers of Christians were released from prison, or delivered from the

mines. The confessors, singing hymns of triumph, returned into their

own countries; and those who had yielded to the violence of the tempest,

solicited with tears of repentance their readmission into the bosom of the church.

but this treacherous calm was of short duration; nor could the christians of the East place any confidence in the character of their

sovereign. Cruelty and superstition were the ruling passions of the soul

of Maximin. The former suggested the means, the latter pointed out the

objects of persecution. The emperor was devoted to the worship of the

gods, to the study of magic, and to the belief of oracles. The prophets

or philosophers, whom he revered as the favorites of Heaven, were frequently raised to the government of provinces, and admitted into his

most secret councils. They easily convinced him that the Christians had been indebted for their victories to their regular discipline, and that the weakness of polytheism had principally flowed from a want of

union and subordination among the ministers of religion. A system of

government was therefore instituted, which was evidently copied from the

policy of the church. In all the great cities of the empire, the temples were repaired and beautified by the order of Maximin, and the officiating priests of the various deities were subjected to the authority of a superior pontiff destined to oppose the bishop, and to

promote the cause of paganism. These pontiffs acknowledged, in their turn, the supreme jurisdiction of the metropolitans or high priests

of the province, who acted as the immediate vicegerents of the emperor

himself. A white robe was the ensign of their dignity; and these

new prelates were carefully selected from the most noble and opulent families. By the influence of the magistrates, and of the sacerdotal

order, a great number of dutiful addresses were obtained, particularly from the cities of Nicomedia, Antioch, and Tyre, which artfully

represented the well-known intentions of the court as the general sense

of the people; solicited the emperor to consult the laws of justice

rather than the dictates of his clemency; expressed their abhorrence of the Christians, and humbly prayed that those impious sectaries might at

least be excluded from the limits of their respective territories. The answer of Maximin to the address which he obtained from the citizens of tyre is still extant. He praises their zeal and devotion in terms of the highest satisfaction, descants on the obstinate impiety of the christians, and betrays, by the readiness with which he consents to their banishment, that he considered himself as receiving, rather than as conferring, an obligation. The priests as well as the magistrates were empowered to enforce the execution of his edicts, which were engraved on tables of brass; and though it was recommended to them to avoid the effusion of blood, the most cruel and ignominious punishments were inflicted on the refractory Christians.

the Asiatic Christians had every thing to dread from the severity of a bigoted monarch who prepared his measures of violence with such deliberate policy. But a few months had scarcely elapsed before the edicts published by the two Western emperors obliged Maximin to suspend the prosecution of his designs: the civil war which he so rashly

undertook against Licinius employed all his attention; and the defeat and death of Maximin soon delivered the church from the last and most

implacable of her enemies.

In this general view of the persecution, which was first authorized by the edicts of Diocletian, I have purposely refrained from describing the

particular sufferings and deaths of the Christian martyrs. It would have been an easy task, from the history of Eusebius, from the declamations

of Lactantius, and from the most ancient acts, to collect a long series

of horrid and disgustful pictures, and to fill many pages with racks and

scourges, with iron hooks and red-hot beds, and with all the variety

of tortures which fire and steel, savage beasts, and more savage executioners, could inflict upon the human body. These melancholy scenes

might be enlivened by a crowd of visions and miracles destined either to delay the death, to celebrate the triumph, or to discover the relics of those canonized saints who suffered for the name of Christ. But I cannot determine what I ought to transcribe, till I am satisfied how much I

ought to believe. The gravest of the ecclesiastical historians, Eusebius

himself, indirectly confesses, that he has related whatever might

redound to the glory, and that he has suppressed all that could tend to the disgrace, of religion. Such an acknowledgment will naturally excite a suspicion that a writer who has so openly violated one of the fundamental laws of history, has not paid a very strict regard to the

observance of the other; and the suspicion will derive additional credit from the character of Eusebius, \* which was less tinctured with credulity, and more practised in the arts of courts, than that of almost any of his contemporaries. On some particular occasions, when the magistrates were exasperated by some personal motives of interest or

resentment, the rules of prudence, and perhaps of decency, to overturn the altars, to pour out imprecations against the emperors, or to strike the judge as he sat on his tribunal, it may be presumed, that every mode

of torture which cruelty could invent, or constancy could endure, was exhausted on those devoted victims. Two circumstances, however, have been unwarily mentioned, which insinuate that the general treatment of the Christians, who had been apprehended by the officers of justice, was less intolerable than it is usually imagined to have been. 1. The confessors who were condemned to work in the mines were permitted by the

humanity or the negligence of their keepers to build chapels, and freely to profess their religion in the midst of those dreary habitations. 2. the bishops were obliged to check and to censure the forward zeal of the Christians, who voluntarily threw themselves into the hands of the

magistrates. Some of these were persons oppressed by poverty and debts, who blindly sought to terminate a miserable existence by a glorious death. Others were allured by the hope that a short confinement would expiate the sins of a whole life; and others again were actuated by the

less honorable motive of deriving a plentiful subsistence, and perhaps a considerable profit, from the alms which the charity of the faithful bestowed on the prisoners. After the church had triumphed over all her enemies, the interest as well as vanity of the captives prompted them to

magnify the merit of their respective sufferings. A convenient distance

of time or place gave an ample scope to the progress of fiction; and the frequent instances which might be alleged of holy martyrs, whose wounds

had been instantly healed, whose strength had been renewed, and whose

lost members had miraculously been restored, were extremely convenient for the purpose of removing every difficulty, and of silencing every

objection. The most extravagant legends, as they conduced to the honor

of the church, were applauded by the credulous multitude, countenanced by the power of the clergy, and attested by the suspicious evidence of ecclesiastical history.

chapter XVI: Conduct Towards The Christians, From Nero To constantine.--Part VIII.

the vague descriptions of exile and imprisonment, of pain and torture, are so easily exaggerated or softened by the pencil of an artful

orator, \* that we are naturally induced to inquire into a fact of a more distinct and stubborn kind; the number of persons who suffered death in consequence of the edicts published by Diocletian, his associates, and

his successors. The recent legendaries record whole armies and cities, which were at once swept away by the undistinguishing rage of

persecution. The more ancient writers content themselves with pouring

out a liberal effusion of loose and tragical invectives, without condescending to ascertain the precise number of those persons who were

permitted to seal with their blood their belief of the gospel. From the history of Eusebius, it may, however, be collected, that only nine bishops were punished with death; and we are assured, by his particular enumeration of the martyrs of Palestine, that no more than ninety-two christians were entitled to that honorable appellation. As we are

unacquainted with the degree of episcopal zeal and courage which

prevailed at that time, it is not in our power to draw any useful

inferences from the former of these facts: but the latter may serve to justify a very important and probable conclusion. According to the distribution of Roman provinces, Palestine may be considered as the sixteenth part of the Eastern empire: and since there were some

governors, who from a real or affected clemency had preserved their

hands unstained with the blood of the faithful, it is reasonable to believe, that the country which had given birth to Christianity,

produced at least the sixteenth part of the martyrs who suffered death within the dominions of Galerius and Maximin; the whole might consequently amount to about fifteen hundred, a number which, if it is equally divided between the ten years of the persecution, will allow an annual consumption of one hundred and fifty martyrs. Allotting the same

proportion to the provinces of Italy, Africa, and perhaps Spain, where, at the end of two or three years, the rigor of the penal laws was either

suspended or abolished, the multitude of Christians in the Roman empire,

on whom a capital punishment was inflicted by a judicial, sentence, will be reduced to somewhat less than two thousand persons. Since it cannot be doubted that the Christians were more numerous, and their enemies

more exasperated, in the time of Diocletian, than they had ever been in any former persecution, this probable and moderate computation may teach

us to estimate the number of primitive saints and martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the important purpose of introducing Christianity into the world.

we shall conclude this chapter by a melancholy truth, which obtrudes

itself on the reluctant mind; that even admitting, without hesitation or

inquiry, all that history has recorded, or devotion has feigned, on the subject of martyrdoms, it must still be acknowledged, that the christians, in the course of their intestine dissensions, have inflicted far greater severities on each other, than they had experienced from the zeal of infidels. During the ages of ignorance which followed the

subversion of the Roman empire in the West, the bishops of the Imperial city extended their dominion over the laity as well as clergy of the

Latin church. The fabric of superstition which they had erected, and which might long have defied the feeble efforts of reason, was at length assaulted by a crowd of daring fanatics, who from the twelfth to the

sixteenth century assumed the popular character of reformers. The church

of Rome defended by violence the empire which she had acquired by fraud; a system of peace and benevolence was soon disgraced by proscriptions, war, massacres, and the institution of the holy office. And as the

reformers were animated by the love of civil as well as of religious freedom, the Catholic princes connected their own interest with that of the clergy, and enforced by fire and the sword the terrors of spiritual censures. In the Netherlands alone, more than one hundred thousand of the subjects of Charles V. are said to have suffered by the hand of the executioner; and this extraordinary number is attested by Grotius, a man

of genius and learning, who preserved his moderation amidst the fury

of contending sects, and who composed the annals of his own age and country, at a time when the invention of printing had facilitated the

means of intelligence, and increased the danger of detection. If we are

obliged to submit our belief to the authority of Grotius, it must be allowed, that the number of Protestants, who were executed in a single

province and a single reign, far exceeded that of the primitive martyrs

in the space of three centuries, and of the Roman empire. But if the

improbability of the fact itself should prevail over the weight of evidence; if Grotius should be convicted of exaggerating the merit and

sufferings of the Reformers; we shall be naturally led to inquire what confidence can be placed in the doubtful and imperfect monuments of ancient credulity; what degree of credit can be assigned to a courtly bishop, and a passionate declaimer, \* who, under the protection

of Constantine, enjoyed the exclusive privilege of recording the

persecutions inflicted on the Christians by the vanquished rivals or disregarded predecessors of their gracious sovereign.

chapter XVII: Foundation Of Constantinople.--Part I.

Foundation Of Constantinople.--Political System Constantine,

And His Successors.--Military Discipline.--The Palace.--The

Finances.

the unfortunate Licinius was the last rival who opposed the greatness, and the last captive who adorned the triumph, of Constantine. After a tranquil and prosperous reign, the conqueror bequeathed to his family the inheritance of the Roman empire; a new capital, a new policy, and a new religion; and the innovations which he established have been embraced and consecrated by succeeding generations. The age of the

great Constantine and his sons is filled with important events; but the historian must be oppressed by their number and variety, unless he diligently separates from each other the scenes which are connected only by the order of time. He will describe the political institutions that

gave strength and stability to the empire, before he proceeds to relate the wars and revolutions which hastened its decline. He will adopt the division unknown to the ancients of civil and ecclesiastical affairs: the victory of the Christians, and their intestine discord, will supply copious and distinct materials both for edification and for scandal.

after the defeat and abdication of Licinius, his victorious rival

proceeded to lay the foundations of a city destined to reign in future times, the mistress of the East, and to survive the empire and religion

of Constantine. The motives, whether of pride or of policy, which first induced Diocletian to withdraw himself from the ancient seat

of government, had acquired additional weight by the example of

his successors, and the habits of forty years. Rome was insensibly confounded with the dependent kingdoms which had once acknowledged

her supremacy; and the country of the Cæsars was viewed with cold

indifference by a martial prince, born in the neighborhood of the danube, educated in the courts and armies of Asia, and invested with the purple by the legions of Britain. The Italians, who had received constantine as their deliverer, submissively obeyed the edicts which he

sometimes condescended to address to the senate and people of Rome; but they were seldom honored with the presence of their new sovereign. during the vigor of his age, Constantine, according to the various exigencies of peace and war, moved with slow dignity, or with active diligence, along the frontiers of his extensive dominions; and was always prepared to take the field either against a foreign or a domestic enemy. But as he gradually reached the summit of prosperity and the decline of life, he began to meditate the design of fixing in a more

permanent station the strength as well as majesty of the throne. In the choice of an advantageous situation, he preferred the confines of Europe and Asia; to curb with a powerful arm the barbarians who dwelt between the Danube and the Tanais; to watch with an eye of jealousy the conduct

of the Persian monarch, who indignantly supported the yoke of an

ignominious treaty. With these views, Diocletian had selected and embellished the residence of Nicomedia: but the memory of Diocletian was

justly abhorred by the protector of the church: and Constantine was not

insensible to the ambition of founding a city which might perpetuate the glory of his own name. During the late operations of the war against

Licinius, he had sufficient opportunity to contemplate, both as a

soldier and as a statesman, the incomparable position of Byzantium; and to observe how strongly it was guarded by nature against a hostile attack, whilst it was accessible on every side to the benefits of commercial intercourse. Many ages before Constantine, one of the most

judicious historians of antiquity had described the advantages of a

situation, from whence a feeble colony of Greeks derived the command of the sea, and the honors of a flourishing and independent republic.

If we survey Byzantium in the extent which it acquired with the august name of Constantinople, the figure of the Imperial city may be

represented under that of an unequal triangle. The obtuse point, which advances towards the east and the shores of Asia, meets and repels the waves of the Thracian Bosphorus. The northern side of the city is bounded by the harbor; and the southern is washed by the Propontis, or

Sea of Marmara. The basis of the triangle is opposed to the west, and terminates the continent of Europe. But the admirable form and division

of the circumjacent land and water cannot, without a more ample explanation, be clearly or sufficiently understood.

the winding channel through which the waters of the Euxine flow with a rapid and incessant course towards the Mediterranean, received the appellation of Bosphorus, a name not less celebrated in the history, than in the fables, of antiquity. A crowd of temples and of votive altars, profusely scattered along its steep and woody banks, attested the unskilfulness, the terrors, and the devotion of the Grecian

navigators, who, after the example of the Argonauts, explored the dangers of the inhospitable Euxine. On these banks tradition long

preserved the memory of the palace of Phineus, infested by the obscene

harpies; and of the sylvan reign of Amycus, who defied the son of Leda to the combat of the cestus. The straits of the Bosphorus are terminated by the Cyanean rocks, which, according to the description of the poets,

had once floated on the face of the waters; and were destined by the

gods to protect the entrance of the Euxine against the eye of profane curiosity. From the Cyanean rocks to the point and harbor of Byzantium, the winding length of the Bosphorus extends about sixteen miles, and its

most ordinary breadth may be computed at about one mile and a half. The

new castles of Europe and Asia are constructed, on either continent,

upon the foundations of two celebrated temples, of Serapis and of

Jupiter Urius. The oldcastles, a work of the Greek emperors, command the narrowest part of the channel in a place where the opposite banks advance within five hundred paces of each other. These fortresses were destroyed and strengthened by Mahomet the Second, when he meditated the

siege of Constantinople: but the Turkish conqueror was most probably

ignorant, that near two thousand years before his reign, continents by a bridge of boats. At a small distance from the old castles we discover the little town of Chrysopolis, or Scutari, which may almost be considered as the Asiatic suburb of Constantinople. The Bosphorus, as

it begins to open into the Propontis, passes between Byzantium and chalcedon. The latter of those cities was built by the Greeks, a few years before the former; and the blindness of its founders, who

overlooked the superior advantages of the opposite coast, has been

stigmatized by a proverbial expression of contempt.

the harbor of Constantinople, which may be considered as an arm of the bosphorus, obtained, in a very remote period, the denomination of the

Golden Horn. The curve which it describes might be compared to the horn

of a stag, or as it should seem, with more propriety, to that of an

ox. The epithet of golden was expressive of the riches which every wind wafted from the most distant countries into the secure and capacious

port of Constantinople. The River Lycus, formed by the conflux of two

little streams, pours into the harbor a perpetual supply of fresh water, which serves to cleanse the bottom, and to invite the periodical

shoals of fish to seek their retreat in that convenient recess. As the

vicissitudes of tides are scarcely felt in those seas, the constant depth of the harbor allows goods to be landed on the quays without the assistance of boats; and it has been observed, that in many places the

largest vessels may rest their prows against the houses, while their

sterns are floating in the water. From the mouth of the Lycus to that

of the harbor, this arm of the Bosphorus is more than seven miles in

length. The entrance is about five hundred yards broad, and a strong chain could be occasionally drawn across it, to guard the port and city from the attack of a hostile navy.

between the Bosphorus and the Hellespont, the shores of Europe and Asia,

receding on either side, enclose the sea of Marmara, which was known to the ancients by the denomination of Propontis. The navigation from the

issue of the Bosphorus to the entrance of the Hellespont is about one

hundred and twenty miles. Those who steer their westward course through the middle of the Propontis, amt at once descry the high lands of Thrace and Bithynia, and never lose sight of the lofty summit of Mount Olympus, covered with eternal snows. They leave on the left a deep gulf, at the bottom of which Nicomedia was seated, the Imperial residence of diocletian; and they pass the small islands of Cyzicus and Proconnesus before they cast anchor at Gallipoli; where the sea, which separates asia from Europe, is again contracted into a narrow channel.

the geographers who, with the most skilful accuracy, have surveyed the form and extent of the Hellespont, assign about sixty miles for the winding course, and about three miles for the ordinary breadth of those celebrated straits. But the narrowest part of the channel is found to the northward of the old Turkish castles between the cities of Sestus and Abydus. It was here that the adventurous Leander braved the passage

of the flood for the possession of his mistress. It was here likewise,

in a place where the distance between the opposite banks cannot exceed five hundred paces, that Xerxes imposed a stupendous bridge of boats, for the purpose of transporting into Europe a hundred and seventy

myriads of barbarians. A sea contracted within such narrow limits may

seem but ill to deserve the singular epithet of broad, which Homer, as well as Orpheus, has frequently bestowed on the Hellespont. \* But

our ideas of greatness are of a relative nature: the traveller, and especially the poet, who sailed along the Hellespont, who pursued the windings of the stream, and contemplated the rural scenery, which appeared on every side to terminate the prospect, insensibly lost the

remembrance of the sea; and his fancy painted those celebrated straits, with all the attributes of a mighty river flowing with a swift current,

in the midst of a woody and inland country, and at length, through a wide mouth, discharging itself into the Ægean or Archipelago. Ancient troy, seated on a an eminence at the foot of Mount Ida, overlooked the

mouth of the Hellespont, which scarcely received an accession of waters from the tribute of those immortal rivulets the Simois and Scamander. the Grecian camp had stretched twelve miles along the shore from the

Sigæan to the Rhætean promontory; and the flanks of the army were

guarded by the bravest chiefs who fought under the banners of Agamemnon. the first of those promontories was occupied by Achilles with his

invincible myrmidons, and the dauntless Ajax pitched his tents on the

other. After Ajax had fallen a sacrifice to his disappointed pride, and to the ingratitude of the Greeks, his sepulchre was erected on the

ground where he had defended the navy against the rage of Jove and of

Hector; and the citizens of the rising town of Rhæteum celebrated his

memory with divine honors. Before Constantine gave a just preference to the situation of Byzantium, he had conceived the design of erecting the

seat of empire on this celebrated spot, from whence the Romans derived their fabulous origin. The extensive plain which lies below ancient troy, towards the Rhætean promontory and the tomb of Ajax, was first chosen for his new capital; and though the undertaking was soon

relinquished the stately remains of unfinished walls and towers attracted the notice of all who sailed through the straits of the

Hellespont.

we are at present qualified to view the advantageous position of constantinople; which appears to have been formed by nature for the centre and capital of a great monarchy. Situated in the forty-first degree of latitude, the Imperial city commanded, from her seven hills, the opposite shores of Europe and Asia; the climate was healthy and temperate, the soil fertile, the harbor secure and capacious; and the approach on the side of the continent was of small extent and easy defence. The Bosphorus and the Hellespont may be considered as the two

gates of Constantinople; and the prince who possessed those important

passages could always shut them against a naval enemy, and open them to the fleets of commerce. The preservation of the eastern provinces

may, in some degree, be ascribed to the policy of Constantine, as the barbarians of the Euxine, who in the preceding age had poured their armaments into the heart of the Mediterranean, soon desisted from the exercise of piracy, and despaired of forcing this insurmountable barrier. When the gates of the Hellespont and Bosphorus were shut, the capital still enjoyed within their spacious enclosure every production which could supply the wants, or gratify the luxury, of its numerous

inhabitants. The sea-coasts of Thrace and Bithynia, which languish

under the weight of Turkish oppression, still exhibit a rich prospect of

vineyards, of gardens, and of plentiful harvests; and the Propontis

has ever been renowned for an inexhaustible store of the most exquisite fish, that are taken in their stated seasons, without skill, and almost without labor. But when the passages of the straits were thrown open for trade, they alternately admitted the natural and artificial riches of the north and south, of the Euxine, and of the Mediterranean. Whatever

rude commodities were collected in the forests of Germany and Scythia, and far as the sources of the Tanais and the Borysthenes; whatsoever was

manufactured by the skill of Europe or Asia; the corn of Egypt, and the

gems and spices of the farthest India, were brought by the varying winds into the port of Constantinople, which for many ages attracted the commerce of the ancient world.

[See Basilica Of Constantinople]

the prospect of beauty, of safety, and of wealth, united in a single

spot, was sufficient to justify the choice of Constantine. But as some decent mixture of prodigy and fable has, in every age, been supposed to

reflect a becoming majesty on the origin of great cities, the emperor was desirous of ascribing his resolution, not so much to the uncertain counsels of human policy, as to the infallible and eternal decrees

of divine wisdom. In one of his laws he has been careful to instruct

posterity, that in obedience to the commands of God, he laid the everlasting foundations of Constantinople: and though he has not condescended to relate in what manner the celestial inspiration was communicated to his mind, the defect of his modest silence has been

liberally supplied by the ingenuity of succeeding writers; who describe the nocturnal vision which appeared to the fancy of Constantine, as he

slept within the walls of Byzantium. The tutelar genius of the city, a

venerable matron sinking under the weight of years and infirmities, was

suddenly transformed into a blooming maid, whom his own hands adorned with all the symbols of Imperial greatness. The monarch awoke,

interpreted the auspicious omen, and obeyed, without hesitation, the will of Heaven The day which gave birth to a city or colony was celebrated by the Romans with such ceremonies as had been ordained by a generous superstition; and though Constantine might omit some rites which savored too strongly of their Pagan origin, yet he was anxious to leave a deep impression of hope and respect on the minds of the

spectators. On foot, with a lance in his hand, the emperor himself led the solemn procession; and directed the line, which was traced as the boundary of the destined capital: till the growing circumference was

observed with astonishment by the assistants, who, at length, ventured to observe, that he had already exceeded the most ample measure of a

great city. "I shall still advance," replied Constantine, "till He, the

invisible guide who marches before me, thinks proper to stop." Without

presuming to investigate the nature or motives of this extraordinary conductor, we shall content ourselves with the more humble task of describing the extent and limits of Constantinople.

In the actual state of the city, the palace and gardens of the Seraglio

occupy the eastern promontory, the first of the seven hills, and cover about one hundred and fifty acres of our own measure. The seat of turkish jealousy and despotism is erected on the foundations of a

Grecian republic; but it may be supposed that the Byzantines were tempted by the conveniency of the harbor to extend their habitations

on that side beyond the modern limits of the Seraglio. The new walls of constantine stretched from the port to the Propontis across the enlarged breadth of the triangle, at the distance of fifteen stadia from the ancient fortification; and with the city of Byzantium they enclosed five of the seven hills, which, to the eyes of those who approach constantinople, appear to rise above each other in beautiful order. about a century after the death of the founder, the new buildings, extending on one side up the harbor, and on the other along the

Propontis, already covered the narrow ridge of the sixth, and the broad

summit of the seventh hill. The necessity of protecting those suburbs from the incessant inroads of the barbarians engaged the younger theodosius to surround his capital with an adequate and permanent enclosure of walls. From the eastern promontory to the golden gate, the extreme length of Constantinople was about three Roman miles; the circumference measured between ten and eleven; and the surface might be computed as equal to about two thousand English acres. It is impossible to justify the vain and credulous exaggerations of modern travellers, who have sometimes stretched the limits of Constantinople over the adjacent villages of the European, and even of the Asiatic coast. But the suburbs of Pera and Galata, though situate beyond the harbor, may deserve to be considered as a part of the city; and this addition may

perhaps authorize the measure of a Byzantine historian, who assigns

sixteen Greek (about fourteen Roman) miles for the circumference of

his native city. Such an extent may not seem unworthy of an Imperial

residence. Yet Constantinople must yield to Babylon and Thebes, to ancient Rome, to London, and even to Paris.

chapter XVII: Foundation Of Constantinople.--Part II.

the master of the Roman world, who aspired to erect an eternal monument

of the glories of his reign could employ in the prosecution of that

great work, the wealth, the labor, and all that yet remained of the

genius of obedient millions. Some estimate may be formed of the expense bestowed with Imperial liberality on the foundation of Constantinople, by the allowance of about two millions five hundred thousand pounds for the construction of the walls, the porticos, and the aqueducts. The forests that overshadowed the shores of the Euxine, and the celebrated

quarries of white marble in the little island of Proconnesus, supplied an inexhaustible stock of materials, ready to be conveyed, by the convenience of a short water carriage, to the harbor of Byzantium. A

multitude of laborers and artificers urged the conclusion of the work with incessant toil: but the impatience of Constantine soon discovered, that, in the decline of the arts, the skill as well as numbers of

his architects bore a very unequal proportion to the greatness of his designs. The magistrates of the most distant provinces were therefore directed to institute schools, to appoint professors, and by the hopes

of rewards and privileges, to engage in the study and practice of architecture a sufficient number of ingenious youths, who had received a liberal education. The buildings of the new city were executed by

such artificers as the reign of Constantine could afford; but they were decorated by the hands of the most celebrated masters of the age of

Pericles and Alexander. To revive the genius of Phidias and Lysippus,

surpassed indeed the power of a Roman emperor; but the immortal

productions which they had bequeathed to posterity were exposed without defence to the rapacious vanity of a despot. By his commands the cities

of Greece and Asia were despoiled of their most valuable ornaments. The trophies of memorable wars, the objects of religious veneration, the

most finished statues of the gods and heroes, of the sages and poets,

of ancient times, contributed to the splendid triumph of Constantinople; and gave occasion to the remark of the historian Cedrenus, who observes, with some enthusiasm, that nothing seemed wanting except the souls of the illustrious men whom these admirable monuments were intended to represent. But it is not in the city of Constantine, nor in the declining period of an empire, when the human mind was depressed by civil and religious slavery, that we should seek for the souls of Homer and of Demosthenes.

during the siege of Byzantium, the conqueror had pitched his tent on the commanding eminence of the second hill. To perpetuate the memory of

his success, he chose the same advantageous position for the principal forum; which appears to have been of a circular, or rather elliptical form. The two opposite entrances formed triumphal arches; the porticos, which enclosed it on every side, were filled with statues; and the centre of the Forum was occupied by a lofty column, of which a mutilated fragment is now degraded by the appellation of the burnt pillar. This column was erected on a pedestal of white marble twenty feet high; and was composed of ten pieces of porphyry, each of which measured about ten feet in height, and about thirty-three in circumference. On the summit

of the pillar, above one hundred and twenty feet from the ground, stood the colossal statue of Apollo. It was a bronze, had been transported either from Athens or from a town of Phrygia, and was supposed to be the work of Phidias. The artist had represented the god of day, or, as it was afterwards interpreted, the emperor Constantine himself, with a

sceptre in his right hand, the globe of the world in his left, and a crown of rays glittering on his head. The Circus, or Hippodrome, was a

stately building about four hundred paces in length, and one hundred in breadth. The space between the two met or goals were filled with statues and obelisks; and we may still remark a very singular fragment of antiquity; the bodies of three serpents, twisted into one pillar of brass. Their triple heads had once supported the golden tripod which, after the defeat of Xerxes, was consecrated in the temple of Delphi by the victorious Greeks. The beauty of the Hippodrome has been long since defaced by the rude hands of the Turkish conquerors; but, under the

similar appellation of Atmeidan, it still serves as a place of exercise for their horses. From the throne, whence the emperor viewed the circensian games, a winding staircase descended to the palace; a

magnificent edifice, which scarcely yielded to the residence of Rome

itself, and which, together with the dependent courts, gardens, and

porticos, covered a considerable extent of ground upon the banks of the

Propontis between the Hippodrome and the church of St. Sophia. We

might likewise celebrate the baths, which still retained the name

of Zeuxippus, after they had been enriched, by the munificence of constantine, with lofty columns, various marbles, and above threescore

statues of bronze. But we should deviate from the design of this

history, if we attempted minutely to describe the different buildings

or quarters of the city. It may be sufficient to observe, that whatever could adorn the dignity of a great capital, or contribute to the benefit

or pleasure of its numerous inhabitants, was contained within the walls

of Constantinople. A particular description, composed about a century after its foundation, enumerates a capitol or school of learning, a circus, two theatres, eight public, and one hundred and fifty-three

private baths, fifty-two porticos, five granaries, eight aqueducts or

reservoirs of water, four spacious halls for the meetings of the senate

or courts of justice, fourteen churches, fourteen palaces, and four thousand three hundred and eighty-eight houses, which, for their size

or beauty, deserved to be distinguished from the multitude of plebeian

inhabitants.

the populousness of his favored city was the next and most serious

object of the attention of its founder. In the dark ages which succeeded the translation of the empire, the remote and the immediate consequences

of that memorable event were strangely confounded by the vanity of the

Greeks and the credulity of the Latins. It was asserted, and believed, that all the noble families of Rome, the senate, and the equestrian

order, with their innumerable attendants, had followed their emperor to the banks of the Propontis; that a spurious race of strangers and

plebeians was left to possess the solitude of the ancient capital; and that the lands of Italy, long since converted into gardens, were at once deprived of cultivation and inhabitants. In the course of this history,

such exaggerations will be reduced to their just value: yet, since the

growth of Constantinople cannot be ascribed to the general increase of

mankind and of industry, it must be admitted that this artificial colony was raised at the expense of the ancient cities of the empire. Many

opulent senators of Rome, and of the eastern provinces, were probably

invited by Constantine to adopt for their country the fortunate spot, which he had chosen for his own residence. The invitations of a master are scarcely to be distinguished from commands; and the liberality of the emperor obtained a ready and cheerful obedience. He bestowed on his favorites the palaces which he had built in the several quarters of the city, assigned them lands and pensions for the support of their dignity, and alienated the demesnes of Pontus and Asia to grant hereditary estates by the easy tenure of maintaining a house in the capital. But these encouragements and obligations soon became superfluous, and were gradually abolished. Wherever the seat of government is fixed, a considerable part of the public revenue will be expended by the prince

himself, by his ministers, by the officers of justice, and by the domestics of the palace. The most wealthy of the provincials will be attracted by the powerful motives of interest and duty, of amusement and curiosity. A third and more numerous class of inhabitants will

insensibly be formed, of servants, of artificers, and of merchants, who derive their subsistence from their own labor, and from the wants or

luxury of the superior ranks. In less than a century, Constantinople disputed with Rome itself the preeminence of riches and numbers. New

piles of buildings, crowded together with too little regard to health

or convenience, scarcely allowed the intervals of narrow streets for the

perpetual throng of men, of horses, and of carriages. The allotted space

of ground was insufficient to contain the increasing people; and the additional foundations, which, on either side, were advanced into the

sea, might alone have composed a very considerable city.

the frequent and regular distributions of wine and oil, of corn or bread, of money or provisions, had almost exempted the poorest citizens

of Rome from the necessity of labor. The magnificence of the first cæsars was in some measure imitated by the founder of Constantinople: but his liberality, however it might excite the applause of the people,

has in curred the censure of posterity. A nation of legislators and conquerors might assert their claim to the harvests of Africa, which

had been purchased with their blood; and it was artfully contrived by augustus, that, in the enjoyment of plenty, the Romans should lose the memory of freedom. But the prodigality of Constantine could not be excused by any consideration either of public or private interest; and the annual tribute of corn imposed upon Egypt for the benefit of his

new capital, was applied to feed a lazy and insolent populace, at the expense of the husbandmen of an industrious province. \* Some other

regulations of this emperor are less liable to blame, but they are less deserving of notice. He divided Constantinople into fourteen regions or

quarters, dignified the public council with the appellation of senate, communicated to the citizens the privileges of Italy, and bestowed on the rising city the title of Colony, the first and most favored daughter

of ancient Rome. The venerable parent still maintained the legal and acknowledged supremacy, which was due to her age, her dignity, and to the remembrance of her former greatness.

as Constantine urged the progress of the work with the impatience of a lover, the walls, the porticos, and the principal edifices were completed in a few years, or, according to another account, in a few months; but this extraordinary diligence should excite the less admiration, since many of the buildings were finished in so hasty and

imperfect a manner, that under the succeeding reign, they were preserved with difficulty from impending ruin. But while they displayed the vigor and freshness of youth, the founder prepared to celebrate the dedication

of his city. The games and largesses which crowned the pomp of this

memorable festival may easily be supposed; but there is one circumstance

of a more singular and permanent nature, which ought not entirely to be

overlooked. As often as the birthday of the city returned, the statute

of Constantine, framed by his order, of gilt wood, and bearing in his

right hand a small image of the genius of the place, was erected on a triumphal car. The guards, carrying white tapers, and clothed in their

richest apparel, accompanied the solemn procession as it moved through the Hippodrome. When it was opposite to the throne of the reigning emperor, he rose from his seat, and with grateful reverence adored the

memory of his predecessor. At the festival of the dedication, an edict, engraved on a column of marble, bestowed the title of Second or New Rome

on the city of Constantine. But the name of Constantinople has prevailed

over that honorable epithet; and after the revolution of fourteen centuries, still perpetuates the fame of its author.

the foundation of a new capital is naturally connected with the establishment of a new form of civil and military administration. the distinct view of the complicated system of policy, introduced by diocletian, improved by Constantine, and completed by his immediate

successors, may not only amuse the fancy by the singular picture of a

great empire, but will tend to illustrate the secret and internal causes

of its rapid decay. In the pursuit of any remarkable institution, we may be frequently led into the more early or the more recent times of the

Roman history; but the proper limits of this inquiry will be included within a period of about one hundred and thirty years, from the accession of Constantine to the publication of the Theodosian code; from which, as well as from the Notitia \* of the East and West, we derive the

most copious and authentic information of the state of the empire. this variety of objects will suspend, for some time, the course of the

narrative; but the interruption will be censured only by those readers who are insensible to the importance of laws and manners, while they

peruse, with eager curiosity, the transient intrigues of a court, or the accidental event of a battle.

chapter XVII: Foundation Of Constantinople.--Part III.

the manly pride of the Romans, content with substantial power, had

left to the vanity of the East the forms and ceremonies of ostentatious

greatness. But when they lost even the semblance of those virtues which were derived from their ancient freedom, the simplicity of Roman manners was insensibly corrupted by the stately affectation of the courts of asia. The distinctions of personal merit and influence, so conspicuous

in a republic, so feeble and obscure under a monarchy, were abolished by the despotism of the emperors; who substituted in their room a severe

subordination of rank and office from the titled slaves who were seated

on the steps of the throne, to the meanest instruments of arbitrary

power. This multitude of abject dependants was interested in the support

of the actual government from the dread of a revolution, which might at

once confound their hopes and intercept the reward of their services. In this divine hierarchy (for such it is frequently styled) every rank was

marked with the most scrupulous exactness, and its dignity was displayed

in a variety of trifling and solemn ceremonies, which it was a study to

learn, and a sacrilege to neglect. The purity of the Latin language was debased, by adopting, in the intercourse of pride and flattery, a

profusion of epithets, which Tully would scarcely have understood, and which Augustus would have rejected with indignation. The principal

officers of the empire were saluted, even by the sovereign himself, with the deceitful titles of your Sincerity, your Gravity, your Excellency,

your Eminence, your sublime and wonderful Magnitude, your illustrious and magnificent Highness. The codicils or patents of their office were curiously emblazoned with such emblems as were best adapted to explain

its nature and high dignity; the image or portrait of the reigning emperors; a triumphal car; the book of mandates placed on a table, covered with a rich carpet, and illuminated by four tapers; the allegorical figures of the provinces which they governed; or the appellations and standards of the troops whom they commanded Some of these official ensigns were really exhibited in their hall of audience;

others preceded their pompous march whenever they appeared in public; and every circumstance of their demeanor, their dress, their ornaments, and their train, was calculated to inspire a deep reverence for the

representatives of supreme majesty. By a philosophic observer, the

system of the Roman government might have been mistaken for a splendid theatre, filled with players of every character and degree, who repeated the language, and imitated the passions, of their original model.

all the magistrates of sufficient importance to find a place in the

general state of the empire, were accurately divided into three classes.

1. The Illustrious. 2. The Spectabiles, or Respectable. And, 3. the clarissimi; whom we may translate by the word Honorable. In the times

of Roman simplicity, the last-mentioned epithet was used only as a

vague expression of deference, till it became at length the peculiar and appropriated title of all who were members of the senate, and consequently of all who, from that venerable body, were selected to

govern the provinces. The vanity of those who, from their rank and

office, might claim a superior distinction above the rest of the

senatorial order, was long afterwards indulged with the new appellation

of Respectable; but the title of Illustrious was always reserved to some eminent personages who were obeyed or reverenced by the two subordinate classes. It was communicated only, I. To the consuls and patricians; II. to the Prætorian præfects, with the præfects of Rome and Constantinople;

III. To the masters-general of the cavalry and the infantry; and IV. To the seven ministers of the palace, who exercised their sacred functions about the person of the emperor. Among those illustrious magistrates who were esteemed coordinate with each other, the seniority of appointment

gave place to the union of dignities. By the expedient of honorary codicils, the emperors, who were fond of multiplying their favors, might

sometimes gratify the vanity, though not the ambition, of impatient courtiers.

I. As long as the Roman consuls were the first magistrates of a free

state, they derived their right to power from the choice of the people. as long as the emperors condescended to disguise the servitude which they imposed, the consuls were still elected by the real or apparent

suffrage of the senate. From the reign of Diocletian, even these

vestiges of liberty were abolished, and the successful candidates who were invested with the annual honors of the consulship, affected to deplore the humiliating condition of their predecessors. The Scipios and the Catos had been reduced to solicit the votes of plebeians, to pass through the tedious and expensive forms of a popular election, and to expose their dignity to the shame of a public refusal; while their own

happier fate had reserved them for an age and government in which the

rewards of virtue were assigned by the unerring wisdom of a gracious

sovereign. In the epistles which the emperor addressed to the two consuls elect, it was declared, that they were created by his sole authority. Their names and portraits, engraved on gilt tables of ivory, were dispersed over the empire as presents to the provinces, the cities, the magistrates, the senate, and the people. Their solemn inauguration was performed at the place of the Imperial residence; and during a

period of one hundred and twenty years, Rome was constantly deprived of the presence of her ancient magistrates. On the morning of the first of

January, the consuls assumed the ensigns of their dignity. Their dress was a robe of purple, embroidered in silk and gold, and sometimes

ornamented with costly gems. On this solemn occasion they were attended by the most eminent officers of the state and army, in the habit of

senators; and the useless fasces, armed with the once formidable axes, were borne before them by the lictors. The procession moved from the

palace to the Forum or principal square of the city; where the consuls ascended their tribunal, and seated themselves in the curule chairs, which were framed after the fashion of ancient times. They immediately exercised an act of jurisdiction, by the manumission of a slave, who was brought before them for that purpose; and the ceremony was intended to represent the celebrated action of the elder Brutus, the author

of liberty and of the consulship, when he admitted among his fellow-citizens the faithful Vindex, who had revealed the conspiracy of the Tarquins. The public festival was continued during several days in all the principal cities in Rome, from custom; in Constantinople, from imitation in Carthage, Antioch, and Alexandria, from the love of

pleasure, and the superfluity of wealth. In the two capitals of the empire the annual games of the theatre, the circus, and the amphitheatre, cost four thousand pounds of gold, (about) one hundred and

sixty thousand pounds sterling: and if so heavy an expense surpassed the faculties or the inclinations of the magistrates themselves, the sum was supplied from the Imperial treasury. As soon as the consuls had discharged these customary duties, they were at liberty to retire into the shade of private life, and to enjoy, during the remainder of the

year, the undisturbed contemplation of their own greatness. They no

longer presided in the national councils; they no longer executed the

resolutions of peace or war. Their abilities (unless they were employed

in more effective offices) were of little moment; and their names served

only as the legal date of the year in which they had filled the chair

of Marius and of Cicero. Yet it was still felt and acknowledged, in the

last period of Roman servitude, that this empty name might be compared, and even preferred, to the possession of substantial power. The title

of consul was still the most splendid object of ambition, the noblest

reward of virtue and loyalty. The emperors themselves, who disdained the faint shadow of the republic, were conscious that they acquired an additional splendor and majesty as often as they assumed the annual

honors of the consular dignity.

the proudest and most perfect separation which can be found in any age

or country, between the nobles and the people, is perhaps that of the

Patricians and the Plebeians, as it was established in the first age of the Roman republic. Wealth and honors, the offices of the state, and the ceremonies of religion, were almost exclusively possessed by the former who, preserving the purity of their blood with the most insulting

jealousy, held their clients in a condition of specious vassalage. But these distinctions, so incompatible with the spirit of a free people, were removed, after a long struggle, by the persevering efforts of the tribunes. The most active and successful of the Plebeians accumulated wealth, aspired to honors, deserved triumphs, contracted alliances, and, after some generations, assumed the pride of ancient nobility. The

Patrician families, on the other hand, whose original number was

never recruited till the end of the commonwealth, either failed in the

ordinary course of nature, or were extinguished in so many foreign and domestic wars, or, through a want of merit or fortune, insensibly

mingled with the mass of the people. Very few remained who could derive their pure and genuine origin from the infancy of the city, or even from that of the republic, when Cæsar and Augustus, Claudius and Vespasian, created from the body of the senate a competent number of new Patrician families, in the hope of perpetuating an order, which was still considered as honorable and sacred. But these artificial supplies (in which the reigning house was always included) were rapidly swept away by the rage of tyrants, by frequent revolutions, by the change of

manners, and by the intermixture of nations. Little more was left when constantine ascended the throne, than a vague and imperfect tradition, that the Patricians had once been the first of the Romans. To form a body of nobles, whose influence may restrain, while it secures the authority of the monarch, would have been very inconsistent with the character and policy of Constantine; but had he seriously entertained

such a design, it might have exceeded the measure of his power to

ratify, by an arbitrary edict, an institution which must expect the

sanction of time and of opinion. He revived, indeed, the title of

Patricians, but he revived it as a personal, not as an hereditary distinction. They yielded only to the transient superiority of the annual consuls; but they enjoyed the pre-eminence over all the great

officers of state, with the most familiar access to the person of the

prince. This honorable rank was bestowed on them for life; and as they were usually favorites, and ministers who had grown old in the Imperial court, the true etymology of the word was perverted by ignorance and flattery; and the Patricians of Constantine were reverenced as the adopted Fathers of the emperor and the republic.

II. The fortunes of the Prætorian præfects were essentially different from those of the consuls and Patricians. The latter saw their ancient

greatness evaporate in a vain title. The former, rising by degrees from the most humble condition, were invested with the civil and military administration of the Roman world. From the reign of Severus to that of diocletian, the guards and the palace, the laws and the finances, the armies and the provinces, were intrusted to their superintending care; and, like the Viziers of the East, they held with one hand the seal, and with the other the standard, of the empire. The ambition of the

præfects, always formidable, and sometimes fatal to the masters whom they served, was supported by the strength of the Prætorian bands; but after those haughty troops had been weakened by Diocletian, and finally

suppressed by Constantine, the præfects, who survived their fall, were reduced without difficulty to the station of useful and obedient

ministers. When they were no longer responsible for the safety of the emperor's person, they resigned the jurisdiction which they had hitherto claimed and exercised over all the departments of the palace. They were deprived by Constantine of all military command, as soon as they had ceased to lead into the field, under their immediate orders, the flower

of the Roman troops; and at length, by a singular revolution, the captains of the guards were transformed into the civil magistrates

of the provinces. According to the plan of government instituted by diocletian, the four princes had each their Prætorian præfect; and after the monarchy was once more united in the person of Constantine, he still continued to create the same number of Four Præfects, and intrusted to their care the same provinces which they already administered. 1. The

præfect of the East stretched his ample jurisdiction into the three

parts of the globe which were subject to the Romans, from the cataracts

of the Nile to the banks of the Phasis, and from the mountains of Thrace to the frontiers of Persia. 2. The important provinces of Pannonia, dacia, Macedonia, and Greece, once acknowledged the authority of the

præfect of Illyricum. 3. The power of the præfect of Italy was not confined to the country from whence he derived his title; it extended

over the additional territory of Rhætia as far as the banks of the danube, over the dependent islands of the Mediterranean, and over that

part of the continent of Africa which lies between the confines of cyrene and those of Tingitania. 4. The præfect of the Gauls comprehended

under that plural denomination the kindred provinces of Britain and

Spain, and his authority was obeyed from the wall of Antoninus to the foot of Mount Atlas.

after the Prætorian præfects had been dismissed from all military command, the civil functions which they were ordained to exercise over

so many subject nations, were adequate to the ambition and abilities of the most consummate ministers. To their wisdom was committed the supreme administration of justice and of the finances, the two objects which,

in a state of peace, comprehend almost all the respective duties of the

sovereign and of the people; of the former, to protect the citizens who are obedient to the laws; of the latter, to contribute the share

of their property which is required for the expenses of the state. The coin, the highways, the posts, the granaries, the manufactures, whatever could interest the public prosperity, was moderated by the authority of the Prætorian præfects. As the immediate representatives of the Imperial

majesty, they were empowered to explain, to enforce, and on some

occasions to modify, the general edicts by their discretionary

proclamations. They watched over the conduct of the provincial

governors, removed the negligent, and inflicted punishments on the

guilty. From all the inferior jurisdictions, an appeal in every matter

of importance, either civil or criminal, might be brought before the tribunal of the præfect; but his sentence was final and absolute; and the emperors themselves refused to admit any complaints against the

judgment or the integrity of a magistrate whom they honored with such

unbounded confidence. His appointments were suitable to his dignity; and

if avarice was his ruling passion, he enjoyed frequent opportunities

of collecting a rich harvest of fees, of presents, and of perquisites. though the emperors no longer dreaded the ambition of their præfects, they were attentive to counterbalance the power of this great office by the uncertainty and shortness of its duration.

from their superior importance and dignity, Rome and Constantinople were alone excepted from the jurisdiction of the Prætorian præfects. The

immense size of the city, and the experience of the tardy, ineffectual

operation of the laws, had furnished the policy of Augustus with a

specious pretence for introducing a new magistrate, who alone could

restrain a servile and turbulent populace by the strong arm of arbitrary

power. Valerius Messalla was appointed the first præfect of Rome, that

his reputation might countenance so invidious a measure; but, at the end

of a few days, that accomplished citizen resigned his office, declaring, with a spirit worthy of the friend of Brutus, that he found himself

incapable of exercising a power incompatible with public freedom. As the sense of liberty became less exquisite, the advantages of order were more clearly understood; and the præfect, who seemed to have been designed as a terror only to slaves and vagrants, was permitted to extend his civil and criminal jurisdiction over the equestrian and noble families of Rome. The prætors, annually created as the judges of law and equity, could not long dispute the possession of the Forum with a

vigorous and permanent magistrate, who was usually admitted into the confidence of the prince. Their courts were deserted, their number, which had once fluctuated between twelve and eighteen, was gradually

reduced to two or three, and their important functions were confined to the expensive obligation of exhibiting games for the amusement of the

people. After the office of the Roman consuls had been changed into a

vain pageant, which was rarely displayed in the capital, the præfects assumed their vacant place in the senate, and were soon acknowledged as the ordinary presidents of that venerable assembly. They received appeals from the distance of one hundred miles; and it was allowed as a principle of jurisprudence, that all municipal authority was derived from them alone. In the discharge of his laborious employment, the

governor of Rome was assisted by fifteen officers, some of whom had been

originally his equals, or even his superiors. The principal departments were relative to the command of a numerous watch, established as a

safeguard against fires, robberies, and nocturnal disorders; the custody and distribution of the public allowance of corn and provisions; the care of the port, of the aqueducts, of the common sewers, and of the

navigation and bed of the Tyber; the inspection of the markets, the theatres, and of the private as well as the public works. Their

vigilance insured the three principal objects of a regular police,

safety, plenty, and cleanliness; and as a proof of the attention of

government to preserve the splendor and ornaments of the capital, a

particular inspector was appointed for the statues; the guardian, as

it were, of that inanimate people, which, according to the extravagant computation of an old writer, was scarcely inferior in number to the

living inhabitants of Rome. About thirty years after the foundation

of Constantinople, a similar magistrate was created in that rising

metropolis, for the same uses and with the same powers. A perfect equality was established between the dignity of the two municipal, and that of the four Prætorian præfects.

chapter XVII: Foundation Of Constantinople.--Part IV.

those who, in the imperial hierarchy, were distinguished by the title

of Respectable, formed an intermediate class between the illustrious

præfects, and the honorable magistrates of the provinces. In this class the proconsuls of Asia, Achaia, and Africa, claimed a preëminence, which was yielded to the remembrance of their ancient dignity; and the appeal from their tribunal to that of the præfects was almost the only mark of their dependence. But the civil government of the empire was distributed

into thirteen great Dioceses, each of which equalled the just measure

of a powerful kingdom. The first of these dioceses was subject to the

jurisdiction of the count of the east; and we may convey some idea of the importance and variety of his functions, by observing, that six

hundred apparitors, who would be styled at present either secretaries,

or clerks, or ushers, or messengers, were employed in his immediate

office. The place of Augustal prefect of Egypt was no longer filled by a Roman knight; but the name was retained; and the extraordinary powers which the situation of the country, and the temper of the inhabitants,

had once made indispensable, were still continued to the governor. The eleven remaining dioceses, of Asiana, Pontica, and Thrace; of Macedonia, dacia, and Pannonia, or Western Illyricum; of Italy and Africa; of Gaul,

Spain, and Britain; were governed by twelve vicars or vice-prefects, whose name sufficiently explains the nature and dependence of their

office. It may be added, that the lieutenant-generals of the Roman armies, the military counts and dukes, who will be hereafter mentioned, were allowed the rank and title of Respectable.

as the spirit of jealousy and ostentation prevailed in the councils

of the emperors, they proceeded with anxious diligence to divide the

substance and to multiply the titles of power. The vast countries which the Roman conquerors had united under the same simple form of administration, were imperceptibly crumbled into minute fragments; till at length the whole empire was distributed into one hundred and

sixteen provinces, each of which supported an expensive and splendid establishment. Of these, three were governed by proconsuls, thirty-seven by consulars, five by correctors, and seventy-one by presidents. the appellations of these magistrates were different; they ranked in

successive order, the ensigns of and their situation, from accidental circumstances, might be more or less agreeable or advantageous. But they were all (excepting only the pro-consuls) alike included in the class of

honorable persons; and they were alike intrusted, during the pleasure of the prince, and under the authority of the præfects or their deputies, with the administration of justice and the finances in their respective districts. The ponderous volumes of the Codes and Pandects would furnish ample materials for a minute inquiry into the system of provincial

government, as in the space of six centuries it was approved by the wisdom of the Roman statesmen and lawyers. It may be sufficient for the

historian to select two singular and salutary provisions, intended to

restrain the abuse of authority. 1. For the preservation of peace and

order, the governors of the provinces were armed with the sword of

justice. They inflicted corporal punishments, and they exercised,

in capital offences, the power of life and death. But they were not authorized to indulge the condemned criminal with the choice of his own execution, or to pronounce a sentence of the mildest and most honorable

kind of exile. These prerogatives were reserved to the præfects, who alone could impose the heavy fine of fifty pounds of gold: their

vicegerents were confined to the trifling weight of a few ounces. this distinction, which seems to grant the larger, while it denies the

smaller degree of authority, was founded on a very rational motive. The

smaller degree was infinitely more liable to abuse. The passions of a provincial magistrate might frequently provoke him into acts of

oppression, which affected only the freedom or the fortunes of the

subject; though, from a principle of prudence, perhaps of humanity, he

might still be terrified by the guilt of innocent blood. It may likewise be considered, that exile, considerable fines, or the choice of an easy death, relate more particularly to the rich and the noble; and the

persons the most exposed to the avarice or resentment of a provincial

magistrate, were thus removed from his obscure persecution to the more august and impartial tribunal of the Prætorian præfect. 2. As it was

reasonably apprehended that the integrity of the judge might be biased,

if his interest was concerned, or his affections were engaged, the

strictest regulations were established, to exclude any person, without the special dispensation of the emperor, from the government of the

province where he was born; and to prohibit the governor or his son from contracting marriage with a native, or an inhabitant; or from purchasing

slaves, lands, or houses, within the extent of his jurisdiction.

Notwithstanding these rigorous precautions, the emperor Constantine, after a reign of twenty-five years, still deplores the venal and

oppressive administration of justice, and expresses the warmest

indignation that the audience of the judge, his despatch of business,

his seasonable delays, and his final sentence, were publicly sold, either by himself or by the officers of his court. The continuance, and

perhaps the impunity, of these crimes, is attested by the repetition of

impotent laws and ineffectual menaces.

all the civil magistrates were drawn from the profession of the law. the celebrated Institutes of Justinian are addressed to the youth of

his dominions, who had devoted themselves to the study of Roman

jurisprudence; and the sovereign condescends to animate their diligence, by the assurance that their skill and ability would in time be rewarded by an adequate share in the government of the republic. The rudiments of this lucrative science were taught in all the considerable cities of the east and west; but the most famous school was that of Berytus, on the coast of Phnicia; which flourished above three centuries from the time of Alexander Severus, the author perhaps of an institution so advantageous to his native country. After a regular course of education, which lasted five years, the students dispersed themselves through the provinces, in search of fortune and honors; nor could they want an

inexhaustible supply of business great empire, already corrupted by the

multiplicity of laws, of arts, and of vices. The court of the Prætorian

præfect of the east could alone furnish employment for one hundred and fifty advocates, sixty-four of whom were distinguished by peculiar

privileges, and two were annually chosen, with a salary of sixty pounds

of gold, to defend the causes of the treasury. The first experiment was

made of their judicial talents, by appointing them to act occasionally as assessors to the magistrates; from thence they were often raised to

preside in the tribunals before which they had pleaded. They obtained the government of a province; and, by the aid of merit, of reputation,

or of favor, they ascended, by successive steps, to the illustrious dignities of the state. In the practice of the bar, these men had considered reason as the instrument of dispute; they interpreted the laws according to the dictates of private interest and the same

pernicious habits might still adhere to their characters in the public administration of the state. The honor of a liberal profession has

indeed been vindicated by ancient and modern advocates, who have filled the most important stations, with pure integrity and consummate wisdom: but in the decline of Roman jurisprudence, the ordinary promotion of

lawyers was pregnant with mischief and disgrace. The noble art, which

had once been preserved as the sacred inheritance of the patricians, was fallen into the hands of freedmen and plebeians, who, with cunning

rather than with skill, exercised a sordid and pernicious trade. Some

of them procured admittance into families for the purpose of fomenting differences, of encouraging suits, and of preparing a harvest of gain for themselves or their brethren. Others, recluse in their chambers,

maintained the dignity of legal professors, by furnishing a rich client with subtleties to confound the plainest truths, and with arguments to color the most unjustifiable pretensions. The splendid and popular class was composed of the advocates, who filled the Forum with the sound of their turgid and loquacious rhetoric. Careless of fame and of justice, they are described, for the most part, as ignorant and rapacious guides, who conducted their clients through a maze of expense, of delay, and of disappointment; from whence, after a tedious series of years, they were at length dismissed, when their patience and fortune were almost exhausted.

III. In the system of policy introduced by Augustus, the governors, those at least of the Imperial provinces, were invested with the full powers of the sovereign himself. Ministers of peace and war, the distribution of rewards and punishments depended on them alone, and they successively appeared on their tribunal in the robes of civil

magistracy, and in complete armor at the head of the Roman legions. The

influence of the revenue, the authority of law, and the command of a

military force, concurred to render their power supreme and absolute; and whenever they were tempted to violate their allegiance, the loyal

province which they involved in their rebellion was scarcely sensible

of any change in its political state. From the time of Commodus to the

reign of Constantine, near one hundred governors might be enumerated, who, with various success, erected the standard of revolt; and though the innocent were too often sacrificed, the guilty might be sometimes

prevented, by the suspicious cruelty of their master. To secure his throne and the public tranquillity from these formidable servants, constantine resolved to divide the military from the civil administration, and to establish, as a permanent and professional distinction, a practice which had been adopted only as an occasional expedient. The supreme jurisdiction exercised by the Prætorian

præfects over the armies of the empire, was transferred to the two

masters-general whom he instituted, the one for the cavalry, the other for the infantry; and though each of these illustrious officers was more

peculiarly responsible for the discipline of those troops which were

under his immediate inspection, they both indifferently commanded in the field the several bodies, whether of horse or foot, which were united in the same army. Their number was soon doubled by the division of the east and west; and as separate generals of the same rank and title were appointed on the four important frontiers of the Rhine, of the Upper and the Lower Danube, and of the Euphrates, the defence of the Roman empire was at length committed to eight masters-general of the cavalry and

infantry. Under their orders, thirty-five military commanders were

stationed in the provinces: three in Britain, six in Gaul, one in Spain,

one in Italy, five on the Upper, and four on the Lower Danube; in Asia, eight, three in Egypt, and four in Africa. The titles of counts, and dukes, by which they were properly distinguished, have obtained in

modern languages so very different a sense, that the use of them may

occasion some surprise. But it should be recollected, that the second

of those appellations is only a corruption of the Latin word, which was

indiscriminately applied to any military chief. All these provincial

generals were therefore dukes; but no more than ten among them were dignified with the rank of counts or companions, a title of honor,

or rather of favor, which had been recently invented in the court of constantine. A gold belt was the ensign which distinguished the office

of the counts and dukes; and besides their pay, they received a liberal allowance sufficient to maintain one hundred and ninety servants, and

one hundred and fifty-eight horses. They were strictly prohibited from

interfering in any matter which related to the administration of justice

or the revenue; but the command which they exercised over the troops of their department, was independent of the authority of the magistrates. about the same time that Constantine gave a legal sanction to the ecclesiastical order, he instituted in the Roman empire the nice balance

of the civil and the military powers. The emulation, and sometimes the discord, which reigned between two professions of opposite interests and incompatible manners, was productive of beneficial and of pernicious consequences. It was seldom to be expected that the general and the civil governor of a province should either conspire for the disturbance,

or should unite for the service, of their country. While the one delayed to offer the assistance which the other disdained to solicit, the troops

very frequently remained without orders or without supplies; the public

safety was betrayed, and the defenceless subjects were left exposed to the fury of the Barbarians. The divided administration which had been formed by Constantine, relaxed the vigor of the state, while it secured the tranquillity of the monarch.

the memory of Constantine has been deservedly censured for another

innovation, which corrupted military discipline and prepared the ruin

of the empire. The nineteen years which preceded his final victory over

Licinius, had been a period of license and intestine war. The rivals who contended for the possession of the Roman world, had withdrawn the

greatest part of their forces from the guard of the general frontier; and the principal cities which formed the boundary of their respective dominions were filled with soldiers, who considered their countrymen as their most implacable enemies. After the use of these internal garrisons

had ceased with the civil war, the conqueror wanted either wisdom or firmness to revive the severe discipline of Diocletian, and to suppress a fatal indulgence, which habit had endeared and almost confirmed to the

military order. From the reign of Constantine, a popular and even legal distinction was admitted between the Palatines and the Borderers; the troops of the court, as they were improperly styled, and the troops of the frontier. The former, elevated by the superiority of their pay and

privileges, were permitted, except in the extraordinary emergencies of war, to occupy their tranquil stations in the heart of the provinces. the most flourishing cities were oppressed by the intolerable weight

of quarters. The soldiers insensibly forgot the virtues of their

profession, and contracted only the vices of civil life. They were either degraded by the industry of mechanic trades, or enervated by the

luxury of baths and theatres. They soon became careless of their martial exercises, curious in their diet and apparel; and while they inspired terror to the subjects of the empire, they trembled at the hostile approach of the Barbarians. The chain of fortifications which Diocletian and his colleagues had extended along the banks of the great rivers, was no longer maintained with the same care, or defended with the same

vigilance. The numbers which still remained under the name of the troops

of the frontier, might be sufficient for the ordinary defence; but their

spirit was degraded by the humiliating reflection, that they who were exposed to the hardships and dangers of a perpetual warfare, were

rewarded only with about two thirds of the pay and emoluments which were

lavished on the troops of the court. Even the bands or legions that were

raised the nearest to the level of those unworthy favorites, were in

some measure disgraced by the title of honor which they were allowed to assume. It was in vain that Constantine repeated the most dreadful

menaces of fire and sword against the Borderers who should dare desert their colors, to connive at the inroads of the Barbarians, or to

participate in the spoil. The mischiefs which flow from injudicious counsels are seldom removed by the application of partial severities; and though succeeding princes labored to restore the strength and

numbers of the frontier garrisons, the empire, till the last moment of

its dissolution, continued to languish under the mortal wound which had been so rashly or so weakly inflicted by the hand of Constantine.

the same timid policy, of dividing whatever is united, of reducing whatever is eminent, of dreading every active power, and of expecting that the most feeble will prove the most obedient, seems to pervade the

institutions of several princes, and particularly those of Constantine. the martial pride of the legions, whose victorious camps had so often been the scene of rebellion, was nourished by the memory of their past exploits, and the consciousness of their actual strength. As long as they maintained their ancient establishment of six thousand men, they

subsisted, under the reign of Diocletian, each of them singly, a visible and important object in the military history of the Roman empire. A few

years afterwards, these gigantic bodies were shrunk to a very diminutive

size; and when seven legions, with some auxiliaries, defended the city

of Amida against the Persians, the total garrison, with the inhabitants

of both sexes, and the peasants of the deserted country, did not exceed the number of twenty thousand persons. From this fact, and from similar examples, there is reason to believe, that the constitution of the

legionary troops, to which they partly owed their valor and discipline, was dissolved by Constantine; and that the bands of Roman infantry, which still assumed the same names and the same honors, consisted

only of one thousand or fifteen hundred men. The conspiracy of so many

separate detachments, each of which was awed by the sense of its own weakness, could easily be checked; and the successors of Constantine

might indulge their love of ostentation, by issuing their orders to one

hundred and thirty-two legions, inscribed on the muster-roll of their

numerous armies. The remainder of their troops was distributed into

several hundred cohorts of infantry, and squadrons of cavalry. Their arms, and titles, and ensigns, were calculated to inspire terror, and to display the variety of nations who marched under the Imperial standard. and not a vestige was left of that severe simplicity, which, in the ages

of freedom and victory, had distinguished the line of battle of a Roman army from the confused host of an Asiatic monarch. A more particular enumeration, drawn from the Notitia, might exercise the diligence of an antiquary; but the historian will content himself with observing, that the number of permanent stations or garrisons established on the frontiers of the empire, amounted to five hundred and eighty-three; and that, under the successors of Constantine, the complete force of the

military establishment was computed at six hundred and forty-five thousand soldiers. An effort so prodigious surpassed the wants of a more ancient, and the faculties of a later, period.

In the various states of society, armies are recruited from very different motives. Barbarians are urged by the love of war; the citizens

of a free republic may be prompted by a principle of duty; the subjects,

or at least the nobles, of a monarchy, are animated by a sentiment of

honor; but the timid and luxurious inhabitants of a declining empire

must be allured into the service by the hopes of profit, or compelled by the dread of punishment. The resources of the Roman treasury were exhausted by the increase of pay, by the repetition of donatives, and by the invention of new emolument and indulgences, which, in the opinion

of the provincial youth might compensate the hardships and dangers of a

military life. Yet, although the stature was lowered, although slaves,

least by a tacit connivance, were indiscriminately received into the

ranks, the insurmountable difficulty of procuring a regular and adequate

supply of volunteers, obliged the emperors to adopt more effectual and coercive methods. The lands bestowed on the veterans, as the free reward

of their valor were henceforward granted under a condition which contain the first rudiments of the feudal tenures; that their sons, who

succeeded to the inheritance, should devote themselves to the profession

of arms, as soon as they attained the age of manhood; and their cowardly

refusal was punished by the lose of honor, of fortune, or even of life. but as the annual growth of the sons of the veterans bore a very small

proportion to the demands of the service, levies of men were frequently

required from the provinces, and every proprietor was obliged either to take up arms, or to procure a substitute, or to purchase his exemption by the payment of a heavy fine. The sum of forty-two pieces of gold, to which it was reduced, ascertains the exorbitant price of volunteers, and the reluctance with which the government admitted of this alterative.

Such was the horror for the profession of a soldier, which had affected the minds of the degenerate Romans, that many of the youth of Italy and the provinces chose to cut off the fingers of their right hand, to escape from being pressed into the service; and this strange expedient was so commonly practised, as to deserve the severe animadversion of the

laws, and a peculiar name in the Latin language.

chapter XVII: Foundation Of Constantinople.--Part V.

the introduction of Barbarians into the Roman armies became every day

more universal, more necessary, and more fatal. The most daring of the

Scythians, of the Goths, and of the Germans, who delighted in war, and who found it more profitable to defend than to ravage the provinces, were enrolled, not only in the auxiliaries of their respective nations, but in the legions themselves, and among the most distinguished of the

Palatine troops. As they freely mingled with the subjects of the empire, they gradually learned to despise their manners, and to imitate their arts. They abjured the implicit reverence which the pride of Rome had exacted from their ignorance, while they acquired the knowledge and possession of those advantages by which alone she supported her declining greatness. The Barbarian soldiers, who displayed any military talents, were advanced, without exception, to the most important commands; and the names of the tribunes, of the counts and dukes, and of the generals themselves, betray a foreign origin, which they no longer condescended to disguise. They were often intrusted with the conduct of a war against their countrymen; and though most of them preferred the ties of allegiance to those of blood, they did not always avoid the guilt, or at least the suspicion, of holding a treasonable correspondence with the enemy, of inviting his invasion, or of sparing

his retreat. The camps and the palace of the son of Constantine were

governed by the powerful faction of the Franks, who preserved the

strictest connection with each other, and with their country, and who

resented every personal affront as a national indignity. When the tyrant caligula was suspected of an intention to invest a very extraordinary candidate with the consular robes, the sacrilegious profanation would

have scarcely excited less astonishment, if, instead of a horse, the

noblest chieftain of Germany or Britain had been the object of his choice. The revolution of three centuries had produced so remarkable a change in the prejudices of the people, that, with the public approbation, Constantine showed his successors the example of bestowing the honors of the consulship on the Barbarians, who, by their merit and

services, had deserved to be ranked among the first of the Romans. but as these hardy veterans, who had been educated in the ignorance or contempt of the laws, were incapable of exercising any civil offices, the powers of the human mind were contracted by the irreconcilable

separation of talents as well as of professions. The accomplished citizens of the Greek and Roman republics, whose characters could adapt themselves to the bar, the senate, the camp, or the schools, had learned to write, to speak, and to act with the same spirit, and with equal abilities.

IV. Besides the magistrates and generals, who at a distance from the court diffused their delegated authority over the provinces and armies, the emperor conferred the rank of Illustrious on seven of his more

immediate servants, to whose fidelity he intrusted his safety, or his counsels, or his treasures. 1. The private apartments of the palace were

governed by a favorite eunuch, who, in the language of that age, was

styled the propositus, or præfect of the sacred bed-chamber. His duty was to attend the emperor in his hours of state, or in those of amusement, and to perform about his person all those menial services, which can only derive their splendor from the influence of royalty.

Under a prince who deserved to reign, the great chamberlain (for such we

may call him) was a useful and humble domestic; but an artful domestic, who improves every occasion of unguarded confidence, will insensibly acquire over a feeble mind that ascendant which harsh wisdom and

uncomplying virtue can seldom obtain. The degenerate grandsons of theodosius, who were invisible to their subjects, and contemptible to their enemies, exalted the præfects of their bed-chamber above the heads

of all the ministers of the palace; and even his deputy, the first of the splendid train of slaves who waited in the presence, was thought worthy to rank before the respectable proconsuls of Greece or Asia. the jurisdiction of the chamberlain was acknowledged by the counts,

or superintendents, who regulated the two important provinces of the

magnificence of the wardrobe, and of the luxury of the Imperial table.

2. The principal administration of public affairs was committed to the diligence and abilities of the master of the offices. He was the supreme

magistrate of the palace, inspected the discipline of the civil and

military schools, and received appeals from all parts of the empire, in the causes which related to that numerous army of privileged persons, who, as the servants of the court, had obtained for themselves and families a right to decline the authority of the ordinary judges. The correspondence between the prince and his subjects was managed by the four scrinia, or offices of this minister of state. The first was appropriated to memorials, the second to epistles, the third to

petitions, and the fourth to papers and orders of a miscellaneous kind. each of these was directed by an inferior master of respectable dignity, and the whole business was despatched by a hundred and forty-eight

secretaries, chosen for the most part from the profession of the law,

on account of the variety of abstracts of reports and references which frequently occurred in the exercise of their several functions. From a condescension, which in former ages would have been esteemed unworthy the Roman majesty, a particular secretary was allowed for the Greek

language; and interpreters were appointed to receive the ambassadors of the Barbarians; but the department of foreign affairs, which constitutes

so essential a part of modern policy, seldom diverted the attention of the master of the offices. His mind was more seriously engaged by the

general direction of the posts and arsenals of the empire. There were thirty-four cities, fifteen in the East, and nineteen in the West,

in which regular companies of workmen were perpetually employed in fabricating defensive armor, offensive weapons of all sorts, and

military engines, which were deposited in the arsenals, and occasionally delivered for the service of the troops. 3. In the course of nine centuries, the office of quæstor had experienced a very singular

revolution. In the infancy of Rome, two inferior magistrates were annually elected by the people, to relieve the consuls from the

invidious management of the public treasure; a similar assistant was granted to every proconsul, and to every prætor, who exercised a

military or provincial command; with the extent of conquest, the two

quæstors were gradually multiplied to the number of four, of eight,

of twenty, and, for a short time, perhaps, of forty; and the noblest citizens ambitiously solicited an office which gave them a seat in the

senate, and a just hope of obtaining the honors of the republic. Whilst augustus affected to maintain the freedom of election, he consented to accept the annual privilege of recommending, or rather indeed of

nominating, a certain proportion of candidates; and it was his custom to select one of these distinguished youths, to read his orations or epistles in the assemblies of the senate. The practice of Augustus was imitated by succeeding princes; the occasional commission was established as a permanent office; and the favored quæstor, assuming a

new and more illustrious character, alone survived the suppression of

his ancient and useless colleagues. As the orations which he composed in the name of the emperor, acquired the force, and, at length, the form,

of absolute edicts, he was considered as the representative of the

legislative power, the oracle of the council, and the original source

of the civil jurisprudence. He was sometimes invited to take his seat

in the supreme judicature of the Imperial consistory, with the Prætorian

præfects, and the master of the offices; and he was frequently requested to resolve the doubts of inferior judges: but as he was not oppressed with a variety of subordinate business, his leisure and talents were employed to cultivate that dignified style of eloquence, which, in the corruption of taste and language, still preserves the majesty of the

Roman laws. In some respects, the office of the Imperial quæstor may be compared with that of a modern chancellor; but the use of a great seal, which seems to have been adopted by the illiterate barbarians, was

never introduced to attest the public acts of the emperors. 4. The extraordinary title of count of the sacred largesses was bestowed on the treasurer-general of the revenue, with the intention perhaps of

inculcating, that every payment flowed from the voluntary bounty of the

monarch. To conceive the almost infinite detail of the annual and daily expense of the civil and military administration in every part of a

great empire, would exceed the powers of the most vigorous imagination. the actual account employed several hundred persons, distributed into eleven different offices, which were artfully contrived to examine and control their respective operations. The multitude of these agents had a natural tendency to increase; and it was more than once thought expedient to dismiss to their native homes the useless supernumeraries, who, deserting their honest labors, had pressed with too much eagerness

into the lucrative profession of the finances. Twenty-nine provincial

receivers, of whom eighteen were honored with the title of count, corresponded with the treasurer; and he extended his jurisdiction over the mines from whence the precious metals were extracted, over the

mints, in which they were converted into the current coin, and over the public treasuries of the most important cities, where they were deposited for the service of the state. The foreign trade of the empire was regulated by this minister, who directed likewise all the linen and woollen manufactures, in which the successive operations of spinning, weaving, and dyeing were executed, chiefly by women of a servile condition, for the use of the palace and army. Twenty-six of these

institutions are enumerated in the West, where the arts had been more

recently introduced, and a still larger proportion may be allowed for the industrious provinces of the East. 5. Besides the public revenue, which an absolute monarch might levy and expend according to his

pleasure, the emperors, in the capacity of opulent citizens, possessed a very extensive property, which was administered by the count or treasurer of the private estate. Some part had perhaps been the ancient demesnes of kings and republics; some accessions might be derived from the families which were successively invested with the purple; but the

most considerable portion flowed from the impure source of confiscations and forfeitures. The Imperial estates were scattered through the

provinces, from Mauritania to Britain; but the rich and fertile soil of cappadocia tempted the monarch to acquire in that country his fairest

possessions, and either Constantine or his successors embraced the

occasion of justifying avarice by religious zeal. They suppressed the

rich temple of Comana, where the high priest of the goddess of war

supported the dignity of a sovereign prince; and they applied to their

private use the consecrated lands, which were inhabited by six thousand

subjects or slaves of the deity and her ministers. But these were not the valuable inhabitants: the plains that stretch from the foot of

Mount Argæus to the banks of the Sarus, bred a generous race of horses,

renowned above all others in the ancient world for their majestic shape and incomparable swiftness. These sacred animals, destined for the

service of the palace and the Imperial games, were protected by the laws from the profanation of a vulgar master. The demesnes of Cappadocia were

important enough to require the inspection of a count; officers of an

inferior rank were stationed in the other parts of the empire; and the deputies of the private, as well as those of the public, treasurer were maintained in the exercise of their independent functions, and encouraged to control the authority of the provincial magistrates. 6,

7. The chosen bands of cavalry and infantry, which guarded the person of the emperor, were under the immediate command of the two counts of the domestics. The whole number consisted of three thousand five hundred

men, divided into seven schools, or troops, of five hundred each; and in the East, this honorable service was almost entirely appropriated to the Armenians. Whenever, on public ceremonies, they were drawn up in the courts and porticos of the palace, their lofty stature, silent order, and splendid arms of silver and gold, displayed a martial pomp not

unworthy of the Roman majesty. From the seven schools two companies

of horse and foot were selected, of the protectors, whose advantageous

station was the hope and reward of the most deserving soldiers. they mounted guard in the interior apartments, and were occasionally despatched into the provinces, to execute with celerity and vigor the

orders of their master. The counts of the domestics had succeeded to the

office of the Prætorian præfects; like the præfects, they aspired from the service of the palace to the command of armies.

the perpetual intercourse between the court and the provinces was facilitated by the construction of roads and the institution of posts. but these beneficial establishments were accidentally connected with a pernicious and intolerable abuse. Two or three hundred agents or

messengers were employed, under the jurisdiction of the master of the

offices, to announce the names of the annual consuls, and the edicts

or victories of the emperors. They insensibly assumed the license

of reporting whatever they could observe of the conduct either of

magistrates or of private citizens; and were soon considered as the eyes

of the monarch, and the scourge of the people. Under the warm influence

of a feeble reign, they multiplied to the incredible number of ten thousand, disdained the mild though frequent admonitions of the laws, and exercised in the profitable management of the posts a rapacious and

insolent oppression. These official spies, who regularly corresponded with the palace, were encouraged by favor and reward, anxiously to watch the progress of every treasonable design, from the faint and latent

symptoms of disaffection, to the actual preparation of an open revolt. their careless or criminal violation of truth and justice was covered by the consecrated mask of zeal; and they might securely aim their poisoned arrows at the breast either of the guilty or the innocent, who had

provoked their resentment, or refused to purchase their silence. A faithful subject, of Syria perhaps, or of Britain, was exposed to the danger, or at least to the dread, of being dragged in chains to the court of Milan or Constantinople, to defend his life and fortune against the malicious charge of these privileged informers. The ordinary administration was conducted by those methods which extreme necessity can alone palliate; and the defects of evidence were diligently supplied by the use of torture.

the deceitful and dangerous experiment of the criminal question, as

it is emphatically styled, was admitted, rather than approved, in the jurisprudence of the Romans. They applied this sanguinary mode of examination only to servile bodies, whose sufferings were seldom weighed by those haughty republicans in the scale of justice or humanity; but they would never consent to violate the sacred person of a citizen, till they possessed the clearest evidence of his guilt. The annals

of tyranny, from the reign of Tiberius to that of Domitian, circumstantially relate the executions of many innocent victims; but, as

long as the faintest remembrance was kept alive of the national freedom and honor, the last hours of a Roman were secured from the danger of

ignominious torture. The conduct of the provincial magistrates was not,

however, regulated by the practice of the city, or the strict maxims of the civilians. They found the use of torture established not only among the slaves of oriental despotism, but among the Macedonians, who obeyed a limited monarch; among the Rhodians, who flourished by the liberty

of commerce; and even among the sage Athenians, who had asserted and adorned the dignity of human kind. The acquiescence of the provincials encouraged their governors to acquire, or perhaps to usurp, a discretionary power of employing the rack, to extort from vagrants or

plebeian criminals the confession of their guilt, till they insensibly

proceeded to confound the distinction of rank, and to disregard the

privileges of Roman citizens. The apprehensions of the subjects urged them to solicit, and the interest of the sovereign engaged him to

grant, a variety of special exemptions, which tacitly allowed, and even authorized, the general use of torture. They protected all persons of

illustrious or honorable rank, bishops and their presbyters, professors

of the liberal arts, soldiers and their families, municipal officers, and their posterity to the third generation, and all children under the age of puberty. But a fatal maxim was introduced into the new

jurisprudence of the empire, that in the case of treason, which included every offence that the subtlety of lawyers could derive from a hostile

intention towards the prince or republic, all privileges were suspended, and all conditions were reduced to the same ignominious level. As the

safety of the emperor was avowedly preferred to every consideration of

justice or humanity, the dignity of age and the tenderness of youth were alike exposed to the most cruel tortures; and the terrors of a malicious

information, which might select them as the accomplices, or even as the witnesses, perhaps, of an imaginary crime, perpetually hung over the

heads of the principal citizens of the Roman world.

these evils, however terrible they may appear, were confined to the

smaller number of Roman subjects, whose dangerous situation was in

some degree compensated by the enjoyment of those advantages, either of

nature or of fortune, which exposed them to the jealousy of the monarch. the obscure millions of a great empire have much less to dread from the cruelty than from the avarice of their masters, and their humble

happiness is principally affected by the grievance of excessive taxes, which, gently pressing on the wealthy, descend with accelerated weight

on the meaner and more indigent classes of society. An ingenious

philosopher has calculated the universal measure of the public

impositions by the degrees of freedom and servitude; and ventures to assert, that, according to an invariable law of nature, it must always

increase with the former, and diminish in a just proportion to the

latter. But this reflection, which would tend to alleviate the miseries

of despotism, is contradicted at least by the history of the Roman empire; which accuses the same princes of despoiling the senate of its authority, and the provinces of their wealth. Without abolishing all the various customs and duties on merchandises, which are imperceptibly discharged by the apparent choice of the purchaser, the policy of constantine and his successors preferred a simple and direct mode of taxation, more congenial to the spirit of an arbitrary government.

chapter XVII: Foundation Of Constantinople.--Part VI.

the name and use of the indictions, which serve to ascertain the chronology of the middle ages, were derived from the regular practice

of the Roman tributes. The emperor subscribed with his own hand, and in

purple ink, the solemn edict, or indiction, which was fixed up in the

principal city of each diocese, during two months previous to the first day of September. And by a very easy connection of ideas, the word

indiction was transferred to the measure of tribute which it prescribed, and to the annual term which it allowed for the payment. This general estimate of the supplies was proportioned to the real and imaginary wants of the state; but as often as the expense exceeded the revenue, or the revenue fell short of the computation, an additional tax, under the

name of superindiction, was imposed on the people, and the most valuable attribute of sovereignty was communicated to the Prætorian præfects, who, on some occasions, were permitted to provide for the unforeseen and extraordinary exigencies of the public service. The execution of these

laws (which it would be tedious to pursue in their minute and intricate detail) consisted of two distinct operations: the resolving the general

imposition into its constituent parts, which were assessed on the

provinces, the cities, and the individuals of the Roman world; and the collecting the separate contributions of the individuals, the cities, and the provinces, till the accumulated sums were poured into the

Imperial treasuries. But as the account between the monarch and the subject was perpetually open, and as the renewal of the demand anticipated the perfect discharge of the preceding obligation, the weighty machine of the finances was moved by the same hands round the circle of its yearly revolution. Whatever was honorable or important in the administration of the revenue, was committed to the wisdom of the

præfects, and their provincial representatives; the lucrative functions were claimed by a crowd of subordinate officers, some of whom depended

on the treasurer, others on the governor of the province; and who,

in the inevitable conflicts of a perplexed jurisdiction, had frequent

opportunities of disputing with each other the spoils of the people. The

laborious offices, which could be productive only of envy and reproach,

of expense and danger, were imposed on the Decurions, who formed the corporations of the cities, and whom the severity of the Imperial laws

had condemned to sustain the burdens of civil society. The whole landed

property of the empire (without excepting the patrimonial estates of the

monarch) was the object of ordinary taxation; and every new purchaser contracted the obligations of the former proprietor. An accurate census,

or survey, was the only equitable mode of ascertaining the proportion which every citizen should be obliged to contribute for the public

service; and from the well-known period of the indictions, there is

reason to believe that this difficult and expensive operation was

repeated at the regular distance of fifteen years. The lands were

measured by surveyors, who were sent into the provinces; their nature, whether arable or pasture, or vineyards or woods, was distinctly

reported; and an estimate was made of their common value from the average produce of five years. The numbers of slaves and of cattle constituted an essential part of the report; an oath was administered to the proprietors, which bound them to disclose the true state of their affairs; and their attempts to prevaricate, or elude the intention of the legislator, were severely watched, and punished as a capital crime, which included the double guilt of treason and sacrilege. A large

portion of the tribute was paid in money; and of the current coin of the empire, gold alone could be legally accepted. The remainder of the taxes, according to the proportions determined by the annual indiction, was furnished in a manner still more direct, and still more oppressive. according to the different nature of lands, their real produce in the

various articles of wine or oil, corn or barley, wood or iron, was transported by the labor or at the expense of the provincials \* to the

Imperial magazines, from whence they were occasionally distributed for the use of the court, of the army, and of two capitals, Rome and constantinople. The commissioners of the revenue were so frequently

obliged to make considerable purchases, that they were strictly

prohibited from allowing any compensation, or from receiving in money the value of those supplies which were exacted in kind. In the primitive

simplicity of small communities, this method may be well adapted to collect the almost voluntary offerings of the people; but it is at once

susceptible of the utmost latitude, and of the utmost strictness, which

in a corrupt and absolute monarchy must introduce a perpetual contest between the power of oppression and the arts of fraud. The agriculture

of the Roman provinces was insensibly ruined, and, in the progress of despotism which tends to disappoint its own purpose, the emperors were

obliged to derive some merit from the forgiveness of debts, or the

remission of tributes, which their subjects were utterly incapable of

paying. According to the new division of Italy, the fertile and happy

province of Campania, the scene of the early victories and of the delicious retirements of the citizens of Rome, extended between the

sea and the Apennine, from the Tiber to the Silarus. Within sixty years after the death of Constantine, and on the evidence of an actual survey, an exemption was granted in favor of three hundred and thirty thousand english acres of desert and uncultivated land; which amounted to one eighth of the whole surface of the province. As the footsteps of the barbarians had not yet been seen in Italy, the cause of this amazing desolation, which is recorded in the laws, can be ascribed only to the administration of the Roman emperors.

either from design or from accident, the mode of assessment seemed to

unite the substance of a land tax with the forms of a capitation. The

returns which were sent of every province or district, expressed the

number of tributary subjects, and the amount of the public impositions. the latter of these sums was divided by the former; and the estimate, that such a province contained so many capita, or heads of tribute; and that each head was rated at such a price, was universally received, not

only in the popular, but even in the legal computation. The value of a tributary head must have varied, according to many accidental, or at

least fluctuating circumstances; but some knowledge has been preserved

of a very curious fact, the more important, since it relates to one of the richest provinces of the Roman empire, and which now flourishes as the most splendid of the European kingdoms. The rapacious ministers of constantius had exhausted the wealth of Gaul, by exacting twenty-five

pieces of gold for the annual tribute of every head. The humane policy

of his successor reduced the capitation to seven pieces. A moderate

proportion between these opposite extremes of extraordinary oppression and of transient indulgence, may therefore be fixed at sixteen pieces

of gold, or about nine pounds sterling, the common standard, perhaps,

of the impositions of Gaul. But this calculation, or rather, indeed, the facts from whence it is deduced, cannot fail of suggesting two difficulties to a thinking mind, who will be at once surprised by the equality, and by the enormity, of the capitation. An attempt to explain them may perhaps reflect some light on the interesting subject of the finances of the declining empire.

I. It is obvious, that, as long as the immutable constitution of human

nature produces and maintains so unequal a division of property, the most numerous part of the community would be deprived of their

subsistence, by the equal assessment of a tax from which the sovereign would derive a very trifling revenue. Such indeed might be the theory of the Roman capitation; but in the practice, this unjust equality was no

longer felt, as the tribute was collected on the principle of a real,

not of a personal imposition. \* Several indigent citizens contributed to compose a single head, or share of taxation; while the wealthy

provincial, in proportion to his fortune, alone represented several of those imaginary beings. In a poetical request, addressed to one of the last and most deserving of the Roman princes who reigned in Gaul,

Sidonius Apollinaris personifies his tribute under the figure of a triple monster, the Geryon of the Grecian fables, and entreats the new

Hercules that he would most graciously be pleased to save his life by cutting off three of his heads. The fortune of Sidonius far exceeded the customary wealth of a poet; but if he had pursued the allusion, he might

have painted many of the Gallic nobles with the hundred heads of the deadly Hydra, spreading over the face of the country, and devouring the substance of a hundred families. II. The difficulty of allowing an annual sum of about nine pounds sterling, even for the average of the capitation of Gaul, may be rendered more evident by the comparison of the present state of the same country, as it is now governed by the absolute monarch of an industrious, wealthy, and affectionate people. the taxes of France cannot be magnified, either by fear or by flattery, beyond the annual amount of eighteen millions sterling, which ought

perhaps to be shared among four and twenty millions of inhabitants.

Seven millions of these, in the capacity of fathers, or brothers, or

husbands, may discharge the obligations of the remaining multitude of women and children; yet the equal proportion of each tributary subject will scarcely rise above fifty shillings of our money, instead of a proportion almost four times as considerable, which was regularly

imposed on their Gallic ancestors. The reason of this difference may be found, not so much in the relative scarcity or plenty of gold and

silver, as in the different state of society, in ancient Gaul and in

modern France. In a country where personal freedom is the privilege

of every subject, the whole mass of taxes, whether they are levied on

property or on consumption, may be fairly divided among the whole body

of the nation. But the far greater part of the lands of ancient Gaul, as well as of the other provinces of the Roman world, were cultivated by slaves, or by peasants, whose dependent condition was a less rigid

servitude. In such a state the poor were maintained at the expense of the masters who enjoyed the fruits of their labor; and as the rolls of tribute were filled only with the names of those citizens who possessed the means of an honorable, or at least of a decent subsistence, the comparative smallness of their numbers explains and justifies the high

rate of their capitation. The truth of this assertion may be illustrated by the following example: The Ædui, one of the most powerful and civilized tribes or cities of Gaul, occupied an extent of territory, which now contains about five hundred thousand inhabitants, in the two ecclesiastical dioceses of Autun and Nevers; and with the probable accession of those of Chalons and Macon, the population would amount to eight hundred thousand souls. In the time of Constantine, the territory

of the Ædui afforded no more than twenty-five thousand heads of capitation, of whom seven thousand were discharged by that prince from the intolerable weight of tribute. A just analogy would seem to countenance the opinion of an ingenious historian, that the free and tributary citizens did not surpass the number of half a million; and if,

in the ordinary administration of government, their annual payments may be computed at about four millions and a half of our money, it would appear, that although the share of each individual was four times as considerable, a fourth part only of the modern taxes of France was

levied on the Imperial province of Gaul. The exactions of Constantius

may be calculated at seven millions sterling, which were reduced to two

millions by the humanity or the wisdom of Julian.

but this tax, or capitation, on the proprietors of land, would have

suffered a rich and numerous class of free citizens to escape. With the view of sharing that species of wealth which is derived from art or

labor, and which exists in money or in merchandise, the emperors imposed a distinct and personal tribute on the trading part of their subjects.

Some exemptions, very strictly confined both in time and place, were allowed to the proprietors who disposed of the produce of their own estates. Some indulgence was granted to the profession of the liberal arts: but every other branch of commercial industry was affected by the

severity of the law. The honorable merchant of Alexandria, who imported the gems and spices of India for the use of the western world; the

usurer, who derived from the interest of money a silent and ignominious

profit; the ingenious manufacturer, the diligent mechanic, and even the

most obscure retailer of a sequestered village, were obliged to admit the officers of the revenue into the partnership of their gain; and the

sovereign of the Roman empire, who tolerated the profession, consented to share the infamous salary, of public prostitutes. As this general tax

upon industry was collected every fourth year, it was styled the Lustral contribution: and the historian Zosimus laments that the approach of the fatal period was announced by the tears and terrors of the citizens, who were often compelled by the impending scourge to embrace the most abhorred and unnatural methods of procuring the sum at which their

property had been assessed. The testimony of Zosimus cannot indeed be

justified from the charge of passion and prejudice; but, from the nature

of this tribute it seems reasonable to conclude, that it was arbitrary

in the distribution, and extremely rigorous in the mode of collecting. the secret wealth of commerce, and the precarious profits of art or

labor, are susceptible only of a discretionary valuation, which is

seldom disadvantageous to the interest of the treasury; and as the

person of the trader supplies the want of a visible and permanent

security, the payment of the imposition, which, in the case of a land tax, may be obtained by the seizure of property, can rarely be extorted by any other means than those of corporal punishments. The cruel treatment of the insolvent debtors of the state, is attested, and was perhaps mitigated by a very humane edict of Constantine, who, disclaiming the use of racks and of scourges, allots a spacious and airy

prison for the place of their confinement.

these general taxes were imposed and levied by the absolute authority

of the monarch; but the occasional offerings of the coronary goldstill

retained the name and semblance of popular consent. It was an ancient custom that the allies of the republic, who ascribed their safety or deliverance to the success of the Roman arms, and even the cities of

Italy, who admired the virtues of their victorious general, adorned the

pomp of his triumph by their voluntary gifts of crowns of gold, which after the ceremony were consecrated in the temple of Jupiter, to remain a lasting monument of his glory to future ages. The progress of zeal and flattery soon multiplied the number, and increased the size, of these

popular donations; and the triumph of Cæsar was enriched with two thousand eight hundred and twenty-two massy crowns, whose weight amounted to twenty thousand four hundred and fourteen pounds of gold. this treasure was immediately melted down by the prudent dictator, who was satisfied that it would be more serviceable to his soldiers than to the gods: his example was imitated by his successors; and the custom was introduced of exchanging these splendid ornaments for the more acceptable present of the current gold coin of the empire. The

spontaneous offering was at length exacted as the debt of duty; and

instead of being confined to the occasion of a triumph, it was supposed to be granted by the several cities and provinces of the monarchy, as often as the emperor condescended to announce his accession, his consulship, the birth of a son, the creation of a Cæsar, a victory over the Barbarians, or any other real or imaginary event which graced the annals of his reign. The peculiar free gift of the senate of Rome was fixed by custom at sixteen hundred pounds of gold, or about sixty-four thousand pounds sterling. The oppressed subjects celebrated their own felicity, that their sovereign should graciously consent to accept this feeble but voluntary testimony of their loyalty and gratitude.

a people elated by pride, or soured by discontent, are seldom qualified to form a just estimate of their actual situation. The subjects of constantine were incapable of discerning the decline of genius and manly

virtue, which so far degraded them below the dignity of their ancestors; but they could feel and lament the rage of tyranny, the relaxation of discipline, and the increase of taxes. The impartial historian, who acknowledges the justice of their complaints, will observe some favorable circumstances which tended to alleviate the misery of their condition. The threatening tempest of Barbarians, which so soon

subverted the foundations of Roman greatness, was still repelled, or

suspended, on the frontiers. The arts of luxury and literature were cultivated, and the elegant pleasures of society were enjoyed, by the

inhabitants of a considerable portion of the globe. The forms, the pomp, and the expense of the civil administration contributed to restrain the

irregular license of the soldiers; and although the laws were violated by power, or perverted by subtlety, the sage principles of the Roman

jurisprudence preserved a sense of order and equity, unknown to the despotic governments of the East. The rights of mankind might derive

some protection from religion and philosophy; and the name of freedom, which could no longer alarm, might sometimes admonish, the successors of augustus, that they did not reign over a nation of Slaves or Barbarians.

chapter XVIII: Character Of Constantine And His Sons.--Part I.

Character Of Constantine.--Gothic War.--Death Of

Constantine.--Division Of The Empire Among His Three Sons.--

Persian War.--Tragic Deaths Of Constantine The Younger And

Constans.--Usurpation Of Magnentius.--Civil War.--Victory Of

Constantius.

the character of the prince who removed the seat of empire, and

introduced such important changes into the civil and religious constitution of his country, has fixed the attention, and divided the opinions, of mankind. By the grateful zeal of the Christians, the deliverer of the church has been decorated with every attribute of a

hero, and even of a saint; while the discontent of the vanquished party

has compared Constantine to the most abhorred of those tyrants, who, by their vice and weakness, dishonored the Imperial purple. The same

passions have in some degree been perpetuated to succeeding generations, and the character of Constantine is considered, even in the present age, as an object either of satire or of panegyric. By the impartial union of those defects which are confessed by his warmest admirers, and of those

virtues which are acknowledged by his most-implacable enemies, we might

hope to delineate a just portrait of that extraordinary man, which the truth and candor of history should adopt without a blush. But it would

soon appear, that the vain attempt to blend such discordant colors, and to reconcile such inconsistent qualities, must produce a figure

monstrous rather than human, unless it is viewed in its proper and distinct lights, by a careful separation of the different periods of the

reign of Constantine.

the person, as well as the mind, of Constantine, had been enriched by nature with her choices endowments. His stature was lofty, his countenance majestic, his deportment graceful; his strength and activity were displayed in every manly exercise, and from his earliest youth, to a very advanced season of life, he preserved the vigor of his constitution by a strict adherence to the domestic virtues of chastity and temperance. He delighted in the social intercourse of familiar conversation; and though he might sometimes indulge his disposition to

raillery with less reserve than was required by the severe dignity

of his station, the courtesy and liberality of his manners gained the

hearts of all who approached him. The sincerity of his friendship

has been suspected; yet he showed, on some occasions, that he was not

incapable of a warm and lasting attachment. The disadvantage of an

illiterate education had not prevented him from forming a just estimate

of the value of learning; and the arts and sciences derived some encouragement from the munificent protection of Constantine. In the despatch of business, his diligence was indefatigable; and the active

powers of his mind were almost continually exercised in reading, writing, or meditating, in giving audiences to ambassadors, and in examining the complaints of his subjects. Even those who censured the propriety of his measures were compelled to acknowledge, that he

possessed magnanimity to conceive, and patience to execute, the most arduous designs, without being checked either by the prejudices of education, or by the clamors of the multitude. In the field, he infused

his own intrepid spirit into the troops, whom he conducted with the talents of a consummate general; and to his abilities, rather than to

his fortune, we may ascribe the signal victories which he obtained over the foreign and domestic foes of the republic. He loved glory as the

reward, perhaps as the motive, of his labors. The boundless ambition, which, from the moment of his accepting the purple at York, appears as the ruling passion of his soul, may be justified by the dangers of his

own situation, by the character of his rivals, by the consciousness of

superior merit, and by the prospect that his success would enable him to

restore peace and order to tot the distracted empire. In his civil wars against Maxentius and Licinius, he had engaged on his side the

inclinations of the people, who compared the undissembled vices of those tyrants with the spirit of wisdom and justice which seemed to direct the

general tenor of the administration of Constantine.

Had Constantine fallen on the banks of the Tyber, or even in the plains

of Hadrianople, such is the character which, with a few exceptions, he

might have transmitted to posterity. But the conclusion of his reign

(according to the moderate and indeed tender sentence of a writer of the same age) degraded him from the rank which he had acquired among the

most deserving of the Roman princes. In the life of Augustus, we behold the tyrant of the republic, converted, almost by imperceptible degrees, into the father of his country, and of human kind. In that of constantine, we may contemplate a hero, who had so long inspired his

subjects with love, and his enemies with terror, degenerating into a cruel and dissolute monarch, corrupted by his fortune, or raised by conquest above the necessity of dissimulation. The general peace which

he maintained during the last fourteen years of his reign, was a period

of apparent splendor rather than of real prosperity; and the old age

of Constantine was disgraced by the opposite yet reconcilable vices of

rapaciousness and prodigality. The accumulated treasures found in the

palaces of Maxentius and Licinius, were lavishly consumed; the

various innovations introduced by the conqueror, were attended with an increasing expense; the cost of his buildings, his court, and

his festivals, required an immediate and plentiful supply; and the

oppression of the people was the only fund which could support the

magnificence of the sovereign. His unworthy favorites, enriched by the boundless liberality of their master, usurped with impunity the

privilege of rapine and corruption. A secret but universal decay was felt in every part of the public administration, and the emperor

himself, though he still retained the obedience, gradually lost the esteem, of his subjects. The dress and manners, which, towards the decline of life, he chose to affect, served only to degrade him in the eyes of mankind. The Asiatic pomp, which had been adopted by the pride

of Diocletian, assumed an air of softness and effeminacy in the person

of Constantine. He is represented with false hair of various colors,

laboriously arranged by the skilful artists to the times; a diadem of a new and more expensive fashion; a profusion of gems and pearls, of collars and bracelets, and a variegated flowing robe of silk, most curiously embroidered with flowers of gold. In such apparel, scarcely to be excused by the youth and folly of Elagabalus, we are at a loss to discover the wisdom of an aged monarch, and the simplicity of a Roman

veteran. A mind thus relaxed by prosperity and indulgence, was incapable

of rising to that magnanimity which disdains suspicion, and dares to forgive. The deaths of Maximian and Licinius may perhaps be justified by the maxims of policy, as they are taught in the schools of tyrants; but an impartial narrative of the executions, or rather murders, which

sullied the declining age of Constantine, will suggest to our most candid thoughts the idea of a prince who could sacrifice without

reluctance the laws of justice, and the feelings of nature, to the dictates either of his passions or of his interest.

the same fortune which so invariably followed the standard of constantine, seemed to secure the hopes and comforts of his domestic

life. Those among his predecessors who had enjoyed the longest and

most prosperous reigns, Augustus Trajan, and Diocletian, had been disappointed of posterity; and the frequent revolutions had never allowed sufficient time for any Imperial family to grow up and multiply

under the shade of the purple. But the royalty of the Flavian line, which had been first ennobled by the Gothic Claudius, descended through

several generations; and Constantine himself derived from his royal father the hereditary honors which he transmitted to his children. The emperor had been twice married. Minervina, the obscure but lawful object

of his youthful attachment, had left him only one son, who was called crispus. By Fausta, the daughter of Maximian, he had three daughters, and three sons known by the kindred names of Constantine, Constantius, and Constans. The unambitious brothers of the great Constantine, Julius constantius, Dalmatius, and Hannibalianus, were permitted to enjoy the most honorable rank, and the most affluent fortune, that could be consistent with a private station. The youngest of the three lived without a name, and died without posterity. His two elder brothers

obtained in marriage the daughters of wealthy senators, and propagated

new branches of the Imperial race. Gallus and Julian afterwards became the most illustrious of the children of Julius Constantius, the

Patrician. The two sons of Dalmatius, who had been decorated with the

vain title of Censor, were named Dalmatius and Hannibalianus. The two

sisters of the great Constantine, Anastasia and Eutropia, were bestowed

on Optatus and Nepotianus, two senators of noble birth and of consular dignity. His third sister, Constantia, was distinguished by her

preeminence of greatness and of misery. She remained the widow of the

vanquished Licinius; and it was by her entreaties, that an innocent boy, the offspring of their marriage, preserved, for some time, his life, the title of Cæsar, and a precarious hope of the succession. Besides the females, and the allies of the Flavian house, ten or twelve males, to whom the language of modern courts would apply the title of princes of the blood, seemed, according to the order of their birth, to be destined either to inherit or to support the throne of Constantine. But in less than thirty years, this numerous and increasing family was reduced to the persons of Constantius and Julian, who alone had survived a series

of crimes and calamities, such as the tragic poets have deplored in the devoted lines of Pelops and of Cadmus.

crispus, the eldest son of Constantine, and the presumptive heir of the empire, is represented by impartial historians as an amiable and accomplished youth. The care of his education, or at least of his

studies, was intrusted to Lactantius, the most eloquent of the christians; a preceptor admirably qualified to form the taste, and the excite the virtues, of his illustrious disciple. At the age of

seventeen, Crispus was invested with the title of Cæsar, and the administration of the Gallic provinces, where the inroads of the Germans

gave him an early occasion of signalizing his military prowess. In the civil war which broke out soon afterwards, the father and son divided their powers; and this history has already celebrated the valor as well as conduct displayed by the latter, in forcing the straits of the

Hellespont, so obstinately defended by the superior fleet of Licinius. this naval victory contributed to determine the event of the war; and the names of Constantine and of Crispus were united in the joyful acclamations of their eastern subjects; who loudly proclaimed, that the world had been subdued, and was now governed, by an emperor endowed with every virtue; and by his illustrious son, a prince beloved of Heaven, and the lively image of his father's perfections. The public favor, which seldom accompanies old age, diffused its lustre over the youth of crispus. He deserved the esteem, and he engaged the affections, of the court, the army, and the people. The experienced merit of a reigning

monarch is acknowledged by his subjects with reluctance, and frequently denied with partial and discontented murmurs; while, from the opening

virtues of his successor, they fondly conceive the most unbounded hopes

of private as well as public felicity.

this dangerous popularity soon excited the attention of Constantine, who, both as a father and as a king, was impatient of an equal. Instead

of attempting to secure the allegiance of his son by the generous ties

of confidence and gratitude, he resolved to prevent the mischiefs which

might be apprehended from dissatisfied ambition. Crispus soon had reason to complain, that while his infant brother Constantius was sent, with the title of Cæsar, to reign over his peculiar department of the Gallic

provinces, he, a prince of mature years, who had performed such recent and signal services, instead of being raised to the superior rank of augustus, was confined almost a prisoner to his father's court; and exposed, without power or defence, to every calumny which the malice of

his enemies could suggest. Under such painful circumstances, the royal

youth might not always be able to compose his behavior, or suppress his discontent; and we may be assured, that he was encompassed by a train of

indiscreet or perfidious followers, who assiduously studied to inflame, and who were perhaps instructed to betray, the unguarded warmth of

his resentment. An edict of Constantine, published about this time,

manifestly indicates his real or affected suspicions, that a secret conspiracy had been formed against his person and government. By all the allurements of honors and rewards, he invites informers of every degree to accuse without exception his magistrates or ministers, his friends

or his most intimate favorites, protesting, with a solemn asseveration, that he himself will listen to the charge, that he himself will revenge

his injuries; and concluding with a prayer, which discovers some apprehension of danger, that the providence of the Supreme Being may

still continue to protect the safety of the emperor and of the empire.

the informers, who complied with so liberal an invitation, were

sufficiently versed in the arts of courts to select the friends and adherents of Crispus as the guilty persons; nor is there any reason to distrust the veracity of the emperor, who had promised an ample measure

of revenge and punishment. The policy of Constantine maintained,

however, the same appearances of regard and confidence towards a son, whom he began to consider as his most irreconcilable enemy. Medals were

struck with the customary vows for the long and auspicious reign of the

young Cæsar; and as the people, who were not admitted into the secrets

of the palace, still loved his virtues, and respected his dignity, a

poet who solicits his recall from exile, adores with equal devotion the

majesty of the father and that of the son. The time was now arrived for celebrating the august ceremony of the twentieth year of the reign of constantine; and the emperor, for that purpose, removed his court from

Nicomedia to Rome, where the most splendid preparations had been made for his reception. Every eye, and every tongue, affected to express their sense of the general happiness, and the veil of ceremony and dissimulation was drawn for a while over the darkest designs of revenge and murder. In the midst of the festival, the unfortunate Crispus was apprehended by order of the emperor, who laid aside the tenderness of a father, without assuming the equity of a judge. The examination was

short and private; and as it was thought decent to conceal the fate of the young prince from the eyes of the Roman people, he was sent under a

strong guard to Pola, in Istria, where, soon afterwards, he was put to death, either by the hand of the executioner, or by the more gentle

operations of poison. The Cæsar Licinius, a youth of amiable manners, was involved in the ruin of Crispus: and the stern jealousy of constantine was unmoved by the prayers and tears of his favorite sister,

pleading for the life of a son, whose rank was his only crime, and whose

loss she did not long survive. The story of these unhappy princes, the

nature and evidence of their guilt, the forms of their trial, and the circumstances of their death, were buried in mysterious obscurity; and the courtly bishop, who has celebrated in an elaborate work the virtues and piety of his hero, observes a prudent silence on the subject of these tragic events. Such haughty contempt for the opinion of mankind, whilst it imprints an indelible stain on the memory of Constantine, must

remind us of the very different behavior of one of the greatest monarchs

of the present age. The Czar Peter, in the full possession of despotic

power, submitted to the judgment of Russia, of Europe, and of posterity, the reasons which had compelled him to subscribe the condemnation of a criminal, or at least of a degenerate son.

the innocence of Crispus was so universally acknowledged, that the

modern Greeks, who adore the memory of their founder, are reduced to

palliate the guilt of a parricide, which the common feelings of human

nature forbade them to justify. They pretend, that as soon as the afflicted father discovered the falsehood of the accusation by which

his credulity had been so fatally misled, he published to the world

his repentance and remorse; that he mourned forty days, during which

he abstained from the use of the bath, and all the ordinary comforts of

life; and that, for the lasting instruction of posterity, he erected a

golden statue of Crispus, with this memorable inscription: To my son, whom I unjustly condemned. A tale so moral and so interesting would deserve to be supported by less exceptionable authority; but if we consult the more ancient and authentic writers, they will inform us, that the repentance of Constantine was manifested only in acts of blood and revenge; and that he atoned for the murder of an innocent son, by the execution, perhaps, of a guilty wife. They ascribe the misfortunes

of Crispus to the arts of his step-mother Fausta, whose implacable

hatred, or whose disappointed love, renewed in the palace of Constantine the ancient tragedy of Hippolitus and of Phædra. Like the daughter of

Minos, the daughter of Maximian accused her son-in-law of an incestuous attempt on the chastity of his father's wife; and easily obtained, from the jealousy of the emperor, a sentence of death against a young prince, whom she considered with reason as the most formidable rival of her

own children. But Helena, the aged mother of Constantine, lamented and

revenged the untimely fate of her grandson Crispus; nor was it long before a real or pretended discovery was made, that Fausta herself entertained a criminal connection with a slave belonging to the Imperial

stables. Her condemnation and punishment were the instant consequences

of the charge; and the adulteress was suffocated by the steam of a bath, which, for that purpose, had been heated to an extraordinary degree. by some it will perhaps be thought, that the remembrance of a conjugal

union of twenty years, and the honor of their common offspring, the destined heirs of the throne, might have softened the obdurate heart of constantine, and persuaded him to suffer his wife, however guilty she

might appear, to expiate her offences in a solitary prison. But it seems a superfluous labor to weigh the propriety, unless we could ascertain the truth, of this singular event, which is attended with some circumstances of doubt and perplexity. Those who have attacked, and those who have defended, the character of Constantine, have alike disregarded two very remarkable passages of two orations pronounced

under the succeeding reign. The former celebrates the virtues, the beauty, and the fortune of the empress Fausta, the daughter, wife,

sister, and mother of so many princes. The latter asserts, in explicit terms, that the mother of the younger Constantine, who was slain three

years after his father's death, survived to weep over the fate of her

son. Notwithstanding the positive testimony of several writers of the

Pagan as well as of the Christian religion, there may still remain some

reason to believe, or at least to suspect, that Fausta escaped the blind and suspicious cruelty of her husband. \* The deaths of a son and a

nephew, with the execution of a great number of respectable, and perhaps

innocent friends, who were involved in their fall, may be sufficient,

however, to justify the discontent of the Roman people, and to explain the satirical verses affixed to the palace gate, comparing the splendid and bloody reigns of Constantine and Nero.

chapter XVIII: Character Of Constantine And His Sons.--Part II.

by the death of Crispus, the inheritance of the empire seemed to devolve

on the three sons of Fausta, who have been already mentioned under the names of Constantine, of Constantius, and of Constans. These young

princes were successively invested with the title of Cæsar; and the dates of their promotion may be referred to the tenth, the twentieth, and the thirtieth years of the reign of their father. This conduct, though it tended to multiply the future masters of the Roman world,

might be excused by the partiality of paternal affection; but it is not

so easy to understand the motives of the emperor, when he endangered the safety both of his family and of his people, by the unnecessary elevation of his two nephews, Dalmatius and Hannibalianus. The former was raised, by the title of Cæsar, to an equality with his cousins.

In favor of the latter, Constantine invented the new and singular appellation of Nobilissimus; to which he annexed the flattering distinction of a robe of purple and gold. But of the whole series

of Roman princes in any age of the empire, Hannibalianus alone was distinguished by the title of King; a name which the subjects of tiberius would have detested, as the profane and cruel insult of capricious tyranny. The use of such a title, even as it appears under the reign of Constantine, is a strange and unconnected fact, which can scarcely be admitted on the joint authority of Imperial medals and contemporary writers.

the whole empire was deeply interested in the education of these five

youths, the acknowledged successors of Constantine. The exercise of the body prepared them for the fatigues of war and the duties of active life. Those who occasionally mention the education or talents of constantius, allow that he excelled in the gymnastic arts of leaping and

running that he was a dexterous archer, a skilful horseman, and a master

of all the different weapons used in the service either of the cavalry

or of the infantry. The same assiduous cultivation was bestowed, though

not perhaps with equal success, to improve the minds of the sons and

nephews of Constantine. The most celebrated professors of the Christian faith, of the Grecian philosophy, and of the Roman jurisprudence, were

invited by the liberality of the emperor, who reserved for himself the important task of instructing the royal youths in the science of

government, and the knowledge of mankind. But the genius of Constantine

himself had been formed by adversity and experience. In the free

intercourse of private life, and amidst the dangers of the court of

Galerius, he had learned to command his own passions, to encounter those

of his equals, and to depend for his present safety and future greatness

on the prudence and firmness of his personal conduct. His destined

successors had the misfortune of being born and educated in the imperial

purple. Incessantly surrounded with a train of flatterers, they passed their youth in the enjoyment of luxury, and the expectation of a throne;

nor would the dignity of their rank permit them to descend from that elevated station from whence the various characters of human nature appear to wear a smooth and uniform aspect. The indulgence of constantine admitted them, at a very tender age, to share the administration of the empire; and they studied the art of reigning, at the expense of the people intrusted to their care. The younger constantine was appointed to hold his court in Gaul; and his brother constantius exchanged that department, the ancient patrimony of their father, for the more opulent, but less martial, countries of the East.

Italy, the Western Illyricum, and Africa, were accustomed to revere constans, the third of his sons, as the representative of the great constantine. He fixed Dalmatius on the Gothic frontier, to which he annexed the government of Thrace, Macedonia, and Greece. The city of cæsarea was chosen for the residence of Hannibalianus; and the provinces

of Pontus, Cappadocia, and the Lesser Armenia, were destined to form the extent of his new kingdom. For each of these princes a suitable establishment was provided. A just proportion of guards, of legions, and

of auxiliaries, was allotted for their respective dignity and defence. the ministers and generals, who were placed about their persons, were

such as Constantine could trust to assist, and even to control, these

youthful sovereigns in the exercise of their delegated power. As they advanced in years and experience, the limits of their authority were

insensibly enlarged: but the emperor always reserved for himself the title of Augustus; and while he showed the Cæsars to the armies and

provinces, he maintained every part of the empire in equal obedience to its supreme head. The tranquillity of the last fourteen years of his

reign was scarcely interrupted by the contemptible insurrection of a camel-driver in the Island of Cyprus, or by the active part which the

policy of Constantine engaged him to assume in the wars of the Goths and

Sarmatians.

among the different branches of the human race, the Sarmatians form a

very remarkable shade; as they seem to unite the manners of the Asiatic barbarians with the figure and complexion of the ancient inhabitants of europe. According to the various accidents of peace and war, of alliance

or conquest, the Sarmatians were sometimes confined to the banks of the tanais; and they sometimes spread themselves over the immense plains which lie between the Vistula and the Volga. The care of their numerous flocks and herds, the pursuit of game, and the exercises of war, or

rather of rapine, directed the vagrant motions of the Sarmatians. The

movable camps or cities, the ordinary residence of their wives and children, consisted only of large wagons drawn by oxen, and covered in the form of tents. The military strength of the nation was composed of cavalry; and the custom of their warriors, to lead in their hand one or two spare horses, enabled them to advance and to retreat with a rapid diligence, which surprised the security, and eluded the pursuit, of a distant enemy. Their poverty of iron prompted their rude industry to

invent a sort of cuirass, which was capable of resisting a sword or

javelin, though it was formed only of horses' hoofs, cut into thin and

polished slices, carefully laid over each other in the manner of scales

or feathers, and strongly sewed upon an under garment of coarse linen. the offensive arms of the Sarmatians were short daggers, long lances, and a weighty bow vow with a quiver of arrows. They were reduced to the

necessity of employing fish-bones for the points of their weapons; but the custom of dipping them in a venomous liquor, that poisoned the wounds which they inflicted, is alone sufficient to prove the most

savage manners, since a people impressed with a sense of humanity would

have abhorred so cruel a practice, and a nation skilled in the arts

of war would have disdained so impotent a resource. Whenever these barbarians issued from their deserts in quest of prey, their shaggy beards, uncombed locks, the furs with which they were covered from head to foot, and their fierce countenances, which seemed to express the

innate cruelty of their minds, inspired the more civilized provincials

of Rome with horror and dismay.

the tender Ovid, after a youth spent in the enjoyment of fame and

luxury, was condemned to a hopeless exile on the frozen banks of the danube, where he was exposed, almost without defence, to the fury of these monsters of the desert, with whose stern spirits he feared that

his gentle shade might hereafter be confounded. In his pathetic, but

sometimes unmanly lamentations, he describes in the most lively colors the dress and manners, the arms and inroads, of the Getæ and Sarmatians, who were associated for the purposes of destruction; and from the accounts of history there is some reason to believe that these

Sarmatians were the Jazygæ, one of the most numerous and warlike tribes of the nation. The allurements of plenty engaged them to seek a

permanent establishment on the frontiers of the empire. Soon after the

reign of Augustus, they obliged the Dacians, who subsisted by fishing

on the banks of the River Teyss or Tibiscus, to retire into the hilly country, and to abandon to the victorious Sarmatians the fertile plains

of the Upper Hungary, which are bounded by the course of the Danube and the semicircular enclosure of the Carpathian Mountains. In this advantageous position, they watched or suspended the moment of attack, as they were provoked by injuries or appeased by presents; they

gradually acquired the skill of using more dangerous weapons, and although the Sarmatians did not illustrate their name by any memorable exploits, they occasionally assisted their eastern and western

neighbors, the Goths and the Germans, with a formidable body of cavalry. they lived under the irregular aristocracy of their chieftains: but after they had received into their bosom the fugitive Vandals, who

yielded to the pressure of the Gothic power, they seem to have chosen a

king from that nation, and from the illustrious race of the Astingi, who

had formerly dwelt on the shores of the northern ocean.

this motive of enmity must have inflamed the subjects of contention, which perpetually arise on the confines of warlike and independent

nations. The Vandal princes were stimulated by fear and revenge; the

Gothic kings aspired to extend their dominion from the Euxine to the frontiers of Germany; and the waters of the Maros, a small river which falls into the Teyss, were stained with the blood of the contending barbarians. After some experience of the superior strength and numbers

of their adversaries, the Sarmatians implored the protection of the

Roman monarch, who beheld with pleasure the discord of the nations, but who was justly alarmed by the progress of the Gothic arms. As soon as Constantine had declared himself in favor of the weaker party, the

haughty Araric, king of the Goths, instead of expecting the attack of the legions, boldly passed the Danube, and spread terror and devastation through the province of Mæsia. To oppose the inroad of this destroying

host, the aged emperor took the field in person; but on this occasion either his conduct or his fortune betrayed the glory which he had acquired in so many foreign and domestic wars. He had the mortification

of seeing his troops fly before an inconsiderable detachment of the barbarians, who pursued them to the edge of their fortified camp, and

obliged him to consult his safety by a precipitate and ignominious

retreat. \* The event of a second and more successful action retrieved the honor of the Roman name; and the powers of art and discipline

prevailed, after an obstinate contest, over the efforts of irregular

valor. The broken army of the Goths abandoned the field of battle, the wasted province, and the passage of the Danube: and although the eldest

of the sons of Constantine was permitted to supply the place of his father, the merit of the victory, which diffused universal joy, was ascribed to the auspicious counsels of the emperor himself.

He contributed at least to improve this advantage, by his negotiations with the free and warlike people of Chersonesus, whose capital, situate

on the western coast of the Tauric or Crimæan peninsula, still retained

some vestiges of a Grecian colony, and was governed by a perpetual

magistrate, assisted by a council of senators, emphatically styled the fathers of the City. The Chersonites were animated against the Goths, by the memory of the wars, which, in the preceding century, they had

maintained with unequal forces against the invaders of their country. they were connected with the Romans by the mutual benefits of commerce; as they were supplied from the provinces of Asia with corn and

manufactures, which they purchased with their only productions, salt, wax, and hides. Obedient to the requisition of Constantine, they

prepared, under the conduct of their magistrate Diogenes, a considerable army, of which the principal strength consisted in cross-bows and

military chariots. The speedy march and intrepid attack of the chersonites, by diverting the attention of the Goths, assisted the

operations of the Imperial generals. The Goths, vanquished on every

side, were driven into the mountains, where, in the course of a severe campaign, above a hundred thousand were computed to have perished by cold and hunger Peace was at length granted to their humble

supplications; the eldest son of Araric was accepted as the most

valuable hostage; and Constantine endeavored to convince their chiefs, by a liberal distribution of honors and rewards, how far the friendship

of the Romans was preferable to their enmity. In the expressions of his

gratitude towards the faithful Chersonites, the emperor was still more

magnificent. The pride of the nation was gratified by the splendid and almost royal decorations bestowed on their magistrate and his

successors. A perpetual exemption from all duties was stipulated for their vessels which traded to the ports of the Black Sea. A regular

subsidy was promised, of iron, corn, oil, and of every supply which could be useful either in peace or war. But it was thought that the Sarmatians were sufficiently rewarded by their deliverance from

impending ruin; and the emperor, perhaps with too strict an economy, deducted some part of the expenses of the war from the customary

gratifications which were allowed to that turbulent nation.

exasperated by this apparent neglect, the Sarmatians soon forgot, with the levity of barbarians, the services which they had so lately

received, and the dangers which still threatened their safety. Their

inroads on the territory of the empire provoked the indignation of constantine to leave them to their fate; and he no longer opposed the ambition of Geberic, a renowned warrior, who had recently ascended the

Gothic throne. Wisumar, the Vandal king, whilst alone, and unassisted,

he defended his dominions with undaunted courage, was vanquished and

slain in a decisive battle, which swept away the flower of the Sarmatian

youth. \* The remainder of the nation embraced the desperate expedient

of arming their slaves, a hardy race of hunters and herdsmen, by whose tumultuary aid they revenged their defeat, and expelled the invader from their confines. But they soon discovered that they had exchanged a foreign for a domestic enemy, more dangerous and more implacable. enraged by their former servitude, elated by their present glory, the

slaves, under the name of Limigantes, claimed and usurped the possession

of the country which they had saved. Their masters, unable to withstand the ungoverned fury of the populace, preferred the hardships of exile to the tyranny of their servants. Some of the fugitive Sarmatians solicited a less ignominious dependence, under the hostile standard of the Goths. a more numerous band retired beyond the Carpathian Mountains, among the Quadi, their German allies, and were easily admitted to share a

superfluous waste of uncultivated land. But the far greater part of the distressed nation turned their eyes towards the fruitful provinces of

Rome. Imploring the protection and forgiveness of the emperor, they

solemnly promised, as subjects in peace, and as soldiers in war, the

most inviolable fidelity to the empire which should graciously receive them into its bosom. According to the maxims adopted by Probus and his

successors, the offers of this barbarian colony were eagerly accepted; and a competent portion of lands in the provinces of Pannonia, Thrace,

Macedonia, and Italy, were immediately assigned for the habitation and

subsistence of three hundred thousand Sarmatians.

by chastising the pride of the Goths, and by accepting the homage of a

suppliant nation, Constantine asserted the majesty of the Roman empire; and the ambassadors of Æthiopia, Persia, and the most remote countries

of India, congratulated the peace and prosperity of his government. If

he reckoned, among the favors of fortune, the death of his eldest son,

of his nephew, and perhaps of his wife, he enjoyed an uninterrupted flow

of private as well as public felicity, till the thirtieth year of his

reign; a period which none of his predecessors, since Augustus, had been

permitted to celebrate. Constantine survived that solemn festival about ten months; and at the mature age of sixty-four, after a short illness,

he ended his memorable life at the palace of Aquyrion, in the suburbs of

Nicomedia, whither he had retired for the benefit of the air, and with the hope of recruiting his exhausted strength by the use of the warm baths. The excessive demonstrations of grief, or at least of mourning,

surpassed whatever had been practised on any former occasion.

Notwithstanding the claims of the senate and people of ancient Rome, the corpse of the deceased emperor, according to his last request, was transported to the city, which was destined to preserve the name and

memory of its founder. The body of Constantine adorned with the vain

symbols of greatness, the purple and diadem, was deposited on a golden bed in one of the apartments of the palace, which for that purpose had been splendidly furnished and illuminated. The forms of the court were

strictly maintained. Every day, at the appointed hours, the principal

officers of the state, the army, and the household, approaching the

person of their sovereign with bended knees and a composed countenance,

offered their respectful homage as seriously as if he had been still alive. From motives of policy, this theatrical representation was for

some time continued; nor could flattery neglect the opportunity of

remarking that Constantine alone, by the peculiar indulgence of Heaven,

had reigned after his death.

but this reign could subsist only in empty pageantry; and it was soon discovered that the will of the most absolute monarch is seldom obeyed, when his subjects have no longer anything to hope from his favor, or to dread from his resentment. The same ministers and generals, who bowed with such referential awe before the inanimate corpse of their deceased

sovereign, were engaged in secret consultations to exclude his two

nephews, Dalmatius and Hannibalianus, from the share which he had assigned them in the succession of the empire. We are too imperfectly acquainted with the court of Constantine to form any judgment of the

real motives which influenced the leaders of the conspiracy; unless we should suppose that they were actuated by a spirit of jealousy and

revenge against the præfect Ablavius, a proud favorite, who had long directed the counsels and abused the confidence of the late emperor. The arguments, by which they solicited the concurrence of the soldiers and

people, are of a more obvious nature; and they might with decency, as well as truth, insist on the superior rank of the children of constantine, the danger of multiplying the number of sovereigns, and the

impending mischiefs which threatened the republic, from the discord of

so many rival princes, who were not connected by the tender sympathy of fraternal affection. The intrigue was conducted with zeal and secrecy, till a loud and unanimous declaration was procured from the troops, that they would suffer none except the sons of their lamented monarch to

reign over the Roman empire. The younger Dalmatius, who was united with

his collateral relations by the ties of friendship and interest, is allowed to have inherited a considerable share of the abilities of the

great Constantine; but, on this occasion, he does not appear to have concerted any measure for supporting, by arms, the just claims which

himself and his royal brother derived from the liberality of their

uncle. Astonished and overwhelmed by the tide of popular fury, they seem to have remained, without the power of flight or of resistance, in the

hands of their implacable enemies. Their fate was suspended till the arrival of Constantius, the second, and perhaps the most favored, of the

sons of Constantine.

chapter XVIII: Character Of Constantine And His Sons.--Part III.

the voice of the dying emperor had recommended the care of his funeral to the piety of Constantius; and that prince, by the vicinity of his eastern station, could easily prevent the diligence of his brothers, who

resided in their distant government of Italy and Gaul. As soon as he had taken possession of the palace of Constantinople, his first care was to remove the apprehensions of his kinsmen, by a solemn oath which

he pledged for their security. His next employment was to find some

specious pretence which might release his conscience from the obligation

of an imprudent promise. The arts of fraud were made subservient to the designs of cruelty; and a manifest forgery was attested by a person of the most sacred character. From the hands of the Bishop of Nicomedia, constantius received a fatal scroll, affirmed to be the genuine testament of his father; in which the emperor expressed his suspicions that he had been poisoned by his brothers; and conjured his sons to

revenge his death, and to consult their own safety, by the punishment

of the guilty. Whatever reasons might have been alleged by these

unfortunate princes to defend their life and honor against so incredible an accusation, they were silenced by the furious clamors of the

soldiers, who declared themselves, at once, their enemies, their

judges, and their executioners. The spirit, and even the forms of legal

proceedings were repeatedly violated in a promiscuous massacre; which

involved the two uncles of Constantius, seven of his cousins, of whom dalmatius and Hannibalianus were the most illustrious, the Patrician

Optatus, who had married a sister of the late emperor, and the Præfect ablavius, whose power and riches had inspired him with some hopes of

obtaining the purple. If it were necessary to aggravate the horrors of this bloody scene, we might add, that Constantius himself had espoused the daughter of his uncle Julius, and that he had bestowed his sister in

marriage on his cousin Hannibalianus. These alliances, which the policy

of Constantine, regardless of the public prejudice, had formed between the several branches of the Imperial house, served only to convince

mankind, that these princes were as cold to the endearments of conjugal affection, as they were insensible to the ties of consanguinity, and the moving entreaties of youth and innocence. Of so numerous a family, Gallus and Julian alone, the two youngest children of Julius constantius, were saved from the hands of the assassins, till their

rage, satiated with slaughter, had in some measure subsided. The emperor constantius, who, in the absence of his brothers, was the most obnoxious to guilt and reproach, discovered, on some future occasions, a faint and transient remorse for those cruelties which the perfidious counsels of

his ministers, and the irresistible violence of the troops, had extorted from his unexperienced youth.

the massacre of the Flavian race was succeeded by a new division of the provinces; which was ratified in a personal interview of the three brothers. Constantine, the eldest of the Cæsars, obtained, with a certain preeminence of rank, the possession of the new capital, which bore his own name and that of his father. Thrace, and the countries of the East, were allotted for the patrimony of Constantius; and Constans was acknowledged as the lawful sovereign of Italy, Africa, and the western Illyricum. The armies submitted to their hereditary right; and they condescended, after some delay, to accept from the Roman senate the title of Augustus. When they first assumed the reins of government, the eldest of these princes was twenty-one, the second twenty, and the third

only seventeen, years of age.

while the martial nations of Europe followed the standards of his brothers, Constantius, at the head of the effeminate troops of Asia, was left to sustain the weight of the Persian war. At the decease of constantine, the throne of the East was filled by Sapor, son of

Hormouz, or Hormisdas, and grandson of Narses, who, after the victory

of Galerius, had humbly confessed the superiority of the Roman power. although Sapor was in the thirtieth year of his long reign, he was still

in the vigor of youth, as the date of his accession, by a very strange fatality, had preceded that of his birth. The wife of Hormouz remained

pregnant at the time of her husband's death; and the uncertainty of the

sex, as well as of the event, excited the ambitious hopes of the princes

of the house of Sassan. The apprehensions of civil war were at length

removed, by the positive assurance of the Magi, that the widow of

Hormouz had conceived, and would safely produce a son. Obedient to the voice of superstition, the Persians prepared, without delay, the ceremony of his coronation. A royal bed, on which the queen lay in

state, was exhibited in the midst of the palace; the diadem was placed

on the spot, which might be supposed to conceal the future heir of artaxerxes, and the prostrate satraps adored the majesty of their

invisible and insensible sovereign. If any credit can be given to this

marvellous tale, which seems, however, to be countenanced by the manners

of the people, and by the extraordinary duration of his reign, we must admire not only the fortune, but the genius, of Sapor. In the soft,

sequestered education of a Persian harem, the royal youth could discover the importance of exercising the vigor of his mind and body; and, by his

personal merit, deserved a throne, on which he had been seated, while he was yet unconscious of the duties and temptations of absolute power.

His minority was exposed to the almost inevitable calamities of domestic discord; his capital was surprised and plundered by Thair, a powerful

king of Yemen, or Arabia; and the majesty of the royal family was degraded by the captivity of a princess, the sister of the deceased

king. But as soon as Sapor attained the age of manhood, the presumptuous thair, his nation, and his country, fell beneath the first effort of the

young warrior; who used his victory with so judicious a mixture of rigor and clemency, that he obtained from the fears and gratitude of the Arabs the title of Dhoulacnaf, or protector of the nation.

the ambition of the Persian, to whom his enemies ascribe the virtues of a soldier and a statesman, was animated by the desire of revenging the disgrace of his fathers, and of wresting from the hands of the Romans the five provinces beyond the Tigris. The military fame of Constantine, and the real or apparent strength of his government, suspended the attack; and while the hostile conduct of Sapor provoked the resentment,

his artful negotiations amused the patience of the Imperial court. The death of Constantine was the signal of war, and the actual condition of the Syrian and Armenian frontier seemed to encourage the Persians by the prospect of a rich spoil and an easy conquest. The example of the

massacres of the palace diffused a spirit of licentiousness and sedition among the troops of the East, who were no longer restrained by their habits of obedience to a veteran commander. By the prudence of constantius, who, from the interview with his brothers in Pannonia,

immediately hastened to the banks of the Euphrates, the legions were

gradually restored to a sense of duty and discipline; but the season of anarchy had permitted Sapor to form the siege of Nisibis, and to occupy

several of the most important fortresses of Mesopotamia. In Armenia, the renowned Tiridates had long enjoyed the peace and glory which

he deserved by his valor and fidelity to the cause of Rome. The firm alliance which he maintained with Constantine was productive

of spiritual as well as of temporal benefits; by the conversion of tiridates, the character of a saint was applied to that of a hero, the christian faith was preached and established from the Euphrates to the

shores of the Caspian, and Armenia was attached to the empire by the double ties of policy and religion. But as many of the Armenian nobles

still refused to abandon the plurality of their gods and of their wives, the public tranquillity was disturbed by a discontented faction, which

insulted the feeble age of their sovereign, and impatiently expected the

hour of his death. He died at length after a reign of fifty-six years, and the fortune of the Armenian monarchy expired with Tiridates. His

lawful heir was driven into exile, the Christian priests were either

murdered or expelled from their churches, the barbarous tribes of albania were solicited to descend from their mountains; and two of the

most powerful governors, usurping the ensigns or the powers of royalty,

implored the assistance of Sapor, and opened the gates of their cities to the Persian garrisons. The Christian party, under the guidance of the Archbishop of Artaxata, the immediate successor of St. Gregory the Illuminator, had recourse to the piety of Constantius. After the troubles had continued about three years, Antiochus, one of the officers

of the household, executed with success the Imperial commission of

restoring Chosroes, \* the son of Tiridates, to the throne of his fathers, of distributing honors and rewards among the faithful servants

of the house of Arsaces, and of proclaiming a general amnesty, which was accepted by the greater part of the rebellious satraps. But the Romans derived more honor than advantage from this revolution. Chosroes was a prince of a puny stature and a pusillanimous spirit. Unequal to the fatigues of war, averse to the society of mankind, he withdrew from his capital to a retired palace, which he built on the banks of the River eleutherus, and in the centre of a shady grove; where he consumed his

vacant hours in the rural sports of hunting and hawking. To secure this

inglorious ease, he submitted to the conditions of peace which Sapor condescended to impose; the payment of an annual tribute, and the

restitution of the fertile province of Atropatene, which the courage

of Tiridates, and the victorious arms of Galerius, had annexed to the armenian monarchy.

during the long period of the reign of Constantius, the provinces of the east were afflicted by the calamities of the Persian war. The irregular

incursions of the light troops alternately spread terror and devastation beyond the Tigris and beyond the Euphrates, from the gates of Ctesiphon to those of Antioch; and this active service was performed by the Arabs

of the desert, who were divided in their interest and affections; some

of their independent chiefs being enlisted in the party of Sapor, whilst

others had engaged their doubtful fidelity to the emperor. The more

grave and important operations of the war were conducted with equal

vigor; and the armies of Rome and Persia encountered each other in nine bloody fields, in two of which Constantius himself commanded in person. the event of the day was most commonly adverse to the Romans, but in the battle of Singara, heir imprudent valor had almost achieved a signal and decisive victory. The stationary troops of Singara \* retired on the approach of Sapor, who passed the Tigris over three bridges, and

occupied near the village of Hilleh an advantageous camp, which, by the

labor of his numerous pioneers, he surrounded in one day with a deep ditch and a lofty rampart. His formidable host, when it was drawn out in

order of battle, covered the banks of the river, the adjacent heights, and the whole extent of a plain of above twelve miles, which separated the two armies. Both were alike impatient to engage; but the Barbarians, after a slight resistance, fled in disorder; unable to resist, or desirous to weary, the strength of the heavy legions, who, fainting with

heat and thirst, pursued them across the plain, and cut in pieces a line

of cavalry, clothed in complete armor, which had been posted before the

gates of the camp to protect their retreat. Constantius, who was hurried along in the pursuit, attempted, without effect, to restrain the ardor

of his troops, by representing to them the dangers of the approaching

night, and the certainty of completing their success with the return

of day. As they depended much more on their own valor than on the experience or the abilities of their chief, they silenced by their clamors his timid remonstrances; and rushing with fury to the charge, filled up the ditch, broke down the rampart, and dispersed themselves through the tents to recruit their exhausted strength, and to enjoy the rich harvest of their labors. But the prudent Sapor had watched the

moment of victory. His army, of which the greater part, securely posted

on the heights, had been spectators of the action, advanced in silence, and under the shadow of the night; and his Persian archers, guided by the illumination of the camp, poured a shower of arrows on a disarmed and licentious crowd. The sincerity of history declares, that the Romans were vanquished with a dreadful slaughter, and that the flying remnant

of the legions was exposed to the most intolerable hardships. Even the tenderness of panegyric, confessing that the glory of the emperor was

sullied by the disobedience of his soldiers, chooses to draw a veil over the circumstances of this melancholy retreat. Yet one of those venal

orators, so jealous of the fame of Constantius, relates, with amazing coolness, an act of such incredible cruelty, as, in the judgment of

posterity, must imprint a far deeper stain on the honor of the Imperial

name. The son of Sapor, the heir of his crown, had been made a captive

in the Persian camp. The unhappy youth, who might have excited the compassion of the most savage enemy, was scourged, tortured, and

publicly executed by the inhuman Romans.

whatever advantages might attend the arms of Sapor in the field, though

nine repeated victories diffused among the nations the fame of his

valor and conduct, he could not hope to succeed in the execution of his designs, while the fortified towns of Mesopotamia, and, above all, the

strong and ancient city of Nisibis, remained in the possession of the

Romans. In the space of twelve years, Nisibis, which, since the time

of Lucullus, had been deservedly esteemed the bulwark of the East,

sustained three memorable sieges against the power of Sapor; and the disappointed monarch, after urging his attacks above sixty, eighty, and a hundred days, was thrice repulsed with loss and ignominy. This large and populous city was situate about two days' journey from the Tigris,

in the midst of a pleasant and fertile plain at the foot of Mount

Masius. A treble enclosure of brick walls was defended by a deep ditch; and the intrepid resistance of Count Lucilianus, and his garrison, was

seconded by the desperate courage of the people. The citizens of Nisibis were animated by the exhortations of their bishop, inured to arms by the

presence of danger, and convinced of the intentions of Sapor to plant a Persian colony in their room, and to lead them away into distant and barbarous captivity. The event of the two former sieges elated their confidence, and exasperated the haughty spirit of the Great King, who advanced a third time towards Nisibis, at the head of the united forces

of Persia and India. The ordinary machines, invented to batter or

undermine the walls, were rendered ineffectual by the superior skill

of the Romans; and many days had vainly elapsed, when Sapor embraced a

resolution worthy of an eastern monarch, who believed that the elements themselves were subject to his power. At the stated season of the

melting of the snows in Armenia, the River Mygdonius, which divides the

plain and the city of Nisibis, forms, like the Nile, an inundation over the adjacent country. By the labor of the Persians, the course of the

river was stopped below the town, and the waters were confined on every

side by solid mounds of earth. On this artificial lake, a fleet of armed

vessels filled with soldiers, and with engines which discharged stones

of five hundred pounds weight, advanced in order of battle, and engaged, almost upon a level, the troops which defended the ramparts. \*The

irresistible force of the waters was alternately fatal to the contending

parties, till at length a portion of the walls, unable to sustain the accumulated pressure, gave way at once, and exposed an ample breach of

one hundred and fifty feet. The Persians were instantly driven to the assault, and the fate of Nisibis depended on the event of the day. The

heavy-armed cavalry, who led the van of a deep column, were embarrassed

in the mud, and great numbers were drowned in the unseen holes which had been filled by the rushing waters. The elephants, made furious by their wounds, increased the disorder, and trampled down thousands of the

Persian archers. The Great King, who, from an exalted throne, beheld the

misfortunes of his arms, sounded, with reluctant indignation, the signal

of the retreat, and suspended for some hours the prosecution of the attack. But the vigilant citizens improved the opportunity of the night; and the return of day discovered a new wall of six feet in

height, rising every moment to fill up the interval of the breach.

Notwithstanding the disappointment of his hopes, and the loss of more than twenty thousand men, Sapor still pressed the reduction of Nisibis, with an obstinate firmness, which could have yielded only to the

necessity of defending the eastern provinces of Persia against a formidable invasion of the Massagetæ. Alarmed by this intelligence, he

hastily relinquished the siege, and marched with rapid diligence from the banks of the Tigris to those of the Oxus. The danger and difficulties of the Scythian war engaged him soon afterwards to conclude, or at least to observe, a truce with the Roman emperor, which was equally grateful to both princes; as Constantius himself, after the death of his two brothers, was involved, by the revolutions of the west, in a civil contest, which required and seemed to exceed the most

vigorous exertion of his undivided strength.

after the partition of the empire, three years had scarcely elapsed before the sons of Constantine seemed impatient to convince mankind that they were incapable of contenting themselves with the dominions which they were unqualified to govern. The eldest of those princes soon complained, that he was defrauded of his just proportion of the spoils

of their murdered kinsmen; and though he might yield to the superior

guilt and merit of Constantius, he exacted from Constans the cession

of the African provinces, as an equivalent for the rich countries of

Macedonia and Greece, which his brother had acquired by the death of dalmatius. The want of sincerity, which Constantine experienced in a tedious and fruitless negotiation, exasperated the fierceness of his temper; and he eagerly listened to those favorites, who suggested to

him that his honor, as well as his interest, was concerned in the

prosecution of the quarrel. At the head of a tumultuary band, suited for

rapine rather than for conquest, he suddenly broke onto the dominions of constans, by the way of the Julian Alps, and the country round Aquileia felt the first effects of his resentment. The measures of Constans, who then resided in Dacia, were directed with more prudence and ability. On the news of his brother's invasion, he detached a select and disciplined body of his Illyrian troops, proposing to follow them in person, with the remainder of his forces. But the conduct of his lieutenants soon terminated the unnatural contest. By the artful appearances of flight, constantine was betrayed into an ambuscade, which had been concealed

in a wood, where the rash youth, with a few attendants, was surprised,

surrounded, and slain. His body, after it had been found in the obscure

stream of the Alsa, obtained the honors of an Imperial sepulchre; but his provinces transferred their allegiance to the conqueror, who,

refusing to admit his elder brother Constantius to any share in these

new acquisitions, maintained the undisputed possession of more than two thirds of the Roman empire.

chapter XVIII: Character Of Constantine And His Sons.--Part IV.

the fate of Constans himself was delayed about ten years longer, and the

revenge of his brother's death was reserved for the more ignoble hand of a domestic traitor. The pernicious tendency of the system introduced by constantine was displayed in the feeble administration of his sons; who, by their vices and weakness, soon lost the esteem and affections of their people. The pride assumed by Constans, from the unmerited success

of his arms, was rendered more contemptible by his want of abilities and application. His fond partiality towards some German captives, distinguished only by the charms of youth, was an object of scandal to the people; and Magnentius, an ambitious soldier, who was himself of barbarian extraction, was encouraged by the public discontent to assert the honor of the Roman name. The chosen bands of Jovians and Herculians, who acknowledged Magnentius as their leader, maintained the most

respectable and important station in the Imperial camp. The friendship

of Marcellinus, count of the sacred largesses, supplied with a liberal

hand the means of seduction. The soldiers were convinced by the most

specious arguments, that the republic summoned them to break the bonds

of hereditary servitude; and, by the choice of an active and vigilant

prince, to reward the same virtues which had raised the ancestors of the degenerate Constans from a private condition to the throne of the world. as soon as the conspiracy was ripe for execution, Marcellinus, under the pretence of celebrating his son's birthday, gave a splendid entertainment to the illustrious and honorable persons of the court of

Gaul, which then resided in the city of Autun. The intemperance of the feast was artfully protracted till a very late hour of the night; and the unsuspecting guests were tempted to indulge themselves in a dangerous and guilty freedom of conversation. On a sudden the doors were thrown open, and Magnentius, who had retired for a few moments,

returned into the apartment, invested with the diadem and purple. The conspirators instantly saluted him with the titles of Augustus and emperor. The surprise, the terror, the intoxication, the ambitious

hopes, and the mutual ignorance of the rest of the assembly, prompted them to join their voices to the general acclamation. The guards

hastened to take the oath of fidelity; the gates of the town were shut; and before the dawn of day, Magnentius became master of the troops and treasure of the palace and city of Autun. By his secrecy and diligence

he entertained some hopes of surprising the person of Constans, who was

pursuing in the adjacent forest his favorite amusement of hunting, or

perhaps some pleasures of a more private and criminal nature. The rapid

progress of fame allowed him, however, an instant for flight, though the desertion of his soldiers and subjects deprived him of the power of

resistance. Before he could reach a seaport in Spain, where he intended to embark, he was overtaken near Helena, at the foot of the Pyrenees, by a party of light cavalry, whose chief, regardless of the sanctity of a temple, executed his commission by the murder of the son of Constantine.

as soon as the death of Constans had decided this easy but important

revolution, the example of the court of Autun was imitated by the

provinces of the West. The authority of Magnentius was acknowledged through the whole extent of the two great præfectures of Gaul and Italy; and the usurper prepared, by every act of oppression, to collect a treasure, which might discharge the obligation of an immense donative, and supply the expenses of a civil war. The martial countries of

Illyricum, from the Danube to the extremity of Greece, had long obeyed the government of Vetranio, an aged general, beloved for the simplicity

of his manners, and who had acquired some reputation by his experience and services in war. Attached by habit, by duty, and by gratitude, to the house of Constantine, he immediately gave the strongest assurances to the only surviving son of his late master, that he would expose, with

unshaken fidelity, his person and his troops, to inflict a just revenge

on the traitors of Gaul. But the legions of Vetranio were seduced,

rather than provoked, by the example of rebellion; their leader soon betrayed a want of firmness, or a want of sincerity; and his ambition derived a specious pretence from the approbation of the princess constantina. That cruel and aspiring woman, who had obtained from the

great Constantine, her father, the rank of Augusta, placed the diadem with her own hands on the head of the Illyrian general; and seemed to expect from his victory the accomplishment of those unbounded hopes,

of which she had been disappointed by the death of her husband

Hannibalianus. Perhaps it was without the consent of Constantina, that the new emperor formed a necessary, though dishonorable, alliance with the usurper of the West, whose purple was so recently stained with her brother's blood.

the intelligence of these important events, which so deeply affected the

honor and safety of the Imperial house, recalled the arms of Constantius from the inglorious prosecution of the Persian war. He recommended the care of the East to his lieutenants, and afterwards to his cousin

Gallus, whom he raised from a prison to a throne; and marched towards europe, with a mind agitated by the conflict of hope and fear, of grief and indignation. On his arrival at Heraclea in Thrace, the emperor gave audience to the ambassadors of Magnentius and Vetranio. The first author

of the conspiracy Marcellinus, who in some measure had bestowed the

purple on his new master, boldly accepted this dangerous commission; and

his three colleagues were selected from the illustrious personages

of the state and army. These deputies were instructed to soothe the

resentment, and to alarm the fears, of Constantius. They were empowered to offer him the friendship and alliance of the western princes, to cement their union by a double marriage; of Constantius with the daughter of Magnentius, and of Magnentius himself with the ambitious constantina; and to acknowledge in the treaty the preeminence of rank, which might justly be claimed by the emperor of the East. Should pride and mistaken piety urge him to refuse these equitable conditions, the ambassadors were ordered to expatiate on the inevitable ruin which must attend his rashness, if he ventured to provoke the sovereigns of the west to exert their superior strength; and to employ against him that valor, those abilities, and those legions, to which the house of constantine had been indebted for so many triumphs. Such propositions and such arguments appeared to deserve the most serious attention; the answer of Constantius was deferred till the next day; and as he had

reflected on the importance of justifying a civil war in the opinion

of the people, he thus addressed his council, who listened with real or affected credulity: "Last night," said he, "after I retired to rest, the shade of the great Constantine, embracing the corpse of my murdered brother, rose before my eyes; his well-known voice awakened me to

revenge, forbade me to despair of the republic, and assured me of the

success and immortal glory which would crown the justice of my arms." the authority of such a vision, or rather of the prince who alleged

it, silenced every doubt, and excluded all negotiation. The ignominious terms of peace were rejected with disdain. One of the ambassadors of the tyrant was dismissed with the haughty answer of Constantius; his colleagues, as unworthy of the privileges of the law of nations, were

put in irons; and the contending powers prepared to wage an implacable war.

Such was the conduct, and such perhaps was the duty, of the brother

of Constans towards the perfidious usurper of Gaul. The situation and character of Vetranio admitted of milder measures; and the policy of the Eastern emperor was directed to disunite his antagonists, and to

separate the forces of Illyricum from the cause of rebellion. It was an easy task to deceive the frankness and simplicity of Vetranio, who, fluctuating some time between the opposite views of honor and interest, displayed to the world the insincerity of his temper, and was insensibly engaged in the snares of an artful negotiation. Constantius acknowledged

him as a legitimate and equal colleague in the empire, on condition that

he would renounce his disgraceful alliance with Magnentius, and appoint a place of interview on the frontiers of their respective provinces; where they might pledge their friendship by mutual vows of fidelity, and

regulate by common consent the future operations of the civil war. In consequence of this agreement, Vetranio advanced to the city of Sardica, at the head of twenty thousand horse, and of a more numerous body of

infantry; a power so far superior to the forces of Constantius, that the

Illyrian emperor appeared to command the life and fortunes of his rival, who, depending on the success of his private negotiations, had seduced the troops, and undermined the throne, of Vetranio. The chiefs, who

had secretly embraced the party of Constantius, prepared in his favor a

public spectacle, calculated to discover and inflame the passions of the

multitude. The united armies were commanded to assemble in a large

plain near the city. In the centre, according to the rules of ancient discipline, a military tribunal, or rather scaffold, was erected, from whence the emperors were accustomed, on solemn and important occasions, to harangue the troops. The well-ordered ranks of Romans and Barbarians, with drawn swords, or with erected spears, the squadrons of cavalry, and the cohorts of infantry, distinguished by the variety of their arms and ensigns, formed an immense circle round the tribunal; and the attentive

silence which they preserved was sometimes interrupted by loud bursts of clamor or of applause. In the presence of this formidable assembly, the two emperors were called upon to explain the situation of public affairs: the precedency of rank was yielded to the royal birth of constantius; and though he was indifferently skilled in the arts of

rhetoric, he acquitted himself, under these difficult circumstances, with firmness, dexterity, and eloquence. The first part of his oration

seemed to be pointed only against the tyrant of Gaul; but while he tragically lamented the cruel murder of Constans, he insinuated, that

none, except a brother, could claim a right to the succession of

his brother. He displayed, with some complacency, the glories of his

Imperial race; and recalled to the memory of the troops the valor, the triumphs, the liberality of the great Constantine, to whose sons they had engaged their allegiance by an oath of fidelity, which the

ingratitude of his most favored servants had tempted them to violate. the officers, who surrounded the tribunal, and were instructed to act their part in this extraordinary scene, confessed the irresistible power

of reason and eloquence, by saluting the emperor Constantius as their lawful sovereign. The contagion of loyalty and repentance was communicated from rank to rank; till the plain of Sardica resounded with the universal acclamation of "Away with these upstart usurpers! Long

life and victory to the son of Constantine! Under his banners alone we will fight and conquer." The shout of thousands, their menacing

gestures, the fierce clashing of their arms, astonished and subdued the courage of Vetranio, who stood, amidst the defection of his followers,

in anxious and silent suspense. Instead of embracing the last refuge of

generous despair, he tamely submitted to his fate; and taking the diadem from his head, in the view of both armies fell prostrate at the feet

of his conqueror. Constantius used his victory with prudence and

moderation; and raising from the ground the aged suppliant, whom he affected to style by the endearing name of Father, he gave him his hand to descend from the throne. The city of Prusa was assigned for the exile or retirement of the abdicated monarch, who lived six years in the enjoyment of ease and affluence. He often expressed his grateful sense

of the goodness of Constantius, and, with a very amiable simplicity, advised his benefactor to resign the sceptre of the world, and to seek for content (where alone it could be found) in the peaceful obscurity of a private condition.

the behavior of Constantius on this memorable occasion was celebrated with some appearance of justice; and his courtiers compared the studied

orations which a Pericles or a Demosthenes addressed to the populace

of Athens, with the victorious eloquence which had persuaded an armed

multitude to desert and depose the object of their partial choice. The approaching contest with Magnentius was of a more serious and bloody

kind. The tyrant advanced by rapid marches to encounter Constantius, at the head of a numerous army, composed of Gauls and Spaniards, of Franks and Saxons; of those provincials who supplied the strength of the

legions, and of those barbarians who were dreaded as the most formidable enemies of the republic. The fertile plains of the Lower Pannonia, between the Drave, the Save, and the Danube, presented a spacious theatre; and the operations of the civil war were protracted during the

summer months by the skill or timidity of the combatants. Constantius

had declared his intention of deciding the quarrel in the fields of cibalis, a name that would animate his troops by the remembrance of the

victory, which, on the same auspicious ground, had been obtained by the arms of his father Constantine. Yet by the impregnable fortifications with which the emperor encompassed his camp, he appeared to decline,

rather than to invite, a general engagement. It was the object of

Magnentius to tempt or to compel his adversary to relinquish this advantageous position; and he employed, with that view, the various

marches, evolutions, and stratagems, which the knowledge of the art of war could suggest to an experienced officer. He carried by assault the

important town of Siscia; made an attack on the city of Sirmium, which

lay in the rear of the Imperial camp, attempted to force a passage over the Save into the eastern provinces of Illyricum; and cut in pieces a numerous detachment, which he had allured into the narrow passes of adarne. During the greater part of the summer, the tyrant of Gaul showed

himself master of the field. The troops of Constantius were harassed and dispirited; his reputation declined in the eye of the world; and

his pride condescended to solicit a treaty of peace, which would have

resigned to the assassin of Constans the sovereignty of the provinces beyond the Alps. These offers were enforced by the eloquence of

Philip the Imperial ambassador; and the council as well as the army

of Magnentius were disposed to accept them. But the haughty usurper, careless of the remonstrances of his friends, gave orders that Philip

should be detained as a captive, or, at least, as a hostage; while he despatched an officer to reproach Constantius with the weakness of

his reign, and to insult him by the promise of a pardon if he would

instantly abdicate the purple. "That he should confide in the justice of

his cause, and the protection of an avenging Deity," was the only answer which honor permitted the emperor to return. But he was so sensible of the difficulties of his situation, that he no longer dared to retaliate the indignity which had been offered to his representative. The

negotiation of Philip was not, however, ineffectual, since he determined

Sylvanus the Frank, a general of merit and reputation, to desert with a considerable body of cavalry, a few days before the battle of Mursa.

the city of Mursa, or Essek, celebrated in modern times for a bridge

of boats, five miles in length, over the River Drave, and the adjacent

morasses, has been always considered as a place of importance in the wars of Hungary. Magnentius, directing his march towards Mursa, set fire to the gates, and, by a sudden assault, had almost scaled the walls of the town. The vigilance of the garrison extinguished the flames; the approach of Constantius left him no time to continue the operations of the siege; and the emperor soon removed the only obstacle that could embarrass his motions, by forcing a body of troops which had taken post

in an adjoining amphitheatre. The field of battle round Mursa was a

naked and level plain: on this ground the army of Constantius formed, with the Drave on their right; while their left, either from the nature

of their disposition, or from the superiority of their cavalry, extended far beyond the right flank of Magnentius. The troops on both sides

remained under arms, in anxious expectation, during the greatest part of the morning; and the son of Constantine, after animating his soldiers by an eloquent speech, retired into a church at some distance from the field of battle, and committed to his generals the conduct of this decisive day. They deserved his confidence by the valor and military

skill which they exerted. They wisely began the action upon the left; and advancing their whole wing of cavalry in an oblique line, they

suddenly wheeled it on the right flank of the enemy, which was

unprepared to resist the impetuosity of their charge. But the Romans of the West soon rallied, by the habits of discipline; and the Barbarians

of Germany supported the renown of their national bravery. The engagement soon became general; was maintained with various and singular turns of fortune; and scarcely ended with the darkness of the night. The

signal victory which Constantius obtained is attributed to the arms of

his cavalry. His cuirassiers are described as so many massy statues

of steel, glittering with their scaly armor, and breaking with their

ponderous lances the firm array of the Gallic legions. As soon as the

legions gave way, the lighter and more active squadrons of the second

line rode sword in hand into the intervals, and completed the disorder.

In the mean while, the huge bodies of the Germans were exposed almost

naked to the dexterity of the Oriental archers; and whole troops of those Barbarians were urged by anguish and despair to precipitate themselves into the broad and rapid stream of the Drave. The number of the slain was computed at fifty-four thousand men, and the slaughter

of the conquerors was more considerable than that of the vanquished; a circumstance which proves the obstinacy of the contest, and justifies the observation of an ancient writer, that the forces of the empire were consumed in the fatal battle of Mursa, by the loss of a veteran army,

sufficient to defend the frontiers, or to add new triumphs to the glory

of Rome. Notwithstanding the invectives of a servile orator, there

is not the least reason to believe that the tyrant deserted his own

standard in the beginning of the engagement. He seems to have displayed the virtues of a general and of a soldier till the day was irrecoverably

lost, and his camp in the possession of the enemy. Magnentius then consulted his safety, and throwing away the Imperial ornaments, escaped with some difficulty from the pursuit of the light horse, who

incessantly followed his rapid flight from the banks of the Drave to the foot of the Julian Alps.

the approach of winter supplied the indolence of Constantius with

specious reasons for deferring the prosecution of the war till the ensuing spring. Magnentius had fixed his residence in the city of aquileia, and showed a seeming resolution to dispute the passage of the mountains and morasses which fortified the confines of the Venetian

province. The surprisal of a castle in the Alps by the secret march of the Imperialists, could scarcely have determined him to relinquish the

possession of Italy, if the inclinations of the people had supported the cause of their tyrant. But the memory of the cruelties exercised by his

ministers, after the unsuccessful revolt of Nepotian, had left a deep

impression of horror and resentment on the minds of the Romans. that rash youth, the son of the princess Eutropia, and the nephew of constantine, had seen with indignation the sceptre of the West usurped by a perfidious barbarian. Arming a desperate troop of slaves and

gladiators, he overpowered the feeble guard of the domestic tranquillity

of Rome, received the homage of the senate, and assuming the title of augustus, precariously reigned during a tumult of twenty-eight days. the march of some regular forces put an end to his ambitious hopes: the rebellion was extinguished in the blood of Nepotian, of his mother eutropia, and of his adherents; and the proscription was extended to all who had contracted a fatal alliance with the name and family of constantine. But as soon as Constantius, after the battle of Mursa, became master of the sea-coast of Dalmatia, a band of noble exiles, who

had ventured to equip a fleet in some harbor of the Adriatic, sought

protection and revenge in his victorious camp. By their secret

intelligence with their countrymen, Rome and the Italian cities were

persuaded to display the banners of Constantius on their walls. The

grateful veterans, enriched by the liberality of the father, signalized their gratitude and loyalty to the son. The cavalry, the legions, and the auxiliaries of Italy, renewed their oath of allegiance to constantius; and the usurper, alarmed by the general desertion, was compelled, with the remains of his faithful troops, to retire beyond the alps into the provinces of Gaul. The detachments, however, which were

ordered either to press or to intercept the flight of Magnentius, conducted themselves with the usual imprudence of success; and allowed

him, in the plains of Pavia, an opportunity of turning on his pursuers, and of gratifying his despair by the carnage of a useless victory.

the pride of Magnentius was reduced, by repeated misfortunes, to sue, and to sue in vain, for peace. He first despatched a senator, in whose abilities he confided, and afterwards several bishops, whose holy character might obtain a more favorable audience, with the offer of

resigning the purple, and the promise of devoting the remainder of his

life to the service of the emperor. But Constantius, though he granted fair terms of pardon and reconciliation to all who abandoned the

standard of rebellion, avowed his inflexible resolution to inflict a just punishment on the crimes of an assassin, whom he prepared to overwhelm on every side by the effort of his victorious arms. an Imperial fleet acquired the easy possession of Africa and Spain, confirmed the wavering faith of the Moorish nations, and landed a considerable force, which passed the Pyrenees, and advanced towards

Lyons, the last and fatal station of Magnentius. The temper of the tyrant, which was never inclined to clemency, was urged by distress to exercise every act of oppression which could extort an immediate supply from the cities of Gaul. Their patience was at length exhausted; and treves, the seat of Prætorian government, gave the signal of revolt, by

shutting her gates against Decentius, who had been raised by his brother to the rank either of Cæsar or of Augustus. From Treves, Decentius was

obliged to retire to Sens, where he was soon surrounded by an army of

Germans, whom the pernicious arts of Constantius had introduced into the civil dissensions of Rome. In the mean time, the Imperial troops forced the passages of the Cottian Alps, and in the bloody combat of Mount

Seleucus irrevocably fixed the title of rebels on the party of

Magnentius. He was unable to bring another army into the field; the fidelity of his guards was corrupted; and when he appeared in public to animate them by his exhortations, he was saluted with a unanimous shout

of "Long live the emperor Constantius!" The tyrant, who perceived that they were preparing to deserve pardon and rewards by the sacrifice of the most obnoxious criminal, prevented their design by falling on his

sword; a death more easy and more honorable than he could hope to obtain from the hands of an enemy, whose revenge would have been colored with the specious pretence of justice and fraternal piety. The example of

suicide was imitated by Decentius, who strangled himself on the news of

his brother's death. The author of the conspiracy, Marcellinus, had long

since disappeared in the battle of Mursa, and the public tranquillity was confirmed by the execution of the surviving leaders of a guilty and

unsuccessful faction. A severe inquisition was extended over all who, either from choice or from compulsion, had been involved in the cause of

rebellion. Paul, surnamed Catena from his superior skill in the judicial exercise of tyranny, \* was sent to explore the latent remains of the conspiracy in the remote province of Britain. The honest indignation expressed by Martin, vice-præfect of the island, was interpreted as an evidence of his own guilt; and the governor was urged to the necessity

of turning against his breast the sword with which he had been provoked to wound the Imperial minister. The most innocent subjects of the West were exposed to exile and confiscation, to death and torture; and as the timid are always cruel, the mind of Constantius was inaccessible to

mercy.

chapter XIX: Constantius Sole Emperor.--Part I.

Constantius Sole Emperor.--Elevation And Death Of Gallus.--

Danger And Elevation Of Julian.--Sarmatian And Persian

Wars.--Victories Of Julian In Gaul.

the divided provinces of the empire were again united by the victory of constantius; but as that feeble prince was destitute of personal merit, either in peace or war; as he feared his generals, and distrusted his

ministers; the triumph of his arms served only to establish the reign

of the eunuchs over the Roman world. Those unhappy beings, the ancient

production of Oriental jealousy and despotism, were introduced into

Greece and Rome by the contagion of Asiatic luxury. Their progress was

rapid; and the eunuchs, who, in the time of Augustus, had been abhorred, as the monstrous retinue of an Egyptian queen, were gradually admitted

into the families of matrons, of senators, and of the emperors themselves. Restrained by the severe edicts of Domitian and Nerva, cherished by the pride of Diocletian, reduced to an humble station by the prudence of Constantine, they multiplied in the palaces of his degenerate sons, and insensibly acquired the knowledge, and at length the direction, of the secret councils of Constantius. The aversion and contempt which mankind had so uniformly entertained for that imperfect

species, appears to have degraded their character, and to have rendered them almost as incapable as they were supposed to be, of conceiving any

generous sentiment, or of performing any worthy action. But the eunuchs were skilled in the arts of flattery and intrigue; and they alternately

governed the mind of Constantius by his fears, his indolence, and his

vanity. Whilst he viewed in a deceitful mirror the fair appearance

of public prosperity, he supinely permitted them to intercept the complaints of the injured provinces, to accumulate immense treasures by the sale of justice and of honors; to disgrace the most important dignities, by the promotion of those who had purchased at their hands the powers of oppression, and to gratify their resentment against the few independent spirits, who arrogantly refused to solicit the

protection of slaves. Of these slaves the most distinguished was the chamberlain Eusebius, who ruled the monarch and the palace with

such absolute sway, that Constantius, according to the sarcasm of an

impartial historian, possessed some credit with this haughty favorite. by his artful suggestions, the emperor was persuaded to subscribe the condemnation of the unfortunate Gallus, and to add a new crime to the

long list of unnatural murders which pollute the honor of the house of constantine.

when the two nephews of Constantine, Gallus and Julian, were saved from the fury of the soldiers, the former was about twelve, and the latter about six, years of age; and, as the eldest was thought to be of a

sickly constitution, they obtained with the less difficulty a precarious and dependent life, from the affected pity of Constantius, who was

sensible that the execution of these helpless orphans would have been esteemed, by all mankind, an act of the most deliberate cruelty. \* different cities of Ionia and Bithynia were assigned for the places of their exile and education; but as soon as their growing years excited the jealousy of the emperor, he judged it more prudent to secure those

unhappy youths in the strong castle of Macellum, near Cæsarea. The treatment which they experienced during a six years' confinement, was

partly such as they could hope from a careful guardian, and partly

such as they might dread from a suspicious tyrant. Their prison was an ancient palace, the residence of the kings of Cappadocia; the situation was pleasant, the buildings of stately, the enclosure spacious. They

pursued their studies, and practised their exercises, under the tuition

of the most skilful masters; and the numerous household appointed to attend, or rather to guard, the nephews of Constantine, was not unworthy

of the dignity of their birth. But they could not disguise to themselves that they were deprived of fortune, of freedom, and of safety; secluded from the society of all whom they could trust or esteem, and condemned to pass their melancholy hours in the company of slaves devoted to the commands of a tyrant who had already injured them beyond the hope

of reconciliation. At length, however, the emergencies of the state compelled the emperor, or rather his eunuchs, to invest Gallus, in the twenty-fifth year of his age, with the title of Cæsar, and to cement this political connection by his marriage with the princess Constantina. after a formal interview, in which the two princes mutually engaged their faith never to undertake any thing to the prejudice of each other, they repaired without delay to their respective stations. Constantius continued his march towards the West, and Gallus fixed his residence at antioch; from whence, with a delegated authority, he administered the five great dioceses of the eastern præfecture. In this fortunate change, the new Cæsar was not unmindful of his brother Julian, who obtained the

honors of his rank, the appearances of liberty, and the restitution of an ample patrimony.

the writers the most indulgent to the memory of Gallus, and even Julian

himself, though he wished to cast a veil over the frailties of his brother, are obliged to confess that the Cæsar was incapable of

reigning. Transported from a prison to a throne, he possessed neither

genius nor application, nor docility to compensate for the want of

knowledge and experience. A temper naturally morose and violent,

instead of being corrected, was soured by solitude and adversity; the

remembrance of what he had endured disposed him to retaliation rather than to sympathy; and the ungoverned sallies of his rage were often fatal to those who approached his person, or were subject to his power. constantina, his wife, is described, not as a woman, but as one of the infernal furies tormented with an insatiate thirst of human blood.

Instead of employing her influence to insinuate the mild counsels

of prudence and humanity, she exasperated the fierce passions of her

husband; and as she retained the vanity, though she had renounced, the

gentleness of her sex, a pearl necklace was esteemed an equivalent price for the murder of an innocent and virtuous nobleman. The cruelty of

Gallus was sometimes displayed in the undissembled violence of popular

or military executions; and was sometimes disguised by the abuse of law, and the forms of judicial proceedings. The private houses of Antioch, and the places of public resort, were besieged by spies and informers; and the Cæsar himself, concealed in a plebeian habit, very frequently condescended to assume that odious character. Every apartment of the

palace was adorned with the instruments of death and torture, and a

general consternation was diffused through the capital of Syria. The

prince of the East, as if he had been conscious how much he had to fear, and how little he deserved to reign, selected for the objects of his

resentment the provincials accused of some imaginary treason, and his

own courtiers, whom with more reason he suspected of incensing, by their

secret correspondence, the timid and suspicious mind of Constantius. but he forgot that he was depriving himself of his only support, the affection of the people; whilst he furnished the malice of his enemies with the arms of truth, and afforded the emperor the fairest pretence of exacting the forfeit of his purple, and of his life.

as long as the civil war suspended the fate of the Roman world, constantius dissembled his knowledge of the weak and cruel administration to which his choice had subjected the East; and the discovery of some assassins, secretly despatched to Antioch by the tyrant of Gaul, was employed to convince the public, that the emperor and the Cæsar were united by the same interest, and pursued by the same enemies. But when the victory was decided in favor of Constantius,

his dependent colleague became less useful and less formidable. Every circumstance of his conduct was severely and suspiciously examined, and

it was privately resolved, either to deprive Gallus of the purple, or at least to remove him from the indolent luxury of Asia to the hardships and dangers of a German war. The death of Theophilus, consular of the

province of Syria, who in a time of scarcity had been massacred by the

people of Antioch, with the connivance, and almost at the instigation,

of Gallus, was justly resented, not only as an act of wanton cruelty, but as a dangerous insult on the supreme majesty of Constantius. Two

ministers of illustrious rank, Domitian the Oriental præfect, and

Montius, quæstor of the palace, were empowered by a special commission

\* to visit and reform the state of the East. They were instructed to behave towards Gallus with moderation and respect, and, by the gentlest arts of persuasion, to engage him to comply with the invitation of his brother and colleague. The rashness of the præfect disappointed these

prudent measures, and hastened his own ruin, as well as that of his enemy. On his arrival at Antioch, Domitian passed disdainfully before the gates of the palace, and alleging a slight pretence of

indisposition, continued several days in sullen retirement, to prepare an inflammatory memorial, which he transmitted to the Imperial court.

Yielding at length to the pressing solicitations of Gallus, the præfect condescended to take his seat in council; but his first step was to

signify a concise and haughty mandate, importing that the Cæsar should

immediately repair to Italy, and threatening that he himself would

punish his delay or hesitation, by suspending the usual allowance of his

household. The nephew and daughter of Constantine, who could ill brook the insolence of a subject, expressed their resentment by instantly delivering Domitian to the custody of a guard. The quarrel still admitted of some terms of accommodation. They were rendered

impracticable by the imprudent behavior of Montius, a statesman whose arts and experience were frequently betrayed by the levity of his disposition. The quæstor reproached Gallus in a haughty language, that a prince who was scarcely authorized to remove a municipal magistrate,

should presume to imprison a Prætorian præfect; convoked a meeting of the civil and military officers; and required them, in the name of their

sovereign, to defend the person and dignity of his representatives. by this rash declaration of war, the impatient temper of Gallus was

provoked to embrace the most desperate counsels. He ordered his

guards to stand to their arms, assembled the populace of Antioch, and recommended to their zeal the care of his safety and revenge. His commands were too fatally obeyed. They rudely seized the præfect and the quæstor, and tying their legs together with ropes, they dragged them through the streets of the city, inflicted a thousand insults and a thousand wounds on these unhappy victims, and at last precipitated their

mangled and lifeless bodies into the stream of the Orontes.

after such a deed, whatever might have been the designs of Gallus, it was only in a field of battle that he could assert his innocence with any hope of success. But the mind of that prince was formed of an equal

mixture of violence and weakness. Instead of assuming the title of augustus, instead of employing in his defence the troops and treasures

of the East, he suffered himself to be deceived by the affected tranquillity of Constantius, who, leaving him the vain pageantry of a court, imperceptibly recalled the veteran legions from the provinces

of Asia. But as it still appeared dangerous to arrest Gallus in his capital, the slow and safer arts of dissimulation were practised with

success. The frequent and pressing epistles of Constantius were filled with professions of confidence and friendship; exhorting the Cæsar to discharge the duties of his high station, to relieve his colleague from a part of the public cares, and to assist the West by his presence, his counsels, and his arms. After so many reciprocal injuries, Gallus had

reason to fear and to distrust. But he had neglected the opportunities

of flight and of resistance; he was seduced by the flattering assurances

of the tribune Scudilo, who, under the semblance of a rough soldier, disguised the most artful insinuation; and he depended on the credit

of his wife Constantina, till the unseasonable death of that princess completed the ruin in which he had been involved by her impetuous

passions.

chapter XIX: Constantius Sole Emperor.--Part II.

after a long delay, the reluctant Cæsar set forwards on his journey to the Imperial court. From Antioch to Hadrianople, he traversed the wide extent of his dominions with a numerous and stately train; and as he

labored to conceal his apprehensions from the world, and perhaps from

himself, he entertained the people of Constantinople with an exhibition

of the games of the circus. The progress of the journey might, however,

have warned him of the impending danger. In all the principal cities he was met by ministers of confidence, commissioned to seize the offices of

government, to observe his motions, and to prevent the hasty sallies

of his despair. The persons despatched to secure the provinces which he

left behind, passed him with cold salutations, or affected disdain; and the troops, whose station lay along the public road, were studiously

removed on his approach, lest they might be tempted to offer their

swords for the service of a civil war. After Gallus had been permitted to repose himself a few days at Hadrianople, he received a mandate, expressed in the most haughty and absolute style, that his splendid

retinue should halt in that city, while the Cæsar himself, with only ten post-carriages, should hasten to the Imperial residence at Milan.

In this rapid journey, the profound respect which was due to the brother and colleague of Constantius, was insensibly changed into rude familiarity; and Gallus, who discovered in the countenances of the attendants that they already considered themselves as his guards, and

might soon be employed as his executioners, began to accuse his fatal

rashness, and to recollect, with terror and remorse, the conduct by which he had provoked his fate. The dissimulation which had hitherto been preserved, was laid aside at Petovio, \* in Pannonia. He was conducted to a palace in the suburbs, where the general Barbatio, with a select band of soldiers, who could neither be moved by pity, nor corrupted by rewards, expected the arrival of his illustrious victim. In the close of the evening he was arrested, ignominiously stripped of the ensigns of Cæsar, and hurried away to Pola, in Istria, a sequestered

prison, which had been so recently polluted with royal blood. The horror which he felt was soon increased by the appearance of his implacable enemy the eunuch Eusebius, who, with the assistance of a notary and a tribune, proceeded to interrogate him concerning the administration of the East. The Cæsar sank under the weight of shame and guilt, confessed all the criminal actions and all the treasonable designs with which he was charged; and by imputing them to the advice of his wife, exasperated the indignation of Constantius, who reviewed with partial prejudice the

minutes of the examination. The emperor was easily convinced, that his

own safety was incompatible with the life of his cousin: the sentence

of death was signed, despatched, and executed; and the nephew of constantine, with his hands tied behind his back, was beheaded in prison

like the vilest malefactor. Those who are inclined to palliate the cruelties of Constantius, assert that he soon relented, and endeavored to recall the bloody mandate; but that the second messenger, intrusted with the reprieve, was detained by the eunuchs, who dreaded the

unforgiving temper of Gallus, and were desirous of reuniting to their empire the wealthy provinces of the East.

besides the reigning emperor, Julian alone survived, of all the numerous

posterity of Constantius Chlorus. The misfortune of his royal birth

involved him in the disgrace of Gallus. From his retirement in the happy country of Ionia, he was conveyed under a strong guard to the court

of Milan; where he languished above seven months, in the continual apprehension of suffering the same ignominious death, which was daily

inflicted almost before his eyes, on the friends and adherents of

his persecuted family. His looks, his gestures, his silence, were

scrutinized with malignant curiosity, and he was perpetually assaulted by enemies whom he had never offended, and by arts to which he was a

stranger. But in the school of adversity, Julian insensibly acquired the

virtues of firmness and discretion. He defended his honor, as well as his life, against the insnaring subtleties of the eunuchs, who endeavored to extort some declaration of his sentiments; and whilst he cautiously suppressed his grief and resentment, he nobly disdained to flatter the tyrant, by any seeming approbation of his brother's

murder. Julian most devoutly ascribes his miraculous deliverance to the

protection of the gods, who had exempted his innocence from the sentence

of destruction pronounced by their justice against the impious house of constantine. As the most effectual instrument of their providence,

he gratefully acknowledges the steady and generous friendship of the empress Eusebia, a woman of beauty and merit, who, by the ascendant which she had gained over the mind of her husband, counterbalanced,

in some measure, the powerful conspiracy of the eunuchs. By the

intercession of his patroness, Julian was admitted into the Imperial

presence: he pleaded his cause with a decent freedom, he was heard with favor; and, notwithstanding the efforts of his enemies, who urged the danger of sparing an avenger of the blood of Gallus, the milder

sentiment of Eusebia prevailed in the council. But the effects of a

second interview were dreaded by the eunuchs; and Julian was advised to withdraw for a while into the neighborhood of Milan, till the emperor thought proper to assign the city of Athens for the place of his

honorable exile. As he had discovered, from his earliest youth, a

propensity, or rather passion, for the language, the manners, the

learning, and the religion of the Greeks, he obeyed with pleasure an

order so agreeable to his wishes. Far from the tumult of arms, and the treachery of courts, he spent six months under the groves of the academy, in a free intercourse with the philosophers of the age, who

studied to cultivate the genius, to encourage the vanity, and to inflame the devotion of their royal pupil. Their labors were not unsuccessful; and Julian inviolably preserved for Athens that tender regard which

seldom fails to arise in a liberal mind, from the recollection of the

place where it has discovered and exercised its growing powers. The

gentleness and affability of manners, which his temper suggested and his

situation imposed, insensibly engaged the affections of the strangers, as well as citizens, with whom he conversed. Some of his fellow-students

might perhaps examine his behavior with an eye of prejudice and aversion; but Julian established, in the schools of Athens, a general

prepossession in favor of his virtues and talents, which was soon diffused over the Roman world.

whilst his hours were passed in studious retirement, the empress,

resolute to achieve the generous design which she had undertaken, was

not unmindful of the care of his fortune. The death of the late Cæsar

had left Constantius invested with the sole command, and oppressed by the accumulated weight, of a mighty empire. Before the wounds of civil discord could be healed, the provinces of Gaul were overwhelmed by a deluge of Barbarians. The Sarmatians no longer respected the barrier

of the Danube. The impunity of rapine had increased the boldness and

numbers of the wild Isaurians: those robbers descended from their craggy

mountains to ravage the adjacent country, and had even presumed, though without success, to besiege the important city of Seleucia, which was defended by a garrison of three Roman legions. Above all, the Persian

monarch, elated by victory, again threatened the peace of Asia, and the

presence of the emperor was indispensably required, both in the West and in the East. For the first time, Constantius sincerely acknowledged, that his single strength was unequal to such an extent of care and of dominion. Insensible to the voice of flattery, which assured him that

his all-powerful virtue, and celestial fortune, would still continue to triumph over every obstacle, he listened with complacency to the advice of Eusebia, which gratified his indolence, without offending his

suspicious pride. As she perceived that the remembrance of Gallus dwelt

on the emperor's mind, she artfully turned his attention to the opposite characters of the two brothers, which from their infancy had been compared to those of Domitian and of Titus. She accustomed her husband to consider Julian as a youth of a mild, unambitious disposition, whose allegiance and gratitude might be secured by the gift of the purple, and who was qualified to fill with honor a subordinate station, without aspiring to dispute the commands, or to shade the glories, of his

sovereign and benefactor. After an obstinate, though secret struggle, the opposition of the favorite eunuchs submitted to the ascendency of the empress; and it was resolved that Julian, after celebrating his

nuptials with Helena, sister of Constantius, should be appointed, with the title of Cæsar, to reign over the countries beyond the Alps.

although the order which recalled him to court was probably accompanied by some intimation of his approaching greatness, he appeals to the

people of Athens to witness his tears of undissembled sorrow, when he was reluctantly torn away from his beloved retirement. He trembled for

his life, for his fame, and even for his virtue; and his sole confidence was derived from the persuasion, that Minerva inspired all his actions, and that he was protected by an invisible guard of angels, whom for that purpose she had borrowed from the Sun and Moon. He approached, with

horror, the palace of Milan; nor could the ingenuous youth conceal

his indignation, when he found himself accosted with false and servile

respect by the assassins of his family. Eusebia, rejoicing in the

success of her benevolent schemes, embraced him with the tenderness of a sister; and endeavored, by the most soothing caresses, to dispel his terrors, and reconcile him to his fortune. But the ceremony of shaving

his beard, and his awkward demeanor, when he first exchanged the cloak

of a Greek philosopher for the military habit of a Roman prince, amused, during a few days, the levity of the Imperial court.

the emperors of the age of Constantine no longer deigned to consult with the senate in the choice of a colleague; but they were anxious that their nomination should be ratified by the consent of the army. On this

solemn occasion, the guards, with the other troops whose stations were

in the neighborhood of Milan, appeared under arms; and Constantius ascended his lofty tribunal, holding by the hand his cousin Julian, who entered the same day into the twenty-fifth year of his age. In a studied

speech, conceived and delivered with dignity, the emperor represented the various dangers which threatened the prosperity of the republic, the

necessity of naming a Cæsar for the administration of the West, and his

own intention, if it was agreeable to their wishes, of rewarding with the honors of the purple the promising virtues of the nephew

of Constantine. The approbation of the soldiers was testified by a

respectful murmur; they gazed on the manly countenance of Julian, and

observed with pleasure, that the fire which sparkled in his eyes was tempered by a modest blush, on being thus exposed, for the first time, to the public view of mankind. As soon as the ceremony of his

investiture had been performed, Constantius addressed him with the tone

of authority which his superior age and station permitted him to assume; and exhorting the new Cæsar to deserve, by heroic deeds, that sacred and

immortal name, the emperor gave his colleague the strongest assurances

of a friendship which should never be impaired by time, nor interrupted by their separation into the most distant climes. As soon as the speech was ended, the troops, as a token of applause, clashed their shields against their knees; while the officers who surrounded the tribunal expressed, with decent reserve, their sense of the merits of the

representative of Constantius.

the two princes returned to the palace in the same chariot; and during the slow procession, Julian repeated to himself a verse of his favorite

Homer, which he might equally apply to his fortune and to his fears. the four-and-twenty days which the Cæsar spent at Milan after his

investiture, and the first months of his Gallic reign, were devoted to a splendid but severe captivity; nor could the acquisition of honor compensate for the loss of freedom. His steps were watched, his correspondence was intercepted; and he was obliged, by prudence, to decline the visits of his most intimate friends. Of his former domestics, four only were permitted to attend him; two pages, his

physician, and his librarian; the last of whom was employed in the care

of a valuable collection of books, the gift of the empress, who studied the inclinations as well as the interest of her friend. In the room of these faithful servants, a household was formed, such indeed as became the dignity of a Cæsar; but it was filled with a crowd of slaves, destitute, and perhaps incapable, of any attachment for their new

master, to whom, for the most part, they were either unknown or

suspected. His want of experience might require the assistance of a wise council; but the minute instructions which regulated the service of his table, and the distribution of his hours, were adapted to a youth still

under the discipline of his preceptors, rather than to the situation of a prince intrusted with the conduct of an important war. If he aspired to deserve the esteem of his subjects, he was checked by the fear of displeasing his sovereign; and even the fruits of his marriage-bed were blasted by the jealous artifices of Eusebia herself, who, on this

occasion alone, seems to have been unmindful of the tenderness of her

sex, and the generosity of her character. The memory of his father and

of his brothers reminded Julian of his own danger, and his apprehensions were increased by the recent and unworthy fate of Sylvanus. In the

summer which preceded his own elevation, that general had been chosen to deliver Gaul from the tyranny of the Barbarians; but Sylvanus soon discovered that he had left his most dangerous enemies in the Imperial court. A dexterous informer, countenanced by several of the principal

ministers, procured from him some recommendatory letters; and erasing the whole of the contents, except the signature, filled up the vacant

parchment with matters of high and treasonable import. By the industry and courage of his friends, the fraud was however detected, and in a

great council of the civil and military officers, held in the presence

of the emperor himself, the innocence of Sylvanus was publicly acknowledged. But the discovery came too late; the report of the calumny, and the hasty seizure of his estate, had already provoked the

indignant chief to the rebellion of which he was so unjustly accused.

He assumed the purple at his head-quarters of Cologne, and his active

powers appeared to menace Italy with an invasion, and Milan with a

siege. In this emergency, Ursicinus, a general of equal rank, regained, by an act of treachery, the favor which he had lost by his eminent

services in the East. Exasperated, as he might speciously allege, by the

injuries of a similar nature, he hastened with a few followers to join the standard, and to betray the confidence, of his too credulous friend. after a reign of only twenty-eight days, Sylvanus was assassinated: the

soldiers who, without any criminal intention, had blindly followed the example of their leader, immediately returned to their allegiance; and the flatterers of Constantius celebrated the wisdom and felicity of the

monarch who had extinguished a civil war without the hazard of a battle.

the protection of the Rhætian frontier, and the persecution of the catholic church, detained Constantius in Italy above eighteen months after the departure of Julian. Before the emperor returned into the east, he indulged his pride and curiosity in a visit to the ancient capital. He proceeded from Milan to Rome along the Æmilian and Flaminian ways, and as soon as he approached within forty miles of the city, the

march of a prince who had never vanquished a foreign enemy, assumed the appearance of a triumphal procession. His splendid train was composed

of all the ministers of luxury; but in a time of profound peace, he was encompassed by the glittering arms of the numerous squadrons of his

guards and cuirassiers. Their streaming banners of silk, embossed with

gold, and shaped in the form of dragons, waved round the person of the emperor. Constantius sat alone in a lofty car, resplendent with gold and precious gems; and, except when he bowed his head to pass under the

gates of the cities, he affected a stately demeanor of inflexible, and, as it might seem, of insensible gravity. The severe discipline of the

Persian youth had been introduced by the eunuchs into the Imperial

palace; and such were the habits of patience which they had inculcated, that during a slow and sultry march, he was never seen to move his hand towards his face, or to turn his eyes either to the right or to the

left. He was received by the magistrates and senate of Rome; and the emperor surveyed, with attention, the civil honors of the republic, and the consular images of the noble families. The streets were lined with an innumerable multitude. Their repeated acclamations expressed their

joy at beholding, after an absence of thirty-two years, the sacred

person of their sovereign, and Constantius himself expressed, with

some pleasantry, he affected surprise that the human race should thus

suddenly be collected on the same spot. The son of Constantine was

lodged in the ancient palace of Augustus: he presided in the senate,

harangued the people from the tribunal which Cicero had so often ascended, assisted with unusual courtesy at the games of the Circus, and accepted the crowns of gold, as well as the Panegyrics which had been

prepared for the ceremony by the deputies of the principal cities. His

short visit of thirty days was employed in viewing the monuments of art and power which were scattered over the seven hills and the interjacent

valleys. He admired the awful majesty of the Capitol, the vast extent

of the baths of Caracalla and Diocletian, the severe simplicity of the

Pantheon, the massy greatness of the amphitheatre of Titus, the elegant architecture of the theatre of Pompey and the Temple of Peace, and, above all, the stately structure of the Forum and column of Trajan; acknowledging that the voice of fame, so prone to invent and to magnify,

had made an inadequate report of the metropolis of the world. The traveller, who has contemplated the ruins of ancient Rome, may conceive

some imperfect idea of the sentiments which they must have inspired when they reared their heads in the splendor of unsullied beauty.

[See The Pantheon: The severe simplicity of the Pantheon]

the satisfaction which Constantius had received from this journey excited him to the generous emulation of bestowing on the Romans some

memorial of his own gratitude and munificence. His first idea was to

imitate the equestrian and colossal statue which he had seen in the forum of Trajan; but when he had maturely weighed the difficulties of the execution, he chose rather to embellish the capital by the gift of an Egyptian obelisk. In a remote but polished age, which seems to have

preceded the invention of alphabetical writing, a great number of these

obelisks had been erected, in the cities of Thebes and Heliopolis, by the ancient sovereigns of Egypt, in a just confidence that the

simplicity of their form, and the hardness of their substance, would

resist the injuries of time and violence. Several of these extraordinary columns had been transported to Rome by Augustus and his successors, as the most durable monuments of their power and victory; but there

remained one obelisk, which, from its size or sanctity, escaped for a

long time the rapacious vanity of the conquerors. It was designed by constantine to adorn his new city; and, after being removed by his

order from the pedestal where it stood before the Temple of the Sun at Heliopolis, was floated down the Nile to Alexandria. The death of constantine suspended the execution of his purpose, and this obelisk was destined by his son to the ancient capital of the empire. A vessel of

uncommon strength and capaciousness was provided to convey this enormous weight of granite, at least a hundred and fifteen feet in length, from the banks of the Nile to those of the Tyber. The obelisk of Constantius was landed about three miles from the city, and elevated, by the efforts

of art and labor, in the great Circus of Rome.

the departure of Constantius from Rome was hastened by the alarming

intelligence of the distress and danger of the Illyrian provinces. The distractions of civil war, and the irreparable loss which the Roman

legions had sustained in the battle of Mursa, exposed those countries, almost without defence, to the light cavalry of the Barbarians; and

particularly to the inroads of the Quadi, a fierce and powerful nation, who seem to have exchanged the institutions of Germany for the arms and

military arts of their Sarmatian allies. The garrisons of the frontiers were insufficient to check their progress; and the indolent monarch was at length compelled to assemble, from the extremities of his dominions, the flower of the Palatine troops, to take the field in person, and to employ a whole campaign, with the preceding autumn and the ensuing

spring, in the serious prosecution of the war. The emperor passed the danube on a bridge of boats, cut in pieces all that encountered his

march, penetrated into the heart of the country of the Quadi, and

severely retaliated the calamities which they had inflicted on the Roman

province. The dismayed Barbarians were soon reduced to sue for peace: they offered the restitution of his captive subjects as an atonement for the past, and the noblest hostages as a pledge of their future conduct. The generous courtesy which was shown to the first among their chieftains who implored the clemency of Constantius, encouraged the more timid, or the more obstinate, to imitate their example; and the Imperial camp was crowded with the princes and ambassadors of the most distant tribes, who occupied the plains of the Lesser Poland, and who might

have deemed themselves secure behind the lofty ridge of the Carpathian

Mountains. While Constantius gave laws to the Barbarians beyond the danube, he distinguished, with specious compassion, the Sarmatian exiles, who had been expelled from their native country by the rebellion

of their slaves, and who formed a very considerable accession to the

power of the Quadi. The emperor, embracing a generous but artful system

of policy, released the Sarmatians from the bands of this humiliating dependence, and restored them, by a separate treaty, to the dignity of a

nation united under the government of a king, the friend and ally of the

republic. He declared his resolution of asserting the justice of their cause, and of securing the peace of the provinces by the extirpation,

or at least the banishment, of the Limigantes, whose manners were still

infected with the vices of their servile origin. The execution of this design was attended with more difficulty than glory. The territory of the Limigantes was protected against the Romans by the Danube, against the hostile Barbarians by the Teyss. The marshy lands which lay between those rivers, and were often covered by their inundations, formed an intricate wilderness, pervious only to the inhabitants, who were acquainted with its secret paths and inaccessible fortresses. On the approach of Constantius, the Limigantes tried the efficacy of prayers,

of fraud, and of arms; but he sternly rejected their supplications, defeated their rude stratagems, and repelled with skill and firmness the efforts of their irregular valor. One of their most warlike tribes, established in a small island towards the conflux of the Teyss and the danube, consented to pass the river with the intention of surprising the emperor during the security of an amicable conference. They soon became the victims of the perfidy which they meditated. Encompassed on every

side, trampled down by the cavalry, slaughtered by the swords of the legions, they disdained to ask for mercy; and with an undaunted countenance, still grasped their weapons in the agonies of death. After this victory, a considerable body of Romans was landed on the opposite banks of the Danube; the Taifalæ, a Gothic tribe engaged in the service

of the empire, invaded the Limigantes on the side of the Teyss; and their former masters, the free Sarmatians, animated by hope and revenge,

penetrated through the hilly country, into the heart of their ancient possessions. A general conflagration revealed the huts of the barbarians, which were seated in the depth of the wilderness; and the

soldier fought with confidence on marshy ground, which it was dangerous for him to tread. In this extremity, the bravest of the Limigantes were

resolved to die in arms, rather than to yield: but the milder sentiment, enforced by the authority of their elders, at length prevailed; and the

suppliant crowd, followed by their wives and children, repaired to the

Imperial camp, to learn their fate from the mouth of the conqueror. after celebrating his own clemency, which was still inclined to pardon their repeated crimes, and to spare the remnant of a guilty nation, constantius assigned for the place of their exile a remote country, where they might enjoy a safe and honorable repose. The Limigantes

obeyed with reluctance; but before they could reach, at least before they could occupy, their destined habitations, they returned to the banks of the Danube, exaggerating the hardships of their situation, and

requesting, with fervent professions of fidelity, that the emperor would

grant them an undisturbed settlement within the limits of the Roman

provinces. Instead of consulting his own experience of their incurable

perfidy, Constantius listened to his flatterers, who were ready to

represent the honor and advantage of accepting a colony of soldiers, at a time when it was much easier to obtain the pecuniary contributions than the military service of the subjects of the empire. The Limigantes were permitted to pass the Danube; and the emperor gave audience to the

multitude in a large plain near the modern city of Buda. They surrounded the tribunal, and seemed to hear with respect an oration full of

mildness and dignity when one of the Barbarians, casting his shoe

into the air, exclaimed with a loud voice, Marha! Marha! \* a word of defiance, which was received as a signal of the tumult. They rushed with fury to seize the person of the emperor; his royal throne and golden couch were pillaged by these rude hands; but the faithful defence of

his guards, who died at his feet, allowed him a moment to mount a fleet

horse, and to escape from the confusion. The disgrace which had been

incurred by a treacherous surprise was soon retrieved by the numbers and discipline of the Romans; and the combat was only terminated by the extinction of the name and nation of the Limigantes. The free Sarmatians were reinstated in the possession of their ancient seats; and although constantius distrusted the levity of their character, he entertained

some hopes that a sense of gratitude might influence their future conduct. He had remarked the lofty stature and obsequious demeanor of

Zizais, one of the noblest of their chiefs. He conferred on him the title of King; and Zizais proved that he was not unworthy to reign, by a

sincere and lasting attachment to the interests of his benefactor, who, after this splendid success, received the name of Sarmaticus from the acclamations of his victorious army.

chapter XIX: Constantius Sole Emperor.--Part III.

while the Roman emperor and the Persian monarch, at the distance

of three thousand miles, defended their extreme limits against the barbarians of the Danube and of the Oxus, their intermediate frontier experienced the vicissitudes of a languid war, and a precarious truce. two of the eastern ministers of Constantius, the Prætorian præfect

Musonian, whose abilities were disgraced by the want of truth and

integrity, and Cassian, duke of Mesopotamia, a hardy and veteran

soldier, opened a secret negotiation with the satrap Tamsapor. These

overtures of peace, translated into the servile and flattering language

of Asia, were transmitted to the camp of the Great King; who resolved to

signify, by an ambassador, the terms which he was inclined to grant to the suppliant Romans. Narses, whom he invested with that character, was

honorably received in his passage through Antioch and Constantinople:

he reached Sirmium after a long journey, and, at his first audience,

respectfully unfolded the silken veil which covered the haughty epistle

of his sovereign. Sapor, King of Kings, and Brother of the Sun and Moon,

(such were the lofty titles affected by Oriental vanity,) expressed his

satisfaction that his brother, Constantius Cæsar, had been taught wisdom by adversity. As the lawful successor of Darius Hystaspes, Sapor asserted, that the River Strymon, in Macedonia, was the true and ancient boundary of his empire; declaring, however, that as an evidence of his

moderation, he would content himself with the provinces of Armenia and

Mesopotamia, which had been fraudulently extorted from his ancestors. He alleged, that, without the restitution of these disputed countries, it was impossible to establish any treaty on a solid and permanent basis; and he arrogantly threatened, that if his ambassador returned in vain,

he was prepared to take the field in the spring, and to support the

justice of his cause by the strength of his invincible arms. Narses, who was endowed with the most polite and amiable manners, endeavored, as far as was consistent with his duty, to soften the harshness of the message. both the style and substance were maturely weighed in the Imperial council, and he was dismissed with the following answer: "Constantius

had a right to disclaim the officiousness of his ministers, who had acted without any specific orders from the throne: he was not, however, averse to an equal and honorable treaty; but it was highly indecent, as well as absurd, to propose to the sole and victorious emperor of the Roman world, the same conditions of peace which he had indignantly

rejected at the time when his power was contracted within the narrow

limits of the East: the chance of arms was uncertain; and Sapor should

recollect, that if the Romans had sometimes been vanquished in battle, they had almost always been successful in the event of the war." A few days after the departure of Narses, three ambassadors were sent to the court of Sapor, who was already returned from the Scythian expedition to

his ordinary residence of Ctesiphon. A count, a notary, and a sophist,

had been selected for this important commission; and Constantius, who was secretly anxious for the conclusion of the peace, entertained some

hopes that the dignity of the first of these ministers, the dexterity

of the second, and the rhetoric of the third, would persuade the Persian

monarch to abate of the rigor of his demands. But the progress of their

negotiation was opposed and defeated by the hostile arts of Antoninus, a Roman subject of Syria, who had fled from oppression, and was admitted into the councils of Sapor, and even to the royal table, where, according to the custom of the Persians, the most important business was frequently discussed. The dexterous fugitive promoted his interest by the same conduct which gratified his revenge. He incessantly urged the ambition of his new master to embrace the favorable opportunity when the bravest of the Palatine troops were employed with the emperor in a distant war on the Danube. He pressed Sapor to invade the exhausted and defenceless provinces of the East, with the numerous armies of Persia,

now fortified by the alliance and accession of the fiercest Barbarians. the ambassadors of Rome retired without success, and a second embassy,

of a still more honorable rank, was detained in strict confinement, and threatened either with death or exile.

the military historian, who was himself despatched to observe the army

of the Persians, as they were preparing to construct a bridge of boats

over the Tigris, beheld from an eminence the plain of Assyria, as far as the edge of the horizon, covered with men, with horses, and with arms.

Sapor appeared in the front, conspicuous by the splendor of his purple.

On his left hand, the place of honor among the Orientals, Grumbates,

king of the Chionites, displayed the stern countenance of an aged and

renowned warrior. The monarch had reserved a similar place on his right

hand for the king of the Albanians, who led his independent tribes from the shores of the Caspian. \* The satraps and generals were distributed according to their several ranks, and the whole army, besides the

numerous train of Oriental luxury, consisted of more than one hundred thousand effective men, inured to fatigue, and selected from the bravest

nations of Asia. The Roman deserter, who in some measure guided the councils of Sapor, had prudently advised, that, instead of wasting the

summer in tedious and difficult sieges, he should march directly to the Euphrates, and press forwards without delay to seize the feeble and wealthy metropolis of Syria. But the Persians were no sooner advanced

into the plains of Mesopotamia, than they discovered that every

precaution had been used which could retard their progress, or defeat their design. The inhabitants, with their cattle, were secured in places

of strength, the green forage throughout the country was set on fire, the fords of the rivers were fortified by sharp stakes; military engines were planted on the opposite banks, and a seasonable swell of the waters

of the Euphrates deterred the Barbarians from attempting the ordinary

passage of the bridge of Thapsacus. Their skilful guide, changing his

plan of operations, then conducted the army by a longer circuit, but through a fertile territory, towards the head of the Euphrates, where the infant river is reduced to a shallow and accessible stream. Sapor

overlooked, with prudent disdain, the strength of Nisibis; but as he

passed under the walls of Amida, he resolved to try whether the majesty

of his presence would not awe the garrison into immediate submission. the sacrilegious insult of a random dart, which glanced against the

royal tiara, convinced him of his error; and the indignant monarch

listened with impatience to the advice of his ministers, who conjured

him not to sacrifice the success of his ambition to the gratification of

his resentment. The following day Grumbates advanced towards the gates with a select body of troops, and required the instant surrender of the city, as the only atonement which could be accepted for such an act

of rashness and insolence. His proposals were answered by a general discharge, and his only son, a beautiful and valiant youth, was pierced through the heart by a javelin, shot from one of the balistæ. The funeral of the prince of the Chionites was celebrated according to the

rites of the country; and the grief of his aged father was alleviated by the solemn promise of Sapor, that the guilty city of Amida should serve as a funeral pile to expiate the death, and to perpetuate the memory, of

his son.

the ancient city of Amid or Amida, which sometimes assumes the

provincial appellation of Diarbekir, is advantageously situate in a fertile plain, watered by the natural and artificial channels of the tigris, of which the least inconsiderable stream bends in a semicircular form round the eastern part of the city. The emperor Constantius

had recently conferred on Amida the honor of his own name, and the additional fortifications of strong walls and lofty towers. It was

provided with an arsenal of military engines, and the ordinary garrison

had been reenforced to the amount of seven legions, when the place was invested by the arms of Sapor. His first and most sanguine hopes depended on the success of a general assault. To the several nations which followed his standard, their respective posts were assigned; the south to the Vertæ; the north to the Albanians; the east to the Chionites, inflamed with grief and indignation; the west to the

Segestans, the bravest of his warriors, who covered their front with a formidable line of Indian elephants. The Persians, on every side,

supported their efforts, and animated their courage; and the monarch

himself, careless of his rank and safety, displayed, in the prosecution

of the siege, the ardor of a youthful soldier. After an obstinate combat, the Barbarians were repulsed; they incessantly returned to the charge; they were again driven back with a dreadful slaughter, and two

rebel legions of Gauls, who had been banished into the East, signalized their undisciplined courage by a nocturnal sally into the heart of the

Persian camp. In one of the fiercest of these repeated assaults, Amida was betrayed by the treachery of a deserter, who indicated to the barbarians a secret and neglected staircase, scooped out of the rock that hangs over the stream of the Tigris. Seventy chosen archers of the

royal guard ascended in silence to the third story of a lofty tower, which commanded the precipice; they elevated on high the Persian banner, the signal of confidence to the assailants, and of dismay to the besieged; and if this devoted band could have maintained their post a few minutes longer, the reduction of the place might have been purchased by the sacrifice of their lives. After Sapor had tried, without success, the efficacy of force and of stratagem, he had recourse to the slower but more certain operations of a regular siege, in the conduct of which

he was instructed by the skill of the Roman deserters. The trenches were opened at a convenient distance, and the troops destined for that

service advanced under the portable cover of strong hurdles, to fill

up the ditch, and undermine the foundations of the walls. Wooden towers were at the same time constructed, and moved forwards on wheels, till the soldiers, who were provided with every species of missile weapons, could engage almost on level ground with the troops who defended the

rampart. Every mode of resistance which art could suggest, or courage could execute, was employed in the defence of Amida, and the works of

Sapor were more than once destroyed by the fire of the Romans. But the

resources of a besieged city may be exhausted. The Persians repaired their losses, and pushed their approaches; a large preach was made by the battering-ram, and the strength of the garrison, wasted by the sword and by disease, yielded to the fury of the assault. The soldiers, the citizens, their wives, their children, all who had not time to escape through the opposite gate, were involved by the conquerors in a

promiscuous massacre.

but the ruin of Amida was the safety of the Roman provinces. As soon as the first transports of victory had subsided, Sapor was at leisure to

reflect, that to chastise a disobedient city, he had lost the flower of

his troops, and the most favorable season for conquest. Thirty thousand

of his veterans had fallen under the walls of Amida, during the continuance of a siege, which lasted seventy-three days; and the disappointed monarch returned to his capital with affected triumph and

secret mortification. It is more than probable, that the inconstancy of

his Barbarian allies was tempted to relinquish a war in which they had encountered such unexpected difficulties; and that the aged king of the chionites, satiated with revenge, turned away with horror from a scene

of action where he had been deprived of the hope of his family and

nation. The strength as well as the spirit of the army with which

Sapor took the field in the ensuing spring was no longer equal to the

unbounded views of his ambition. Instead of aspiring to the conquest of the East, he was obliged to content himself with the reduction of two fortified cities of Mesopotamia, Singara and Bezabde; the one situate in the midst of a sandy desert, the other in a small peninsula, surrounded almost on every side by the deep and rapid stream of the Tigris. Five

Roman legions, of the diminutive size to which they had been reduced

in the age of Constantine, were made prisoners, and sent into remote captivity on the extreme confines of Persia. After dismantling the walls

of Singara, the conqueror abandoned that solitary and sequestered place; but he carefully restored the fortifications of Bezabde, and fixed in that important post a garrison or colony of veterans; amply supplied with every means of defence, and animated by high sentiments of honor and fidelity. Towards the close of the campaign, the arms of Sapor

incurred some disgrace by an unsuccessful enterprise against Virtha,

or Tecrit, a strong, or, as it was universally esteemed till the age of tamerlane, an impregnable fortress of the independent Arabs.

the defence of the East against the arms of Sapor required and would

have exercised, the abilities of the most consummate general; and it

seemed fortunate for the state, that it was the actual province of the brave Ursicinus, who alone deserved the confidence of the soldiers and

people. In the hour of danger, Ursicinus was removed from his station by the intrigues of the eunuchs; and the military command of the East was bestowed, by the same influence, on Sabinian, a wealthy and subtle

veteran, who had attained the infirmities, without acquiring the experience, of age. By a second order, which issued from the same

jealous and inconstant councils, Ursicinus was again despatched to the frontier of Mesopotamia, and condemned to sustain the labors of a war, the honors of which had been transferred to his unworthy rival. Sabinian fixed his indolent station under the walls of Edessa; and while he amused himself with the idle parade of military exercise, and moved to the sound of flutes in the Pyrrhic dance, the public defence was abandoned to the boldness and diligence of the former general of the East. But whenever Ursicinus recommended any vigorous plan of

operations; when he proposed, at the head of a light and active army, to wheel round the foot of the mountains, to intercept the convoys of the enemy, to harass the wide extent of the Persian lines, and to relieve the distress of Amida; the timid and envious commander alleged, that he was restrained by his positive orders from endangering the safety of the troops. Amida was at length taken; its bravest defenders, who had escaped the sword of the Barbarians, died in the Roman camp by the hand

of the executioner: and Ursicinus himself, after supporting the disgrace

of a partial inquiry, was punished for the misconduct of Sabinian by the

loss of his military rank. But Constantius soon experienced the truth

of the prediction which honest indignation had extorted from his injured

lieutenant, that as long as such maxims of government were suffered to

prevail, the emperor himself would find it is no easy task to defend

his eastern dominions from the invasion of a foreign enemy. When he had

subdued or pacified the Barbarians of the Danube, Constantius proceeded by slow marches into the East; and after he had wept over the smoking

ruins of Amida, he formed, with a powerful army, the siege of Bezabde. the walls were shaken by the reiterated efforts of the most enormous of the battering-rams; the town was reduced to the last extremity; but it was still defended by the patient and intrepid valor of the garrison, till the approach of the rainy season obliged the emperor to raise the

siege, and ingloriously to retreat into his winter quarters at Antioch. the pride of Constantius, and the ingenuity of his courtiers, were at a loss to discover any materials for panegyric in the events of the

Persian war; while the glory of his cousin Julian, to whose military command he had intrusted the provinces of Gaul, was proclaimed to the world in the simple and concise narrative of his exploits.

In the blind fury of civil discord, Constantius had abandoned to the barbarians of Germany the countries of Gaul, which still acknowledged the authority of his rival. A numerous swarm of Franks and Alemanni were

invited to cross the Rhine by presents and promises, by the hopes of

spoil, and by a perpetual grant of all the territories which they should be able to subdue. But the emperor, who for a temporary service had thus imprudently provoked the rapacious spirit of the Barbarians, soon discovered and lamented the difficulty of dismissing these formidable allies, after they had tasted the richness of the Roman soil. Regardless

of the nice distinction of loyalty and rebellion, these undisciplined

robbers treated as their natural enemies all the subjects of the empire, who possessed any property which they were desirous of acquiring forty-five flourishing cities, Tongres, Cologne, Treves, Worms, Spires,

Strasburgh, &c., besides a far greater number of towns and villages, were pillaged, and for the most part reduced to ashes. The Barbarians of

Germany, still faithful to the maxims of their ancestors, abhorred the confinement of walls, to which they applied the odious names of prisons and sepulchres; and fixing their independent habitations on the banks of

rivers, the Rhine, the Moselle, and the Meuse, they secured themselves against the danger of a surprise, by a rude and hasty fortification of

large trees, which were felled and thrown across the roads. The Alemanni were established in the modern countries of Alsace and Lorraine; the franks occupied the island of the Batavians, together with an extensive district of Brabant, which was then known by the appellation of toxandria, and may deserve to be considered as the original seat of their Gallic monarchy. From the sources, to the mouth, of the Rhine, the conquests of the Germans extended above forty miles to the west of that

river, over a country peopled by colonies of their own name and nation: and the scene of their devastations was three times more extensive than that of their conquests. At a still greater distance the open towns of

Gaul were deserted, and the inhabitants of the fortified cities, who trusted to their strength and vigilance, were obliged to content themselves with such supplies of corn as they could raise on the vacant

land within the enclosure of their walls. The diminished legions, destitute of pay and provisions, of arms and discipline, trembled at the approach, and even at the name, of the Barbarians.

chapter XIX: Constantius Sole Emperor.--Part IV.

Under these melancholy circumstances, an unexperienced youth was appointed to save and to govern the provinces of Gaul, or rather, as he expressed it himself, to exhibit the vain image of Imperial greatness. the retired scholastic education of Julian, in which he had been more conversant with books than with arms, with the dead than with the

living, left him in profound ignorance of the practical arts of war and

government; and when he awkwardly repeated some military exercise which

it was necessary for him to learn, he exclaimed with a sigh, "O Plato,

Plato, what a task for a philosopher!" Yet even this speculative

philosophy, which men of business are too apt to despise, had filled the

mind of Julian with the noblest precepts and the most shining examples;

had animated him with the love of virtue, the desire of fame, and the contempt of death. The habits of temperance recommended in the schools, are still more essential in the severe discipline of a camp. The simple wants of nature regulated the measure of his food and sleep. Rejecting with disdain the delicacies provided for his table, he satisfied his appetite with the coarse and common fare which was allotted to the

meanest soldiers. During the rigor of a Gallic winter, he never suffered a fire in his bed-chamber; and after a short and interrupted slumber, he frequently rose in the middle of the night from a carpet spread on the floor, to despatch any urgent business, to visit his rounds, or to steal a few moments for the prosecution of his favorite studies. The precepts

of eloquence, which he had hitherto practised on fancied topics of declamation, were more usefully applied to excite or to assuage the

passions of an armed multitude: and although Julian, from his early

habits of conversation and literature, was more familiarly acquainted with the beauties of the Greek language, he had attained a competent

knowledge of the Latin tongue. Since Julian was not originally designed for the character of a legislator, or a judge, it is probable that the civil jurisprudence of the Romans had not engaged any considerable

share of his attention: but he derived from his philosophic studies an

inflexible regard for justice, tempered by a disposition to clemency; the knowledge of the general principles of equity and evidence, and the faculty of patiently investigating the most intricate and tedious

questions which could be proposed for his discussion. The measures of

policy, and the operations of war, must submit to the various accidents

of circumstance and character, and the unpractised student will often be perplexed in the application of the most perfect theory. But in the acquisition of this important science, Julian was assisted by the active

vigor of his own genius, as well as by the wisdom and experience of

Sallust, and officer of rank, who soon conceived a sincere attachment for a prince so worthy of his friendship; and whose incorruptible

integrity was adorned by the talent of insinuating the harshest truths without wounding the delicacy of a royal ear.

Immediately after Julian had received the purple at Milan, he was sent

into Gaul with a feeble retinue of three hundred and sixty soldiers. at Vienna, where he passed a painful and anxious winter in the hands of those ministers to whom Constantius had intrusted the direction of his conduct, the Cæsar was informed of the siege and deliverance of Autun. that large and ancient city, protected only by a ruined wall and

pusillanimous garrison, was saved by the generous resolution of a few

veterans, who resumed their arms for the defence of their country. In

his march from Autun, through the heart of the Gallic provinces, Julian embraced with ardor the earliest opportunity of signalizing his courage. at the head of a small body of archers and heavy cavalry, he preferred the shorter but the more dangerous of two roads; \* and sometimes eluding, and sometimes resisting, the attacks of the Barbarians, who were masters of the field, he arrived with honor and safety at the camp

near Rheims, where the Roman troops had been ordered to assemble. the aspect of their young prince revived the drooping spirits of the

soldiers, and they marched from Rheims in search of the enemy, with a confidence which had almost proved fatal to them. The Alemanni, familiarized to the knowledge of the country, secretly collected their

scattered forces, and seizing the opportunity of a dark and rainy day,

poured with unexpected fury on the rear-guard of the Romans. Before the

inevitable disorder could be remedied, two legions were destroyed; and

Julian was taught by experience that caution and vigilance are the most

important lessons of the art of war. In a second and more successful action, \* he recovered and established his military fame; but as the agility of the Barbarians saved them from the pursuit, his victory was

neither bloody nor decisive. He advanced, however, to the banks of the Rhine, surveyed the ruins of Cologne, convinced himself of the difficulties of the war, and retreated on the approach of winter, discontented with the court, with his army, and with his own success. the power of the enemy was yet unbroken; and the Cæsar had no sooner

separated his troops, and fixed his own quarters at Sens, in the centre

of Gaul, than he was surrounded and besieged, by a numerous host of

Germans. Reduced, in this extremity, to the resources of his own mind,

he displayed a prudent intrepidity, which compensated for all the deficiencies of the place and garrison; and the Barbarians, at the end

of thirty days, were obliged to retire with disappointed rage.

the conscious pride of Julian, who was indebted only to his sword for this signal deliverance, was imbittered by the reflection, that he was abandoned, betrayed, and perhaps devoted to destruction, by those who were bound to assist him, by every tie of honor and fidelity. Marcellus,

master-general of the cavalry in Gaul, interpreting too strictly the jealous orders of the court, beheld with supine indifference the distress of Julian, and had restrained the troops under his command from

marching to the relief of Sens. If the Cæsar had dissembled in silence

so dangerous an insult, his person and authority would have been exposed to the contempt of the world; and if an action so criminal had been

suffered to pass with impunity, the emperor would have confirmed the

suspicions, which received a very specious color from his past conduct towards the princes of the Flavian family. Marcellus was recalled, and

gently dismissed from his office. In his room Severus was appointed

general of the cavalry; an experienced soldier, of approved courage and fidelity, who could advise with respect, and execute with zeal; and who

submitted, without reluctance to the supreme command which Julian, by the interest of his patroness Eusebia, at length obtained over the armies of Gaul. A very judicious plan of operations was adopted for the approaching campaign. Julian himself, at the head of the remains of the

veteran bands, and of some new levies which he had been permitted to form, boldly penetrated into the centre of the German cantonments, and carefully reestablished the fortifications of Saverne, in an advantageous post, which would either check the incursions, or intercept the retreat, of the enemy. At the same time, Barbatio, general of the

infantry, advanced from Milan with an army of thirty thousand men, and

passing the mountains, prepared to throw a bridge over the Rhine, in the

neighborhood of Basil. It was reasonable to expect that the Alemanni,

pressed on either side by the Roman arms, would soon be forced to evacuate the provinces of Gaul, and to hasten to the defence of their

native country. But the hopes of the campaign were defeated by the

incapacity, or the envy, or the secret instructions, of Barbatio; who acted as if he had been the enemy of the Cæsar, and the secret ally

of the Barbarians. The negligence with which he permitted a troop of

pillagers freely to pass, and to return almost before the gates of his camp, may be imputed to his want of abilities; but the treasonable act

of burning a number of boats, and a superfluous stock of provisions, which would have been of the most essential service to the army of Gaul, was an evidence of his hostile and criminal intentions. The Germans despised an enemy who appeared destitute either of power or of

inclination to offend them; and the ignominious retreat of Barbatio deprived Julian of the expected support; and left him to extricate

himself from a hazardous situation, where he could neither remain with

safety, nor retire with honor.

as soon as they were delivered from the fears of invasion, the Alemanni

prepared to chastise the Roman youth, who presumed to dispute the

possession of that country, which they claimed as their own by the

right of conquest and of treaties. They employed three days, and as many

nights, in transporting over the Rhine their military powers. The fierce chnodomar, shaking the ponderous javelin which he had victoriously wielded against the brother of Magnentius, led the van of the barbarians, and moderated by his experience the martial ardor which his example inspired. He was followed by six other kings, by ten princes

of regal extraction, by a long train of high-spirited nobles, and by thirty-five thousand of the bravest warriors of the tribes of Germany. the confidence derived from the view of their own strength, was

increased by the intelligence which they received from a deserter, that the Cæsar, with a feeble army of thirteen thousand men, occupied a post about one-and-twenty miles from their camp of Strasburgh. With this

inadequate force, Julian resolved to seek and to encounter the Barbarian

host; and the chance of a general action was preferred to the tedious and uncertain operation of separately engaging the dispersed parties of the Alemanni. The Romans marched in close order, and in two columns; the cavalry on the right, the infantry on the left; and the day was so far

spent when they appeared in sight of the enemy, that Julian was desirous

of deferring the battle till the next morning, and of allowing his troops to recruit their exhausted strength by the necessary refreshments

of sleep and food. Yielding, however, with some reluctance, to the clamors of the soldiers, and even to the opinion of his council, he exhorted them to justify by their valor the eager impatience, which,

in case of a defeat, would be universally branded with the epithets of

rashness and presumption. The trumpets sounded, the military shout was

heard through the field, and the two armies rushed with equal fury to the charge. The Cæsar, who conducted in person his right wing, depended

on the dexterity of his archers, and the weight of his cuirassiers. But

his ranks were instantly broken by an irregular mixture of light horse and of light infantry, and he had the mortification of beholding the flight of six hundred of his most renowned cuirassiers. The fugitives were stopped and rallied by the presence and authority of Julian, who, careless of his own safety, threw himself before them, and urging every

motive of shame and honor, led them back against the victorious enemy. the conflict between the two lines of infantry was obstinate and bloody. the Germans possessed the superiority of strength and stature, the

Romans that of discipline and temper; and as the Barbarians, who served

under the standard of the empire, united the respective advantages of both parties, their strenuous efforts, guided by a skilful leader, at

length determined the event of the day. The Romans lost four tribunes, and two hundred and forty-three soldiers, in this memorable battle of

Strasburgh, so glorious to the Cæsar, and so salutary to the afflicted

provinces of Gaul. Six thousand of the Alemanni were slain in the field, without including those who were drowned in the Rhine, or transfixed with darts while they attempted to swim across the river. Chnodomar

himself was surrounded and taken prisoner, with three of his brave companions, who had devoted themselves to follow in life or death the fate of their chieftain. Julian received him with military pomp in the council of his officers; and expressing a generous pity for the fallen

state, dissembled his inward contempt for the abject humiliation, of his captive. Instead of exhibiting the vanquished king of the Alemanni, as a grateful spectacle to the cities of Gaul, he respectfully laid at the feet of the emperor this splendid trophy of his victory. Chnodomar experienced an honorable treatment: but the impatient Barbarian could

not long survive his defeat, his confinement, and his exile.

after Julian had repulsed the Alemanni from the provinces of the Upper

Rhine, he turned his arms against the Franks, who were seated nearer to the ocean, on the confines of Gaul and Germany; and who, from their numbers, and still more from their intrepid valor, had ever been esteemed the most formidable of the Barbarians. Although they were

strongly actuated by the allurements of rapine, they professed a disinterested love of war; which they considered as the supreme honor and felicity of human nature; and their minds and bodies were so completely hardened by perpetual action, that, according to the lively expression of an orator, the snows of winter were as pleasant to them as the flowers of spring. In the month of December, which followed the battle of Strasburgh, Julian attacked a body of six hundred Franks, who

had thrown themselves into two castles on the Meuse. In the midst of that severe season they sustained, with inflexible constancy, a siege of fifty-four days; till at length, exhausted by hunger, and satisfied that the vigilance of the enemy, in breaking the ice of the river, left them no hopes of escape, the Franks consented, for the first time, to dispense with the ancient law which commanded them to conquer or to die. the Cæsar immediately sent his captives to the court of Constantius, who, accepting them as a valuable present, rejoiced in the opportunity

of adding so many heroes to the choicest troops of his domestic guards. the obstinate resistance of this handful of Franks apprised Julian of the difficulties of the expedition which he meditated for the ensuing

spring, against the whole body of the nation. His rapid diligence

surprised and astonished the active Barbarians. Ordering his soldiers to

provide themselves with biscuit for twenty days, he suddenly pitched

his camp near Tongres, while the enemy still supposed him in his winter

quarters of Paris, expecting the slow arrival of his convoys from aquitain. Without allowing the Franks to unite or deliberate, he

skilfully spread his legions from Cologne to the ocean; and by the terror, as well as by the success, of his arms, soon reduced the

suppliant tribes to implore the clemency, and to obey the commands, of their conqueror. The Chamavians submissively retired to their former

habitations beyond the Rhine; but the Salians were permitted to possess their new establishment of Toxandria, as the subjects and auxiliaries of the Roman empire. The treaty was ratified by solemn oaths; and perpetual

inspectors were appointed to reside among the Franks, with the authority

of enforcing the strict observance of the conditions. An incident is

related, interesting enough in itself, and by no means repugnant to the character of Julian, who ingeniously contrived both the plot and the catastrophe of the tragedy. When the Chamavians sued for peace, he

required the son of their king, as the only hostage on whom he could

rely. A mournful silence, interrupted by tears and groans, declared the sad perplexity of the Barbarians; and their aged chief lamented in

pathetic language, that his private loss was now imbittered by a sense

of public calamity. While the Chamavians lay prostrate at the foot of

his throne, the royal captive, whom they believed to have been slain,

unexpectedly appeared before their eyes; and as soon as the tumult of

joy was hushed into attention, the Cæsar addressed the assembly in the following terms: "Behold the son, the prince, whom you wept. You had

lost him by your fault. God and the Romans have restored him to you. I

shall still preserve and educate the youth, rather as a monument of my

own virtue, than as a pledge of your sincerity. Should you presume to

violate the faith which you have sworn, the arms of the republic will avenge the perfidy, not on the innocent, but on the guilty." the Barbarians withdrew from his presence, impressed with the warmest

sentiments of gratitude and admiration.

It was not enough for Julian to have delivered the provinces of Gaul from the Barbarians of Germany. He aspired to emulate the glory of the first and most illustrious of the emperors; after whose example, he composed his own commentaries of the Gallic war. Cæsar has related, with conscious pride, the manner in which he twice passed the Rhine. Julian could boast, that before he assumed the title of Augustus, he had carried the Roman eagles beyond that great river in three successful expeditions. The consternation of the Germans, after the battle of

Strasburgh, encouraged him to the first attempt; and the reluctance of the troops soon yielded to the persuasive eloquence of a leader, who

shared the fatigues and dangers which he imposed on the meanest of the soldiers. The villages on either side of the Meyn, which were

plentifully stored with corn and cattle, felt the ravages of an invading army. The principal houses, constructed with some imitation of Roman elegance, were consumed by the flames; and the Cæsar boldly advanced about ten miles, till his progress was stopped by a dark and

impenetrable forest, undermined by subterraneous passages, which threatened with secret snares and ambush every step of the assailants. the ground was already covered with snow; and Julian, after repairing an ancient castle which had been erected by Trajan, granted a truce of ten

months to the submissive Barbarians. At the expiration of the truce,

Julian undertook a second expedition beyond the Rhine, to humble the

pride of Surmar and Hortaire, two of the kings of the Alemanni, who had been present at the battle of Strasburgh. They promised to restore all the Roman captives who yet remained alive; and as the Cæsar had

procured an exact account from the cities and villages of Gaul, of the

inhabitants whom they had lost, he detected every attempt to deceive

him, with a degree of readiness and accuracy, which almost established the belief of his supernatural knowledge. His third expedition was

still more splendid and important than the two former. The Germans had collected their military powers, and moved along the opposite banks of the river, with a design of destroying the bridge, and of preventing the passage of the Romans. But this judicious plan of defence was disconcerted by a skilful diversion. Three hundred light-armed and active soldiers were detached in forty small boats, to fall down the

stream in silence, and to land at some distance from the posts of the enemy. They executed their orders with so much boldness and celerity, that they had almost surprised the Barbarian chiefs, who returned in the fearless confidence of intoxication from one of their nocturnal festivals. Without repeating the uniform and disgusting tale of

slaughter and devastation, it is sufficient to observe, that Julian dictated his own conditions of peace to six of the haughtiest kings of the Alemanni, three of whom were permitted to view the severe discipline and martial pomp of a Roman camp. Followed by twenty thousand captives, whom he had rescued from the chains of the Barbarians, the Cæsar

repassed the Rhine, after terminating a war, the success of which has been compared to the ancient glories of the Punic and Cimbric victories.

as soon as the valor and conduct of Julian had secured an interval of

peace, he applied himself to a work more congenial to his humane and

philosophic temper. The cities of Gaul, which had suffered from the

inroads of the Barbarians, he diligently repaired; and seven important

posts, between Mentz and the mouth of the Rhine, are particularly

mentioned, as having been rebuilt and fortified by the order of Julian. the vanquished Germans had submitted to the just but humiliating condition of preparing and conveying the necessary materials. The active

zeal of Julian urged the prosecution of the work; and such was the

spirit which he had diffused among the troops, that the auxiliaries themselves, waiving their exemption from any duties of fatigue, contended in the most servile labors with the diligence of the Roman

soldiers. It was incumbent on the Cæsar to provide for the subsistence, as well as for the safety, of the inhabitants and of the garrisons. The desertion of the former, and the mutiny of the latter, must have been the fatal and inevitable consequences of famine. The tillage of the

provinces of Gaul had been interrupted by the calamities of war; but the

scanty harvests of the continent were supplied, by his paternal care, from the plenty of the adjacent island. Six hundred large barks, framed

in the forest of the Ardennes, made several voyages to the coast of britain; and returning from thence, laden with corn, sailed up the

Rhine, and distributed their cargoes to the several towns and fortresses along the banks of the river. The arms of Julian had restored a free and secure navigation, which Constantius had offered to purchase at the expense of his dignity, and of a tributary present of two thousand

pounds of silver. The emperor parsimoniously refused to his soldiers the sums which he granted with a lavish and trembling hand to the barbarians. The dexterity, as well as the firmness, of Julian was put to a severe trial, when he took the field with a discontented army, which

had already served two campaigns, without receiving any regular pay or any extraordinary donative.

a tender regard for the peace and happiness of his subjects was the

ruling principle which directed, or seemed to direct, the administration

of Julian. He devoted the leisure of his winter quarters to the offices

of civil government; and affected to assume, with more pleasure, the character of a magistrate than that of a general. Before he took the field, he devolved on the provincial governors most of the public and

private causes which had been referred to his tribunal; but, on his

return, he carefully revised their proceedings, mitigated the rigor

of the law, and pronounced a second judgment on the judges themselves.

Superior to the last temptation of virtuous minds, an indiscreet and

intemperate zeal for justice, he restrained, with calmness and dignity, the warmth of an advocate, who prosecuted, for extortion, the president

of the Narbonnese province. "Who will ever be found guilty," exclaimed the vehement Delphidius, "if it be enough to deny?" "And who," replied

Julian, "will ever be innocent, if it be sufficient to affirm?" In the

general administration of peace and war, the interest of the sovereign

is commonly the same as that of his people; but Constantius would have thought himself deeply injured, if the virtues of Julian had defrauded

him of any part of the tribute which he extorted from an oppressed and exhausted country. The prince who was invested with the ensigns of

royalty, might sometimes presume to correct the rapacious insolence of

his inferior agents, to expose their corrupt arts, and to introduce an equal and easier mode of collection. But the management of the finances was more safely intrusted to Florentius, prætorian præfect of Gaul, an effeminate tyrant, incapable of pity or remorse: and the haughty

minister complained of the most decent and gentle opposition, while

Julian himself was rather inclined to censure the weakness of his own behavior. The Cæsar had rejected, with abhorrence, a mandate for the

levy of an extraordinary tax; a new superindiction, which the præfect

had offered for his signature; and the faithful picture of the public

misery, by which he had been obliged to justify his refusal, offended the court of Constantius. We may enjoy the pleasure of reading the

sentiments of Julian, as he expresses them with warmth and freedom in a letter to one of his most intimate friends. After stating his own conduct, he proceeds in the following terms: "Was it possible for the disciple of Plato and Aristotle to act otherwise than I have done? Could

I abandon the unhappy subjects intrusted to my care? Was I not called

upon to defend them from the repeated injuries of these unfeeling

robbers? A tribune who deserts his post is punished with death, and deprived of the honors of burial. With what justice could I pronounce

his sentence, if, in the hour of danger, I myself neglected a duty far

more sacred and far more important? God has placed me in this elevated

post; his providence will guard and support me. Should I be condemned to

suffer, I shall derive comfort from the testimony of a pure and upright conscience. Would to Heaven that I still possessed a counsellor like

Sallust! If they think proper to send me a successor, I shall submit without reluctance; and had much rather improve the short opportunity

of doing good, than enjoy a long and lasting impunity of evil." The

precarious and dependent situation of Julian displayed his virtues and concealed his defects. The young hero who supported, in Gaul, the throne

of Constantius, was not permitted to reform the vices of the government; but he had courage to alleviate or to pity the distress of the people.

Unless he had been able to revive the martial spirit of the Romans,

or to introduce the arts of industry and refinement among their savage enemies, he could not entertain any rational hopes of securing the

public tranquillity, either by the peace or conquest of Germany. Yet the victories of Julian suspended, for a short time, the inroads of the barbarians, and delayed the ruin of the Western Empire.

His salutary influence restored the cities of Gaul, which had been so

long exposed to the evils of civil discord, Barbarian war, and domestic tyranny; and the spirit of industry was revived with the hopes of enjoyment. Agriculture, manufactures, and commerce, again flourished

under the protection of the laws; and the curi, or civil corporations, were again filled with useful and respectable members: the youth were

no longer apprehensive of marriage; and married persons were no longer apprehensive of posterity: the public and private festivals were celebrated with customary pomp; and the frequent and secure intercourse

of the provinces displayed the image of national prosperity. A mind like that of Julian must have felt the general happiness of which he was the author; but he viewed, with particular satisfaction and complacency, the city of Paris; the seat of his winter residence, and the object even

of his partial affection. That splendid capital, which now embraces an ample territory on either side of the Seine, was originally confined to the small island in the midst of the river, from whence the inhabitants derived a supply of pure and salubrious water. The river bathed the foot

of the walls; and the town was accessible only by two wooden bridges. A forest overspread the northern side of the Seine, but on the south, the ground, which now bears the name of the University, was insensibly covered with houses, and adorned with a palace and amphitheatre, baths, an aqueduct, and a field of Mars for the exercise of the Roman troops. the severity of the climate was tempered by the neighborhood of the

ocean; and with some precautions, which experience had taught, the vine and fig-tree were successfully cultivated. But in remarkable winters, the Seine was deeply frozen; and the huge pieces of ice that floated down the stream, might be compared, by an Asiatic, to the blocks of white marble which were extracted from the quarries of Phrygia. The

licentiousness and corruption of Antioch recalled to the memory of

Julian the severe and simple manners of his beloved Lutetia; where the amusements of the theatre were unknown or despised. He indignantly contrasted the effeminate Syrians with the brave and honest simplicity

of the Gauls, and almost forgave the intemperance, which was the only

stain of the Celtic character. If Julian could now revisit the capital

of France, he might converse with men of science and genius, capable

of understanding and of instructing a disciple of the Greeks; he might excuse the lively and graceful follies of a nation, whose martial

spirit has never been enervated by the indulgence of luxury; and he

must applaud the perfection of that inestimable art, which softens and

refines and embellishes the intercourse of social life.

chapter XX: Conversion Of Constantine.--Part I.

The Motives, Progress, And Effects Of The Conversion Of

Constantine.--Legal Establishment And Constitution Of The

Christian Or Catholic Church.

the public establishment of Christianity may be considered as one of those important and domestic revolutions which excite the most lively curiosity, and afford the most valuable instruction. The victories and the civil policy of Constantine no longer influence the state of Europe; but a considerable portion of the globe still retains the impression which it received from the conversion of that monarch; and the ecclesiastical institutions of his reign are still connected, by an

indissoluble chain, with the opinions, the passions, and the interests

of the present generation.

In the consideration of a subject which may be examined with

impartiality, but cannot be viewed with indifference, a difficulty

immediately arises of a very unexpected nature; that of ascertaining the real and precise date of the conversion of Constantine. The eloquent

Lactantius, in the midst of his court, seems impatient to proclaim to the world the glorious example of the sovereign of Gaul; who, in the first moments of his reign, acknowledged and adored the majesty of the true and only God. The learned Eusebius has ascribed the faith of constantine to the miraculous sign which was displayed in the heavens whilst he meditated and prepared the Italian expedition. The historian

Zosimus maliciously asserts, that the emperor had imbrued his hands in the blood of his eldest son, before he publicly renounced the gods of

Rome and of his ancestors. The perplexity produced by these discordant authorities is derived from the behavior of Constantine himself. according to the strictness of ecclesiastical language, the first of the Christian emperors was unworthy of that name, till the moment of his death; since it was only during his last illness that he received, as a catechumen, the imposition of hands, and was afterwards admitted, by the initiatory rites of baptism, into the number of the faithful. The christianity of Constantine must be allowed in a much more vague and

qualified sense; and the nicest accuracy is required in tracing the

slow and almost imperceptible gradations by which the monarch declared

himself the protector, and at length the proselyte, of the church.

It was an arduous task to eradicate the habits and prejudices of his education, to acknowledge the divine power of Christ, and to understand that the truth of his revelation was incompatible with the worship of the gods. The obstacles which he had probably experienced in his own

mind, instructed him to proceed with caution in the momentous change of a national religion; and he insensibly discovered his new opinions, as far as he could enforce them with safety and with effect. During the whole course of his reign, the stream of Christianity flowed with a gentle, though accelerated, motion: but its general direction was sometimes checked, and sometimes diverted, by the accidental circumstances of the times, and by the prudence, or possibly by the caprice, of the monarch. His ministers were permitted to signify the

intentions of their master in the various language which was best adapted to their respective principles; and he artfully balanced the

hopes and fears of his subjects, by publishing in the same year two edicts; the first of which enjoined the solemn observance of Sunday, and the second directed the regular consultation of the Aruspices. While this important revolution yet remained in suspense, the Christians and the Pagans watched the conduct of their sovereign with the same anxiety, but with very opposite sentiments. The former were prompted by every

motive of zeal, as well as vanity, to exaggerate the marks of his favor, and the evidences of his faith. The latter, till their just apprehensions were changed into despair and resentment, attempted to conceal from the world, and from themselves, that the gods of Rome could

no longer reckon the emperor in the number of their votaries. The same

passions and prejudices have engaged the partial writers of the times to connect the public profession of Christianity with the most glorious or the most ignominious æra of the reign of Constantine.

whatever symptoms of Christian piety might transpire in the discourses

or actions of Constantine, he persevered till he was near forty years

of age in the practice of the established religion; and the same conduct which in the court of Nicomedia might be imputed to his fear, could be ascribed only to the inclination or policy of the sovereign of Gaul.

His liberality restored and enriched the temples of the gods; the medals which issued from his Imperial mint are impressed with the figures and attributes of Jupiter and Apollo, of Mars and Hercules; and his filial

piety increased the council of Olympus by the solemn apotheosis of his father Constantius. But the devotion of Constantine was more peculiarly directed to the genius of the Sun, the Apollo of Greek and Roman

mythology; and he was pleased to be represented with the symbols of the God of Light and Poetry. The unerring shafts of that deity, the brightness of his eyes, his laurel wreath, immortal beauty, and elegant accomplishments, seem to point him out as the patron of a young

hero. The altars of Apollo were crowned with the votive offerings of constantine; and the credulous multitude were taught to believe, that the emperor was permitted to behold with mortal eyes the visible majesty

of their tutelar deity; and that, either walking or in a vision, he was blessed with the auspicious omens of a long and victorious reign. The

Sun was universally celebrated as the invincible guide and protector of constantine; and the Pagans might reasonably expect that the insulted

god would pursue with unrelenting vengeance the impiety of his

ungrateful favorite.

as long as Constantine exercised a limited sovereignty over the

provinces of Gaul, his Christian subjects were protected by the authority, and perhaps by the laws, of a prince, who wisely left to the gods the care of vindicating their own honor. If we may credit the assertion of Constantine himself, he had been an indignant spectator

of the savage cruelties which were inflicted, by the hands of Roman

soldiers, on those citizens whose religion was their only crime. In the east and in the West, he had seen the different effects of severity and indulgence; and as the former was rendered still more odious by the example of Galerius, his implacable enemy, the latter was recommended to

his imitation by the authority and advice of a dying father. The son of constantius immediately suspended or repealed the edicts of persecution, and granted the free exercise of their religious ceremonies to all those who had already professed themselves members of the church. They were

soon encouraged to depend on the favor as well as on the justice of their sovereign, who had imbibed a secret and sincere reverence for the

name of Christ, and for the God of the Christians.

about five months after the conquest of Italy, the emperor made a solemn and authentic declaration of his sentiments by the celebrated edict

of Milan, which restored peace to the Catholic church. In the personal

interview of the two western princes, Constantine, by the ascendant

of genius and power, obtained the ready concurrence of his colleague,

Licinius; the union of their names and authority disarmed the fury of

Maximin; and after the death of the tyrant of the East, the edict of

Milan was received as a general and fundamental law of the Roman world.

the wisdom of the emperors provided for the restitution of all the civil and religious rights of which the Christians had been so unjustly deprived. It was enacted that the places of worship, and public lands, which had been confiscated, should be restored to the church, without dispute, without delay, and without expense; and this severe injunction was accompanied with a gracious promise, that if any of the purchasers

had paid a fair and adequate price, they should be indemnified from the Imperial treasury. The salutary regulations which guard the future tranquillity of the faithful are framed on the principles of enlarged and equal toleration; and such an equality must have been interpreted by a recent sect as an advantageous and honorable distinction. The two emperors proclaim to the world, that they have granted a free and absolute power to the Christians, and to all others, of following the

religion which each individual thinks proper to prefer, to which he has addicted his mind, and which he may deem the best adapted to his

own use. They carefully explain every ambiguous word, remove every exception, and exact from the governors of the provinces a strict

obedience to the true and simple meaning of an edict, which was designed to establish and secure, without any limitation, the claims of religious

liberty. They condescend to assign two weighty reasons which have

induced them to allow this universal toleration: the humane intention of consulting the peace and happiness of their people; and the pious hope, that, by such a conduct, they shall appease and propitiate the Deity, whose seat is in heaven. They gratefully acknowledge the many signal

proofs which they have received of the divine favor; and they trust that the same Providence will forever continue to protect the prosperity of the prince and people. From these vague and indefinite expressions of

piety, three suppositions may be deduced, of a different, but not of an

incompatible nature. The mind of Constantine might fluctuate between the

Pagan and the Christian religions. According to the loose and complying

notions of Polytheism, he might acknowledge the God of the Christians as

one of the many deities who compose the hierarchy of heaven. Or

perhaps he might embrace the philosophic and pleasing idea, that,

notwithstanding the variety of names, of rites, and of opinions, all the

sects, and all the nations of mankind, are united in the worship of the common Father and Creator of the universe.

but the counsels of princes are more frequently influenced by views of temporal advantage, than by considerations of abstract and speculative truth. The partial and increasing favor of Constantine may naturally be

referred to the esteem which he entertained for the moral character of the Christians; and to a persuasion, that the propagation of the gospel would inculcate the practice of private and public virtue. Whatever

latitude an absolute monarch may assume in his own conduct, whatever

indulgence he may claim for his own passions, it is undoubtedly his

interest that all his subjects should respect the natural and civil

obligations of society. But the operation of the wisest laws is

imperfect and precarious. They seldom inspire virtue, they cannot always

restrain vice. Their power is insufficient to prohibit all that they condemn, nor can they always punish the actions which they prohibit. the legislators of antiquity had summoned to their aid the powers of education and of opinion. But every principle which had once maintained the vigor and purity of Rome and Sparta, was long since extinguished

in a declining and despotic empire. Philosophy still exercised her temperate sway over the human mind, but the cause of virtue derived very feeble support from the influence of the Pagan superstition. Under these discouraging circumstances, a prudent magistrate might observe with

pleasure the progress of a religion which diffused among the people a

pure, benevolent, and universal system of ethics, adapted to every duty and every condition of life; recommended as the will and reason of the supreme Deity, and enforced by the sanction of eternal rewards or

punishments. The experience of Greek and Roman history could not inform the world how far the system of national manners might be reformed and

improved by the precepts of a divine revelation; and Constantine might

listen with some confidence to the flattering, and indeed reasonable, assurances of Lactantius. The eloquent apologist seemed firmly to expect, and almost ventured to promise, that the establishment of christianity would restore the innocence and felicity of the primitive age; that the worship of the true God would extinguish war and dissension among those who mutually considered themselves as the children of a common parent; that every impure desire, every angry or

selfish passion, would be restrained by the knowledge of the gospel; and that the magistrates might sheath the sword of justice among a people who would be universally actuated by the sentiments of truth and piety,

of equity and moderation, of harmony and universal love.

the passive and unresisting obedience, which bows under the yoke of authority, or even of oppression, must have appeared, in the eyes of an absolute monarch, the most conspicuous and useful of the evangelic

virtues. The primitive Christians derived the institution of civil

government, not from the consent of the people, but from the decrees

of Heaven. The reigning emperor, though he had usurped the sceptre by treason and murder, immediately assumed the sacred character of

vicegerent of the Deity. To the Deity alone he was accountable for the abuse of his power; and his subjects were indissolubly bound, by their

oath of fidelity, to a tyrant, who had violated every law of nature and

society. The humble Christians were sent into the world as sheep among wolves; and since they were not permitted to employ force even in the defence of their religion, they should be still more criminal if they were tempted to shed the blood of their fellow-creatures in disputing the vain privileges, or the sordid possessions, of this transitory life. faithful to the doctrine of the apostle, who in the reign of Nero had

preached the duty of unconditional submission, the Christians of the three first centuries preserved their conscience pure and innocent

of the guilt of secret conspiracy, or open rebellion. While they experienced the rigor of persecution, they were never provoked either to

meet their tyrants in the field, or indignantly to withdraw themselves

into some remote and sequestered corner of the globe. The Protestants

of France, of Germany, and of Britain, who asserted with such intrepid courage their civil and religious freedom, have been insulted by the

invidious comparison between the conduct of the primitive and of the

reformed Christians. Perhaps, instead of censure, some applause may be due to the superior sense and spirit of our ancestors, who had convinced themselves that religion cannot abolish the unalienable rights of human

nature. Perhaps the patience of the primitive church may be ascribed to

its weakness, as well as to its virtue. A sect of unwarlike plebeians, without leaders, without arms, without fortifications, must have encountered inevitable destruction in a rash and fruitless resistance to the master of the Roman legions. But the Christians, when they deprecated the wrath of Diocletian, or solicited the favor of constantine, could allege, with truth and confidence, that they held the principle of passive obedience, and that, in the space of three centuries, their conduct had always been conformable to their

principles. They might add, that the throne of the emperors would be established on a fixed and permanent basis, if all their subjects, embracing the Christian doctrine, should learn to suffer and to obey.

In the general order of Providence, princes and tyrants are considered as the ministers of Heaven, appointed to rule or to chastise the nations

of the earth. But sacred history affords many illustrious examples of the more immediate interposition of the Deity in the government of his chosen people. The sceptre and the sword were committed to the hands of

Moses, of Joshua, of Gideon, of David, of the Maccabees; the virtues

of those heroes were the motive or the effect of the divine favor, the

success of their arms was destined to achieve the deliverance or the triumph of the church. If the judges of Isræl were occasional and temporary magistrates, the kings of Judah derived from the royal unction

of their great ancestor an hereditary and indefeasible right, which could not be forfeited by their own vices, nor recalled by the caprice

of their subjects. The same extraordinary providence, which was no

longer confined to the Jewish people, might elect Constantine and

his family as the protectors of the Christian world; and the devout

Lactantius announces, in a prophetic tone, the future glories of his

long and universal reign. Galerius and Maximin, Maxentius and Licinius, were the rivals who shared with the favorite of heaven the provinces of the empire. The tragic deaths of Galerius and Maximin soon gratified the

resentment, and fulfilled the sanguine expectations, of the Christians. the success of Constantine against Maxentius and Licinius removed the two formidable competitors who still opposed the triumph of the second david, and his cause might seem to claim the peculiar interposition of

Providence. The character of the Roman tyrant disgraced the purple and human nature; and though the Christians might enjoy his precarious favor, they were exposed, with the rest of his subjects, to the effects

of his wanton and capricious cruelty. The conduct of Licinius soon betrayed the reluctance with which he had consented to the wise and

humane regulations of the edict of Milan. The convocation of provincial

synods was prohibited in his dominions; his Christian officers were

ignominiously dismissed; and if he avoided the guilt, or rather danger,

of a general persecution, his partial oppressions were rendered still

more odious by the violation of a solemn and voluntary engagement. While the East, according to the lively expression of Eusebius, was involved

in the shades of infernal darkness, the auspicious rays of celestial

light warmed and illuminated the provinces of the West. The piety of constantine was admitted as an unexceptionable proof of the justice

of his arms; and his use of victory confirmed the opinion of the christians, that their hero was inspired, and conducted, by the Lord of

Hosts. The conquest of Italy produced a general edict of toleration; and as soon as the defeat of Licinius had invested Constantine with the

sole dominion of the Roman world, he immediately, by circular letters, exhorted all his subjects to imitate, without delay, the example of their sovereign, and to embrace the divine truth of Christianity.

chapter XX: Conversion Of Constantine.--Part II.

the assurance that the elevation of Constantine was intimately connected with the designs of Providence, instilled into the minds of the christians two opinions, which, by very different means, assisted the accomplishment of the prophecy. Their warm and active loyalty exhausted

in his favor every resource of human industry; and they confidently expected that their strenuous efforts would be seconded by some divine and miraculous aid. The enemies of Constantine have imputed to

interested motives the alliance which he insensibly contracted with the catholic church, and which apparently contributed to the success of his ambition. In the beginning of the fourth century, the Christians still bore a very inadequate proportion to the inhabitants of the empire; but among a degenerate people, who viewed the change of masters with the

indifference of slaves, the spirit and union of a religious party

might assist the popular leader, to whose service, from a principle of conscience, they had devoted their lives and fortunes. The example of

his father had instructed Constantine to esteem and to reward the merit

of the Christians; and in the distribution of public offices, he had the advantage of strengthening his government, by the choice of ministers

or generals, in whose fidelity he could repose a just and unreserved confidence. By the influence of these dignified missionaries, the

proselytes of the new faith must have multiplied in the court and army; the Barbarians of Germany, who filled the ranks of the legions, were of a careless temper, which acquiesced without resistance in the religion

of their commander; and when they passed the Alps, it may fairly be

presumed, that a great number of the soldiers had already consecrated their swords to the service of Christ and of Constantine. The habits of

mankind and the interests of religion gradually abated the horror of war and bloodshed, which had so long prevailed among the Christians; and

in the councils which were assembled under the gracious protection of constantine, the authority of the bishops was seasonably employed to

ratify the obligation of the military oath, and to inflict the penalty

of excommunication on those soldiers who threw away their arms during the peace of the church. While Constantine, in his own dominions,

increased the number and zeal of his faithful adherents, he could depend

on the support of a powerful faction in those provinces which were still

possessed or usurped by his rivals. A secret disaffection was diffused among the Christian subjects of Maxentius and Licinius; and the

resentment, which the latter did not attempt to conceal, served only to engage them still more deeply in the interest of his competitor. The

regular correspondence which connected the bishops of the most distant

provinces, enabled them freely to communicate their wishes and their designs, and to transmit without danger any useful intelligence, or any

pious contributions, which might promote the service of Constantine, who

publicly declared that he had taken up arms for the deliverance of the church.

the enthusiasm which inspired the troops, and perhaps the emperor

himself, had sharpened their swords while it satisfied their conscience. they marched to battle with the full assurance, that the same God, who

had formerly opened a passage to the Isrælites through the waters of

Jordan, and had thrown down the walls of Jericho at the sound of the trumpets of Joshua, would display his visible majesty and power in the victory of Constantine. The evidence of ecclesiastical history

is prepared to affirm, that their expectations were justified by the conspicuous miracle to which the conversion of the first Christian emperor has been almost unanimously ascribed. The real or imaginary cause of so important an event, deserves and demands the attention of

posterity; and I shall endeavor to form a just estimate of the famous

vision of Constantine, by a distinct consideration of the standard, the dream, and the celestial sign; by separating the historical, the

natural, and the marvellous parts of this extraordinary story, which, in the composition of a specious argument, have been artfully confounded in

one splendid and brittle mass.

I. An instrument of the tortures which were inflicted only on slaves and

strangers, became on object of horror in the eyes of a Roman citizen; and the ideas of guilt, of pain, and of ignominy, were closely united with the idea of the cross. The piety, rather than the humanity, of constantine soon abolished in his dominions the punishment which the

Savior of mankind had condescended to suffer; but the emperor had already learned to despise the prejudices of his education, and of

his people, before he could erect in the midst of Rome his own statue, bearing a cross in its right hand; with an inscription which referred the victory of his arms, and the deliverance of Rome, to the virtue

of that salutary sign, the true symbol of force and courage. The same

symbol sanctified the arms of the soldiers of Constantine; the cross

glittered on their helmet, was engraved on their shields, was interwoven

into their banners; and the consecrated emblems which adorned the person

of the emperor himself, were distinguished only by richer materials and

more exquisite workmanship. But the principal standard which displayed the triumph of the cross was styled the Labarum, an obscure, though celebrated name, which has been vainly derived from almost all the

languages of the world. It is described as a long pike intersected by a transversal beam. The silken veil, which hung down from the beam, was curiously inwrought with the images of the reigning monarch and

his children. The summit of the pike supported a crown of gold which enclosed the mysterious monogram, at once expressive of the figure of the cross, and the initial letters, of the name of Christ. The safety

of the labarum was intrusted to fifty guards, of approved valor and fidelity; their station was marked by honors and emoluments; and some fortunate accidents soon introduced an opinion, that as long as the

guards of the labarum were engaged in the execution of their office, they were secure and invulnerable amidst the darts of the enemy. In the second civil war, Licinius felt and dreaded the power of this consecrated banner, the sight of which, in the distress of battle, animated the soldiers of Constantine with an invincible enthusiasm, and

scattered terror and dismay through the ranks of the adverse legions. the Christian emperors, who respected the example of Constantine, displayed in all their military expeditions the standard of the cross; but when the degenerate successors of Theodosius had ceased to appear

in person at the head of their armies, the labarum was deposited as a

venerable but useless relic in the palace of Constantinople. Its honors are still preserved on the medals of the Flavian family. Their grateful devotion has placed the monogram of Christ in the midst of the ensigns

of Rome. The solemn epithets of, safety of the republic, glory of the army, restoration of public happiness, are equally applied to the

religious and military trophies; and there is still extant a medal

of the emperor Constantius, where the standard of the labarum is accompanied with these memorable words, By This Sign Thou Shalt Conquer.

II. In all occasions of danger and distress, it was the practice of the

primitive Christians to fortify their minds and bodies by the sign of the cross, which they used, in all their ecclesiastical rites, in all the daily occurrences of life, as an infallible preservative against every species of spiritual or temporal evil. The authority of the church might alone have had sufficient weight to justify the devotion of constantine, who in the same prudent and gradual progress acknowledged the truth, and assumed the symbol, of Christianity. But the testimony of a contemporary writer, who in a formal treatise has avenged the cause of

religion, bestows on the piety of the emperor a more awful and sublime character. He affirms, with the most perfect confidence, that in the

night which preceded the last battle against Maxentius, Constantine was admonished in a dream \* to inscribe the shields of his soldiers with the celestial sign of God, the sacred monogram of the name of Christ; that

he executed the commands of Heaven, and that his valor and obedience were rewarded by the decisive victory of the Milvian Bridge. Some considerations might perhaps incline a sceptical mind to suspect the

judgment or the veracity of the rhetorician, whose pen, either from

zeal or interest, was devoted to the cause of the prevailing faction.

He appears to have published his deaths of the persecutors at Nicomedia about three years after the Roman victory; but the interval of a thousand miles, and a thousand days, will allow an ample latitude for the invention of declaimers, the credulity of party, and the tacit approbation of the emperor himself who might listen without indignation to a marvellous tale, which exalted his fame, and promoted his designs.

In favor of Licinius, who still dissembled his animosity to the christians, the same author has provided a similar vision, of a form of

prayer, which was communicated by an angel, and repeated by the whole army before they engaged the legions of the tyrant Maximin. The frequent

repetition of miracles serves to provoke, where it does not subdue, the reason of mankind; but if the dream of Constantine is separately considered, it may be naturally explained either by the policy or the enthusiasm of the emperor. Whilst his anxiety for the approaching day, which must decide the fate of the empire, was suspended by a short and

interrupted slumber, the venerable form of Christ, and the well-known

symbol of his religion, might forcibly offer themselves to the active fancy of a prince who reverenced the name, and had perhaps secretly

implored the power, of the God of the Christians. As readily might a consummate statesman indulge himself in the use of one of those military

stratagems, one of those pious frauds, which Philip and Sertorius had employed with such art and effect. The præternatural origin of dreams was universally admitted by the nations of antiquity, and a considerable

part of the Gallic army was already prepared to place their confidence

in the salutary sign of the Christian religion. The secret vision of constantine could be disproved only by the event; and the intrepid

hero who had passed the Alps and the Apennine, might view with careless despair the consequences of a defeat under the walls of Rome. The senate and people, exulting in their own deliverance from an odious tyrant, acknowledged that the victory of Constantine surpassed the powers

of man, without daring to insinuate that it had been obtained by the

protection of the Gods. The triumphal arch, which was erected about three years after the event, proclaims, in ambiguous language, that by the greatness of his own mind, and by an instinct or impulse of the divinity, he had saved and avenged the Roman republic. The Pagan orator, who had seized an earlier opportunity of celebrating the virtues of the conqueror, supposes that he alone enjoyed a secret and intimate commerce with the Supreme Being, who delegated the care of mortals to his

subordinate deities; and thus assigns a very plausible reason why the

subjects of Constantine should not presume to embrace the new religion

of their sovereign.

III. The philosopher, who with calm suspicion examines the dreams and

omens, the miracles and prodigies, of profane or even of ecclesiastical

history, will probably conclude, that if the eyes of the spectators have

sometimes been deceived by fraud, the understanding of the readers

has much more frequently been insulted by fiction. Every event, or appearance, or accident, which seems to deviate from the ordinary course

of nature, has been rashly ascribed to the immediate action of the deity; and the astonished fancy of the multitude has sometimes given

shape and color, language and motion, to the fleeting but uncommon

meteors of the air. Nazarius and Eusebius are the two most celebrated

orators, who, in studied panegyrics, have labored to exalt the glory of constantine. Nine years after the Roman victory, Nazarius describes an army of divine warriors, who seemed to fall from the sky: he marks their beauty, their spirit, their gigantic forms, the stream of light which beamed from their celestial armor, their patience in suffering themselves to be heard, as well as seen, by mortals; and their declaration that they were sent, that they flew, to the assistance of the great Constantine. For the truth of this prodigy, the Pagan orator appeals to the whole Gallic nation, in whose presence he was then

speaking; and seems to hope that the ancient apparitions would now

obtain credit from this recent and public event. The Christian fable of eusebius, which, in the space of twenty-six years, might arise from the

original dream, is cast in a much more correct and elegant mould. In one

of the marches of Constantine, he is reported to have seen with his own eyes the luminous trophy of the cross, placed above the meridian sun and

inscribed with the following words: By This Conquer. This amazing object

in the sky astonished the whole army, as well as the emperor himself, who was yet undetermined in the choice of a religion: but his astonishment was converted into faith by the vision of the ensuing

night. Christ appeared before his eyes; and displaying the same celestial sign of the cross, he directed Constantine to frame a similar

standard, and to march, with an assurance of victory, against Maxentius and all his enemies. The learned bishop of Cæsarea appears to be

sensible, that the recent discovery of this marvellous anecdote would excite some surprise and distrust among the most pious of his readers.

Yet, instead of ascertaining the precise circumstances of time and

place, which always serve to detect falsehood or establish truth;

instead of collecting and recording the evidence of so many living witnesses who must have been spectators of this stupendous miracle; eusebius contents himself with alleging a very singular testimony; that

of the deceased Constantine, who, many years after the event, in the freedom of conversation, had related to him this extraordinary incident

of his own life, and had attested the truth of it by a solemn oath. The

prudence and gratitude of the learned prelate forbade him to suspect the

veracity of his victorious master; but he plainly intimates, that in a fact of such a nature, he should have refused his assent to any meaner authority. This motive of credibility could not survive the power of the Flavian family; and the celestial sign, which the Infidels might afterwards deride, was disregarded by the Christians of the age which

immediately followed the conversion of Constantine. But the Catholic church, both of the East and of the West, has adopted a prodigy which favors, or seems to favor, the popular worship of the cross. The

vision of Constantine maintained an honorable place in the legend of

superstition, till the bold and sagacious spirit of criticism presumed to depreciate the triumph, and to arraign the truth, of the first christian emperor.

the Protestant and philosophic readers of the present age will incline to believe, that in the account of his own conversion, Constantine attested a wilful falsehood by a solemn and deliberate perjury. They may

not hesitate to pronounce, that in the choice of a religion, his mind was determined only by a sense of interest; and that (according to the expression of a profane poet ) he used the altars of the church as a convenient footstool to the throne of the empire. A conclusion so harsh and so absolute is not, however, warranted by our knowledge of human

nature, of Constantine, or of Christianity. In an age of religious fervor, the most artful statesmen are observed to feel some part of the enthusiasm which they inspire, and the most orthodox saints assume the dangerous privilege of defending the cause of truth by the arms of deceit and falsehood. Personal interest is often the standard of our belief, as well as of our practice; and the same motives of temporal advantage which might influence the public conduct and professions of constantine, would insensibly dispose his mind to embrace a religion

so propitious to his fame and fortunes. His vanity was gratified by the flattering assurance, that he had been chosen by Heaven to reign over the earth; success had justified his divine title to the throne, and that title was founded on the truth of the Christian revelation. As real

virtue is sometimes excited by undeserved applause, the specious piety

of Constantine, if at first it was only specious, might gradually, by the influence of praise, of habit, and of example, be matured into

serious faith and fervent devotion. The bishops and teachers of the new

sect, whose dress and manners had not qualified them for the residence

of a court, were admitted to the Imperial table; they accompanied the

monarch in his expeditions; and the ascendant which one of them, an egyptian or a Spaniard, acquired over his mind, was imputed by the

Pagans to the effect of magic. Lactantius, who has adorned the precepts

of the gospel with the eloquence of Cicero, and Eusebius, who has consecrated the learning and philosophy of the Greeks to the service

of religion, were both received into the friendship and familiarity of their sovereign; and those able masters of controversy could patiently watch the soft and yielding moments of persuasion, and dexterously apply the arguments which were the best adapted to his character and

understanding. Whatever advantages might be derived from the acquisition

of an Imperial proselyte, he was distinguished by the splendor of his

purple, rather than by the superiority of wisdom, or virtue, from the many thousands of his subjects who had embraced the doctrines of christianity. Nor can it be deemed incredible, that the mind of an

unlettered soldier should have yielded to the weight of evidence, which,

in a more enlightened age, has satisfied or subdued the reason of a

Grotius, a Pascal, or a Locke. In the midst of the incessant labors

of his great office, this soldier employed, or affected to employ, the

hours of the night in the diligent study of the Scriptures, and the composition of theological discourses; which he afterwards pronounced

in the presence of a numerous and applauding audience. In a very long discourse, which is still extant, the royal preacher expatiates on the various proofs still extant, the royal preacher expatiates on the

various proofs of religion; but he dwells with peculiar complacency

on the Sibylline verses, and the fourth eclogue of Virgil. Forty years before the birth of Christ, the Mantuan bard, as if inspired by the celestial muse of Isaiah, had celebrated, with all the pomp of oriental

metaphor, the return of the Virgin, the fall of the serpent, the approaching birth of a godlike child, the offspring of the great

Jupiter, who should expiate the guilt of human kind, and govern the peaceful universe with the virtues of his father; the rise and appearance of a heavenly race, primitive nation throughout the world; and the gradual restoration of the innocence and felicity of the golden age. The poet was perhaps unconscious of the secret sense and object of these sublime predictions, which have been so unworthily applied to the infant son of a consul, or a triumvir; but if a more splendid, and

indeed specious interpretation of the fourth eclogue contributed to the conversion of the first Christian emperor, Virgil may deserve to be

ranked among the most successful missionaries of the gospel.

chapter XX: Conversion Of Constantine.--Part III.

the awful mysteries of the Christian faith and worship were concealed from the eyes of strangers, and even of catechumens, with an affected

secrecy, which served to excite their wonder and curiosity. But the

severe rules of discipline which the prudence of the bishops had

instituted, were relaxed by the same prudence in favor of an Imperial

proselyte, whom it was so important to allure, by every gentle condescension, into the pale of the church; and Constantine was

permitted, at least by a tacit dispensation, to enjoy most of the

privileges, before he had contracted any of the obligations, of a christian. Instead of retiring from the congregation, when the voice of the deacon dismissed the profane multitude, he prayed with the faithful, disputed with the bishops, preached on the most sublime and intricate

subjects of theology, celebrated with sacred rites the vigil of Easter, and publicly declared himself, not only a partaker, but, in some

measure, a priest and hierophant of the Christian mysteries. The

pride of Constantine might assume, and his services had deserved, some extraordinary distinction: and ill-timed rigor might have blasted the

unripened fruits of his conversion; and if the doors of the church had been strictly closed against a prince who had deserted the altars of the gods, the master of the empire would have been left destitute of any form of religious worship. In his last visit to Rome, he piously disclaimed and insulted the superstition of his ancestors, by refusing to lead the military procession of the equestrian order, and to offer the public vows to the Jupiter of the Capitoline Hill. Many years before

his baptism and death, Constantine had proclaimed to the world, that

neither his person nor his image should ever more be seen within the walls of an idolatrous temple; while he distributed through the

provinces a variety of medals and pictures, which represented the emperor in an humble and suppliant posture of Christian devotion.

the pride of Constantine, who refused the privileges of a catechumen, cannot easily be explained or excused; but the delay of his baptism may be justified by the maxims and the practice of ecclesiastical antiquity. the sacrament of baptism was regularly administered by the bishop

himself, with his assistant clergy, in the cathedral church of the diocese, during the fifty days between the solemn festivals of Easter and Pentecost; and this holy term admitted a numerous band of infants and adult persons into the bosom of the church. The discretion of

parents often suspended the baptism of their children till they could

understand the obligations which they contracted: the severity of ancient bishops exacted from the new converts a novitiate of two or three years; and the catechumens themselves, from different motives of a temporal or a spiritual nature, were seldom impatient to assume the character of perfect and initiated Christians. The sacrament of baptism was supposed to contain a full and absolute expiation of sin; and the

soul was instantly restored to its original purity, and entitled to the promise of eternal salvation. Among the proselytes of Christianity, there are many who judged it imprudent to precipitate a salutary rite, which could not be repeated; to throw away an inestimable privilege, which could never be recovered. By the delay of their baptism, they could venture freely to indulge their passions in the enjoyments of this world, while they still retained in their own hands the means of a sure and easy absolution. The sublime theory of the gospel had made a much fainter impression on the heart than on the understanding of Constantine

himself. He pursued the great object of his ambition through the dark and bloody paths of war and policy; and, after the victory, he abandoned

himself, without moderation, to the abuse of his fortune. Instead of asserting his just superiority above the imperfect heroism and profane

philosophy of Trajan and the Antonines, the mature age of Constantine forfeited the reputation which he had acquired in his youth. As he

gradually advanced in the knowledge of truth, he proportionally declined

in the practice of virtue; and the same year of his reign in which he convened the council of Nice, was polluted by the execution, or rather

murder, of his eldest son. This date is alone sufficient to refute the

ignorant and malicious suggestions of Zosimus, who affirms, that, after the death of Crispus, the remorse of his father accepted from the

ministers of Christianity the expiation which he had vainly solicited from the Pagan pontiffs. At the time of the death of Crispus, the emperor could no longer hesitate in the choice of a religion; he could

no longer be ignorant that the church was possessed of an infallible

remedy, though he chose to defer the application of it till the approach

of death had removed the temptation and danger of a relapse. The bishops whom he summoned, in his last illness, to the palace of Nicomedia, were edified by the fervor with which he requested and received the sacrament

of baptism, by the solemn protestation that the remainder of his life

should be worthy of a disciple of Christ, and by his humble refusal to wear the Imperial purple after he had been clothed in the white garment

of a Neophyte. The example and reputation of Constantine seemed to countenance the delay of baptism. Future tyrants were encouraged to believe, that the innocent blood which they might shed in a long reign would instantly be washed away in the waters of regeneration; and the abuse of religion dangerously undermined the foundations of moral

virtue.

the gratitude of the church has exalted the virtues and excused the failings of a generous patron, who seated Christianity on the throne

of the Roman world; and the Greeks, who celebrate the festival of the

Imperial saint, seldom mention the name of Constantine without adding the title of equal to the Apostles. Such a comparison, if it allude to the character of those divine missionaries, must be imputed to the extravagance of impious flattery. But if the parallel be confined to the extent and number of their evangelic victories the success of constantine might perhaps equal that of the Apostles themselves. By the edicts of toleration, he removed the temporal disadvantages which had

hitherto retarded the progress of Christianity; and its active and

numerous ministers received a free permission, a liberal encouragement, to recommend the salutary truths of revelation by every argument which could affect the reason or piety of mankind. The exact balance of the two religions continued but a moment; and the piercing eye of ambition and avarice soon discovered, that the profession of Christianity might contribute to the interest of the present, as well as of a future

life. The hopes of wealth and honors, the example of an emperor, his exhortations, his irresistible smiles, diffused conviction among the

venal and obsequious crowds which usually fill the apartments of a

palace. The cities which signalized a forward zeal by the voluntary destruction of their temples, were distinguished by municipal

privileges, and rewarded with popular donatives; and the new capital of the East gloried in the singular advantage that Constantinople was never

profaned by the worship of idols. As the lower ranks of society are

governed by imitation, the conversion of those who possessed any eminence of birth, of power, or of riches, was soon followed by dependent multitudes. The salvation of the common people was purchased at an easy rate, if it be true that, in one year, twelve thousand men were baptized at Rome, besides a proportionable number of women and children, and that a white garment, with twenty pieces of gold, had been promised by the emperor to every convert. The powerful influence of constantine was not circumscribed by the narrow limits of his life,

or of his dominions. The education which he bestowed on his sons and

nephews secured to the empire a race of princes, whose faith was still

more lively and sincere, as they imbibed, in their earliest infancy, the

spirit, or at least the doctrine, of Christianity. War and commerce

had spread the knowledge of the gospel beyond the confines of the

Roman provinces; and the Barbarians, who had disdained as humble and

proscribed sect, soon learned to esteem a religion which had been so

lately embraced by the greatest monarch, and the most civilized nation,

of the globe. The Goths and Germans, who enlisted under the standard of

Rome, revered the cross which glittered at the head of the legions, and their fierce countrymen received at the same time the lessons of faith and of humanity. The kings of Iberia and Armenia \* worshipped the god of their protector; and their subjects, who have invariably preserved the

name of Christians, soon formed a sacred and perpetual connection with their Roman brethren. The Christians of Persia were suspected, in time

of war, of preferring their religion to their country; but as long as

peace subsisted between the two empires, the persecuting spirit of the

Magi was effectually restrained by the interposition of Constantine. The

rays of the gospel illuminated the coast of India. The colonies of Jews, who had penetrated into Arabia and Ethiopia, opposed the progress of christianity; but the labor of the missionaries was in some measure facilitated by a previous knowledge of the Mosaic revelation; and abyssinia still reveres the memory of Frumentius, \* who, in the time

of Constantine, devoted his life to the conversion of those sequestered

regions. Under the reign of his son Constantius, Theophilus, who was

himself of Indian extraction, was invested with the double character

of ambassador and bishop. He embarked on the Red Sea with two hundred

horses of the purest breed of Cappadocia, which were sent by the emperor to the prince of the Sabæans, or Homerites. Theophilus was intrusted with many other useful or curious presents, which might raise the admiration, and conciliate the friendship, of the Barbarians; and he

successfully employed several years in a pastoral visit to the churches

of the torrid zone.

the irresistible power of the Roman emperors was displayed in the

important and dangerous change of the national religion. The terrors

of a military force silenced the faint and unsupported murmurs of the

Pagans, and there was reason to expect, that the cheerful submission

of the Christian clergy, as well as people, would be the result

of conscience and gratitude. It was long since established, as a fundamental maxim of the Roman constitution, that every rank of citizens was alike subject to the laws, and that the care of religion was the

right as well as duty of the civil magistrate. Constantine and his

successors could not easily persuade themselves that they had forfeited, by their conversion, any branch of the Imperial prerogatives, or that they were incapable of giving laws to a religion which they had

protected and embraced. The emperors still continued to exercise a

supreme jurisdiction over the ecclesiastical order, and the sixteenth book of the Theodosian code represents, under a variety of titles, the authority which they assumed in the government of the Catholic church.

but the distinction of the spiritual and temporal powers, which had

never been imposed on the free spirit of Greece and Rome, was introduced and confirmed by the legal establishment of Christianity. The office of

supreme pontiff, which, from the time of Numa to that of Augustus, had always been exercised by one of the most eminent of the senators, was at length united to the Imperial dignity. The first magistrate of the

state, as often as he was prompted by superstition or policy, performed with his own hands the sacerdotal functions; nor was there any order of

priests, either at Rome or in the provinces, who claimed a more sacred character among men, or a more intimate communication with the gods. But

in the Christian church, which intrusts the service of the altar to a perpetual succession of consecrated ministers, the monarch, whose

spiritual rank is less honorable than that of the meanest deacon, was

seated below the rails of the sanctuary, and confounded with the rest

of the faithful multitude. The emperor might be saluted as the father

of his people, but he owed a filial duty and reverence to the fathers of the church; and the same marks of respect, which Constantine had paid to the persons of saints and confessors, were soon exacted by the pride

of the episcopal order. A secret conflict between the civil and ecclesiastical jurisdictions embarrassed the operation of the Roman

government; and a pious emperor was alarmed by the guilt and danger of touching with a profane hand the ark of the covenant. The separation

of men into the two orders of the clergy and of the laity was, indeed, familiar to many nations of antiquity; and the priests of India, of

Persia, of Assyria, of Judea, of Æthiopia, of Egypt, and of Gaul, derived from a celestial origin the temporal power and possessions which they had acquired. These venerable institutions had gradually assimilated themselves to the manners and government of their respective countries; but the opposition or contempt of the civil power served to cement the discipline of the primitive church. The Christians had been obliged to elect their own magistrates, to raise and distribute a

peculiar revenue, and to regulate the internal policy of their republic by a code of laws, which were ratified by the consent of the people and the practice of three hundred years. When Constantine embraced the faith

of the Christians, he seemed to contract a perpetual alliance with a distinct and independent society; and the privileges granted or confirmed by that emperor, or by his successors, were accepted, not as the precarious favors of the court, but as the just and inalienable

rights of the ecclesiastical order.

the Catholic church was administered by the spiritual and legal

jurisdiction of eighteen hundred bishops; of whom one thousand were

seated in the Greek, and eight hundred in the Latin, provinces of the empire. The extent and boundaries of their respective dioceses had been

variously and accidentally decided by the zeal and success of the first

missionaries, by the wishes of the people, and by the propagation of the

gospel. Episcopal churches were closely planted along the banks of the

Nile, on the sea-coast of Africa, in the proconsular Asia, and through the southern provinces of Italy. The bishops of Gaul and Spain, of thrace and Pontus, reigned over an ample territory, and delegated their

rural suffragans to execute the subordinate duties of the pastoral

office. A Christian diocese might be spread over a province, or reduced to a village; but all the bishops possessed an equal and indelible character: they all derived the same powers and privileges from the apostles, from the people, and from the laws. While the civil and

military professions were separated by the policy of Constantine, a new and perpetual order of ecclesiastical ministers, always respectable,

sometimes dangerous, was established in the church and state. The

important review of their station and attributes may be distributed

under the following heads: I. Popular Election. II. Ordination of the clergy. III. Property. IV. Civil Jurisdiction. V. Spiritual censures.

VI. Exercise of public oratory. VII. Privilege of legislative assemblies.

I. The freedom of election subsisted long after the legal establishment

of Christianity; and the subjects of Rome enjoyed in the church the privilege which they had lost in the republic, of choosing the

magistrates whom they were bound to obey. As soon as a bishop had closed

his eyes, the metropolitan issued a commission to one of his suffragans to administer the vacant see, and prepare, within a limited time, the future election. The right of voting was vested in the inferior clergy, who were best qualified to judge of the merit of the candidates; in the senators or nobles of the city, all those who were distinguished by their rank or property; and finally in the whole body of the people, who, on the appointed day, flocked in multitudes from the most remote

parts of the diocese, and sometimes silenced by their tumultuous acclamations, the voice of reason and the laws of discipline. These acclamations might accidentally fix on the head of the most deserving competitor; of some ancient presbyter, some holy monk, or some layman, conspicuous for his zeal and piety. But the episcopal chair was

solicited, especially in the great and opulent cities of the empire, as a temporal rather than as a spiritual dignity. The interested views, the

selfish and angry passions, the arts of perfidy and dissimulation, the

secret corruption, the open and even bloody violence which had formerly disgraced the freedom of election in the commonwealths of Greece and

Rome, too often influenced the choice of the successors of the apostles. while one of the candidates boasted the honors of his family, a second allured his judges by the delicacies of a plentiful table, and a third,

more guilty than his rivals, offered to share the plunder of the church among the accomplices of his sacrilegious hopes The civil as well as ecclesiastical laws attempted to exclude the populace from this

solemn and important transaction. The canons of ancient discipline, by requiring several episcopal qualifications, of age, station, &c.,

restrained, in some measure, the indiscriminate caprice of the electors. the authority of the provincial bishops, who were assembled in the

vacant church to consecrate the choice of the people, was interposed to

moderate their passions and to correct their mistakes. The bishops could refuse to ordain an unworthy candidate, and the rage of contending factions sometimes accepted their impartial mediation. The submission,

or the resistance, of the clergy and people, on various occasions, afforded different precedents, which were insensibly converted into

positive laws and provincial customs; but it was every where admitted, as a fundamental maxim of religious policy, that no bishop could be

imposed on an orthodox church, without the consent of its members. the emperors, as the guardians of the public peace, and as the first citizens of Rome and Constantinople, might effectually declare their wishes in the choice of a primate; but those absolute monarchs respected the freedom of ecclesiastical elections; and while they distributed and

resumed the honors of the state and army, they allowed eighteen hundred

perpetual magistrates to receive their important offices from the free

suffrages of the people. It was agreeable to the dictates of justice, that these magistrates should not desert an honorable station from which they could not be removed; but the wisdom of councils endeavored, without much success, to enforce the residence, and to prevent the translation, of bishops. The discipline of the West was indeed less

relaxed than that of the East; but the same passions which made those

regulations necessary, rendered them ineffectual. The reproaches which angry prelates have so vehemently urged against each other, serve only to expose their common guilt, and their mutual indiscretion.

II. The bishops alone possessed the faculty of spiritual generation: and this extraordinary privilege might compensate, in some degree, for the

painful celibacy which was imposed as a virtue, as a duty, and at length as a positive obligation. The religions of antiquity, which established a separate order of priests, dedicated a holy race, a tribe or family, to the perpetual service of the gods. Such institutions were founded for

possession, rather than conquest. The children of the priests enjoyed, with proud and indolent security, their sacred inheritance; and the fiery spirit of enthusiasm was abated by the cares, the pleasures, and the endearments of domestic life. But the Christian sanctuary was open to every ambitious candidate, who aspired to its heavenly promises or temporal possessions. This office of priests, like that of soldiers or

magistrates, was strenuously exercised by those men, whose temper and abilities had prompted them to embrace the ecclesiastical profession, or who had been selected by a discerning bishop, as the best qualified to promote the glory and interest of the church. The bishops (till the abuse was restrained by the prudence of the laws) might constrain the

reluctant, and protect the distressed; and the imposition of hands forever bestowed some of the most valuable privileges of civil society. the whole body of the Catholic clergy, more numerous perhaps than the

legions, was exempted \* by the emperors from all service, private or

public, all municipal offices, and all personal taxes and contributions, which pressed on their fellow-citizens with intolerable weight; and the duties of their holy profession were accepted as a full discharge of their obligations to the republic. Each bishop acquired an absolute and indefeasible right to the perpetual obedience of the clerk whom

he ordained: the clergy of each episcopal church, with its dependent

parishes, formed a regular and permanent society; and the cathedrals of constantinople and Carthage maintained their peculiar establishment

of five hundred ecclesiastical ministers. Their ranks and numbers were

insensibly multiplied by the superstition of the times, which introduced

into the church the splendid ceremonies of a Jewish or Pagan temple; and a long train of priests, deacons, sub-deacons, acolythes, exorcists,

readers, singers, and doorkeepers, contributed, in their respective

stations, to swell the pomp and harmony of religious worship. The clerical name and privileges were extended to many pious fraternities, who devoutly supported the ecclesiastical throne. Six hundred

parabolani, or adventurers, visited the sick at Alexandria; eleven

hundred copiat, or grave-diggers, buried the dead at Constantinople; and the swarms of monks, who arose from the Nile, overspread and darkened the face of the Christian world.

chapter XX: Conversion Of Constantine.--Part IV.

III. The edict of Milan secured the revenue as well as the peace of the church. The Christians not only recovered the lands and houses of which they had been stripped by the persecuting laws of Diocletian, but they acquired a perfect title to all the possessions which they had hitherto enjoyed by the connivance of the magistrate. As soon as Christianity became the religion of the emperor and the empire, the national clergy

might claim a decent and honorable maintenance; and the payment of an annual tax might have delivered the people from the more oppressive tribute, which superstition imposes on her votaries. But as the wants and expenses of the church increased with her prosperity, the ecclesiastical order was still supported and enriched by the voluntary

oblations of the faithful. Eight years after the edict of Milan, constantine granted to all his subjects the free and universal

permission of bequeathing their fortunes to the holy Catholic church; and their devout liberality, which during their lives was checked by

luxury or avarice, flowed with a profuse stream at the hour of their death. The wealthy Christians were encouraged by the example of their

sovereign. An absolute monarch, who is rich without patrimony, may be charitable without merit; and Constantine too easily believed that he

should purchase the favor of Heaven, if he maintained the idle at the expense of the industrious; and distributed among the saints the wealth

of the republic. The same messenger who carried over to Africa the head

of Maxentius, might be intrusted with an epistle to Cæcilian, bishop of carthage. The emperor acquaints him, that the treasurers of the province are directed to pay into his hands the sum of three thousand folles, or eighteen thousand pounds sterling, and to obey his further requisitions for the relief of the churches of Africa, Numidia, and Mauritania. The

liberality of Constantine increased in a just proportion to his faith, and to his vices. He assigned in each city a regular allowance of corn, to supply the fund of ecclesiastical charity; and the persons of both

sexes who embraced the monastic life became the peculiar favorites

of their sovereign. The Christian temples of Antioch, Alexandria,

Jerusalem, Constantinople &c., displayed the ostentatious piety of a

prince, ambitious in a declining age to equal the perfect labors of antiquity. The form of these religious edifices was simple and oblong; though they might sometimes swell into the shape of a dome, and

sometimes branch into the figure of a cross. The timbers were framed for the most part of cedars of Libanus; the roof was covered with tiles,

perhaps of gilt brass; and the walls, the columns, the pavement, were encrusted with variegated marbles. The most precious ornaments of gold and silver, of silk and gems, were profusely dedicated to the service of the altar; and this specious magnificence was supported on the solid and

perpetual basis of landed property. In the space of two centuries, from the reign of Constantine to that of Justinian, the eighteen hundred churches of the empire were enriched by the frequent and unalienable

gifts of the prince and people. An annual income of six hundred pounds

sterling may be reasonably assigned to the bishops, who were placed at an equal distance between riches and poverty, but the standard of their wealth insensibly rose with the dignity and opulence of the cities which they governed. An authentic but imperfect rent-roll specifies some

houses, shops, gardens, and farms, which belonged to the three Basilic

of Rome, St. Peter, St. Paul, and St. John Lateran, in the provinces of

Italy, Africa, and the East. They produce, besides a reserved rent of

oil, linen, paper, aromatics, &c., a clear annual revenue of twenty-two thousand pieces of gold, or twelve thousand pounds sterling. In the age

of Constantine and Justinian, the bishops no longer possessed, perhaps they no longer deserved, the unsuspecting confidence of their clergy and

people. The ecclesiastical revenues of each diocese were divided

into four parts for the respective uses of the bishop himself, of his

inferior clergy, of the poor, and of the public worship; and the abuse

of this sacred trust was strictly and repeatedly checked. The patrimony

of the church was still subject to all the public compositions of the

state. The clergy of Rome, Alexandria, Thessalonica, &c., might solicit and obtain some partial exemptions; but the premature attempt of the great council of Rimini, which aspired to universal freedom, was

successfully resisted by the son of Constantine.

IV. The Latin clergy, who erected their tribunal on the ruins of the civil and common law, have modestly accepted, as the gift of constantine, the independent jurisdiction, which was the fruit of time, of accident, and of their own industry. But the liberality of the Christian emperors had actually endowed them with some legal

prerogatives, which secured and dignified the sacerdotal character. 1.

Under a despotic government, the bishops alone enjoyed and asserted the

inestimable privilege of being tried only by their peers; and even in a capital accusation, a synod of their brethren were the sole judges

of their guilt or innocence. Such a tribunal, unless it was inflamed by

personal resentment or religious discord, might be favorable, or even

partial, to the sacerdotal order: but Constantine was satisfied, that

secret impunity would be less pernicious than public scandal: and the Nicene council was edited by his public declaration, that if he

surprised a bishop in the act of adultery, he should cast his Imperial

mantle over the episcopal sinner. 2. The domestic jurisdiction of the bishops was at once a privilege and a restraint of the ecclesiastical

order, whose civil causes were decently withdrawn from the cognizance of a secular judge. Their venial offences were not exposed to the shame

of a public trial or punishment; and the gentle correction which the tenderness of youth may endure from its parents or instructors, was

inflicted by the temperate severity of the bishops. But if the clergy were guilty of any crime which could not be sufficiently expiated by their degradation from an honorable and beneficial profession, the

Roman magistrate drew the sword of justice, without any regard to ecclesiastical immunities. 3. The arbitration of the bishops was

ratified by a positive law; and the judges were instructed to execute, without appeal or delay, the episcopal decrees, whose validity had

hitherto depended on the consent of the parties. The conversion of the

magistrates themselves, and of the whole empire, might gradually remove the fears and scruples of the Christians. But they still resorted to the tribunal of the bishops, whose abilities and integrity they esteemed; and the venerable Austin enjoyed the satisfaction of complaining that

his spiritual functions were perpetually interrupted by the invidious

labor of deciding the claim or the possession of silver and gold, of

lands and cattle. 4. The ancient privilege of sanctuary was transferred to the Christian temples, and extended, by the liberal piety of the younger Theodosius, to the precincts of consecrated ground. The fugitive, and even guilty, suppliants were permitted to implore either the justice, or the mercy, of the Deity and his ministers. The rash

violence of despotism was suspended by the mild interposition of the church; and the lives or fortunes of the most eminent subjects might be

protected by the mediation of the bishop.

V. The bishop was the perpetual censor of the morals of his people the discipline of penance was digested into a system of canonical

jurisprudence, which accurately defined the duty of private or public confession, the rules of evidence, the degrees of guilt, and the measure

of punishment. It was impossible to execute this spiritual censure, if the Christian pontiff, who punished the obscure sins of the multitude,

respected the conspicuous vices and destructive crimes of the

magistrate: but it was impossible to arraign the conduct of the

magistrate, without, controlling the administration of civil government.

Some considerations of religion, or loyalty, or fear, protected the

sacred persons of the emperors from the zeal or resentment of the bishops; but they boldly censured and excommunicated the subordinate tyrants, who were not invested with the majesty of the purple. St. athanasius excommunicated one of the ministers of Egypt; and the

interdict which he pronounced, of fire and water, was solemnly transmitted to the churches of Cappadocia. Under the reign of the

younger Theodosius, the polite and eloquent Synesius, one of the descendants of Hercules, filled the episcopal seat of Ptolemais, near the ruins of ancient Cyrene, and the philosophic bishop supported with dignity the character which he had assumed with reluctance. He

vanquished the monster of Libya, the president Andronicus, who abused the authority of a venal office, invented new modes of rapine and torture, and aggravated the guilt of oppression by that of sacrilege. after a fruitless attempt to reclaim the haughty magistrate by mild and

religious admonition, Synesius proceeds to inflict the last sentence of ecclesiastical justice, which devotes Andronicus, with his associates and their families, to the abhorrence of earth and heaven. The

impenitent sinners, more cruel than Phalaris or Sennacherib, more destructive than war, pestilence, or a cloud of locusts, are deprived

of the name and privileges of Christians, of the participation of the

sacraments, and of the hope of Paradise. The bishop exhorts the clergy, the magistrates, and the people, to renounce all society with the enemies of Christ; to exclude them from their houses and tables; and to

refuse them the common offices of life, and the decent rites of burial. the church of Ptolemais, obscure and contemptible as she may appear, addresses this declaration to all her sister churches of the world; and the profane who reject her decrees, will be involved in the guilt and

punishment of Andronicus and his impious followers. These spiritual terrors were enforced by a dexterous application to the Byzantine court; the trembling president implored the mercy of the church; and the descendants of Hercules enjoyed the satisfaction of raising a prostrate tyrant from the ground. Such principles and such examples insensibly

prepared the triumph of the Roman pontiffs, who have trampled on the

necks of kings.

VI. Every popular government has experienced the effects of rude or artificial eloquence. The coldest nature is animated, the firmest reason

is moved, by the rapid communication of the prevailing impulse; and each

hearer is affected by his own passions, and by those of the surrounding

multitude. The ruin of civil liberty had silenced the demagogues of athens, and the tribunes of Rome; the custom of preaching which seems to constitute a considerable part of Christian devotion, had not been

introduced into the temples of antiquity; and the ears of monarchs were

never invaded by the harsh sound of popular eloquence, till the pulpits

of the empire were filled with sacred orators, who possessed some advantages unknown to their profane predecessors. The arguments and

rhetoric of the tribune were instantly opposed with equal arms, by

skilful and resolute antagonists; and the cause of truth and reason

might derive an accidental support from the conflict of hostile

passions. The bishop, or some distinguished presbyter, to whom he cautiously delegated the powers of preaching, harangued, without the danger of interruption or reply, a submissive multitude, whose minds had been prepared and subdued by the awful ceremonies of religion. Such was the strict subordination of the Catholic church, that the same concerted

sounds might issue at once from a hundred pulpits of Italy or Egypt, if they were tuned by the master hand of the Roman or Alexandrian primate. the design of this institution was laudable, but the fruits were not always salutary. The preachers recommended the practice of the social duties; but they exalted the perfection of monastic virtue, which is

painful to the individual, and useless to mankind. Their charitable exhortations betrayed a secret wish that the clergy might be permitted to manage the wealth of the faithful, for the benefit of the poor. The

most sublime representations of the attributes and laws of the Deity were sullied by an idle mixture of metaphysical subtleties, puerile

rites, and fictitious miracles: and they expatiated, with the most fervent zeal, on the religious merit of hating the adversaries, and obeying the ministers of the church. When the public peace was distracted by heresy and schism, the sacred orators sounded the trumpet

of discord, and, perhaps, of sedition. The understandings of their congregations were perplexed by mystery, their passions were inflamed by invectives; and they rushed from the Christian temples of Antioch

or Alexandria, prepared either to suffer or to inflict martyrdom. The corruption of taste and language is strongly marked in the vehement declamations of the Latin bishops; but the compositions of Gregory and chrysostom have been compared with the most splendid models of Attic, or at least of Asiatic, eloquence.

VII. The representatives of the Christian republic were regularly assembled in the spring and autumn of each year; and these synods diffused the spirit of ecclesiastical discipline and legislation through the hundred and twenty provinces of the Roman world. The archbishop or

metropolitan was empowered, by the laws, to summon the suffragan bishops

of his province; to revise their conduct, to vindicate their rights, to declare their faith, and to examine the merits of the candidates who were elected by the clergy and people to supply the vacancies of the episcopal college. The primates of Rome, Alexandria, Antioch, Carthage, and afterwards Constantinople, who exercised a more ample jurisdiction, convened the numerous assembly of their dependent bishops. But the convocation of great and extraordinary synods was the prerogative of the emperor alone. Whenever the emergencies of the church required this decisive measure, he despatched a peremptory summons to the bishops, or the deputies of each province, with an order for the use of post-horses, and a competent allowance for the expenses of their journey. At an early

period, when Constantine was the protector, rather than the proselyte,

of Christianity, he referred the African controversy to the council

of Arles; in which the bishops of York of Treves, of Milan, and of carthage, met as friends and brethren, to debate in their native tongue

on the common interest of the Latin or Western church. Eleven years afterwards, a more numerous and celebrated assembly was convened at Nice

in Bithynia, to extinguish, by their final sentence, the subtle disputes which had arisen in Egypt on the subject of the Trinity. Three hundred and eighteen bishops obeyed the summons of their indulgent master; the ecclesiastics of every rank, and sect, and denomination, have been computed at two thousand and forty-eight persons; the Greeks appeared

in person; and the consent of the Latins was expressed by the legates

of the Roman pontiff. The session, which lasted about two months, was frequently honored by the presence of the emperor. Leaving his guards at the door, he seated himself (with the permission of the council) on a

low stool in the midst of the hall. Constantine listened with patience, and spoke with modesty: and while he influenced the debates, he humbly

professed that he was the minister, not the judge, of the successors

of the apostles, who had been established as priests and as gods upon earth. Such profound reverence of an absolute monarch towards a feeble and unarmed assembly of his own subjects, can only be compared to the

respect with which the senate had been treated by the Roman princes who adopted the policy of Augustus. Within the space of fifty years, a

philosophic spectator of the vicissitudes of human affairs might have contemplated Tacitus in the senate of Rome, and Constantine in the council of Nice. The fathers of the Capitol and those of the church had alike degenerated from the virtues of their founders; but as the bishops were more deeply rooted in the public opinion, they sustained their dignity with more decent pride, and sometimes opposed with a manly

spirit the wishes of their sovereign. The progress of time and

superstition erased the memory of the weakness, the passion, the

ignorance, which disgraced these ecclesiastical synods; and the Catholic world has unanimously submitted to the infallible decrees of the general councils.

chapter XXI: Persecution Of Heresy, State Of The Church.--Part I.

Persecution Of Heresy.--The Schism Of The Donatists.--The

Arian Controversy.--Athanasius.--Distracted State Of The

Church And Empire Under Constantine And His Sons.--

Toleration Of Paganism.

the grateful applause of the clergy has consecrated the memory of a prince who indulged their passions and promoted their interest. constantine gave them security, wealth, honors, and revenge; and the

support of the orthodox faith was considered as the most sacred and

important duty of the civil magistrate. The edict of Milan, the great charter of toleration, had confirmed to each individual of the Roman world the privilege of choosing and professing his own religion. But this inestimable privilege was soon violated; with the knowledge of truth, the emperor imbibed the maxims of persecution; and the sects which dissented from the Catholic church were afflicted and oppressed by the triumph of Christianity. Constantine easily believed that the Heretics, who presumed to dispute his opinions, or to oppose his commands, were guilty of the most absurd and criminal obstinacy; and that a seasonable application of moderate severities might save those

unhappy men from the danger of an everlasting condemnation. Not a

moment was lost in excluding the ministers and teachers of the separated congregations from any share of the rewards and immunities which the emperor had so liberally bestowed on the orthodox clergy. But as the

sectaries might still exist under the cloud of royal disgrace, the conquest of the East was immediately followed by an edict which announced their total destruction. After a preamble filled with passion and reproach, Constantine absolutely prohibits the assemblies of the

Heretics, and confiscates their public property to the use either of the

revenue or of the Catholic church. The sects against whom the Imperial

severity was directed, appear to have been the adherents of Paul of

Samosata; the Montanists of Phrygia, who maintained an enthusiastic

succession of prophecy; the Novatians, who sternly rejected the temporal efficacy of repentance; the Marcionites and Valentinians, under whose

leading banners the various Gnostics of Asia and Egypt had insensibly

rallied; and perhaps the Manichæans, who had recently imported from

Persia a more artful composition of Oriental and Christian theology. The design of extirpating the name, or at least of restraining the progress,

of these odious Heretics, was prosecuted with vigor and effect. Some

of the penal regulations were copied from the edicts of Diocletian; and this method of conversion was applauded by the same bishops who had felt the hand of oppression, and pleaded for the rights of humanity. Two

immaterial circumstances may serve, however, to prove that the mind

of Constantine was not entirely corrupted by the spirit of zeal and bigotry. Before he condemned the Manichæans and their kindred sects, he

resolved to make an accurate inquiry into the nature of their religious

principles. As if he distrusted the impartiality of his ecclesiastical counsellors, this delicate commission was intrusted to a civil

magistrate, whose learning and moderation he justly esteemed, and of whose venal character he was probably ignorant. The emperor was soon convinced, that he had too hastily proscribed the orthodox faith and the exemplary morals of the Novatians, who had dissented from the church

in some articles of discipline which were not perhaps essential to

salvation. By a particular edict, he exempted them from the general

penalties of the law; allowed them to build a church at Constantinople,

respected the miracles of their saints, invited their bishop Acesius to the council of Nice; and gently ridiculed the narrow tenets of his sect by a familiar jest; which, from the mouth of a sovereign, must have been

received with applause and gratitude.

the complaints and mutual accusations which assailed the throne of constantine, as soon as the death of Maxentius had submitted Africa to

his victorious arms, were ill adapted to edify an imperfect proselyte.

He learned, with surprise, that the provinces of that great country, from the confines of Cyrene to the columns of Hercules, were distracted with religious discord. The source of the division was derived from a double election in the church of Carthage; the second, in rank and

opulence, of the ecclesiastical thrones of the West. Cæcilian and

Majorinus were the two rival prelates of Africa; and the death of the

latter soon made room for Donatus, who, by his superior abilities and apparent virtues, was the firmest support of his party. The advantage which Cæcilian might claim from the priority of his ordination, was destroyed by the illegal, or at least indecent, haste, with which it had been performed, without expecting the arrival of the bishops of Numidia. the authority of these bishops, who, to the number of seventy, condemned cæcilian, and consecrated Majorinus, is again weakened by the infamy

of some of their personal characters; and by the female intrigues,

sacrilegious bargains, and tumultuous proceedings, which are imputed to this Numidian council. The bishops of the contending factions

maintained, with equal ardor and obstinacy, that their adversaries were degraded, or at least dishonored, by the odious crime of delivering the Holy Scriptures to the officers of Diocletian. From their mutual

reproaches, as well as from the story of this dark transaction, it may

justly be inferred, that the late persecution had imbittered the zeal, without reforming the manners, of the African Christians. That divided church was incapable of affording an impartial judicature; the controversy was solemnly tried in five successive tribunals, which were appointed by the emperor; and the whole proceeding, from the first appeal to the final sentence, lasted above three years. A severe

inquisition, which was taken by the Prætorian vicar, and the proconsul

of Africa, the report of two episcopal visitors who had been sent to carthage, the decrees of the councils of Rome and of Arles, and the

supreme judgment of Constantine himself in his sacred consistory, were all favorable to the cause of Cæcilian; and he was unanimously acknowledged by the civil and ecclesiastical powers, as the true and

lawful primate of Africa. The honors and estates of the church were attributed to his suffragan bishops, and it was not without difficulty, that Constantine was satisfied with inflicting the punishment of exile

on the principal leaders of the Donatist faction. As their cause was examined with attention, perhaps it was determined with justice. Perhaps their complaint was not without foundation, that the credulity of the emperor had been abused by the insidious arts of his favorite Osius. The

influence of falsehood and corruption might procure the condemnation

of the innocent, or aggravate the sentence of the guilty. Such an act,

however, of injustice, if it concluded an importunate dispute, might be

numbered among the transient evils of a despotic administration, which are neither felt nor remembered by posterity.

but this incident, so inconsiderable that it scarcely deserves a place

in history, was productive of a memorable schism which afflicted the

provinces of Africa above three hundred years, and was extinguished only with Christianity itself. The inflexible zeal of freedom and fanaticism animated the Donatists to refuse obedience to the usurpers, whose election they disputed, and whose spiritual powers they denied. excluded from the civil and religious communion of mankind, they boldly excommunicated the rest of mankind, who had embraced the impious party

of Cæcilian, and of the Traditors, from which he derived his pretended

ordination. They asserted with confidence, and almost with exultation, that the Apostolical succession was interrupted; that all the bishops of europe and Asia were infected by the contagion of guilt and schism; and that the prerogatives of the Catholic church were confined to the chosen

portion of the African believers, who alone had preserved inviolate the

integrity of their faith and discipline. This rigid theory was supported by the most uncharitable conduct. Whenever they acquired a proselyte, even from the distant provinces of the East, they carefully repeated the

sacred rites of baptism and ordination; as they rejected the validity

of those which he had already received from the hands of heretics or

schismatics. Bishops, virgins, and even spotless infants, were subjected to the disgrace of a public penance, before they could be admitted to the communion of the Donatists. If they obtained possession of a church which had been used by their Catholic adversaries, they purified the

unhallowed building with the same zealous care which a temple of idols

might have required. They washed the pavement, scraped the walls, burnt the altar, which was commonly of wood, melted the consecrated plate, and cast the Holy Eucharist to the dogs, with every circumstance of ignominy which could provoke and perpetuate the animosity of religious factions.

Notwithstanding this irreconcilable aversion, the two parties, who were

mixed and separated in all the cities of Africa, had the same language and manners, the same zeal and learning, the same faith and worship.

Proscribed by the civil and ecclesiastical powers of the empire, the donatists still maintained in some provinces, particularly in Numidia, their superior numbers; and four hundred bishops acknowledged the

jurisdiction of their primate. But the invincible spirit of the sect

sometimes preyed on its own vitals: and the bosom of their schismatical church was torn by intestine divisions. A fourth part of the Donatist bishops followed the independent standard of the Maximianists. The

narrow and solitary path which their first leaders had marked out, continued to deviate from the great society of mankind. Even the

imperceptible sect of the Rogatians could affirm, without a blush, that when Christ should descend to judge the earth, he would find his true

religion preserved only in a few nameless villages of the Cæsarean

Mauritania.

the schism of the Donatists was confined to Africa: the more diffusive

mischief of the Trinitarian controversy successively penetrated into every part of the Christian world. The former was an accidental quarrel,

occasioned by the abuse of freedom; the latter was a high and mysterious argument, derived from the abuse of philosophy. From the age of constantine to that of Clovis and Theodoric, the temporal interests both

of the Romans and Barbarians were deeply involved in the theological disputes of Arianism. The historian may therefore be permitted

respectfully to withdraw the veil of the sanctuary; and to deduce the

progress of reason and faith, of error and passion from the school of

Plato, to the decline and fall of the empire.

the genius of Plato, informed by his own meditation, or by the traditional knowledge of the priests of Egypt, had ventured to explore the mysterious nature of the Deity. When he had elevated his mind to the

sublime contemplation of the first self-existent, necessary cause of the

universe, the Athenian sage was incapable of conceiving how the simple

unity of his essence could admit the infinite variety of distinct and

successive ideas which compose the model of the intellectual world; how a Being purely incorporeal could execute that perfect model, and mould with a plastic hand the rude and independent chaos. The vain hope of extricating himself from these difficulties, which must ever oppress the feeble powers of the human mind, might induce Plato to consider the divine nature under the threefold modification--of the first cause, the

reason, or Logos, and the soul or spirit of the universe. His

poetical imagination sometimes fixed and animated these metaphysical abstractions; the three archical on original principles were represented

in the Platonic system as three Gods, united with each other by a

mysterious and ineffable generation; and the Logos was particularly considered under the more accessible character of the Son of an Eternal father, and the Creator and Governor of the world. Such appear to have been the secret doctrines which were cautiously whispered in the gardens

of the academy; and which, according to the more recent disciples of

Plato, \* could not be perfectly understood, till after an assiduous

study of thirty years.

the arms of the Macedonians diffused over Asia and Egypt the language and learning of Greece; and the theological system of Plato was taught, with less reserve, and perhaps with some improvements, in the celebrated

school of Alexandria. A numerous colony of Jews had been invited, by the favor of the Ptolemies, to settle in their new capital. While the bulk

of the nation practised the legal ceremonies, and pursued the lucrative

occupations of commerce, a few Hebrews, of a more liberal spirit, devoted their lives to religious and philosophical contemplation. They cultivated with diligence, and embraced with ardor, the theological

system of the Athenian sage. But their national pride would have been

mortified by a fair confession of their former poverty: and they boldly

marked, as the sacred inheritance of their ancestors, the gold and

jewels which they had so lately stolen from their Egyptian masters.

One hundred years before the birth of Christ, a philosophical treatise, which manifestly betrays the style and sentiments of the school of

Plato, was produced by the Alexandrian Jews, and unanimously received as a genuine and valuable relic of the inspired Wisdom of Solomon. a similar union of the Mosaic faith and the Grecian philosophy, distinguishes the works of Philo, which were composed, for the most

part, under the reign of Augustus. The material soul of the universe

might offend the piety of the Hebrews: but they applied the character of the Logos to the Jehovah of Moses and the patriarchs; and the Son of God was introduced upon earth under a visible, and even human appearance, to

perform those familiar offices which seem incompatible with the nature and attributes of the Universal Cause.

chapter XXI: Persecution Of Heresy, State Of The Church.--Part II.

the eloquence of Plato, the name of Solomon, the authority of the school

of Alexandria, and the consent of the Jews and Greeks, were insufficient to establish the truth of a mysterious doctrine, which might please, but could not satisfy, a rational mind. A prophet, or apostle, inspired by the Deity, can alone exercise a lawful dominion over the faith of

mankind: and the theology of Plato might have been forever confounded with the philosophical visions of the Academy, the Porch, and the

Lycæum, if the name and divine attributes of the Logos had not been confirmed by the celestial pen of the last and most sublime of the evangelists. The Christian Revelation, which was consummated under the

reign of Nerva, disclosed to the world the amazing secret, that the

Logos, who was with God from the beginning, and was God, who had made all things, and for whom all things had been made, was incarnate in the

person of Jesus of Nazareth; who had been born of a virgin, and suffered death on the cross. Besides the genera design of fixing on a perpetual basis the divine honors of Christ, the most ancient and respectable of the ecclesiastical writers have ascribed to the evangelic theologian a

particular intention to confute two opposite heresies, which disturbed the peace of the primitive church. I. The faith of the Ebionites,

perhaps of the Nazarenes, was gross and imperfect. They revered Jesus as the greatest of the prophets, endowed with supernatural virtue and

power. They ascribed to his person and to his future reign all the

predictions of the Hebrew oracles which relate to the spiritual and everlasting kingdom of the promised Messiah. Some of them might confess that he was born of a virgin; but they obstinately rejected the

preceding existence and divine perfections of the Logos, or Son of God, which are so clearly defined in the Gospel of St. John. About fifty

years afterwards, the Ebionites, whose errors are mentioned by Justin

Martyr with less severity than they seem to deserve, formed a very

inconsiderable portion of the Christian name. II. The Gnostics, who were distinguished by the epithet of Docetes, deviated into the contrary extreme; and betrayed the human, while they asserted the divine, nature

of Christ. Educated in the school of Plato, accustomed to the sublime

idea of the Logos, they readily conceived that the brightest Æon, or emanation of the Deity, might assume the outward shape and visible appearances of a mortal; but they vainly pretended, that the

imperfections of matter are incompatible with the purity of a celestial

substance. While the blood of Christ yet smoked on Mount Calvary, the docetes invented the impious and extravagant hypothesis, that, instead

of issuing from the womb of the Virgin, he had descended on the banks

of the Jordan in the form of perfect manhood; that he had imposed on the

senses of his enemies, and of his disciples; and that the ministers of

Pilate had wasted their impotent rage on an airy phantom, who seemed to expire on the cross, and, after three days, to rise from the dead.

the divine sanction, which the Apostle had bestowed on the fundamental

principle of the theology of Plato, encouraged the learned proselytes of the second and third centuries to admire and study the writings of the athenian sage, who had thus marvellously anticipated one of the most

surprising discoveries of the Christian revelation. The respectable name

of Plato was used by the orthodox, and abused by the heretics, as the common support of truth and error: the authority of his skilful commentators, and the science of dialectics, were employed to justify the remote consequences of his opinions and to supply the discreet

silence of the inspired writers. The same subtle and profound questions concerning the nature, the generation, the distinction, and the equality

of the three divine persons of the mysterious Triad, or Trinity, were agitated in the philosophical and in the Christian schools of alexandria. An eager spirit of curiosity urged them to explore the

secrets of the abyss; and the pride of the professors, and of their disciples, was satisfied with the sciences of words. But the most

sagacious of the Christian theologians, the great Athanasius himself,

has candidly confessed, that whenever he forced his understanding to

meditate on the divinity of the Logos, his toilsome and unavailing efforts recoiled on themselves; that the more he thought, the less

he comprehended; and the more he wrote, the less capable was he of expressing his thoughts. In every step of the inquiry, we are compelled to feel and acknowledge the immeasurable disproportion between the

size of the object and the capacity of the human mind. We may strive to abstract the notions of time, of space, and of matter, which so closely adhere to all the perceptions of our experimental knowledge. But as soon as we presume to reason of infinite substance, of spiritual generation; as often as we deduce any positive conclusions from a negative idea, we are involved in darkness, perplexity, and inevitable contradiction. As these difficulties arise from the nature of the subject, they oppress, with the same insuperable weight, the philosophic and the theological disputant; but we may observe two essential and peculiar circumstances, which discriminated the doctrines of the Catholic church from the

opinions of the Platonic school.

I. A chosen society of philosophers, men of a liberal education and curious disposition, might silently meditate, and temperately discuss

in the gardens of Athens or the library of Alexandria, the abstruse

questions of metaphysical science. The lofty speculations, which

neither convinced the understanding, nor agitated the passions, of the

Platonists themselves, were carelessly overlooked by the idle, the busy, and even the studious part of mankind. But after the Logos had been

revealed as the sacred object of the faith, the hope, and the religious worship of the Christians, the mysterious system was embraced by a

numerous and increasing multitude in every province of the Roman world. those persons who, from their age, or sex, or occupations, were the

least qualified to judge, who were the least exercised in the habits

of abstract reasoning, aspired to contemplate the economy of the Divine

Nature: and it is the boast of Tertullian, that a Christian mechanic could readily answer such questions as had perplexed the wisest of the Grecian sages. Where the subject lies so far beyond our reach, the difference between the highest and the lowest of human understandings

may indeed be calculated as infinitely small; yet the degree of weakness may perhaps be measured by the degree of obstinacy and dogmatic confidence. These speculations, instead of being treated as the amusement of a vacant hour, became the most serious business of the

present, and the most useful preparation for a future, life. A theology, which it was incumbent to believe, which it was impious to doubt, and which it might be dangerous, and even fatal, to mistake, became the familiar topic of private meditation and popular discourse. The cold

indifference of philosophy was inflamed by the fervent spirit of devotion; and even the metaphors of common language suggested the fallacious prejudices of sense and experience. The Christians, who abhorred the gross and impure generation of the Greek mythology, were tempted to argue from the familiar analogy of the filial and

paternal relations. The character of Son seemed to imply a perpetual

subordination to the voluntary author of his existence; but as the act of generation, in the most spiritual and abstracted sense, must be

supposed to transmit the properties of a common nature, they durst not

presume to circumscribe the powers or the duration of the Son of an eternal and omnipotent Father. Fourscore years after the death of christ, the Christians of Bithynia, declared before the tribunal of

Pliny, that they invoked him as a god: and his divine honors have been

perpetuated in every age and country, by the various sects who assume the name of his disciples. Their tender reverence for the memory of christ, and their horror for the profane worship of any created being, would have engaged them to assert the equal and absolute divinity of the

Logos, if their rapid ascent towards the throne of heaven had not been

imperceptibly checked by the apprehension of violating the unity and

sole supremacy of the great Father of Christ and of the Universe. The

suspense and fluctuation produced in the minds of the Christians by these opposite tendencies, may be observed in the writings of the theologians who flourished after the end of the apostolic age, and before the origin of the Arian controversy. Their suffrage is claimed, with equal confidence, by the orthodox and by the heretical parties; and the most inquisitive critics have fairly allowed, that if they had the

good fortune of possessing the Catholic verity, they have delivered their conceptions in loose, inaccurate, and sometimes contradictory

language.

chapter XXI: Persecution Of Heresy, State Of The Church.--Part III.

II. The devotion of individuals was the first circumstance which distinguished the Christians from the Platonists: the second was the authority of the church. The disciples of philosophy asserted the rights

of intellectual freedom, and their respect for the sentiments of their teachers was a liberal and voluntary tribute, which they offered to

superior reason. But the Christians formed a numerous and disciplined

society; and the jurisdiction of their laws and magistrates was strictly exercised over the minds of the faithful. The loose wanderings of the

imagination were gradually confined by creeds and confessions; the freedom of private judgment submitted to the public wisdom of synods; the authority of a theologian was determined by his ecclesiastical rank; and the episcopal successors of the apostles inflicted the censures of the church on those who deviated from the orthodox belief. But in an age

of religious controversy, every act of oppression adds new force to the elastic vigor of the mind; and the zeal or obstinacy of a spiritual

rebel was sometimes stimulated by secret motives of ambition or avarice. a metaphysical argument became the cause or pretence of political contests; the subtleties of the Platonic school were used as the badges

of popular factions, and the distance which separated their respective tenets were enlarged or magnified by the acrimony of dispute. As long as the dark heresies of Praxeas and Sabellius labored to confound the father with the Son, the orthodox party might be excused if they adhered more strictly and more earnestly to the distinction, than to the equality, of the divine persons. But as soon as the heat of controversy

had subsided, and the progress of the Sabellians was no longer an object

of terror to the churches of Rome, of Africa, or of Egypt, the tide

of theological opinion began to flow with a gentle but steady motion towards the contrary extreme; and the most orthodox doctors allowed themselves the use of the terms and definitions which had been censured

in the mouth of the sectaries. After the edict of toleration had

restored peace and leisure to the Christians, the Trinitarian controversy was revived in the ancient seat of Platonism, the learned, the opulent, the tumultuous city of Alexandria; and the flame of

religious discord was rapidly communicated from the schools to the clergy, the people, the province, and the East. The abstruse question of the eternity of the Logos was agitated in ecclesiastic conferences and

popular sermons; and the heterodox opinions of Arius were soon made

public by his own zeal, and by that of his adversaries. His most

implacable adversaries have acknowledged the learning and blameless life

of that eminent presbyter, who, in a former election, had declared, and

perhaps generously declined, his pretensions to the episcopal throne.

His competitor Alexander assumed the office of his judge. The important cause was argued before him; and if at first he seemed to hesitate, he at length pronounced his final sentence, as an absolute rule of faith. the undaunted presbyter, who presumed to resist the authority of his angry bishop, was separated from the community of the church. But the

pride of Arius was supported by the applause of a numerous party. He

reckoned among his immediate followers two bishops of Egypt, seven

presbyters, twelve deacons, and (what may appear almost incredible)

seven hundred virgins. A large majority of the bishops of Asia appeared to support or favor his cause; and their measures were conducted by eusebius of Cæsarea, the most learned of the Christian prelates; and by eusebius of Nicomedia, who had acquired the reputation of a statesman without forfeiting that of a saint. Synods in Palestine and Bithynia were opposed to the synods of Egypt. The attention of the prince and

people was attracted by this theological dispute; and the decision, at the end of six years, was referred to the supreme authority of the

general council of Nice.

when the mysteries of the Christian faith were dangerously exposed to

public debate, it might be observed, that the human understanding was capable of forming three district, though imperfect systems, concerning the nature of the Divine Trinity; and it was pronounced, that none of these systems, in a pure and absolute sense, were exempt from heresy and error. I. According to the first hypothesis, which was maintained by Arius and his disciples, the Logos was a dependent and spontaneous

production, created from nothing by the will of the father. The Son, by whom all things were made, had been begotten before all worlds, and the

longest of the astronomical periods could be compared only as a fleeting moment to the extent of his duration; yet this duration was

not infinite, and there had been a time which preceded the ineffable

generation of the Logos. On this only-begotten Son, the Almighty Father

had transfused his ample spirit, and impressed the effulgence of his

glory. Visible image of invisible perfection, he saw, at an immeasurable distance beneath his feet, the thrones of the brightest archangels; yet

he shone only with a reflected light, and, like the sons of the Romans emperors, who were invested with the titles of Cæsar or Augustus,

he governed the universe in obedience to the will of his Father and

Monarch. II. In the second hypothesis, the Logos possessed all the

inherent, incommunicable perfections, which religion and philosophy appropriate to the Supreme God. Three distinct and infinite minds or

substances, three coëqual and coëternal beings, composed the Divine essence; and it would have implied contradiction, that any of them

should not have existed, or that they should ever cease to exist. the advocates of a system which seemed to establish three independent deities, attempted to preserve the unity of the First Cause, so conspicuous in the design and order of the world, by the perpetual concord of their administration, and the essential agreement of their will. A faint resemblance of this unity of action may be discovered

in the societies of men, and even of animals. The causes which disturb their harmony, proceed only from the imperfection and inequality of their faculties; but the omnipotence which is guided by infinite wisdom and goodness, cannot fail of choosing the same means for the accomplishment of the same ends. III. Three beings, who, by the

self-derived necessity of their existence, possess all the divine attributes in the most perfect degree; who are eternal in duration,

infinite in space, and intimately present to each other, and to the whole universe; irresistibly force themselves on the astonished mind, as

one and the same being, who, in the economy of grace, as well as in that

of nature, may manifest himself under different forms, and be considered

under different aspects. By this hypothesis, a real substantial trinity

is refined into a trinity of names, and abstract modifications, that

subsist only in the mind which conceives them. The Logos is no longer a

person, but an attribute; and it is only in a figurative sense that the epithet of Son can be applied to the eternal reason, which was with God from the beginning, and by which, not by whom, all things were made. The

incarnation of the Logos is reduced to a mere inspiration of the Divine wisdom, which filled the soul, and directed all the actions, of the

man Jesus. Thus, after revolving around the theological circle, we are

surprised to find that the Sabellian ends where the Ebionite had begun; and that the incomprehensible mystery which excites our adoration, eludes our inquiry.

If the bishops of the council of Nice had been permitted to follow the

unbiased dictates of their conscience, Arius and his associates could

scarcely have flattered themselves with the hopes of obtaining a

majority of votes, in favor of an hypothesis so directly averse to the two most popular opinions of the Catholic world. The Arians soon

perceived the danger of their situation, and prudently assumed those

modest virtues, which, in the fury of civil and religious dissensions, are seldom practised, or even praised, except by the weaker party. They

recommended the exercise of Christian charity and moderation; urged the

incomprehensible nature of the controversy, disclaimed the use of any terms or definitions which could not be found in the Scriptures; and

offered, by very liberal concessions, to satisfy their adversaries without renouncing the integrity of their own principles. The victorious faction received all their proposals with haughty suspicion; and anxiously sought for some irreconcilable mark of distinction, the rejection of which might involve the Arians in the guilt and consequences of heresy. A letter was publicly read, and ignominiously torn, in which their patron, Eusebius of Nicomedia, ingenuously confessed, that the admission of the Homoousion, or Consubstantial, a word already familiar to the Platonists, was incompatible with the

principles of their theological system. The fortunate opportunity was eagerly embraced by the bishops, who governed the resolutions of the

synod; and, according to the lively expression of Ambrose, they used the

sword, which heresy itself had drawn from the scabbard, to cut off the

head of the hated monster. The consubstantiality of the Father and the

Son was established by the council of Nice, and has been unanimously

received as a fundamental article of the Christian faith, by the consent

of the Greek, the Latin, the Oriental, and the Protestant churches. But

if the same word had not served to stigmatize the heretics, and to

unite the Catholics, it would have been inadequate to the purpose of the majority, by whom it was introduced into the orthodox creed. This

majority was divided into two parties, distinguished by a contrary tendency to the sentiments of the Tritheists and of the Sabellians. But as those opposite extremes seemed to overthrow the foundations either of

natural or revealed religion, they mutually agreed to qualify the

rigor of their principles; and to disavow the just, but invidious, consequences, which might be urged by their antagonists. The interest

of the common cause inclined them to join their numbers, and to conceal their differences; their animosity was softened by the healing counsels

of toleration, and their disputes were suspended by the use of the

mysterious Homoousion, which either party was free to interpret according to their peculiar tenets. The Sabellian sense, which, about fifty years before, had obliged the council of Antioch to prohibit this celebrated term, had endeared it to those theologians who entertained a secret but partial affection for a nominal Trinity. But the more fashionable saints of the Arian times, the intrepid Athanasius, the

learned Gregory Nazianzen, and the other pillars of the church, who

supported with ability and success the Nicene doctrine, appeared to consider the expression of substance as if it had been synonymous with that of nature; and they ventured to illustrate their meaning, by affirming that three men, as they belong to the same common species, are consubstantial, or homoousian to each other. This pure and distinct equality was tempered, on the one hand, by the internal connection, and

spiritual penetration which indissolubly unites the divine persons; and,

on the other, by the preeminence of the Father, which was acknowledged as far as it is compatible with the independence of the Son. Within these limits, the almost invisible and tremulous ball of orthodoxy was allowed securely to vibrate. On either side, beyond this consecrated

ground, the heretics and the dæmons lurked in ambush to surprise and devour the unhappy wanderer. But as the degrees of theological hatred depend on the spirit of the war, rather than on the importance of the controversy, the heretics who degraded, were treated with more

severity than those who annihilated, the person of the Son. The life

of Athanasius was consumed in irreconcilable opposition to the

impious madness of the Arians; but he defended above twenty years the

Sabellianism of Marcellus of Ancyra; and when at last he was compelled to withdraw himself from his communion, he continued to mention, with an ambiguous smile, the venial errors of his respectable friend.

the authority of a general council, to which the Arians themselves had been compelled to submit, inscribed on the banners of the orthodox party the mysterious characters of the word Homoousion, which essentially contributed, notwithstanding some obscure disputes, some nocturnal combats, to maintain and perpetuate the uniformity of faith, or at least

of language. The Consubstantialists, who by their success have deserved and obtained the title of Catholics, gloried in the simplicity and

steadiness of their own creed, and insulted the repeated variations of their adversaries, who were destitute of any certain rule of faith. The

sincerity or the cunning of the Arian chiefs, the fear of the laws or of the people, their reverence for Christ, their hatred of Athanasius, all the causes, human and divine, that influence and disturb the counsels

of a theological faction, introduced among the sectaries a spirit of discord and inconstancy, which, in the course of a few years, erected eighteen different models of religion, and avenged the violated dignity

of the church. The zealous Hilary, who, from the peculiar hardships of

his situation, was inclined to extenuate rather than to aggravate the errors of the Oriental clergy, declares, that in the wide extent of the ten provinces of Asia, to which he had been banished, there could be found very few prelates who had preserved the knowledge of the true

God. The oppression which he had felt, the disorders of which he was the

spectator and the victim, appeased, during a short interval, the angry

passions of his soul; and in the following passage, of which I shall transcribe a few lines, the bishop of Poitiers unwarily deviates into the style of a Christian philosopher. "It is a thing," says Hilary,

"equally deplorable and dangerous, that there are as many creeds as

opinions among men, as many doctrines as inclinations, and as many

sources of blasphemy as there are faults among us; because we make creeds arbitrarily, and explain them as arbitrarily. The Homoousion is

rejected, and received, and explained away by successive synods. The

partial or total resemblance of the Father and of the Son is a subject

of dispute for these unhappy times. Every year, nay, every moon, we make

new creeds to describe invisible mysteries. We repent of what we

have done, we defend those who repent, we anathematize those whom we defended. We condemn either the doctrine of others in ourselves, or our

own in that of others; and reciprocally tearing one another to pieces, we have been the cause of each other's ruin."

It will not be expected, it would not perhaps be endured, that I should

swell this theological digression, by a minute examination of the eighteen creeds, the authors of which, for the most part, disclaimed the

odious name of their parent Arius. It is amusing enough to delineate the form, and to trace the vegetation, of a singular plant; but the tedious detail of leaves without flowers, and of branches without fruit, would soon exhaust the patience, and disappoint the curiosity, of the

laborious student. One question, which gradually arose from the Arian controversy, may, however, be noticed, as it served to produce and discriminate the three sects, who were united only by their common aversion to the Homoousion of the Nicene synod. 1. If they were asked whether the Son was like unto the Father, the question was resolutely answered in the negative, by the heretics who adhered to the principles

of Arius, or indeed to those of philosophy; which seem to establish an

infinite difference between the Creator and the most excellent of his creatures. This obvious consequence was maintained by Ætius, on whom the zeal of his adversaries bestowed the surname of the Atheist. His

restless and aspiring spirit urged him to try almost every profession

of human life. He was successively a slave, or at least a husbandman, a travelling tinker, a goldsmith, a physician, a schoolmaster, a theologian, and at last the apostle of a new church, which was

propagated by the abilities of his disciple Eunomius. Armed with texts

of Scripture, and with captious syllogisms from the logic of Aristotle, the subtle Ætius had acquired the fame of an invincible disputant, whom

it was impossible either to silence or to convince. Such talents engaged the friendship of the Arian bishops, till they were forced to renounce, and even to persecute, a dangerous ally, who, by the accuracy of his

reasoning, had prejudiced their cause in the popular opinion, and

offended the piety of their most devoted followers. 2. The omnipotence

of the Creator suggested a specious and respectful solution of the

likeness of the Father and the Son; and faith might humbly receive what

reason could not presume to deny, that the Supreme God might communicate

his infinite perfections, and create a being similar only to himself. these Arians were powerfully supported by the weight and abilities

of their leaders, who had succeeded to the management of the Eusebian

interest, and who occupied the principal thrones of the East. They detested, perhaps with some affectation, the impiety of Ætius; they

professed to believe, either without reserve, or according to the

Scriptures, that the Son was different from all other creatures, and

similar only to the Father. But they denied, the he was either of the

same, or of a similar substance; sometimes boldly justifying their dissent, and sometimes objecting to the use of the word substance, which seems to imply an adequate, or at least, a distinct, notion of the nature of the Deity. 3. The sect which deserted the doctrine of a

similar substance, was the most numerous, at least in the provinces of asia; and when the leaders of both parties were assembled in the council

of Seleucia, their opinion would have prevailed by a majority of one

hundred and five to forty-three bishops. The Greek word, which was chosen to express this mysterious resemblance, bears so close an affinity to the orthodox symbol, that the profane of every age have derided the furious contests which the difference of a single diphthong excited between the Homoousians and the Homoiousians. As it frequently

happens, that the sounds and characters which approach the nearest to each other accidentally represent the most opposite ideas, the

observation would be itself ridiculous, if it were possible to mark any

real and sensible distinction between the doctrine of the Semi-Arians, as they were improperly styled, and that of the Catholics themselves. the bishop of Poitiers, who in his Phrygian exile very wisely aimed at a coalition of parties, endeavors to prove that by a pious and faithful

interpretation, the Homoiousion may be reduced to a consubstantial

sense. Yet he confesses that the word has a dark and suspicious aspect; and, as if darkness were congenial to theological disputes, the

Semi-Arians, who advanced to the doors of the church, assailed them with the most unrelenting fury.

the provinces of Egypt and Asia, which cultivated the language and

manners of the Greeks, had deeply imbibed the venom of the Arian controversy. The familiar study of the Platonic system, a vain and argumentative disposition, a copious and flexible idiom, supplied the clergy and people of the East with an inexhaustible flow of words and distinctions; and, in the midst of their fierce contentions, they easily forgot the doubt which is recommended by philosophy, and the submission which is enjoined by religion. The inhabitants of the West were of a

less inquisitive spirit; their passions were not so forcibly moved by

invisible objects, their minds were less frequently exercised by the

habits of dispute; and such was the happy ignorance of the Gallican church, that Hilary himself, above thirty years after the first general council, was still a stranger to the Nicene creed. The Latins had

received the rays of divine knowledge through the dark and doubtful

medium of a translation. The poverty and stubbornness of their native tongue was not always capable of affording just equivalents for the

Greek terms, for the technical words of the Platonic philosophy, which

had been consecrated, by the gospel or by the church, to express the

mysteries of the Christian faith; and a verbal defect might introduce

into the Latin theology a long train of error or perplexity. But as the western provincials had the good fortune of deriving their religion from an orthodox source, they preserved with steadiness the doctrine which they had accepted with docility; and when the Arian pestilence approached their frontiers, they were supplied with the seasonable

preservative of the Homoousion, by the paternal care of the Roman

pontiff. Their sentiments and their temper were displayed in the

memorable synod of Rimini, which surpassed in numbers the council of

Nice, since it was composed of above four hundred bishops of Italy, africa, Spain, Gaul, Britain, and Illyricum. From the first debates it appeared, that only fourscore prelates adhered to the party, though they affected to anathematize the name and memory, of Arius. But this

inferiority was compensated by the advantages of skill, of experience, and of discipline; and the minority was conducted by Valens and

Ursacius, two bishops of Illyricum, who had spent their lives in the

intrigues of courts and councils, and who had been trained under the eusebian banner in the religious wars of the East. By their arguments and negotiations, they embarrassed, they confounded, they at last deceived, the honest simplicity of the Latin bishops; who suffered the palladium of the faith to be extorted from their hand by fraud and

importunity, rather than by open violence. The council of Rimini was

not allowed to separate, till the members had imprudently subscribed a captious creed, in which some expressions, susceptible of an heretical

sense, were inserted in the room of the Homoousion. It was on this

occasion, that, according to Jerom, the world was surprised to find

itself Arian. But the bishops of the Latin provinces had no sooner

reached their respective dioceses, than they discovered their mistake, and repented of their weakness. The ignominious capitulation was

rejected with disdain and abhorrence; and the Homoousian standard, which

had been shaken but not overthrown, was more firmly replanted in all the churches of the West.

chapter XXI: Persecution Of Heresy, State Of The Church.--Part IV.

Such was the rise and progress, and such were the natural revolutions

of those theological disputes, which disturbed the peace of Christianity

under the reigns of Constantine and of his sons. But as those princes

presumed to extend their despotism over the faith, as well as over the

lives and fortunes, of their subjects, the weight of their suffrage

sometimes inclined the ecclesiastical balance: and the prerogatives of the King of Heaven were settled, or changed, or modified, in the cabinet

of an earthly monarch.

the unhappy spirit of discord which pervaded the provinces of the East,

interrupted the triumph of Constantine; but the emperor continued for

some time to view, with cool and careless indifference, the object of the dispute. As he was yet ignorant of the difficulty of appeasing the

quarrels of theologians, he addressed to the contending parties, to alexander and to Arius, a moderating epistle; which may be ascribed, with far greater reason, to the untutored sense of a soldier and

statesman, than to the dictates of any of his episcopal counsellors. He attributes the origin of the whole controversy to a trifling and

subtle question, concerning an incomprehensible point of law, which was foolishly asked by the bishop, and imprudently resolved by the

presbyter. He laments that the Christian people, who had the same God, the same religion, and the same worship, should be divided by such

inconsiderable distinctions; and he seriously recommend to the clergy

of Alexandria the example of the Greek philosophers; who could maintain their arguments without losing their temper, and assert their freedom without violating their friendship. The indifference and contempt of the sovereign would have been, perhaps, the most effectual method of

silencing the dispute, if the popular current had been less rapid and

impetuous, and if Constantine himself, in the midst of faction and fanaticism, could have preserved the calm possession of his own

mind. But his ecclesiastical ministers soon contrived to seduce the

impartiality of the magistrate, and to awaken the zeal of the proselyte.

He was provoked by the insults which had been offered to his statues;

he was alarmed by the real, as well as the imaginary magnitude of the spreading mischief; and he extinguished the hope of peace and toleration, from the moment that he assembled three hundred bishops within the walls of the same palace. The presence of the monarch swelled the importance of the debate; his attention multiplied the arguments; and he exposed his person with a patient intrepidity, which animated the valor of the combatants. Notwithstanding the applause which has been bestowed on the eloquence and sagacity of Constantine, a Roman general, whose religion might be still a subject of doubt, and whose mind had not been enlightened either by study or by inspiration, was indifferently

qualified to discuss, in the Greek language, a metaphysical question, or an article of faith. But the credit of his favorite Osius, who appears to have presided in the council of Nice, might dispose the emperor in favor of the orthodox party; and a well-timed insinuation, that the

same Eusebius of Nicomedia, who now protected the heretic, had lately assisted the tyrant, might exasperate him against their adversaries. The

Nicene creed was ratified by Constantine; and his firm declaration, that those who resisted the divine judgment of the synod, must prepare themselves for an immediate exile, annihilated the murmurs of a feeble

opposition; which, from seventeen, was almost instantly reduced to two, protesting bishops. Eusebius of Cæsarea yielded a reluctant and ambiguous consent to the Homoousion; and the wavering conduct of the

Nicomedian Eusebius served only to delay, about three months, his disgrace and exile. The impious Arius was banished into one of the

remote provinces of Illyricum; his person and disciples were branded by

law with the odious name of Porphyrians; his writings were condemned to the flames, and a capital punishment was denounced against those in whose possession they should be found. The emperor had now imbibed the

spirit of controversy, and the angry, sarcastic style of his edicts was designed to inspire his subjects with the hatred which he had conceived against the enemies of Christ.

but, as if the conduct of the emperor had been guided by passion instead

of principle, three years from the council of Nice were scarcely elapsed before he discovered some symptoms of mercy, and even of indulgence, towards the proscribed sect, which was secretly protected by his favorite sister. The exiles were recalled, and Eusebius, who gradually

resumed his influence over the mind of Constantine, was restored to the episcopal throne, from which he had been ignominiously degraded. Arius

himself was treated by the whole court with the respect which would have been due to an innocent and oppressed man. His faith was approved by the synod of Jerusalem; and the emperor seemed impatient to repair his

injustice, by issuing an absolute command, that he should be solemnly admitted to the communion in the cathedral of Constantinople. On the

same day, which had been fixed for the triumph of Arius, he expired; and the strange and horrid circumstances of his death might excite a

suspicion, that the orthodox saints had contributed more efficaciously than by their prayers, to deliver the church from the most formidable of

her enemies. The three principal leaders of the Catholics, Athanasius

of Alexandria, Eustathius of Antioch, and Paul of Constantinople were deposed on various f accusations, by the sentence of numerous councils; and were afterwards banished into distant provinces by the first of the christian emperors, who, in the last moments of his life, received the

rites of baptism from the Arian bishop of Nicomedia. The ecclesiastical

government of Constantine cannot be justified from the reproach of

levity and weakness. But the credulous monarch, unskilled in the

stratagems of theological warfare, might be deceived by the modest and specious professions of the heretics, whose sentiments he never

perfectly understood; and while he protected Arius, and persecuted athanasius, he still considered the council of Nice as the bulwark of the Christian faith, and the peculiar glory of his own reign.

the sons of Constantine must have been admitted from their childhood

into the rank of catechumens; but they imitated, in the delay of their baptism, the example of their father. Like him they presumed to

pronounce their judgment on mysteries into which they had never been

regularly initiated; and the fate of the Trinitarian controversy depended, in a great measure, on the sentiments of Constantius; who

inherited the provinces of the East, and acquired the possession of the whole empire. The Arian presbyter or bishop, who had secreted for

his use the testament of the deceased emperor, improved the fortunate

occasion which had introduced him to the familiarity of a prince, whose public counsels were always swayed by his domestic favorites. The eunuchs and slaves diffused the spiritual poison through the palace, and the dangerous infection was communicated by the female attendants to the

guards, and by the empress to her unsuspicious husband. The partiality which Constantius always expressed towards the Eusebian faction, was

insensibly fortified by the dexterous management of their leaders; and

his victory over the tyrant Magnentius increased his inclination, as well as ability, to employ the arms of power in the cause of Arianism. while the two armies were engaged in the plains of Mursa, and the fate

of the two rivals depended on the chance of war, the son of Constantine

passed the anxious moments in a church of the martyrs under the walls

of the city. His spiritual comforter, Valens, the Arian bishop of the diocese, employed the most artful precautions to obtain such early

intelligence as might secure either his favor or his escape. A secret chain of swift and trusty messengers informed him of the vicissitudes

of the battle; and while the courtiers stood trembling round their affrighted master, Valens assured him that the Gallic legions gave way; and insinuated with some presence of mind, that the glorious event had been revealed to him by an angel. The grateful emperor ascribed his

success to the merits and intercession of the bishop of Mursa, whose faith had deserved the public and miraculous approbation of Heaven. the Arians, who considered as their own the victory of Constantius,

preferred his glory to that of his father. Cyril, bishop of Jerusalem,

immediately composed the description of a celestial cross, encircled with a splendid rainbow; which during the festival of Pentecost, about the third hour of the day, had appeared over the Mount of Olives, to the edification of the devout pilgrims, and the people of the holy city. The

size of the meteor was gradually magnified; and the Arian historian has

ventured to affirm, that it was conspicuous to the two armies in the

plains of Pannonia; and that the tyrant, who is purposely represented as an idolater, fled before the auspicious sign of orthodox Christianity.

the sentiments of a judicious stranger, who has impartially considered the progress of civil or ecclesiastical discord, are always entitled to

our notice; and a short passage of Ammianus, who served in the armies, and studied the character of Constantius, is perhaps of more value than

many pages of theological invectives. "The Christian religion, which,

in itself," says that moderate historian, "is plain and simple, he confounded by the dotage of superstition. Instead of reconciling the

parties by the weight of his authority, he cherished and promulgated, by

verbal disputes, the differences which his vain curiosity had excited. the highways were covered with troops of bishops galloping from every

side to the assemblies, which they call synods; and while they labored to reduce the whole sect to their own particular opinions, the public establishment of the posts was almost ruined by their hasty and

repeated journeys." Our more intimate knowledge of the ecclesiastical transactions of the reign of Constantius would furnish an ample commentary on this remarkable passage, which justifies the rational apprehensions of Athanasius, that the restless activity of the clergy, who wandered round the empire in search of the true faith, would excite the contempt and laughter of the unbelieving world. As soon as the emperor was relieved from the terrors of the civil war, he devoted the leisure of his winter quarters at Arles, Milan, Sirmium, and constantinople, to the amusement or toils of controversy: the sword of the magistrate, and even of the tyrant, was unsheathed, to enforce the

reasons of the theologian; and as he opposed the orthodox faith of Nice,

it is readily confessed that his incapacity and ignorance were equal to

his presumption. The eunuchs, the women, and the bishops, who governed the vain and feeble mind of the emperor, had inspired him with an

insuperable dislike to the Homoousion; but his timid conscience was alarmed by the impiety of Ætius. The guilt of that atheist was aggravated by the suspicious favor of the unfortunate Gallus; and even the death of the Imperial ministers, who had been massacred at Antioch, were imputed to the suggestions of that dangerous sophist. The mind of constantius, which could neither be moderated by reason, nor fixed by faith, was blindly impelled to either side of the dark and empty abyss, by his horror of the opposite extreme; he alternately embraced and condemned the sentiments, he successively banished and recalled the

leaders, of the Arian and Semi-Arian factions. During the season of

public business or festivity, he employed whole days, and even nights,

in selecting the words, and weighing the syllables, which composed his fluctuating creeds. The subject of his meditations still pursued and occupied his slumbers: the incoherent dreams of the emperor were

received as celestial visions, and he accepted with complacency the

lofty title of bishop of bishops, from those ecclesiastics who forgot the interest of their order for the gratification of their passions. The design of establishing a uniformity of doctrine, which had engaged

him to convene so many synods in Gaul, Italy, Illyricum, and Asia, was

repeatedly baffled by his own levity, by the divisions of the Arians, and by the resistance of the Catholics; and he resolved, as the last and decisive effort, imperiously to dictate the decrees of a general council. The destructive earthquake of Nicomedia, the difficulty of finding a convenient place, and perhaps some secret motives of policy,

produced an alteration in the summons. The bishops of the East were directed to meet at Seleucia, in Isauria; while those of the West

held their deliberations at Rimini, on the coast of the Hadriatic; and

instead of two or three deputies from each province, the whole episcopal body was ordered to march. The Eastern council, after consuming four days in fierce and unavailing debate, separated without any definitive conclusion. The council of the West was protracted till the seventh

month. Taurus, the Prætorian præfect was instructed not to dismiss the

prelates till they should all be united in the same opinion; and his efforts were supported by the power of banishing fifteen of the most

refractory, and a promise of the consulship if he achieved so difficult an adventure. His prayers and threats, the authority of the sovereign, the sophistry of Valens and Ursacius, the distress of cold and hunger, and the tedious melancholy of a hopeless exile, at length extorted the

reluctant consent of the bishops of Rimini. The deputies of the East and

of the West attended the emperor in the palace of Constantinople, and he enjoyed the satisfaction of imposing on the world a profession of faith which established the likeness, without expressing the consubstantiality, of the Son of God. But the triumph of Arianism

had been preceded by the removal of the orthodox clergy, whom it was impossible either to intimidate or to corrupt; and the reign of constantius was disgraced by the unjust and ineffectual persecution of the great Athanasius.

we have seldom an opportunity of observing, either in active or

speculative life, what effect may be produced, or what obstacles may be

surmounted, by the force of a single mind, when it is inflexibly applied to the pursuit of a single object. The immortal name of Athanasius will

never be separated from the Catholic doctrine of the Trinity, to whose defence he consecrated every moment and every faculty of his being. educated in the family of Alexander, he had vigorously opposed the early

progress of the Arian heresy: he exercised the important functions of

secretary under the aged prelate; and the fathers of the Nicene council beheld with surprise and respect the rising virtues of the young deacon.

In a time of public danger, the dull claims of age and of rank are

sometimes superseded; and within five months after his return from Nice, the deacon Athanasius was seated on the archiepiscopal throne of Egypt.

He filled that eminent station above forty-six years, and his long administration was spent in a perpetual combat against the powers of arianism. Five times was Athanasius expelled from his throne; twenty

years he passed as an exile or a fugitive: and almost every province

of the Roman empire was successively witness to his merit, and his

sufferings in the cause of the Homoousion, which he considered as the

sole pleasure and business, as the duty, and as the glory of his life. amidst the storms of persecution, the archbishop of Alexandria was

patient of labor, jealous of fame, careless of safety; and although his

mind was tainted by the contagion of fanaticism, Athanasius displayed a

superiority of character and abilities, which would have qualified him, far better than the degenerate sons of Constantine, for the government

of a great monarchy. His learning was much less profound and extensive than that of Eusebius of Cæsarea, and his rude eloquence could not be compared with the polished oratory of Gregory of Basil; but whenever the primate of Egypt was called upon to justify his sentiments, or his conduct, his unpremeditated style, either of speaking or writing, was clear, forcible, and persuasive. He has always been revered, in the

orthodox school, as one of the most accurate masters of the Christian theology; and he was supposed to possess two profane sciences, less adapted to the episcopal character, the knowledge of jurisprudence, and that of divination. Some fortunate conjectures of future events, which

impartial reasoners might ascribe to the experience and judgment of athanasius, were attributed by his friends to heavenly inspiration, and

imputed by his enemies to infernal magic.

but as Athanasius was continually engaged with the prejudices and

passions of every order of men, from the monk to the emperor, the

knowledge of human nature was his first and most important science. He

preserved a distinct and unbroken view of a scene which was incessantly

shifting; and never failed to improve those decisive moments which are irrecoverably past before they are perceived by a common eye. The archbishop of Alexandria was capable of distinguishing how far he might boldly command, and where he must dexterously insinuate; how long he

might contend with power, and when he must withdraw from persecution; and while he directed the thunders of the church against heresy and

rebellion, he could assume, in the bosom of his own party, the flexible and indulgent temper of a prudent leader. The election of Athanasius

has not escaped the reproach of irregularity and precipitation; but the

propriety of his behavior conciliated the affections both of the clergy and of the people. The Alexandrians were impatient to rise in arms for the defence of an eloquent and liberal pastor. In his distress he always derived support, or at least consolation, from the faithful attachment

of his parochial clergy; and the hundred bishops of Egypt adhered, with

unshaken zeal, to the cause of Athanasius. In the modest equipage which

pride and policy would affect, he frequently performed the episcopal

visitation of his provinces, from the mouth of the Nile to the confines

of Æthiopia; familiarly conversing with the meanest of the populace, and

humbly saluting the saints and hermits of the desert. Nor was it only

in ecclesiastical assemblies, among men whose education and manners were similar to his own, that Athanasius displayed the ascendancy of his

genius. He appeared with easy and respectful firmness in the courts of

princes; and in the various turns of his prosperous and adverse fortune

he never lost the confidence of his friends, or the esteem of his enemies.

In his youth, the primate of Egypt resisted the great Constantine, who

had repeatedly signified his will, that Arius should be restored to the Catholic communion. The emperor respected, and might forgive, this

inflexible resolution; and the faction who considered Athanasius as their most formidable enemy, was constrained to dissemble their hatred, and silently to prepare an indirect and distant assault. They scattered

rumors and suspicions, represented the archbishop as a proud and

oppressive tyrant, and boldly accused him of violating the treaty which

had been ratified in the Nicene council, with the schismatic followers

of Meletius. Athanasius had openly disapproved that ignominious

peace, and the emperor was disposed to believe that he had abused his ecclesiastical and civil power, to prosecute those odious sectaries: that he had sacrilegiously broken a chalice in one of their churches of

Mareotis; that he had whipped or imprisoned six of their bishops; and that Arsenius, a seventh bishop of the same party, had been murdered,

or at least mutilated, by the cruel hand of the primate. These charges, which affected his honor and his life, were referred by Constantine to

his brother Dalmatius the censor, who resided at Antioch; the synods of cæsarea and Tyre were successively convened; and the bishops of the East were instructed to judge the cause of Athanasius, before they proceeded to consecrate the new church of the Resurrection at Jerusalem. The

primate might be conscious of his innocence; but he was sensible that the same implacable spirit which had dictated the accusation, would direct the proceeding, and pronounce the sentence. He prudently declined the tribunal of his enemies; despised the summons of the synod of cæsarea; and, after a long and artful delay, submitted to the peremptory commands of the emperor, who threatened to punish his criminal disobedience if he refused to appear in the council of Tyre. Before athanasius, at the head of fifty Egyptian prelates, sailed from alexandria, he had wisely secured the alliance of the Meletians; and arsenius himself, his imaginary victim, and his secret friend, was

privately concealed in his train. The synod of Tyre was conducted by eusebius of Cæsarea, with more passion, and with less art, than his

learning and experience might promise; his numerous faction repeated the

names of homicide and tyrant; and their clamors were encouraged by the

seeming patience of Athanasius, who expected the decisive moment to

produce Arsenius alive and unhurt in the midst of the assembly. The

nature of the other charges did not admit of such clear and satisfactory

replies; yet the archbishop was able to prove, that in the village, where he was accused of breaking a consecrated chalice, neither church

nor altar nor chalice could really exist. The Arians, who had secretly determined the guilt and condemnation of their enemy, attempted,

however, to disguise their injustice by the imitation of judicial forms: the synod appointed an episcopal commission of six delegates to collect evidence on the spot; and this measure which was vigorously opposed by the Egyptian bishops, opened new scenes of violence and perjury. After the return of the deputies from Alexandria, the majority of the council

pronounced the final sentence of degradation and exile against the

primate of Egypt. The decree, expressed in the fiercest language of

malice and revenge, was communicated to the emperor and the Catholic church; and the bishops immediately resumed a mild and devout aspect,

such as became their holy pilgrimage to the Sepulchre of Christ.

chapter XXI: Persecution Of Heresy, State Of The Church.--Part V.

but the injustice of these ecclesiastical judges had not been countenanced by the submission, or even by the presence, of Athanasius.

He resolved to make a bold and dangerous experiment, whether the throne was inaccessible to the voice of truth; and before the final sentence could be pronounced at Tyre, the intrepid primate threw himself into a bark which was ready to hoist sail for the Imperial city. The request

of a formal audience might have been opposed or eluded; but Athanasius concealed his arrival, watched the moment of Constantine's return from an adjacent villa, and boldly encountered his angry sovereign as he

passed on horseback through the principal street of Constantinople.

So strange an apparition excited his surprise and indignation; and the

guards were ordered to remove the importunate suitor; but his resentment was subdued by involuntary respect; and the haughty spirit of the emperor was awed by the courage and eloquence of a bishop, who implored

his justice and awakened his conscience. Constantine listened to the complaints of Athanasius with impartial and even gracious attention; the

members of the synod of Tyre were summoned to justify their proceedings; and the arts of the Eusebian faction would have been confounded, if they had not aggravated the guilt of the primate, by the dexterous

supposition of an unpardonable offence; a criminal design to intercept and detain the corn-fleet of Alexandria, which supplied the subsistence

of the new capital. The emperor was satisfied that the peace of Egypt would be secured by the absence of a popular leader; but he refused to fill the vacancy of the archiepiscopal throne; and the sentence, which, after long hesitation, he pronounced, was that of a jealous ostracism,

rather than of an ignominious exile. In the remote province of Gaul, but

in the hospitable court of Treves, Athanasius passed about twenty eight

months. The death of the emperor changed the face of public affairs and, amidst the general indulgence of a young reign, the primate was restored to his country by an honorable edict of the younger Constantine, who expressed a deep sense of the innocence and merit of his venerable

guest.

the death of that prince exposed Athanasius to a second persecution; and the feeble Constantius, the sovereign of the East, soon became the secret accomplice of the Eusebians. Ninety bishops of that sect or faction assembled at Antioch, under the specious pretence of dedicating the cathedral. They composed an ambiguous creed, which is faintly tinged with the colors of Semi-Arianism, and twenty-five canons, which still

regulate the discipline of the orthodox Greeks. It was decided, with

some appearance of equity, that a bishop, deprived by a synod, should

not resume his episcopal functions till he had been absolved by the

judgment of an equal synod; the law was immediately applied to the case

of Athanasius; the council of Antioch pronounced, or rather confirmed,

his degradation: a stranger, named Gregory, was seated on his throne; and Philagrius, the præfect of Egypt, was instructed to support the new

primate with the civil and military powers of the province. Oppressed by the conspiracy of the Asiatic prelates, Athanasius withdrew from alexandria, and passed three years as an exile and a suppliant on the

holy threshold of the Vatican. By the assiduous study of the Latin

language, he soon qualified himself to negotiate with the western clergy; his decent flattery swayed and directed the haughty Julius; the Roman pontiff was persuaded to consider his appeal as the peculiar

interest of the Apostolic see: and his innocence was unanimously declared in a council of fifty bishops of Italy. At the end of three

years, the primate was summoned to the court of Milan by the emperor constans, who, in the indulgence of unlawful pleasures, still professed a lively regard for the orthodox faith. The cause of truth and justice was promoted by the influence of gold, and the ministers of Constans advised their sovereign to require the convocation of an ecclesiastical assembly, which might act as the representatives of the Catholic church.

Ninety-four bishops of the West, seventy-six bishops of the East, encountered each other at Sardica, on the verge of the two empires, but in the dominions of the protector of Athanasius. Their debates soon degenerated into hostile altercations; the Asiatics, apprehensive for their personal safety, retired to Philippopolis in Thrace; and the

rival synods reciprocally hurled their spiritual thunders against their enemies, whom they piously condemned as the enemies of the true God. their decrees were published and ratified in their respective provinces: and Athanasius, who in the West was revered as a saint, was exposed as a criminal to the abhorrence of the East. The council of Sardica reveals the first symptoms of discord and schism between the Greek and Latin churches which were separated by the accidental difference of faith, and the permanent distinction of language.

during his second exile in the West, Athanasius was frequently admitted to the Imperial presence; at Capua, Lodi, Milan, Verona, Padua, aquileia, and Treves. The bishop of the diocese usually assisted at these interviews; the master of the offices stood before the veil or curtain of the sacred apartment; and the uniform moderation of the

primate might be attested by these respectable witnesses, to whose evidence he solemnly appeals. Prudence would undoubtedly suggest the

mild and respectful tone that became a subject and a bishop. In these familiar conferences with the sovereign of the West, Athanasius might

lament the error of Constantius, but he boldly arraigned the guilt of

his eunuchs and his Arian prelates; deplored the distress and danger of the Catholic church; and excited Constans to emulate the zeal and glory

of his father. The emperor declared his resolution of employing the troops and treasures of Europe in the orthodox cause; and signified, by a concise and peremptory epistle to his brother Constantius, that unless

he consented to the immediate restoration of Athanasius, he himself, with a fleet and army, would seat the archbishop on the throne of alexandria. But this religious war, so horrible to nature, was prevented by the timely compliance of Constantius; and the emperor of the East condescended to solicit a reconciliation with a subject whom he had

injured. Athanasius waited with decent pride, till he had received three

successive epistles full of the strongest assurances of the protection, the favor, and the esteem of his sovereign; who invited him to resume

his episcopal seat, and who added the humiliating precaution of engaging

his principal ministers to attest the sincerity of his intentions. They were manifested in a still more public manner, by the strict orders which were despatched into Egypt to recall the adherents of Athanasius, to restore their privileges, to proclaim their innocence, and to erase from the public registers the illegal proceedings which had been

obtained during the prevalence of the Eusebian faction. After every

satisfaction and security had been given, which justice or even delicacy could require, the primate proceeded, by slow journeys, through the

provinces of Thrace, Asia, and Syria; and his progress was marked by the abject homage of the Oriental bishops, who excited his contempt without deceiving his penetration. At Antioch he saw the emperor Constantius;

sustained, with modest firmness, the embraces and protestations of his

master, and eluded the proposal of allowing the Arians a single church at Alexandria, by claiming, in the other cities of the empire, a similar toleration for his own party; a reply which might have appeared just and moderate in the mouth of an independent prince. The entrance of the archbishop into his capital was a triumphal procession; absence and

persecution had endeared him to the Alexandrians; his authority, which

he exercised with rigor, was more firmly established; and his fame was diffused from Æthiopia to Britain, over the whole extent of the christian world.

but the subject who has reduced his prince to the necessity of dissembling, can never expect a sincere and lasting forgiveness; and the tragic fate of Constans soon deprived Athanasius of a powerful and

generous protector. The civil war between the assassin and the only

surviving brother of Constans, which afflicted the empire above three

years, secured an interval of repose to the Catholic church; and the two contending parties were desirous to conciliate the friendship of a bishop, who, by the weight of his personal authority, might determine the fluctuating resolutions of an important province. He gave audience to the ambassadors of the tyrant, with whom he was afterwards accused of

holding a secret correspondence; and the emperor Constantius repeatedly assured his dearest father, the most reverend Athanasius, that,

notwithstanding the malicious rumors which were circulated by their common enemies, he had inherited the sentiments, as well as the throne,

of his deceased brother. Gratitude and humanity would have disposed the

primate of Egypt to deplore the untimely fate of Constans, and to abhor the guilt of Magnentius; but as he clearly understood that the apprehensions of Constantius were his only safeguard, the fervor of his

prayers for the success of the righteous cause might perhaps be somewhat abated. The ruin of Athanasius was no longer contrived by the obscure

malice of a few bigoted or angry bishops, who abused the authority of a credulous monarch. The monarch himself avowed the resolution, which he

had so long suppressed, of avenging his private injuries; and the first winter after his victory, which he passed at Arles, was employed against an enemy more odious to him than the vanquished tyrant of Gaul.

If the emperor had capriciously decreed the death of the most eminent and virtuous citizen of the republic, the cruel order would have been executed without hesitation, by the ministers of open violence or of

specious injustice. The caution, the delay, the difficulty with which

he proceeded in the condemnation and punishment of a popular bishop, discovered to the world that the privileges of the church had already

revived a sense of order and freedom in the Roman government. The

sentence which was pronounced in the synod of Tyre, and subscribed by a large majority of the Eastern bishops, had never been expressly

repealed; and as Athanasius had been once degraded from his episcopal dignity by the judgment of his brethren, every subsequent act might be considered as irregular, and even criminal. But the memory of the firm and effectual support which the primate of Egypt had derived from the attachment of the Western church, engaged Constantius to suspend the execution of the sentence till he had obtained the concurrence of the

Latin bishops. Two years were consumed in ecclesiastical negotiations; and the important cause between the emperor and one of his subjects was

solemnly debated, first in the synod of Arles, and afterwards in the

great council of Milan, which consisted of above three hundred bishops. their integrity was gradually undermined by the arguments of the Arians, the dexterity of the eunuchs, and the pressing solicitations of a prince who gratified his revenge at the expense of his dignity, and exposed his

own passions, whilst he influenced those of the clergy. Corruption, the most infallible symptom of constitutional liberty, was successfully

practised; honors, gifts, and immunities were offered and accepted as the price of an episcopal vote; and the condemnation of the Alexandrian

primate was artfully represented as the only measure which could restore the peace and union of the Catholic church. The friends of Athanasius were not, however, wanting to their leader, or to their cause. With a manly spirit, which the sanctity of their character rendered less dangerous, they maintained, in public debate, and in private conference with the emperor, the eternal obligation of religion and justice. they declared, that neither the hope of his favor, nor the fear of his displeasure, should prevail on them to join in the condemnation of an absent, an innocent, a respectable brother. They affirmed, with apparent

reason, that the illegal and obsolete decrees of the council of Tyre had

long since been tacitly abolished by the Imperial edicts, the honorable

reestablishment of the archbishop of Alexandria, and the silence or

recantation of his most clamorous adversaries. They alleged, that his

innocence had been attested by the unanimous bishops of Egypt, and had been acknowledged in the councils of Rome and Sardica, by the impartial

judgment of the Latin church. They deplored the hard condition of athanasius, who, after enjoying so many years his seat, his reputation, and the seeming confidence of his sovereign, was again called upon to confute the most groundless and extravagant accusations. Their language was specious; their conduct was honorable: but in this long and

obstinate contest, which fixed the eyes of the whole empire on a single bishop, the ecclesiastical factions were prepared to sacrifice truth and justice to the more interesting object of defending or removing the intrepid champion of the Nicene faith. The Arians still thought it

prudent to disguise, in ambiguous language, their real sentiments and designs; but the orthodox bishops, armed with the favor of the people, and the decrees of a general council, insisted on every occasion, and

particularly at Milan, that their adversaries should purge themselves from the suspicion of heresy, before they presumed to arraign the conduct of the great Athanasius.

but the voice of reason (if reason was indeed on the side of Athanasius) was silenced by the clamors of a factious or venal majority; and the councils of Arles and Milan were not dissolved, till the archbishop of alexandria had been solemnly condemned and deposed by the judgment of the Western, as well as of the Eastern, church. The bishops who had

opposed, were required to subscribe, the sentence, and to unite in

religious communion with the suspected leaders of the adverse party. A formulary of consent was transmitted by the messengers of state to the absent bishops: and all those who refused to submit their private

opinion to the public and inspired wisdom of the councils of Arles and

Milan, were immediately banished by the emperor, who affected to execute the decrees of the Catholic church. Among those prelates who led the

honorable band of confessors and exiles, Liberius of Rome, Osius of cordova, Paulinus of Treves, Dionysius of Milan, Eusebius of Vercellæ,

Lucifer of Cagliari and Hilary of Poitiers, may deserve to be

particularly distinguished. The eminent station of Liberius, who

governed the capital of the empire; the personal merit and long experience of the venerable Osius, who was revered as the favorite of the great Constantine, and the father of the Nicene faith, placed those

prelates at the head of the Latin church: and their example, either of

submission or resistance, would probable be imitated by the episcopal crowd. But the repeated attempts of the emperor to seduce or to

intimidate the bishops of Rome and Cordova, were for some time

ineffectual. The Spaniard declared himself ready to suffer under constantius, as he had suffered threescore years before under his

grandfather Maximian. The Roman, in the presence of his sovereign, asserted the innocence of Athanasius and his own freedom. When he was banished to Beræa in Thrace, he sent back a large sum which had been

offered for the accommodation of his journey; and insulted the court of

Milan by the haughty remark, that the emperor and his eunuchs might want that gold to pay their soldiers and their bishops. The resolution of

Liberius and Osius was at length subdued by the hardships of exile and confinement. The Roman pontiff purchased his return by some criminal compliances; and afterwards expiated his guilt by a seasonable

repentance. Persuasion and violence were employed to extort the

reluctant signature of the decrepit bishop of Cordova, whose strength was broken, and whose faculties were perhaps impaired by the weight of a hundred years; and the insolent triumph of the Arians provoked some

of the orthodox party to treat with inhuman severity the character, or

rather the memory, of an unfortunate old man, to whose former services christianity itself was so deeply indebted.

the fall of Liberius and Osius reflected a brighter lustre on the firmness of those bishops who still adhered, with unshaken fidelity, to the cause of Athanasius and religious truth. The ingenious malice

of their enemies had deprived them of the benefit of mutual comfort and advice, separated those illustrious exiles into distant provinces, and carefully selected the most inhospitable spots of a great empire. Yet they soon experienced that the deserts of Libya, and the most barbarous tracts of Cappadocia, were less inhospitable than the residence of those cities in which an Arian bishop could satiate, without restraint, the exquisite rancor of theological hatred. Their consolation was derived from the consciousness of rectitude and independence, from the applause, the visits, the letters, and the liberal alms of their adherents, and from the satisfaction which they soon enjoyed of observing the intestine divisions of the adversaries of the Nicene faith. Such was the nice and capricious taste of the emperor Constantius; and so easily was

he offended by the slightest deviation from his imaginary standard of christian truth, that he persecuted, with equal zeal, those who defended the consubstantiality, those who asserted the similar substance, and those who denied the likeness of the Son of God. Three bishops, degraded and banished for those adverse opinions, might possibly meet in the same

place of exile; and, according to the difference of their temper, might either pity or insult the blind enthusiasm of their antagonists, whose

present sufferings would never be compensated by future happiness.

the disgrace and exile of the orthodox bishops of the West were designed as so many preparatory steps to the ruin of Athanasius himself.

Six-and-twenty months had elapsed, during which the Imperial court

secretly labored, by the most insidious arts, to remove him from alexandria, and to withdraw the allowance which supplied his popular

liberality. But when the primate of Egypt, deserted and proscribed by the Latin church, was left destitute of any foreign support, Constantius despatched two of his secretaries with a verbal commission to announce and execute the order of his banishment. As the justice of the sentence was publicly avowed by the whole party, the only motive which could

restrain Constantius from giving his messengers the sanction of a written mandate, must be imputed to his doubt of the event; and to a

sense of the danger to which he might expose the second city, and the

most fertile province, of the empire, if the people should persist in the resolution of defending, by force of arms, the innocence of their

spiritual father. Such extreme caution afforded Athanasius a specious

pretence respectfully to dispute the truth of an order, which he could

not reconcile, either with the equity, or with the former declarations,

of his gracious master. The civil powers of Egypt found themselves

inadequate to the task of persuading or compelling the primate to abdicate his episcopal throne; and they were obliged to conclude a treaty with the popular leaders of Alexandria, by which it was

stipulated, that all proceedings and all hostilities should be suspended till the emperor's pleasure had been more distinctly ascertained. By this seeming moderation, the Catholics were deceived into a false and fatal security; while the legions of the Upper Egypt, and of Libya, advanced, by secret orders and hasty marches, to besiege, or rather to

surprise, a capital habituated to sedition, and inflamed by religious

zeal. The position of Alexandria, between the sea and the Lake Mareotis, facilitated the approach and landing of the troops; who were introduced

into the heart of the city, before any effectual measures could be taken either to shut the gates or to occupy the important posts of defence. at the hour of midnight, twenty-three days after the signature of the treaty, Syrianus, duke of Egypt, at the head of five thousand soldiers, armed and prepared for an assault, unexpectedly invested the church of

St. Theonas, where the archbishop, with a part of his clergy and people,

performed their nocturnal devotions. The doors of the sacred edifice

yielded to the impetuosity of the attack, which was accompanied with every horrid circumstance of tumult and bloodshed; but, as the bodies of the slain, and the fragments of military weapons, remained the next day an unexceptionable evidence in the possession of the Catholics, the enterprise of Syrianus may be considered as a successful irruption

rather than as an absolute conquest. The other churches of the city were profaned by similar outrages; and, during at least four months, alexandria was exposed to the insults of a licentious army, stimulated by the ecclesiastics of a hostile faction. Many of the faithful were

killed; who may deserve the name of martyrs, if their deaths were

neither provoked nor revenged; bishops and presbyters were treated with cruel ignominy; consecrated virgins were stripped naked, scourged and

violated; the houses of wealthy citizens were plundered; and, under the mask of religious zeal, lust, avarice, and private resentment were gratified with impunity, and even with applause. The Pagans of alexandria, who still formed a numerous and discontented party, were easily persuaded to desert a bishop whom they feared and esteemed. The

hopes of some peculiar favors, and the apprehension of being involved

in the general penalties of rebellion, engaged them to promise their

support to the destined successor of Athanasius, the famous George of cappadocia. The usurper, after receiving the consecration of an Arian

synod, was placed on the episcopal throne by the arms of Sebastian, who

had been appointed Count of Egypt for the execution of that important design. In the use, as well as in the acquisition, of power, the tyrant,

George disregarded the laws of religion, of justice, and of humanity; and the same scenes of violence and scandal which had been exhibited

in the capital, were repeated in more than ninety episcopal cities

of Egypt. Encouraged by success, Constantius ventured to approve the conduct of his minister. By a public and passionate epistle, the emperor congratulates the deliverance of Alexandria from a popular tyrant, who deluded his blind votaries by the magic of his eloquence; expatiates on the virtues and piety of the most reverend George, the elected bishop; and aspires, as the patron and benefactor of the city to surpass the fame of Alexander himself. But he solemnly declares his unalterable

resolution to pursue with fire and sword the seditious adherents of the wicked Athanasius, who, by flying from justice, has confessed his guilt, and escaped the ignominious death which he had so often deserved.

chapter XXI: Persecution Of Heresy, State Of The Church.--Part VI.

athanasius had indeed escaped from the most imminent dangers; and the adventures of that extraordinary man deserve and fix our attention. On the memorable night when the church of St. Theonas was invested by the troops of Syrianus, the archbishop, seated on his throne, expected, with calm and intrepid dignity, the approach of death. While the public devotion was interrupted by shouts of rage and cries of terror,

he animated his trembling congregation to express their religious confidence, by chanting one of the psalms of David which celebrates the triumph of the God of Isræl over the haughty and impious tyrant

of Egypt. The doors were at length burst open: a cloud of arrows was discharged among the people; the soldiers, with drawn swords, rushed forwards into the sanctuary; and the dreadful gleam of their arms was

reflected by the holy luminaries which burnt round the altar. Athanasius

still rejected the pious importunity of the monks and presbyters, who were attached to his person; and nobly refused to desert his episcopal

station, till he had dismissed in safety the last of the congregation. the darkness and tumult of the night favored the retreat of the archbishop; and though he was oppressed by the waves of an agitated

multitude, though he was thrown to the ground, and left without sense or

motion, he still recovered his undaunted courage, and eluded the eager

search of the soldiers, who were instructed by their Arian guides, that the head of Athanasius would be the most acceptable present to the emperor. From that moment the primate of Egypt disappeared from the eyes

of his enemies, and remained above six years concealed in impenetrable

obscurity.

the despotic power of his implacable enemy filled the whole extent of the Roman world; and the exasperated monarch had endeavored, by a very

pressing epistle to the Christian princes of Ethiopia, \* to exclude athanasius from the most remote and sequestered regions of the earth. counts, præfects, tribunes, whole armies, were successively employed to

pursue a bishop and a fugitive; the vigilance of the civil and military

powers was excited by the Imperial edicts; liberal rewards were promised to the man who should produce Athanasius, either alive or dead; and the

most severe penalties were denounced against those who should dare to

protect the public enemy. But the deserts of Thebais were now peopled by a race of wild, yet submissive fanatics, who preferred the commands of their abbot to the laws of their sovereign. The numerous disciples of antony and Pachomius received the fugitive primate as their father, admired the patience and humility with which he conformed to their

strictest institutions, collected every word which dropped from his lips as the genuine effusions of inspired wisdom; and persuaded themselves that their prayers, their fasts, and their vigils, were less meritorious than the zeal which they expressed, and the dangers which they braved,

in the defence of truth and innocence. The monasteries of Egypt were

seated in lonely and desolate places, on the summit of mountains, or in the islands of the Nile; and the sacred horn or trumpet of Tabenne was the well-known signal which assembled several thousand robust and determined monks, who, for the most part, had been the peasants of the adjacent country. When their dark retreats were invaded by a military force, which it was impossible to resist, they silently stretched out their necks to the executioner; and supported their national character, that tortures could never wrest from an Egyptian the confession of a secret which he was resolved not to disclose. The archbishop of alexandria, for whose safety they eagerly devoted their lives, was

lost among a uniform and well-disciplined multitude; and on the nearer approach of danger, he was swiftly removed, by their officious hands, from one place of concealment to another, till he reached the formidable deserts, which the gloomy and credulous temper of superstition had

peopled with dæmons and savage monsters. The retirement of Athanasius, which ended only with the life of Constantius, was spent, for the most

part, in the society of the monks, who faithfully served him as guards, as secretaries, and as messengers; but the importance of maintaining a

more intimate connection with the Catholic party tempted him, whenever the diligence of the pursuit was abated, to emerge from the desert, to introduce himself into Alexandria, and to trust his person to the discretion of his friends and adherents. His various adventures might

have furnished the subject of a very entertaining romance. He was once

secreted in a dry cistern, which he had scarcely left before he was betrayed by the treachery of a female slave; and he was once concealed

in a still more extraordinary asylum, the house of a virgin, only twenty

years of age, and who was celebrated in the whole city for her exquisite beauty. At the hour of midnight, as she related the story many years afterwards, she was surprised by the appearance of the archbishop in a

loose undress, who, advancing with hasty steps, conjured her to afford

him the protection which he had been directed by a celestial vision to

seek under her hospitable roof. The pious maid accepted and preserved the sacred pledge which was intrusted to her prudence and courage. without imparting the secret to any one, she instantly conducted athanasius into her most secret chamber, and watched over his safety with the tenderness of a friend and the assiduity of a servant. As

long as the danger continued, she regularly supplied him with books and

provisions, washed his feet, managed his correspondence, and dexterously concealed from the eye of suspicion this familiar and solitary

intercourse between a saint whose character required the most

unblemished chastity, and a female whose charms might excite the most dangerous emotions. During the six years of persecution and exile, athanasius repeated his visits to his fair and faithful companion; and the formal declaration, that he saw the councils of Rimini and Seleucia, forces us to believe that he was secretly present at the time and place

of their convocation. The advantage of personally negotiating with his friends, and of observing and improving the divisions of his enemies,

might justify, in a prudent statesman, so bold and dangerous an enterprise: and Alexandria was connected by trade and navigation with every seaport of the Mediterranean. From the depth of his inaccessible

retreat the intrepid primate waged an incessant and offensive war against the protector of the Arians; and his seasonable writings, which were diligently circulated and eagerly perused, contributed to unite and animate the orthodox party. In his public apologies, which he addressed to the emperor himself, he sometimes affected the praise of moderation; whilst at the same time, in secret and vehement invectives, he exposed constantius as a weak and wicked prince, the executioner of his family, the tyrant of the republic, and the Antichrist of the church. In the

height of his prosperity, the victorious monarch, who had chastised the

rashness of Gallus, and suppressed the revolt of Sylvanus, who had taken the diadem from the head of Vetranio, and vanquished in the field the

legions of Magnentius, received from an invisible hand a wound, which he could neither heal nor revenge; and the son of Constantine was the first of the Christian princes who experienced the strength of those

principles, which, in the cause of religion, could resist the most

violent exertions of the civil power.

the persecution of Athanasius, and of so many respectable bishops, who

suffered for the truth of their opinions, or at least for the integrity

of their conscience, was a just subject of indignation and discontent to all Christians, except those who were blindly devoted to the Arian faction. The people regretted the loss of their faithful pastors, whose banishment was usually followed by the intrusion of a stranger into the episcopal chair; and loudly complained, that the right of election was

violated, and that they were condemned to obey a mercenary usurper, whose person was unknown, and whose principles were suspected. The catholics might prove to the world, that they were not involved in the guilt and heresy of their ecclesiastical governor, by publicly testifying their dissent, or by totally separating themselves from

his communion. The first of these methods was invented at Antioch, and practised with such success, that it was soon diffused over the christian world. The doxology or sacred hymn, which celebrates the glory

of the Trinity, is susceptible of very nice, but material, inflections; and the substance of an orthodox, or an heretical, creed, may be expressed by the difference of a disjunctive, or a copulative, particle. alternate responses, and a more regular psalmody, were introduced into the public service by Flavianus and Diodorus, two devout and active

laymen, who were attached to the Nicene faith. Under their conduct a swarm of monks issued from the adjacent desert, bands of well-disciplined singers were stationed in the cathedral of Antioch, the

Glory to the Father, And the Son, And the Holy Ghost, was triumphantly chanted by a full chorus of voices; and the Catholics insulted, by the

purity of their doctrine, the Arian prelate, who had usurped the throne

of the venerable Eustathius. The same zeal which inspired their songs

prompted the more scrupulous members of the orthodox party to form

separate assemblies, which were governed by the presbyters, till the death of their exiled bishop allowed the election and consecration of a

new episcopal pastor. The revolutions of the court multiplied the number

of pretenders; and the same city was often disputed, under the reign

of Constantius, by two, or three, or even four, bishops, who exercised their spiritual jurisdiction over their respective followers, and alternately lost and regained the temporal possessions of the church. the abuse of Christianity introduced into the Roman government new causes of tyranny and sedition; the bands of civil society were torn asunder by the fury of religious factions; and the obscure citizen, who might calmly have surveyed the elevation and fall of successive emperors, imagined and experienced, that his own life and fortune were connected with the interests of a popular ecclesiastic. The example of the two capitals, Rome and Constantinople, may serve to represent the

state of the empire, and the temper of mankind, under the reign of the

sons of Constantine.

I. The Roman pontiff, as long as he maintained his station and his

principles, was guarded by the warm attachment of a great people; and could reject with scorn the prayers, the menaces, and the oblations of an heretical prince. When the eunuchs had secretly pronounced the exile

of Liberius, the well-grounded apprehension of a tumult engaged them to

use the utmost precautions in the execution of the sentence. The capital was invested on every side, and the præfect was commanded to seize the

person of the bishop, either by stratagem or by open force. The order was obeyed, and Liberius, with the greatest difficulty, at the hour of

midnight, was swiftly conveyed beyond the reach of the Roman people, before their consternation was turned into rage. As soon as they were

informed of his banishment into Thrace, a general assembly was convened, and the clergy of Rome bound themselves, by a public and solemn oath,

never to desert their bishop, never to acknowledge the usurper Fælix; who, by the influence of the eunuchs, had been irregularly chosen and consecrated within the walls of a profane palace. At the end of two

years, their pious obstinacy subsisted entire and unshaken; and when Constantius visited Rome, he was assailed by the importunate

solicitations of a people, who had preserved, as the last remnant

of their ancient freedom, the right of treating their sovereign with familiar insolence. The wives of many of the senators and most honorable citizens, after pressing their husbands to intercede in favor of

Liberius, were advised to undertake a commission, which in their hands would be less dangerous, and might prove more successful. The emperor

received with politeness these female deputies, whose wealth and dignity were displayed in the magnificence of their dress and ornaments: he admired their inflexible resolution of following their beloved pastor to the most distant regions of the earth; and consented that the two bishops, Liberius and Fælix, should govern in peace their respective congregations. But the ideas of toleration were so repugnant to the

practice, and even to the sentiments, of those times, that when the answer of Constantius was publicly read in the Circus of Rome, so

reasonable a project of accommodation was rejected with contempt and

ridicule. The eager vehemence which animated the spectators in the decisive moment of a horse-race, was now directed towards a different

object; and the Circus resounded with the shout of thousands, who

repeatedly exclaimed, "One God, One Christ, One Bishop!" The zeal of the

Roman people in the cause of Liberius was not confined to words alone; and the dangerous and bloody sedition which they excited soon after the departure of Constantius determined that prince to accept the submission

of the exiled prelate, and to restore him to the undivided dominion of the capital. After some ineffectual resistance, his rival was expelled from the city by the permission of the emperor and the power of the

opposite faction; the adherents of Fælix were inhumanly murdered in the

streets, in the public places, in the baths, and even in the churches; and the face of Rome, upon the return of a Christian bishop, renewed the

horrid image of the massacres of Marius, and the proscriptions of Sylla.

II. Notwithstanding the rapid increase of Christians under the reign of the Flavian family, Rome, Alexandria, and the other great cities of the empire, still contained a strong and powerful faction of Infidels, who envied the prosperity, and who ridiculed, even in their theatres, the theological disputes of the church. Constantinople alone enjoyed the advantage of being born and educated in the bosom of the faith. The capital of the East had never been polluted by the worship of idols; and the whole body of the people had deeply imbibed the opinions, the

virtues, and the passions, which distinguished the Christians of that age from the rest of mankind. After the death of Alexander, the episcopal throne was disputed by Paul and Macedonius. By their zeal and abilities they both deserved the eminent station to which they aspired; and if the moral character of Macedonius was less exceptionable, his competitor had the advantage of a prior election and a more orthodox doctrine. His firm attachment to the Nicene creed, which has given Paul a place in the calendar among saints and martyrs, exposed him to the

resentment of the Arians. In the space of fourteen years he was five times driven from his throne; to which he was more frequently restored by the violence of the people, than by the permission of the prince; and the power of Macedonius could be secured only by the death of his rival. the unfortunate Paul was dragged in chains from the sandy deserts of

Mesopotamia to the most desolate places of Mount Taurus, confined in a dark and narrow dungeon, left six days without food, and at length

strangled, by the order of Philip, one of the principal ministers of the emperor Constantius. The first blood which stained the new capital was

spilt in this ecclesiastical contest; and many persons were slain on both sides, in the furious and obstinate seditions of the people. The commission of enforcing a sentence of banishment against Paul had been

intrusted to Hermogenes, the master-general of the cavalry; but the execution of it was fatal to himself. The Catholics rose in the defence

of their bishop; the palace of Hermogenes was consumed; the first

military officer of the empire was dragged by the heels through the

streets of Constantinople, and, after he expired, his lifeless corpse was exposed to their wanton insults. The fate of Hermogenes instructed

Philip, the Prætorian præfect, to act with more precaution on a similar

occasion. In the most gentle and honorable terms, he required the attendance of Paul in the baths of Zeuxippus, which had a private communication with the palace and the sea. A vessel, which lay ready at the garden stairs, immediately hoisted sail; and, while the people were

still ignorant of the meditated sacrilege, their bishop was already embarked on his voyage to Thessalonica. They soon beheld, with surprise and indignation, the gates of the palace thrown open, and the usurper

Macedonius seated by the side of the præfect on a lofty chariot, which was surrounded by troops of guards with drawn swords. The military

procession advanced towards the cathedral; the Arians and the Catholics eagerly rushed to occupy that important post; and three thousand one

hundred and fifty persons lost their lives in the confusion of the tumult. Macedonius, who was supported by a regular force, obtained a decisive victory; but his reign was disturbed by clamor and sedition; and the causes which appeared the least connected with the subject of dispute, were sufficient to nourish and to kindle the flame of civil discord. As the chapel in which the body of the great Constantine had been deposited was in a ruinous condition, the bishop transported those

venerable remains into the church of St. Acacius. This prudent and even

pious measure was represented as a wicked profanation by the whole party which adhered to the Homoousian doctrine. The factions immediately flew to arms, the consecrated ground was used as their field of battle; and

one of the ecclesiastical historians has observed, as a real fact, not as a figure of rhetoric, that the well before the church overflowed with a stream of blood, which filled the porticos and the adjacent courts. the writer who should impute these tumults solely to a religious

principle, would betray a very imperfect knowledge of human nature; yet

it must be confessed that the motive which misled the sincerity of

zeal, and the pretence which disguised the licentiousness of passion,

suppressed the remorse which, in another cause, would have succeeded to the rage of the Christians at Constantinople.

chapter XXI: Persecution Of Heresy, State Of The Church.--Part VII.

the cruel and arbitrary disposition of Constantius, which did not always

require the provocations of guilt and resistance, was justly exasperated by the tumults of his capital, and the criminal behavior of a faction, which opposed the authority and religion of their sovereign. The

ordinary punishments of death, exile, and confiscation, were inflicted with partial vigor; and the Greeks still revere the holy memory of two clerks, a reader, and a sub-deacon, who were accused of the murder of

Hermogenes, and beheaded at the gates of Constantinople. By an edict of constantius against the Catholics which has not been judged worthy of a

place in the Theodosian code, those who refused to communicate with the arian bishops, and particularly with Macedonius, were deprived of the

immunities of ecclesiastics, and of the rights of Christians; they were compelled to relinquish the possession of the churches; and were

strictly prohibited from holding their assemblies within the walls of the city. The execution of this unjust law, in the provinces of Thrace and Asia Minor, was committed to the zeal of Macedonius; the civil and

military powers were directed to obey his commands; and the cruelties exercised by this Semi-Arian tyrant in the support of the Homoiousion, exceeded the commission, and disgraced the reign, of Constantius. The

sacraments of the church were administered to the reluctant victims, who denied the vocation, and abhorred the principles, of Macedonius. the rites of baptism were conferred on women and children, who, for that

purpose, had been torn from the arms of their friends and parents; the

mouths of the communicants were held open by a wooden engine, while the consecrated bread was forced down their throat; the breasts of tender

virgins were either burnt with red-hot egg-shells, or inhumanly compressed between sharp and heavy boards. The Novatians of constantinople and the adjacent country, by their firm attachment to the Homoousian standard, deserved to be confounded with the Catholics themselves. Macedonius was informed, that a large district of

Paphlagonia was almost entirely inhabited by those sectaries. He

resolved either to convert or to extirpate them; and as he distrusted,

on this occasion, the efficacy of an ecclesiastical mission, he commanded a body of four thousand legionaries to march against the

rebels, and to reduce the territory of Mantinium under his spiritual dominion. The Novatian peasants, animated by despair and religious fury, boldly encountered the invaders of their country; and though many of the Paphlagonians were slain, the Roman legions were vanquished by an

irregular multitude, armed only with scythes and axes; and, except a few who escaped by an ignominious flight, four thousand soldiers were left dead on the field of battle. The successor of Constantius has expressed,

in a concise but lively manner, some of the theological calamities which afflicted the empire, and more especially the East, in the reign of a prince who was the slave of his own passions, and of those of his eunuchs: "Many were imprisoned, and persecuted, and driven into exile. Whole troops of those who are styled heretics, were massacred,

particularly at Cyzicus, and at Samosata. In Paphlagonia, Bithynia,

Galatia, and in many other provinces, towns and villages were laid waste, and utterly destroyed."

while the flames of the Arian controversy consumed the vitals of the empire, the African provinces were infested by their peculiar enemies, the savage fanatics, who, under the name of Circumcellions, formed the

strength and scandal of the Donatist party. The severe execution of the

laws of Constantine had excited a spirit of discontent and resistance, the strenuous efforts of his son Constans, to restore the unity of the church, exasperated the sentiments of mutual hatred, which had first

occasioned the separation; and the methods of force and corruption employed by the two Imperial commissioners, Paul and Macarius, furnished the schismatics with a specious contrast between the maxims of the apostles and the conduct of their pretended successors. The peasants who

inhabited the villages of Numidia and Mauritania, were a ferocious race, who had been imperfectly reduced under the authority of the Roman laws; who were imperfectly converted to the Christian faith; but who were actuated by a blind and furious enthusiasm in the cause of their donatist teachers. They indignantly supported the exile of their bishops, the demolition of their churches, and the interruption of their

secret assemblies. The violence of the officers of justice, who were

usually sustained by a military guard, was sometimes repelled with equal

violence; and the blood of some popular ecclesiastics, which had been

shed in the quarrel, inflamed their rude followers with an eager desire

of revenging the death of these holy martyrs. By their own cruelty and

rashness, the ministers of persecution sometimes provoked their fate; and the guilt of an accidental tumult precipitated the criminals into despair and rebellion. Driven from their native villages, the Donatist

peasants assembled in formidable gangs on the edge of the Getulian desert; and readily exchanged the habits of labor for a life of idleness and rapine, which was consecrated by the name of religion, and faintly condemned by the doctors of the sect. The leaders of the Circumcellions assumed the title of captains of the saints; their principal weapon, as they were indifferently provided with swords and spears, was a huge and weighty club, which they termed an Israelite; and the well-known sound

of "Praise be to God," which they used as their cry of war, diffused consternation over the unarmed provinces of Africa. At first their depredations were colored by the plea of necessity; but they soon exceeded the measure of subsistence, indulged without control their

intemperance and avarice, burnt the villages which they had pillaged, and reigned the licentious tyrants of the open country. The occupations

of husbandry, and the administration of justice, were interrupted; and as the Circumcellions pretended to restore the primitive equality of

mankind, and to reform the abuses of civil society, they opened a secure asylum for the slaves and debtors, who flocked in crowds to their holy

standard. When they were not resisted, they usually contented themselves with plunder, but the slightest opposition provoked them to acts of

violence and murder; and some Catholic priests, who had imprudently

signalized their zeal, were tortured by the fanatics with the most

refined and wanton barbarity. The spirit of the Circumcellions was not always exerted against their defenceless enemies; they engaged, and

sometimes defeated, the troops of the province; and in the bloody action

of Bagai, they attacked in the open field, but with unsuccessful valor, an advanced guard of the Imperial cavalry. The Donatists who were taken

in arms, received, and they soon deserved, the same treatment which

might have been shown to the wild beasts of the desert. The captives died, without a murmur, either by the sword, the axe, or the fire; and the measures of retaliation were multiplied in a rapid proportion, which aggravated the horrors of rebellion, and excluded the hope of mutual forgiveness. In the beginning of the present century, the example of the circumcellions has been renewed in the persecution, the boldness, the crimes, and the enthusiasm of the Camisards; and if the fanatics of

Languedoc surpassed those of Numidia, by their military achievements, the Africans maintained their fierce independence with more resolution and perseverance.

Such disorders are the natural effects of religious tyranny, but the

rage of the Donatists was inflamed by a frenzy of a very extraordinary

kind; and which, if it really prevailed among them in so extravagant a degree, cannot surely be paralleled in any country or in any age. Many

of these fanatics were possessed with the horror of life, and the desire

of martyrdom; and they deemed it of little moment by what means, or by what hands, they perished, if their conduct was sanctified by the

intention of devoting themselves to the glory of the true faith, and the hope of eternal happiness. Sometimes they rudely disturbed the festivals, and profaned the temples of Paganism, with the design of exciting the most zealous of the idolaters to revenge the insulted

honor of their gods. They sometimes forced their way into the courts

of justice, and compelled the affrighted judge to give orders for their

immediate execution. They frequently stopped travellers on the public

highways, and obliged them to inflict the stroke of martyrdom, by the

promise of a reward, if they consented, and by the threat of instant death, if they refused to grant so very singular a favor. When they were disappointed of every other resource, they announced the day on which, in the presence of their friends and brethren, they should east themselves headlong from some lofty rock; and many precipices were

shown, which had acquired fame by the number of religious suicides.

In the actions of these desperate enthusiasts, who were admired by one

party as the martyrs of God, and abhorred by the other as the victims of

Satan, an impartial philosopher may discover the influence and the last abuse of that inflexible spirit which was originally derived from the character and principles of the Jewish nation.

the simple narrative of the intestine divisions, which distracted the

peace, and dishonored the triumph, of the church, will confirm the

remark of a Pagan historian, and justify the complaint of a venerable bishop. The experience of Ammianus had convinced him, that the enmity of the Christians towards each other, surpassed the fury of savage beasts against man; and Gregory Nazianzen most pathetically laments, that the

kingdom of heaven was converted, by discord, into the image of chaos, of a nocturnal tempest, and of hell itself. The fierce and partial writers

of the times, ascribing all virtue to themselves, and imputing all guilt to their adversaries, have painted the battle of the angels and dæmons.

Our calmer reason will reject such pure and perfect monsters of vice

or sanctity, and will impute an equal, or at least an indiscriminate,

measure of good and evil to the hostile sectaries, who assumed and bestowed the appellations of orthodox and heretics. They had been educated in the same religion and the same civil society. Their hopes and fears in the present, or in a future life, were balanced in the

same proportion. On either side, the error might be innocent, the faith sincere, the practice meritorious or corrupt. Their passions were excited by similar objects; and they might alternately abuse the favor of the court, or of the people. The metaphysical opinions of the athanasians and the Arians could not influence their moral character; and they were alike actuated by the intolerant spirit which has been extracted from the pure and simple maxims of the gospel.

a modern writer, who, with a just confidence, has prefixed to his own

history the honorable epithets of political and philosophical, accuses the timid prudence of Montesquieu, for neglecting to enumerate, among the causes of the decline of the empire, a law of Constantine, by which the exercise of the Pagan worship was absolutely suppressed, and a considerable part of his subjects was left destitute of priests,

of temples, and of any public religion. The zeal of the philosophic

historian for the rights of mankind, has induced him to acquiesce in the ambiguous testimony of those ecclesiastics, who have too lightly ascribed to their favorite hero the merit of a general persecution.

Instead of alleging this imaginary law, which would have blazed in the front of the Imperial codes, we may safely appeal to the original epistle, which Constantine addressed to the followers of the ancient

religion; at a time when he no longer disguised his conversion, nor dreaded the rivals of his throne. He invites and exhorts, in the most

pressing terms, the subjects of the Roman empire to imitate the example

of their master; but he declares, that those who still refuse to open their eyes to the celestial light, may freely enjoy their temples and their fancied gods. A report, that the ceremonies of paganism were

suppressed, is formally contradicted by the emperor himself, who wisely assigns, as the principle of his moderation, the invincible force of

habit, of prejudice, and of superstition. Without violating the sanctity

of his promise, without alarming the fears of the Pagans, the artful

monarch advanced, by slow and cautious steps, to undermine the irregular and decayed fabric of polytheism. The partial acts of severity which

he occasionally exercised, though they were secretly promoted by a christian zeal, were colored by the fairest pretences of justice and the

public good; and while Constantine designed to ruin the foundations, he

seemed to reform the abuses, of the ancient religion. After the example

of the wisest of his predecessors, he condemned, under the most rigorous

penalties, the occult and impious arts of divination; which excited the vain hopes, and sometimes the criminal attempts, of those who were discontented with their present condition. An ignominious silence was

imposed on the oracles, which had been publicly convicted of fraud and falsehood; the effeminate priests of the Nile were abolished; and constantine discharged the duties of a Roman censor, when he gave orders for the demolition of several temples of Phnicia; in which every mode of

prostitution was devoutly practised in the face of day, and to the honor

of Venus. The Imperial city of Constantinople was, in some measure,

raised at the expense, and was adorned with the spoils, of the opulent temples of Greece and Asia; the sacred property was confiscated; the

statues of gods and heroes were transported, with rude familiarity, among a people who considered them as objects, not of adoration, but

of curiosity; the gold and silver were restored to circulation; and the magistrates, the bishops, and the eunuchs, improved the fortunate

occasion of gratifying, at once, their zeal, their avarice, and their

resentment. But these depredations were confined to a small part of the

Roman world; and the provinces had been long since accustomed to endure the same sacrilegious rapine, from the tyranny of princes and

proconsuls, who could not be suspected of any design to subvert the established religion.

the sons of Constantine trod in the footsteps of their father, with more

zeal, and with less discretion. The pretences of rapine and oppression were insensibly multiplied; every indulgence was shown to the

illegal behavior of the Christians; every doubt was explained to the disadvantage of Paganism; and the demolition of the temples was celebrated as one of the auspicious events of the reign of Constans and constantius. The name of Constantius is prefixed to a concise law, which

might have superseded the necessity of any future prohibitions. "It

is our pleasure, that in all places, and in all cities, the temples be

immediately shut, and carefully guarded, that none may have the power

of offending. It is likewise our pleasure, that all our subjects should abstain from sacrifices. If any one should be guilty of such an act,

let him feel the sword of vengeance, and after his execution, let

his property be confiscated to the public use. We denounce the same

penalties against the governors of the provinces, if they neglect to

punish the criminals." But there is the strongest reason to believe, that this formidable edict was either composed without being published,

or was published without being executed. The evidence of facts, and the

monuments which are still extant of brass and marble, continue to prove the public exercise of the Pagan worship during the whole reign of the

sons of Constantine. In the East, as well as in the West, in cities, as well as in the country, a great number of temples were respected, or at

least were spared; and the devout multitude still enjoyed the luxury of

sacrifices, of festivals, and of processions, by the permission, or by the connivance, of the civil government. About four years after the

supposed date of this bloody edict, Constantius visited the temples of

Rome; and the decency of his behavior is recommended by a pagan orator as an example worthy of the imitation of succeeding princes. "That emperor," says Symmachus, "suffered the privileges of the vestal virgins to remain inviolate; he bestowed the sacerdotal dignities on the nobles

of Rome, granted the customary allowance to defray the expenses of the

public rites and sacrifices; and, though he had embraced a different

religion, he never attempted to deprive the empire of the sacred worship

of antiquity." The senate still presumed to consecrate, by solemn decrees, the divine memory of their sovereigns; and Constantine himself was associated, after his death, to those gods whom he had renounced and

insulted during his life. The title, the ensigns, the prerogatives, of

sovereign pontiff, which had been instituted by Numa, and assumed by Augustus, were accepted, without hesitation, by seven Christian emperors; who were invested with a more absolute authority over the

religion which they had deserted, than over that which they professed.

the divisions of Christianity suspended the ruin of Paganism; and the

holy war against the infidels was less vigorously prosecuted by princes and bishops, who were more immediately alarmed by the guilt and danger

of domestic rebellion. The extirpation of idolatry might have been

justified by the established principles of intolerance: but the hostile

sects, which alternately reigned in the Imperial court were mutually apprehensive of alienating, and perhaps exasperating, the minds of a powerful, though declining faction. Every motive of authority and fashion, of interest and reason, now militated on the side of christianity; but two or three generations elapsed, before their

victorious influence was universally felt. The religion which had

so long and so lately been established in the Roman empire was still

revered by a numerous people, less attached indeed to speculative

opinion, than to ancient custom. The honors of the state and army were indifferently bestowed on all the subjects of Constantine and constantius; and a considerable portion of knowledge and wealth and

valor was still engaged in the service of polytheism. The superstition

of the senator and of the peasant, of the poet and the philosopher, was derived from very different causes, but they met with equal devotion

in the temples of the gods. Their zeal was insensibly provoked by the

insulting triumph of a proscribed sect; and their hopes were revived by the well-grounded confidence, that the presumptive heir of the empire, a young and valiant hero, who had delivered Gaul from the arms of the barbarians, had secretly embraced the religion of his ancestors.

chapter XXII: Julian Declared Emperor.--Part I Julian Is Declared emperor By The Legions Of Gaul.--His March And Success.--The Death Of constantius.--Civil Administration Of Julian.

while the Romans languished under the ignominious tyranny of eunuchs and bishops, the praises of Julian were repeated with transport in every

part of the empire, except in the palace of Constantius. The barbarians

of Germany had felt, and still dreaded, the arms of the young Cæsar; his

soldiers were the companions of his victory; the grateful provincials enjoyed the blessings of his reign; but the favorites, who had opposed

his elevation, were offended by his virtues; and they justly considered the friend of the people as the enemy of the court. As long as the fame

of Julian was doubtful, the buffoons of the palace, who were skilled in the language of satire, tried the efficacy of those arts which they

had so often practised with success. They easily discovered, that his

simplicity was not exempt from affectation: the ridiculous epithets of a hairy savage, of an ape invested with the purple, were applied to the dress and person of the philosophic warrior; and his modest despatches were stigmatized as the vain and elaborate fictions of a loquacious

Greek, a speculative soldier, who had studied the art of war amidst the groves of the academy. The voice of malicious folly was at length

silenced by the shouts of victory; the conqueror of the Franks and alemanni could no longer be painted as an object of contempt; and the

monarch himself was meanly ambitious of stealing from his lieutenant the honorable reward of his labors. In the letters crowned with laurel, which, according to ancient custom, were addressed to the provinces, the

name of Julian was omitted. "Constantius had made his dispositions in

person; he had signalized his valor in the foremost ranks; his military conduct had secured the victory; and the captive king of the barbarians was presented to him on the field of battle," from which he was at that time distant about forty days' journey. So extravagant a fable was incapable, however, of deceiving the public credulity, or even of

satisfying the pride of the emperor himself. Secretly conscious that the applause and favor of the Romans accompanied the rising fortunes of

Julian, his discontented mind was prepared to receive the subtle poison

of those artful sycophants, who colored their mischievous designs with the fairest appearances of truth and candor. Instead of depreciating the

merits of Julian, they acknowledged, and even exaggerated, his popular fame, superior talents, and important services. But they darkly

insinuated, that the virtues of the Cæsar might instantly be converted

into the most dangerous crimes, if the inconstant multitude should

prefer their inclinations to their duty; or if the general of a

victorious army should be tempted from his allegiance by the hopes of

revenge and independent greatness. The personal fears of Constantius were interpreted by his council as a laudable anxiety for the public

safety; whilst in private, and perhaps in his own breast, he disguised,

under the less odious appellation of fear, the sentiments of hatred and envy, which he had secretly conceived for the inimitable virtues of

Julian.

the apparent tranquillity of Gaul, and the imminent danger of the eastern provinces, offered a specious pretence for the design which was artfully concerted by the Imperial ministers. They resolved to disarm the Cæsar; to recall those faithful troops who guarded his person and dignity; and to employ, in a distant war against the Persian monarch, the hardy veterans who had vanquished, on the banks of the Rhine, the fiercest nations of Germany. While Julian used the laborious hours of

his winter quarters at Paris in the administration of power, which, in

his hands, was the exercise of virtue, he was surprised by the hasty arrival of a tribune and a notary, with positive orders, from the emperor, which they were directed to execute, and he was commanded not to oppose. Constantius signified his pleasure, that four entire legions, the Celtæ, and Petulants, the Heruli, and the Batavians, should be

separated from the standard of Julian, under which they had acquired their fame and discipline; that in each of the remaining bands three

hundred of the bravest youths should be selected; and that this numerous detachment, the strength of the Gallic army, should instantly begin their march, and exert their utmost diligence to arrive, before the

opening of the campaign, on the frontiers of Persia. The Cæsar foresaw and lamented the consequences of this fatal mandate. Most of the auxiliaries, who engaged their voluntary service, had stipulated, that they should never be obliged to pass the Alps. The public faith of Rome, and the personal honor of Julian, had been pledged for the observance

of this condition. Such an act of treachery and oppression would destroy the confidence, and excite the resentment, of the independent warriors

of Germany, who considered truth as the noblest of their virtues, and freedom as the most valuable of their possessions. The legionaries, who enjoyed the title and privileges of Romans, were enlisted for the

general defence of the republic; but those mercenary troops heard with cold indifference the antiquated names of the republic and of Rome. attached, either from birth or long habit, to the climate and manners of

Gaul, they loved and admired Julian; they despised, and perhaps hated, the emperor; they dreaded the laborious march, the Persian arrows, and the burning deserts of Asia. They claimed as their own the country which they had saved; and excused their want of spirit, by pleading the sacred and more immediate duty of protecting their families and friends. the apprehensions of the Gauls were derived from the knowledge of the

impending and inevitable danger. As soon as the provinces were exhausted

of their military strength, the Germans would violate a treaty which had been imposed on their fears; and notwithstanding the abilities and valor

of Julian, the general of a nominal army, to whom the public calamities would be imputed, must find himself, after a vain resistance, either a

prisoner in the camp of the barbarians, or a criminal in the palace of constantius. If Julian complied with the orders which he had received,

he subscribed his own destruction, and that of a people who deserved

his affection. But a positive refusal was an act of rebellion, and a declaration of war. The inexorable jealousy of the emperor, the

peremptory, and perhaps insidious, nature of his commands, left not any

room for a fair apology, or candid interpretation; and the dependent

station of the Cæsar scarcely allowed him to pause or to deliberate.

Solitude increased the perplexity of Julian; he could no longer apply to the faithful counsels of Sallust, who had been removed from his office by the judicious malice of the eunuchs: he could not even enforce his

representations by the concurrence of the ministers, who would have been afraid or ashamed to approve the ruin of Gaul. The moment had been chosen, when Lupicinus, the general of the cavalry, was despatched into britain, to repulse the inroads of the Scots and Picts; and Florentius was occupied at Vienna by the assessment of the tribute. The latter, a crafty and corrupt statesman, declining to assume a responsible part on this dangerous occasion, eluded the pressing and repeated invitations

of Julian, who represented to him, that in every important measure, the

presence of the præfect was indispensable in the council of the prince.

In the mean while the Cæsar was oppressed by the rude and importunate

solicitations of the Imperial messengers, who presumed to suggest, that

if he expected the return of his ministers, he would charge himself with the guilt of the delay, and reserve for them the merit of the execution.

Unable to resist, unwilling to comply, Julian expressed, in the most

serious terms, his wish, and even his intention, of resigning the

purple, which he could not preserve with honor, but which he could not abdicate with safety.

after a painful conflict, Julian was compelled to acknowledge, that

obedience was the virtue of the most eminent subject, and that the

sovereign alone was entitled to judge of the public welfare. He issued the necessary orders for carrying into execution the commands of constantius; a part of the troops began their march for the Alps; and the detachments from the several garrisons moved towards their

respective places of assembly. They advanced with difficulty through the trembling and affrighted crowds of provincials, who attempted to excite their pity by silent despair, or loud lamentations, while the wives of the soldiers, holding their infants in their arms, accused the desertion

of their husbands, in the mixed language of grief, of tenderness, and

of indignation. This scene of general distress afflicted the humanity

of the Cæsar; he granted a sufficient number of post-wagons to transport the wives and families of the soldiers, endeavored to alleviate the

hardships which he was constrained to inflict, and increased, by the

most laudable arts, his own popularity, and the discontent of the exiled troops. The grief of an armed multitude is soon converted into rage; their licentious murmurs, which every hour were communicated from tent to tent with more boldness and effect, prepared their minds for the

most daring acts of sedition; and by the connivance of their tribunes, a

seasonable libel was secretly dispersed, which painted in lively colors the disgrace of the Cæsar, the oppression of the Gallic army, and the feeble vices of the tyrant of Asia. The servants of Constantius were astonished and alarmed by the progress of this dangerous spirit. They

pressed the Cæsar to hasten the departure of the troops; but they

imprudently rejected the honest and judicious advice of Julian; who

proposed that they should not march through Paris, and suggested the danger and temptation of a last interview.

as soon as the approach of the troops was announced, the Cæsar went out to meet them, and ascended his tribunal, which had been erected in a

plain before the gates of the city. After distinguishing the officers and soldiers, who by their rank or merit deserved a peculiar attention,

Julian addressed himself in a studied oration to the surrounding

multitude: he celebrated their exploits with grateful applause; encouraged them to accept, with alacrity, the honor of serving under the eye of a powerful and liberal monarch; and admonished them, that the commands of Augustus required an instant and cheerful obedience. the soldiers, who were apprehensive of offending their general by an

indecent clamor, or of belying their sentiments by false and venal acclamations, maintained an obstinate silence; and after a short

pause, were dismissed to their quarters. The principal officers were entertained by the Cæsar, who professed, in the warmest language of friendship, his desire and his inability to reward, according to their deserts, the brave companions of his victories. They retired from the feast, full of grief and perplexity; and lamented the hardship of their fate, which tore them from their beloved general and their native country. The only expedient which could prevent their separation was boldly agitated and approved the popular resentment was insensibly

moulded into a regular conspiracy; their just reasons of complaint were

heightened by passion, and their passions were inflamed by wine; as,

on the eve of their departure, the troops were indulged in licentious festivity. At the hour of midnight, the impetuous multitude, with

swords, and bows, and torches in their hands, rushed into the suburbs; encompassed the palace; and, careless of future dangers, pronounced the fatal and irrevocable words, Julian Augustus! The prince, whose anxious

suspense was interrupted by their disorderly acclamations, secured the doors against their intrusion; and as long as it was in his power,

secluded his person and dignity from the accidents of a nocturnal tumult. At the dawn of day, the soldiers, whose zeal was irritated by opposition, forcibly entered the palace, seized, with respectful

violence, the object of their choice, guarded Julian with drawn swords through the streets of Paris, placed him on the tribunal, and with

repeated shouts saluted him as their emperor. Prudence, as well as

loyalty, inculcated the propriety of resisting their treasonable designs; and of preparing, for his oppressed virtue, the excuse

of violence. Addressing himself by turns to the multitude and to

individuals, he sometimes implored their mercy, and sometimes expressed

his indignation; conjured them not to sully the fame of their immortal

victories; and ventured to promise, that if they would immediately

return to their allegiance, he would undertake to obtain from the emperor not only a free and gracious pardon, but even the revocation

of the orders which had excited their resentment. But the soldiers, who were conscious of their guilt, chose rather to depend on the gratitude

of Julian, than on the clemency of the emperor. Their zeal was

insensibly turned into impatience, and their impatience into rage. the inflexible Cæsar sustained, till the third hour of the day, their

prayers, their reproaches, and their menaces; nor did he yield, till he

had been repeatedly assured, that if he wished to live, he must consent to reign. He was exalted on a shield in the presence, and amidst the

unanimous acclamations, of the troops; a rich military collar, which was offered by chance, supplied the want of a diadem; the ceremony was concluded by the promise of a moderate donative; and the new emperor,

overwhelmed with real or affected grief retired into the most secret

recesses of his apartment.

the grief of Julian could proceed only from his innocence; out his

innocence must appear extremely doubtful in the eyes of those who have

learned to suspect the motives and the professions of princes. His

lively and active mind was susceptible of the various impressions of

hope and fear, of gratitude and revenge, of duty and of ambition, of the

love of fame, and of the fear of reproach. But it is impossible for us to calculate the respective weight and operation of these sentiments;

or to ascertain the principles of action which might escape the

observation, while they guided, or rather impelled, the steps of Julian

himself. The discontent of the troops was produced by the malice of his enemies; their tumult was the natural effect of interest and of passion; and if Julian had tried to conceal a deep design under the appearances

of chance, he must have employed the most consummate artifice without

necessity, and probably without success. He solemnly declares, in the

presence of Jupiter, of the Sun, of Mars, of Minerva, and of all the

other deities, that till the close of the evening which preceded his elevation, he was utterly ignorant of the designs of the soldiers; and

it may seem ungenerous to distrust the honor of a hero and the truth of a philosopher. Yet the superstitious confidence that Constantius was the enemy, and that he himself was the favorite, of the gods, might prompt

him to desire, to solicit, and even to hasten the auspicious moment

of his reign, which was predestined to restore the ancient religion of

mankind. When Julian had received the intelligence of the conspiracy,

he resigned himself to a short slumber; and afterwards related to his friends that he had seen the genius of the empire waiting with some

impatience at his door, pressing for admittance, and reproaching his want of spirit and ambition. Astonished and perplexed, he addressed his

prayers to the great Jupiter, who immediately signified, by a clear and

manifest omen, that he should submit to the will of heaven and of the army. The conduct which disclaims the ordinary maxims of reason, excites

our suspicion and eludes our inquiry. Whenever the spirit of fanaticism, at once so credulous and so crafty, has insinuated itself into a

noble mind, it insensibly corrodes the vital principles of virtue and

veracity.

to moderate the zeal of his party, to protect the persons of his enemies, to defeat and to despise the secret enterprises which were formed against his life and dignity, were the cares which employed the first days of the reign of the new emperor. Although he was firmly

resolved to maintain the station which he had assumed, he was still desirous of saving his country from the calamities of civil war, of declining a contest with the superior forces of Constantius, and

of preserving his own character from the reproach of perfidy and

ingratitude. Adorned with the ensigns of military and imperial pomp,

Julian showed himself in the field of Mars to the soldiers, who glowed with ardent enthusiasm in the cause of their pupil, their leader, and their friend. He recapitulated their victories, lamented their

sufferings, applauded their resolution, animated their hopes, and checked their impetuosity; nor did he dismiss the assembly, till he had

obtained a solemn promise from the troops, that if the emperor of the east would subscribe an equitable treaty, they would renounce any views

of conquest, and satisfy themselves with the tranquil possession of the

Gallic provinces. On this foundation he composed, in his own name, and in that of the army, a specious and moderate epistle, which was delivered to Pentadius, his master of the offices, and to his chamberlain Eutherius; two ambassadors whom he appointed to receive the answer, and observe the dispositions of Constantius. This epistle is

inscribed with the modest appellation of Cæsar; but Julian solicits in a

peremptory, though respectful, manner, the confirmation of the title of augustus. He acknowledges the irregularity of his own election, while

he justifies, in some measure, the resentment and violence of the troops which had extorted his reluctant consent. He allows the supremacy of

his brother Constantius; and engages to send him an annual present of

Spanish horses, to recruit his army with a select number of barbarian

youths, and to accept from his choice a Prætorian præfect of approved discretion and fidelity. But he reserves for himself the nomination of

his other civil and military officers, with the troops, the revenue, and the sovereignty of the provinces beyond the Alps. He admonishes the emperor to consult the dictates of justice; to distrust the arts of those venal flatterers, who subsist only by the discord of princes; and to embrace the offer of a fair and honorable treaty, equally advantageous to the republic and to the house of Constantine. In this

negotiation Julian claimed no more than he already possessed. The delegated authority which he had long exercised over the provinces of

Gaul, Spain, and Britain, was still obeyed under a name more independent and august. The soldiers and the people rejoiced in a revolution which was not stained even with the blood of the guilty. Florentius was a fugitive; Lupicinus a prisoner. The persons who were disaffected to the

new government were disarmed and secured; and the vacant offices were distributed, according to the recommendation of merit, by a prince who despised the intrigues of the palace, and the clamors of the soldiers.

the negotiations of peace were accompanied and supported by the most

vigorous preparations for war. The army, which Julian held in readiness for immediate action, was recruited and augmented by the disorders

of the times. The cruel persecutions of the faction of Magnentius had filled Gaul with numerous bands of outlaws and robbers. They cheerfully accepted the offer of a general pardon from a prince whom they could trust, submitted to the restraints of military discipline, and

retained only their implacable hatred to the person and government of constantius. As soon as the season of the year permitted Julian to take the field, he appeared at the head of his legions; threw a bridge over the Rhine in the neighborhood of Cleves; and prepared to chastise the

perfidy of the Attuarii, a tribe of Franks, who presumed that they

might ravage, with impunity, the frontiers of a divided empire. The difficulty, as well as glory, of this enterprise, consisted in a

laborious march; and Julian had conquered, as soon as he could penetrate

into a country, which former princes had considered as inaccessible. after he had given peace to the Barbarians, the emperor carefully

visited the fortifications along the Rhine from Cleves to Basil;

surveyed, with peculiar attention, the territories which he had

recovered from the hands of the Alemanni, passed through Besançon, which

had severely suffered from their fury, and fixed his headquarters at

Vienna for the ensuing winter. The barrier of Gaul was improved and

strengthened with additional fortifications; and Julian entertained some

hopes that the Germans, whom he had so often vanquished, might, in his absence, be restrained by the terror of his name. Vadomair was the only

prince of the Alemanni whom he esteemed or feared and while the subtle barbarian affected to observe the faith of treaties, the progress of his arms threatened the state with an unseasonable and dangerous war. The

policy of Julian condescended to surprise the prince of the Alemanni by his own arts: and Vadomair, who, in the character of a friend, had

incautiously accepted an invitation from the Roman governors, was seized

in the midst of the entertainment, and sent away prisoner into the heart

of Spain. Before the Barbarians were recovered from their amazement, the emperor appeared in arms on the banks of the Rhine, and, once more crossing the river, renewed the deep impressions of terror and respect which had been already made by four preceding expeditions.

chapter XXII: Julian Declared Emperor.--Part II.

the ambassadors of Julian had been instructed to execute, with the

utmost diligence, their important commission. But, in their passage through Italy and Illyricum, they were detained by the tedious and affected delays of the provincial governors; they were conducted by

slow journeys from Constantinople to Cæsarea in Cappadocia; and when at length they were admitted to the presence of Constantius, they found that he had already conceived, from the despatches of his own officers, the most unfavorable opinion of the conduct of Julian, and of the Gallic army. The letters were heard with impatience; the trembling messengers were dismissed with indignation and contempt; and the looks, gestures, the furious language of the monarch, expressed the disorder of his soul. the domestic connection, which might have reconciled the brother and the

husband of Helena, was recently dissolved by the death of that princess, whose pregnancy had been several times fruitless, and was at last fatal to herself. The empress Eusebia had preserved, to the last moment of her

life, the warm, and even jealous, affection which she had conceived for

Julian; and her mild influence might have moderated the resentment of a

prince, who, since her death, was abandoned to his own passions, and to the arts of his eunuchs. But the terror of a foreign invasion obliged

him to suspend the punishment of a private enemy: he continued his march towards the confines of Persia, and thought it sufficient to signify the conditions which might entitle Julian and his guilty followers to the clemency of their offended sovereign. He required, that the presumptuous cæsar should expressly renounce the appellation and rank of Augustus, which he had accepted from the rebels; that he should descend to his former station of a limited and dependent minister; that he should vest the powers of the state and army in the hands of those officers who were appointed by the Imperial court; and that he should trust his safety to the assurances of pardon, which were announced by Epictetus, a Gallic bishop, and one of the Arian favorites of Constantius. Several months were ineffectually consumed in a treaty which was negotiated at the distance of three thousand miles between Paris and Antioch; and, as soon as Julian perceived that his modest and respectful behavior served only to irritate the pride of an implacable adversary, he boldly resolved to commit his life and fortune to the chance of a civil war. He gave a

public and military audience to the quæstor Leonas: the haughty epistle of Constantius was read to the attentive multitude; and Julian

protested, with the most flattering deference, that he was ready to

resign the title of Augustus, if he could obtain the consent of those whom he acknowledged as the authors of his elevation. The faint proposal was impetuously silenced; and the acclamations of "Julian Augustus, continue to reign, by the authority of the army, of the people, of the

republic which you have saved," thundered at once from every part of the field, and terrified the pale ambassador of Constantius. A part of the letter was afterwards read, in which the emperor arraigned the

ingratitude of Julian, whom he had invested with the honors of the

purple; whom he had educated with so much care and tenderness; whom he

had preserved in his infancy, when he was left a helpless orphan. "An

orphan!" interrupted Julian, who justified his cause by indulging his

passions: "does the assassin of my family reproach me that I was left an

orphan? He urges me to revenge those injuries which I have long studied to forget." The assembly was dismissed; and Leonas, who, with some difficulty, had been protected from the popular fury, was sent back to

his master with an epistle, in which Julian expressed, in a strain of the most vehement eloquence, the sentiments of contempt, of hatred, and of resentment, which had been suppressed and imbittered by the dissimulation of twenty years. After this message, which might be considered as a signal of irreconcilable war, Julian, who, some weeks before, had celebrated the Christian festival of the Epiphany, made a public declaration that he committed the care of his safety to the

Immortal Gods; and thus publicly renounced the religion as well as the friendship of Constantius.

the situation of Julian required a vigorous and immediate resolution.

He had discovered, from intercepted letters, that his adversary,

sacrificing the interest of the state to that of the monarch, had again excited the Barbarians to invade the provinces of the West. The position

of two magazines, one of them collected on the banks of the Lake of constance, the other formed at the foot of the Cottian Alps, seemed to

indicate the march of two armies; and the size of those magazines, each

of which consisted of six hundred thousand quarters of wheat, or rather flour, was a threatening evidence of the strength and numbers of the enemy who prepared to surround him. But the Imperial legions were still

in their distant quarters of Asia; the Danube was feebly guarded; and if

Julian could occupy, by a sudden incursion, the important provinces of

Illyricum, he might expect that a people of soldiers would resort to his

standard, and that the rich mines of gold and silver would contribute to the expenses of the civil war. He proposed this bold enterprise to the assembly of the soldiers; inspired them with a just confidence in their general, and in themselves; and exhorted them to maintain their reputation of being terrible to the enemy, moderate to their fellow-citizens, and obedient to their officers. His spirited discourse was received with the loudest acclamations, and the same troops which

had taken up arms against Constantius, when he summoned them to leave

Gaul, now declared with alacrity, that they would follow Julian to the farthest extremities of Europe or Asia. The oath of fidelity was administered; and the soldiers, clashing their shields, and pointing their drawn swords to their throats, devoted themselves, with horrid

imprecations, to the service of a leader whom they celebrated as the deliverer of Gaul and the conqueror of the Germans. This solemn engagement, which seemed to be dictated by affection rather than by duty, was singly opposed by Nebridius, who had been admitted to the office of Prætorian præfect. That faithful minister, alone and

unassisted, asserted the rights of Constantius, in the midst of an armed and angry multitude, to whose fury he had almost fallen an honorable, but useless sacrifice. After losing one of his hands by the stroke of a

sword, he embraced the knees of the prince whom he had offended. Julian covered the præfect with his Imperial mantle, and, protecting him from the zeal of his followers, dismissed him to his own house, with less

respect than was perhaps due to the virtue of an enemy. The high office

of Nebridius was bestowed on Sallust; and the provinces of Gaul, which were now delivered from the intolerable oppression of taxes, enjoyed the mild and equitable administration of the friend of Julian, who was

permitted to practise those virtues which he had instilled into the mind

of his pupil.

the hopes of Julian depended much less on the number of his troops, than

on the celerity of his motions. In the execution of a daring enterprise,

he availed himself of every precaution, as far as prudence could

suggest; and where prudence could no longer accompany his steps, he trusted the event to valor and to fortune. In the neighborhood of Basil

he assembled and divided his army. One body, which consisted of ten thousand men, was directed under the command of Nevitta, general of the cavalry, to advance through the midland parts of Rhætia and Noricum. a similar division of troops, under the orders of Jovius and Jovinus,

prepared to follow the oblique course of the highways, through the Alps, and the northern confines of Italy. The instructions to the generals were conceived with energy and precision: to hasten their march in close and compact columns, which, according to the disposition of the ground,

might readily be changed into any order of battle; to secure themselves against the surprises of the night by strong posts and vigilant guards; to prevent resistance by their unexpected arrival; to elude examination by their sudden departure; to spread the opinion of their strength, and the terror of his name; and to join their sovereign under the walls

of Sirmium. For himself Julian had reserved a more difficult and extraordinary part. He selected three thousand brave and active

volunteers, resolved, like their leader, to cast behind them every hope

of a retreat; at the head of this faithful band, he fearlessly plunged

into the recesses of the Marcian, or Black Forest, which conceals the sources of the Danube; and, for many days, the fate of Julian was

unknown to the world. The secrecy of his march, his diligence, and

vigor, surmounted every obstacle; he forced his way over mountains and

morasses, occupied the bridges or swam the rivers, pursued his direct course, without reflecting whether he traversed the territory of the

Romans or of the Barbarians, and at length emerged, between Ratisbon and Vienna, at the place where he designed to embark his troops on the Danube. By a well-concerted stratagem, he seized a fleet of light brigantines, as it lay at anchor; secured a apply of coarse provisions

sufficient to satisfy the indelicate, and voracious, appetite of a

Gallic army; and boldly committed himself to the stream of the Danube. the labors of the mariners, who plied their oars with incessant diligence, and the steady continuance of a favorable wind, carried

his fleet above seven hundred miles in eleven days; and he had already disembarked his troops at Bononia, \* only nineteen miles from Sirmium, before his enemies could receive any certain intelligence that he

had left the banks of the Rhine. In the course of this long and

rapid navigation, the mind of Julian was fixed on the object of his enterprise; and though he accepted the deputations of some cities, which

hastened to claim the merit of an early submission, he passed before the

hostile stations, which were placed along the river, without indulging the temptation of signalizing a useless and ill-timed valor. The banks

of the Danube were crowded on either side with spectators, who gazed on the military pomp, anticipated the importance of the event, and diffused through the adjacent country the fame of a young hero, who advanced with more than mortal speed at the head of the innumerable forces of the west. Lucilian, who, with the rank of general of the cavalry, commanded the military powers of Illyricum, was alarmed and perplexed by the doubtful reports, which he could neither reject nor believe. He had taken some slow and irresolute measures for the purpose of collecting

his troops, when he was surprised by Dagalaiphus, an active officer, whom Julian, as soon as he landed at Bononia, had pushed forwards with

some light infantry. The captive general, uncertain of his life or death, was hastily thrown upon a horse, and conducted to the presence of

Julian; who kindly raised him from the ground, and dispelled the terror and amazement which seemed to stupefy his faculties. But Lucilian had no

sooner recovered his spirits, than he betrayed his want of discretion, by presuming to admonish his conqueror that he had rashly ventured, with a handful of men, to expose his person in the midst of his enemies.

"Reserve for your master Constantius these timid remonstrances," replied

Julian, with a smile of contempt: "when I gave you my purple to kiss,

I received you not as a counsellor, but as a suppliant." Conscious that

success alone could justify his attempt, and that boldness only could command success, he instantly advanced, at the head of three thousand

soldiers, to attack the strongest and most populous city of the Illyrian

provinces. As he entered the long suburb of Sirmium, he was received by the joyful acclamations of the army and people; who, crowned with flowers, and holding lighted tapers in their hands, conducted their acknowledged sovereign to his Imperial residence. Two days were devoted to the public joy, which was celebrated by the games of the circus; but, early on the morning of the third day, Julian marched to occupy the

narrow pass of Succi, in the defiles of Mount Hæmus; which, almost in the midway between Sirmium and Constantinople, separates the provinces

of Thrace and Dacia, by an abrupt descent towards the former, and a gentle declivity on the side of the latter. The defence of this

important post was intrusted to the brave Nevitta; who, as well as the

generals of the Italian division, successfully executed the plan of the

march and junction which their master had so ably conceived.

the homage which Julian obtained, from the fears or the inclination of the people, extended far beyond the immediate effect of his arms. The

præfectures of Italy and Illyricum were administered by Taurus and florentius, who united that important office with the vain honors of the consulship; and as those magistrates had retired with precipitation to the court of Asia, Julian, who could not always restrain the levity of

his temper, stigmatized their flight by adding, in all the Acts of the Year, the epithet of fugitive to the names of the two consuls. the provinces which had been deserted by their first magistrates acknowledged the authority of an emperor, who, conciliating the

qualities of a soldier with those of a philosopher, was equally admired

in the camps of the Danube and in the cities of Greece. From his palace,

or, more properly, from his head-quarters of Sirmium and Naissus, he distributed to the principal cities of the empire, a labored apology for his own conduct; published the secret despatches of Constantius; and

solicited the judgment of mankind between two competitors, the one of whom had expelled, and the other had invited, the Barbarians. Julian, whose mind was deeply wounded by the reproach of ingratitude, aspired to maintain, by argument as well as by arms, the superior merits of

his cause; and to excel, not only in the arts of war, but in those of composition. His epistle to the senate and people of Athens seems to

have been dictated by an elegant enthusiasm; which prompted him to

submit his actions and his motives to the degenerate Athenians of his

own times, with the same humble deference as if he had been pleading,

in the days of Aristides, before the tribunal of the Areopagus. His application to the senate of Rome, which was still permitted to bestow the titles of Imperial power, was agreeable to the forms of the expiring

republic. An assembly was summoned by Tertullus, præfect of the city; the epistle of Julian was read; and, as he appeared to be master of

Italy his claims were admitted without a dissenting voice. His oblique censure of the innovations of Constantine, and his passionate invective against the vices of Constantius, were heard with less satisfaction; and the senate, as if Julian had been present, unanimously exclaimed,

"Respect, we beseech you, the author of your own fortune." An artful expression, which, according to the chance of war, might be differently explained; as a manly reproof of the ingratitude of the usurper, or as a flattering confession, that a single act of such benefit to the state

ought to atone for all the failings of Constantius.

the intelligence of the march and rapid progress of Julian was speedily transmitted to his rival, who, by the retreat of Sapor, had obtained

some respite from the Persian war. Disguising the anguish of his soul

under the semblance of contempt, Constantius professed his intention of

returning into Europe, and of giving chase to Julian; for he never spoke

of his military expedition in any other light than that of a hunting

party. In the camp of Hierapolis, in Syria, he communicated this design to his army; slightly mentioned the guilt and rashness of the Cæsar; and

ventured to assure them, that if the mutineers of Gaul presumed to meet them in the field, they would be unable to sustain the fire of their eyes, and the irresistible weight of their shout of onset. The speech

of the emperor was received with military applause, and Theodotus, the president of the council of Hierapolis, requested, with tears

of adulation, that his city might be adorned with the head of the vanquished rebel. A chosen detachment was despatched away in

post-wagons, to secure, if it were yet possible, the pass of Succi; the recruits, the horses, the arms, and the magazines, which had been

prepared against Sapor, were appropriated to the service of the civil war; and the domestic victories of Constantius inspired his partisans with the most sanguine assurances of success. The notary Gaudentius had

occupied in his name the provinces of Africa; the subsistence of

Rome was intercepted; and the distress of Julian was increased by an unexpected event, which might have been productive of fatal consequences. Julian had received the submission of two legions and a cohort of archers, who were stationed at Sirmium; but he suspected, with

reason, the fidelity of those troops which had been distinguished by the emperor; and it was thought expedient, under the pretence of the exposed

state of the Gallic frontier, to dismiss them from the most important

scene of action. They advanced, with reluctance, as far as the confines

of Italy; but as they dreaded the length of the way, and the savage fierceness of the Germans, they resolved, by the instigation of one

of their tribunes, to halt at Aquileia, and to erect the banners of constantius on the walls of that impregnable city. The vigilance of

Julian perceived at once the extent of the mischief, and the necessity

of applying an immediate remedy. By his order, Jovinus led back a

part of the army into Italy; and the siege of Aquileia was formed with diligence, and prosecuted with vigor. But the legionaries, who seemed to

have rejected the yoke of discipline, conducted the defence of the place with skill and perseverance; invited the rest of Italy to imitate the example of their courage and loyalty; and threatened the retreat of

Julian, if he should be forced to yield to the superior numbers of the armies of the East.

but the humanity of Julian was preserved from the cruel alternative which he pathetically laments, of destroying or of being himself destroyed: and the seasonable death of Constantius delivered the Roman empire from the calamities of civil war. The approach of winter could

not detain the monarch at Antioch; and his favorites durst not oppose

his impatient desire of revenge. A slight fever, which was perhaps

occasioned by the agitation of his spirits, was increased by the fatigues of the journey; and Constantius was obliged to halt at the

little town of Mopsucrene, twelve miles beyond Tarsus, where he expired, after a short illness, in the forty-fifth year of his age, and the twenty-fourth of his reign. His genuine character, which was composed

of pride and weakness, of superstition and cruelty, has been fully displayed in the preceding narrative of civil and ecclesiastical events. the long abuse of power rendered him a considerable object in the eyes

of his contemporaries; but as personal merit can alone deserve the

notice of posterity, the last of the sons of Constantine may be dismissed from the world, with the remark, that he inherited the defects, without the abilities, of his father. Before Constantius expired, he is said to have named Julian for his successor; nor does it

seem improbable, that his anxious concern for the fate of a young and tender wife, whom he left with child, may have prevailed, in his last

moments, over the harsher passions of hatred and revenge. Eusebius, and

his guilty associates, made a faint attempt to prolong the reign of the eunuchs, by the election of another emperor; but their intrigues were

rejected with disdain, by an army which now abhorred the thought of civil discord; and two officers of rank were instantly despatched, to assure Julian, that every sword in the empire would be drawn for his

service. The military designs of that prince, who had formed three different attacks against Thrace, were prevented by this fortunate event. Without shedding the blood of his fellow-citizens, he escaped the dangers of a doubtful conflict, and acquired the advantages of a complete victory. Impatient to visit the place of his birth, and the new capital of the empire, he advanced from Naissus through the mountains

of Hæmus, and the cities of Thrace. When he reached Heraclea, at the distance of sixty miles, all Constantinople was poured forth to receive

him; and he made his triumphal entry amidst the dutiful acclamations

of the soldiers, the people, and the senate. At innumerable multitude

pressed around him with eager respect and were perhaps disappointed when they beheld the small stature and simple garb of a hero, whose

unexperienced youth had vanquished the Barbarians of Germany, and who had now traversed, in a successful career, the whole continent of europe, from the shores of the Atlantic to those of the Bosphorus. A few days afterwards, when the remains of the deceased emperor were landed

in the harbor, the subjects of Julian applauded the real or affected

humanity of their sovereign. On foot, without his diadem, and clothed in a mourning habit, he accompanied the funeral as far as the church of the Holy Apostles, where the body was deposited: and if these marks of

respect may be interpreted as a selfish tribute to the birth and dignity

of his Imperial kinsman, the tears of Julian professed to the world that

he had forgot the injuries, and remembered only the obligations, which

he had received from Constantius. As soon as the legions of Aquileia were assured of the death of the emperor, they opened the gates of the city, and, by the sacrifice of their guilty leaders, obtained an easy

pardon from the prudence or lenity of Julian; who, in the thirty-second

year of his age, acquired the undisputed possession of the Roman empire.

chapter XXII: Julian Declared Emperor.--Part III.

Philosophy had instructed Julian to compare the advantages of action and retirement; but the elevation of his birth, and the accidents of

his life, never allowed him the freedom of choice. He might perhaps

sincerely have preferred the groves of the academy, and the society of athens; but he was constrained, at first by the will, and afterwards by the injustice, of Constantius, to expose his person and fame to the dangers of Imperial greatness; and to make himself accountable to the world, and to posterity, for the happiness of millions. Julian

recollected with terror the observation of his master Plato, that the

government of our flocks and herds is always committed to beings of a

superior species; and that the conduct of nations requires and deserves the celestial powers of the gods or of the genii. From this principle he

justly concluded, that the man who presumes to reign, should aspire to the perfection of the divine nature; that he should purify his soul from her mortal and terrestrial part; that he should extinguish his appetites, enlighten his understanding, regulate his passions, and

subdue the wild beast, which, according to the lively metaphor of aristotle, seldom fails to ascend the throne of a despot. The throne of

Julian, which the death of Constantius fixed on an independent basis, was the seat of reason, of virtue, and perhaps of vanity. He despised the honors, renounced the pleasures, and discharged with incessant diligence the duties, of his exalted station; and there were few among

his subjects who would have consented to relieve him from the weight of the diadem, had they been obliged to submit their time and their actions to the rigorous laws which that philosophic emperor imposed on himself.

One of his most intimate friends, who had often shared the frugal

simplicity of his table, has remarked, that his light and sparing diet

(which was usually of the vegetable kind) left his mind and body always free and active, for the various and important business of an author, a

pontiff, a magistrate, a general, and a prince. In one and the same day,

he gave audience to several ambassadors, and wrote, or dictated, a great

number of letters to his generals, his civil magistrates, his private friends, and the different cities of his dominions. He listened to the memorials which had been received, considered the subject of the

petitions, and signified his intentions more rapidly than they could be taken in short-hand by the diligence of his secretaries. He possessed

such flexibility of thought, and such firmness of attention, that he could employ his hand to write, his ear to listen, and his voice to dictate; and pursue at once three several trains of ideas without

hesitation, and without error. While his ministers reposed, the prince flew with agility from one labor to another, and, after a hasty dinner,

retired into his library, till the public business, which he had appointed for the evening, summoned him to interrupt the prosecution of

his studies. The supper of the emperor was still less substantial than the former meal; his sleep was never clouded by the fumes of

indigestion; and except in the short interval of a marriage, which was the effect of policy rather than love, the chaste Julian never shared

his bed with a female companion. He was soon awakened by the entrance

of fresh secretaries, who had slept the preceding day; and his servants were obliged to wait alternately while their indefatigable master allowed himself scarcely any other refreshment than the change of

occupation. The predecessors of Julian, his uncle, his brother, and his cousin, indulged their puerile taste for the games of the Circus, under the specious pretence of complying with the inclinations of the people; and they frequently remained the greatest part of the day as idle

spectators, and as a part of the splendid spectacle, till the ordinary

round of twenty-four races was completely finished. On solemn festivals,

Julian, who felt and professed an unfashionable dislike to these frivolous amusements, condescended to appear in the Circus; and after bestowing a careless glance at five or six of the races, he hastily withdrew with the impatience of a philosopher, who considered every

moment as lost that was not devoted to the advantage of the public or the improvement of his own mind. By this avarice of time, he seemed to

protract the short duration of his reign; and if the dates were less

securely ascertained, we should refuse to believe, that only sixteen

months elapsed between the death of Constantius and the departure of

his successor for the Persian war. The actions of Julian can only be preserved by the care of the historian; but the portion of his

voluminous writings, which is still extant, remains as a monument of the application, as well as of the genius, of the emperor. The Misopogon, the Cæsars, several of his orations, and his elaborate work against the christian religion, were composed in the long nights of the two winters, the former of which he passed at Constantinople, and the latter at antioch.

the reformation of the Imperial court was one of the first and most

necessary acts of the government of Julian. Soon after his entrance

into the palace of Constantinople, he had occasion for the service of a barber. An officer, magnificently dressed, immediately presented

himself. "It is a barber," exclaimed the prince, with affected surprise,

"that I want, and not a receiver-general of the finances." He questioned the man concerning the profits of his employment and was informed, that besides a large salary, and some valuable perquisites, he enjoyed a daily allowance for twenty servants, and as many horses. A thousand barbers, a thousand cup-bearers, a thousand cooks, were distributed

in the several offices of luxury; and the number of eunuchs could be compared only with the insects of a summer's day. The monarch who

resigned to his subjects the superiority of merit and virtue, was distinguished by the oppressive magnificence of his dress, his table,

his buildings, and his train. The stately palaces erected by Constantine and his sons, were decorated with many colored marbles, and ornaments of

massy gold. The most exquisite dainties were procured, to gratify their

pride, rather than their taste; birds of the most distant climates, fish from the most remote seas, fruits out of their natural season, winter

roses, and summer snows. The domestic crowd of the palace surpassed the expense of the legions; yet the smallest part of this costly multitude was subservient to the use, or even to the splendor, of the throne. The

monarch was disgraced, and the people was injured, by the creation and

sale of an infinite number of obscure, and even titular employments; and the most worthless of mankind might purchase the privilege of being

maintained, without the necessity of labor, from the public revenue. The waste of an enormous household, the increase of fees and perquisites, which were soon claimed as a lawful debt, and the bribes which they extorted from those who feared their enmity, or solicited their favor,

suddenly enriched these haughty menials. They abused their fortune, without considering their past, or their future, condition; and their

rapine and venality could be equalled only by the extravagance of their dissipations. Their silken robes were embroidered with gold, their tables were served with delicacy and profusion; the houses which they built for their own use, would have covered the farm of an ancient consul; and the most honorable citizens were obliged to dismount from their horses, and respectfully to salute a eunuch whom they met on the public highway. The luxury of the palace excited the contempt and

indignation of Julian, who usually slept on the ground, who yielded with reluctance to the indispensable calls of nature; and who placed his

vanity, not in emulating, but in despising, the pomp of royalty.

by the total extirpation of a mischief which was magnified even beyond

its real extent, he was impatient to relieve the distress, and to appease the murmurs of the people; who support with less uneasiness the weight of taxes, if they are convinced that the fruits of their industry are appropriated to the service of the state. But in the execution of this salutary work, Julian is accused of proceeding with too much haste and inconsiderate severity. By a single edict, he reduced the palace

of Constantinople to an immense desert, and dismissed with ignominy the whole train of slaves and dependants, without providing any just, or at

least benevolent, exceptions, for the age, the services, or the poverty,

of the faithful domestics of the Imperial family. Such indeed was the temper of Julian, who seldom recollected the fundamental maxim of aristotle, that true virtue is placed at an equal distance between the

opposite vices. The splendid and effeminate dress of the Asiatics, the curls and paint, the collars and bracelets, which had appeared so

ridiculous in the person of Constantine, were consistently rejected by

his philosophic successor. But with the fopperies, Julian affected to

renounce the decencies of dress; and seemed to value himself for his

neglect of the laws of cleanliness. In a satirical performance, which was designed for the public eye, the emperor descants with pleasure, and even with pride, on the length of his nails, and the inky blackness of

his hands; protests, that although the greatest part of his body was covered with hair, the use of the razor was confined to his head alone; and celebrates, with visible complacency, the shaggy and populous beard, which he fondly cherished, after the example of the philosophers of

Greece. Had Julian consulted the simple dictates of reason, the first

magistrate of the Romans would have scorned the affectation of Diogenes, as well as that of Darius.

but the work of public reformation would have remained imperfect, if

Julian had only corrected the abuses, without punishing the crimes, of

his predecessor's reign. "We are now delivered," says he, in a familiar

letter to one of his intimate friends, "we are now surprisingly delivered from the voracious jaws of the Hydra. I do not mean to apply the epithet to my brother Constantius. He is no more; may the earth lie

light on his head! But his artful and cruel favorites studied to deceive and exasperate a prince, whose natural mildness cannot be praised without some efforts of adulation. It is not, however, my intention, that even those men should be oppressed: they are accused, and they

shall enjoy the benefit of a fair and impartial trial." To conduct this

inquiry, Julian named six judges of the highest rank in the state and army; and as he wished to escape the reproach of condemning his personal enemies, he fixed this extraordinary tribunal at Chalcedon, on the asiatic side of the Bosphorus; and transferred to the commissioners an absolute power to pronounce and execute their final sentence, without delay, and without appeal. The office of president was exercised by the venerable præfect of the East, a second Sallust, whose virtues conciliated the esteem of Greek sophists, and of Christian bishops. He was assisted by the eloquent Mamertinus, one of the consuls elect, whose

merit is loudly celebrated by the doubtful evidence of his own applause. but the civil wisdom of two magistrates was overbalanced by the ferocious violence of four generals, Nevitta, Agilo, Jovinus, and arbetio. Arbetio, whom the public would have seen with less surprise at the bar than on the bench, was supposed to possess the secret of the commission; the armed and angry leaders of the Jovian and Herculian bands encompassed the tribunal; and the judges were alternately swayed by the laws of justice, and by the clamors of faction.

the chamberlain Eusebius, who had so long abused the favor of constantius, expiated, by an ignominious death, the insolence, the corruption, and cruelty of his servile reign. The executions of Paul and Apodemius (the former of whom was burnt alive) were accepted as an inadequate atonement by the widows and orphans of so many hundred

Romans, whom those legal tyrants had betrayed and murdered. But justice

herself (if we may use the pathetic expression of Ammianus ) appeared to weep over the fate of Ursulus, the treasurer of the empire; and

his blood accused the ingratitude of Julian, whose distress had been

seasonably relieved by the intrepid liberality of that honest minister. the rage of the soldiers, whom he had provoked by his indiscretion, was the cause and the excuse of his death; and the emperor, deeply wounded by his own reproaches and those of the public, offered some consolation to the family of Ursulus, by the restitution of his confiscated fortunes. Before the end of the year in which they had been adorned with the ensigns of the prefecture and consulship, Taurus and Florentius were

reduced to implore the clemency of the inexorable tribunal of Chalcedon. the former was banished to Vercellæ in Italy, and a sentence of death was pronounced against the latter. A wise prince should have rewarded the crime of Taurus: the faithful minister, when he was no longer able to oppose the progress of a rebel, had taken refuge in the court of

his benefactor and his lawful sovereign. But the guilt of Florentius

justified the severity of the judges; and his escape served to display the magnanimity of Julian, who nobly checked the interested diligence

of an informer, and refused to learn what place concealed the wretched fugitive from his just resentment. Some months after the tribunal of chalcedon had been dissolved, the prætorian vicegerent of Africa, the

notary Gaudentius, and Artemius duke of Egypt, were executed at Antioch. artemius had reigned the cruel and corrupt tyrant of a great province;

Gaudentius had long practised the arts of calumny against the

innocent, the virtuous, and even the person of Julian himself. Yet the circumstances of their trial and condemnation were so unskillfully

managed, that these wicked men obtained, in the public opinion, the

glory of suffering for the obstinate loyalty with which they had

supported the cause of Constantius. The rest of his servants were

protected by a general act of oblivion; and they were left to enjoy with impunity the bribes which they had accepted, either to defend the

oppressed, or to oppress the friendless. This measure, which, on the

soundest principles of policy, may deserve our approbation, was executed

in a manner which seemed to degrade the majesty of the throne. Julian was tormented by the importunities of a multitude, particularly of egyptians, who loudly redemanded the gifts which they had imprudently

or illegally bestowed; he foresaw the endless prosecution of vexatious

suits; and he engaged a promise, which ought always to have been sacred, that if they would repair to Chalcedon, he would meet them in person, to

hear and determine their complaints. But as soon as they were landed,

he issued an absolute order, which prohibited the watermen from transporting any Egyptian to Constantinople; and thus detained his disappointed clients on the Asiatic shore till, their patience and money being utterly exhausted, they were obliged to return with indignant

murmurs to their native country.

chapter XXII: Julian Declared Emperor.--Part IV.

the numerous army of spies, of agents, and informers enlisted by constantius to secure the repose of one man, and to interrupt that of

millions, was immediately disbanded by his generous successor. Julian was slow in his suspicions, and gentle in his punishments; and his contempt of treason was the result of judgment, of vanity, and of courage. Conscious of superior merit, he was persuaded that few among

his subjects would dare to meet him in the field, to attempt his life,

or even to seat themselves on his vacant throne. The philosopher could excuse the hasty sallies of discontent; and the hero could despise the ambitious projects which surpassed the fortune or the abilities of the

rash conspirators. A citizen of Ancyra had prepared for his own use a

purple garment; and this indiscreet action, which, under the reign

of Constantius, would have been considered as a capital offence, was

reported to Julian by the officious importunity of a private enemy. The

monarch, after making some inquiry into the rank and character of

his rival, despatched the informer with a present of a pair of purple

slippers, to complete the magnificence of his Imperial habit. A more dangerous conspiracy was formed by ten of the domestic guards, who had

resolved to assassinate Julian in the field of exercise near Antioch. their intemperance revealed their guilt; and they were conducted in chains to the presence of their injured sovereign, who, after a lively

representation of the wickedness and folly of their enterprise, instead

of a death of torture, which they deserved and expected, pronounced a

sentence of exile against the two principal offenders. The only instance

in which Julian seemed to depart from his accustomed clemency, was the execution of a rash youth, who, with a feeble hand, had aspired to

seize the reins of empire. But that youth was the son of Marcellus, the

general of cavalry, who, in the first campaign of the Gallic war, had deserted the standard of the Cæsar and the republic. Without appearing to indulge his personal resentment, Julian might easily confound the crime of the son and of the father; but he was reconciled by the distress of Marcellus, and the liberality of the emperor endeavored to

heal the wound which had been inflicted by the hand of justice.

Julian was not insensible of the advantages of freedom. From his studies

he had imbibed the spirit of ancient sages and heroes; his life and fortunes had depended on the caprice of a tyrant; and when he ascended the throne, his pride was sometimes mortified by the reflection, that the slaves who would not dare to censure his defects were not worthy to applaud his virtues. He sincerely abhorred the system of Oriental despotism, which Diocletian, Constantine, and the patient habits of fourscore years, had established in the empire. A motive of superstition

prevented the execution of the design, which Julian had frequently

meditated, of relieving his head from the weight of a costly diadem; but

he absolutely refused the title of Dominus, or Lord, a word which was grown so familiar to the ears of the Romans, that they no longer

remembered its servile and humiliating origin. The office, or rather the name, of consul, was cherished by a prince who contemplated with

reverence the ruins of the republic; and the same behavior which had been assumed by the prudence of Augustus was adopted by Julian from choice and inclination. On the calends of January, at break of day, the

new consuls, Mamertinus and Nevitta, hastened to the palace to salute the emperor. As soon as he was informed of their approach, he leaped from his throne, eagerly advanced to meet them, and compelled the blushing magistrates to receive the demonstrations of his affected

humility. From the palace they proceeded to the senate. The emperor, on foot, marched before their litters; and the gazing multitude admired the

image of ancient times, or secretly blamed a conduct, which, in their eyes, degraded the majesty of the purple. But the behavior of Julian was

uniformly supported. During the games of the Circus, he had, imprudently

or designedly, performed the manumission of a slave in the presence of the consul. The moment he was reminded that he had trespassed on the

jurisdiction of another magistrate, he condemned himself to pay a fine

of ten pounds of gold; and embraced this public occasion of declaring to the world, that he was subject, like the rest of his fellow-citizens, to the laws, and even to the forms, of the republic. The spirit of his administration, and his regard for the place of his nativity, induced

Julian to confer on the senate of Constantinople the same honors,

privileges, and authority, which were still enjoyed by the senate of ancient Rome. A legal fiction was introduced, and gradually established, that one half of the national council had migrated into the East; and the despotic successors of Julian, accepting the title of Senators, acknowledged themselves the members of a respectable body, which was permitted to represent the majesty of the Roman name. From constantinople, the attention of the monarch was extended to the

municipal senates of the provinces. He abolished, by repeated edicts, the unjust and pernicious exemptions which had withdrawn so many idle citizens from the services of their country; and by imposing an equal distribution of public duties, he restored the strength, the splendor,

or, according to the glowing expression of Libanius, the soul of the expiring cities of his empire. The venerable age of Greece excited the

most tender compassion in the mind of Julian, which kindled into rapture when he recollected the gods, the heroes, and the men superior to heroes and to gods, who have bequeathed to the latest posterity the monuments

of their genius, or the example of their virtues. He relieved the distress, and restored the beauty, of the cities of Epirus and

Peloponnesus. Athens acknowledged him for her benefactor; Argos, for her deliverer. The pride of Corinth, again rising from her ruins with the

honors of a Roman colony, exacted a tribute from the adjacent republics, for the purpose of defraying the games of the Isthmus, which were celebrated in the amphitheatre with the hunting of bears and panthers. from this tribute the cities of Elis, of Delphi, and of Argos, which had

inherited from their remote ancestors the sacred office of perpetuating the Olympic, the Pythian, and the Nemean games, claimed a just exemption. The immunity of Elis and Delphi was respected by the corinthians; but the poverty of Argos tempted the insolence of

oppression; and the feeble complaints of its deputies were silenced by the decree of a provincial magistrate, who seems to have consulted only the interest of the capital in which he resided. Seven years after this sentence, Julian allowed the cause to be referred to a superior tribunal; and his eloquence was interposed, most probably with success,

in the defence of a city, which had been the royal seat of Agamemnon, and had given to Macedonia a race of kings and conquerors.

the laborious administration of military and civil affairs, which were

multiplied in proportion to the extent of the empire, exercised the abilities of Julian; but he frequently assumed the two characters of

Orator and of Judge, which are almost unknown to the modern sovereigns

of Europe. The arts of persuasion, so diligently cultivated by the first cæsars, were neglected by the military ignorance and Asiatic pride of their successors; and if they condescended to harangue the soldiers, whom they feared, they treated with silent disdain the senators, whom they despised. The assemblies of the senate, which Constantius had avoided, were considered by Julian as the place where he could exhibit, with the most propriety, the maxims of a republican, and the talents of a rhetorician. He alternately practised, as in a school of declamation, the several modes of praise, of censure, of exhortation; and his friend

Libanius has remarked, that the study of Homer taught him to imitate the simple, concise style of Menelaus, the copiousness of Nestor, whose words descended like the flakes of a winter's snow, or the pathetic and forcible eloquence of Ulysses. The functions of a judge, which are

sometimes incompatible with those of a prince, were exercised by Julian,

not only as a duty, but as an amusement; and although he might have trusted the integrity and discernment of his Prætorian præfects, he

often placed himself by their side on the seat of judgment. The acute penetration of his mind was agreeably occupied in detecting and defeating the chicanery of the advocates, who labored to disguise the truths of facts, and to pervert the sense of the laws. He sometimes forgot the gravity of his station, asked indiscreet or unseasonable

questions, and betrayed, by the loudness of his voice, and the agitation

of his body, the earnest vehemence with which he maintained his opinion against the judges, the advocates, and their clients. But his knowledge

of his own temper prompted him to encourage, and even to solicit, the

reproof of his friends and ministers; and whenever they ventured to

oppose the irregular sallies of his passions, the spectators could

observe the shame, as well as the gratitude, of their monarch. The decrees of Julian were almost always founded on the principles of

justice; and he had the firmness to resist the two most dangerous temptations, which assault the tribunal of a sovereign, under the

specious forms of compassion and equity. He decided the merits of the cause without weighing the circumstances of the parties; and the poor, whom he wished to relieve, were condemned to satisfy the just demands of a wealthy and noble adversary. He carefully distinguished the judge from the legislator; and though he meditated a necessary reformation of the

Roman jurisprudence, he pronounced sentence according to the strict and

literal interpretation of those laws, which the magistrates were bound to execute, and the subjects to obey.

the generality of princes, if they were stripped of their purple, and cast naked into the world, would immediately sink to the lowest rank

of society, without a hope of emerging from their obscurity. But the

personal merit of Julian was, in some measure, independent of his fortune. Whatever had been his choice of life, by the force of intrepid courage, lively wit, and intense application, he would have obtained, or at least he would have deserved, the highest honors of his profession; and Julian might have raised himself to the rank of minister, or

general, of the state in which he was born a private citizen. If the

jealous caprice of power had disappointed his expectations, if he had

prudently declined the paths of greatness, the employment of the same talents in studious solitude would have placed beyond the reach of

kings his present happiness and his immortal fame. When we inspect, with minute, or perhaps malevolent attention, the portrait of Julian,

something seems wanting to the grace and perfection of the whole figure.

His genius was less powerful and sublime than that of Cæsar; nor did

he possess the consummate prudence of Augustus. The virtues of Trajan appear more steady and natural, and the philosophy of Marcus is more

simple and consistent. Yet Julian sustained adversity with firmness, and

prosperity with moderation. After an interval of one hundred and twenty

years from the death of Alexander Severus, the Romans beheld an emperor who made no distinction between his duties and his pleasures; who

labored to relieve the distress, and to revive the spirit, of his

subjects; and who endeavored always to connect authority with merit, and happiness with virtue. Even faction, and religious faction, was constrained to acknowledge the superiority of his genius, in peace as well as in war, and to confess, with a sigh, that the apostate Julian was a lover of his country, and that he deserved the empire of the world.

chapter XXIII: Reign Of Julian.--Part I.

The Religion Of Julian.--Universal Toleration.--He Attempts

To Restore And Reform The Pagan Worship--To Rebuild The

Temple Of Jerusalem--His Artful Persecution Of The

Christians.--Mutual Zeal And Injustice.

the character of Apostate has injured the reputation of Julian; and the enthusiasm which clouded his virtues has exaggerated the real and apparent magnitude of his faults. Our partial ignorance may represent

him as a philosophic monarch, who studied to protect, with an equal

hand, the religious factions of the empire; and to allay the theological fever which had inflamed the minds of the people, from the edicts of diocletian to the exile of Athanasius. A more accurate view of the character and conduct of Julian will remove this favorable prepossession for a prince who did not escape the general contagion of the times. We enjoy the singular advantage of comparing the pictures which have been delineated by his fondest admirers and his implacable enemies. The actions of Julian are faithfully related by a judicious and candid

historian, the impartial spectator of his life and death. The unanimous evidence of his contemporaries is confirmed by the public and private declarations of the emperor himself; and his various writings express the uniform tenor of his religious sentiments, which policy would have

prompted him to dissemble rather than to affect. A devout and sincere attachment for the gods of Athens and Rome constituted the ruling

passion of Julian; the powers of an enlightened understanding were betrayed and corrupted by the influence of superstitious prejudice; and the phantoms which existed only in the mind of the emperor had a real and pernicious effect on the government of the empire. The vehement zeal

of the Christians, who despised the worship, and overturned the altars of those fabulous deities, engaged their votary in a state of

irreconcilable hostility with a very numerous party of his subjects; and he was sometimes tempted by the desire of victory, or the shame of a repulse, to violate the laws of prudence, and even of justice. The triumph of the party, which he deserted and opposed, has fixed a stain

of infamy on the name of Julian; and the unsuccessful apostate has been

overwhelmed with a torrent of pious invectives, of which the signal was given by the sonorous trumpet of Gregory Nazianzen. The interesting

nature of the events which were crowded into the short reign of this active emperor, deserve a just and circumstantial narrative. His

motives, his counsels, and his actions, as far as they are connected with the history of religion, will be the subject of the present chapter.

the cause of his strange and fatal apostasy may be derived from the early period of his life, when he was left an orphan in the hands of the murderers of his family. The names of Christ and of Constantius, the ideas of slavery and of religion, were soon associated in a youthful

imagination, which was susceptible of the most lively impressions. The care of his infancy was intrusted to Eusebius, bishop of Nicomedia, who was related to him on the side of his mother; and till Julian reached the twentieth year of his age, he received from his Christian preceptors the education, not of a hero, but of a saint. The emperor, less jealous

of a heavenly than of an earthly crown, contented himself with the

imperfect character of a catechumen, while he bestowed the advantages

of baptism on the nephews of Constantine. They were even admitted to the

inferior offices of the ecclesiastical order; and Julian publicly read the Holy Scriptures in the church of Nicomedia. The study of religion, which they assiduously cultivated, appeared to produce the fairest fruits of faith and devotion. They prayed, they fasted, they distributed alms to the poor, gifts to the clergy, and oblations to the tombs of the martyrs; and the splendid monument of St. Mamas, at Cæsarea, was erected, or at least was undertaken, by the joint labor of Gallus and

Julian. They respectfully conversed with the bishops, who were eminent for superior sanctity, and solicited the benediction of the monks and

hermits, who had introduced into Cappadocia the voluntary hardships

of the ascetic life. As the two princes advanced towards the years of

manhood, they discovered, in their religious sentiments, the difference

of their characters. The dull and obstinate understanding of Gallus embraced, with implicit zeal, the doctrines of Christianity; which never

influenced his conduct, or moderated his passions. The mild disposition

of the younger brother was less repugnant to the precepts of the gospel; and his active curiosity might have been gratified by a theological

system, which explains the mysterious essence of the Deity, and

opens the boundless prospect of invisible and future worlds. But the independent spirit of Julian refused to yield the passive and

unresisting obedience which was required, in the name of religion, by the haughty ministers of the church. Their speculative opinions were imposed as positive laws, and guarded by the terrors of eternal

punishments; but while they prescribed the rigid formulary of the thoughts, the words, and the actions of the young prince; whilst they silenced his objections, and severely checked the freedom of his

inquiries, they secretly provoked his impatient genius to disclaim the authority of his ecclesiastical guides. He was educated in the Lesser asia, amidst the scandals of the Arian controversy. The fierce contests

of the Eastern bishops, the incessant alterations of their creeds, and the profane motives which appeared to actuate their conduct, insensibly

strengthened the prejudice of Julian, that they neither understood nor believed the religion for which they so fiercely contended. Instead of

listening to the proofs of Christianity with that favorable attention which adds weight to the most respectable evidence, he heard with

suspicion, and disputed with obstinacy and acuteness, the doctrines for which he already entertained an invincible aversion. Whenever the young

princes were directed to compose declamations on the subject of the

prevailing controversies, Julian always declared himself the advocate of

Paganism; under the specious excuse that, in the defence of the weaker cause, his learning and ingenuity might be more advantageously exercised and displayed.

as soon as Gallus was invested with the honors of the purple, Julian was

permitted to breathe the air of freedom, of literature, and of Paganism. the crowd of sophists, who were attracted by the taste and liberality of their royal pupil, had formed a strict alliance between the learning and the religion of Greece; and the poems of Homer, instead of being admired as the original productions of human genius, were seriously ascribed to the heavenly inspiration of Apollo and the muses. The deities of

Olympus, as they are painted by the immortal bard, imprint themselves on the minds which are the least addicted to superstitious credulity.

Our familiar knowledge of their names and characters, their forms and attributes, seems to bestow on those airy beings a real and substantial existence; and the pleasing enchantment produces an imperfect and

momentary assent of the imagination to those fables, which are the most

repugnant to our reason and experience. In the age of Julian, every circumstance contributed to prolong and fortify the illusion; the

magnificent temples of Greece and Asia; the works of those artists who

had expressed, in painting or in sculpture, the divine conceptions of the poet; the pomp of festivals and sacrifices; the successful arts of divination; the popular traditions of oracles and prodigies; and the ancient practice of two thousand years. The weakness of polytheism was, in some measure, excused by the moderation of its claims; and the devotion of the Pagans was not incompatible with the most licentious

scepticism. Instead of an indivisible and regular system, which occupies the whole extent of the believing mind, the mythology of the Greeks was composed of a thousand loose and flexible parts, and the servant of the

gods was at liberty to define the degree and measure of his religious faith. The creed which Julian adopted for his own use was of the largest dimensions; and, by strange contradiction, he disdained the salutary

yoke of the gospel, whilst he made a voluntary offering of his reason

on the altars of Jupiter and Apollo. One of the orations of Julian is consecrated to the honor of Cybele, the mother of the gods, who required from her effeminate priests the bloody sacrifice, so rashly performed by the madness of the Phrygian boy. The pious emperor condescends to

relate, without a blush, and without a smile, the voyage of the

goddess from the shores of Pergamus to the mouth of the Tyber, and the

stupendous miracle, which convinced the senate and people of Rome that the lump of clay, which their ambassadors had transported over the seas, was endowed with life, and sentiment, and divine power. For the truth

of this prodigy he appeals to the public monuments of the city; and censures, with some acrimony, the sickly and affected taste of those

men, who impertinently derided the sacred traditions of their ancestors.

but the devout philosopher, who sincerely embraced, and warmly encouraged, the superstition of the people, reserved for himself the

privilege of a liberal interpretation; and silently withdrew from the foot of the altars into the sanctuary of the temple. The extravagance of the Grecian mythology proclaimed, with a clear and audible voice, that the pious inquirer, instead of being scandalized or satisfied with the

literal sense, should diligently explore the occult wisdom, which had been disguised, by the prudence of antiquity, under the mask of folly and of fable. The philosophers of the Platonic school, Plotinus,

Porphyry, and the divine Iamblichus, were admired as the most skilful

masters of this allegorical science, which labored to soften and

harmonize the deformed features of Paganism. Julian himself, who was directed in the mysterious pursuit by Ædesius, the venerable successor

of Iamblichus, aspired to the possession of a treasure, which he esteemed, if we may credit his solemn asseverations, far above the empire of the world. It was indeed a treasure, which derived its value

only from opinion; and every artist who flattered himself that he had extracted the precious ore from the surrounding dross, claimed an equal

right of stamping the name and figure the most agreeable to his peculiar fancy. The fable of Atys and Cybele had been already explained by

Porphyry; but his labors served only to animate the pious industry of

Julian, who invented and published his own allegory of that ancient and

mystic tale. This freedom of interpretation, which might gratify the

pride of the Platonists, exposed the vanity of their art. Without a tedious detail, the modern reader could not form a just idea of the

strange allusions, the forced etymologies, the solemn trifling, and the impenetrable obscurity of these sages, who professed to reveal the system of the universe. As the traditions of Pagan mythology were

variously related, the sacred interpreters were at liberty to select the most convenient circumstances; and as they translated an arbitrary cipher, they could extract from any fable any sense which was adapted to their favorite system of religion and philosophy. The lascivious form of a naked Venus was tortured into the discovery of some moral precept, or

some physical truth; and the castration of Atys explained the revolution

of the sun between the tropics, or the separation of the human soul from

vice and error.

the theological system of Julian appears to have contained the sublime and important principles of natural religion. But as the faith, which is

not founded on revelation, must remain destitute of any firm assurance, the disciple of Plato imprudently relapsed into the habits of vulgar

superstition; and the popular and philosophic notion of the Deity seems to have been confounded in the practice, the writings, and even in the

mind of Julian. The pious emperor acknowledged and adored the Eternal cause of the universe, to whom he ascribed all the perfections of an infinite nature, invisible to the eyes and inaccessible to the

understanding, of feeble mortals. The Supreme God had created, or

rather, in the Platonic language, had generated, the gradual succession

of dependent spirits, of gods, of dæmons, of heroes, and of men; and every being which derived its existence immediately from the First cause, received the inherent gift of immortality. That so precious an advantage might be lavished upon unworthy objects, the Creator had

intrusted to the skill and power of the inferior gods the office of forming the human body, and of arranging the beautiful harmony of the animal, the vegetable, and the mineral kingdoms. To the conduct of these divine ministers he delegated the temporal government of this lower world; but their imperfect administration is not exempt from discord

or error. The earth and its inhabitants are divided among them, and the characters of Mars or Minerva, of Mercury or Venus, may be distinctly traced in the laws and manners of their peculiar votaries. As long as

our immortal souls are confined in a mortal prison, it is our interest, as well as our duty, to solicit the favor, and to deprecate the wrath,

of the powers of heaven; whose pride is gratified by the devotion

of mankind; and whose grosser parts may be supposed to derive some

nourishment from the fumes of sacrifice. The inferior gods might

sometimes condescend to animate the statues, and to inhabit the temples, which were dedicated to their honor. They might occasionally visit the earth, but the heavens were the proper throne and symbol of their glory. the invariable order of the sun, moon, and stars, was hastily admitted by Julian, as a proof of their eternal duration; and their eternity was a sufficient evidence that they were the workmanship, not of an inferior deity, but of the Omnipotent King. In the system of Platonists, the

visible was a type of the invisible world. The celestial bodies, as they were informed by a divine spirit, might be considered as the objects the most worthy of religious worship. The Sun, whose genial influence

pervades and sustains the universe, justly claimed the adoration of

mankind, as the bright representative of the Logos, the lively, the

rational, the beneficent image of the intellectual Father.

In every age, the absence of genuine inspiration is supplied by the

strong illusions of enthusiasm, and the mimic arts of imposture. If,

in the time of Julian, these arts had been practised only by the pagan

priests, for the support of an expiring cause, some indulgence might

perhaps be allowed to the interest and habits of the sacerdotal character. But it may appear a subject of surprise and scandal, that the philosophers themselves should have contributed to abuse the

superstitious credulity of mankind, and that the Grecian mysteries

should have been supported by the magic or theurgy of the modern

Platonists. They arrogantly pretended to control the order of nature, to explore the secrets of futurity, to command the service of the inferior dæmons, to enjoy the view and conversation of the superior gods, and by disengaging the soul from her material bands, to reunite that immortal

particle with the Infinite and Divine Spirit.

the devout and fearless curiosity of Julian tempted the philosophers with the hopes of an easy conquest; which, from the situation of their

young proselyte, might be productive of the most important consequences.

Julian imbibed the first rudiments of the Platonic doctrines from the

mouth of Ædesius, who had fixed at Pergamus his wandering and persecuted

school. But as the declining strength of that venerable sage was unequal to the ardor, the diligence, the rapid conception of his pupil, two of

his most learned disciples, Chrysanthes and Eusebius, supplied, at his

own desire, the place of their aged master. These philosophers seem to

have prepared and distributed their respective parts; and they artfully contrived, by dark hints and affected disputes, to excite the impatient

hopes of the aspirant, till they delivered him into the hands of their associate, Maximus, the boldest and most skilful master of the Theurgic

science. By his hands, Julian was secretly initiated at Ephesus, in the twentieth year of his age. His residence at Athens confirmed this

unnatural alliance of philosophy and superstition. He obtained the

privilege of a solemn initiation into the mysteries of Eleusis, which, amidst the general decay of the Grecian worship, still retained some

vestiges of their primæval sanctity; and such was the zeal of Julian, that he afterwards invited the Eleusinian pontiff to the court of Gaul, for the sole purpose of consummating, by mystic rites and sacrifices, the great work of his sanctification. As these ceremonies were performed

in the depth of caverns, and in the silence of the night, and as the

inviolable secret of the mysteries was preserved by the discretion of the initiated, I shall not presume to describe the horrid sounds, and fiery apparitions, which were presented to the senses, or the

imagination, of the credulous aspirant, till the visions of comfort and

knowledge broke upon him in a blaze of celestial light. In the caverns

of Ephesus and Eleusis, the mind of Julian was penetrated with sincere, deep, and unalterable enthusiasm; though he might sometimes exhibit the

vicissitudes of pious fraud and hypocrisy, which may be observed, or at

least suspected, in the characters of the most conscientious fanatics. from that moment he consecrated his life to the service of the gods; and while the occupations of war, of government, and of study, seemed to claim the whole measure of his time, a stated portion of the hours of the night was invariably reserved for the exercise of private devotion. the temperance which adorned the severe manners of the soldier and the philosopher was connected with some strict and frivolous rules of

religious abstinence; and it was in honor of Pan or Mercury, of Hecate

or Isis, that Julian, on particular days, denied himself the use of some

particular food, which might have been offensive to his tutelar deities. by these voluntary fasts, he prepared his senses and his understanding for the frequent and familiar visits with which he was honored by the celestial powers. Notwithstanding the modest silence of Julian himself, we may learn from his faithful friend, the orator Libanius, that he

lived in a perpetual intercourse with the gods and goddesses; that they descended upon earth to enjoy the conversation of their favorite hero; that they gently interrupted his slumbers by touching his hand or his

hair; that they warned him of every impending danger, and conducted him, by their infallible wisdom, in every action of his life; and that he had acquired such an intimate knowledge of his heavenly guests, as readily to distinguish the voice of Jupiter from that of Minerva, and the form

of Apollo from the figure of Hercules. These sleeping or waking visions, the ordinary effects of abstinence and fanaticism, would almost degrade the emperor to the level of an Egyptian monk. But the useless lives

of Antony or Pachomius were consumed in these vain occupations. Julian could break from the dream of superstition to arm himself for battle; and after vanquishing in the field the enemies of Rome, he calmly

retired into his tent, to dictate the wise and salutary laws of an empire, or to indulge his genius in the elegant pursuits of literature and philosophy.

the important secret of the apostasy of Julian was intrusted to the fidelity of the initiated, with whom he was united by the sacred ties

of friendship and religion. The pleasing rumor was cautiously circulated among the adherents of the ancient worship; and his future greatness became the object of the hopes, the prayers, and the predictions of the

Pagans, in every province of the empire. From the zeal and virtues of their royal proselyte, they fondly expected the cure of every evil, and the restoration of every blessing; and instead of disapproving of the ardor of their pious wishes, Julian ingenuously confessed, that he was ambitious to attain a situation in which he might be useful to his country and to his religion. But this religion was viewed with a

hostile eye by the successor of Constantine, whose capricious passions alternately saved and threatened the life of Julian. The arts of magic and divination were strictly prohibited under a despotic government, which condescended to fear them; and if the Pagans were reluctantly

indulged in the exercise of their superstition, the rank of Julian would

have excepted him from the general toleration. The apostate soon became the presumptive heir of the monarchy, and his death could alone have appeased the just apprehensions of the Christians. But the young prince, who aspired to the glory of a hero rather than of a martyr, consulted

his safety by dissembling his religion; and the easy temper of

polytheism permitted him to join in the public worship of a sect which

he inwardly despised. Libanius has considered the hypocrisy of his friend as a subject, not of censure, but of praise. "As the statues of the gods," says that orator, "which have been defiled with filth, are again placed in a magnificent temple, so the beauty of truth was seated

in the mind of Julian, after it had been purified from the errors and follies of his education. His sentiments were changed; but as it would

have been dangerous to have avowed his sentiments, his conduct still continued the same. Very different from the ass in Æsop, who disguised

himself with a lion's hide, our lion was obliged to conceal himself

under the skin of an ass; and, while he embraced the dictates of reason, to obey the laws of prudence and necessity." The dissimulation of Julian

lasted about ten years, from his secret initiation at Ephesus to the beginning of the civil war; when he declared himself at once the

implacable enemy of Christ and of Constantius. This state of constraint

might contribute to strengthen his devotion; and as soon as he had

satisfied the obligation of assisting, on solemn festivals, at the assemblies of the Christians, Julian returned, with the impatience of a

lover, to burn his free and voluntary incense on the domestic chapels of

Jupiter and Mercury. But as every act of dissimulation must be painful to an ingenuous spirit, the profession of Christianity increased the aversion of Julian for a religion which oppressed the freedom of his

mind, and compelled him to hold a conduct repugnant to the noblest attributes of human nature, sincerity and courage.

chapter XXIII: Reign Of Julian.--Part II.

the inclination of Julian might prefer the gods of Homer, and of the

Scipios, to the new faith, which his uncle had established in the Roman empire; and in which he himself had been sanctified by the sacrament of baptism. But, as a philosopher, it was incumbent on him to justify his dissent from Christianity, which was supported by the number of its converts, by the chain of prophecy, the splendor of or miracles, and the weight of evidence. The elaborate work, which he composed amidst the preparations of the Persian war, contained the substance of those arguments which he had long revolved in his mind. Some fragments have been transcribed and preserved, by his adversary, the vehement Cyril

of Alexandria; and they exhibit a very singular mixture of wit and

learning, of sophistry and fanaticism. The elegance of the style and the

rank of the author, recommended his writings to the public attention; and in the impious list of the enemies of Christianity, the celebrated

name of Porphyry was effaced by the superior merit or reputation of

Julian. The minds of the faithful were either seduced, or scandalized,

or alarmed; and the pagans, who sometimes presumed to engage in the

unequal dispute, derived, from the popular work of their Imperial

missionary, an inexhaustible supply of fallacious objections. But in the assiduous prosecution of these theological studies, the emperor of the Romans imbibed the illiberal prejudices and passions of a polemic divine. He contracted an irrevocable obligation to maintain and

propagate his religious opinions; and whilst he secretly applauded the

strength and dexterity with which he wielded the weapons of controversy, he was tempted to distrust the sincerity, or to despise the understandings, of his antagonists, who could obstinately resist the force of reason and eloquence.

the Christians, who beheld with horror and indignation the apostasy of

Julian, had much more to fear from his power than from his arguments. the pagans, who were conscious of his fervent zeal, expected, perhaps with impatience, that the flames of persecution should be immediately

kindled against the enemies of the gods; and that the ingenious malice

of Julian would invent some cruel refinements of death and torture which

had been unknown to the rude and inexperienced fury of his predecessors. but the hopes, as well as the fears, of the religious factions were apparently disappointed, by the prudent humanity of a prince, who was careful of his own fame, of the public peace, and of the rights of

mankind. Instructed by history and reflection, Julian was persuaded, that if the diseases of the body may sometimes be cured by salutary

violence, neither steel nor fire can eradicate the erroneous opinions of the mind. The reluctant victim may be dragged to the foot of the altar; but the heart still abhors and disclaims the sacrilegious act of the

hand. Religious obstinacy is hardened and exasperated by oppression; and, as soon as the persecution subsides, those who have yielded are

restored as penitents, and those who have resisted are honored as saints and martyrs. If Julian adopted the unsuccessful cruelty of Diocletian and his colleagues, he was sensible that he should stain his memory with the name of a tyrant, and add new glories to the Catholic church, which had derived strength and increase from the severity of the pagan

magistrates. Actuated by these motives, and apprehensive of disturbing the repose of an unsettled reign, Julian surprised the world by an edict, which was not unworthy of a statesman, or a philosopher. He extended to all the inhabitants of the Roman world the benefits of a free and equal toleration; and the only hardship which he inflicted on the Christians, was to deprive them of the power of tormenting their fellow-subjects, whom they stigmatized with the odious titles of

idolaters and heretics. The pagans received a gracious permission, or

rather an express order, to open All their temples; and they were at

once delivered from the oppressive laws, and arbitrary vexations, which they had sustained under the reign of Constantine, and of his sons. At the same time the bishops and clergy, who had been banished by the Arian

monarch, were recalled from exile, and restored to their respective churches; the Donatists, the Novatians, the Macedonians, the Eunomians, and those who, with a more prosperous fortune, adhered to the doctrine

of the Council of Nice. Julian, who understood and derided their theological disputes, invited to the palace the leaders of the hostile

sects, that he might enjoy the agreeable spectacle of their furious encounters. The clamor of controversy sometimes provoked the emperor to exclaim, "Hear me! the Franks have heard me, and the Alemanni;" but

he soon discovered that he was now engaged with more obstinate and

implacable enemies; and though he exerted the powers of oratory to

persuade them to live in concord, or at least in peace, he was perfectly

satisfied, before he dismissed them from his presence, that he had

nothing to dread from the union of the Christians. The impartial ammianus has ascribed this affected clemency to the desire of fomenting the intestine divisions of the church, and the insidious design of

undermining the foundations of Christianity, was inseparably connected with the zeal which Julian professed, to restore the ancient religion of the empire.

as soon as he ascended the throne, he assumed, according to the custom

of his predecessors, the character of supreme pontiff; not only as the most honorable title of Imperial greatness, but as a sacred and

important office; the duties of which he was resolved to execute with

pious diligence. As the business of the state prevented the emperor from

joining every day in the public devotion of his subjects, he dedicated a domestic chapel to his tutelar deity the Sun; his gardens were filled with statues and altars of the gods; and each apartment of the palace displaced the appearance of a magnificent temple. Every morning he

saluted the parent of light with a sacrifice; the blood of another

victim was shed at the moment when the Sun sunk below the horizon; and the Moon, the Stars, and the Genii of the night received their

respective and seasonable honors from the indefatigable devotion of

Julian. On solemn festivals, he regularly visited the temple of the god

or goddess to whom the day was peculiarly consecrated, and endeavored to excite the religion of the magistrates and people by the example of

his own zeal. Instead of maintaining the lofty state of a monarch, distinguished by the splendor of his purple, and encompassed by the golden shields of his guards, Julian solicited, with respectful eagerness, the meanest offices which contributed to the worship of the

gods. Amidst the sacred but licentious crowd of priests, of inferior

ministers, and of female dancers, who were dedicated to the service of the temple, it was the business of the emperor to bring the wood, to blow the fire, to handle the knife, to slaughter the victim, and, thrusting his bloody hands into the bowels of the expiring animal, to draw forth the heart or liver, and to read, with the consummate skill of an haruspex, imaginary signs of future events. The wisest of the Pagans censured this extravagant superstition, which affected to despise the

restraints of prudence and decency. Under the reign of a prince, who

practised the rigid maxims of economy, the expense of religious worship consumed a very large portion of the revenue a constant supply of the

scarcest and most beautiful birds was transported from distant climates, to bleed on the altars of the gods; a hundred oxen were frequently

sacrificed by Julian on one and the same day; and it soon became a

popular jest, that if he should return with conquest from the Persian war, the breed of horned cattle must infallibly be extinguished. Yet this expense may appear inconsiderable, when it is compared with the

splendid presents which were offered either by the hand, or by order,

of the emperor, to all the celebrated places of devotion in the Roman world; and with the sums allotted to repair and decorate the ancient temples, which had suffered the silent decay of time, or the

recent injuries of Christian rapine. Encouraged by the example, the exhortations, the liberality, of their pious sovereign, the cities and families resumed the practice of their neglected ceremonies. "Every part

of the world," exclaims Libanius, with devout transport, "displayed the triumph of religion; and the grateful prospect of flaming altars, bleeding victims, the smoke of incense, and a solemn train of priests and prophets, without fear and without danger. The sound of prayer and

of music was heard on the tops of the highest mountains; and the same

ox afforded a sacrifice for the gods, and a supper for their joyous

votaries."

but the genius and power of Julian were unequal to the enterprise of

restoring a religion which was destitute of theological principles, of

moral precepts, and of ecclesiastical discipline; which rapidly hastened to decay and dissolution, and was not susceptible of any solid or consistent reformation. The jurisdiction of the supreme pontiff, more especially after that office had been united with the Imperial dignity, comprehended the whole extent of the Roman empire. Julian named for his

vicars, in the several provinces, the priests and philosophers whom he esteemed the best qualified to cooperate in the execution of his

great design; and his pastoral letters, if we may use that name,

still represent a very curious sketch of his wishes and intentions. He directs, that in every city the sacerdotal order should be composed, without any distinction of birth and fortune, of those persons who were the most conspicuous for the love of the gods, and of men. "If they are guilty," continues he, "of any scandalous offence, they should be censured or degraded by the superior pontiff; but as long as they retain their rank, they are entitled to the respect of the magistrates and

people. Their humility may be shown in the plainness of their domestic

garb; their dignity, in the pomp of holy vestments. When they are

summoned in their turn to officiate before the altar, they ought not, during the appointed number of days, to depart from the precincts of the temple; nor should a single day be suffered to elapse, without the prayers and the sacrifice, which they are obliged to offer for the prosperity of the state, and of individuals. The exercise of their

sacred functions requires an immaculate purity, both of mind and body; and even when they are dismissed from the temple to the occupations of common life, it is incumbent on them to excel in decency and virtue the

rest of their fellow-citizens. The priest of the gods should never be

seen in theatres or taverns. His conversation should be chaste, his diet temperate, his friends of honorable reputation; and if he sometimes

visits the Forum or the Palace, he should appear only as the advocate

of those who have vainly solicited either justice or mercy. His studies

should be suited to the sanctity of his profession. Licentious tales,

or comedies, or satires, must be banished from his library, which ought

solely to consist of historical or philosophical writings; of history, which is founded in truth, and of philosophy, which is connected with

religion. The impious opinions of the Epicureans and sceptics deserve

his abhorrence and contempt; but he should diligently study the systems

of Pythagoras, of Plato, and of the Stoics, which unanimously teach that there are gods; that the world is governed by their providence; that their goodness is the source of every temporal blessing; and that they have prepared for the human soul a future state of reward or

punishment." The Imperial pontiff inculcates, in the most persuasive

language, the duties of benevolence and hospitality; exhorts his

inferior clergy to recommend the universal practice of those virtues;

promises to assist their indigence from the public treasury; and declares his resolution of establishing hospitals in every city, where the poor should be received without any invidious distinction of country

or of religion. Julian beheld with envy the wise and humane regulations

of the church; and he very frankly confesses his intention to deprive the Christians of the applause, as well as advantage, which they had acquired by the exclusive practice of charity and beneficence. The

same spirit of imitation might dispose the emperor to adopt several ecclesiastical institutions, the use and importance of which were approved by the success of his enemies. But if these imaginary plans of

reformation had been realized, the forced and imperfect copy would have been less beneficial to Paganism, than honorable to Christianity. The

Gentiles, who peaceably followed the customs of their ancestors, were

rather surprised than pleased with the introduction of foreign manners; and in the short period of his reign, Julian had frequent occasions to complain of the want of fervor of his own party.

the enthusiasm of Julian prompted him to embrace the friends of Jupiter as his personal friends and brethren; and though he partially overlooked the merit of Christian constancy, he admired and rewarded the noble

perseverance of those Gentiles who had preferred the favor of the gods to that of the emperor. If they cultivated the literature, as well as the religion, of the Greeks, they acquired an additional claim to the friendship of Julian, who ranked the Muses in the number of his tutelar deities. In the religion which he had adopted, piety and learning were almost synonymous; and a crowd of poets, of rhetoricians, and

of philosophers, hastened to the Imperial court, to occupy the vacant

places of the bishops, who had seduced the credulity of Constantius. His

successor esteemed the ties of common initiation as far more sacred than those of consanguinity; he chose his favorites among the sages, who were deeply skilled in the occult sciences of magic and divination; and every

impostor, who pretended to reveal the secrets of futurity, was assured of enjoying the present hour in honor and affluence. Among the

philosophers, Maximus obtained the most eminent rank in the friendship

of his royal disciple, who communicated, with unreserved confidence, his actions, his sentiments, and his religious designs, during the anxious

suspense of the civil war. As soon as Julian had taken possession of the palace of Constantinople, he despatched an honorable and pressing

invitation to Maximus, who then resided at Sardes in Lydia, with chrysanthius, the associate of his art and studies. The prudent and

superstitious Chrysanthius refused to undertake a journey which showed

itself, according to the rules of divination, with the most threatening and malignant aspect: but his companion, whose fanaticism was of a bolder cast, persisted in his interrogations, till he had extorted from the gods a seeming consent to his own wishes, and those of the emperor. the journey of Maximus through the cities of Asia displayed the triumph

of philosophic vanity; and the magistrates vied with each other in the honorable reception which they prepared for the friend of their

sovereign. Julian was pronouncing an oration before the senate, when

he was informed of the arrival of Maximus. The emperor immediately

interrupted his discourse, advanced to meet him, and after a tender embrace, conducted him by the hand into the midst of the assembly; where

he publicly acknowledged the benefits which he had derived from the instructions of the philosopher. Maximus, who soon acquired the confidence, and influenced the councils of Julian, was insensibly corrupted by the temptations of a court. His dress became more splendid,

his demeanor more lofty, and he was exposed, under a succeeding reign, to a disgraceful inquiry into the means by which the disciple of Plato

had accumulated, in the short duration of his favor, a very scandalous

proportion of wealth. Of the other philosophers and sophists, who were

invited to the Imperial residence by the choice of Julian, or by the

success of Maximus, few were able to preserve their innocence or their reputation. The liberal gifts of money, lands, and houses, were

insufficient to satiate their rapacious avarice; and the indignation of the people was justly excited by the remembrance of their abject poverty and disinterested professions. The penetration of Julian could not always be deceived: but he was unwilling to despise the characters of those men whose talents deserved his esteem: he desired to escape the double reproach of imprudence and inconstancy; and he was apprehensive

of degrading, in the eyes of the profane, the honor of letters and of

religion.

the favor of Julian was almost equally divided between the Pagans, who had firmly adhered to the worship of their ancestors, and the christians, who prudently embraced the religion of their sovereign. The acquisition of new proselytes gratified the ruling passions of his

soul, superstition and vanity; and he was heard to declare, with the enthusiasm of a missionary, that if he could render each individual

richer than Midas, and every city greater than Babylon, he should not esteem himself the benefactor of mankind, unless, at the same time,

he could reclaim his subjects from their impious revolt against the

immortal gods. A prince who had studied human nature, and who possessed the treasures of the Roman empire, could adapt his arguments, his

promises, and his rewards, to every order of Christians; and the merit

of a seasonable conversion was allowed to supply the defects of a candidate, or even to expiate the guilt of a criminal. As the army is the most forcible engine of absolute power, Julian applied himself, with

peculiar diligence, to corrupt the religion of his troops, without whose

hearty concurrence every measure must be dangerous and unsuccessful; and the natural temper of soldiers made this conquest as easy as it was

important. The legions of Gaul devoted themselves to the faith, as well as to the fortunes, of their victorious leader; and even before the death of Constantius, he had the satisfaction of announcing to his friends, that they assisted with fervent devotion, and voracious appetite, at the sacrifices, which were repeatedly offered in his camp,

of whole hecatombs of fat oxen. The armies of the East, which had been trained under the standard of the cross, and of Constantius, required a

more artful and expensive mode of persuasion. On the days of solemn and public festivals, the emperor received the homage, and rewarded the merit, of the troops. His throne of state was encircled with the

military ensigns of Rome and the republic; the holy name of Christ was erased from the Labarum; and the symbols of war, of majesty, and of

pagan superstition, were so dexterously blended, that the faithful

subject incurred the guilt of idolatry, when he respectfully saluted the

person or image of his sovereign. The soldiers passed successively in

review; and each of them, before he received from the hand of Julian a

liberal donative, proportioned to his rank and services, was required to cast a few grains of incense into the flame which burnt upon the altar.

Some Christian confessors might resist, and others might repent; but the far greater number, allured by the prospect of gold, and awed by the

presence of the emperor, contracted the criminal engagement; and their future perseverance in the worship of the gods was enforced by every consideration of duty and of interest. By the frequent repetition of these arts, and at the expense of sums which would have purchased the

service of half the nations of Scythia, Julian gradually acquired for

his troops the imaginary protection of the gods, and for himself the firm and effectual support of the Roman legions. It is indeed more than

probable, that the restoration and encouragement of Paganism revealed a multitude of pretended Christians, who, from motives of temporal advantage, had acquiesced in the religion of the former reign; and who afterwards returned, with the same flexibility of conscience, to the faith which was professed by the successors of Julian.

while the devout monarch incessantly labored to restore and propagate the religion of his ancestors, he embraced the extraordinary design of

rebuilding the temple of Jerusalem. In a public epistle to the nation or community of the Jews, dispersed through the provinces, he pities their misfortunes, condemns their oppressors, praises their constancy, declares himself their gracious protector, and expresses a pious hope, that after his return from the Persian war, he may be permitted to pay

his grateful vows to the Almighty in his holy city of Jerusalem. The blind superstition, and abject slavery, of those unfortunate exiles,

must excite the contempt of a philosophic emperor; but they deserved the friendship of Julian, by their implacable hatred of the Christian name. the barren synagogue abhorred and envied the fecundity of the rebellious church; the power of the Jews was not equal to their malice; but their

gravest rabbis approved the private murder of an apostate; and their

seditious clamors had often awakened the indolence of the Pagan

magistrates. Under the reign of Constantine, the Jews became the

subjects of their revolted children nor was it long before they experienced the bitterness of domestic tyranny. The civil immunities which had been granted, or confirmed, by Severus, were gradually

repealed by the Christian princes; and a rash tumult, excited by the

Jews of Palestine, seemed to justify the lucrative modes of oppression which were invented by the bishops and eunuchs of the court of constantius. The Jewish patriarch, who was still permitted to exercise a precarious jurisdiction, held his residence at Tiberias; and the

neighboring cities of Palestine were filled with the remains of a people who fondly adhered to the promised land. But the edict of Hadrian was

renewed and enforced; and they viewed from afar the walls of the holy city, which were profaned in their eyes by the triumph of the cross and the devotion of the Christians.

chapter XXIII: Reign Of Julian.--Part III.

In the midst of a rocky and barren country, the walls of Jerusalem enclosed the two mountains of Sion and Acra, within an oval figure of about three English miles. Towards the south, the upper town, and the fortress of David, were erected on the lofty ascent of Mount Sion: on the north side, the buildings of the lower town covered the spacious

summit of Mount Acra; and a part of the hill, distinguished by the name

of Moriah, and levelled by human industry, was crowned with the stately temple of the Jewish nation. After the final destruction of the temple by the arms of Titus and Hadrian, a ploughshare was drawn over the consecrated ground, as a sign of perpetual interdiction. Sion was deserted; and the vacant space of the lower city was filled with the

public and private edifices of the Ælian colony, which spread themselves

over the adjacent hill of Calvary. The holy places were polluted with

mountains of idolatry; and, either from design or accident, a chapel was dedicated to Venus, on the spot which had been sanctified by the death and resurrection of Christ. \* Almost three hundred years after those

stupendous events, the profane chapel of Venus was demolished by the

order of Constantine; and the removal of the earth and stones revealed the holy sepulchre to the eyes of mankind. A magnificent church was erected on that mystic ground, by the first Christian emperor; and the effects of his pious munificence were extended to every spot which had been consecrated by the footstep of patriarchs, of prophets, and of the

Son of God.

the passionate desire of contemplating the original monuments of their

redemption attracted to Jerusalem a successive crowd of pilgrims, from the shores of the Atlantic Ocean, and the most distant countries of the East; and their piety was authorized by the example of the empress

Helena, who appears to have united the credulity of age with the warm feelings of a recent conversion. Sages and heroes, who have visited the memorable scenes of ancient wisdom or glory, have confessed the

inspiration of the genius of the place; and the Christian who knelt before the holy sepulchre, ascribed his lively faith, and his fervent devotion, to the more immediate influence of the Divine Spirit. The

zeal, perhaps the avarice, of the clergy of Jerusalem, cherished and

multiplied these beneficial visits. They fixed, by unquestionable tradition, the scene of each memorable event. They exhibited the

instruments which had been used in the passion of Christ; the nails and the lance that had pierced his hands, his feet, and his side; the crown

of thorns that was planted on his head; the pillar at which he was

scourged; and, above all, they showed the cross on which he suffered, and which was dug out of the earth in the reign of those princes, who

inserted the symbol of Christianity in the banners of the Roman legions.

Such miracles as seemed necessary to account for its extraordinary

preservation, and seasonable discovery, were gradually propagated without opposition. The custody of the true cross, which on Easter

Sunday was solemnly exposed to the people, was intrusted to the bishop

of Jerusalem; and he alone might gratify the curious devotion of the

pilgrims, by the gift of small pieces, which they encased in gold or

gems, and carried away in triumph to their respective countries. But as this gainful branch of commerce must soon have been annihilated, it was found convenient to suppose, that the marvelous wood possessed a

secret power of vegetation; and that its substance, though continually diminished, still remained entire and unimpaired. It might perhaps

have been expected, that the influence of the place and the belief of a perpetual miracle, should have produced some salutary effects on the

morals, as well as on the faith, of the people. Yet the most respectable

of the ecclesiastical writers have been obliged to confess, not only that the streets of Jerusalem were filled with the incessant tumult of business and pleasure, but that every species of vice--adultery, theft,

idolatry, poisoning, murder--was familiar to the inhabitants of the holy city. The wealth and preeminence of the church of Jerusalem excited the ambition of Arian, as well as orthodox, candidates; and the virtues of cyril, who, since his death, has been honored with the title of Saint, were displayed in the exercise, rather than in the acquisition, of his episcopal dignity.

the vain and ambitious mind of Julian might aspire to restore the ancient glory of the temple of Jerusalem. As the Christians were firmly

persuaded that a sentence of everlasting destruction had been pronounced against the whole fabric of the Mosaic law, the Imperial sophist would

have converted the success of his undertaking into a specious argument against the faith of prophecy, and the truth of revelation. He was displeased with the spiritual worship of the synagogue; but he approved the institutions of Moses, who had not disdained to adopt many of the

rites and ceremonies of Egypt. The local and national deity of the Jews was sincerely adored by a polytheist, who desired only to multiply the number of the gods; and such was the appetite of Julian for bloody

sacrifice, that his emulation might be excited by the piety of Solomon, who had offered, at the feast of the dedication, twenty-two thousand

oxen, and one hundred and twenty thousand sheep. These considerations

might influence his designs; but the prospect of an immediate and

important advantage would not suffer the impatient monarch to expect the remote and uncertain event of the Persian war. He resolved to erect, without delay, on the commanding eminence of Moriah, a stately temple, which might eclipse the splendor of the church of the resurrection on the adjacent hill of Calvary; to establish an order of priests, whose

interested zeal would detect the arts, and resist the ambition, of their christian rivals; and to invite a numerous colony of Jews, whose stern fanaticism would be always prepared to second, and even to anticipate, the hostile measures of the Pagan government. Among the friends of the emperor (if the names of emperor, and of friend, are not incompatible) the first place was assigned, by Julian himself, to the virtuous and

learned Alypius. The humanity of Alypius was tempered by severe justice and manly fortitude; and while he exercised his abilities in the civil administration of Britain, he imitated, in his poetical compositions, the harmony and softness of the odes of Sappho. This minister, to whom

Julian communicated, without reserve, his most careless levities, and

his most serious counsels, received an extraordinary commission to

restore, in its pristine beauty, the temple of Jerusalem; and the diligence of Alypius required and obtained the strenuous support of the

governor of Palestine. At the call of their great deliverer, the Jews, from all the provinces of the empire, assembled on the holy mountain of their fathers; and their insolent triumph alarmed and exasperated the christian inhabitants of Jerusalem. The desire of rebuilding the temple

has in every age been the ruling passion of the children of Isræl. In this propitious moment the men forgot their avarice, and the women their delicacy; spades and pickaxes of silver were provided by the vanity of the rich, and the rubbish was transported in mantles of silk and purple. every purse was opened in liberal contributions, every hand claimed a share in the pious labor, and the commands of a great monarch were executed by the enthusiasm of a whole people.

Yet, on this occasion, the joint efforts of power and enthusiasm were

unsuccessful; and the ground of the Jewish temple, which is now covered by a Mahometan mosque, still continued to exhibit the same edifying

spectacle of ruin and desolation. Perhaps the absence and death of the emperor, and the new maxims of a Christian reign, might explain the

interruption of an arduous work, which was attempted only in the last

six months of the life of Julian. But the Christians entertained a

natural and pious expectation, that, in this memorable contest, the

honor of religion would be vindicated by some signal miracle. An earthquake, a whirlwind, and a fiery eruption, which overturned and

scattered the new foundations of the temple, are attested, with some

variations, by contemporary and respectable evidence. This public event

is described by Ambrose, bishop of Milan, in an epistle to the emperor theodosius, which must provoke the severe animadversion of the Jews; by the eloquent Chrysostom, who might appeal to the memory of the elder

part of his congregation at Antioch; and by Gregory Nazianzen, who

published his account of the miracle before the expiration of the

same year. The last of these writers has boldly declared, that this

preternatural event was not disputed by the infidels; and his assertion,

strange as it may seem is confirmed by the unexceptionable testimony of ammianus Marcellinus. The philosophic soldier, who loved the virtues, without adopting the prejudices, of his master, has recorded, in

his judicious and candid history of his own times, the extraordinary

obstacles which interrupted the restoration of the temple of Jerusalem.

"Whilst Alypius, assisted by the governor of the province, urged, with

vigor and diligence, the execution of the work, horrible balls of fire breaking out near the foundations, with frequent and reiterated attacks,

rendered the place, from time to time, inaccessible to the scorched and blasted workmen; and the victorious element continuing in this manner

obstinately and resolutely bent, as it were, to drive them to a distance, the undertaking was abandoned." \* Such authority should

satisfy a believing, and must astonish an incredulous, mind. Yet a

philosopher may still require the original evidence of impartial and

intelligent spectators. At this important crisis, any singular accident

of nature would assume the appearance, and produce the effects of a

real prodigy. This glorious deliverance would be speedily improved and

magnified by the pious art of the clergy of Jerusalem, and the active credulity of the Christian world and, at the distance of twenty years, a

Roman historian, care less of theological disputes, might adorn his work with the specious and splendid miracle.

chapter XXIII: Reign Of Julian.--Part IV.

the restoration of the Jewish temple was secretly connected with the

ruin of the Christian church. Julian still continued to maintain the freedom of religious worship, without distinguishing whether this

universal toleration proceeded from his justice or his clemency. He affected to pity the unhappy Christians, who were mistaken in the most

important object of their lives; but his pity was degraded by contempt,

his contempt was embittered by hatred; and the sentiments of Julian were expressed in a style of sarcastic wit, which inflicts a deep and deadly wound, whenever it issues from the mouth of a sovereign. As he was

sensible that the Christians gloried in the name of their Redeemer,

he countenanced, and perhaps enjoined, the use of the less honorable appellation of Galilæans. He declared, that by the folly of the

Galilæans, whom he describes as a sect of fanatics, contemptible to

men, and odious to the gods, the empire had been reduced to the brink of destruction; and he insinuates in a public edict, that a frantic patient

might sometimes be cured by salutary violence. An ungenerous distinction was admitted into the mind and counsels of Julian, that, according to the difference of their religious sentiments, one part of his subjects deserved his favor and friendship, while the other was entitled only to the common benefits that his justice could not refuse to an obedient

people. According to a principle, pregnant with mischief and oppression, the emperor transferred to the pontiffs of his own religion the

management of the liberal allowances for the public revenue, which had been granted to the church by the piety of Constantine and his sons. the proud system of clerical honors and immunities, which had been constructed with so much art and labor, was levelled to the ground; the

hopes of testamentary donations were intercepted by the rigor of the

laws; and the priests of the Christian sect were confounded with the

last and most ignominious class of the people. Such of these regulations as appeared necessary to check the ambition and avarice of the ecclesiastics, were soon afterwards imitated by the wisdom of an

orthodox prince. The peculiar distinctions which policy has bestowed, or

superstition has lavished, on the sacerdotal order, must be confined to those priests who profess the religion of the state. But the will of the legislator was not exempt from prejudice and passion; and it was the

object of the insidious policy of Julian, to deprive the Christians of all the temporal honors and advantages which rendered them respectable

in the eyes of the world.

a just and severe censure has been inflicted on the law which prohibited the Christians from teaching the arts of grammar and rhetoric. The

motives alleged by the emperor to justify this partial and oppressive

measure, might command, during his lifetime, the silence of slaves and the applause of flatterers. Julian abuses the ambiguous meaning of a word which might be indifferently applied to the language and the

religion of the Greeks: he contemptuously observes, that the men who exalt the merit of implicit faith are unfit to claim or to enjoy the advantages of science; and he vainly contends, that if they refuse to adore the gods of Homer and Demosthenes, they ought to content themselves with expounding Luke and Matthew in the church of the

Galilæans. In all the cities of the Roman world, the education of the

youth was intrusted to masters of grammar and rhetoric; who were elected by the magistrates, maintained at the public expense, and distinguished by many lucrative and honorable privileges. The edict of Julian appears to have included the physicians, and professors of all the liberal arts; and the emperor, who reserved to himself the approbation of the candidates, was authorized by the laws to corrupt, or to punish, the

religious constancy of the most learned of the Christians. As soon as the resignation of the more obstinate teachers had established the

unrivalled dominion of the Pagan sophists, Julian invited the rising

generation to resort with freedom to the public schools, in a just confidence, that their tender minds would receive the impressions of

literature and idolatry. If the greatest part of the Christian youth

should be deterred by their own scruples, or by those of their parents, from accepting this dangerous mode of instruction, they must, at the

same time, relinquish the benefits of a liberal education. Julian had

reason to expect that, in the space of a few years, the church would

relapse into its primæval simplicity, and that the theologians, who

possessed an adequate share of the learning and eloquence of the age, would be succeeded by a generation of blind and ignorant fanatics,

incapable of defending the truth of their own principles, or of exposing the various follies of Polytheism.

It was undoubtedly the wish and design of Julian to deprive the christians of the advantages of wealth, of knowledge, and of power; but the injustice of excluding them from all offices of trust and profit

seems to have been the result of his general policy, rather than the

immediate consequence of any positive law. Superior merit might deserve and obtain, some extraordinary exceptions; but the greater part of the christian officers were gradually removed from their employments in the

state, the army, and the provinces. The hopes of future candidates were extinguished by the declared partiality of a prince, who maliciously

reminded them, that it was unlawful for a Christian to use the sword, either of justice, or of war; and who studiously guarded the camp and the tribunals with the ensigns of idolatry. The powers of government were intrusted to the pagans, who professed an ardent zeal for the

religion of their ancestors; and as the choice of the emperor was often directed by the rules of divination, the favorites whom he preferred as the most agreeable to the gods, did not always obtain the approbation of

mankind. Under the administration of their enemies, the Christians had

much to suffer, and more to apprehend. The temper of Julian was averse to cruelty; and the care of his reputation, which was exposed to the eyes of the universe, restrained the philosophic monarch from violating the laws of justice and toleration, which he himself had so recently established. But the provincial ministers of his authority were placed

in a less conspicuous station. In the exercise of arbitrary power, they consulted the wishes, rather than the commands, of their sovereign; and ventured to exercise a secret and vexatious tyranny against the

sectaries, on whom they were not permitted to confer the honors of

martyrdom. The emperor, who dissembled as long as possible his knowledge

of the injustice that was exercised in his name, expressed his real

sense of the conduct of his officers, by gentle reproofs and substantial

rewards.

the most effectual instrument of oppression, with which they were armed, was the law that obliged the Christians to make full and ample satisfaction for the temples which they had destroyed under the preceding reign. The zeal of the triumphant church had not always expected the sanction of the public authority; and the bishops, who were

secure of impunity, had often marched at the head of their congregation, to attack and demolish the fortresses of the prince of darkness. The consecrated lands, which had increased the patrimony of the sovereign or

of the clergy, were clearly defined, and easily restored. But on these

lands, and on the ruins of Pagan superstition, the Christians had frequently erected their own religious edifices: and as it was necessary to remove the church before the temple could be rebuilt, the justice and piety of the emperor were applauded by one party, while the other deplored and execrated his sacrilegious violence. After the ground was cleared, the restitution of those stately structures which had been

levelled with the dust, and of the precious ornaments which had been converted to Christian uses, swelled into a very large account of damages and debt. The authors of the injury had neither the ability nor the inclination to discharge this accumulated demand: and the impartial wisdom of a legislator would have been displayed in balancing the adverse claims and complaints, by an equitable and temperate arbitration. But the whole empire, and particularly the East, was thrown

into confusion by the rash edicts of Julian; and the Pagan magistrates,

inflamed by zeal and revenge, abused the rigorous privilege of the Roman

law, which substitutes, in the place of his inadequate property, the

person of the insolvent debtor. Under the preceding reign, Mark, bishop

of Arethusa, had labored in the conversion of his people with arms more effectual than those of persuasion. The magistrates required the full

value of a temple which had been destroyed by his intolerant zeal: but as they were satisfied of his poverty, they desired only to bend his

inflexible spirit to the promise of the slightest compensation. They apprehended the aged prelate, they inhumanly scourged him, they tore his beard; and his naked body, anointed with honey, was suspended, in a net, between heaven and earth, and exposed to the stings of insects and the

rays of a Syrian sun. From this lofty station, Mark still persisted to

glory in his crime, and to insult the impotent rage of his persecutors.

He was at length rescued from their hands, and dismissed to enjoy the

honor of his divine triumph. The Arians celebrated the virtue of their

pious confessor; the Catholics ambitiously claimed his alliance; and the

Pagans, who might be susceptible of shame or remorse, were deterred from the repetition of such unavailing cruelty. Julian spared his life: but

if the bishop of Arethusa had saved the infancy of Julian, posterity will condemn the ingratitude, instead of praising the clemency, of the emperor.

at the distance of five miles from Antioch, the Macedonian kings of

Syria had consecrated to Apollo one of the most elegant places of devotion in the Pagan world. A magnificent temple rose in honor of the god of light; and his colossal figure almost filled the capacious

sanctuary, which was enriched with gold and gems, and adorned by the

skill of the Grecian artists. The deity was represented in a bending attitude, with a golden cup in his hand, pouring out a libation on the earth; as if he supplicated the venerable mother to give to his arms the cold and beauteous Daphne: for the spot was ennobled by fiction; and the fancy of the Syrian poets had transported the amorous tale from the banks of the Peneus to those of the Orontes. The ancient rites of Greece were imitated by the royal colony of Antioch. A stream of prophecy, which rivalled the truth and reputation of the Delphic oracle, flowed from the Castalian fountain of Daphne. In the adjacent fields a stadium was built by a special privilege, which had been purchased from Elis; the Olympic games were celebrated at the expense of the city; and a

revenue of thirty thousand pounds sterling was annually applied to the public pleasures. The perpetual resort of pilgrims and spectators

insensibly formed, in the neighborhood of the temple, the stately and populous village of Daphne, which emulated the splendor, without acquiring the title, of a provincial city. The temple and the village were deeply bosomed in a thick grove of laurels and cypresses, which

reached as far as a circumference of ten miles, and formed in the most

sultry summers a cool and impenetrable shade. A thousand streams of the purest water, issuing from every hill, preserved the verdure of the earth, and the temperature of the air; the senses were gratified with harmonious sounds and aromatic odors; and the peaceful grove was consecrated to health and joy, to luxury and love. The vigorous youth

pursued, like Apollo, the object of his desires; and the blushing maid was warned, by the fate of Daphne, to shun the folly of unseasonable coyness. The soldier and the philosopher wisely avoided the temptation

of this sensual paradise: where pleasure, assuming the character of

religion, imperceptibly dissolved the firmness of manly virtue. But the groves of Daphne continued for many ages to enjoy the veneration of

natives and strangers; the privileges of the holy ground were enlarged by the munificence of succeeding emperors; and every generation added

new ornaments to the splendor of the temple.

when Julian, on the day of the annual festival, hastened to adore the Apollo of Daphne, his devotion was raised to the highest pitch

of eagerness and impatience. His lively imagination anticipated the

grateful pomp of victims, of libations and of incense; a long procession

of youths and virgins, clothed in white robes, the symbol of their

innocence; and the tumultuous concourse of an innumerable people. But the zeal of Antioch was diverted, since the reign of Christianity, into a different channel. Instead of hecatombs of fat oxen sacrificed by the tribes of a wealthy city to their tutelar deity the emperor complains that he found only a single goose, provided at the expense of a priest, the pale and solitary in habitant of this decayed temple. The altar was deserted, the oracle had been reduced to silence, and the holy ground was profaned by the introduction of Christian and funereal rites. After babylas (a bishop of Antioch, who died in prison in the persecution of decius) had rested near a century in his grave, his body, by the order

of Cæsar Gallus, was transported into the midst of the grove of Daphne. a magnificent church was erected over his remains; a portion of the

sacred lands was usurped for the maintenance of the clergy, and for the burial of the Christians at Antioch, who were ambitious of lying at the feet of their bishop; and the priests of Apollo retired, with their affrighted and indignant votaries. As soon as another revolution seemed to restore the fortune of Paganism, the church of St. Babylas was demolished, and new buildings were added to the mouldering edifice which

had been raised by the piety of Syrian kings. But the first and most

serious care of Julian was to deliver his oppressed deity from the odious presence of the dead and living Christians, who had so effectually suppressed the voice of fraud or enthusiasm. The scene of

infection was purified, according to the forms of ancient rituals; the bodies were decently removed; and the ministers of the church were permitted to convey the remains of St. Babylas to their former

habitation within the walls of Antioch. The modest behavior which might

have assuaged the jealousy of a hostile government was neglected,

on this occasion, by the zeal of the Christians. The lofty car, that transported the relics of Babylas, was followed, and accompanied, and

received, by an innumerable multitude; who chanted, with thundering acclamations, the Psalms of David the most expressive of their contempt for idols and idolaters. The return of the saint was a triumph; and the triumph was an insult on the religion of the emperor, who exerted his

pride to dissemble his resentment. During the night which terminated this indiscreet procession, the temple of Daphne was in flames; the

statue of Apollo was consumed; and the walls of the edifice were left a naked and awful monument of ruin. The Christians of Antioch asserted, with religious confidence, that the powerful intercession of St. Babylas

had pointed the lightnings of heaven against the devoted roof: but as

Julian was reduced to the alternative of believing either a crime or a

miracle, he chose, without hesitation, without evidence, but with some color of probability, to impute the fire of Daphne to the revenge of the

Galilæans. Their offence, had it been sufficiently proved, might have

justified the retaliation, which was immediately executed by the order

of Julian, of shutting the doors, and confiscating the wealth, of the cathedral of Antioch. To discover the criminals who were guilty of the tumult, of the fire, or of secreting the riches of the church, several

of the ecclesiastics were tortured; and a Presbyter, of the name of theodoret, was beheaded by the sentence of the Count of the East. But this hasty act was blamed by the emperor; who lamented, with real or affected concern, that the imprudent zeal of his ministers would tarnish

his reign with the disgrace of persecution.

chapter XXIII: Reign Of Julian.--Part V.

the zeal of the ministers of Julian was instantly checked by the frown

of their sovereign; but when the father of his country declares himself the leader of a faction, the license of popular fury cannot easily be

restrained, nor consistently punished. Julian, in a public composition, applauds the devotion and loyalty of the holy cities of Syria, whose

pious inhabitants had destroyed, at the first signal, the sepulchres

of the Galilæans; and faintly complains, that they had revenged the injuries of the gods with less moderation than he should have

recommended. This imperfect and reluctant confession may appear to confirm the ecclesiastical narratives; that in the cities of Gaza, ascalon, Cæsarea, Heliopolis, &c., the Pagans abused, without prudence

or remorse, the moment of their prosperity. That the unhappy objects

of their cruelty were released from torture only by death; and as their

mangled bodies were dragged through the streets, they were pierced

(such was the universal rage) by the spits of cooks, and the distaffs of enraged women; and that the entrails of Christian priests and virgins, after they had been tasted by those bloody fanatics, were mixed with barley, and contemptuously thrown to the unclean animals of the city.

Such scenes of religious madness exhibit the most contemptible and

odious picture of human nature; but the massacre of Alexandria attracts

still more attention, from the certainty of the fact, the rank of the

victims, and the splendor of the capital of Egypt.

George, from his parents or his education, surnamed the Cappadocian, was born at Epiphania in Cilicia, in a fuller's shop. From this obscure and

servile origin he raised himself by the talents of a parasite; and the

patrons, whom he assiduously flattered, procured for their worthless dependent a lucrative commission, or contract, to supply the army with bacon. His employment was mean; he rendered it infamous. He accumulated wealth by the basest arts of fraud and corruption; but his malversations were so notorious, that George was compelled to escape from the pursuits

of justice. After this disgrace, in which he appears to have saved his fortune at the expense of his honor, he embraced, with real or affected

zeal, the profession of Arianism. From the love, or the ostentation,

of learning, he collected a valuable library of history rhetoric,

philosophy, and theology, and the choice of the prevailing faction

promoted George of Cappadocia to the throne of Athanasius. The entrance

of the new archbishop was that of a Barbarian conqueror; and each moment

of his reign was polluted by cruelty and avarice. The Catholics of alexandria and Egypt were abandoned to a tyrant, qualified, by nature and education, to exercise the office of persecution; but he oppressed with an impartial hand the various inhabitants of his extensive diocese. the primate of Egypt assumed the pomp and insolence of his lofty

station; but he still betrayed the vices of his base and servile extraction. The merchants of Alexandria were impoverished by the unjust, and almost universal, monopoly, which he acquired, of nitre, salt,

paper, funerals, &c.: and the spiritual father of a great people condescended to practise the vile and pernicious arts of an informer. the Alexandrians could never forget, nor forgive, the tax, which he

suggested, on all the houses of the city; under an obsolete claim, that the royal founder had conveyed to his successors, the Ptolemies and the cæsars, the perpetual property of the soil. The Pagans, who had been flattered with the hopes of freedom and toleration, excited his devout avarice; and the rich temples of Alexandria were either pillaged or

insulted by the haughty prince, who exclaimed, in a loud and threatening tone, "How long will these sepulchres be permitted to stand?" Under the reign of Constantius, he was expelled by the fury, or rather by the

justice, of the people; and it was not without a violent struggle, that the civil and military powers of the state could restore his authority, and gratify his revenge. The messenger who proclaimed at Alexandria the accession of Julian, announced the downfall of the archbishop. George, with two of his obsequious ministers, Count Diodorus, and Dracontius,

master of the mint were ignominiously dragged in chains to the public

prison. At the end of twenty-four days, the prison was forced open by the rage of a superstitious multitude, impatient of the tedious forms

of judicial proceedings. The enemies of gods and men expired under their cruel insults; the lifeless bodies of the archbishop and his associates were carried in triumph through the streets on the back of a camel;

\* and the inactivity of the Athanasian party was esteemed a shining example of evangelical patience. The remains of these guilty wretches were thrown into the sea; and the popular leaders of the tumult declared their resolution to disappoint the devotion of the Christians, and to

intercept the future honors of these martyrs, who had been punished,

like their predecessors, by the enemies of their religion. The fears of the Pagans were just, and their precautions ineffectual. The meritorious death of the archbishop obliterated the memory of his life. The rival of athanasius was dear and sacred to the Arians, and the seeming conversion

of those sectaries introduced his worship into the bosom of the Catholic church. The odious stranger, disguising every circumstance of time and

place, assumed the mask of a martyr, a saint, and a Christian hero; and the infamous George of Cappadocia has been transformed into the renowned

St. George of England, the patron of arms, of chivalry, and of the

garter.

about the same time that Julian was informed of the tumult of alexandria, he received intelligence from Edessa, that the proud and wealthy faction of the Arians had insulted the weakness of the

Valentinians, and committed such disorders as ought not to be suffered with impunity in a well-regulated state. Without expecting the slow forms of justice, the exasperated prince directed his mandate to the

magistrates of Edessa, by which he confiscated the whole property of the church: the money was distributed among the soldiers; the lands were added to the domain; and this act of oppression was aggravated by the

most ungenerous irony. "I show myself," says Julian, "the true friend of the Galilæans. Their admirable law has promised the kingdom of heaven to the poor; and they will advance with more diligence in the paths of

virtue and salvation, when they are relieved by my assistance from the

load of temporal possessions. Take care," pursued the monarch, in a more

serious tone, "take care how you provoke my patience and humanity. If these disorders continue, I will revenge on the magistrates the crimes

of the people; and you will have reason to dread, not only confiscation and exile, but fire and the sword." The tumults of Alexandria were doubtless of a more bloody and dangerous nature: but a Christian bishop

had fallen by the hands of the Pagans; and the public epistle of Julian affords a very lively proof of the partial spirit of his administration.

His reproaches to the citizens of Alexandria are mingled with expressions of esteem and tenderness; and he laments, that, on this

occasion, they should have departed from the gentle and generous manners which attested their Grecian extraction. He gravely censures the offence which they had committed against the laws of justice and humanity; but

he recapitulates, with visible complacency, the intolerable provocations which they had so long endured from the impious tyranny of George

of Cappadocia. Julian admits the principle, that a wise and vigorous

government should chastise the insolence of the people; yet, in consideration of their founder Alexander, and of Serapis their tutelar deity, he grants a free and gracious pardon to the guilty city, for which he again feels the affection of a brother.

after the tumult of Alexandria had subsided, Athanasius, amidst the

public acclamations, seated himself on the throne from whence his

unworthy competitor had been precipitated: and as the zeal of the archbishop was tempered with discretion, the exercise of his authority tended not to inflame, but to reconcile, the minds of the people. His

pastoral labors were not confined to the narrow limits of Egypt. The

state of the Christian world was present to his active and capacious

mind; and the age, the merit, the reputation of Athanasius, enabled him to assume, in a moment of danger, the office of Ecclesiastical Dictator. three years were not yet elapsed since the majority of the bishops of the West had ignorantly, or reluctantly, subscribed the Confession of

Rimini. They repented, they believed, but they dreaded the unseasonable

rigor of their orthodox brethren; and if their pride was stronger than their faith, they might throw themselves into the arms of the Arians, to escape the indignity of a public penance, which must degrade them to the condition of obscure laymen. At the same time the domestic differences concerning the union and distinction of the divine persons, were agitated with some heat among the Catholic doctors; and the progress of this metaphysical controversy seemed to threaten a public and lasting division of the Greek and Latin churches. By the wisdom of a select

synod, to which the name and presence of Athanasius gave the authority

of a general council, the bishops, who had unwarily deviated into error, were admitted to the communion of the church, on the easy condition of

subscribing the Nicene Creed; without any formal acknowledgment of their

past fault, or any minute definition of their scholastic opinions. The advice of the primate of Egypt had already prepared the clergy of Gaul and Spain, of Italy and Greece, for the reception of this salutary

measure; and, notwithstanding the opposition of some ardent spirits, the fear of the common enemy promoted the peace and harmony of the christians.

the skill and diligence of the primate of Egypt had improved the season

of tranquillity, before it was interrupted by the hostile edicts of the emperor. Julian, who despised the Christians, honored Athanasius with

his sincere and peculiar hatred. For his sake alone, he introduced an arbitrary distinction, repugnant at least to the spirit of his former declarations. He maintained, that the Galilæans, whom he had recalled from exile, were not restored, by that general indulgence, to the possession of their respective churches; and he expressed his astonishment, that a criminal, who had been repeatedly condemned by the

judgment of the emperors, should dare to insult the majesty of the laws, and insolently usurp the archiepiscopal throne of Alexandria, without expecting the orders of his sovereign. As a punishment for the imaginary

offence, he again banished Athanasius from the city; and he was pleased to suppose, that this act of justice would be highly agreeable to his

pious subjects. The pressing solicitations of the people soon convinced

him, that the majority of the Alexandrians were Christians; and that the greatest part of the Christians were firmly attached to the cause of their oppressed primate. But the knowledge of their sentiments, instead

of persuading him to recall his decree, provoked him to extend to all egypt the term of the exile of Athanasius. The zeal of the multitude

rendered Julian still more inexorable: he was alarmed by the danger of

leaving at the head of a tumultuous city, a daring and popular leader; and the language of his resentment discovers the opinion which he entertained of the courage and abilities of Athanasius. The execution

of the sentence was still delayed, by the caution or negligence of ecdicius, præfect of Egypt, who was at length awakened from his lethargy by a severe reprimand. "Though you neglect," says Julian, "to write to

me on any other subject, at least it is your duty to inform me of your conduct towards Athanasius, the enemy of the gods. My intentions have been long since communicated to you. I swear by the great Serapis, that unless, on the calends of December, Athanasius has departed from alexandria, nay, from Egypt, the officers of your government shall pay a fine of one hundred pounds of gold. You know my temper: I am slow to condemn, but I am still slower to forgive." This epistle was enforced by a short postscript, written with the emperor's own hand. "The contempt that is shown for all the gods fills me with grief and indignation. there is nothing that I should see, nothing that I should hear, with

more pleasure, than the expulsion of Athanasius from all Egypt. The abominable wretch! Under my reign, the baptism of several Grecian ladies

of the highest rank has been the effect of his persecutions." The death

of Athanasius was not expressly commanded; but the præfect of Egypt

understood that it was safer for him to exceed, than to neglect, the

orders of an irritated master. The archbishop prudently retired to the

monasteries of the Desert; eluded, with his usual dexterity, the snares

of the enemy; and lived to triumph over the ashes of a prince, who, in words of formidable import, had declared his wish that the whole

venom of the Galilæan school were contained in the single person of athanasius.

I have endeavored faithfully to represent the artful system by which

Julian proposed to obtain the effects, without incurring the guilt,

or reproach, of persecution. But if the deadly spirit of fanaticism

perverted the heart and understanding of a virtuous prince, it must, at the same time, be confessed that the real sufferings of the Christians were inflamed and magnified by human passions and religious enthusiasm. the meekness and resignation which had distinguished the primitive disciples of the gospel, was the object of the applause, rather than of the imitation of their successors. The Christians, who had now possessed above forty years the civil and ecclesiastical government of the empire,

had contracted the insolent vices of prosperity, and the habit of believing that the saints alone were entitled to reign over the earth. as soon as the enmity of Julian deprived the clergy of the privileges which had been conferred by the favor of Constantine, they complained

of the most cruel oppression; and the free toleration of idolaters and

heretics was a subject of grief and scandal to the orthodox party. The acts of violence, which were no longer countenanced by the magistrates, were still committed by the zeal of the people. At Pessinus, the altar

of Cybele was overturned almost in the presence of the emperor; and in the city of Cæsarea in Cappadocia, the temple of Fortune, the sole place

of worship which had been left to the Pagans, was destroyed by the rage

of a popular tumult. On these occasions, a prince, who felt for the

honor of the gods, was not disposed to interrupt the course of justice; and his mind was still more deeply exasperated, when he found that the fanatics, who had deserved and suffered the punishment of incendiaries, were rewarded with the honors of martyrdom. The Christian subjects of

Julian were assured of the hostile designs of their sovereign; and, to their jealous apprehension, every circumstance of his government

might afford some grounds of discontent and suspicion. In the ordinary administration of the laws, the Christians, who formed so large a

part of the people, must frequently be condemned: but their indulgent brethren, without examining the merits of the cause, presumed their

innocence, allowed their claims, and imputed the severity of their judge to the partial malice of religious persecution. These present hardships,

intolerable as they might appear, were represented as a slight prelude

of the impending calamities. The Christians considered Julian as a cruel and crafty tyrant; who suspended the execution of his revenge till he

should return victorious from the Persian war. They expected, that as

soon as he had triumphed over the foreign enemies of Rome, he would lay aside the irksome mask of dissimulation; that the amphitheatre would

stream with the blood of hermits and bishops; and that the Christians who still persevered in the profession of the faith, would be deprived

of the common benefits of nature and society. Every calumny that could wound the reputation of the Apostate, was credulously embraced by the fears and hatred of his adversaries; and their indiscreet clamors

provoked the temper of a sovereign, whom it was their duty to respect, and their interest to flatter. They still protested, that prayers and tears were their only weapons against the impious tyrant, whose head they devoted to the justice of offended Heaven. But they insinuated, with sullen resolution, that their submission was no longer the effect

of weakness; and that, in the imperfect state of human virtue, the patience, which is founded on principle, may be exhausted by

persecution. It is impossible to determine how far the zeal of Julian would have prevailed over his good sense and humanity; but if we

seriously reflect on the strength and spirit of the church, we shall be convinced, that before the emperor could have extinguished the religion

of Christ, he must have involved his country in the horrors of a civil war.

chapter XXIV: The Retreat And Death Of Julian.--Part I.

Residence Of Julian At Antioch.--His Successful Expedition

Against The Persians.--Passage Of The Tigris--The Retreat

And Death Of Julian.--Election Of Jovian.--He Saves The

Roman Army By A Disgraceful Treaty.

the philosophical fable which Julian composed under the name of the cæsars, is one of the most agreeable and instructive productions

of ancient wit. During the freedom and equality of the days of the

Saturnalia, Romulus prepared a feast for the deities of Olympus, who had adopted him as a worthy associate, and for the Roman princes, who had

reigned over his martial people, and the vanquished nations of the earth. The immortals were placed in just order on their thrones of

state, and the table of the Cæsars was spread below the Moon in the

upper region of the air. The tyrants, who would have disgraced the

society of gods and men, were thrown headlong, by the inexorable

Nemesis, into the Tartarean abyss. The rest of the Cæsars successively advanced to their seats; and as they passed, the vices, the defects, the blemishes of their respective characters, were maliciously noticed by old Silenus, a laughing moralist, who disguised the wisdom of a

philosopher under the mask of a Bacchanal. As soon as the feast was ended, the voice of Mercury proclaimed the will of Jupiter, that a celestial crown should be the reward of superior merit. Julius Cæsar, augustus, Trajan, and Marcus Antoninus, were selected as the most

illustrious candidates; the effeminate Constantine was not excluded from this honorable competition, and the great Alexander was invited to dispute the prize of glory with the Roman heroes. Each of the candidates was allowed to display the merit of his own exploits; but, in the

judgment of the gods, the modest silence of Marcus pleaded more

powerfully than the elaborate orations of his haughty rivals. When the

judges of this awful contest proceeded to examine the heart, and to

scrutinize the springs of action, the superiority of the Imperial Stoic appeared still more decisive and conspicuous. Alexander and Cæsar, augustus, Trajan, and Constantine, acknowledged, with a blush, that fame, or power, or pleasure had been the important object of their

labors: but the gods themselves beheld, with reverence and love, a virtuous mortal, who had practised on the throne the lessons of

philosophy; and who, in a state of human imperfection, had aspired to

imitate the moral attributes of the Deity. The value of this agreeable composition (the Cæsars of Julian) is enhanced by the rank of the author. A prince, who delineates, with freedom, the vices and virtues of

his predecessors, subscribes, in every line, the censure or approbation

of his own conduct.

In the cool moments of reflection, Julian preferred the useful and benevolent virtues of Antoninus; but his ambitious spirit was inflamed by the glory of Alexander; and he solicited, with equal ardor, the esteem of the wise, and the applause of the multitude. In the season of

life when the powers of the mind and body enjoy the most active vigor, the emperor who was instructed by the experience, and animated by the

success, of the German war, resolved to signalize his reign by some more

splendid and memorable achievement. The ambassadors of the East, from the continent of India, and the Isle of Ceylon, had respectfully saluted the Roman purple. The nations of the West esteemed and dreaded the

personal virtues of Julian, both in peace and war. He despised the trophies of a Gothic victory, and was satisfied that the rapacious barbarians of the Danube would be restrained from any future violation

of the faith of treaties by the terror of his name, and the additional fortifications with which he strengthened the Thracian and Illyrian frontiers. The successor of Cyrus and Artaxerxes was the only rival whom

he deemed worthy of his arms; and he resolved, by the final conquest of

Persia, to chastise the naughty nation which had so long resisted and insulted the majesty of Rome. As soon as the Persian monarch was

informed that the throne of Constantius was filed by a prince of a very different character, he condescended to make some artful, or perhaps

sincere, overtures towards a negotiation of peace. But the pride of

Sapor was astonished by the firmness of Julian; who sternly declared, that he would never consent to hold a peaceful conference among the flames and ruins of the cities of Mesopotamia; and who added, with a

smile of contempt, that it was needless to treat by ambassadors, as

he himself had determined to visit speedily the court of Persia. the impatience of the emperor urged the diligence of the military

preparations. The generals were named; and Julian, marching from constantinople through the provinces of Asia Minor, arrived at Antioch about eight months after the death of his predecessor. His ardent desire to march into the heart of Persia, was checked by the indispensable duty

of regulating the state of the empire; by his zeal to revive the worship

of the gods; and by the advice of his wisest friends; who represented the necessity of allowing the salutary interval of winter quarters, to restore the exhausted strength of the legions of Gaul, and the discipline and spirit of the Eastern troops. Julian was persuaded to fix, till the ensuing spring, his residence at Antioch, among a people

maliciously disposed to deride the haste, and to censure the delays, of their sovereign.

If Julian had flattered himself, that his personal connection with the capital of the East would be productive of mutual satisfaction to the

prince and people, he made a very false estimate of his own character, and of the manners of Antioch. The warmth of the climate disposed the

natives to the most intemperate enjoyment of tranquillity and opulence; and the lively licentiousness of the Greeks was blended with the

hereditary softness of the Syrians. Fashion was the only law, pleasure the only pursuit, and the splendor of dress and furniture was the only distinction of the citizens of Antioch. The arts of luxury were honored; the serious and manly virtues were the subject of ridicule; and the contempt for female modesty and reverent age announced the universal corruption of the capital of the East. The love of spectacles was the taste, or rather passion, of the Syrians; the most skilful artists were

procured from the adjacent cities; a considerable share of the revenue was devoted to the public amusements; and the magnificence of the games

of the theatre and circus was considered as the happiness and as the

glory of Antioch. The rustic manners of a prince who disdained such

glory, and was insensible of such happiness, soon disgusted the delicacy

of his subjects; and the effeminate Orientals could neither imitate,

nor admire, the severe simplicity which Julian always maintained, and

sometimes affected. The days of festivity, consecrated, by ancient custom, to the honor of the gods, were the only occasions in which

Julian relaxed his philosophic severity; and those festivals were the

only days in which the Syrians of Antioch could reject the allurements

of pleasure. The majority of the people supported the glory of the christian name, which had been first invented by their ancestors: they contended themselves with disobeying the moral precepts, but they were

scrupulously attached to the speculative doctrines of their religion. the church of Antioch was distracted by heresy and schism; but the arians and the Athanasians, the followers of Meletius and those of

Paulinus, were actuated by the same pious hatred of their common adversary.

the strongest prejudice was entertained against the character of an apostate, the enemy and successor of a prince who had engaged the affections of a very numerous sect; and the removal of St. Babylas excited an implacable opposition to the person of Julian. His subjects complained, with superstitious indignation, that famine had pursued the emperor's steps from Constantinople to Antioch; and the discontent of a hungry people was exasperated by the injudicious attempt to relieve their distress. The inclemency of the season had affected the harvests

of Syria; and the price of bread, in the markets of Antioch, had

naturally risen in proportion to the scarcity of corn. But the fair and reasonable proportion was soon violated by the rapacious arts of

monopoly. In this unequal contest, in which the produce of the land is claimed by one party as his exclusive property, is used by another as a

lucrative object of trade, and is required by a third for the daily and

necessary support of life, all the profits of the intermediate agents are accumulated on the head of the defenceless customers. The hardships

of their situation were exaggerated and increased by their own

impatience and anxiety; and the apprehension of a scarcity gradually

produced the appearances of a famine. When the luxurious citizens

of Antioch complained of the high price of poultry and fish, Julian

publicly declared, that a frugal city ought to be satisfied with a

regular supply of wine, oil, and bread; but he acknowledged, that it was the duty of a sovereign to provide for the subsistence of his people. with this salutary view, the emperor ventured on a very dangerous and doubtful step, of fixing, by legal authority, the value of corn. He enacted, that, in a time of scarcity, it should be sold at a price which

had seldom been known in the most plentiful years; and that his own example might strengthen his laws, he sent into the market four hundred and twenty-two thousand modii, or measures, which were drawn by his

order from the granaries of Hierapolis, of Chalcis, and even of Egypt. the consequences might have been foreseen, and were soon felt. The

Imperial wheat was purchased by the rich merchants; the proprietors of

land, or of corn, withheld from the city the accustomed supply; and the

small quantities that appeared in the market were secretly sold at an advanced and illegal price. Julian still continued to applaud his own

policy, treated the complaints of the people as a vain and ungrateful

murmur, and convinced Antioch that he had inherited the obstinacy, though not the cruelty, of his brother Gallus. The remonstrances of the

municipal senate served only to exasperate his inflexible mind. He was persuaded, perhaps with truth, that the senators of Antioch who

possessed lands, or were concerned in trade, had themselves contributed to the calamities of their country; and he imputed the disrespectful boldness which they assumed, to the sense, not of public duty, but of

private interest. The whole body, consisting of two hundred of the most

noble and wealthy citizens, were sent, under a guard, from the palace to the prison; and though they were permitted, before the close of evening, to return to their respective houses, the emperor himself could

not obtain the forgiveness which he had so easily granted. The same

grievances were still the subject of the same complaints, which were

industriously circulated by the wit and levity of the Syrian Greeks. during the licentious days of the Saturnalia, the streets of the city

resounded with insolent songs, which derided the laws, the religion, the personal conduct, and even the beard, of the emperor; the spirit

of Antioch was manifested by the connivance of the magistrates, and the applause of the multitude. The disciple of Socrates was too deeply affected by these popular insults; but the monarch, endowed with a quick

sensibility, and possessed of absolute power, refused his passions the gratification of revenge. A tyrant might have proscribed, without distinction, the lives and fortunes of the citizens of Antioch; and the unwarlike Syrians must have patiently submitted to the lust, the

rapaciousness and the cruelty, of the faithful legions of Gaul. A milder

sentence might have deprived the capital of the East of its honors and

privileges; and the courtiers, perhaps the subjects, of Julian, would

have applauded an act of justice, which asserted the dignity of the

supreme magistrate of the republic. But instead of abusing, or exerting, the authority of the state, to revenge his personal injuries, Julian contented himself with an inoffensive mode of retaliation, which it would be in the power of few princes to employ. He had been insulted by satires and libels; in his turn, he composed, under the title of the Enemy of the Beard, an ironical confession of his own faults, and a

severe satire on the licentious and effeminate manners of Antioch. This

Imperial reply was publicly exposed before the gates of the palace; and the Misopogon still remains a singular monument of the resentment, the wit, the humanity, and the indiscretion of Julian. Though he affected to

laugh, he could not forgive. His contempt was expressed, and his revenge

might be gratified, by the nomination of a governor worthy only of

such subjects; and the emperor, forever renouncing the ungrateful city, proclaimed his resolution to pass the ensuing winter at Tarsus in cilicia.

Yet Antioch possessed one citizen, whose genius and virtues might atone,

in the opinion of Julian, for the vice and folly of his country. The

sophist Libanius was born in the capital of the East; he publicly

professed the arts of rhetoric and declamation at Nice, Nicomedia, constantinople, Athens, and, during the remainder of his life, at antioch. His school was assiduously frequented by the Grecian youth; his disciples, who sometimes exceeded the number of eighty, celebrated their

incomparable master; and the jealousy of his rivals, who persecuted him from one city to another, confirmed the favorable opinion which Libanius

ostentatiously displayed of his superior merit. The preceptors of Julian

had extorted a rash but solemn assurance, that he would never attend the lectures of their adversary: the curiosity of the royal youth was checked and inflamed: he secretly procured the writings of this dangerous sophist, and gradually surpassed, in the perfect imitation

of his style, the most laborious of his domestic pupils. When Julian ascended the throne, he declared his impatience to embrace and reward the Syrian sophist, who had preserved, in a degenerate age, the

Grecian purity of taste, of manners, and of religion. The emperor's

prepossession was increased and justified by the discreet pride of his favorite. Instead of pressing, with the foremost of the crowd, into the palace of Constantinople, Libanius calmly expected his arrival at Antioch; withdrew from court on the first symptoms of coldness and

indifference; required a formal invitation for each visit; and taught

his sovereign an important lesson, that he might command the obedience

of a subject, but that he must deserve the attachment of a friend. the sophists of every age, despising, or affecting to despise, the accidental distinctions of birth and fortune, reserve their esteem for the superior qualities of the mind, with which they themselves are so

plentifully endowed. Julian might disdain the acclamations of a venal court, who adored the Imperial purple; but he was deeply flattered by the praise, the admonition, the freedom, and the envy of an independent

philosopher, who refused his favors, loved his person, celebrated his fame, and protected his memory. The voluminous writings of Libanius

still exist; for the most part, they are the vain and idle compositions

of an orator, who cultivated the science of words; the productions of a recluse student, whose mind, regardless of his contemporaries, was

incessantly fixed on the Trojan war and the Athenian commonwealth.

Yet the sophist of Antioch sometimes descended from this imaginary elevation; he entertained a various and elaborate correspondence; he

praised the virtues of his own times; he boldly arraigned the abuse of

public and private life; and he eloquently pleaded the cause of Antioch against the just resentment of Julian and Theodosius. It is the common calamity of old age, to lose whatever might have rendered it desirable; but Libanius experienced the peculiar misfortune of surviving the

religion and the sciences, to which he had consecrated his genius. the friend of Julian was an indignant spectator of the triumph of christianity; and his bigotry, which darkened the prospect of the

visible world, did not inspire Libanius with any lively hopes of celestial glory and happiness.

chapter XXIV: The Retreat And Death Of Julian.--Part II.

the martial impatience of Julian urged him to take the field in the beginning of the spring; and he dismissed, with contempt and reproach, the senate of Antioch, who accompanied the emperor beyond the limits of their own territory, to which he was resolved never to return. After a

laborious march of two days, he halted on the third at Beræa, or Aleppo, where he had the mortification of finding a senate almost entirely christian; who received with cold and formal demonstrations of respect the eloquent sermon of the apostle of paganism. The son of one of the most illustrious citizens of Beræa, who had embraced, either from

interest or conscience, the religion of the emperor, was disinherited by his angry parent. The father and the son were invited to the Imperial table. Julian, placing himself between them, attempted, without success, to inculcate the lesson and example of toleration; supported, with affected calmness, the indiscreet zeal of the aged Christian, who seemed to forget the sentiments of nature, and the duty of a subject; and at

length, turning towards the afflicted youth, "Since you have lost a father," said he, "for my sake, it is incumbent on me to supply his

place." The emperor was received in a manner much more agreeable to

his wishes at Batnæ, \* a small town pleasantly seated in a grove of cypresses, about twenty miles from the city of Hierapolis. The solemn

rites of sacrifice were decently prepared by the inhabitants of Batnæ, who seemed attached to the worship of their tutelar deities, Apollo and

Jupiter; but the serious piety of Julian was offended by the tumult of their applause; and he too clearly discerned, that the smoke which arose from their altars was the incense of flattery, rather than of devotion. the ancient and magnificent temple which had sanctified, for so many ages, the city of Hierapolis, no longer subsisted; and the consecrated wealth, which afforded a liberal maintenance to more than three hundred

priests, might hasten its downfall. Yet Julian enjoyed the satisfaction

of embracing a philosopher and a friend, whose religious firmness had withstood the pressing and repeated solicitations of Constantius and

Gallus, as often as those princes lodged at his house, in their passage through Hierapolis. In the hurry of military preparation, and the careless confidence of a familiar correspondence, the zeal of Julian appears to have been lively and uniform. He had now undertaken an

important and difficult war; and the anxiety of the event rendered him

still more attentive to observe and register the most trifling presages, from which, according to the rules of divination, any knowledge of futurity could be derived. He informed Libanius of his progress as far as Hierapolis, by an elegant epistle, which displays the facility of his

genius, and his tender friendship for the sophist of Antioch.

Hierapolis, \* situate almost on the banks of the Euphrates, had been appointed for the general rendezvous of the Roman troops, who

immediately passed the great river on a bridge of boats, which was

previously constructed. If the inclinations of Julian had been similar to those of his predecessor, he might have wasted the active and

important season of the year in the circus of Samosata or in the churches of Edessa. But as the warlike emperor, instead of Constantius,

had chosen Alexander for his model, he advanced without delay to Carrhæ, a very ancient city of Mesopotamia, at the distance of fourscore miles from Hierapolis. The temple of the Moon attracted the devotion

of Julian; but the halt of a few days was principally employed in completing the immense preparations of the Persian war. The secret of the expedition had hitherto remained in his own breast; but as Carrhæ

is the point of separation of the two great roads, he could no longer conceal whether it was his design to attack the dominions of Sapor

on the side of the Tigris, or on that of the Euphrates. The emperor detached an army of thirty thousand men, under the command of his

kinsman Procopius, and of Sebastian, who had been duke of Egypt. They were ordered to direct their march towards Nisibis, and to secure the frontier from the desultory incursions of the enemy, before they attempted the passage of the Tigris. Their subsequent operations were

left to the discretion of the generals; but Julian expected, that after wasting with fire and sword the fertile districts of Media and Adiabene, they might arrive under the walls of Ctesiphon at the same time that he

himself, advancing with equal steps along the banks of the Euphrates,

should besiege the capital of the Persian monarchy. The success of this well-concerted plan depended, in a great measure, on the powerful and

ready assistance of the king of Armenia, who, without exposing the

safety of his own dominions, might detach an army of four thousand

horse, and twenty thousand foot, to the assistance of the Romans. But the feeble Arsaces Tiranus, king of Armenia, had degenerated still more

shamefully than his father Chosroes, from the manly virtues of the great tiridates; and as the pusillanimous monarch was averse to any enterprise

of danger and glory, he could disguise his timid indolence by the

more decent excuses of religion and gratitude. He expressed a pious attachment to the memory of Constantius, from whose hands he had

received in marriage Olympias, the daughter of the præfect Ablavius; and the alliance of a female, who had been educated as the destined wife of the emperor Constans, exalted the dignity of a Barbarian king. tiranus professed the Christian religion; he reigned over a nation of christians; and he was restrained, by every principle of conscience and

interest, from contributing to the victory, which would consummate the

ruin of the church. The alienated mind of Tiranus was exasperated by the

indiscretion of Julian, who treated the king of Armenia as his slave, and as the enemy of the gods. The haughty and threatening style of the

Imperial mandates awakened the secret indignation of a prince, who, in the humiliating state of dependence, was still conscious of his royal descent from the Arsacides, the lords of the East, and the rivals of the

Roman power.

the military dispositions of Julian were skilfully contrived to deceive the spies and to divert the attention of Sapor. The legions appeared to direct their march towards Nisibis and the Tigris. On a sudden they wheeled to the right; traversed the level and naked plain of Carrhæ; and

reached, on the third day, the banks of the Euphrates, where the strong town of Nicephorium, or Callinicum, had been founded by the Macedonian

kings. From thence the emperor pursued his march, above ninety miles, along the winding stream of the Euphrates, till, at length, about one

month after his departure from Antioch, he discovered the towers of circesium, \* the extreme limit of the Roman dominions. The army of

Julian, the most numerous that any of the Cæsars had ever led against

Persia, consisted of sixty-five thousand effective and well-disciplined

soldiers. The veteran bands of cavalry and infantry, of Romans and barbarians, had been selected from the different provinces; and a just

preeminence of loyalty and valor was claimed by the hardy Gauls, who

guarded the throne and person of their beloved prince. A formidable body

of Scythian auxiliaries had been transported from another climate, and almost from another world, to invade a distant country, of whose name and situation they were ignorant. The love of rapine and war allured to the Imperial standard several tribes of Saracens, or roving Arabs, whose

service Julian had commanded, while he sternly refuse the payment of the accustomed subsidies. The broad channel of the Euphrates was crowded by a fleet of eleven hundred ships, destined to attend the motions, and to

satisfy the wants, of the Roman army. The military strength of the fleet was composed of fifty armed galleys; and these were accompanied by an equal number of flat-bottomed boats, which might occasionally be connected into the form of temporary bridges. The rest of the ships,

partly constructed of timber, and partly covered with raw hides, were

laden with an almost inexhaustible supply of arms and engines, of

utensils and provisions. The vigilant humanity of Julian had embarked a

very large magazine of vinegar and biscuit for the use of the soldiers, but he prohibited the indulgence of wine; and rigorously stopped a long

string of superfluous camels that attempted to follow the rear of the army. The River Chaboras falls into the Euphrates at Circesium; and as soon as the trumpet gave the signal of march, the Romans passed the

little stream which separated two mighty and hostile empires. The custom

of ancient discipline required a military oration; and Julian embraced every opportunity of displaying his eloquence. He animated the impatient and attentive legions by the example of the inflexible courage and

glorious triumphs of their ancestors. He excited their resentment by a

lively picture of the insolence of the Persians; and he exhorted them to

imitate his firm resolution, either to extirpate that perfidious nation,

or to devote his life in the cause of the republic. The eloquence of

Julian was enforced by a donative of one hundred and thirty pieces of

silver to every soldier; and the bridge of the Chaboras was instantly cut away, to convince the troops that they must place their hopes of

safety in the success of their arms. Yet the prudence of the emperor

induced him to secure a remote frontier, perpetually exposed to the

inroads of the hostile Arabs. A detachment of four thousand men was

left at Circesium, which completed, to the number of ten thousand, the

regular garrison of that important fortress.

from the moment that the Romans entered the enemy's country, the country

of an active and artful enemy, the order of march was disposed in three columns. The strength of the infantry, and consequently of the whole army was placed in the centre, under the peculiar command of their

master-general Victor. On the right, the brave Nevitta led a column of

several legions along the banks of the Euphrates, and almost always

in sight of the fleet. The left flank of the army was protected by the column of cavalry. Hormisdas and Arinthæus were appointed generals of the horse; and the singular adventures of Hormisdas are not undeserving

of our notice. He was a Persian prince, of the royal race of the

Sassanides, who, in the troubles of the minority of Sapor, had escaped from prison to the hospitable court of the great Constantine. Hormisdas at first excited the compassion, and at length acquired the esteem,

of his new masters; his valor and fidelity raised him to the military

honors of the Roman service; and though a Christian, he might indulge the secret satisfaction of convincing his ungrateful country, than at oppressed subject may prove the most dangerous enemy. Such was the disposition of the three principal columns. The front and flanks of the army were covered by Lucilianus with a flying detachment of fifteen

hundred light-armed soldiers, whose active vigilance observed the

most distant signs, and conveyed the earliest notice, of any hostile approach. Dagalaiphus, and Secundinus duke of Osrhoene, conducted the troops of the rear-guard; the baggage securely proceeded in the

intervals of the columns; and the ranks, from a motive either of use

or ostentation, were formed in such open order, that the whole line of

march extended almost ten miles. The ordinary post of Julian was at the

head of the centre column; but as he preferred the duties of a general to the state of a monarch, he rapidly moved, with a small escort of

light cavalry, to the front, the rear, the flanks, wherever his presence could animate or protect the march of the Roman army. The country which they traversed from the Chaboras, to the cultivated lands of Assyria,

may be considered as a part of the desert of Arabia, a dry and barren waste, which could never be improved by the most powerful arts of human

industry. Julian marched over the same ground which had been trod above

seven hundred years before by the footsteps of the younger Cyrus, and which is described by one of the companions of his expedition, the sage and heroic Xenophon. "The country was a plain throughout, as even as the

sea, and full of wormwood; and if any other kind of shrubs or reeds

grew there, they had all an aromatic smell, but no trees could be seen. bustards and ostriches, antelopes and wild asses, appeared to be the

only inhabitants of the desert; and the fatigues of the march were alleviated by the amusements of the chase." The loose sand of the desert was frequently raised by the wind into clouds of dust; and a great

number of the soldiers of Julian, with their tents, were suddenly thrown to the ground by the violence of an unexpected hurricane.

the sandy plains of Mesopotamia were abandoned to the antelopes and wild asses of the desert; but a variety of populous towns and villages were

pleasantly situated on the banks of the Euphrates, and in the islands which are occasionally formed by that river. The city of Annah, or anatho, the actual residence of an Arabian emir, is composed of two long

streets, which enclose, within a natural fortification, a small island

in the midst, and two fruitful spots on either side, of the Euphrates. the warlike inhabitants of Anatho showed a disposition to stop the march

of a Roman emperor; till they were diverted from such fatal presumption by the mild exhortations of Prince Hormisdas, and the approaching terrors of the fleet and army. They implored, and experienced, the clemency of Julian, who transplanted the people to an advantageous

settlement, near Chalcis in Syria, and admitted Pusæus, the governor, to an honorable rank in his service and friendship. But the impregnable fortress of Thilutha could scorn the menace of a siege; and the emperor was obliged to content himself with an insulting promise, that, when he

had subdued the interior provinces of Persia, Thilutha would no longer

refuse to grace the triumph of the emperor. The inhabitants of the

open towns, unable to resist, and unwilling to yield, fled with

precipitation; and their houses, filled with spoil and provisions, were

occupied by the soldiers of Julian, who massacred, without remorse and without punishment, some defenceless women. During the march, the

Surenas, \* or Persian general, and Malek Rodosaces, the renowned emir of the tribe of Gassan, incessantly hovered round the army; every straggler was intercepted; every detachment was attacked; and the valiant

Hormisdas escaped with some difficulty from their hands. But the barbarians were finally repulsed; the country became every day less favorable to the operations of cavalry; and when the Romans arrived at Macepracta, they perceived the ruins of the wall, which had been constructed by the ancient kings of Assyria, to secure their dominions from the incursions of the Medes. These preliminaries of the expedition

of Julian appear to have employed about fifteen days; and we may compute

near three hundred miles from the fortress of Circesium to the wall of

Macepracta.

the fertile province of Assyria, which stretched beyond the Tigris, as far as the mountains of Media, extended about four hundred miles from the ancient wall of Macepracta, to the territory of Basra, where the

united streams of the Euphrates and Tigris discharge themselves into the

Persian Gulf. The whole country might have claimed the peculiar name of

Mesopotamia; as the two rivers, which are never more distant than fifty, approach, between Bagdad and Babylon, within twenty-five miles, of each

other. A multitude of artificial canals, dug without much labor in a

soft and yielding soil connected the rivers, and intersected the

plain of Assyria. The uses of these artificial canals were various and

important. They served to discharge the superfluous waters from one

river into the other, at the season of their respective inundations.

Subdividing themselves into smaller and smaller branches, they refreshed the dry lands, and supplied the deficiency of rain. They facilitated the

intercourse of peace and commerce; and, as the dams could be speedily broke down, they armed the despair of the Assyrians with the means of

opposing a sudden deluge to the progress of an invading army. To the

soil and climate of Assyria, nature had denied some of her choicest

gifts, the vine, the olive, and the fig-tree; \* but the food which

supports the life of man, and particularly wheat and barley, were

produced with inexhaustible fertility; and the husbandman, who committed

his seed to the earth, was frequently rewarded with an increase of two,

or even of three, hundred. The face of the country was interspersed with

groves of innumerable palm-trees; and the diligent natives celebrated, either in verse or prose, the three hundred and sixty uses to which the trunk, the branches, the leaves, the juice, and the fruit, were

skilfully applied. Several manufactures, especially those of leather and

linen, employed the industry of a numerous people, and afforded valuable

materials for foreign trade; which appears, however, to have been conducted by the hands of strangers. Babylon had been converted into a

royal park; but near the ruins of the ancient capital, new cities had

successively arisen, and the populousness of the country was displayed

in the multitude of towns and villages, which were built of bricks dried

in the sun, and strongly cemented with bitumen; the natural and peculiar

production of the Babylonian soil. While the successors of Cyrus reigned

over Asia, the province of Syria alone maintained, during a third part

of the year, the luxurious plenty of the table and household of the

Great King. Four considerable villages were assigned for the subsistence

of his Indian dogs; eight hundred stallions, and sixteen thousand mares, were constantly kept, at the expense of the country, for the royal

stables; and as the daily tribute, which was paid to the satrap, amounted to one English bushel of silver, we may compute the annual

revenue of Assyria at more than twelve hundred thousand pounds sterling.

chapter XXIV: The Retreat And Death Of Julian.--Part III.

the fields of Assyria were devoted by Julian to the calamities of war; and the philosopher retaliated on a guiltless people the acts of rapine and cruelty which had been committed by their haughty master in the

Roman provinces. The trembling Assyrians summoned the rivers to their assistance; and completed, with their own hands, the ruin of their country. The roads were rendered impracticable; a flood of waters was

poured into the camp; and, during several days, the troops of Julian were obliged to contend with the most discouraging hardships. But every

obstacle was surmounted by the perseverance of the legionaries, who were

inured to toil as well as to danger, and who felt themselves animated by the spirit of their leader. The damage was gradually repaired; the waters were restored to their proper channels; whole groves of

palm-trees were cut down, and placed along the broken parts of the road; and the army passed over the broad and deeper canals, on bridges of floating rafts, which were supported by the help of bladders. Two cities

of Assyria presumed to resist the arms of a Roman emperor: and they both paid the severe penalty of their rashness. At the distance of fifty

miles from the royal residence of Ctesiphon, Perisabor, \* or Anbar,

held the second rank in the province; a city, large, populous, and well fortified, surrounded with a double wall, almost encompassed by a branch

of the Euphrates, and defended by the valor of a numerous garrison. The exhortations of Hormisdas were repulsed with contempt; and the ears of the Persian prince were wounded by a just reproach, that, unmindful of

his royal birth, he conducted an army of strangers against his king and country. The Assyrians maintained their loyalty by a skilful, as well as vigorous, defence; till the lucky stroke of a battering-ram, having

opened a large breach, by shattering one of the angles of the wall, they

hastily retired into the fortifications of the interior citadel. The

soldiers of Julian rushed impetuously into the town, and after the full gratification of every military appetite, Perisabor was reduced to ashes; and the engines which assaulted the citadel were planted on the

ruins of the smoking houses. The contest was continued by an incessant and mutual discharge of missile weapons; and the superiority which the

Romans might derive from the mechanical powers of their balistæ and catapultæ was counterbalanced by the advantage of the ground on the side

of the besieged. But as soon as an Helepolis had been constructed, which could engage on equal terms with the loftiest ramparts, the tremendous aspect of a moving turret, that would leave no hope of resistance or

mercy, terrified the defenders of the citadel into an humble submission; and the place was surrendered only two days after Julian first appeared

under the walls of Perisabor. Two thousand five hundred persons, of both

sexes, the feeble remnant of a flourishing people, were permitted to retire; the plentiful magazines of corn, of arms, and of splendid furniture, were partly distributed among the troops, and partly reserved for the public service; the useless stores were destroyed by fire or thrown into the stream of the Euphrates; and the fate of Amida was

revenged by the total ruin of Perisabor.

the city or rather fortress, of Maogamalcha, which was defended by

sixteen large towers, a deep ditch, and two strong and solid walls of brick and bitumen, appears to have been constructed at the distance of eleven miles, as the safeguard of the capital of Persia. The emperor, apprehensive of leaving such an important fortress in his rear,

immediately formed the siege of Maogamalcha; and the Roman army was distributed, for that purpose, into three divisions. Victor, at the head

of the cavalry, and of a detachment of heavy-armed foot, was ordered to clear the country, as far as the banks of the Tigris, and the suburbs of ctesiphon. The conduct of the attack was assumed by Julian himself, who

seemed to place his whole dependence in the military engines which

he erected against the walls; while he secretly contrived a more efficacious method of introducing his troops into the heart of the city

Under the direction of Nevitta and Dagalaiphus, the trenches were opened at a considerable distance, and gradually prolonged as far as the edge

of the ditch. The ditch was speedily filled with earth; and, by the

incessant labor of the troops, a mine was carried under the foundations

of the walls, and sustained, at sufficient intervals, by props of timber. Three chosen cohorts, advancing in a single file, silently explored the dark and dangerous passage; till their intrepid leader whispered back the intelligence, that he was ready to issue from his confinement into the streets of the hostile city. Julian checked their ardor, that he might insure their success; and immediately diverted the attention of the garrison, by the tumult and clamor of a general assault. The Persians, who, from their walls, contemptuously beheld the

progress of an impotent attack, celebrated with songs of triumph the

glory of Sapor; and ventured to assure the emperor, that he might ascend the starry mansion of Ormusd, before he could hope to take the

impregnable city of Maogamalcha. The city was already taken. History has

recorded the name of a private soldier the first who ascended from the

mine into a deserted tower. The passage was widened by his companions, who pressed forwards with impatient valor. Fifteen hundred enemies were already in the midst of the city. The astonished garrison abandoned the walls, and their only hope of safety; the gates were instantly burst

open; and the revenge of the soldier, unless it were suspended by lust

or avarice, was satiated by an undistinguishing massacre. The governor, who had yielded on a promise of mercy, was burnt alive, a few days afterwards, on a charge of having uttered some disrespectful words against the honor of Prince Hormisdas. \* The fortifications were razed to the ground; and not a vestige was left, that the city of Maogamalcha

had ever existed. The neighborhood of the capital of Persia was adorned with three stately palaces, laboriously enriched with every production that could gratify the luxury and pride of an Eastern monarch. The

pleasant situation of the gardens along the banks of the Tigris, was

improved, according to the Persian taste, by the symmetry of flowers, fountains, and shady walks: and spacious parks were enclosed for the

reception of the bears, lions, and wild boars, which were maintained at a considerable expense for the pleasure of the royal chase. The park walls were broken down, the savage game was abandoned to the darts of the soldiers, and the palaces of Sapor were reduced to ashes, by the command of the Roman emperor. Julian, on this occasion, showed himself

ignorant, or careless, of the laws of civility, which the prudence and

refinement of polished ages have established between hostile princes.

Yet these wanton ravages need not excite in our breasts any vehement emotions of pity or resentment. A simple, naked statue, finished by the

hand of a Grecian artist, is of more genuine value than all these rude and costly monuments of Barbaric labor; and, if we are more deeply affected by the ruin of a palace than by the conflagration of a cottage,

our humanity must have formed a very erroneous estimate of the miseries

of human life.

Julian was an object of hatred and terror to the Persian and the

painters of that nation represented the invader of their country under the emblem of a furious lion, who vomited from his mouth a consuming fire. To his friends and soldiers the philosophic hero appeared in a more amiable light; and his virtues were never more conspicuously displayed, than in the last and most active period of his life. He

practised, without effort, and almost without merit, the habitual

qualities of temperance and sobriety. According to the dictates of that artificial wisdom, which assumes an absolute dominion over the mind and body, he sternly refused himself the indulgence of the most natural appetites. In the warm climate of Assyria, which solicited a luxurious

people to the gratification of every sensual desire, a youthful conqueror preserved his chastity pure and inviolate; nor was Julian ever tempted, even by a motive of curiosity, to visit his female captives

of exquisite beauty, who, instead of resisting his power, would have disputed with each other the honor of his embraces. With the same firmness that he resisted the allurements of love, he sustained the

hardships of war. When the Romans marched through the flat and flooded country, their sovereign, on foot, at the head of his legions, shared their fatigues and animated their diligence. In every useful labor, the

hand of Julian was prompt and strenuous; and the Imperial purple was wet and dirty as the coarse garment of the meanest soldier. The two sieges allowed him some remarkable opportunities of signalizing his personal

valor, which, in the improved state of the military art, can seldom be exerted by a prudent general. The emperor stood before the citadel before the citadel of Perisabor, insensible of his extreme danger, and encouraged his troops to burst open the gates of iron, till he was almost overwhelmed under a cloud of missile weapons and huge stones, that were directed against his person. As he examined the exterior fortifications of Maogamalcha, two Persians, devoting themselves for their country, suddenly rushed upon him with drawn cimeters: the emperor dexterously received their blows on his uplifted shield; and, with a

steady and well-aimed thrust, laid one of his adversaries dead at

his feet. The esteem of a prince who possesses the virtues which he approves, is the noblest recompense of a deserving subject; and the authority which Julian derived from his personal merit, enabled him to

revive and enforce the rigor of ancient discipline. He punished with death or ignominy the misbehavior of three troops of horse, who, in a skirmish with the Surenas, had lost their honor and one of their

standards: and he distinguished with obsidional crowns the valor of the foremost soldiers, who had ascended into the city of Maogamalcha. After the siege of Perisabor, the firmness of the emperor was exercised by the

insolent avarice of the army, who loudly complained, that their services were rewarded by a trifling donative of one hundred pieces of silver.

His just indignation was expressed in the grave and manly language of a

Roman. "Riches are the object of your desires; those riches are in the hands of the Persians; and the spoils of this fruitful country are

proposed as the prize of your valor and discipline. Believe me," added

Julian, "the Roman republic, which formerly possessed such immense treasures, is now reduced to want and wretchedness once our princes have been persuaded, by weak and interested ministers, to purchase with gold the tranquillity of the Barbarians. The revenue is exhausted; the cities are ruined; the provinces are dispeopled. For myself, the only

inheritance that I have received from my royal ancestors is a soul

incapable of fear; and as long as I am convinced that every real advantage is seated in the mind, I shall not blush to acknowledge an

honorable poverty, which, in the days of ancient virtue, was considered as the glory of Fabricius. That glory, and that virtue, may be your own,

if you will listen to the voice of Heaven and of your leader. But if

you will rashly persist, if you are determined to renew the shameful and

mischievous examples of old seditions, proceed. As it becomes an emperor who has filled the first rank among men, I am prepared to die, standing; and to despise a precarious life, which, every hour, may depend on an accidental fever. If I have been found unworthy of the command, there are now among you, (I speak it with pride and pleasure,) there are many chiefs whose merit and experience are equal to the conduct of the most

important war. Such has been the temper of my reign, that I can retire, without regret, and without apprehension, to the obscurity of a private

station." The modest resolution of Julian was answered by the unanimous applause and cheerful obedience of the Romans, who declared their confidence of victory, while they fought under the banners of their

heroic prince. Their courage was kindled by his frequent and familiar asseverations, (for such wishes were the oaths of Julian,) "So may I

reduce the Persians under the yoke!" "Thus may I restore the strength and splendor of the republic!" The love of fame was the ardent

passion of his soul: but it was not before he trampled on the ruins of

Maogamalcha, that he allowed himself to say, "We have now provided some

materials for the sophist of Antioch."

the successful valor of Julian had triumphed over all the obstacles that

opposed his march to the gates of Ctesiphon. But the reduction, or even the siege, of the capital of Persia, was still at a distance: nor can the military conduct of the emperor be clearly apprehended, without a

knowledge of the country which was the theatre of his bold and skilful

operations. Twenty miles to the south of Bagdad, and on the eastern bank

of the Tigris, the curiosity of travellers has observed some ruins of the palaces of Ctesiphon, which, in the time of Julian, was a great and

populous city. The name and glory of the adjacent Seleucia were forever extinguished; and the only remaining quarter of that Greek colony

had resumed, with the Assyrian language and manners, the primitive appellation of Coche. Coche was situate on the western side of the tigris; but it was naturally considered as a suburb of Ctesiphon, with which we may suppose it to have been connected by a permanent bridge

of boats. The united parts contribute to form the common epithet of al Modain, the cities, which the Orientals have bestowed on the winter

residence of the Sassinades; and the whole circumference of the Persian capital was strongly fortified by the waters of the river, by lofty walls, and by impracticable morasses. Near the ruins of Seleucia, the camp of Julian was fixed, and secured, by a ditch and rampart, against the sallies of the numerous and enterprising garrison of Coche. In this fruitful and pleasant country, the Romans were plentifully supplied with water and forage: and several forts, which might have embarrassed the

motions of the army, submitted, after some resistance, to the efforts

of their valor. The fleet passed from the Euphrates into an artificial derivation of that river, which pours a copious and navigable stream

into the Tigris, at a small distance below the great city. If they had followed this royal canal, which bore the name of Nahar-Malcha, the

intermediate situation of Coche would have separated the fleet and army

of Julian; and the rash attempt of steering against the current of the tigris, and forcing their way through the midst of a hostile capital,

must have been attended with the total destruction of the Roman navy. the prudence of the emperor foresaw the danger, and provided the remedy. as he had minutely studied the operations of Trajan in the same country,

he soon recollected that his warlike predecessor had dug a new and

navigable canal, which, leaving Coche on the right hand, conveyed the waters of the Nahar-Malcha into the river Tigris, at some distance above the cities. From the information of the peasants, Julian ascertained the

vestiges of this ancient work, which were almost obliterated by design

or accident. By the indefatigable labor of the soldiers, a broad and deep channel was speedily prepared for the reception of the Euphrates. a strong dike was constructed to interrupt the ordinary current of the

Nahar-Malcha: a flood of waters rushed impetuously into their new bed; and the Roman fleet, steering their triumphant course into the Tigris, derided the vain and ineffectual barriers which the Persians of ctesiphon had erected to oppose their passage.

as it became necessary to transport the Roman army over the Tigris, another labor presented itself, of less toil, but of more danger, than the preceding expedition. The stream was broad and rapid; the ascent

steep and difficult; and the intrenchments which had been formed on the

ridge of the opposite bank, were lined with a numerous army of heavy cuirassiers, dexterous archers, and huge elephants; who (according to the extravagant hyperbole of Libanius) could trample with the same ease a field of corn, or a legion of Romans. In the presence of such an enemy, the construction of a bridge was impracticable; and the intrepid

prince, who instantly seized the only possible expedient, concealed

his design, till the moment of execution, from the knowledge of the barbarians, of his own troops, and even of his generals themselves.

Under the specious pretence of examining the state of the magazines, fourscore vessels \* were gradually unladen; and a select detachment, apparently destined for some secret expedition, was ordered to stand to their arms on the first signal. Julian disguised the silent anxiety of

his own mind with smiles of confidence and joy; and amused the hostile

nations with the spectacle of military games, which he insultingly celebrated under the walls of Coche. The day was consecrated to

pleasure; but, as soon as the hour of supper was passed, the emperor

summoned the generals to his tent, and acquainted them that he had fixed that night for the passage of the Tigris. They stood in silent and respectful astonishment; but, when the venerable Sallust assumed the

privilege of his age and experience, the rest of the chiefs supported with freedom the weight of his prudent remonstrances. Julian contented

himself with observing, that conquest and safety depended on the attempt; that instead of diminishing, the number of their enemies would be increased, by successive reenforcements; and that a longer delay would neither contract the breadth of the stream, nor level the height

of the bank. The signal was instantly given, and obeyed; the most

impatient of the legionaries leaped into five vessels that lay nearest to the bank; and as they plied their oars with intrepid diligence, they were lost, after a few moments, in the darkness of the night. A flame arose on the opposite side; and Julian, who too clearly understood that his foremost vessels, in attempting to land, had been fired by the enemy, dexterously converted their extreme danger into a presage

of victory. "Our fellow-soldiers," he eagerly exclaimed, "are already

masters of the bank; see--they make the appointed signal; let us hasten to emulate and assist their courage." The united and rapid motion of a great fleet broke the violence of the current, and they reached the eastern shore of the Tigris with sufficient speed to extinguish the flames, and rescue their adventurous companions. The difficulties of a

steep and lofty ascent were increased by the weight of armor, and the darkness of the night. A shower of stones, darts, and fire, was

incessantly discharged on the heads of the assailants; who, after an arduous struggle, climbed the bank and stood victorious upon the

rampart. As soon as they possessed a more equal field, Julian, who, with his light infantry, had led the attack, darted through the ranks a skilful and experienced eye: his bravest soldiers, according to the

precepts of Homer, were distributed in the front and rear: and all the trumpets of the Imperial army sounded to battle. The Romans, after

sending up a military shout, advanced in measured steps to the animating

notes of martial music; launched their formidable javelins; and rushed forwards with drawn swords, to deprive the Barbarians, by a closer

onset, of the advantage of their missile weapons. The whole engagement

lasted above twelve hours; till the gradual retreat of the Persians was changed into a disorderly flight, of which the shameful example was given by the principal leader, and the Surenas himself. They were

pursued to the gates of Ctesiphon; and the conquerors might have entered the dismayed city, if their general, Victor, who was dangerously wounded with an arrow, had not conjured them to desist from a rash attempt, which must be fatal, if it were not successful. On their side, the

Romans acknowledged the loss of only seventy-five men; while they affirmed, that the Barbarians had left on the field of battle two thousand five hundred, or even six thousand, of their bravest soldiers. the spoil was such as might be expected from the riches and luxury of an Oriental camp; large quantities of silver and gold, splendid arms and trappings, and beds and tables of massy silver. \* The victorious emperor distributed, as the rewards of valor, some honorable gifts, civic, and

mural, and naval crowns; which he, and perhaps he alone, esteemed more

precious than the wealth of Asia. A solemn sacrifice was offered to the god of war, but the appearances of the victims threatened the most

inauspicious events; and Julian soon discovered, by less ambiguous

signs, that he had now reached the term of his prosperity.

On the second day after the battle, the domestic guards, the Jovians and

Herculians, and the remaining troops, which composed near two thirds of the whole army, were securely wafted over the Tigris. While the Persians beheld from the walls of Ctesiphon the desolation of the adjacent country, Julian cast many an anxious look towards the North, in full expectation, that as he himself had victoriously penetrated to the capital of Sapor, the march and junction of his lieutenants, Sebastian and Procopius, would be executed with the same courage and diligence.

His expectations were disappointed by the treachery of the Armenian

king, who permitted, and most probably directed, the desertion of his auxiliary troops from the camp of the Romans; and by the dissensions of the two generals, who were incapable of forming or executing any plan for the public service. When the emperor had relinquished the hope of this important reenforcement, he condescended to hold a council of war, and approved, after a full debate, the sentiment of those generals, who dissuaded the siege of Ctesiphon, as a fruitless and pernicious

undertaking. It is not easy for us to conceive, by what arts of fortification a city thrice besieged and taken by the predecessors of

Julian could be rendered impregnable against an army of sixty thousand

Romans, commanded by a brave and experienced general, and abundantly

supplied with ships, provisions, battering engines, and military stores. but we may rest assured, from the love of glory, and contempt of danger, which formed the character of Julian, that he was not discouraged by any trivial or imaginary obstacles. At the very time when he declined the

siege of Ctesiphon, he rejected, with obstinacy and disdain, the most flattering offers of a negotiation of peace. Sapor, who had been so long accustomed to the tardy ostentation of Constantius, was surprised by the

intrepid diligence of his successor. As far as the confines of India and

Scythia, the satraps of the distant provinces were ordered to assemble their troops, and to march, without delay, to the assistance of their

monarch. But their preparations were dilatory, their motions slow; and before Sapor could lead an army into the field, he received the

melancholy intelligence of the devastation of Assyria, the ruin of

his palaces, and the slaughter of his bravest troops, who defended the

passage of the Tigris. The pride of royalty was humbled in the dust; he took his repasts on the ground; and the disorder of his hair expressed the grief and anxiety of his mind. Perhaps he would not have refused to

purchase, with one half of his kingdom, the safety of the remainder; and he would have gladly subscribed himself, in a treaty of peace, the faithful and dependent ally of the Roman conqueror. Under the pretence

of private business, a minister of rank and confidence was secretly despatched to embrace the knees of Hormisdas, and to request, in the

language of a suppliant, that he might be introduced into the presence

of the emperor. The Sassanian prince, whether he listened to the voice

of pride or humanity, whether he consulted the sentiments of his birth,

or the duties of his situation, was equally inclined to promote a

salutary measure, which would terminate the calamities of Persia, and

secure the triumph of Rome. He was astonished by the inflexible firmness

of a hero, who remembered, most unfortunately for himself and for his country, that Alexander had uniformly rejected the propositions

of Darius. But as Julian was sensible, that the hope of a safe and

honorable peace might cool the ardor of his troops, he earnestly

requested that Hormisdas would privately dismiss the minister of Sapor, and conceal this dangerous temptation from the knowledge of the camp.

chapter XXIV: The Retreat And Death Of Julian.--Part IV.

the honor, as well as interest, of Julian, forbade him to consume his time under the impregnable walls of Ctesiphon and as often as he defied the Barbarians, who defended the city, to meet him on the open plain, they prudently replied, that if he desired to exercise his valor,

he might seek the army of the Great King. He felt the insult, and he accepted the advice. Instead of confining his servile march to the banks

of the Euphrates and Tigris, he resolved to imitate the adventurous

spirit of Alexander, and boldly to advance into the inland provinces, till he forced his rival to contend with him, perhaps in the plains of arbela, for the empire of Asia. The magnanimity of Julian was applauded and betrayed, by the arts of a noble Persian, who, in the cause of

his country, had generously submitted to act a part full of danger, of falsehood, and of shame. With a train of faithful followers, he deserted to the Imperial camp; exposed, in a specious tale, the injuries which he

had sustained; exaggerated the cruelty of Sapor, the discontent of the people, and the weakness of the monarchy; and confidently offered

himself as the hostage and guide of the Roman march. The most rational

grounds of suspicion were urged, without effect, by the wisdom and experience of Hormisdas; and the credulous Julian, receiving the traitor

into his bosom, was persuaded to issue a hasty order, which, in the

opinion of mankind, appeared to arraign his prudence, and to endanger

his safety. He destroyed, in a single hour, the whole navy, which had been transported above five hundred miles, at so great an expense of toil, of treasure, and of blood. Twelve, or, at the most, twenty-two

small vessels were saved, to accompany, on carriages, the march of the army, and to form occasional bridges for the passage of the rivers. a supply of twenty days' provisions was reserved for the use of the

soldiers; and the rest of the magazines, with a fleet of eleven hundred

vessels, which rode at anchor in the Tigris, were abandoned to the flames, by the absolute command of the emperor. The Christian bishops,

Gregory and Augustin, insult the madness of the Apostate, who executed, with his own hands, the sentence of divine justice. Their authority, of

less weight, perhaps, in a military question, is confirmed by the cool

judgment of an experienced soldier, who was himself spectator of the conflagration, and who could not disapprove the reluctant murmurs of the troops. Yet there are not wanting some specious, and perhaps solid,

reasons, which might justify the resolution of Julian. The navigation of the Euphrates never ascended above Babylon, nor that of the Tigris above

Opis. The distance of the last-mentioned city from the Roman camp was

not very considerable: and Julian must soon have renounced the vain and impracticable attempt of forcing upwards a great fleet against the

stream of a rapid river, which in several places was embarrassed by natural or artificial cataracts. The power of sails and oars was

insufficient; it became necessary to tow the ships against the current

of the river; the strength of twenty thousand soldiers was exhausted

in this tedious and servile labor, and if the Romans continued to march along the banks of the Tigris, they could only expect to return home without achieving any enterprise worthy of the genius or fortune of their leader. If, on the contrary, it was advisable to advance into the

inland country, the destruction of the fleet and magazines was the

only measure which could save that valuable prize from the hands of the

numerous and active troops which might suddenly be poured from the gates

of Ctesiphon. Had the arms of Julian been victorious, we should now admire the conduct, as well as the courage, of a hero, who, by depriving

his soldiers of the hopes of a retreat, left them only the alternative

of death or conquest.

the cumbersome train of artillery and wagons, which retards the

operations of a modern army, were in a great measure unknown in the camps of the Romans. Yet, in every age, the subsistence of sixty thousand men must have been one of the most important cares of a prudent

general; and that subsistence could only be drawn from his own or from the enemy's country. Had it been possible for Julian to maintain a bridge of communication on the Tigris, and to preserve the conquered

places of Assyria, a desolated province could not afford any large or

regular supplies, in a season of the year when the lands were covered by the inundation of the Euphrates, and the unwholesome air was darkened with swarms of innumerable insects. The appearance of the hostile country was far more inviting. The extensive region that lies between the River Tigris and the mountains of Media, was filled with villages and towns; and the fertile soil, for the most part, was in a very

improved state of cultivation. Julian might expect, that a conqueror, who possessed the two forcible instruments of persuasion, steel and

gold, would easily procure a plentiful subsistence from the fears or avarice of the natives. But, on the approach of the Romans, the rich and smiling prospect was instantly blasted. Wherever they moved, the inhabitants deserted the open villages, and took shelter in the fortified towns; the cattle was driven away; the grass and ripe corn were consumed with fire; and, as soon as the flames had subsided which

interrupted the march of Julian, he beheld the melancholy face of a

smoking and naked desert. This desperate but effectual method of defence can only be executed by the enthusiasm of a people who prefer their

independence to their property; or by the rigor of an arbitrary

government, which consults the public safety without submitting to their

inclinations the liberty of choice. On the present occasion the zeal and obedience of the Persians seconded the commands of Sapor; and the emperor was soon reduced to the scanty stock of provisions, which continually wasted in his hands. Before they were entirely consumed, he

might still have reached the wealthy and unwarlike cities of Ecbatana

or Susa, by the effort of a rapid and well-directed march; but he was deprived of this last resource by his ignorance of the roads, and by the

perfidy of his guides. The Romans wandered several days in the country to the eastward of Bagdad; the Persian deserter, who had artfully led them into the spare, escaped from their resentment; and his followers, as soon as they were put to the torture, confessed the secret of the conspiracy. The visionary conquests of Hyrcania and India, which had so

long amused, now tormented, the mind of Julian. Conscious that his own

imprudence was the cause of the public distress, he anxiously balanced the hopes of safety or success, without obtaining a satisfactory answer, either from gods or men. At length, as the only practicable measure, he embraced the resolution of directing his steps towards the banks of the Tigris, with the design of saving the army by a hasty march to the confines of Corduene; a fertile and friendly province, which acknowledged the sovereignty of Rome. The desponding troops obeyed the signal of the retreat, only seventy days after they had passed the chaboras, with the sanguine expectation of subverting the throne of

Persia.

as long as the Romans seemed to advance into the country, their march was observed and insulted from a distance, by several bodies of Persian cavalry; who, showing themselves sometimes in loose, and sometimes

in close order, faintly skirmished with the advanced guards. These detachments were, however, supported by a much greater force; and the

heads of the columns were no sooner pointed towards the Tigris than a cloud of dust arose on the plain. The Romans, who now aspired only to the permission of a safe and speedy retreat, endeavored to persuade themselves, that this formidable appearance was occasioned by a troop

of wild asses, or perhaps by the approach of some friendly Arabs. They

halted, pitched their tents, fortified their camp, passed the whole

night in continual alarms; and discovered at the dawn of day, that they were surrounded by an army of Persians. This army, which might be considered only as the van of the Barbarians, was soon followed by the

main body of cuirassiers, archers, and elephants, commanded by Meranes, a general of rank and reputation. He was accompanied by two of the

king's sons, and many of the principal satraps; and fame and expectation exaggerated the strength of the remaining powers, which slowly advanced

under the conduct of Sapor himself. As the Romans continued their march, their long array, which was forced to bend or divide, according to the

varieties of the ground, afforded frequent and favorable opportunities to their vigilant enemies. The Persians repeatedly charged with fury; they were repeatedly repulsed with firmness; and the action at Maronga, which almost deserved the name of a battle, was marked by a considerable

loss of satraps and elephants, perhaps of equal value in the eyes of their monarch. These splendid advantages were not obtained without an adequate slaughter on the side of the Romans: several officers of distinction were either killed or wounded; and the emperor himself, who,

on all occasions of danger, inspired and guided the valor of his troops, was obliged to expose his person, and exert his abilities. The weight of

offensive and defensive arms, which still constituted the strength and

safety of the Romans, disabled them from making any long or effectual

pursuit; and as the horsemen of the East were trained to dart their

javelins, and shoot their arrows, at full speed, and in every possible direction, the cavalry of Persia was never more formidable than in the moment of a rapid and disorderly flight. But the most certain and

irreparable loss of the Romans was that of time. The hardy veterans, accustomed to the cold climate of Gaul and Germany, fainted under the

sultry heat of an Assyrian summer; their vigor was exhausted by the

incessant repetition of march and combat; and the progress of the army was suspended by the precautions of a slow and dangerous retreat, in the presence of an active enemy. Every day, every hour, as the supply diminished, the value and price of subsistence increased in the Roman camp. Julian, who always contented himself with such food as a hungry

soldier would have disdained, distributed, for the use of the troops, the provisions of the Imperial household, and whatever could be spared, from the sumpter-horses, of the tribunes and generals. But this feeble

relief served only to aggravate the sense of the public distress; and the Romans began to entertain the most gloomy apprehensions that, before they could reach the frontiers of the empire, they should all perish, either by famine, or by the sword of the Barbarians.

while Julian struggled with the almost insuperable difficulties of his

situation, the silent hours of the night were still devoted to study and contemplation. Whenever he closed his eyes in short and interrupted

slumbers, his mind was agitated with painful anxiety; nor can it be thought surprising, that the Genius of the empire should once more appear before him, covering with a funeral veil his head, and his horn

of abundance, and slowly retiring from the Imperial tent. The monarch

started from his couch, and stepping forth to refresh his wearied

spirits with the coolness of the midnight air, he beheld a fiery meteor, which shot athwart the sky, and suddenly vanished. Julian was convinced that he had seen the menacing countenance of the god of war; the council which he summoned, of Tuscan Haruspices, unanimously pronounced that he

should abstain from action; but on this occasion, necessity and reason were more prevalent than superstition; and the trumpets sounded at the break of day. The army marched through a hilly country; and the hills

had been secretly occupied by the Persians. Julian led the van with the skill and attention of a consummate general; he was alarmed by the intelligence that his rear was suddenly attacked. The heat of the weather had tempted him to lay aside his cuirass; but he snatched a

shield from one of his attendants, and hastened, with a sufficient

reenforcement, to the relief of the rear-guard. A similar danger

recalled the intrepid prince to the defence of the front; and, as he

galloped through the columns, the centre of the left was attacked, and almost overpowered by the furious charge of the Persian cavalry and elephants. This huge body was soon defeated, by the well-timed evolution

of the light infantry, who aimed their weapons, with dexterity and effect, against the backs of the horsemen, and the legs of the elephants. The Barbarians fled; and Julian, who was foremost in every danger, animated the pursuit with his voice and gestures. His trembling

guards, scattered and oppressed by the disorderly throng of friends and enemies, reminded their fearless sovereign that he was without armor; and conjured him to decline the fall of the impending ruin. As they exclaimed, a cloud of darts and arrows was discharged from the flying

squadrons; and a javelin, after razing the skin of his arm, transpierced the ribs, and fixed in the inferior part of the liver. Julian attempted to draw the deadly weapon from his side; but his fingers were cut by the

sharpness of the steel, and he fell senseless from his horse. His guards flew to his relief; and the wounded emperor was gently raised from the

ground, and conveyed out of the tumult of the battle into an adjacent tent. The report of the melancholy event passed from rank to rank; but the grief of the Romans inspired them with invincible valor, and the desire of revenge. The bloody and obstinate conflict was maintained by the two armies, till they were separated by the total darkness of the

night. The Persians derived some honor from the advantage which they

obtained against the left wing, where Anatolius, master of the offices, was slain, and the præfect Sallust very narrowly escaped. But the event

of the day was adverse to the Barbarians. They abandoned the field; their two generals, Meranes and Nohordates, fifty nobles or satraps, and a multitude of their bravest soldiers; and the success of the Romans, if

Julian had survived, might have been improved into a decisive and useful

victory.

the first words that Julian uttered, after his recovery from the fainting fit into which he had been thrown by loss of blood, were expressive of his martial spirit. He called for his horse and arms, and was impatient to rush into the battle. His remaining strength was exhausted by the painful effort; and the surgeons, who examined his wound, discovered the symptoms of approaching death. He employed the awful moments with the firm temper of a hero and a sage; the

philosophers who had accompanied him in this fatal expedition, compared the tent of Julian with the prison of Socrates; and the spectators, whom duty, or friendship, or curiosity, had assembled round his couch,

listened with respectful grief to the funeral oration of their dying emperor. "Friends and fellow-soldiers, the seasonable period of my departure is now arrived, and I discharge, with the cheerfulness of a

ready debtor, the demands of nature. I have learned from philosophy, how

much the soul is more excellent than the body; and that the separation

of the nobler substance should be the subject of joy, rather than of affliction. I have learned from religion, that an early death has often been the reward of piety; and I accept, as a favor of the gods, the

mortal stroke that secures me from the danger of disgracing a character, which has hitherto been supported by virtue and fortitude. I die without

remorse, as I have lived without guilt. I am pleased to reflect on the

innocence of my private life; and I can affirm with confidence, that the supreme authority, that emanation of the Divine Power, has been

preserved in my hands pure and immaculate. Detesting the corrupt and destructive maxims of despotism, I have considered the happiness of the

people as the end of government. Submitting my actions to the laws of

prudence, of justice, and of moderation, I have trusted the event to the care of Providence. Peace was the object of my counsels, as long as peace was consistent with the public welfare; but when the imperious

voice of my country summoned me to arms, I exposed my person to the dangers of war, with the clear foreknowledge (which I had acquired from the art of divination) that I was destined to fall by the sword. I now

offer my tribute of gratitude to the Eternal Being, who has not suffered

me to perish by the cruelty of a tyrant, by the secret dagger of conspiracy, or by the slow tortures of lingering disease. He has

given me, in the midst of an honorable career, a splendid and glorious departure from this world; and I hold it equally absurd, equally base, to solicit, or to decline, the stroke of fate. This much I have attempted to say; but my strength fails me, and I feel the approach

of death. I shall cautiously refrain from any word that may tend to

influence your suffrages in the election of an emperor. My choice might be imprudent or injudicious; and if it should not be ratified by the consent of the army, it might be fatal to the person whom I should

recommend. I shall only, as a good citizen, express my hopes, that the

Romans may be blessed with the government of a virtuous sovereign." after this discourse, which Julian pronounced in a firm and gentle tone

of voice, he distributed, by a military testament, the remains of his

private fortune; and making some inquiry why Anatolius was not present,

he understood, from the answer of Sallust, that Anatolius was killed; and bewailed, with amiable inconsistency, the loss of his friend. At the same time he reproved the immoderate grief of the spectators; and conjured them not to disgrace, by unmanly tears, the fate of a prince, who in a few moments would be united with heaven, and with the stars. the spectators were silent; and Julian entered into a metaphysical argument with the philosophers Priscus and Maximus, on the nature of the

soul. The efforts which he made, of mind as well as body, most probably

hastened his death. His wound began to bleed with fresh violence; his

respiration was embarrassed by the swelling of the veins; he called for a draught of cold water, and, as soon as he had drank it, expired without pain, about the hour of midnight. Such was the end of that extraordinary man, in the thirty-second year of his age, after a reign

of one year and about eight months, from the death of Constantius. In

his last moments he displayed, perhaps with some ostentation, the love

of virtue and of fame, which had been the ruling passions of his life.

the triumph of Christianity, and the calamities of the empire, may, in

some measure, be ascribed to Julian himself, who had neglected to

secure the future execution of his designs, by the timely and judicious

nomination of an associate and successor. But the royal race of constantius Chlorus was reduced to his own person; and if he entertained any serious thoughts of investing with the purple the most worthy among the Romans, he was diverted from his resolution by the difficulty of the choice, the jealousy of power, the fear of ingratitude, and the natural

presumption of health, of youth, and of prosperity. His unexpected death

left the empire without a master, and without an heir, in a state of

perplexity and danger, which, in the space of fourscore years, had never been experienced, since the election of Diocletian. In a government which had almost forgotten the distinction of pure and noble blood, the

superiority of birth was of little moment; the claims of official rank were accidental and precarious; and the candidates, who might aspire to ascend the vacant throne could be supported only by the consciousness of

personal merit, or by the hopes of popular favor. But the situation of a famished army, encompassed on all sides by a host of Barbarians,

shortened the moments of grief and deliberation. In this scene of terror and distress, the body of the deceased prince, according to his own directions, was decently embalmed; and, at the dawn of day, the generals convened a military senate, at which the commanders of the legions, and the officers both of cavalry and infantry, were invited to assist. three or four hours of the night had not passed away without some secret cabals; and when the election of an emperor was proposed, the spirit of faction began to agitate the assembly. Victor and Arinthæus collected the remains of the court of Constantius; the friends of Julian attached themselves to the Gallic chiefs, Dagalaiphus and Nevitta; and the

most fatal consequences might be apprehended from the discord of two factions, so opposite in their character and interest, in their maxims

of government, and perhaps in their religious principles. The superior

virtues of Sallust could alone reconcile their divisions, and unite their suffrages; and the venerable præfect would immediately have been declared the successor of Julian, if he himself, with sincere and modest firmness, had not alleged his age and infirmities, so unequal to the weight of the diadem. The generals, who were surprised and perplexed by

his refusal, showed some disposition to adopt the salutary advice of an

inferior officer, that they should act as they would have acted in the absence of the emperor; that they should exert their abilities to extricate the army from the present distress; and, if they were fortunate enough to reach the confines of Mesopotamia, they should

proceed with united and deliberate counsels in the election of a lawful

sovereign. While they debated, a few voices saluted Jovian, who was

no more than first of the domestics, with the names of Emperor and augustus. The tumultuary acclamation \* was instantly repeated by the

guards who surrounded the tent, and passed, in a few minutes, to the extremities of the line. The new prince, astonished with his own fortune was hastily invested with the Imperial ornaments, and received an oath

of fidelity from the generals, whose favor and protection he so lately

solicited. The strongest recommendation of Jovian was the merit of his father, Count Varronian, who enjoyed, in honorable retirement, the fruit

of his long services. In the obscure freedom of a private station, the son indulged his taste for wine and women; yet he supported, with credit, the character of a Christian and a soldier. Without being conspicuous for any of the ambitious qualifications which excite the admiration and envy of mankind, the comely person of Jovian, his cheerful temper, and familiar wit, had gained the affection of his fellow-soldiers; and the generals of both parties acquiesced in a

popular election, which had not been conducted by the arts of their enemies. The pride of this unexpected elevation was moderated by the

just apprehension, that the same day might terminate the life and reign

of the new emperor. The pressing voice of necessity was obeyed without delay; and the first orders issued by Jovian, a few hours after his

predecessor had expired, were to prosecute a march, which could alone extricate the Romans from their actual distress.

chapter XXIV: The Retreat And Death Of Julian.--Part V.

the esteem of an enemy is most sincerely expressed by his fears; and the degree of fear may be accurately measured by the joy with which he celebrates his deliverance. The welcome news of the death of Julian, which a deserter revealed to the camp of Sapor, inspired the desponding

monarch with a sudden confidence of victory. He immediately detached the

royal cavalry, perhaps the ten thousand Immortals, to second and support the pursuit; and discharged the whole weight of his united forces on the

rear-guard of the Romans. The rear-guard was thrown into disorder; the

renowned legions, which derived their titles from Diocletian, and his warlike colleague, were broke and trampled down by the elephants; and three tribunes lost their lives in attempting to stop the flight of their soldiers. The battle was at length restored by the persevering

valor of the Romans; the Persians were repulsed with a great slaughter

of men and elephants; and the army, after marching and fighting a long

summer's day, arrived, in the evening, at Samara, on the banks of the tigris, about one hundred miles above Ctesiphon. On the ensuing day, the Barbarians, instead of harassing the march, attacked the camp, of

Jovian; which had been seated in a deep and sequestered valley. From the hills, the archers of Persia insulted and annoyed the wearied

legionaries; and a body of cavalry, which had penetrated with desperate courage through the Prætorian gate, was cut in pieces, after a doubtful conflict, near the Imperial tent. In the succeeding night, the camp

of Carche was protected by the lofty dikes of the river; and the

Roman army, though incessantly exposed to the vexatious pursuit of the

Saracens, pitched their tents near the city of Dura, four days after the death of Julian. The Tigris was still on their left; their hopes and provisions were almost consumed; and the impatient soldiers, who had fondly persuaded themselves that the frontiers of the empire were not far distant, requested their new sovereign, that they might be permitted to hazard the passage of the river. With the assistance of his wisest

officers, Jovian endeavored to check their rashness; by representing, that if they possessed sufficient skill and vigor to stem the torrent

of a deep and rapid stream, they would only deliver themselves naked and defenceless to the Barbarians, who had occupied the opposite banks,

Yielding at length to their clamorous importunities, he consented, with

reluctance, that five hundred Gauls and Germans, accustomed from their

infancy to the waters of the Rhine and Danube, should attempt the bold adventure, which might serve either as an encouragement, or as a warning, for the rest of the army. In the silence of the night, they

swam the Tigris, surprised an unguarded post of the enemy, and displayed at the dawn of day the signal of their resolution and fortune. The

success of this trial disposed the emperor to listen to the promises

of his architects, who propose to construct a floating bridge of the

inflated skins of sheep, oxen, and goats, covered with a floor of earth and fascines. Two important days were spent in the ineffectual labor; and the Romans, who already endured the miseries of famine, cast a look

of despair on the Tigris, and upon the Barbarians; whose numbers and

obstinacy increased with the distress of the Imperial army.

In this hopeless condition, the fainting spirits of the Romans were

revived by the sound of peace. The transient presumption of Sapor had

vanished: he observed, with serious concern, that, in the repetition of doubtful combats, he had lost his most faithful and intrepid nobles, his bravest troops, and the greatest part of his train of elephants: and the experienced monarch feared to provoke the resistance of despair, the

vicissitudes of fortune, and the unexhausted powers of the Roman empire; which might soon advance to relieve, or to revenge, the successor of

Julian. The Surenas himself, accompanied by another satrap, \* appeared

in the camp of Jovian; and declared, that the clemency of his sovereign was not averse to signify the conditions on which he would consent to

spare and to dismiss the Cæsar with the relics of his captive army. the hopes of safety subdued the firmness of the Romans; the emperor was compelled, by the advice of his council, and the cries of his soldiers, to embrace the offer of peace; and the præfect Sallust was immediately

sent, with the general Arinthæus, to understand the pleasure of the

Great King. The crafty Persian delayed, under various pretenses, the conclusion of the agreement; started difficulties, required explanations, suggested expedients, receded from his concessions,

increased his demands, and wasted four days in the arts of negotiation, till he had consumed the stock of provisions which yet remained in the camp of the Romans. Had Jovian been capable of executing a bold and

prudent measure, he would have continued his march, with unremitting diligence; the progress of the treaty would have suspended the attacks

of the Barbarians; and, before the expiration of the fourth day, he

might have safely reached the fruitful province of Corduene, at the distance only of one hundred miles. The irresolute emperor, instead of breaking through the toils of the enemy, expected his fate with patient

resignation; and accepted the humiliating conditions of peace, which

it was no longer in his power to refuse. The five provinces beyond the tigris, which had been ceded by the grandfather of Sapor, were

restored to the Persian monarchy. He acquired, by a single article, the

impregnable city of Nisibis; which had sustained, in three successive

sieges, the effort of his arms. Singara, and the castle of the Moors,

one of the strongest places of Mesopotamia, were likewise dismembered from the empire. It was considered as an indulgence, that the

inhabitants of those fortresses were permitted to retire with their effects; but the conqueror rigorously insisted, that the Romans should forever abandon the king and kingdom of Armenia. § A peace, or rather a

long truce, of thirty years, was stipulated between the hostile nations; the faith of the treaty was ratified by solemn oaths and religious ceremonies; and hostages of distinguished rank were reciprocally delivered to secure the performance of the conditions.

the sophist of Antioch, who saw with indignation the sceptre of his hero

in the feeble hand of a Christian successor, professes to admire the

moderation of Sapor, in contenting himself with so small a portion of the Roman empire. If he had stretched as far as the Euphrates the claims of his ambition, he might have been secure, says Libanius, of not

meeting with a refusal. If he had fixed, as the boundary of Persia, the Orontes, the Cydnus, the Sangarius, or even the Thracian Bosphorus, flatterers would not have been wanting in the court of Jovian to convince the timid monarch, that his remaining provinces would still afford the most ample gratifications of power and luxury. Without adopting in its full force this malicious insinuation, we must acknowledge, that the conclusion of so ignominious a treaty was facilitated by the private ambition of Jovian. The obscure domestic, exalted to the throne by fortune, rather than by merit, was impatient to escape from the hands of the Persians, that he might prevent the designs

of Procopius, who commanded the army of Mesopotamia, and establish his doubtful reign over the legions and provinces which were still ignorant

of the hasty and tumultuous choice of the camp beyond the Tigris. In the

neighborhood of the same river, at no very considerable distance from the fatal station of Dura, the ten thousand Greeks, without generals, or

guides, or provisions, were abandoned, above twelve hundred miles from their native country, to the resentment of a victorious monarch. The difference of their conduct and success depended much more on their character than on their situation. Instead of tamely resigning themselves to the secret deliberations and private views of a single

person, the united councils of the Greeks were inspired by the generous enthusiasm of a popular assembly; where the mind of each citizen is filled with the love of glory, the pride of freedom, and the contempt

of death. Conscious of their superiority over the Barbarians in arms and discipline, they disdained to yield, they refused to capitulate: every

obstacle was surmounted by their patience, courage, and military skill; and the memorable retreat of the ten thousand exposed and insulted the weakness of the Persian monarchy.

as the price of his disgraceful concessions, the emperor might

perhaps have stipulated, that the camp of the hungry Romans should be

plentifully supplied; and that they should be permitted to pass the tigris on the bridge which was constructed by the hands of the Persians. but, if Jovian presumed to solicit those equitable terms, they were

sternly refused by the haughty tyrant of the East, whose clemency had

pardoned the invaders of his country. The Saracens sometimes intercepted the stragglers of the march; but the generals and troops of Sapor

respected the cessation of arms; and Jovian was suffered to explore the

most convenient place for the passage of the river. The small vessels, which had been saved from the conflagration of the fleet, performed the most essential service. They first conveyed the emperor and his favorites; and afterwards transported, in many successive voyages, a

great part of the army. But, as every man was anxious for his personal

safety, and apprehensive of being left on the hostile shore, the

soldiers, who were too impatient to wait the slow returns of the boats, boldly ventured themselves on light hurdles, or inflated skins; and, drawing after them their horses, attempted, with various success, to

swim across the river. Many of these daring adventurers were swallowed by the waves; many others, who were carried along by the violence of the

stream, fell an easy prey to the avarice or cruelty of the wild Arabs: and the loss which the army sustained in the passage of the Tigris, was

not inferior to the carnage of a day of battle. As soon as the Romans were landed on the western bank, they were delivered from the hostile

pursuit of the Barbarians; but, in a laborious march of two hundred

miles over the plains of Mesopotamia, they endured the last extremities

of thirst and hunger. They were obliged to traverse the sandy desert, which, in the extent of seventy miles, did not afford a single blade

of sweet grass, nor a single spring of fresh water; and the rest of the inhospitable waste was untrod by the footsteps either of friends or enemies. Whenever a small measure of flour could be discovered in the camp, twenty pounds weight were greedily purchased with ten pieces of

gold: the beasts of burden were slaughtered and devoured; and the desert was strewed with the arms and baggage of the Roman soldiers, whose tattered garments and meagre countenances displayed their past

sufferings and actual misery. A small convoy of provisions advanced to

meet the army as far as the castle of Ur; and the supply was the more

grateful, since it declared the fidelity of Sebastian and Procopius. at Thilsaphata, the emperor most graciously received the generals

of Mesopotamia; and the remains of a once flourishing army at length

reposed themselves under the walls of Nisibis. The messengers of Jovian

had already proclaimed, in the language of flattery, his election, his treaty, and his return; and the new prince had taken the most effectual

measures to secure the allegiance of the armies and provinces of Europe, by placing the military command in the hands of those officers, who, from motives of interest, or inclination, would firmly support the cause

of their benefactor.

the friends of Julian had confidently announced the success of his expedition. They entertained a fond persuasion that the temples of the

gods would be enriched with the spoils of the East; that Persia would be reduced to the humble state of a tributary province, governed by the

laws and magistrates of Rome; that the Barbarians would adopt the dress, and manners, and language of their conquerors; and that the youth of ecbatana and Susa would study the art of rhetoric under Grecian masters. the progress of the arms of Julian interrupted his communication with the empire; and, from the moment that he passed the Tigris, his affectionate subjects were ignorant of the fate and fortunes of their

prince. Their contemplation of fancied triumphs was disturbed by the

melancholy rumor of his death; and they persisted to doubt, after they could no longer deny, the truth of that fatal event. The messengers of

Jovian promulgated the specious tale of a prudent and necessary peace; the voice of fame, louder and more sincere, revealed the disgrace of the emperor, and the conditions of the ignominious treaty. The minds of the

people were filled with astonishment and grief, with indignation and terror, when they were informed, that the unworthy successor of Julian

relinquished the five provinces which had been acquired by the victory

of Galerius; and that he shamefully surrendered to the Barbarians the

important city of Nisibis, the firmest bulwark of the provinces of the east. The deep and dangerous question, how far the public faith should be observed, when it becomes incompatible with the public safety, was freely agitated in popular conversation; and some hopes were entertained that the emperor would redeem his pusillanimous behavior by a splendid act of patriotic perfidy. The inflexible spirit of the Roman senate had always disclaimed the unequal conditions which were extorted from the distress of their captive armies; and, if it were necessary to satisfy the national honor, by delivering the guilty general into the hands of the Barbarians, the greatest part of the subjects of Jovian would have cheerfully acquiesced in the precedent of ancient times.

but the emperor, whatever might be the limits of his constitutional authority, was the absolute master of the laws and arms of the state; and the same motives which had forced him to subscribe, now pressed him to execute, the treaty of peace. He was impatient to secure an empire at the expense of a few provinces; and the respectable names of

religion and honor concealed the personal fears and ambition of Jovian.

Notwithstanding the dutiful solicitations of the inhabitants, decency, as well as prudence, forbade the emperor to lodge in the palace of

Nisibis; but the next morning after his arrival. Bineses, the ambassador

of Persia, entered the place, displayed from the citadel the standard

of the Great King, and proclaimed, in his name, the cruel alternative

of exile or servitude. The principal citizens of Nisibis, who, till that fatal moment, had confided in the protection of their sovereign, threw themselves at his feet. They conjured him not to abandon, or, at least,

not to deliver, a faithful colony to the rage of a Barbarian tyrant, exasperated by the three successive defeats which he had experienced

under the walls of Nisibis. They still possessed arms and courage to

repel the invaders of their country: they requested only the permission

of using them in their own defence; and, as soon as they had asserted their independence, they should implore the favor of being again admitted into the ranks of his subjects. Their arguments, their eloquence, their tears, were ineffectual. Jovian alleged, with some confusion, the sanctity of oaths; and, as the reluctance with which he accepted the present of a crown of gold, convinced the citizens of their

hopeless condition, the advocate Sylvanus was provoked to exclaim, "O emperor! may you thus be crowned by all the cities of your dominions!"

Jovian, who in a few weeks had assumed the habits of a prince, was displeased with freedom, and offended with truth: and as he reasonably

supposed, that the discontent of the people might incline them to submit to the Persian government, he published an edict, under pain of death, that they should leave the city within the term of three days. Ammianus

has delineated in lively colors the scene of universal despair, which

he seems to have viewed with an eye of compassion. The martial youth deserted, with indignant grief, the walls which they had so gloriously defended: the disconsolate mourner dropped a last tear over the tomb

of a son or husband, which must soon be profaned by the rude hand of a barbarian master; and the aged citizen kissed the threshold, and clung to the doors, of the house where he had passed the cheerful and careless

hours of infancy. The highways were crowded with a trembling multitude: the distinctions of rank, and sex, and age, were lost in the general calamity. Every one strove to bear away some fragment from the wreck of

his fortunes; and as they could not command the immediate service of an adequate number of horses or wagons, they were obliged to leave behind them the greatest part of their valuable effects. The savage

insensibility of Jovian appears to have aggravated the hardships of these unhappy fugitives. They were seated, however, in a new-built

quarter of Amida; and that rising city, with the reenforcement of a very considerable colony, soon recovered its former splendor, and became the capital of Mesopotamia. Similar orders were despatched by the emperor for the evacuation of Singara and the castle of the Moors; and for the

restitution of the five provinces beyond the Tigris. Sapor enjoyed the

glory and the fruits of his victory; and this ignominious peace has

justly been considered as a memorable æra in the decline and fall of the

Roman empire. The predecessors of Jovian had sometimes relinquished the dominion of distant and unprofitable provinces; but, since the foundation of the city, the genius of Rome, the god Terminus, who

guarded the boundaries of the republic, had never retired before the

sword of a victorious enemy.

after Jovian had performed those engagements which the voice of his

people might have tempted him to violate, he hastened away from the

scene of his disgrace, and proceeded with his whole court to enjoy the

luxury of Antioch. Without consulting the dictates of religious zeal,

he was prompted, by humanity and gratitude, to bestow the last honors

on the remains of his deceased sovereign: and Procopius, who sincerely bewailed the loss of his kinsman, was removed from the command of the army, under the decent pretence of conducting the funeral. The corpse

of Julian was transported from Nisibis to Tarsus, in a slow march of fifteen days; and, as it passed through the cities of the East, was saluted by the hostile factions, with mournful lamentations and clamorous insults. The Pagans already placed their beloved hero in the

rank of those gods whose worship he had restored; while the invectives

of the Christians pursued the soul of the Apostate to hell, and his body to the grave. One party lamented the approaching ruin of their altars; the other celebrated the marvellous deliverance of their church. The christians applauded, in lofty and ambiguous strains, the stroke of divine vengeance, which had been so long suspended over the guilty

head of Julian. They acknowledge, that the death of the tyrant, at the

instant he expired beyond the Tigris, was revealed to the saints of egypt, Syria, and Cappadocia; and instead of suffering him to fall by the Persian darts, their indiscretion ascribed the heroic deed to the

obscure hand of some mortal or immortal champion of the faith. Such

imprudent declarations were eagerly adopted by the malice, or credulity,

of their adversaries; who darkly insinuated, or confidently asserted, that the governors of the church had instigated and directed the fanaticism of a domestic assassin. Above sixteen years after the death

of Julian, the charge was solemnly and vehemently urged, in a public

oration, addressed by Libanius to the emperor Theodosius. His suspicions are unsupported by fact or argument; and we can only esteem the generous

zeal of the sophist of Antioch for the cold and neglected ashes of his friend.

It was an ancient custom in the funerals, as well as in the triumphs,

of the Romans, that the voice of praise should be corrected by that of

satire and ridicule; and that, in the midst of the splendid pageants, which displayed the glory of the living or of the dead, their

imperfections should not be concealed from the eyes of the world. this custom was practised in the funeral of Julian. The comedians, who

resented his contempt and aversion for the theatre, exhibited, with the applause of a Christian audience, the lively and exaggerated

representation of the faults and follies of the deceased emperor. His

various character and singular manners afforded an ample scope for

pleasantry and ridicule. In the exercise of his uncommon talents, he

often descended below the majesty of his rank. Alexander was transformed

into Diogenes; the philosopher was degraded into a priest. The purity of

his virtue was sullied by excessive vanity; his superstition disturbed the peace, and endangered the safety, of a mighty empire; and his

irregular sallies were the less entitled to indulgence, as they appeared to be the laborious efforts of art, or even of affectation. The remains

of Julian were interred at Tarsus in Cilicia; but his stately tomb, which arose in that city, on the banks of the cold and limpid Cydnus, was displeasing to the faithful friends, who loved and revered the

memory of that extraordinary man. The philosopher expressed a very

reasonable wish, that the disciple of Plato might have reposed amidst the groves of the academy; while the soldier exclaimed, in bolder accents, that the ashes of Julian should have been mingled with those

of Cæsar, in the field of Mars, and among the ancient monuments of

Roman virtue. The history of princes does not very frequently renew the examples of a similar competition.

chapter XXV: Reigns Of Jovian And Valentinian, Division Of The empire.--Part I.

The Government And Death Of Jovian.--Election Of

Valentinian, Who Associates His Brother Valens, And Makes

The Final Division Of The Eastern And Western Empires.--

Revolt Of Procopius.--Civil And Ecclesiastical

Administration.--Germany.--Britain.--Africa.--The East.--The

Danube.--Death Of Valentinian.--His Two Sons, Gratian And

Valentinian II., Succeed To The Western Empire.

the death of Julian had left the public affairs of the empire in a

very doubtful and dangerous situation. The Roman army was saved by an

inglorious, perhaps a necessary treaty; and the first moments of peace were consecrated by the pious Jovian to restore the domestic tranquility

of the church and state. The indiscretion of his predecessor, instead

of reconciling, had artfully fomented the religious war: and the balance which he affected to preserve between the hostile factions, served only to perpetuate the contest, by the vicissitudes of hope and fear, by the

rival claims of ancient possession and actual favor. The Christians

had forgotten the spirit of the gospel; and the Pagans had imbibed the

spirit of the church. In private families, the sentiments of nature were extinguished by the blind fury of zeal and revenge: the majesty of the

laws was violated or abused; the cities of the East were stained with blood; and the most implacable enemies of the Romans were in the bosom

of their country. Jovian was educated in the profession of Christianity; and as he marched from Nisibis to Antioch, the banner of the Cross, the

Labarum of Constantine, which was again displayed at the head of the

legions, announced to the people the faith of their new emperor. As soon as he ascended the throne, he transmitted a circular epistle to all the governors of provinces; in which he confessed the divine truth, and secured the legal establishment, of the Christian religion. The

insidious edicts of Julian were abolished; the ecclesiastical immunities were restored and enlarged; and Jovian condescended to lament, that the distress of the times obliged him to diminish the measure of charitable distributions. The Christians were unanimous in the loud and sincere applause which they bestowed on the pious successor of Julian. But they were still ignorant what creed, or what synod, he would choose for the

standard of orthodoxy; and the peace of the church immediately revived those eager disputes which had been suspended during the season of

persecution. The episcopal leaders of the contending sects, convinced, from experience, how much their fate would depend on the earliest

impressions that were made on the mind of an untutored soldier, hastened to the court of Edessa, or Antioch. The highways of the East were crowded with Homoousian, and Arian, and Semi-Arian, and Eunomian bishops, who struggled to outstrip each other in the holy race: the apartments of the palace resounded with their clamors; and the ears

of the prince were assaulted, and perhaps astonished, by the singular

mixture of metaphysical argument and passionate invective. The

moderation of Jovian, who recommended concord and charity, and referred the disputants to the sentence of a future council, was interpreted as a symptom of indifference: but his attachment to the Nicene creed was at

length discovered and declared, by the reverence which he expressed for the celestial virtues of the great Athanasius. The intrepid veteran of the faith, at the age of seventy, had issued from his retreat on the first intelligence of the tyrant's death. The acclamations of the

people seated him once more on the archiepiscopal throne; and he wisely accepted, or anticipated, the invitation of Jovian. The venerable figure

of Athanasius, his calm courage, and insinuating eloquence, sustained the reputation which he had already acquired in the courts of four

successive princes. As soon as he had gained the confidence, and secured the faith, of the Christian emperor, he returned in triumph to his diocese, and continued, with mature counsels and undiminished vigor, to direct, ten years longer, the ecclesiastical government of Alexandria, egypt, and the Catholic church. Before his departure from Antioch, he assured Jovian that his orthodox devotion would be rewarded with a long and peaceful reign. Athanasius, had reason to hope, that he should be allowed either the merit of a successful prediction, or the excuse of a

grateful though ineffectual prayer.

the slightest force, when it is applied to assist and guide the natural descent of its object, operates with irresistible weight; and Jovian had the good fortune to embrace the religious opinions which were supported by the spirit of the times, and the zeal and numbers of the most

powerful sect. Under his reign, Christianity obtained an easy and

lasting victory; and as soon as the smile of royal patronage was withdrawn, the genius of Paganism, which had been fondly raised and cherished by the arts of Julian, sunk irrecoverably. In many cities, the temples were shut or deserted: the philosophers who had abused their transient favor, thought it prudent to shave their beards, and disguise their profession; and the Christians rejoiced, that they were now in a condition to forgive, or to revenge, the injuries which they had

suffered under the preceding reign. The consternation of the Pagan world was dispelled by a wise and gracious edict of toleration; in which

Jovian explicitly declared, that although he should severely punish the

sacrilegious rites of magic, his subjects might exercise, with freedom and safety, the ceremonies of the ancient worship. The memory of this

law has been preserved by the orator Themistius, who was deputed by the

senate of Constantinople to express their royal devotion for the new emperor. Themistius expatiates on the clemency of the Divine Nature, the facility of human error, the rights of conscience, and the independence

of the mind; and, with some eloquence, inculcates the principles of

philosophical toleration; whose aid Superstition herself, in the hour of

her distress, is not ashamed to implore. He justly observes, that in the recent changes, both religions had been alternately disgraced by the

seeming acquisition of worthless proselytes, of those votaries of the

reigning purple, who could pass, without a reason, and without a blush, from the church to the temple, and from the altars of Jupiter to the

sacred table of the Christians.

In the space of seven months, the Roman troops, who were now returned to antioch, had performed a march of fifteen hundred miles; in which they had endured all the hardships of war, of famine, and of climate.

Notwithstanding their services, their fatigues, and the approach of winter, the timid and impatient Jovian allowed only, to the men and

horses, a respite of six weeks. The emperor could not sustain the

indiscreet and malicious raillery of the people of Antioch. He was

impatient to possess the palace of Constantinople; and to prevent the ambition of some competitor, who might occupy the vacant allegiance

of Europe. But he soon received the grateful intelligence, that his authority was acknowledged from the Thracian Bosphorus to the Atlantic

Ocean. By the first letters which he despatched from the camp of

Mesopotamia, he had delegated the military command of Gaul and Illyricum to Malarich, a brave and faithful officer of the nation of the franks; and to his father-in-law, Count Lucillian, who had formerly distinguished his courage and conduct in the defence of Nisibis.

Malarich had declined an office to which he thought himself unequal; and Lucillian was massacred at Rheims, in an accidental mutiny of the batavian cohorts. But the moderation of Jovinus, master-general of the cavalry, who forgave the intention of his disgrace, soon appeased the tumult, and confirmed the uncertain minds of the soldiers. The oath of fidelity was administered and taken, with loyal acclamations; and the deputies of the Western armies saluted their new sovereign as he descended from Mount Taurus to the city of Tyana in Cappadocia. From tyana he continued his hasty march to Ancyra, capital of the province of

Galatia; where Jovian assumed, with his infant son, the name and ensigns

of the consulship. Dadastana, an obscure town, almost at an equal distance between Ancyra and Nice, was marked for the fatal term of his

journey and life. After indulging himself with a plentiful, perhaps an intemperate, supper, he retired to rest; and the next morning the emperor Jovian was found dead in his bed. The cause of this sudden death was variously understood. By some it was ascribed to the consequences

of an indigestion, occasioned either by the quantity of the wine, or the quality of the mushrooms, which he had swallowed in the evening. according to others, he was suffocated in his sleep by the vapor

of charcoal, which extracted from the walls of the apartment the

unwholesome moisture of the fresh plaster. But the want of a regular

inquiry into the death of a prince, whose reign and person were soon forgotten, appears to have been the only circumstance which countenanced the malicious whispers of poison and domestic guilt. The body of Jovian was sent to Constantinople, to be interred with his predecessors, and the sad procession was met on the road by his wife Charito, the daughter

of Count Lucillian; who still wept the recent death of her father, and was hastening to dry her tears in the embraces of an Imperial husband.

Her disappointment and grief were imbittered by the anxiety of maternal tenderness. Six weeks before the death of Jovian, his infant son had been placed in the curule chair, adorned with the title of Nobilissimus, and the vain ensigns of the consulship. Unconscious of his fortune, the

royal youth, who, from his grandfather, assumed the name of Varronian, was reminded only by the jealousy of the government, that he was the son

of an emperor. Sixteen years afterwards he was still alive, but he had already been deprived of an eye; and his afflicted mother expected every

hour, that the innocent victim would be torn from her arms, to appease, with his blood, the suspicions of the reigning prince.

after the death of Jovian, the throne of the Roman world remained ten days, without a master. The ministers and generals still continued to

meet in council; to exercise their respective functions; to maintain the

public order; and peaceably to conduct the army to the city of Nice in bithynia, which was chosen for the place of the election. In a solemn assembly of the civil and military powers of the empire, the diadem was again unanimously offered to the præfect Sallust. He enjoyed the glory

of a second refusal: and when the virtues of the father were alleged

in favor of his son, the præfect, with the firmness of a disinterested

patriot, declared to the electors, that the feeble age of the one, and the unexperienced youth of the other, were equally incapable of the

laborious duties of government. Several candidates were proposed; and, after weighing the objections of character or situation, they were

successively rejected; but, as soon as the name of Valentinian was

pronounced, the merit of that officer united the suffrages of the whole assembly, and obtained the sincere approbation of Sallust himself.

Valentinian was the son of Count Gratian, a native of Cibalis, in

Pannonia, who from an obscure condition had raised himself, by matchless

strength and dexterity, to the military commands of Africa and Britain; from which he retired with an ample fortune and suspicious integrity. the rank and services of Gratian contributed, however, to smooth the first steps of the promotion of his son; and afforded him an early

opportunity of displaying those solid and useful qualifications, which

raised his character above the ordinary level of his fellow-soldiers. the person of Valentinian was tall, graceful, and majestic. His manly countenance, deeply marked with the impression of sense and spirit,

inspired his friends with awe, and his enemies with fear; and to second the efforts of his undaunted courage, the son of Gratian had inherited the advantages of a strong and healthy constitution. By the habits of chastity and temperance, which restrain the appetites and invigorate the faculties, Valentinian preserved his own and the public esteem. The avocations of a military life had diverted his youth from the elegant

pursuits of literature; \* he was ignorant of the Greek language, and the arts of rhetoric; but as the mind of the orator was never disconcerted by timid perplexity, he was able, as often as the occasion prompted him, to deliver his decided sentiments with bold and ready elocution. The

laws of martial discipline were the only laws that he had studied; and

he was soon distinguished by the laborious diligence, and inflexible

severity, with which he discharged and enforced the duties of the camp. In the time of Julian he provoked the danger of disgrace, by the contempt which he publicly expressed for the reigning religion; and

it should seem, from his subsequent conduct, that the indiscreet and

unseasonable freedom of Valentinian was the effect of military spirit,

rather than of Christian zeal. He was pardoned, however, and still employed by a prince who esteemed his merit; and in the various events

of the Persian war, he improved the reputation which he had already acquired on the banks of the Rhine. The celerity and success with which

he executed an important commission, recommended him to the favor of

Jovian; and to the honorable command of the second school, or company,

of Targetiers, of the domestic guards. In the march from Antioch, he

had reached his quarters at Ancyra, when he was unexpectedly summoned, without guilt and without intrigue, to assume, in the forty-third year

of his age, the absolute government of the Roman empire.

the invitation of the ministers and generals at Nice was of little

moment, unless it were confirmed by the voice of the army. The aged

Sallust, who had long observed the irregular fluctuations of popular assemblies, proposed, under pain of death, that none of those persons, whose rank in the service might excite a party in their favor, should appear in public on the day of the inauguration. Yet such was the

prevalence of ancient superstition, that a whole day was voluntarily added to this dangerous interval, because it happened to be the

intercalation of the Bissextile. At length, when the hour was supposed to be propitious, Valentinian showed himself from a lofty tribunal; the

judicious choice was applauded; and the new prince was solemnly invested with the diadem and the purple, amidst the acclamation of the troops, who were disposed in martial order round the tribunal. But when he

stretched forth his hand to address the armed multitude, a busy whisper was accidentally started in the ranks, and insensibly swelled into a loud and imperious clamor, that he should name, without delay, a colleague in the empire. The intrepid calmness of Valentinian obtained

silence, and commanded respect; and he thus addressed the assembly: "A few minutes since it was in your power, fellow-soldiers, to have left me

in the obscurity of a private station. Judging, from the testimony of my

past life, that I deserved to reign, you have placed me on the throne.

It is now my duty to consult the safety and interest of the republic. the weight of the universe is undoubtedly too great for the hands of a feeble mortal. I am conscious of the limits of my abilities, and the

uncertainty of my life; and far from declining, I am anxious to solicit, the assistance of a worthy colleague. But, where discord may be fatal, the choice of a faithful friend requires mature and serious deliberation. That deliberation shall be my care. Let your conduct be dutiful and consistent. Retire to your quarters; refresh your minds and bodies; and expect the accustomed donative on the accession of a

new emperor." The astonished troops, with a mixture of pride, of

satisfaction, and of terror, confessed the voice of their master. their angry clamors subsided into silent reverence; and Valentinian, encompassed with the eagles of the legions, and the various banners of the cavalry and infantry, was conducted, in warlike pomp, to the palace

of Nice. As he was sensible, however, of the importance of preventing

some rash declaration of the soldiers, he consulted the assembly of the chiefs; and their real sentiments were concisely expressed by the

generous freedom of Dagalaiphus. "Most excellent prince," said that

officer, "if you consider only your family, you have a brother; if you

love the republic, look round for the most deserving of the Romans." The emperor, who suppressed his displeasure, without altering his intention,

slowly proceeded from Nice to Nicomedia and Constantinople. In one of the suburbs of that capital, thirty days after his own elevation, he bestowed the title of Augustus on his brother Valens; \* and as the boldest patriots were convinced, that their opposition, without being serviceable to their country, would be fatal to themselves, the declaration of his absolute will was received with silent submission.

Valens was now in the thirty-sixth year of his age; but his abilities

had never been exercised in any employment, military or civil; and his character had not inspired the world with any sanguine expectations. He

possessed, however, one quality, which recommended him to Valentinian, and preserved the domestic peace of the empire; devout and grateful attachment to his benefactor, whose superiority of genius, as well as of authority, Valens humbly and cheerfully acknowledged in every action of

his life.

chapter XXV: Reigns Of Jovian And Valentinian, Division Of The empire.--Part II.

before Valentinian divided the provinces, he reformed the administration

of the empire. All ranks of subjects, who had been injured or oppressed

under the reign of Julian, were invited to support their public accusations. The silence of mankind attested the spotless integrity of the præfect Sallust; and his own pressing solicitations, that he might be permitted to retire from the business of the state, were rejected by Valentinian with the most honorable expressions of friendship and esteem. But among the favorites of the late emperor, there were many who

had abused his credulity or superstition; and who could no longer hope to be protected either by favor or justice. The greater part of the

ministers of the palace, and the governors of the provinces, were

removed from their respective stations; yet the eminent merit of

some officers was distinguished from the obnoxious crowd; and,

notwithstanding the opposite clamors of zeal and resentment, the whole

proceedings of this delicate inquiry appear to have been conducted with a reasonable share of wisdom and moderation. The festivity of a new

reign received a short and suspicious interruption from the sudden

illness of the two princes; but as soon as their health was restored, they left Constantinople in the beginning of the spring. In the castle,

or palace, of Mediana, only three miles from Naissus, they executed the

solemn and final division of the Roman empire. Valentinian bestowed on

his brother the rich præfecture of the East, from the Lower Danube to the confines of Persia; whilst he reserved for his immediate government the warlike \* præfectures of Illyricum, Italy, and Gaul, from the extremity of Greece to the Caledonian rampart, and from the rampart

of Caledonia to the foot of Mount Atlas. The provincial administration

remained on its former basis; but a double supply of generals and

magistrates was required for two councils, and two courts: the division was made with a just regard to their peculiar merit and situation, and seven master-generals were soon created, either of the cavalry or

infantry. When this important business had been amicably transacted,

Valentinian and Valens embraced for the last time. The emperor of the west established his temporary residence at Milan; and the emperor of the East returned to Constantinople, to assume the dominion of fifty

provinces, of whose language he was totally ignorant.

the tranquility of the East was soon disturbed by rebellion; and the throne of Valens was threatened by the daring attempts of a rival whose affinity to the emperor Julian was his sole merit, and had been his only crime. Procopius had been hastily promoted from the obscure station of a tribune, and a notary, to the joint command of the army of Mesopotamia; the public opinion already named him as the successor of a prince who was destitute of natural heirs; and a vain rumor was propagated by his friends, or his enemies, that Julian, before the altar of the Moon at carrhæ, had privately invested Procopius with the Imperial purple.

He endeavored, by his dutiful and submissive behavior, to disarm the

jealousy of Jovian; resigned, without a contest, his military command; and retired, with his wife and family, to cultivate the ample patrimony which he possessed in the province of Cappadocia. These useful and

innocent occupations were interrupted by the appearance of an officer with a band of soldiers, who, in the name of his new sovereigns,

Valentinian and Valens, was despatched to conduct the unfortunate

Procopius either to a perpetual prison or an ignominious death. His

presence of mind procured him a longer respite, and a more splendid fate. Without presuming to dispute the royal mandate, he requested the

indulgence of a few moments to embrace his weeping family; and while the vigilance of his guards was relaxed by a plentiful entertainment,

he dexterously escaped to the sea-coast of the Euxine, from whence he

passed over to the country of Bosphorus. In that sequestered region he

remained many months, exposed to the hardships of exile, of solitude, and of want; his melancholy temper brooding over his misfortunes, and

his mind agitated by the just apprehension, that, if any accident should discover his name, the faithless Barbarians would violate, without much

scruple, the laws of hospitality. In a moment of impatience and despair, Procopius embarked in a merchant vessel, which made sail for constantinople; and boldly aspired to the rank of a sovereign, because

he was not allowed to enjoy the security of a subject. At first he

lurked in the villages of Bithynia, continually changing his habitation and his disguise. By degrees he ventured into the capital, trusted his

life and fortune to the fidelity of two friends, a senator and a eunuch, and conceived some hopes of success, from the intelligence which he

obtained of the actual state of public affairs. The body of the people was infected with a spirit of discontent: they regretted the justice and the abilities of Sallust, who had been imprudently dismissed from the

præfecture of the East. They despised the character of Valens, which was rude without vigor, and feeble without mildness. They dreaded the

influence of his father-in-law, the patrician Petronius, a cruel and

rapacious minister, who rigorously exacted all the arrears of tribute that might remain unpaid since the reign of the emperor Aurelian. The circumstances were propitious to the designs of a usurper. The hostile

measures of the Persians required the presence of Valens in Syria: from the Danube to the Euphrates the troops were in motion; and the capital was occasionally filled with the soldiers who passed or repassed the thracian Bosphorus. Two cohorts of Gaul were persuaded to listen to the secret proposals of the conspirators; which were recommended by the

promise of a liberal donative; and, as they still revered the memory

of Julian, they easily consented to support the hereditary claim of his

proscribed kinsman. At the dawn of day they were drawn up near the baths

of Anastasia; and Procopius, clothed in a purple garment, more suitable to a player than to a monarch, appeared, as if he rose from the dead,

in the midst of Constantinople. The soldiers, who were prepared for his

reception, saluted their trembling prince with shouts of joy and vows

of fidelity. Their numbers were soon increased by a band of sturdy

peasants, collected from the adjacent country; and Procopius, shielded by the arms of his adherents, was successively conducted to the tribunal, the senate, and the palace. During the first moments of his tumultuous reign, he was astonished and terrified by the gloomy silence

of the people; who were either ignorant of the cause, or apprehensive

of the event. But his military strength was superior to any actual

resistance: the malecontents flocked to the standard of rebellion; the

poor were excited by the hopes, and the rich were intimidated by the fear, of a general pillage; and the obstinate credulity of the multitude was once more deceived by the promised advantages of a revolution. The

magistrates were seized; the prisons and arsenals broke open; the gates, and the entrance of the harbor, were diligently occupied; and, in a few

hours, Procopius became the absolute, though precarious, master of the

Imperial city. \* The usurper improved this unexpected success with some degree of courage and dexterity. He artfully propagated the rumors and opinions the most favorable to his interest; while he deluded the

populace by giving audience to the frequent, but imaginary, ambassadors

of distant nations. The large bodies of troops stationed in the cities

of Thrace and the fortresses of the Lower Danube, were gradually

involved in the guilt of rebellion: and the Gothic princes consented to

supply the sovereign of Constantinople with the formidable strength of

several thousand auxiliaries. His generals passed the Bosphorus, and

subdued, without an effort, the unarmed, but wealthy provinces of bithynia and Asia. After an honorable defence, the city and island of cyzicus yielded to his power; the renowned legions of the Jovians and

Herculians embraced the cause of the usurper, whom they were ordered to crush; and, as the veterans were continually augmented with new levies,

he soon appeared at the head of an army, whose valor, as well as

numbers, were not unequal to the greatness of the contest. The son of

Hormisdas, a youth of spirit and ability, condescended to draw his

sword against the lawful emperor of the East; and the Persian prince was immediately invested with the ancient and extraordinary powers of a Roman Proconsul. The alliance of Faustina, the widow of the emperor constantius, who intrusted herself and her daughter to the hands of the usurper, added dignity and reputation to his cause. The princess constantia, who was then about five years of age, accompanied, in a

litter, the march of the army. She was shown to the multitude in the arms of her adopted father; and, as often as she passed through the

ranks, the tenderness of the soldiers was inflamed into martial fury: they recollected the glories of the house of Constantine, and they declared, with loyal acclamation, that they would shed the last drop of their blood in the defence of the royal infant.

In the mean while Valentinian was alarmed and perplexed by the doubtful

intelligence of the revolt of the East. \* The difficulties of a German was forced him to confine his immediate care to the safety of his

own dominions; and, as every channel of communication was stopped or corrupted, he listened, with doubtful anxiety, to the rumors which were industriously spread, that the defeat and death of Valens had left

Procopius sole master of the Eastern provinces. Valens was not dead: but

on the news of the rebellion, which he received at Cæsarea, he basely despaired of his life and fortune; proposed to negotiate with the

usurper, and discovered his secret inclination to abdicate the Imperial

purple. The timid monarch was saved from disgrace and ruin by the firmness of his ministers, and their abilities soon decided in his favor the event of the civil war. In a season of tranquillity, Sallust

had resigned without a murmur; but as soon as the public safety was attacked, he ambitiously solicited the preeminence of toil and danger; and the restoration of that virtuous minister to the præfecture of the east, was the first step which indicated the repentance of Valens, and

satisfied the minds of the people. The reign of Procopius was apparently

supported by powerful armies and obedient provinces. But many of the

principal officers, military as well as civil, had been urged, either by motives of duty or interest, to withdraw themselves from the guilty

scene; or to watch the moment of betraying, and deserting, the cause of the usurper. Lupicinus advanced by hasty marches, to bring the legions

of Syria to the aid of Valens. Arintheus, who, in strength, beauty, and

valor, excelled all the heroes of the age, attacked with a small troop a superior body of the rebels. When he beheld the faces of the soldiers who had served under his banner, he commanded them, with a loud voice, to seize and deliver up their pretended leader; and such was the ascendant of his genius, that this extraordinary order was instantly

obeyed. Arbetio, a respectable veteran of the great Constantine, who

had been distinguished by the honors of the consulship, was persuaded to

leave his retirement, and once more to conduct an army into the field.

In the heat of action, calmly taking off his helmet, he showed his gray

hairs and venerable countenance: saluted the soldiers of Procopius by the endearing names of children and companions, and exhorted them no

longer to support the desperate cause of a contemptible tyrant; but to follow their old commander, who had so often led them to honor and

victory. In the two engagements of Thyatira and Nacolia, the unfortunate

Procopius was deserted by his troops, who were seduced by the

instructions and example of their perfidious officers. After wandering

some time among the woods and mountains of Phrygia, he was betrayed by his desponding followers, conducted to the Imperial camp, and

immediately beheaded. He suffered the ordinary fate of an unsuccessful

usurper; but the acts of cruelty which were exercised by the conqueror,

under the forms of legal justice, excited the pity and indignation of

mankind.

Such indeed are the common and natural fruits of despotism and

rebellion. But the inquisition into the crime of magic, which, under the

reign of the two brothers, was so rigorously prosecuted both at Rome and antioch, was interpreted as the fatal symptom, either of the displeasure

of Heaven, or of the depravity of mankind. Let us not hesitate to

indulge a liberal pride, that, in the present age, the enlightened part

of Europe has abolished a cruel and odious prejudice, which reigned in every climate of the globe, and adhered to every system of religious

opinions. The nations, and the sects, of the Roman world, admitted with equal credulity, and similar abhorrence, the reality of that infernal art, which was able to control the eternal order of the planets, and the voluntary operations of the human mind. They dreaded the mysterious

power of spells and incantations, of potent herbs, and execrable rites; which could extinguish or recall life, inflame the passions of the soul, blast the works of creation, and extort from the reluctant dæmons the

secrets of futurity. They believed, with the wildest inconsistency, that this preternatural dominion of the air, of earth, and of hell, was exercised, from the vilest motives of malice or gain, by some wrinkled

hags and itinerant sorcerers, who passed their obscure lives in penury and contempt. The arts of magic were equally condemned by the public

opinion, and by the laws of Rome; but as they tended to gratify the

most imperious passions of the heart of man, they were continually

proscribed, and continually practised. An imaginary cause as capable of

producing the most serious and mischievous effects. The dark predictions

of the death of an emperor, or the success of a conspiracy, were calculated only to stimulate the hopes of ambition, and to dissolve the ties of fidelity; and the intentional guilt of magic was aggravated by the actual crimes of treason and sacrilege. Such vain terrors disturbed the peace of society, and the happiness of individuals; and the harmless flame which insensibly melted a waxen image, might derive a powerful and

pernicious energy from the affrighted fancy of the person whom it was

maliciously designed to represent. From the infusion of those herbs, which were supposed to possess a supernatural influence, it was an easy

step to the use of more substantial poison; and the folly of mankind

sometimes became the instrument, and the mask, of the most atrocious crimes. As soon as the zeal of informers was encouraged by the ministers

of Valens and Valentinian, they could not refuse to listen to another charge, too frequently mingled in the scenes of domestic guilt; a charge

of a softer and less malignant nature, for which the pious, though excessive, rigor of Constantine had recently decreed the punishment

of death. This deadly and incoherent mixture of treason and magic,

of poison and adultery, afforded infinite gradations of guilt and

innocence, of excuse and aggravation, which in these proceedings appear to have been confounded by the angry or corrupt passions of the judges. they easily discovered that the degree of their industry and discernment was estimated, by the Imperial court, according to the number of executions that were furnished from the respective tribunals. It was not without extreme reluctance that they pronounced a sentence of acquittal; but they eagerly admitted such evidence as was stained with perjury, or

procured by torture, to prove the most improbable charges against the

most respectable characters. The progress of the inquiry continually

opened new subjects of criminal prosecution; the audacious informer, whose falsehood was detected, retired with impunity; but the wretched

victim, who discovered his real or pretended accomplices, were seldom

permitted to receive the price of his infamy. From the extremity of

Italy and Asia, the young, and the aged, were dragged in chains to the tribunals of Rome and Antioch. Senators, matrons, and philosophers, expired in ignominious and cruel tortures. The soldiers, who were appointed to guard the prisons, declared, with a murmur of pity and

indignation, that their numbers were insufficient to oppose the flight,

or resistance, of the multitude of captives. The wealthiest families were ruined by fines and confiscations; the most innocent citizens trembled for their safety; and we may form some notion of the magnitude

of the evil, from the extravagant assertion of an ancient writer, that, in the obnoxious provinces, the prisoners, the exiles, and the fugitives, formed the greatest part of the inhabitants.

when Tacitus describes the deaths of the innocent and illustrious

Romans, who were sacrificed to the cruelty of the first Cæsars, the art

of the historian, or the merit of the sufferers, excites in our breast the most lively sensations of terror, of admiration, and of pity. The coarse and undistinguishing pencil of Ammianus has delineated his bloody figures with tedious and disgusting accuracy. But as our attention is

no longer engaged by the contrast of freedom and servitude, of recent

greatness and of actual misery, we should turn with horror from the frequent executions, which disgraced, both at Rome and Antioch, the

reign of the two brothers. Valens was of a timid, and Valentinian of a choleric, disposition. An anxious regard to his personal safety was the

ruling principle of the administration of Valens. In the condition of a

subject, he had kissed, with trembling awe, the hand of the oppressor; and when he ascended the throne, he reasonably expected, that the

same fears, which had subdued his own mind, would secure the patient

submission of his people. The favorites of Valens obtained, by the

privilege of rapine and confiscation, the wealth which his economy would

have refused. They urged, with persuasive eloquence, that, in all cases

of treason, suspicion is equivalent to proof; that the power supposes the intention, of mischief; that the intention is not less criminal than the act; and that a subject no longer deserves to live, if his life

may threaten the safety, or disturb the repose, of his sovereign. The

judgment of Valentinian was sometimes deceived, and his confidence abused; but he would have silenced the informers with a contemptuous

smile, had they presumed to alarm his fortitude by the sound of danger. they praised his inflexible love of justice; and, in the pursuit of

justice, the emperor was easily tempted to consider clemency as a weakness, and passion as a virtue. As long as he wrestled with his equals, in the bold competition of an active and ambitious life,

Valentinian was seldom injured, and never insulted, with impunity: if

his prudence was arraigned, his spirit was applauded; and the proudest and most powerful generals were apprehensive of provoking the resentment

of a fearless soldier. After he became master of the world, he

unfortunately forgot, that where no resistance can be made, no courage can be exerted; and instead of consulting the dictates of reason and

magnanimity, he indulged the furious emotions of his temper, at a time when they were disgraceful to himself, and fatal to the defenceless

objects of his displeasure. In the government of his household, or of

his empire, slight, or even imaginary, offences--a hasty word, a casual omission, an involuntary delay--were chastised by a sentence of

immediate death. The expressions which issued the most readily from the

mouth of the emperor of the West were, "Strike off his head;" "Burn him alive;" "Let him be beaten with clubs till he expires;" and his most favored ministers soon understood, that, by a rash attempt to dispute,

or suspend, the execution of his sanguinary commands, they might involve themselves in the guilt and punishment of disobedience. The repeated

gratification of this savage justice hardened the mind of Valentinian against pity and remorse; and the sallies of passion were confirmed by the habits of cruelty. He could behold with calm satisfaction the convulsive agonies of torture and death; he reserved his friendship for those faithful servants whose temper was the most congenial to his own. the merit of Maximin, who had slaughtered the noblest families of Rome, was rewarded with the royal approbation, and the præfecture of Gaul. two fierce and enormous bears, distinguished by the appellations of

Innocence, and Mica Aurea, could alone deserve to share the favor of

Maximin. The cages of those trusty guards were always placed near the bed-chamber of Valentinian, who frequently amused his eyes with the

grateful spectacle of seeing them tear and devour the bleeding limbs

of the malefactors who were abandoned to their rage. Their diet and exercises were carefully inspected by the Roman emperor; and when

Innocence had earned her discharge, by a long course of meritorious

service, the faithful animal was again restored to the freedom of her

native woods.

chapter XXV: Reigns Of Jovian And Valentinian, Division Of The empire.--Part III.

but in the calmer moments of reflection, when the mind of Valens was not agitated by fear, or that of Valentinian by rage, the tyrant resumed the

sentiments, or at least the conduct, of the father of his country. The dispassionate judgment of the Western emperor could clearly perceive, and accurately pursue, his own and the public interest; and the

sovereign of the East, who imitated with equal docility the various examples which he received from his elder brother, was sometimes guided by the wisdom and virtue of the præfect Sallust. Both princes invariably

retained, in the purple, the chaste and temperate simplicity which had adorned their private life; and, under their reign, the pleasures of the court never cost the people a blush or a sigh. They gradually reformed

many of the abuses of the times of Constantius; judiciously adopted and

improved the designs of Julian and his successor; and displayed a style and spirit of legislation which might inspire posterity with the most favorable opinion of their character and government. It is not from the

master of Innocence, that we should expect the tender regard for the welfare of his subjects, which prompted Valentinian to condemn the exposition of new-born infants; and to establish fourteen skilful

physicians, with stipends and privileges, in the fourteen quarters

of Rome. The good sense of an illiterate soldier founded a useful and

liberal institution for the education of youth, and the support of declining science. It was his intention, that the arts of rhetoric and grammar should be taught in the Greek and Latin languages, in the

metropolis of every province; and as the size and dignity of the school was usually proportioned to the importance of the city, the academies

of Rome and Constantinople claimed a just and singular preeminence. The fragments of the literary edicts of Valentinian imperfectly represent the school of Constantinople, which was gradually improved by subsequent

regulations. That school consisted of thirty-one professors in different branches of learning. One philosopher, and two lawyers; five sophists, and ten grammarians for the Greek, and three orators, and ten

grammarians for the Latin tongue; besides seven scribes, or, as they were then styled, antiquarians, whose laborious pens supplied the public

library with fair and correct copies of the classic writers. The rule of conduct, which was prescribed to the students, is the more curious, as

it affords the first outlines of the form and discipline of a modern

university. It was required, that they should bring proper certificates from the magistrates of their native province. Their names, professions, and places of abode, were regularly entered in a public register. The

studious youth were severely prohibited from wasting their time in feasts, or in the theatre; and the term of their education was limited to the age of twenty. The præfect of the city was empowered to chastise the idle and refractory by stripes or expulsion; and he was directed to

make an annual report to the master of the offices, that the knowledge and abilities of the scholars might be usefully applied to the public

service. The institutions of Valentinian contributed to secure the benefits of peace and plenty; and the cities were guarded by the establishment of the Defensors; freely elected as the tribunes and advocates of the people, to support their rights, and to expose their

grievances, before the tribunals of the civil magistrates, or even at the foot of the Imperial throne. The finances were diligently administered by two princes, who had been so long accustomed to the

rigid economy of a private fortune; but in the receipt and application

of the revenue, a discerning eye might observe some difference between the government of the East and of the West. Valens was persuaded, that

royal liberality can be supplied only by public oppression, and his ambition never aspired to secure, by their actual distress, the future

strength and prosperity of his people. Instead of increasing the weight of taxes, which, in the space of forty years, had been gradually doubled, he reduced, in the first years of his reign, one fourth of the tribute of the East. Valentinian appears to have been less attentive and

less anxious to relieve the burdens of his people. He might reform the abuses of the fiscal administration; but he exacted, without scruple, a

very large share of the private property; as he was convinced, that the

revenues, which supported the luxury of individuals, would be much more advantageously employed for the defence and improvement of the state. the subjects of the East, who enjoyed the present benefit, applauded the indulgence of their prince. The solid but less splendid, merit of

Valentinian was felt and acknowledged by the subsequent generation.

but the most honorable circumstance of the character of Valentinian, is the firm and temperate impartiality which he uniformly preserved in an age of religious contention. His strong sense, unenlightened, but

uncorrupted, by study, declined, with respectful indifference, the

subtle questions of theological debate. The government of the Earth claimed his vigilance, and satisfied his ambition; and while he

remembered that he was the disciple of the church, he never forgot that

he was the sovereign of the clergy. Under the reign of an apostate, he

had signalized his zeal for the honor of Christianity: he allowed to his

subjects the privilege which he had assumed for himself; and they might accept, with gratitude and confidence, the general toleration which was

granted by a prince addicted to passion, but incapable of fear or

of disguise. The Pagans, the Jews, and all the various sects which acknowledged the divine authority of Christ, were protected by the laws from arbitrary power or popular insult; nor was any mode of worship

prohibited by Valentinian, except those secret and criminal practices, which abused the name of religion for the dark purposes of vice and disorder. The art of magic, as it was more cruelly punished, was more

strictly proscribed: but the emperor admitted a formal distinction to

protect the ancient methods of divination, which were approved by the

senate, and exercised by the Tuscan haruspices. He had condemned, with the consent of the most rational Pagans, the license of nocturnal

sacrifices; but he immediately admitted the petition of Prætextatus,

proconsul of Achaia, who represented, that the life of the Greeks would become dreary and comfortless, if they were deprived of the invaluable blessing of the Eleusinian mysteries. Philosophy alone can boast, (and

perhaps it is no more than the boast of philosophy,) that her gentle

hand is able to eradicate from the human mind the latent and deadly

principle of fanaticism. But this truce of twelve years, which was enforced by the wise and vigorous government of Valentinian, by

suspending the repetition of mutual injuries, contributed to soften the

manners, and abate the prejudices, of the religious factions.

the friend of toleration was unfortunately placed at a distance from the

scene of the fiercest controversies. As soon as the Christians of the west had extricated themselves from the snares of the creed of Rimini, they happily relapsed into the slumber of orthodoxy; and the small

remains of the Arian party, that still subsisted at Sirmium or Milan,

might be considered rather as objects of contempt than of resentment. but in the provinces of the East, from the Euxine to the extremity of thebais, the strength and numbers of the hostile factions were more equally balanced; and this equality, instead of recommending the counsels of peace, served only to perpetuate the horrors of religious war. The monks and bishops supported their arguments by invectives; and their invectives were sometimes followed by blows. Athanasius still

reigned at Alexandria; the thrones of Constantinople and Antioch were

occupied by Arian prelates, and every episcopal vacancy was the

occasion of a popular tumult. The Homoousians were fortified by the

reconciliation of fifty-nine Macedonian, or Semi-Arian, bishops; but their secret reluctance to embrace the divinity of the Holy Ghost, clouded the splendor of the triumph; and the declaration of Valens, who,

in the first years of his reign, had imitated the impartial conduct of

his brother, was an important victory on the side of Arianism. The two brothers had passed their private life in the condition of catechumens; but the piety of Valens prompted him to solicit the sacrament of baptism, before he exposed his person to the dangers of a Gothic war. He

naturally addressed himself to Eudoxus, \* bishop of the Imperial city; and if the ignorant monarch was instructed by that Arian pastor in the

principles of heterodox theology, his misfortune, rather than his guilt, was the inevitable consequence of his erroneous choice. Whatever had been the determination of the emperor, he must have offended a numerous

party of his Christian subjects; as the leaders both of the Homoousians and of the Arians believed, that, if they were not suffered to reign, they were most cruelly injured and oppressed. After he had taken this decisive step, it was extremely difficult for him to preserve either the virtue, or the reputation of impartiality. He never aspired,

like Constantius, to the fame of a profound theologian; but as he had

received with simplicity and respect the tenets of Eudoxus, Valens

resigned his conscience to the direction of his ecclesiastical guides, and promoted, by the influence of his authority, the reunion of the athanasian heretics to the body of the Catholic church. At first, he

pitied their blindness; by degrees he was provoked at their obstinacy; and he insensibly hated those sectaries to whom he was an object of

hatred. The feeble mind of Valens was always swayed by the persons with whom he familiarly conversed; and the exile or imprisonment of a private citizen are the favors the most readily granted in a despotic court.

Such punishments were frequently inflicted on the leaders of the

Homoousian party; and the misfortune of fourscore ecclesiastics of constantinople, who, perhaps accidentally, were burned on shipboard, was imputed to the cruel and premeditated malice of the emperor, and his arian ministers. In every contest, the Catholics (if we may anticipate that name) were obliged to pay the penalty of their own faults, and of those of their adversaries. In every election, the claims of the Arian candidate obtained the preference; and if they were opposed by the

majority of the people, he was usually supported by the authority of the civil magistrate, or even by the terrors of a military force. the enemies of Athanasius attempted to disturb the last years of his

venerable age; and his temporary retreat to his father's sepulchre has been celebrated as a fifth exile. But the zeal of a great people, who

instantly flew to arms, intimidated the præfect: and the archbishop was permitted to end his life in peace and in glory, after a reign

of forty-seven years. The death of Athanasius was the signal of the

persecution of Egypt; and the Pagan minister of Valens, who forcibly

seated the worthless Lucius on the archiepiscopal throne, purchased the favor of the reigning party, by the blood and sufferings of their christian brethren. The free toleration of the heathen and Jewish worship was bitterly lamented, as a circumstance which aggravated the

misery of the Catholics, and the guilt of the impious tyrant of the east.

the triumph of the orthodox party has left a deep stain of persecution

on the memory of Valens; and the character of a prince who derived

his virtues, as well as his vices, from a feeble understanding and a

pusillanimous temper, scarcely deserves the labor of an apology. Yet candor may discover some reasons to suspect that the ecclesiastical

ministers of Valens often exceeded the orders, or even the intentions,

of their master; and that the real measure of facts has been very

liberally magnified by the vehement declamation and easy credulity of

his antagonists. 1. The silence of Valentinian may suggest a probable argument that the partial severities, which were exercised in the

name and provinces of his colleague, amounted only to some obscure and inconsiderable deviations from the established system of religious toleration: and the judicious historian, who has praised the equal temper of the elder brother, has not thought himself obliged to contrast the tranquillity of the West with the cruel persecution of the East.

2. Whatever credit may be allowed to vague and distant reports, the character, or at least the behavior, of Valens, may be most distinctly

seen in his personal transactions with the eloquent Basil, archbishop

of Cæsarea, who had succeeded Athanasius in the management of the trinitarian cause. The circumstantial narrative has been composed by the friends and admirers of Basil; and as soon as we have stripped away a thick coat of rhetoric and miracle, we shall be astonished by the

unexpected mildness of the Arian tyrant, who admired the firmness of his character, or was apprehensive, if he employed violence, of a general

revolt in the province of Cappadocia. The archbishop, who asserted, with inflexible pride, the truth of his opinions, and the dignity of his

rank, was left in the free possession of his conscience and his throne. the emperor devoutly assisted at the solemn service of the cathedral; and, instead of a sentence of banishment, subscribed the donation of a valuable estate for the use of a hospital, which Basil had lately founded in the neighborhood of Cæsarea. 3. I am not able to discover, that any law (such as Theodosius afterwards enacted against the Arians) was published by Valens against the Athanasian sectaries; and the edict which excited the most violent clamors, may not appear so extremely

reprehensible. The emperor had observed, that several of his subjects,

gratifying their lazy disposition under the pretence of religion, had associated themselves with the monks of Egypt; and he directed the count of the East to drag them from their solitude; and to compel these deserters of society to accept the fair alternative of renouncing their temporal possessions, or of discharging the public duties of men and citizens. The ministers of Valens seem to have extended the sense of this penal statute, since they claimed a right of enlisting the young and able-bodied monks in the Imperial armies. A detachment of cavalry and infantry, consisting of three thousand men, marched from Alexandria

into the adjacent desert of Nitria, which was peopled by five thousand

monks. The soldiers were conducted by Arian priests; and it is reported, that a considerable slaughter was made in the monasteries which disobeyed the commands of their sovereign.

the strict regulations which have been framed by the wisdom of modern

legislators to restrain the wealth and avarice of the clergy, may be

originally deduced from the example of the emperor Valentinian. His edict, addressed to Damasus, bishop of Rome, was publicly read in the churches of the city. He admonished the ecclesiastics and monks not to frequent the houses of widows and virgins; and menaced their disobedience with the animadversion of the civil judge. The director was

no longer permitted to receive any gift, or legacy, or inheritance, from the liberality of his spiritual-daughter: every testament contrary to this edict was declared null and void; and the illegal donation was confiscated for the use of the treasury. By a subsequent regulation, it

should seem, that the same provisions were extended to nuns and bishops; and that all persons of the ecclesiastical order were rendered incapable

of receiving any testamentary gifts, and strictly confined to the

natural and legal rights of inheritance. As the guardian of domestic

happiness and virtue, Valentinian applied this severe remedy to the

growing evil. In the capital of the empire, the females of noble and

opulent houses possessed a very ample share of independent property: and

many of those devout females had embraced the doctrines of Christianity,

not only with the cold assent of the understanding, but with the warmth

of affection, and perhaps with the eagerness of fashion. They sacrificed the pleasures of dress and luxury; and renounced, for the praise of chastity, the soft endearments of conjugal society. Some ecclesiastic,

of real or apparent sanctity, was chosen to direct their timorous conscience, and to amuse the vacant tenderness of their heart: and the

unbounded confidence, which they hastily bestowed, was often abused by

knaves and enthusiasts; who hastened from the extremities of the east, to enjoy, on a splendid theatre, the privileges of the monastic

profession. By their contempt of the world, they insensibly acquired its

most desirable advantages; the lively attachment, perhaps of a young and beautiful woman, the delicate plenty of an opulent household, and the

respectful homage of the slaves, the freedmen, and the clients of a senatorial family. The immense fortunes of the Roman ladies were

gradually consumed in lavish alms and expensive pilgrimages; and the artful monk, who had assigned himself the first, or possibly the sole

place, in the testament of his spiritual daughter, still presumed to declare, with the smooth face of hypocrisy, that he was only the

instrument of charity, and the steward of the poor. The lucrative, but disgraceful, trade, which was exercised by the clergy to defraud the expectations of the natural heirs, had provoked the indignation of a

superstitious age: and two of the most respectable of the Latin fathers

very honestly confess, that the ignominious edict of Valentinian was

just and necessary; and that the Christian priests had deserved to lose a privilege, which was still enjoyed by comedians, charioteers, and the

ministers of idols. But the wisdom and authority of the legislator are

seldom victorious in a contest with the vigilant dexterity of private

interest; and Jerom, or Ambrose, might patiently acquiesce in the

justice of an ineffectual or salutary law. If the ecclesiastics were checked in the pursuit of personal emolument, they would exert a more

laudable industry to increase the wealth of the church; and dignify their covetousness with the specious names of piety and patriotism.

damasus, bishop of Rome, who was constrained to stigmatize the avarice

of his clergy by the publication of the law of Valentinian, had the

good sense, or the good fortune, to engage in his service the zeal and abilities of the learned Jerom; and the grateful saint has celebrated the merit and purity of a very ambiguous character. But the splendid

vices of the church of Rome, under the reign of Valentinian and Damasus,

have been curiously observed by the historian Ammianus, who delivers his

impartial sense in these expressive words: "The præfecture of Juventius was accompanied with peace and plenty, but the tranquillity of his

government was soon disturbed by a bloody sedition of the distracted

people. The ardor of Damasus and Ursinus, to seize the episcopal seat,

surpassed the ordinary measure of human ambition. They contended with the rage of party; the quarrel was maintained by the wounds and death

of their followers; and the præfect, unable to resist or appease the tumult, was constrained, by superior violence, to retire into the

suburbs. Damasus prevailed: the well-disputed victory remained on the

side of his faction; one hundred and thirty-seven dead bodies were found

in the Basilica of Sicininus, where the Christians hold their religious assemblies; and it was long before the angry minds of the people resumed their accustomed tranquillity. When I consider the splendor of the capital, I am not astonished that so valuable a prize should inflame the desires of ambitious men, and produce the fiercest and most obstinate contests. The successful candidate is secure, that he will be enriched by the offerings of matrons; that, as soon as his dress is composed with becoming care and elegance, he may proceed, in his chariot, through the

streets of Rome; and that the sumptuousness of the Imperial table will

not equal the profuse and delicate entertainments provided by the taste, and at the expense, of the Roman pontiffs. How much more rationally

(continues the honest Pagan) would those pontiffs consult their true

happiness, if, instead of alleging the greatness of the city as an excuse for their manners, they would imitate the exemplary life of some

provincial bishops, whose temperance and sobriety, whose mean apparel and downcast looks, recommend their pure and modest virtue to the deity and his true worshippers!" The schism of Damasus and Ursinus was extinguished by the exile of the latter; and the wisdom of the præfect

Prætextatus restored the tranquillity of the city. Prætextatus was a

philosophic Pagan, a man of learning, of taste, and politeness; who disguised a reproach in the form of a jest, when he assured Damasus, that if he could obtain the bishopric of Rome, he himself would

immediately embrace the Christian religion. This lively picture of the wealth and luxury of the popes in the fourth century becomes the more curious, as it represents the intermediate degree between the humble

poverty of the apostolic fishermen, and the royal state of a temporal

prince, whose dominions extend from the confines of Naples to the banks

of the Po.

chapter XXV: Reigns Of Jovian And Valentinian, Division Of The empire.--Part IV.

when the suffrage of the generals and of the army committed the sceptre

of the Roman empire to the hands of Valentinian, his reputation in arms, his military skill and experience, and his rigid attachment to the forms, as well as spirit, of ancient discipline, were the principal

motives of their judicious choice. The eagerness of the troops, who

pressed him to nominate his colleague, was justified by the dangerous

situation of public affairs; and Valentinian himself was conscious, that the abilities of the most active mind were unequal to the defence of the distant frontiers of an invaded monarchy. As soon as the death of

Julian had relieved the Barbarians from the terror of his name, the most

sanguine hopes of rapine and conquest excited the nations of the East,

of the North, and of the South. Their inroads were often vexatious, and sometimes formidable; but, during the twelve years of the reign of

Valentinian, his firmness and vigilance protected his own dominions; and

his powerful genius seemed to inspire and direct the feeble counsels of

his brother. Perhaps the method of annals would more forcibly express the urgent and divided cares of the two emperors; but the attention of the reader, likewise, would be distracted by a tedious and desultory

narrative. A separate view of the five great theatres of war; I.

Germany; II. Britain; III. Africa; IV. The East; and, V. The Danube; will impress a more distinct image of the military state of the empire

under the reigns of Valentinian and Valens.

I. The ambassadors of the Alemanni had been offended by the harsh and

haughty behavior of Ursacius, master of the offices; who by an act

of unseasonable parsimony, had diminished the value, as well as the

quantity, of the presents to which they were entitled, either from custom or treaty, on the accession of a new emperor. They expressed, and they communicated to their countrymen, their strong sense of the

national affront. The irascible minds of the chiefs were exasperated by the suspicion of contempt; and the martial youth crowded to their

standard. Before Valentinian could pass the Alps, the villages of Gaul were in flames; before his general Degalaiphus could encounter the alemanni, they had secured the captives and the spoil in the forests of

Germany. In the beginning of the ensuing year, the military force of the whole nation, in deep and solid columns, broke through the barrier of the Rhine, during the severity of a northern winter. Two Roman counts were defeated and mortally wounded; and the standard of the Heruli and batavians fell into the hands of the Heruli and Batavians fell into the hands of the conquerors, who displayed, with insulting shouts and

menaces, the trophy of their victory. The standard was recovered; but the Batavians had not redeemed the shame of their disgrace and flight in the eyes of their severe judge. It was the opinion of Valentinian, that

his soldiers must learn to fear their commander, before they could cease to fear the enemy. The troops were solemnly assembled; and the trembling batavians were enclosed within the circle of the Imperial army.

Valentinian then ascended his tribunal; and, as if he disdained to

punish cowardice with death, he inflicted a stain of indelible ignominy

on the officers, whose misconduct and pusillanimity were found to be the first occasion of the defeat. The Batavians were degraded from their

rank, stripped of their arms, and condemned to be sold for slaves to the

highest bidder. At this tremendous sentence, the troops fell prostrate

on the ground, deprecated the indignation of their sovereign, and

protested, that, if he would indulge them in another trial, they would approve themselves not unworthy of the name of Romans, and of his

soldiers. Valentinian, with affected reluctance, yielded to their entreaties; the Batavians resumed their arms, and with their arms, the

invincible resolution of wiping away their disgrace in the blood of the alemanni. The principal command was declined by Dagalaiphus; and that experienced general, who had represented, perhaps with too

much prudence, the extreme difficulties of the undertaking, had the

mortification, before the end of the campaign, of seeing his rival

Jovinus convert those difficulties into a decisive advantage over the

scattered forces of the Barbarians. At the head of a well-disciplined army of cavalry, infantry, and light troops, Jovinus advanced, with cautious and rapid steps, to Scarponna, \* in the territory of Metz, where he surprised a large division of the Alemanni, before they had time to run to their arms; and flushed his soldiers with the confidence

of an easy and bloodless victory. Another division, or rather army,

of the enemy, after the cruel and wanton devastation of the adjacent country, reposed themselves on the shady banks of the Moselle. Jovinus, who had viewed the ground with the eye of a general, made a silent approach through a deep and woody vale, till he could distinctly

perceive the indolent security of the Germans. Some were bathing their

huge limbs in the river; others were combing their long and flaxen hair;

others again were swallowing large draughts of rich and delicious wine.

On a sudden they heard the sound of the Roman trumpet; they saw the enemy in their camp. Astonishment produced disorder; disorder was followed by flight and dismay; and the confused multitude of the bravest warriors was pierced by the swords and javelins of the legionaries and auxiliaries. The fugitives escaped to the third, and most considerable, camp, in the Catalonian plains, near Chalons in Champagne: the

straggling detachments were hastily recalled to their standard; and the Barbarian chiefs, alarmed and admonished by the fate of their companions, prepared to encounter, in a decisive battle, the victorious forces of the lieutenant of Valentinian. The bloody and obstinate conflict lasted a whole summer's day, with equal valor, and with alternate success. The Romans at length prevailed, with the loss of about twelve hundred men. Six thousand of the Alemanni were slain, four thousand were wounded; and the brave Jovinus, after chasing the flying

remnant of their host as far as the banks of the Rhine, returned to

Paris, to receive the applause of his sovereign, and the ensigns of the consulship for the ensuing year. The triumph of the Romans was indeed

sullied by their treatment of the captive king, whom they hung on a gibbet, without the knowledge of their indignant general. This disgraceful act of cruelty, which might be imputed to the fury of the troops, was followed by the deliberate murder of Withicab, the son of

Vadomair; a German prince, of a weak and sickly constitution, but of a daring and formidable spirit. The domestic assassin was instigated and

protected by the Romans; and the violation of the laws of humanity and justice betrayed their secret apprehension of the weakness of the declining empire. The use of the dagger is seldom adopted in public councils, as long as they retain any confidence in the power of the

sword.

while the Alemanni appeared to be humbled by their recent calamities, the pride of Valentinian was mortified by the unexpected surprisal of

Moguntiacum, or Mentz, the principal city of the Upper Germany. In the

unsuspicious moment of a Christian festival, \* Rando, a bold and artful chieftain, who had long meditated his attempt, suddenly passed the

Rhine; entered the defenceless town, and retired with a multitude of captives of either sex. Valentinian resolved to execute severe vengeance

on the whole body of the nation. Count Sebastian, with the bands of

Italy and Illyricum, was ordered to invade their country, most probably

on the side of Rhætia. The emperor in person, accompanied by his son

Gratian, passed the Rhine at the head of a formidable army, which was

supported on both flanks by Jovinus and Severus, the two masters-general

of the cavalry and infantry of the West. The Alemanni, unable to prevent the devastation of their villages, fixed their camp on a lofty, and almost inaccessible, mountain, in the modern duchy of Wirtemberg, and

resolutely expected the approach of the Romans. The life of Valentinian was exposed to imminent danger by the intrepid curiosity with which

he persisted to explore some secret and unguarded path. A troop of barbarians suddenly rose from their ambuscade: and the emperor, who

vigorously spurred his horse down a steep and slippery descent, was obliged to leave behind him his armor-bearer, and his helmet,

magnificently enriched with gold and precious stones. At the signal

of the general assault, the Roman troops encompassed and ascended the

mountain of Solicinium on three different sides. Every step which they

gained, increased their ardor, and abated the resistance of the enemy: and after their united forces had occupied the summit of the hill, they

impetuously urged the Barbarians down the northern descent, where Count

Sebastian was posted to intercept their retreat. After this signal

victory, Valentinian returned to his winter quarters at Treves; where

he indulged the public joy by the exhibition of splendid and triumphal

games. But the wise monarch, instead of aspiring to the conquest of

Germany, confined his attention to the important and laborious defence

of the Gallic frontier, against an enemy whose strength was renewed by a stream of daring volunteers, which incessantly flowed from the most distant tribes of the North. The banks of the Rhine from its source to the straits of the ocean, were closely planted with strong castles and convenient towers; new works, and new arms, were invented by the

ingenuity of a prince who was skilled in the mechanical arts; and his

numerous levies of Roman and Barbarian youth were severely trained in all the exercises of war. The progress of the work, which was sometimes

opposed by modest representations, and sometimes by hostile attempts,

secured the tranquillity of Gaul during the nine subsequent years of the administration of Valentinian.

that prudent emperor, who diligently practised the wise maxims of diocletian, was studious to foment and excite the intestine divisions

of the tribes of Germany. About the middle of the fourth century, the countries, perhaps of Lusace and Thuringia, on either side of the Elbe, were occupied by the vague dominion of the Burgundians; a warlike and

numerous people, \* of the Vandal race, whose obscure name insensibly

swelled into a powerful kingdom, and has finally settled on a flourishing province. The most remarkable circumstance in the ancient

manners of the Burgundians appears to have been the difference of their civil and ecclesiastical constitution. The appellation of Hendinos was

given to the king or general, and the title of Sinistus to the high

priest, of the nation. The person of the priest was sacred, and his dignity perpetual; but the temporal government was held by a very

precarious tenure. If the events of war accuses the courage or conduct

of the king, he was immediately deposed; and the injustice of his

subjects made him responsible for the fertility of the earth, and the

regularity of the seasons, which seemed to fall more properly within the

sacerdotal department. The disputed possession of some salt-pits engaged the Alemanni and the Burgundians in frequent contests: the latter were easily tempted, by the secret solicitations and liberal offers of the emperor; and their fabulous descent from the Roman soldiers, who had formerly been left to garrison the fortresses of Drusus, was admitted with mutual credulity, as it was conducive to mutual interest. An army

of fourscore thousand Burgundians soon appeared on the banks of the Rhine; and impatiently required the support and subsidies which

Valentinian had promised: but they were amused with excuses and delays, till at length, after a fruitless expectation, they were compelled to

retire. The arms and fortifications of the Gallic frontier checked the fury of their just resentment; and their massacre of the captives served to imbitter the hereditary feud of the Burgundians and the Alemanni. the inconstancy of a wise prince may, perhaps, be explained by some alteration of circumstances; and perhaps it was the original design of

Valentinian to intimidate, rather than to destroy; as the balance of

power would have been equally overturned by the extirpation of either of the German nations. Among the princes of the Alemanni, Macrianus, who, with a Roman name, had assumed the arts of a soldier and a statesman, deserved his hatred and esteem. The emperor himself, with a light and

unencumbered band, condescended to pass the Rhine, marched fifty miles

into the country, and would infallibly have seized the object of

his pursuit, if his judicious measures had not been defeated by the

impatience of the troops. Macrianus was afterwards admitted to the

honor of a personal conference with the emperor; and the favors which

he received, fixed him, till the hour of his death, a steady and sincere friend of the republic.

the land was covered by the fortifications of Valentinian; but the

sea-coast of Gaul and Britain was exposed to the depredations of the

Saxons. That celebrated name, in which we have a dear and domestic

interest, escaped the notice of Tacitus; and in the maps of Ptolemy, it faintly marks the narrow neck of the Cimbric peninsula, and three small

islands towards the mouth of the Elbe. This contracted territory, the

present duchy of Sleswig, or perhaps of Holstein, was incapable of

pouring forth the inexhaustible swarms of Saxons who reigned over the

ocean, who filled the British island with their language, their laws, and their colonies; and who so long defended the liberty of the North against the arms of Charlemagne. The solution of this difficulty is easily derived from the similar manners, and loose constitution, of the tribes of Germany; which were blended with each other by the slightest accidents of war or friendship. The situation of the native Saxons disposed them to embrace the hazardous professions of fishermen and

pirates; and the success of their first adventures would naturally excite the emulation of their bravest countrymen, who were impatient of the gloomy solitude of their woods and mountains. Every tide might float down the Elbe whole fleets of canoes, filled with hardy and intrepid associates, who aspired to behold the unbounded prospect of the ocean, and to taste the wealth and luxury of unknown worlds. It should seem

probable, however, that the most numerous auxiliaries of the Saxons were furnished by the nations who dwelt along the shores of the Baltic. They

possessed arms and ships, the art of navigation, and the habits of

naval war; but the difficulty of issuing through the northern columns of

Hercules (which, during several months of the year, are obstructed with

ice) confined their skill and courage within the limits of a spacious

lake. The rumor of the successful armaments which sailed from the mouth

of the Elbe, would soon provoke them to cross the narrow isthmus of

Sleswig, and to launch their vessels on the great sea. The various troops of pirates and adventurers, who fought under the same standard, were insensibly united in a permanent society, at first of rapine, and afterwards of government. A military confederation was gradually

moulded into a national body, by the gentle operation of marriage and consanguinity; and the adjacent tribes, who solicited the alliance, accepted the name and laws, of the Saxons. If the fact were not established by the most unquestionable evidence, we should appear to abuse the credulity of our readers, by the description of the vessels

in which the Saxon pirates ventured to sport in the waves of the German

Ocean, the British Channel, and the Bay of Biscay. The keel of their

large flat-bottomed boats were framed of light timber, but the sides and

upper works consisted only of wicker, with a covering of strong hides.

In the course of their slow and distant navigations, they must always

have been exposed to the danger, and very frequently to the misfortune,

of shipwreck; and the naval annals of the Saxons were undoubtedly filled with the accounts of the losses which they sustained on the coasts of britain and Gaul. But the daring spirit of the pirates braved the perils both of the sea and of the shore: their skill was confirmed by the

habits of enterprise; the meanest of their mariners was alike capable of

handling an oar, of rearing a sail, or of conducting a vessel, and the

Saxons rejoiced in the appearance of a tempest, which concealed their design, and dispersed the fleets of the enemy. After they had acquired an accurate knowledge of the maritime provinces of the West, they extended the scene of their depredations, and the most sequestered

places had no reason to presume on their security. The Saxon boats drew

so little water that they could easily proceed fourscore or a hundred

miles up the great rivers; their weight was so inconsiderable, that they were transported on wagons from one river to another; and the pirates who had entered the mouth of the Seine, or of the Rhine, might descend, with the rapid stream of the Rhone, into the Mediterranean. Under the

reign of Valentinian, the maritime provinces of Gaul were afflicted by the Saxons: a military count was stationed for the defence of the

sea-coast, or Armorican limit; and that officer, who found his strength,

or his abilities, unequal to the task, implored the assistance of

Severus, master-general of the infantry. The Saxons, surrounded and

outnumbered, were forced to relinquish their spoil, and to yield a

select band of their tall and robust youth to serve in the Imperial armies. They stipulated only a safe and honorable retreat; and the condition was readily granted by the Roman general, who meditated an act

of perfidy, imprudent as it was inhuman, while a Saxon remained alive, and in arms, to revenge the fate of their countrymen. The premature eagerness of the infantry, who were secretly posted in a deep valley, betrayed the ambuscade; and they would perhaps have fallen the victims

of their own treachery, if a large body of cuirassiers, alarmed by the noise of the combat, had not hastily advanced to extricate their companions, and to overwhelm the undaunted valor of the Saxons. Some of the prisoners were saved from the edge of the sword, to shed their blood in the amphitheatre; and the orator Symmachus complains, that twenty-nine of those desperate savages, by strangling themselves with their own hands, had disappointed the amusement of the public. Yet the

polite and philosophic citizens of Rome were impressed with the deepest

horror, when they were informed, that the Saxons consecrated to the gods the tithe of their human spoil; and that they ascertained by lot the

objects of the barbarous sacrifice.

II. The fabulous colonies of Egyptians and Trojans, of Scandinavians and

Spaniards, which flattered the pride, and amused the credulity, of our

rude ancestors, have insensibly vanished in the light of science and

philosophy. The present age is satisfied with the simple and rational

opinion, that the islands of Great Britain and Ireland were gradually

peopled from the adjacent continent of Gaul. From the coast of Kent, to the extremity of Caithness and Ulster, the memory of a Celtic origin was distinctly preserved, in the perpetual resemblance of language, of

religion, and of manners; and the peculiar characters of the British tribes might be naturally ascribed to the influence of accidental and

local circumstances. The Roman Province was reduced to the state of civilized and peaceful servitude; the rights of savage freedom were contracted to the narrow limits of Caledonia. The inhabitants of that

northern region were divided, as early as the reign of Constantine, between the two great tribes of the Scots and of the Picts, who have

since experienced a very different fortune. The power, and almost the

memory, of the Picts have been extinguished by their successful rivals; and the Scots, after maintaining for ages the dignity of an independent

kingdom, have multiplied, by an equal and voluntary union, the honors of the English name. The hand of nature had contributed to mark the ancient distinctions of the Scots and Picts. The former were the men of the

hills, and the latter those of the plain. The eastern coast of Caledonia

may be considered as a level and fertile country, which, even in a rude

state of tillage, was capable of producing a considerable quantity

of corn; and the epithet of cruitnich, or wheat-eaters, expressed the contempt or envy of the carnivorous highlander. The cultivation of the earth might introduce a more accurate separation of property, and the

habits of a sedentary life; but the love of arms and rapine was still the ruling passion of the Picts; and their warriors, who stripped themselves for a day of battle, were distinguished, in the eyes of the

Romans, by the strange fashion of painting their naked bodies with gaudy colors and fantastic figures. The western part of Caledonia irregularly

rises into wild and barren hills, which scarcely repay the toil of the

husbandman, and are most profitably used for the pasture of cattle. The

highlanders were condemned to the occupations of shepherds and hunters; and, as they seldom were fixed to any permanent habitation, they acquired the expressive name of Scots, which, in the Celtic tongue, is

said to be equivalent to that of wanderers, or vagrants. The inhabitants

of a barren land were urged to seek a fresh supply of food in the waters. The deep lakes and bays which intersect their country, are

plentifully supplied with fish; and they gradually ventured to cast their nets in the waves of the ocean. The vicinity of the Hebrides, so

profusely scattered along the western coast of Scotland, tempted their curiosity, and improved their skill; and they acquired, by slow degrees, the art, or rather the habit, of managing their boats in a tempestuous

sea, and of steering their nocturnal course by the light of the well-known stars. The two bold headlands of Caledonia almost touch the shores of a spacious island, which obtained, from its luxuriant

vegetation, the epithet of Green; and has preserved, with a slight alteration, the name of Erin, or Ierne, or Ireland. It is probable, that in some remote period of antiquity, the fertile plains of Ulster

received a colony of hungry Scots; and that the strangers of the

North, who had dared to encounter the arms of the legions, spread their conquests over the savage and unwarlike natives of a solitary island. It

is certain, that, in the declining age of the Roman empire, Caledonia,

Ireland, and the Isle of Man, were inhabited by the Scots, and that the

kindred tribes, who were often associated in military enterprise, were deeply affected by the various accidents of their mutual fortunes. They

long cherished the lively tradition of their common name and origin; and the missionaries of the Isle of Saints, who diffused the light of christianity over North Britain, established the vain opinion, that their Irish countrymen were the natural, as well as spiritual, fathers

of the Scottish race. The loose and obscure tradition has been preserved by the venerable Bede, who scattered some rays of light over the darkness of the eighth century. On this slight foundation, a huge

superstructure of fable was gradually reared, by the bards and the

monks; two orders of men, who equally abused the privilege of fiction. the Scottish nation, with mistaken pride, adopted their Irish genealogy; and the annals of a long line of imaginary kings have been adorned by the fancy of Boethius, and the classic elegance of Buchanan.

chapter XXV: Reigns Of Jovian And Valentinian, Division Of The empire.--Part V.

Six years after the death of Constantine, the destructive inroads of the

Scots and Picts required the presence of his youngest son, who reigned

in the Western empire. Constans visited his British dominions: but we

may form some estimate of the importance of his achievements, by the

language of panegyric, which celebrates only his triumph over the elements or, in other words, the good fortune of a safe and easy passage from the port of Boulogne to the harbor of Sandwich. The calamities which the afflicted provincials continued to experience, from foreign war and domestic tyranny, were aggravated by the feeble and corrupt administration of the eunuchs of Constantius; and the transient relief which they might obtain from the virtues of Julian, was soon lost by the absence and death of their benefactor. The sums of gold and silver, which had been painfully collected, or liberally transmitted, for the payment of the troops, were intercepted by the avarice of the commanders; discharges, or, at least, exemptions, from the military

service, were publicly sold; the distress of the soldiers, who were

injuriously deprived of their legal and scanty subsistence, provoked them to frequent desertion; the nerves of discipline were relaxed, and the highways were infested with robbers. The oppression of the good, and the impunity of the wicked, equally contributed to diffuse through the

island a spirit of discontent and revolt; and every ambitious subject, every desperate exile, might entertain a reasonable hope of subverting the weak and distracted government of Britain. The hostile tribes of the North, who detested the pride and power of the King of the World,

suspended their domestic feuds; and the Barbarians of the land and sea, the Scots, the Picts, and the Saxons, spread themselves with rapid and

irresistible fury, from the wall of Antoninus to the shores of Kent. every production of art and nature, every object of convenience and

luxury, which they were incapable of creating by labor or procuring by trade, was accumulated in the rich and fruitful province of Britain. A

philosopher may deplore the eternal discords of the human race, but he will confess, that the desire of spoil is a more rational provocation than the vanity of conquest. From the age of Constantine to the

Plantagenets, this rapacious spirit continued to instigate the poor and

hardy Caledonians; but the same people, whose generous humanity seems to

inspire the songs of Ossian, was disgraced by a savage ignorance of the

virtues of peace, and of the laws of war. Their southern neighbors have felt, and perhaps exaggerated, the cruel depredations of the Scots and

Picts; and a valiant tribe of Caledonia, the Attacotti, the enemies, and afterwards the soldiers, of Valentinian, are accused, by an eye-witness,

of delighting in the taste of human flesh. When they hunted the woods for prey, it is said, that they attacked the shepherd rather than his flock; and that they curiously selected the most delicate and brawny

parts, both of males and females, which they prepared for their horrid

repasts. If, in the neighborhood of the commercial and literary town of

Glasgow, a race of cannibals has really existed, we may contemplate, in the period of the Scottish history, the opposite extremes of savage and civilized life. Such reflections tend to enlarge the circle of our

ideas; and to encourage the pleasing hope, that New Zealand may produce,

in some future age, the Hume of the Southern Hemisphere.

every messenger who escaped across the British Channel, conveyed the

most melancholy and alarming tidings to the ears of Valentinian; and the emperor was soon informed that the two military commanders of the

province had been surprised and cut off by the Barbarians. Severus, count of the domestics, was hastily despatched, and as suddenly

recalled, by the court of Treves. The representations of Jovinus served

only to indicate the greatness of the evil; and, after a long and

serious consultation, the defence, or rather the recovery, of Britain was intrusted to the abilities of the brave Theodosius. The exploits of that general, the father of a line of emperors, have been celebrated, with peculiar complacency, by the writers of the age: but his real merit deserved their applause; and his nomination was received, by the army and province, as a sure presage of approaching victory. He seized the favorable moment of navigation, and securely landed the numerous and

veteran bands of the Heruli and Batavians, the Jovians and the Victors.

In his march from Sandwich to London, Theodosius defeated several

parties of the Barbarians, released a multitude of captives, and, after distributing to his soldiers a small portion of the spoil, established the fame of disinterested justice, by the restitution of the remainder to the rightful proprietors. The citizens of London, who had almost despaired of their safety, threw open their gates; and as soon as theodosius had obtained from the court of Treves the important aid of a

military lieutenant, and a civil governor, he executed, with wisdom and

vigor, the laborious task of the deliverance of Britain. The vagrant

soldiers were recalled to their standard; an edict of amnesty dispelled the public apprehensions; and his cheerful example alleviated the

rigor of martial discipline. The scattered and desultory warfare of the barbarians, who infested the land and sea, deprived him of the glory

of a signal victory; but the prudent spirit, and consummate art, of the

Roman general, were displayed in the operations of two campaigns, which

successively rescued every part of the province from the hands of a cruel and rapacious enemy. The splendor of the cities, and the security

of the fortifications, were diligently restored, by the paternal care of theodosius; who with a strong hand confined the trembling Caledonians to the northern angle of the island; and perpetuated, by the name and

settlement of the new province of Valentia, the glories of the reign

of Valentinian. The voice of poetry and panegyric may add, perhaps with

some degree of truth, that the unknown regions of Thule were stained with the blood of the Picts; that the oars of Theodosius dashed the waves of the Hyperborean ocean; and that the distant Orkneys were the

scene of his naval victory over the Saxon pirates. He left the province with a fair, as well as splendid, reputation; and was immediately

promoted to the rank of master-general of the cavalry, by a prince who could applaud, without envy, the merit of his servants. In the important

station of the Upper Danube, the conqueror of Britain checked and defeated the armies of the Alemanni, before he was chosen to suppress the revolt of Africa.

III. The prince who refuses to be the judge, instructs the people to consider him as the accomplice, of his ministers. The military command

of Africa had been long exercised by Count Romanus, and his abilities were not inadequate to his station; but, as sordid interest was the sole

motive of his conduct, he acted, on most occasions, as if he had been the enemy of the province, and the friend of the Barbarians of the desert. The three flourishing cities of Oea, Leptis, and Sabrata, which,

under the name of Tripoli, had long constituted a federal union, were

obliged, for the first time, to shut their gates against a hostile

invasion; several of their most honorable citizens were surprised and

massacred; the villages, and even the suburbs, were pillaged; and the

vines and fruit trees of that rich territory were extirpated by the

malicious savages of Getulia. The unhappy provincials implored the

protection of Romanus; but they soon found that their military governor was not less cruel and rapacious than the Barbarians. As they were

incapable of furnishing the four thousand camels, and the exorbitant

present, which he required, before he would march to the assistance of tripoli; his demand was equivalent to a refusal, and he might justly be accused as the author of the public calamity. In the annual assembly

of the three cities, they nominated two deputies, to lay at the feet of

Valentinian the customary offering of a gold victory; and to accompany this tribute of duty, rather than of gratitude, with their humble complaint, that they were ruined by the enemy, and betrayed by their

governor. If the severity of Valentinian had been rightly directed, it would have fallen on the guilty head of Romanus. But the count, long exercised in the arts of corruption, had despatched a swift and trusty

messenger to secure the venal friendship of Remigius, master of the

offices. The wisdom of the Imperial council was deceived by artifice; and their honest indignation was cooled by delay. At length, when the

repetition of complaint had been justified by the repetition of public

misfortunes, the notary Palladius was sent from the court of Treves, to examine the state of Africa, and the conduct of Romanus. The rigid

impartiality of Palladius was easily disarmed: he was tempted to reserve for himself a part of the public treasure, which he brought with him for the payment of the troops; and from the moment that he was conscious

of his own guilt, he could no longer refuse to attest the innocence and

merit of the count. The charge of the Tripolitans was declared to be false and frivolous; and Palladius himself was sent back from Treves to africa, with a special commission to discover and prosecute the authors

of this impious conspiracy against the representatives of the sovereign.

His inquiries were managed with so much dexterity and success, that he compelled the citizens of Leptis, who had sustained a recent siege of eight days, to contradict the truth of their own decrees, and to censure the behavior of their own deputies. A bloody sentence was pronounced, without hesitation, by the rash and headstrong cruelty of Valentinian. the president of Tripoli, who had presumed to pity the distress of the

province, was publicly executed at Utica; four distinguished citizens were put to death, as the accomplices of the imaginary fraud; and the tongues of two others were cut out, by the express order of the emperor.

Romanus, elated by impunity, and irritated by resistance, was still continued in the military command; till the Africans were provoked, by

his avarice, to join the rebellious standard of Firmus, the Moor.

His father Nabal was one of the richest and most powerful of the Moorish

princes, who acknowledged the supremacy of Rome. But as he left, either by his wives or concubines, a very numerous posterity, the wealthy

inheritance was eagerly disputed; and Zamma, one of his sons, was slain

in a domestic quarrel by his brother Firmus. The implacable zeal, with which Romanus prosecuted the legal revenge of this murder, could be ascribed only to a motive of avarice, or personal hatred; but, on this

occasion, his claims were just; his influence was weighty; and Firmus clearly understood, that he must either present his neck to the executioner, or appeal from the sentence of the Imperial consistory, to

his sword, and to the people. He was received as the deliverer of his country; and, as soon as it appeared that Romanus was formidable only to a submissive province, the tyrant of Africa became the object of

universal contempt. The ruin of Cæsarea, which was plundered and burnt by the licentious Barbarians, convinced the refractory cities of the danger of resistance; the power of Firmus was established, at least in the provinces of Mauritania and Numidia; and it seemed to be his only doubt whether he should assume the diadem of a Moorish king, or the

purple of a Roman emperor. But the imprudent and unhappy Africans soon discovered, that, in this rash insurrection, they had not sufficiently consulted their own strength, or the abilities of their leader. Before

he could procure any certain intelligence, that the emperor of the West

had fixed the choice of a general, or that a fleet of transports was collected at the mouth of the Rhone, he was suddenly informed that the great Theodosius, with a small band of veterans, had landed near

Igilgilis, or Gigeri, on the African coast; and the timid usurper

sunk under the ascendant of virtue and military genius. Though Firmus

possessed arms and treasures, his despair of victory immediately reduced

him to the use of those arts, which, in the same country, and in a

similar situation, had formerly been practised by the crafty Jugurtha.

He attempted to deceive, by an apparent submission, the vigilance of the

Roman general; to seduce the fidelity of his troops; and to protract the duration of the war, by successively engaging the independent tribes

of Africa to espouse his quarrel, or to protect his flight. Theodosius

imitated the example, and obtained the success, of his predecessor

Metellus. When Firmus, in the character of a suppliant, accused his

own rashness, and humbly solicited the clemency of the emperor, the

lieutenant of Valentinian received and dismissed him with a friendly embrace: but he diligently required the useful and substantial pledges

of a sincere repentance; nor could he be persuaded, by the assurances

of peace, to suspend, for an instant, the operations of an active war. a dark conspiracy was detected by the penetration of Theodosius; and he

satisfied, without much reluctance, the public indignation, which he

had secretly excited. Several of the guilty accomplices of Firmus were abandoned, according to ancient custom, to the tumult of a military execution; many more, by the amputation of both their hands, continued to exhibit an instructive spectacle of horror; the hatred of the rebels was accompanied with fear; and the fear of the Roman soldiers was

mingled with respectful admiration. Amidst the boundless plains of

Getulia, and the innumerable valleys of Mount Atlas, it was impossible to prevent the escape of Firmus; and if the usurper could have tired the patience of his antagonist, he would have secured his person in the depth of some remote solitude, and expected the hopes of a future

revolution. He was subdued by the perseverance of Theodosius; who had formed an inflexible determination, that the war should end only by the death of the tyrant; and that every nation of Africa, which presumed to support his cause, should be involved in his ruin. At the head of a

small body of troops, which seldom exceeded three thousand five hundred

men, the Roman general advanced, with a steady prudence, devoid of

rashness or of fear, into the heart of a country, where he was sometimes attacked by armies of twenty thousand Moors. The boldness of his charge dismayed the irregular Barbarians; they were disconcerted by his

seasonable and orderly retreats; they were continually baffled by the

unknown resources of the military art; and they felt and confessed the

just superiority which was assumed by the leader of a civilized nation. when Theodosius entered the extensive dominions of Igmazen, king of the

Isaflenses, the haughty savage required, in words of defiance, his

name, and the object of his expedition. "I am," replied the stern and disdainful count, "I am the general of Valentinian, the lord of the world; who has sent me hither to pursue and punish a desperate robber. deliver him instantly into my hands; and be assured, that if thou dost

not obey the commands of my invincible sovereign, thou, and the people

over whom thou reignest, shall be utterly extirpated." \* As soon as

Igmazen was satisfied, that his enemy had strength and resolution to execute the fatal menace, he consented to purchase a necessary peace by the sacrifice of a guilty fugitive. The guards that were placed to

secure the person of Firmus deprived him of the hopes of escape; and the Moorish tyrant, after wine had extinguished the sense of danger, disappointed the insulting triumph of the Romans, by strangling himself

in the night. His dead body, the only present which Igmazen could offer to the conqueror, was carelessly thrown upon a camel; and Theodosius,

leading back his victorious troops to Sitifi, was saluted by the warmest acclamations of joy and loyalty.

africa had been lost by the vices of Romanus; it was restored by the

virtues of Theodosius; and our curiosity may be usefully directed to the

inquiry of the respective treatment which the two generals received from the Imperial court. The authority of Count Romanus had been suspended by the master-general of the cavalry; and he was committed to safe and

honorable custody till the end of the war. His crimes were proved by the

most authentic evidence; and the public expected, with some impatience, the decree of severe justice. But the partial and powerful favor of

Mellobaudes encouraged him to challenge his legal judges, to obtain

repeated delays for the purpose of procuring a crowd of friendly witnesses, and, finally, to cover his guilty conduct, by the additional

guilt of fraud and forgery. About the same time, the restorer of britain and Africa, on a vague suspicion that his name and services were superior to the rank of a subject, was ignominiously beheaded at carthage. Valentinian no longer reigned; and the death of Theodosius, as well as the impunity of Romanus, may justly be imputed to the arts of the ministers, who abused the confidence, and deceived the inexperienced

youth, of his sons.

If the geographical accuracy of Ammianus had been fortunately bestowed

on the British exploits of Theodosius, we should have traced, with eager curiosity, the distinct and domestic footsteps of his march. But the tedious enumeration of the unknown and uninteresting tribes of Africa

may be reduced to the general remark, that they were all of the swarthy

race of the Moors; that they inhabited the back settlements of the

Mauritanian and Numidian province, the country, as they have since been termed by the Arabs, of dates and of locusts; and that, as the Roman

power declined in Africa, the boundary of civilized manners and cultivated land was insensibly contracted. Beyond the utmost limits of the Moors, the vast and inhospitable desert of the South extends above a thousand miles to the banks of the Niger. The ancients, who had a very faint and imperfect knowledge of the great peninsula of Africa, were

sometimes tempted to believe, that the torrid zone must ever remain destitute of inhabitants; and they sometimes amused their fancy by filling the vacant space with headless men, or rather monsters; with

horned and cloven-footed satyrs; with fabulous centaurs; and with human

pygmies, who waged a bold and doubtful warfare against the cranes. carthage would have trembled at the strange intelligence that the countries on either side of the equator were filled with innumerable

nations, who differed only in their color from the ordinary appearance

of the human species: and the subjects of the Roman empire might have anxiously expected, that the swarms of Barbarians, which issued from the North, would soon be encountered from the South by new swarms of barbarians, equally fierce and equally formidable. These gloomy terrors would indeed have been dispelled by a more intimate acquaintance with the character of their African enemies. The inaction of the negroes does not seem to be the effect either of their virtue or of their

pusillanimity. They indulge, like the rest of mankind, their passions and appetites; and the adjacent tribes are engaged in frequent acts of

hostility. But their rude ignorance has never invented any effectual weapons of defence, or of destruction; they appear incapable of forming any extensive plans of government, or conquest; and the obvious

inferiority of their mental faculties has been discovered and abused by the nations of the temperate zone. Sixty thousand blacks are annually embarked from the coast of Guinea, never to return to their native country; but they are embarked in chains; and this constant emigration, which, in the space of two centuries, might have furnished armies to

overrun the globe, accuses the guilt of Europe, and the weakness of africa.

chapter XXV: Reigns Of Jovian And Valentinian, Division Of The empire.--Part VI.

IV. The ignominious treaty, which saved the army of Jovian, had been faithfully executed on the side of the Romans; and as they had solemnly

renounced the sovereignty and alliance of Armenia and Iberia, those tributary kingdoms were exposed, without protection, to the arms of the

Persian monarch. Sapor entered the Armenian territories at the head of a formidable host of cuirassiers, of archers, and of mercenary foot; but

it was the invariable practice of Sapor to mix war and negotiation, and to consider falsehood and perjury as the most powerful instruments of

regal policy. He affected to praise the prudent and moderate conduct of the king of Armenia; and the unsuspicious Tiranus was persuaded, by the

repeated assurances of insidious friendship, to deliver his person into the hands of a faithless and cruel enemy. In the midst of a splendid entertainment, he was bound in chains of silver, as an honor due to the blood of the Arsacides; and, after a short confinement in the Tower of

Oblivion at Ecbatana, he was released from the miseries of life, either by his own dagger, or by that of an assassin. \* The kingdom of Armenia was reduced to the state of a Persian province; the administration was

shared between a distinguished satrap and a favorite eunuch; and Sapor

marched, without delay, to subdue the martial spirit of the Iberians.

Sauromaces, who reigned in that country by the permission of the emperors, was expelled by a superior force; and, as an insult on the

majesty of Rome, the king of kings placed a diadem on the head of his abject vassal Aspacuras. The city of Artogerassa was the only place of armenia which presumed to resist the efforts of his arms. The treasure deposited in that strong fortress tempted the avarice of Sapor; but the danger of Olympias, the wife or widow of the Armenian king, excited the

public compassion, and animated the desperate valor of her subjects and

soldiers. § The Persians were surprised and repulsed under the walls of artogerassa, by a bold and well-concerted sally of the besieged. But the forces of Sapor were continually renewed and increased; the hopeless courage of the garrison was exhausted; the strength of the walls yielded to the assault; and the proud conqueror, after wasting the rebellious city with fire and sword, led away captive an unfortunate queen; who,

in a more auspicious hour, had been the destined bride of the son of constantine. Yet if Sapor already triumphed in the easy conquest of two dependent kingdoms, he soon felt, that a country is unsubdued as long as the minds of the people are actuated by a hostile and contumacious

spirit. The satraps, whom he was obliged to trust, embraced the first

opportunity of regaining the affection of their countrymen, and of

signalizing their immortal hatred to the Persian name. Since the conversion of the Armenians and Iberians, these nations considered the christians as the favorites, and the Magians as the adversaries, of the

Supreme Being: the influence of the clergy, over a superstitious

people was uniformly exerted in the cause of Rome; and as long as the successors of Constantine disputed with those of Artaxerxes the

sovereignty of the intermediate provinces, the religious connection always threw a decisive advantage into the scale of the empire. A

numerous and active party acknowledged Para, the son of Tiranus, as the lawful sovereign of Armenia, and his title to the throne was deeply

rooted in the hereditary succession of five hundred years. By the

unanimous consent of the Iberians, the country was equally divided between the rival princes; and Aspacuras, who owed his diadem to the choice of Sapor, was obliged to declare, that his regard for his children, who were detained as hostages by the tyrant, was the only consideration which prevented him from openly renouncing the alliance of

Persia. The emperor Valens, who respected the obligations of the treaty, and who was apprehensive of involving the East in a dangerous war,

ventured, with slow and cautious measures, to support the Roman party

in the kingdoms of Iberia and Armenia. $ Twelve legions established the authority of Sauromaces on the banks of the Cyrus. The Euphrates was

protected by the valor of Arintheus. A powerful army, under the command

of Count Trajan, and of Vadomair, king of the Alemanni, fixed their camp on the confines of Armenia. But they were strictly enjoined not to commit the first hostilities, which might be understood as a breach of the treaty: and such was the implicit obedience of the Roman general, that they retreated, with exemplary patience, under a shower of Persian arrows till they had clearly acquired a just title to an honorable and

legitimate victory. Yet these appearances of war insensibly subsided in a vain and tedious negotiation. The contending parties supported their claims by mutual reproaches of perfidy and ambition; and it should seem, that the original treaty was expressed in very obscure terms, since they were reduced to the necessity of making their inconclusive appeal to the

partial testimony of the generals of the two nations, who had assisted at the negotiations. The invasion of the Goths and Huns which soon afterwards shook the foundations of the Roman empire, exposed the

provinces of Asia to the arms of Sapor. But the declining age, and

perhaps the infirmities, of the monarch suggested new maxims of tranquillity and moderation. His death, which happened in the full

maturity of a reign of seventy years, changed in a moment the court and councils of Persia; and their attention was most probably engaged by domestic troubles, and the distant efforts of a Carmanian war. The

remembrance of ancient injuries was lost in the enjoyment of peace. The

kingdoms of Armenia and Iberia were permitted, by the mutual, though tacit consent of both empires, to resume their doubtful neutrality. In the first years of the reign of Theodosius, a Persian embassy arrived at Constantinople, to excuse the unjustifiable measures of the former

reign; and to offer, as the tribute of friendship, or even of respect, a

splendid present of gems, of silk, and of Indian elephants.

In the general picture of the affairs of the East under the reign

of Valens, the adventures of Para form one of the most striking and

singular objects. The noble youth, by the persuasion of his mother

Olympias, had escaped through the Persian host that besieged artogerassa, and implored the protection of the emperor of the East. By

his timid councils, Para was alternately supported, and recalled, and

restored, and betrayed. The hopes of the Armenians were sometimes raised by the presence of their natural sovereign, \* and the ministers of

Valens were satisfied, that they preserved the integrity of the public faith, if their vassal was not suffered to assume the diadem and title of King. But they soon repented of their own rashness. They were confounded by the reproaches and threats of the Persian monarch. they found reason to distrust the cruel and inconstant temper of Para

himself; who sacrificed, to the slightest suspicions, the lives of his

most faithful servants, and held a secret and disgraceful correspondence with the assassin of his father and the enemy of his country. Under the

specious pretence of consulting with the emperor on the subject of their common interest, Para was persuaded to descend from the mountains of armenia, where his party was in arms, and to trust his independence and

safety to the discretion of a perfidious court. The king of Armenia, for such he appeared in his own eyes and in those of his nation, was

received with due honors by the governors of the provinces through which

he passed; but when he arrived at Tarsus in Cilicia, his progress was stopped under various pretences; his motions were watched with

respectful vigilance, and he gradually discovered, that he was a

prisoner in the hands of the Romans. Para suppressed his indignation, dissembled his fears, and after secretly preparing his escape, mounted

on horseback with three hundred of his faithful followers. The officer

stationed at the door of his apartment immediately communicated his flight to the consular of Cilicia, who overtook him in the suburbs, and endeavored without success, to dissuade him from prosecuting his rash and dangerous design. A legion was ordered to pursue the royal fugitive; but the pursuit of infantry could not be very alarming to a body of

light cavalry; and upon the first cloud of arrows that was discharged

into the air, they retreated with precipitation to the gates of Tarsus. after an incessant march of two days and two nights, Para and his armenians reached the banks of the Euphrates; but the passage of the

river which they were obliged to swim, \* was attended with some delay and some loss. The country was alarmed; and the two roads, which were

only separated by an interval of three miles had been occupied by a thousand archers on horseback, under the command of a count and a tribune. Para must have yielded to superior force, if the accidental arrival of a friendly traveller had not revealed the danger and the

means of escape. A dark and almost impervious path securely conveyed the Armenian troop through the thicket; and Para had left behind him the count and the tribune, while they patiently expected his approach along the public highways. They returned to the Imperial court to excuse their want of diligence or success; and seriously alleged, that the king of armenia, who was a skilful magician, had transformed himself and his followers, and passed before their eyes under a borrowed shape. After

his return to his native kingdom, Para still continued to profess

himself the friend and ally of the Romans: but the Romans had injured

him too deeply ever to forgive, and the secret sentence of his death was

signed in the council of Valens. The execution of the bloody deed was committed to the subtle prudence of Count Trajan; and he had the merit

of insinuating himself into the confidence of the credulous prince, that he might find an opportunity of stabbing him to the heart Para was

invited to a Roman banquet, which had been prepared with all the pomp and sensuality of the East; the hall resounded with cheerful music, and the company was already heated with wine; when the count retired for an

instant, drew his sword, and gave the signal of the murder. A robust and desperate Barbarian instantly rushed on the king of Armenia; and though

he bravely defended his life with the first weapon that chance offered to his hand, the table of the Imperial general was stained with the

royal blood of a guest, and an ally. Such were the weak and wicked

maxims of the Roman administration, that, to attain a doubtful object

of political interest the laws of nations, and the sacred rights of

hospitality were inhumanly violated in the face of the world.

V. During a peaceful interval of thirty years, the Romans secured their frontiers, and the Goths extended their dominions. The victories of the

great Hermanric, king of the Ostrogoths, and the most noble of the race

of the Amali, have been compared, by the enthusiasm of his countrymen, to the exploits of Alexander; with this singular, and almost incredible, difference, that the martial spirit of the Gothic hero, instead of being

supported by the vigor of youth, was displayed with glory and success in the extreme period of human life, between the age of fourscore and

one hundred and ten years. The independent tribes were persuaded, or compelled, to acknowledge the king of the Ostrogoths as the sovereign of the Gothic nation: the chiefs of the Visigoths, or Thervingi, renounced the royal title, and assumed the more humble appellation of Judges; and, among those judges, Athanaric, Fritigern, and Alavivus, were the most

illustrious, by their personal merit, as well as by their vicinity to the Roman provinces. These domestic conquests, which increased the

military power of Hermanric, enlarged his ambitious designs. He invaded the adjacent countries of the North; and twelve considerable nations, whose names and limits cannot be accurately defined, successively

yielded to the superiority of the Gothic arms The Heruli, who inhabited the marshy lands near the lake Mæotis, were renowned for their strength and agility; and the assistance of their light infantry was eagerly

solicited, and highly esteemed, in all the wars of the Barbarians. but the active spirit of the Heruli was subdued by the slow and steady

perseverance of the Goths; and, after a bloody action, in which the king was slain, the remains of that warlike tribe became a useful accession to the camp of Hermanric. He then marched against the Venedi; unskilled

in the use of arms, and formidable only by their numbers, which filled the wide extent of the plains of modern Poland. The victorious Goths, who were not inferior in numbers, prevailed in the contest, by the decisive advantages of exercise and discipline. After the submission of the Venedi, the conqueror advanced, without resistance, as far as the confines of the Æstii; an ancient people, whose name is still preserved

in the province of Esthonia. Those distant inhabitants of the Baltic coast were supported by the labors of agriculture, enriched by the trade

of amber, and consecrated by the peculiar worship of the Mother of the

Gods. But the scarcity of iron obliged the Æstian warriors to content themselves with wooden clubs; and the reduction of that wealthy country

is ascribed to the prudence, rather than to the arms, of Hermanric. His dominions, which extended from the Danube to the Baltic, included the

native seats, and the recent acquisitions, of the Goths; and he reigned

over the greatest part of Germany and Scythia with the authority of a conqueror, and sometimes with the cruelty of a tyrant. But he reigned

over a part of the globe incapable of perpetuating and adorning the

glory of its heroes. The name of Hermanric is almost buried in oblivion;

his exploits are imperfectly known; and the Romans themselves appeared

unconscious of the progress of an aspiring power which threatened the

liberty of the North, and the peace of the empire.

the Goths had contracted an hereditary attachment for the Imperial house

of Constantine, of whose power and liberality they had received so many

signal proofs. They respected the public peace; and if a hostile band

sometimes presumed to pass the Roman limit, their irregular conduct was candidly ascribed to the ungovernable spirit of the Barbarian youth. their contempt for two new and obscure princes, who had been raised to the throne by a popular election, inspired the Goths with bolder hopes; and, while they agitated some design of marching their confederate force

under the national standard, they were easily tempted to embrace the

party of Procopius; and to foment, by their dangerous aid, the civil discord of the Romans. The public treaty might stipulate no more than ten thousand auxiliaries; but the design was so zealously adopted by the chiefs of the Visigoths, that the army which passed the Danube amounted to the number of thirty thousand men. They marched with the proud confidence, that their invincible valor would decide the fate of the

Roman empire; and the provinces of Thrace groaned under the weight

of the Barbarians, who displayed the insolence of masters and the

licentiousness of enemies. But the intemperance which gratified their appetites, retarded their progress; and before the Goths could receive any certain intelligence of the defeat and death of Procopius, they

perceived, by the hostile state of the country, that the civil and

military powers were resumed by his successful rival. A chain of posts and fortifications, skilfully disposed by Valens, or the generals of

Valens, resisted their march, prevented their retreat, and intercepted their subsistence. The fierceness of the Barbarians was tamed and

suspended by hunger; they indignantly threw down their arms at the feet of the conqueror, who offered them food and chains: the numerous captives were distributed in all the cities of the East; and the

provincials, who were soon familiarized with their savage appearance,

ventured, by degrees, to measure their own strength with these formidable adversaries, whose name had so long been the object of their terror. The king of Scythia (and Hermanric alone could deserve so lofty a title) was grieved and exasperated by this national calamity. His ambassadors loudly complained, at the court of Valens, of the infraction

of the ancient and solemn alliance, which had so long subsisted between the Romans and the Goths. They alleged, that they had fulfilled the duty

of allies, by assisting the kinsman and successor of the emperor Julian; they required the immediate restitution of the noble captives; and they

urged a very singular claim, that the Gothic generals marching in arms, and in hostile array, were entitled to the sacred character and

privileges of ambassadors. The decent, but peremptory, refusal of these extravagant demands, was signified to the Barbarians by Victor,

master-general of the cavalry; who expressed, with force and dignity, the just complaints of the emperor of the East. The negotiation was

interrupted; and the manly exhortations of Valentinian encouraged his timid brother to vindicate the insulted majesty of the empire.

the splendor and magnitude of this Gothic war are celebrated by a contemporary historian: but the events scarcely deserve the attention

of posterity, except as the preliminary steps of the approaching decline and fall of the empire. Instead of leading the nations of Germany and Scythia to the banks of the Danube, or even to the gates of constantinople, the aged monarch of the Goths resigned to the brave athanaric the danger and glory of a defensive war, against an enemy, who wielded with a feeble hand the powers of a mighty state. A bridge of boats was established upon the Danube; the presence of Valens animated

his troops; and his ignorance of the art of war was compensated by

personal bravery, and a wise deference to the advice of Victor and arintheus, his masters-general of the cavalry and infantry. The

operations of the campaign were conducted by their skill and experience; but they found it impossible to drive the Visigoths from their strong

posts in the mountains; and the devastation of the plains obliged the

Romans themselves to repass the Danube on the approach of winter. The

incessant rains, which swelled the waters of the river, produced a tacit

suspension of arms, and confined the emperor Valens, during the whole course of the ensuing summer, to his camp of Marcianopolis. The third

year of the war was more favorable to the Romans, and more pernicious to the Goths. The interruption of trade deprived the Barbarians of the

objects of luxury, which they already confounded with the necessaries of

life; and the desolation of a very extensive tract of country threatened them with the horrors of famine. Athanaric was provoked, or compelled, to risk a battle, which he lost, in the plains; and the pursuit was

rendered more bloody by the cruel precaution of the victorious generals, who had promised a large reward for the head of every Goth that was brought into the Imperial camp. The submission of the Barbarians appeased the resentment of Valens and his council: the emperor listened with satisfaction to the flattering and eloquent remonstrance of the

senate of Constantinople, which assumed, for the first time, a share in the public deliberations; and the same generals, Victor and Arintheus, who had successfully directed the conduct of the war, were empowered to

regulate the conditions of peace. The freedom of trade, which the Goths

had hitherto enjoyed, was restricted to two cities on the Danube; the

rashness of their leaders was severely punished by the suppression of their pensions and subsidies; and the exception, which was stipulated

in favor of Athanaric alone, was more advantageous than honorable to the Judge of the Visigoths. Athanaric, who, on this occasion, appears to

have consulted his private interest, without expecting the orders of

his sovereign, supported his own dignity, and that of his tribe, in the

personal interview which was proposed by the ministers of Valens. He

persisted in his declaration, that it was impossible for him, without

incurring the guilt of perjury, ever to set his foot on the territory

of the empire; and it is more than probable, that his regard for the

sanctity of an oath was confirmed by the recent and fatal examples of

Roman treachery. The Danube, which separated the dominions of the two

independent nations, was chosen for the scene of the conference. The emperor of the East, and the Judge of the Visigoths, accompanied by an equal number of armed followers, advanced in their respective barges to the middle of the stream. After the ratification of the treaty, and the delivery of hostages, Valens returned in triumph to Constantinople; and the Goths remained in a state of tranquillity about six years; till they were violently impelled against the Roman empire by an innumerable

host of Scythians, who appeared to issue from the frozen regions of the

North.

the emperor of the West, who had resigned to his brother the command

of the Lower Danube, reserved for his immediate care the defence of the

Rhætian and Illyrian provinces, which spread so many hundred miles along the greatest of the European rivers. The active policy of Valentinian was continually employed in adding new fortifications to the security of the frontier: but the abuse of this policy provoked the just resentment

of the Barbarians. The Quadi complained, that the ground for an intended fortress had been marked out on their territories; and their complaints were urged with so much reason and moderation, that Equitius,

master-general of Illyricum, consented to suspend the prosecution of the work, till he should be more clearly informed of the will of his

sovereign. This fair occasion of injuring a rival, and of advancing the fortune of his son, was eagerly embraced by the inhuman Maximin, the

præfect, or rather tyrant, of Gaul. The passions of Valentinian were

impatient of control; and he credulously listened to the assurances of

his favorite, that if the government of Valeria, and the direction of the work, were intrusted to the zeal of his son Marcellinus, the emperor

should no longer be importuned with the audacious remonstrances of the Barbarians. The subjects of Rome, and the natives of Germany, were insulted by the arrogance of a young and worthless minister, who considered his rapid elevation as the proof and reward of his superior

merit. He affected, however, to receive the modest application of

Gabinius, king of the Quadi, with some attention and regard: but this artful civility concealed a dark and bloody design, and the credulous

prince was persuaded to accept the pressing invitation of Marcellinus.

I am at a loss how to vary the narrative of similar crimes; or how to

relate, that, in the course of the same year, but in remote parts of the empire, the inhospitable table of two Imperial generals was stained with the royal blood of two guests and allies, inhumanly murdered by their

order, and in their presence. The fate of Gabinius, and of Para, was the same: but the cruel death of their sovereign was resented in a very different manner by the servile temper of the Armenians, and the free and daring spirit of the Germans. The Quadi were much declined from that formidable power, which, in the time of Marcus Antoninus, had spread terror to the gates of Rome. But they still possessed arms and courage; their courage was animated by despair, and they obtained the usual

reenforcement of the cavalry of their Sarmatian allies. So improvident was the assassin Marcellinus, that he chose the moment when the bravest

veterans had been drawn away, to suppress the revolt of Firmus; and the whole province was exposed, with a very feeble defence, to the rage

of the exasperated Barbarians. They invaded Pannonia in the season of

harvest; unmercifully destroyed every object of plunder which they could

not easily transport; and either disregarded, or demolished, the empty fortifications. The princess Constantia, the daughter of the emperor constantius, and the granddaughter of the great Constantine, very

narrowly escaped. That royal maid, who had innocently supported the

revolt of Procopius, was now the destined wife of the heir of the western empire. She traversed the peaceful province with a splendid and

unarmed train. Her person was saved from danger, and the republic from disgrace, by the active zeal of Messala, governor of the provinces. as soon as he was informed that the village, where she stopped only to dine, was almost encompassed by the Barbarians, he hastily placed her

in his own chariot, and drove full speed till he reached the gates

of Sirmium, which were at the distance of six-and-twenty miles. Even

Sirmium might not have been secure, if the Quadi and Sarmatians had diligently advanced during the general consternation of the magistrates and people. Their delay allowed Probus, the Prætorian præfect,

sufficient time to recover his own spirits, and to revive the courage

of the citizens. He skilfully directed their strenuous efforts to repair and strengthen the decayed fortifications; and procured the seasonable and effectual assistance of a company of archers, to protect the capital

of the Illyrian provinces. Disappointed in their attempts against the walls of Sirmium, the indignant Barbarians turned their arms against the master general of the frontier, to whom they unjustly attributed the

murder of their king. Equitius could bring into the field no more than two legions; but they contained the veteran strength of the Mæsian and

Pannonian bands. The obstinacy with which they disputed the vain honors

of rank and precedency, was the cause of their destruction; and while they acted with separate forces and divided councils, they were

surprised and slaughtered by the active vigor of the Sarmatian horse. the success of this invasion provoked the emulation of the bordering tribes; and the province of Mæsia would infallibly have been lost, if

young Theodosius, the duke, or military commander, of the frontier, had

not signalized, in the defeat of the public enemy, an intrepid genius, worthy of his illustrious father, and of his future greatness.

chapter XXV: Reigns Of Jovian And Valentinian, Division Of The empire.--Part VII.

the mind of Valentinian, who then resided at Treves, was deeply affected by the calamities of Illyricum; but the lateness of the season suspended the execution of his designs till the ensuing spring. He marched in

person, with a considerable part of the forces of Gaul, from the banks

of the Moselle: and to the suppliant ambassadors of the Sarmatians, who

met him on the way, he returned a doubtful answer, that, as soon as he

reached the scene of action, he should examine, and pronounce. When he arrived at Sirmium, he gave audience to the deputies of the Illyrian

provinces; who loudly congratulated their own felicity under the auspicious government of Probus, his Prætorian præfect. Valentinian, who was flattered by these demonstrations of their loyalty and gratitude,

imprudently asked the deputy of Epirus, a Cynic philosopher of intrepid

sincerity, whether he was freely sent by the wishes of the province.

"With tears and groans am I sent," replied Iphicles, "by a reluctant

people." The emperor paused: but the impunity of his ministers established the pernicious maxim, that they might oppress his subjects, without injuring his service. A strict inquiry into their conduct would

have relieved the public discontent. The severe condemnation of the

murder of Gabinius, was the only measure which could restore the confidence of the Germans, and vindicate the honor of the Roman name. but the haughty monarch was incapable of the magnanimity which dares to acknowledge a fault. He forgot the provocation, remembered only the

injury, and advanced into the country of the Quadi with an insatiate thirst of blood and revenge. The extreme devastation, and promiscuous

massacre, of a savage war, were justified, in the eyes of the emperor, and perhaps in those of the world, by the cruel equity of retaliation: and such was the discipline of the Romans, and the consternation of the enemy, that Valentinian repassed the Danube without the loss of a single

man. As he had resolved to complete the destruction of the Quadi by a second campaign, he fixed his winter quarters at Bregetio, on the danube, near the Hungarian city of Presburg. While the operations of war were suspended by the severity of the weather, the Quadi made an humble attempt to deprecate the wrath of their conqueror; and, at the earnest

persuasion of Equitius, their ambassadors were introduced into the

Imperial council. They approached the throne with bended bodies and dejected countenances; and without daring to complain of the murder of their king, they affirmed, with solemn oaths, that the late invasion was the crime of some irregular robbers, which the public council of the

nation condemned and abhorred. The answer of the emperor left them but

little to hope from his clemency or compassion. He reviled, in the

most intemperate language, their baseness, their ingratitude, their

insolence. His eyes, his voice, his color, his gestures, expressed the

violence of his ungoverned fury; and while his whole frame was agitated with convulsive passion, a large blood vessel suddenly burst in his body; and Valentinian fell speechless into the arms of his attendants. their pious care immediately concealed his situation from the crowd; but, in a few minutes, the emperor of the West expired in an agony

of pain, retaining his senses till the last; and struggling, without

success, to declare his intentions to the generals and ministers, who

surrounded the royal couch. Valentinian was about fifty-four years of age; and he wanted only one hundred days to accomplish the twelve years

of his reign.

the polygamy of Valentinian is seriously attested by an ecclesiastical

historian. "The empress Severa (I relate the fable) admitted into

her familiar society the lovely Justina, the daughter of an Italian

governor: her admiration of those naked charms, which she had often seen

in the bath, was expressed with such lavish and imprudent praise, that the emperor was tempted to introduce a second wife into his bed; and

his public edict extended to all the subjects of the empire the same domestic privilege which he had assumed for himself." But we may be assured, from the evidence of reason as well as history, that the two marriages of Valentinian, with Severa, and with Justina, were

successively contracted; and that he used the ancient permission of divorce, which was still allowed by the laws, though it was condemned by the church Severa was the mother of Gratian, who seemed to unite every claim which could entitle him to the undoubted succession of the Western empire. He was the eldest son of a monarch whose glorious reign had confirmed the free and honorable choice of his fellow-soldiers. Before

he had attained the ninth year of his age, the royal youth received from the hands of his indulgent father the purple robe and diadem, with the title of Augustus; the election was solemnly ratified by the consent and applause of the armies of Gaul; and the name of Gratian was added to the

names of Valentinian and Valens, in all the legal transactions of the

Roman government. By his marriage with the granddaughter of Constantine, the son of Valentinian acquired all the hereditary rights of the flavian family; which, in a series of three Imperial generations, were

sanctified by time, religion, and the reverence of the people. At the death of his father, the royal youth was in the seventeenth year of his age; and his virtues already justified the favorable opinion of the army and the people. But Gratian resided, without apprehension, in the palace

of Treves; whilst, at the distance of many hundred miles, Valentinian

suddenly expired in the camp of Bregetio. The passions, which had been

so long suppressed by the presence of a master, immediately revived in the Imperial council; and the ambitious design of reigning in the name

of an infant, was artfully executed by Mellobaudes and Equitius, who commanded the attachment of the Illyrian and Italian bands. They contrived the most honorable pretences to remove the popular leaders, and the troops of Gaul, who might have asserted the claims of the lawful

successor; they suggested the necessity of extinguishing the hopes

of foreign and domestic enemies, by a bold and decisive measure. The empress Justina, who had been left in a palace about one hundred miles from Bregetio, was respectively invited to appear in the camp, with the son of the deceased emperor. On the sixth day after the death of

Valentinian, the infant prince of the same name, who was only four years

old, was shown, in the arms of his mother, to the legions; and solemnly

invested, by military acclamation, with the titles and ensigns of

supreme power. The impending dangers of a civil war were seasonably

prevented by the wise and moderate conduct of the emperor Gratian. He cheerfully accepted the choice of the army; declared that he should always consider the son of Justina as a brother, not as a rival; and advised the empress, with her son Valentinian to fix their residence at

Milan, in the fair and peaceful province of Italy; while he assumed the more arduous command of the countries beyond the Alps. Gratian dissembled his resentment till he could safely punish, or disgrace, the authors of the conspiracy; and though he uniformly behaved with tenderness and regard to his infant colleague, he gradually confounded,

in the administration of the Western empire, the office of a guardian with the authority of a sovereign. The government of the Roman world was exercised in the united names of Valens and his two nephews; but the feeble emperor of the East, who succeeded to the rank of his elder brother, never obtained any weight or influence in the councils of the west.

chapter XXVI: Progress of The Huns.--Part I.

Manners Of The Pastoral Nations.--Progress Of The Huns, From

China To Europe.--Flight Of The Goths.--They Pass The

Danube. --Gothic War.--Defeat And Death Of Valens.--Gratian

Invests Theodosius With The Eastern Empire.--His Character

And Success. --Peace And Settlement Of The Goths.

In the second year of the reign of Valentinian and Valens, on the

morning of the twenty-first day of July, the greatest part of the Roman world was shaken by a violent and destructive earthquake. The impression was communicated to the waters; the shores of the Mediterranean were

left dry, by the sudden retreat of the sea; great quantities of fish were caught with the hand; large vessels were stranded on the mud; and a curious spectator amused his eye, or rather his fancy, by contemplating the various appearance of valleys and mountains, which had never, since the formation of the globe, been exposed to the sun. But the tide soon

returned, with the weight of an immense and irresistible deluge, which was severely felt on the coasts of Sicily, of Dalmatia, of Greece, and of Egypt: large boats were transported, and lodged on the roofs of

houses, or at the distance of two miles from the shore; the people, with their habitations, were swept away by the waters; and the city of alexandria annually commemorated the fatal day, on which fifty thousand

persons had lost their lives in the inundation. This calamity, the

report of which was magnified from one province to another, astonished and terrified the subjects of Rome; and their affrighted imagination enlarged the real extent of a momentary evil. They recollected the

preceding earthquakes, which had subverted the cities of Palestine and bithynia: they considered these alarming strokes as the prelude only of

still more dreadful calamities, and their fearful vanity was disposed to confound the symptoms of a declining empire and a sinking world. It was the fashion of the times to attribute every remarkable event to the

particular will of the Deity; the alterations of nature were connected, by an invisible chain, with the moral and metaphysical opinions of the

human mind; and the most sagacious divines could distinguish, according to the color of their respective prejudices, that the establishment

of heresy tended to produce an earthquake; or that a deluge was the

inevitable consequence of the progress of sin and error. Without

presuming to discuss the truth or propriety of these lofty speculations, the historian may content himself with an observation, which seems to be justified by experience, that man has much more to fear from the

passions of his fellow-creatures, than from the convulsions of the elements. The mischievous effects of an earthquake, or deluge, a

hurricane, or the eruption of a volcano, bear a very inconsiderable

portion to the ordinary calamities of war, as they are now moderated by the prudence or humanity of the princes of Europe, who amuse their own

leisure, and exercise the courage of their subjects, in the practice of the military art. But the laws and manners of modern nations protect the

safety and freedom of the vanquished soldier; and the peaceful citizen

has seldom reason to complain, that his life, or even his fortune, is exposed to the rage of war. In the disastrous period of the fall of the

Roman empire, which may justly be dated from the reign of Valens, the

happiness and security of each individual were personally attacked; and the arts and labors of ages were rudely defaced by the Barbarians

of Scythia and Germany. The invasion of the Huns precipitated on the

provinces of the West the Gothic nation, which advanced, in less than forty years, from the Danube to the Atlantic, and opened a way, by the

success of their arms, to the inroads of so many hostile tribes, more

savage than themselves. The original principle of motion was concealed

in the remote countries of the North; and the curious observation of the

pastoral life of the Scythians, or Tartars, will illustrate the latent cause of these destructive emigrations.

the different characters that mark the civilized nations of the globe,

may be ascribed to the use, and the abuse, of reason; which so variously

shapes, and so artificially composes, the manners and opinions of a european, or a Chinese. But the operation of instinct is more sure and

simple than that of reason: it is much easier to ascertain the appetites

of a quadruped than the speculations of a philosopher; and the savage tribes of mankind, as they approach nearer to the condition of animals,

preserve a stronger resemblance to themselves and to each other. The

uniform stability of their manners is the natural consequence of the

imperfection of their faculties. Reduced to a similar situation, their wants, their desires, their enjoyments, still continue the same: and the influence of food or climate, which, in a more improved state

of society, is suspended, or subdued, by so many moral causes, most

powerfully contributes to form, and to maintain, the national character

of Barbarians. In every age, the immense plains of Scythia, or Tartary,

have been inhabited by vagrant tribes of hunters and shepherds, whose

indolence refuses to cultivate the earth, and whose restless spirit disdains the confinement of a sedentary life. In every age, the

Scythians, and Tartars, have been renowned for their invincible courage and rapid conquests. The thrones of Asia have been repeatedly overturned by the shepherds of the North; and their arms have spread terror and devastation over the most fertile and warlike countries of Europe.

On this occasion, as well as on many others, the sober historian is forcibly awakened from a pleasing vision; and is compelled, with some

reluctance, to confess, that the pastoral manners, which have been adorned with the fairest attributes of peace and innocence, are much better adapted to the fierce and cruel habits of a military life. To

illustrate this observation, I shall now proceed to consider a nation of

shepherds and of warriors, in the three important articles of, I. Their diet; II. Their habitations; and, III. Their exercises. The narratives

of antiquity are justified by the experience of modern times; and the banks of the Borysthenes, of the Volga, or of the Selinga, will

indifferently present the same uniform spectacle of similar and native

manners.

I. The corn, or even the rice, which constitutes the ordinary and wholesome food of a civilized people, can be obtained only by the

patient toil of the husbandman. Some of the happy savages, who dwell between the tropics, are plentifully nourished by the liberality of

nature; but in the climates of the North, a nation of shepherds is

reduced to their flocks and herds. The skilful practitioners of the

medical art will determine (if they are able to determine) how far the temper of the human mind may be affected by the use of animal, or of

vegetable, food; and whether the common association of carnivorous and cruel deserves to be considered in any other light than that of an

innocent, perhaps a salutary, prejudice of humanity. Yet, if it be true, that the sentiment of compassion is imperceptibly weakened by the

sight and practice of domestic cruelty, we may observe, that the horrid

objects which are disguised by the arts of European refinement, are exhibited in their naked and most disgusting simplicity in the tent of a Tartarian shepherd. The ox, or the sheep, are slaughtered by the same

hand from which they were accustomed to receive their daily food; and the bleeding limbs are served, with very little preparation, on the table of their unfeeling murderer. In the military profession, and especially in the conduct of a numerous army, the exclusive use of animal food appears to be productive of the most solid advantages. Corn

is a bulky and perishable commodity; and the large magazines, which are indispensably necessary for the subsistence of our troops, must be

slowly transported by the labor of men or horses. But the flocks and

herds, which accompany the march of the Tartars, afford a sure and

increasing supply of flesh and milk: in the far greater part of the

uncultivated waste, the vegetation of the grass is quick and luxuriant; and there are few places so extremely barren, that the hardy cattle of the North cannot find some tolerable pasture. The supply is multiplied and prolonged by the undistinguishing appetite, and patient abstinence,

of the Tartars. They indifferently feed on the flesh of those animals that have been killed for the table, or have died of disease.

Horseflesh, which in every age and country has been proscribed by the civilized nations of Europe and Asia, they devour with peculiar

greediness; and this singular taste facilitates the success of their

military operations. The active cavalry of Scythia is always followed,

in their most distant and rapid incursions, by an adequate number of

spare horses, who may be occasionally used, either to redouble the

speed, or to satisfy the hunger, of the Barbarians. Many are the

resources of courage and poverty. When the forage round a camp of tartars is almost consumed, they slaughter the greatest part of their cattle, and preserve the flesh, either smoked, or dried in the sun. On the sudden emergency of a hasty march, they provide themselves with a

sufficient quantity of little balls of cheese, or rather of hard curd, which they occasionally dissolve in water; and this unsubstantial diet will support, for many days, the life, and even the spirits, of the

patient warrior. But this extraordinary abstinence, which the Stoic would approve, and the hermit might envy, is commonly succeeded by the

most voracious indulgence of appetite. The wines of a happier climate are the most grateful present, or the most valuable commodity, that can be offered to the Tartars; and the only example of their industry seems to consist in the art of extracting from mare's milk a fermented liquor, which possesses a very strong power of intoxication. Like the animals

of prey, the savages, both of the old and new world, experience the alternate vicissitudes of famine and plenty; and their stomach is inured to sustain, without much inconvenience, the opposite extremes of hunger and of intemperance.

II. In the ages of rustic and martial simplicity, a people of soldiers and husbandmen are dispersed over the face of an extensive and cultivated country; and some time must elapse before the warlike youth

of Greece or Italy could be assembled under the same standard, either to defend their own confines, or to invade the territories of the adjacent tribes. The progress of manufactures and commerce insensibly collects a large multitude within the walls of a city: but these citizens are no

longer soldiers; and the arts which adorn and improve the state of civil

society, corrupt the habits of the military life. The pastoral manners

of the Scythians seem to unite the different advantages of simplicity and refinement. The individuals of the same tribe are constantly assembled, but they are assembled in a camp; and the native spirit of these dauntless shepherds is animated by mutual support and emulation. the houses of the Tartars are no more than small tents, of an oval form, which afford a cold and dirty habitation, for the promiscuous youth of both sexes. The palaces of the rich consist of wooden huts, of such a

size that they may be conveniently fixed on large wagons, and drawn by a team perhaps of twenty or thirty oxen. The flocks and herds, after

grazing all day in the adjacent pastures, retire, on the approach of

night, within the protection of the camp. The necessity of preventing the most mischievous confusion, in such a perpetual concourse of men and animals, must gradually introduce, in the distribution, the order, and the guard, of the encampment, the rudiments of the military art. As soon as the forage of a certain district is consumed, the tribe, or rather army, of shepherds, makes a regular march to some fresh pastures; and thus acquires, in the ordinary occupations of the pastoral life, the practical knowledge of one of the most important and difficult

operations of war. The choice of stations is regulated by the difference

of the seasons: in the summer, the Tartars advance towards the North, and pitch their tents on the banks of a river, or, at least, in the

neighborhood of a running stream. But in the winter, they return to the

South, and shelter their camp, behind some convenient eminence, against the winds, which are chilled in their passage over the bleak and icy

regions of Siberia. These manners are admirably adapted to diffuse, among the wandering tribes, the spirit of emigration and conquest. the connection between the people and their territory is of so frail a texture, that it may be broken by the slightest accident. The camp, and

not the soil, is the native country of the genuine Tartar. Within the

precincts of that camp, his family, his companions, his property, are always included; and, in the most distant marches, he is still

surrounded by the objects which are dear, or valuable, or familiar in

his eyes. The thirst of rapine, the fear, or the resentment of injury, the impatience of servitude, have, in every age, been sufficient causes to urge the tribes of Scythia boldly to advance into some unknown countries, where they might hope to find a more plentiful subsistence

or a less formidable enemy. The revolutions of the North have frequently determined the fate of the South; and in the conflict of hostile

nations, the victor and the vanquished have alternately drove, and been driven, from the confines of China to those of Germany. These great emigrations, which have been sometimes executed with almost incredible diligence, were rendered more easy by the peculiar nature of the climate. It is well known that the cold of Tartary is much more severe than in the midst of the temperate zone might reasonably be expected; this uncommon rigor is attributed to the height of the plains, which

rise, especially towards the East, more than half a mile above the level

of the sea; and to the quantity of saltpetre with which the soil is deeply impregnated. In the winter season, the broad and rapid rivers, that discharge their waters into the Euxine, the Caspian, or the Icy

Sea, are strongly frozen; the fields are covered with a bed of snow; and the fugitive, or victorious, tribes may securely traverse, with their families, their wagons, and their cattle, the smooth and hard surface of an immense plain.

III. The pastoral life, compared with the labors of agriculture and

manufactures, is undoubtedly a life of idleness; and as the most

honorable shepherds of the Tartar race devolve on their captives the domestic management of the cattle, their own leisure is seldom disturbed by any servile and assiduous cares. But this leisure, instead of being devoted to the soft enjoyments of love and harmony, is use fully spent

in the violent and sanguinary exercise of the chase. The plains of tartary are filled with a strong and serviceable breed of horses, which are easily trained for the purposes of war and hunting. The Scythians of every age have been celebrated as bold and skilful riders; and constant

practice had seated them so firmly on horseback, that they were supposed by strangers to perform the ordinary duties of civil life, to eat, to drink, and even to sleep, without dismounting from their steeds. They excel in the dexterous management of the lance; the long Tartar bow

is drawn with a nervous arm; and the weighty arrow is directed to its

object with unerring aim and irresistible force. These arrows are often

pointed against the harmless animals of the desert, which increase and

multiply in the absence of their most formidable enemy; the hare, the

goat, the roebuck, the fallow-deer, the stag, the elk, and the antelope. the vigor and patience, both of the men and horses, are continually exercised by the fatigues of the chase; and the plentiful supply of game contributes to the subsistence, and even luxury, of a Tartar camp. but the exploits of the hunters of Scythia are not confined to the destruction of timid or innoxious beasts; they boldly encounter the angry wild boar, when he turns against his pursuers, excite the sluggish courage of the bear, and provoke the fury of the tiger, as he slumbers

in the thicket. Where there is danger, there may be glory; and the mode

of hunting, which opens the fairest field to the exertions of valor,

may justly be considered as the image, and as the school, of war. The

general hunting matches, the pride and delight of the Tartar princes, compose an instructive exercise for their numerous cavalry. A circle

is drawn, of many miles in circumference, to encompass the game of an extensive district; and the troops that form the circle regularly advance towards a common centre; where the captive animals, surrounded

on every side, are abandoned to the darts of the hunters. In this march, which frequently continues many days, the cavalry are obliged to climb the hills, to swim the rivers, and to wind through the valleys, without

interrupting the prescribed order of their gradual progress. They acquire the habit of directing their eye, and their steps, to a remote

object; of preserving their intervals of suspending or accelerating their pace, according to the motions of the troops on their right and

left; and of watching and repeating the signals of their leaders. Their

leaders study, in this practical school, the most important lesson

of the military art; the prompt and accurate judgment of ground, of distance, and of time. To employ against a human enemy the same patience and valor, the same skill and discipline, is the only alteration which

is required in real war; and the amusements of the chase serve as a

prelude to the conquest of an empire.

the political society of the ancient Germans has the appearance of a voluntary alliance of independent warriors. The tribes of Scythia, distinguished by the modern appellation of Hords, assume the form of a numerous and increasing family; which, in the course of successive

generations, has been propagated from the same original stock. The

meanest, and most ignorant, of the Tartars, preserve, with conscious

pride, the inestimable treasure of their genealogy; and whatever distinctions of rank may have been introduced, by the unequal distribution of pastoral wealth, they mutually respect themselves, and each other, as the descendants of the first founder of the tribe. The custom, which still prevails, of adopting the bravest and most faithful

of the captives, may countenance the very probable suspicion, that this extensive consanguinity is, in a great measure, legal and fictitious. but the useful prejudice, which has obtained the sanction of time and

opinion, produces the effects of truth; the haughty Barbarians yield a cheerful and voluntary obedience to the head of their blood; and their chief, or mursa, as the representative of their great father, exercises the authority of a judge in peace, and of a leader in war. In the

original state of the pastoral world, each of the mursas (if we may continue to use a modern appellation) acted as the independent chief

of a large and separate family; and the limits of their peculiar territories were gradually fixed by superior force, or mutual consent. but the constant operation of various and permanent causes contributed to unite the vagrant Hords into national communities, under the command

of a supreme head. The weak were desirous of support, and the strong were ambitious of dominion; the power, which is the result of union,

oppressed and collected the divided force of the adjacent tribes; and, as the vanquished were freely admitted to share the advantages of

victory, the most valiant chiefs hastened to range themselves and their followers under the formidable standard of a confederate nation. The

most successful of the Tartar princes assumed the military command, to which he was entitled by the superiority, either of merit or of power.

He was raised to the throne by the acclamations of his equals; and the title of Khan expresses, in the language of the North of Asia, the full extent of the regal dignity. The right of hereditary succession was long confined to the blood of the founder of the monarchy; and at this moment all the Khans, who reign from Crimea to the wall of China, are the lineal descendants of the renowned Zingis. But, as it is the

indispensable duty of a Tartar sovereign to lead his warlike subjects

into the field, the claims of an infant are often disregarded; and some

royal kinsman, distinguished by his age and valor, is intrusted with the

sword and sceptre of his predecessor. Two distinct and regular taxes are

levied on the tribes, to support the dignity of the national monarch, and of their peculiar chief; and each of those contributions amounts to the tithe, both of their property, and of their spoil. A Tartar

sovereign enjoys the tenth part of the wealth of his people; and as

his own domestic riches of flocks and herds increase in a much larger

proportion, he is able plentifully to maintain the rustic splendor of

his court, to reward the most deserving, or the most favored of his followers, and to obtain, from the gentle influence of corruption, the

obedience which might be sometimes refused to the stern mandates of authority. The manners of his subjects, accustomed, like himself, to blood and rapine, might excuse, in their eyes, such partial acts of tyranny, as would excite the horror of a civilized people; but the power

of a despot has never been acknowledged in the deserts of Scythia. The

immediate jurisdiction of the khan is confined within the limits of his

own tribe; and the exercise of his royal prerogative has been moderated by the ancient institution of a national council. The Coroultai, or diet, of the Tartars, was regularly held in the spring and autumn, in the midst of a plain; where the princes of the reigning family, and the

mursas of the respective tribes, may conveniently assemble on horseback, with their martial and numerous trains; and the ambitious monarch, who

reviewed the strength, must consult the inclination of an armed

people. The rudiments of a feudal government may be discovered in the constitution of the Scythian or Tartar nations; but the perpetual conflict of those hostile nations has sometimes terminated in the establishment of a powerful and despotic empire. The victor, enriched by the tribute, and fortified by the arms of dependent kings, has spread

his conquests over Europe or Asia: the successful shepherds of the North

have submitted to the confinement of arts, of laws, and of cities; and the introduction of luxury, after destroying the freedom of the people,

has undermined the foundations of the throne.

the memory of past events cannot long be preserved in the frequent and

remote emigrations of illiterate Barbarians. The modern Tartars are

ignorant of the conquests of their ancestors; and our knowledge of the

history of the Scythians is derived from their intercourse with the

learned and civilized nations of the South, the Greeks, the Persians, and the Chinese. The Greeks, who navigated the Euxine, and planted their colonies along the sea-coast, made the gradual and imperfect discovery

of Scythia; from the Danube, and the confines of Thrace, as far as the frozen Mæotis, the seat of eternal winter, and Mount Caucasus, which,

in the language of poetry, was described as the utmost boundary of the earth. They celebrated, with simple credulity, the virtues of the

pastoral life: they entertained a more rational apprehension of the

strength and numbers of the warlike Barbarians, who contemptuously baffled the immense armament of Darius, the son of Hystaspes. The

Persian monarchs had extended their western conquests to the banks of the Danube, and the limits of European Scythia. The eastern provinces of their empire were exposed to the Scythians of Asia; the wild inhabitants

of the plains beyond the Oxus and the Jaxartes, two mighty rivers, which direct their course towards the Caspian Sea. The long and memorable

quarrel of Iran and Touran is still the theme of history or romance: the famous, perhaps the fabulous, valor of the Persian heroes, Rustan and asfendiar, was signalized, in the defence of their country, against the afrasiabs of the North; and the invincible spirit of the same Barbarians

resisted, on the same ground, the victorious arms of Cyrus and alexander. In the eyes of the Greeks and Persians, the real geography of

Scythia was bounded, on the East, by the mountains of Imaus, or Caf; and their distant prospect of the extreme and inaccessible parts of Asia was clouded by ignorance, or perplexed by fiction. But those inaccessible

regions are the ancient residence of a powerful and civilized nation, which ascends, by a probable tradition, above forty centuries; and which

is able to verify a series of near two thousand years, by the perpetual testimony of accurate and contemporary historians. The annals of China

illustrate the state and revolutions of the pastoral tribes, which

may still be distinguished by the vague appellation of Scythians, or tartars; the vassals, the enemies, and sometimes the conquerors, of a

great empire; whose policy has uniformly opposed the blind and impetuous

valor of the Barbarians of the North. From the mouth of the Danube to the Sea of Japan, the whole longitude of Scythia is about one hundred and ten degrees, which, in that parallel, are equal to more than five thousand miles. The latitude of these extensive deserts cannot be so easily, or so accurately, measured; but, from the fortieth degree, which touches the wall of China, we may securely advance above a thousand

miles to the northward, till our progress is stopped by the excessive cold of Siberia. In that dreary climate, instead of the animated picture

of a Tartar camp, the smoke that issues from the earth, or rather from the snow, betrays the subterraneous dwellings of the Tongouses, and the

Samoides: the want of horses and oxen is imperfectly supplied by the

use of reindeer, and of large dogs; and the conquerors of the earth

insensibly degenerate into a race of deformed and diminutive savages, who tremble at the sound of arms.

chapter XXVI: Progress of The Huns.--Part II.

the Huns, who under the reign of Valens threatened the empire of Rome,

had been formidable, in a much earlier period, to the empire of China. their ancient, perhaps their original, seat was an extensive, though dry and barren, tract of country, immediately on the north side of the great wall. Their place is at present occupied by the forty-nine Hords or banners of the Mongous, a pastoral nation, which consists of about two

hundred thousand families. But the valor of the Huns had extended the

narrow limits of their dominions; and their rustic chiefs, who assumed the appellation of Tanjou, gradually became the conquerors, and the

sovereigns of a formidable empire. Towards the East, their victorious arms were stopped only by the ocean; and the tribes, which are thinly

scattered between the Amoor and the extreme peninsula of Corea, adhered, with reluctance, to the standard of the Huns. On the West, near the head

of the Irtish, in the valleys of Imaus, they found a more ample space, and more numerous enemies. One of the lieutenants of the Tanjou subdued,

in a single expedition, twenty-six nations; the Igours, distinguished above the Tartar race by the use of letters, were in the number of his

vassals; and, by the strange connection of human events, the flight of

one of those vagrant tribes recalled the victorious Parthians from the

invasion of Syria. On the side of the North, the ocean was assigned as the limit of the power of the Huns. Without enemies to resist their

progress, or witnesses to contradict their vanity, they might securely achieve a real, or imaginary, conquest of the frozen regions of Siberia. the Northern Sea was fixed as the remote boundary of their empire. But the name of that sea, on whose shores the patriot Sovou embraced the

life of a shepherd and an exile, may be transferred, with much more

probability, to the Baikal, a capacious basin, above three hundred miles

in length, which disdains the modest appellation of a lake and which actually communicates with the seas of the North, by the long course of the Angara, the Tongusha, and the Jenissea. The submission of so many distant nations might flatter the pride of the Tanjou; but the valor

of the Huns could be rewarded only by the enjoyment of the wealth and

luxury of the empire of the South. In the third century before the Christian æra, a wall of fifteen hundred miles in length was constructed, to defend the frontiers of China against the inroads of the

Huns; but this stupendous work, which holds a conspicuous place in the

map of the world, has never contributed to the safety of an unwarlike

people. The cavalry of the Tanjou frequently consisted of two or three

hundred thousand men, formidable by the matchless dexterity with which they managed their bows and their horses: by their hardy patience in

supporting the inclemency of the weather; and by the incredible speed of their march, which was seldom checked by torrents, or precipices, by the deepest rivers, or by the most lofty mountains. They spread themselves at once over the face of the country; and their rapid impetuosity

surprised, astonished, and disconcerted the grave and elaborate tactics

of a Chinese army. The emperor Kaoti, a soldier of fortune, whose

personal merit had raised him to the throne, marched against the Huns with those veteran troops which had been trained in the civil wars of china. But he was soon surrounded by the Barbarians; and, after a siege

of seven days, the monarch, hopeless of relief, was reduced to purchase

his deliverance by an ignominious capitulation. The successors of Kaoti, whose lives were dedicated to the arts of peace, or the luxury of the palace, submitted to a more permanent disgrace. They too hastily confessed the insufficiency of arms and fortifications. They were too easily convinced, that while the blazing signals announced on every side the approach of the Huns, the Chinese troops, who slept with the helmet

on their head, and the cuirass on their back, were destroyed by the

incessant labor of ineffectual marches. A regular payment of money, and silk, was stipulated as the condition of a temporary and precarious

peace; and the wretched expedient of disguising a real tribute, under the names of a gift or subsidy, was practised by the emperors of China as well as by those of Rome. But there still remained a more disgraceful article of tribute, which violated the sacred feelings of humanity and

nature. The hardships of the savage life, which destroy in their infancy the children who are born with a less healthy and robust constitution,

introduced a remarkable disproportion between the numbers of the two

sexes. The Tartars are an ugly and even deformed race; and while they consider their own women as the instruments of domestic labor, their desires, or rather their appetites, are directed to the enjoyment of

more elegant beauty. A select band of the fairest maidens of China was annually devoted to the rude embraces of the Huns; and the alliance of the haughty Tanjous was secured by their marriage with the genuine, or adopted, daughters of the Imperial family, which vainly attempted to escape the sacrilegious pollution. The situation of these unhappy

victims is described in the verses of a Chinese princess, who laments that she had been condemned by her parents to a distant exile, under a barbarian husband; who complains that sour milk was her only drink, raw flesh her only food, a tent her only palace; and who expresses, in a strain of pathetic simplicity, the natural wish, that she were transformed into a bird, to fly back to her dear country; the object of

her tender and perpetual regret.

the conquest of China has been twice achieved by the pastoral tribes

of the North: the forces of the Huns were not inferior to those of the

Moguls, or of the Mantcheoux; and their ambition might entertain the

most sanguine hopes of success. But their pride was humbled, and their

progress was checked, by the arms and policy of Vouti, the fifth emperor

of the powerful dynasty of the Han. In his long reign of fifty-four

years, the Barbarians of the southern provinces submitted to the laws and manners of China; and the ancient limits of the monarchy were enlarged, from the great river of Kiang, to the port of Canton. Instead

of confining himself to the timid operations of a defensive war, his

lieutenants penetrated many hundred miles into the country of the Huns.

In those boundless deserts, where it is impossible to form magazines, and difficult to transport a sufficient supply of provisions, the armies

of Vouti were repeatedly exposed to intolerable hardships: and, of one

hundred and forty thousand soldiers, who marched against the Barbarians, thirty thousand only returned in safety to the feet of their master. these losses, however, were compensated by splendid and decisive

success. The Chinese generals improved the superiority which they derived from the temper of their arms, their chariots of war, and the service of their Tartar auxiliaries. The camp of the Tanjou was

surprised in the midst of sleep and intemperance; and, though the

monarch of the Huns bravely cut his way through the ranks of the enemy,

he left above fifteen thousand of his subjects on the field of battle.

Yet this signal victory, which was preceded and followed by many bloody engagements, contributed much less to the destruction of the power of the Huns than the effectual policy which was employed to detach the tributary nations from their obedience. Intimidated by the arms,

or allured by the promises, of Vouti and his successors, the most considerable tribes, both of the East and of the West, disclaimed the authority of the Tanjou. While some acknowledged themselves the allies

or vassals of the empire, they all became the implacable enemies of the Huns; and the numbers of that haughty people, as soon as they were

reduced to their native strength, might, perhaps, have been contained within the walls of one of the great and populous cities of China. The desertion of his subjects, and the perplexity of a civil war, at length compelled the Tanjou himself to renounce the dignity of an independent

sovereign, and the freedom of a warlike and high-spirited nation. He was received at Sigan, the capital of the monarchy, by the troops, the

mandarins, and the emperor himself, with all the honors that could adorn and disguise the triumph of Chinese vanity. A magnificent palace was

prepared for his reception; his place was assigned above all the

princes of the royal family; and the patience of the Barbarian king was exhausted by the ceremonies of a banquet, which consisted of eight courses of meat, and of nine solemn pieces of music. But he performed,

on his knees, the duty of a respectful homage to the emperor of China;

pronounced, in his own name, and in the name of his successors, a

perpetual oath of fidelity; and gratefully accepted a seal, which was bestowed as the emblem of his regal dependence. After this humiliating

submission, the Tanjous sometimes departed from their allegiance and

seized the favorable moments of war and rapine; but the monarchy of the

Huns gradually declined, till it was broken, by civil dissension, into two hostile and separate kingdoms. One of the princes of the nation was urged, by fear and ambition, to retire towards the South with eight

hords, which composed between forty and fifty thousand families. He

obtained, with the title of Tanjou, a convenient territory on the verge

of the Chinese provinces; and his constant attachment to the service of the empire was secured by weakness, and the desire of revenge. From the time of this fatal schism, the Huns of the North continued to languish about fifty years; till they were oppressed on every side by their foreign and domestic enemies. The proud inscription of a column, erected

on a lofty mountain, announced to posterity, that a Chinese army had

marched seven hundred miles into the heart of their country. The Sienpi, a tribe of Oriental Tartars, retaliated the injuries which they had formerly sustained; and the power of the Tanjous, after a reign of thirteen hundred years, was utterly destroyed before the end of the first century of the Christian æra.

the fate of the vanquished Huns was diversified by the various influence

of character and situation. Above one hundred thousand persons, the poorest, indeed, and the most pusillanimous of the people, were contented to remain in their native country, to renounce their peculiar

name and origin, and to mingle with the victorious nation of the Sienpi. fifty-eight hords, about two hundred thousand men, ambitious of a more

honorable servitude, retired towards the South; implored the protection

of the emperors of China; and were permitted to inhabit, and to guard, the extreme frontiers of the province of Chansi and the territory of

Ortous. But the most warlike and powerful tribes of the Huns maintained,

in their adverse fortune, the undaunted spirit of their ancestors. The western world was open to their valor; and they resolved, under the conduct of their hereditary chieftains, to conquer and subdue some

remote country, which was still inaccessible to the arms of the Sienpi, and to the laws of China. The course of their emigration soon carried them beyond the mountains of Imaus, and the limits of the Chinese

geography; but we are able to distinguish the two great divisions of these formidable exiles, which directed their march towards the Oxus, and towards the Volga. The first of these colonies established their dominion in the fruitful and extensive plains of Sogdiana, on the eastern side of the Caspian; where they preserved the name of Huns, with the epithet of Euthalites, or Nepthalites. Their manners were softened, and even their features were insensibly improved, by the mildness of the climate, and their long residence in a flourishing province, which might

still retain a faint impression of the arts of Greece. The white Huns, a name which they derived from the change of their complexions,

soon abandoned the pastoral life of Scythia. Gorgo, which, under the appellation of Carizme, has since enjoyed a temporary splendor, was the

residence of the king, who exercised a legal authority over an obedient

people. Their luxury was maintained by the labor of the Sogdians; and the only vestige of their ancient barbarism, was the custom which

obliged all the companions, perhaps to the number of twenty, who had

shared the liberality of a wealthy lord, to be buried alive in the same

grave. The vicinity of the Huns to the provinces of Persia, involved them in frequent and bloody contests with the power of that monarchy. but they respected, in peace, the faith of treaties; in war, she dictates of humanity; and their memorable victory over Peroses,

or Firuz, displayed the moderation, as well as the valor, of the barbarians. The second division of their countrymen, the Huns, who

gradually advanced towards the North-west, were exercised by the

hardships of a colder climate, and a more laborious march. Necessity compelled them to exchange the silks of China for the furs of Siberia; the imperfect rudiments of civilized life were obliterated; and the

native fierceness of the Huns was exasperated by their intercourse with the savage tribes, who were compared, with some propriety, to the wild beasts of the desert. Their independent spirit soon rejected the

hereditary succession of the Tanjous; and while each horde was governed by its peculiar mursa, their tumultuary council directed the public

measures of the whole nation. As late as the thirteenth century, their transient residence on the eastern banks of the Volga was attested by the name of Great Hungary. In the winter, they descended with their flocks and herds towards the mouth of that mighty river; and their

summer excursions reached as high as the latitude of Saratoff, or

perhaps the conflux of the Kama. Such at least were the recent limits of the black Calmucks, who remained about a century under the protection

of Russia; and who have since returned to their native seats on the frontiers of the Chinese empire. The march, and the return, of those wandering Tartars, whose united camp consists of fifty thousand tents or families, illustrate the distant emigrations of the ancient Huns.

It is impossible to fill the dark interval of time, which elapsed, after the Huns of the Volga were lost in the eyes of the Chinese, and before they showed themselves to those of the Romans. There is some reason,

however, to apprehend, that the same force which had driven them from their native seats, still continued to impel their march towards the frontiers of Europe. The power of the Sienpi, their implacable enemies, which extended above three thousand miles from East to West, must

have gradually oppressed them by the weight and terror of a formidable

neighborhood; and the flight of the tribes of Scythia would inevitably tend to increase the strength or to contract the territories, of the

Huns. The harsh and obscure appellations of those tribes would offend the ear, without informing the understanding, of the reader; but I cannot suppress the very natural suspicion, that the Huns of the North derived a considerable reenforcement from the ruin of the dynasty of the South, which, in the course of the third century, submitted to the dominion of China; that the bravest warriors marched away in search

of their free and adventurous countrymen; and that, as they had been divided by prosperity, they were easily reunited by the common hardships

of their adverse fortune. The Huns, with their flocks and herds, their wives and children, their dependents and allies, were transported to the west of the Volga, and they boldly advanced to invade the country of the alani, a pastoral people, who occupied, or wasted, an extensive tract of the deserts of Scythia. The plains between the Volga and the Tanais were covered with the tents of the Alani, but their name and manners were diffused over the wide extent of their conquests; and the painted tribes

of the Agathyrsi and Geloni were confounded among their vassals. Towards the North, they penetrated into the frozen regions of Siberia, among the

savages who were accustomed, in their rage or hunger, to the taste

of human flesh; and their Southern inroads were pushed as far as the confines of Persia and India. The mixture of Somatic and German blood

had contributed to improve the features of the Alani, \* to whiten their

swarthy complexions, and to tinge their hair with a yellowish cast, which is seldom found in the Tartar race. They were less deformed in their persons, less brutish in their manners, than the Huns; but they did not yield to those formidable Barbarians in their martial and

independent spirit; in the love of freedom, which rejected even the use

of domestic slaves; and in the love of arms, which considered war and

rapine as the pleasure and the glory of mankind. A naked cimeter, fixed

in the ground, was the only object of their religious worship; the

scalps of their enemies formed the costly trappings of their horses; and they viewed, with pity and contempt, the pusillanimous warriors, who

patiently expected the infirmities of age, and the tortures of lingering disease. On the banks of the Tanais, the military power of the Huns and the Alani encountered each other with equal valor, but with unequal

success. The Huns prevailed in the bloody contest; the king of the Alani was slain; and the remains of the vanquished nation were dispersed by the ordinary alternative of flight or submission. A colony of exiles found a secure refuge in the mountains of Caucasus, between the euxine and the Caspian, where they still preserve their name and their

independence. Another colony advanced, with more intrepid courage, towards the shores of the Baltic; associated themselves with the

Northern tribes of Germany; and shared the spoil of the Roman provinces

of Gaul and Spain. But the greatest part of the nation of the Alani embraced the offers of an honorable and advantageous union; and the

Huns, who esteemed the valor of their less fortunate enemies, proceeded, with an increase of numbers and confidence, to invade the limits of the

Gothic empire.

the great Hermanric, whose dominions extended from the Baltic to the euxine, enjoyed, in the full maturity of age and reputation, the fruit

of his victories, when he was alarmed by the formidable approach of a

host of unknown enemies, on whom his barbarous subjects might, without

injustice, bestow the epithet of Barbarians. The numbers, the strength, the rapid motions, and the implacable cruelty of the Huns, were felt, and dreaded, and magnified, by the astonished Goths; who beheld their fields and villages consumed with flames, and deluged with

indiscriminate slaughter. To these real terrors they added the surprise and abhorrence which were excited by the shrill voice, the uncouth

gestures, and the strange deformity of the Huns. \* These savages of

Scythia were compared (and the picture had some resemblance) to the animals who walk very awkwardly on two legs and to the misshapen figures, the Termini, which were often placed on the bridges of antiquity. They were distinguished from the rest of the human species by their broad shoulders, flat noses, and small black eyes, deeply buried

in the head; and as they were almost destitute of beards, they never enjoyed either the manly grace of youth, or the venerable aspect of age. a fabulous origin was assigned, worthy of their form and manners; that the witches of Scythia, who, for their foul and deadly practices, had been driven from society, had copulated in the desert with infernal

spirits; and that the Huns were the offspring of this execrable conjunction. The tale, so full of horror and absurdity, was greedily embraced by the credulous hatred of the Goths; but, while it gratified their hatred, it increased their fear, since the posterity of dæmons and witches might be supposed to inherit some share of the præternatural

powers, as well as of the malignant temper, of their parents. Against these enemies, Hermanric prepared to exert the united forces of the

Gothic state; but he soon discovered that his vassal tribes, provoked by oppression, were much more inclined to second, than to repel, the

invasion of the Huns. One of the chiefs of the Roxolani had formerly deserted the standard of Hermanric, and the cruel tyrant had condemned the innocent wife of the traitor to be torn asunder by wild horses. the brothers of that unfortunate woman seized the favorable moment

of revenge. The aged king of the Goths languished some time after the dangerous wound which he received from their daggers; but the conduct of the war was retarded by his infirmities; and the public councils of the

nation were distracted by a spirit of jealousy and discord. His death, which has been imputed to his own despair, left the reins of government

in the hands of Withimer, who, with the doubtful aid of some Scythian

mercenaries, maintained the unequal contest against the arms of the Huns and the Alani, till he was defeated and slain in a decisive battle. The

Ostrogoths submitted to their fate; and the royal race of the Amali will

hereafter be found among the subjects of the haughty Attila. But the

person of Witheric, the infant king, was saved by the diligence of alatheus and Saphrax; two warriors of approved valor and fidelity, who, by cautious marches, conducted the independent remains of the nation of the Ostrogoths towards the Danastus, or Niester; a considerable river, which now separates the Turkish dominions from the empire of Russia. On the banks of the Niester, the prudent Athanaric, more attentive to his

own than to the general safety, had fixed the camp of the Visigoths; with the firm resolution of opposing the victorious Barbarians, whom he thought it less advisable to provoke. The ordinary speed of the Huns was checked by the weight of baggage, and the encumbrance of captives; but their military skill deceived, and almost destroyed, the army of athanaric. While the Judge of the Visigoths defended the banks of the

Niester, he was encompassed and attacked by a numerous detachment

of cavalry, who, by the light of the moon, had passed the river in a fordable place; and it was not without the utmost efforts of courage and conduct, that he was able to effect his retreat towards the hilly country. The undaunted general had already formed a new and judicious

plan of defensive war; and the strong lines, which he was preparing to construct between the mountains, the Pruth, and the Danube, would have

secured the extensive and fertile territory that bears the modern name

of Walachia, from the destructive inroads of the Huns. But the hopes and measures of the Judge of the Visigoths was soon disappointed, by the trembling impatience of his dismayed countrymen; who were persuaded by their fears, that the interposition of the Danube was the only barrier that could save them from the rapid pursuit, and invincible valor, of the Barbarians of Scythia. Under the command of Fritigern and Alavivus, the body of the nation hastily advanced to the banks of the great river, and implored the protection of the Roman emperor of the East. Athanaric

himself, still anxious to avoid the guilt of perjury, retired, with a band of faithful followers, into the mountainous country of Caucaland; which appears to have been guarded, and almost concealed, by the

impenetrable forests of Transylvania. \*

chapter XXVI: Progress of The Huns.--Part III.

after Valens had terminated the Gothic war with some appearance of glory and success, he made a progress through his dominions of Asia, and at

length fixed his residence in the capital of Syria. The five years which

he spent at Antioch was employed to watch, from a secure distance, the

hostile designs of the Persian monarch; to check the depredations of the Saracens and Isaurians; to enforce, by arguments more prevalent than those of reason and eloquence, the belief of the Arian theology; and to satisfy his anxious suspicions by the promiscuous execution of the

innocent and the guilty. But the attention of the emperor was most

seriously engaged, by the important intelligence which he received from the civil and military officers who were intrusted with the defence of the Danube. He was informed, that the North was agitated by a furious tempest; that the irruption of the Huns, an unknown and monstrous race

of savages, had subverted the power of the Goths; and that the suppliant

multitudes of that warlike nation, whose pride was now humbled in the dust, covered a space of many miles along the banks of the river. With

outstretched arms, and pathetic lamentations, they loudly deplored their

past misfortunes and their present danger; acknowledged that their only

hope of safety was in the clemency of the Roman government; and most

solemnly protested, that if the gracious liberality of the emperor would

permit them to cultivate the waste lands of Thrace, they should ever hold themselves bound, by the strongest obligations of duty and

gratitude, to obey the laws, and to guard the limits, of the republic. these assurances were confirmed by the ambassadors of the Goths, \* who impatiently expected from the mouth of Valens an answer that must finally determine the fate of their unhappy countrymen. The emperor of the East was no longer guided by the wisdom and authority of his elder brother, whose death happened towards the end of the preceding year; and as the distressful situation of the Goths required an instant and

peremptory decision, he was deprived of the favorite resources of feeble and timid minds, who consider the use of dilatory and ambiguous measures as the most admirable efforts of consummate prudence. As long as the

same passions and interests subsist among mankind, the questions of war and peace, of justice and policy, which were debated in the councils of antiquity, will frequently present themselves as the subject of modern deliberation. But the most experienced statesman of Europe has never been summoned to consider the propriety, or the danger, of admitting,

or rejecting, an innumerable multitude of Barbarians, who are driven by despair and hunger to solicit a settlement on the territories of a civilized nation. When that important proposition, so essentially connected with the public safety, was referred to the ministers of

Valens, they were perplexed and divided; but they soon acquiesced in the flattering sentiment which seemed the most favorable to the pride, the

indolence, and the avarice of their sovereign. The slaves, who were decorated with the titles of præfects and generals, dissembled or disregarded the terrors of this national emigration; so extremely different from the partial and accidental colonies, which had been

received on the extreme limits of the empire. But they applauded the

liberality of fortune, which had conducted, from the most distant countries of the globe, a numerous and invincible army of strangers, to defend the throne of Valens; who might now add to the royal treasures the immense sums of gold supplied by the provincials to compensate their annual proportion of recruits. The prayers of the Goths were granted, and their service was accepted by the Imperial court: and orders were

immediately despatched to the civil and military governors of the thracian diocese, to make the necessary preparations for the passage and

subsistence of a great people, till a proper and sufficient territory could be allotted for their future residence. The liberality of the emperor was accompanied, however, with two harsh and rigorous conditions, which prudence might justify on the side of the Romans; but which distress alone could extort from the indignant Goths. Before they

passed the Danube, they were required to deliver their arms: and it was

insisted, that their children should be taken from them, and dispersed through the provinces of Asia; where they might be civilized by the arts of education, and serve as hostages to secure the fidelity of their

parents.

during the suspense of a doubtful and distant negotiation, the impatient

Goths made some rash attempts to pass the Danube, without the permission

of the government, whose protection they had implored. Their motions were strictly observed by the vigilance of the troops which were

stationed along the river and their foremost detachments were defeated with considerable slaughter; yet such were the timid councils of the

reign of Valens, that the brave officers who had served their country

in the execution of their duty, were punished by the loss of their employments, and narrowly escaped the loss of their heads. The Imperial

mandate was at length received for transporting over the Danube the whole body of the Gothic nation; but the execution of this order was a task of labor and difficulty. The stream of the Danube, which in those

parts is above a mile broad, had been swelled by incessant rains; and in this tumultuous passage, many were swept away, and drowned, by the rapid

violence of the current. A large fleet of vessels, of boats, and of canoes, was provided; many days and nights they passed and repassed with

indefatigable toil; and the most strenuous diligence was exerted by the officers of Valens, that not a single Barbarian, of those who were

reserved to subvert the foundations of Rome, should be left on the

opposite shore. It was thought expedient that an accurate account

should be taken of their numbers; but the persons who were employed soon desisted, with amazement and dismay, from the prosecution of the endless and impracticable task: and the principal historian of the age most

seriously affirms, that the prodigious armies of Darius and Xerxes, which had so long been considered as the fables of vain and credulous antiquity, were now justified, in the eyes of mankind, by the evidence

of fact and experience. A probable testimony has fixed the number of the

Gothic warriors at two hundred thousand men: and if we can venture to add the just proportion of women, of children, and of slaves, the whole

mass of people which composed this formidable emigration, must have amounted to near a million of persons, of both sexes, and of all ages. the children of the Goths, those at least of a distinguished rank, were

separated from the multitude. They were conducted, without delay, to the distant seats assigned for their residence and education; and as the

numerous train of hostages or captives passed through the cities, their

gay and splendid apparel, their robust and martial figure, excited the

surprise and envy of the Provincials. \* But the stipulation, the most

offensive to the Goths, and the most important to the Romans, was

shamefully eluded. The Barbarians, who considered their arms as the ensigns of honor and the pledges of safety, were disposed to offer a

price, which the lust or avarice of the Imperial officers was easily tempted to accept. To preserve their arms, the haughty warriors consented, with some reluctance, to prostitute their wives or their daughters; the charms of a beauteous maid, or a comely boy, secured the connivance of the inspectors; who sometimes cast an eye of covetousness

on the fringed carpets and linen garments of their new allies, or who

sacrificed their duty to the mean consideration of filling their farms with cattle, and their houses with slaves. The Goths, with arms in their

hands, were permitted to enter the boats; and when their strength was collected on the other side of the river, the immense camp which was

spread over the plains and the hills of the Lower Mæsia, assumed a threatening and even hostile aspect. The leaders of the Ostrogoths, alatheus and Saphrax, the guardians of their infant king, appeared

soon afterwards on the Northern banks of the Danube; and immediately despatched their ambassadors to the court of Antioch, to solicit, with the same professions of allegiance and gratitude, the same favor which

had been granted to the suppliant Visigoths. The absolute refusal of

Valens suspended their progress, and discovered the repentance, the

suspicions, and the fears, of the Imperial council.

an undisciplined and unsettled nation of Barbarians required the firmest temper, and the most dexterous management. The daily subsistence of near a million of extraordinary subjects could be supplied only by constant and skilful diligence, and might continually be interrupted by mistake

or accident. The insolence, or the indignation, of the Goths, if they conceived themselves to be the objects either of fear or of contempt,

might urge them to the most desperate extremities; and the fortune of the state seemed to depend on the prudence, as well as the integrity,

of the generals of Valens. At this important crisis, the military

government of Thrace was exercised by Lupicinus and Maximus, in whose

venal minds the slightest hope of private emolument outweighed every consideration of public advantage; and whose guilt was only alleviated by their incapacity of discerning the pernicious effects of their rash and criminal administration. Instead of obeying the orders of their

sovereign, and satisfying, with decent liberality, the demands of the

Goths, they levied an ungenerous and oppressive tax on the wants of the

hungry Barbarians. The vilest food was sold at an extravagant price; and, in the room of wholesome and substantial provisions, the markets were filled with the flesh of dogs, and of unclean animals, who had died

of disease. To obtain the valuable acquisition of a pound of bread, the Goths resigned the possession of an expensive, though serviceable,

slave; and a small quantity of meat was greedily purchased with ten

pounds of a precious, but useless metal, when their property was exhausted, they continued this necessary traffic by the sale of their

sons and daughters; and notwithstanding the love of freedom, which animated every Gothic breast, they submitted to the humiliating maxim, that it was better for their children to be maintained in a servile condition, than to perish in a state of wretched and helpless

independence. The most lively resentment is excited by the tyranny of

pretended benefactors, who sternly exact the debt of gratitude which they have cancelled by subsequent injuries: a spirit of discontent

insensibly arose in the camp of the Barbarians, who pleaded, without

success, the merit of their patient and dutiful behavior; and loudly complained of the inhospitable treatment which they had received from their new allies. They beheld around them the wealth and plenty of a fertile province, in the midst of which they suffered the intolerable

hardships of artificial famine. But the means of relief, and even of

revenge, were in their hands; since the rapaciousness of their tyrants

had left to an injured people the possession and the use of arms. The clamors of a multitude, untaught to disguise their sentiments, announced the first symptoms of resistance, and alarmed the timid and guilty minds

of Lupicinus and Maximus. Those crafty ministers, who substituted the cunning of temporary expedients to the wise and salutary counsels of

general policy, attempted to remove the Goths from their dangerous

station on the frontiers of the empire; and to disperse them, in

separate quarters of cantonment, through the interior provinces. As they were conscious how ill they had deserved the respect, or confidence, of the Barbarians, they diligently collected, from every side, a military force, that might urge the tardy and reluctant march of a people, who

had not yet renounced the title, or the duties, of Roman subjects. But the generals of Valens, while their attention was solely directed to the discontented Visigoths, imprudently disarmed the ships and the fortifications which constituted the defence of the Danube. The fatal

oversight was observed, and improved, by Alatheus and Saphrax, who anxiously watched the favorable moment of escaping from the pursuit

of the Huns. By the help of such rafts and vessels as could be hastily

procured, the leaders of the Ostrogoths transported, without opposition, their king and their army; and boldly fixed a hostile and independent camp on the territories of the empire.

Under the name of Judges, Alavivus and Fritigern were the leaders of the

Visigoths in peace and war; and the authority which they derived from their birth was ratified by the free consent of the nation. In a season

of tranquility, their power might have been equal, as well as their

rank; but, as soon as their countrymen were exasperated by hunger and

oppression, the superior abilities of Fritigern assumed the military command, which he was qualified to exercise for the public welfare. He

restrained the impatient spirit of the Visigoths till the injuries and the insults of their tyrants should justify their resistance in the

opinion of mankind: but he was not disposed to sacrifice any solid advantages for the empty praise of justice and moderation. Sensible

of the benefits which would result from the union of the Gothic powers

under the same standard, he secretly cultivated the friendship of the

Ostrogoths; and while he professed an implicit obedience to the

orders of the Roman generals, he proceeded by slow marches towards

Marcianopolis, the capital of the Lower Mæsia, about seventy miles from the banks of the Danube. On that fatal spot, the flames of discord and

mutual hatred burst forth into a dreadful conflagration. Lupicinus had

invited the Gothic chiefs to a splendid entertainment; and their martial train remained under arms at the entrance of the palace. But the gates

of the city were strictly guarded, and the Barbarians were sternly excluded from the use of a plentiful market, to which they asserted their equal claim of subjects and allies. Their humble prayers were

rejected with insolence and derision; and as their patience was now exhausted, the townsmen, the soldiers, and the Goths, were soon involved

in a conflict of passionate altercation and angry reproaches. A blow was

imprudently given; a sword was hastily drawn; and the first blood that was spilt in this accidental quarrel, became the signal of a long and destructive war. In the midst of noise and brutal intemperance,

Lupicinus was informed, by a secret messenger, that many of his soldiers were slain, and despoiled of their arms; and as he was already inflamed by wine, and oppressed by sleep he issued a rash command, that their death should be revenged by the massacre of the guards of Fritigern and alavivus. The clamorous shouts and dying groans apprised Fritigern of

his extreme danger; and, as he possessed the calm and intrepid spirit of a hero, he saw that he was lost if he allowed a moment of deliberation to the man who had so deeply injured him. "A trifling dispute," said the

Gothic leader, with a firm but gentle tone of voice, "appears to have arisen between the two nations; but it may be productive of the most dangerous consequences, unless the tumult is immediately pacified by the assurance of our safety, and the authority of our presence." At these words, Fritigern and his companions drew their swords, opened their

passage through the unresisting crowd, which filled the palace, the

streets, and the gates, of Marcianopolis, and, mounting their horses,

hastily vanished from the eyes of the astonished Romans. The generals

of the Goths were saluted by the fierce and joyful acclamations of the camp; war was instantly resolved, and the resolution was executed without delay: the banners of the nation were displayed according to the custom of their ancestors; and the air resounded with the harsh and

mournful music of the Barbarian trumpet. The weak and guilty Lupicinus, who had dared to provoke, who had neglected to destroy, and who still

presumed to despise, his formidable enemy, marched against the Goths, at the head of such a military force as could be collected on this sudden emergency. The Barbarians expected his approach about nine miles from

Marcianopolis; and on this occasion the talents of the general were found to be of more prevailing efficacy than the weapons and discipline

of the troops. The valor of the Goths was so ably directed by the genius

of Fritigern, that they broke, by a close and vigorous attack, the

ranks of the Roman legions. Lupicinus left his arms and standards, his tribunes and his bravest soldiers, on the field of battle; and their

useless courage served only to protect the ignominious flight of their leader. "That successful day put an end to the distress of the barbarians, and the security of the Romans: from that day, the Goths,

renouncing the precarious condition of strangers and exiles, assumed the character of citizens and masters, claimed an absolute dominion over the

possessors of land, and held, in their own right, the northern provinces

of the empire, which are bounded by the Danube." Such are the words of the Gothic historian, who celebrates, with rude eloquence, the glory of

his countrymen. But the dominion of the Barbarians was exercised only for the purposes of rapine and destruction. As they had been deprived, by the ministers of the emperor, of the common benefits of nature, and the fair intercourse of social life, they retaliated the injustice on the subjects of the empire; and the crimes of Lupicinus were expiated by the ruin of the peaceful husbandmen of Thrace, the conflagration

of their villages, and the massacre, or captivity, of their innocent families. The report of the Gothic victory was soon diffused over the adjacent country; and while it filled the minds of the Romans with terror and dismay, their own hasty imprudence contributed to increase the forces of Fritigern, and the calamities of the province. Some time before the great emigration, a numerous body of Goths, under the command

of Suerid and Colias, had been received into the protection and service

of the empire. They were encamped under the walls of Hadrianople; but the ministers of Valens were anxious to remove them beyond the

Hellespont, at a distance from the dangerous temptation which might so easily be communicated by the neighborhood, and the success, of their countrymen. The respectful submission with which they yielded to the

order of their march, might be considered as a proof of their fidelity; and their moderate request of a sufficient allowance of provisions, and

of a delay of only two days was expressed in the most dutiful terms. But the first magistrate of Hadrianople, incensed by some disorders which

had been committed at his country-house, refused this indulgence; and arming against them the inhabitants and manufacturers of a populous city, he urged, with hostile threats, their instant departure. The barbarians stood silent and amazed, till they were exasperated by the insulting clamors, and missile weapons, of the populace: but when

patience or contempt was fatigued, they crushed the undisciplined

multitude, inflicted many a shameful wound on the backs of their flying enemies, and despoiled them of the splendid armor, which they were

unworthy to bear. The resemblance of their sufferings and their actions

soon united this victorious detachment to the nation of the Visigoths; the troops of Colias and Suerid expected the approach of the great fritigern, ranged themselves under his standard, and signalized their ardor in the siege of Hadrianople. But the resistance of the garrison

informed the Barbarians, that in the attack of regular fortifications, the efforts of unskillful courage are seldom effectual. Their general acknowledged his error, raised the siege, declared that "he was at

peace with stone walls," and revenged his disappointment on the adjacent country. He accepted, with pleasure, the useful reenforcement of hardy workmen, who labored in the gold mines of Thrace, for the emolument, and under the lash, of an unfeeling master: and these new associates conducted the Barbarians, through the secret paths, to the most

sequestered places, which had been chosen to secure the inhabitants, the cattle, and the magazines of corn. With the assistance of such guides,

nothing could remain impervious or inaccessible; resistance was fatal; flight was impracticable; and the patient submission of helpless

innocence seldom found mercy from the Barbarian conqueror. In the course

of these depredations, a great number of the children of the Goths, who

had been sold into captivity, were restored to the embraces of their afflicted parents; but these tender interviews, which might have revived and cherished in their minds some sentiments of humanity, tended only to stimulate their native fierceness by the desire of revenge. They

listened, with eager attention, to the complaints of their captive children, who had suffered the most cruel indignities from the lustful

or angry passions of their masters, and the same cruelties, the same

indignities, were severely retaliated on the sons and daughters of the

Romans.

the imprudence of Valens and his ministers had introduced into the heart

of the empire a nation of enemies; but the Visigoths might even yet have been reconciled, by the manly confession of past errors, and the sincere

performance of former engagements. These healing and temperate measures

seemed to concur with the timorous disposition of the sovereign of the East: but, on this occasion alone, Valens was brave; and his

unseasonable bravery was fatal to himself and to his subjects. He declared his intention of marching from Antioch to Constantinople, to

subdue this dangerous rebellion; and, as he was not ignorant of the difficulties of the enterprise, he solicited the assistance of his

nephew, the emperor Gratian, who commanded all the forces of the West. the veteran troops were hastily recalled from the defence of Armenia; that important frontier was abandoned to the discretion of Sapor; and the immediate conduct of the Gothic war was intrusted, during the absence of Valens, to his lieutenants Trajan and Profuturus, two

generals who indulged themselves in a very false and favorable opinion

of their own abilities. On their arrival in Thrace, they were joined by

Richomer, count of the domestics; and the auxiliaries of the West, that

marched under his banner, were composed of the Gallic legions, reduced

indeed, by a spirit of desertion, to the vain appearances of strength and numbers. In a council of war, which was influenced by pride,

rather than by reason, it was resolved to seek, and to encounter, the barbarians, who lay encamped in the spacious and fertile meadows,

near the most southern of the six mouths of the Danube. Their camp was

surrounded by the usual fortification of wagons; and the Barbarians,

secure within the vast circle of the enclosure, enjoyed the fruits of their valor, and the spoils of the province. In the midst of riotous

intemperance, the watchful Fritigern observed the motions, and

penetrated the designs, of the Romans. He perceived, that the numbers

of the enemy were continually increasing: and, as he understood their

intention of attacking his rear, as soon as the scarcity of forage

should oblige him to remove his camp, he recalled to their standard his

predatory detachments, which covered the adjacent country. As soon as they descried the flaming beacons, they obeyed, with incredible speed, the signal of their leader: the camp was filled with the martial crowd

of Barbarians; their impatient clamors demanded the battle, and their tumultuous zeal was approved and animated by the spirit of their chiefs. the evening was already far advanced; and the two armies prepared themselves for the approaching combat, which was deferred only till the dawn of day. While the trumpets sounded to arms, the undaunted courage

of the Goths was confirmed by the mutual obligation of a solemn oath; and as they advanced to meet the enemy, the rude songs, which celebrated the glory of their forefathers, were mingled with their fierce and dissonant outcries, and opposed to the artificial harmony of the Roman

shout. Some military skill was displayed by Fritigern to gain the advantage of a commanding eminence; but the bloody conflict, which began and ended with the light, was maintained on either side, by the personal and obstinate efforts of strength, valor, and agility. The legions of armenia supported their fame in arms; but they were oppressed by the

irresistible weight of the hostile multitude the left wing of the Romans was thrown into disorder and the field was strewed with their mangled carcasses. This partial defeat was balanced, however, by partial

success; and when the two armies, at a late hour of the evening,

retreated to their respective camps, neither of them could claim the

honors, or the effects, of a decisive victory. The real loss was more

severely felt by the Romans, in proportion to the smallness of their

numbers; but the Goths were so deeply confounded and dismayed by this

vigorous, and perhaps unexpected, resistance, that they remained seven days within the circle of their fortifications. Such funeral rites, as the circumstances of time and place would admit, were piously discharged to some officers of distinguished rank; but the indiscriminate vulgar was left unburied on the plain. Their flesh was greedily devoured by the birds of prey, who in that age enjoyed very frequent and delicious feasts; and several years afterwards the white and naked bones, which covered the wide extent of the fields, presented to the eyes of Ammianus a dreadful monument of the battle of Salices.

the progress of the Goths had been checked by the doubtful event of that bloody day; and the Imperial generals, whose army would have been consumed by the repetition of such a contest, embraced the more rational

plan of destroying the Barbarians by the wants and pressure of their own

multitudes. They prepared to confine the Visigoths in the narrow angle

of land between the Danube, the desert of Scythia, and the mountains of

Hæmus, till their strength and spirit should be insensibly wasted by the inevitable operation of famine. The design was prosecuted with

some conduct and success: the Barbarians had almost exhausted their

own magazines, and the harvests of the country; and the diligence of

Saturninus, the master-general of the cavalry, was employed to improve the strength, and to contract the extent, of the Roman fortifications.

His labors were interrupted by the alarming intelligence, that new

swarms of Barbarians had passed the unguarded Danube, either to

support the cause, or to imitate the example, of Fritigern. The just apprehension, that he himself might be surrounded, and overwhelmed, by the arms of hostile and unknown nations, compelled Saturninus to

relinquish the siege of the Gothic camp; and the indignant Visigoths, breaking from their confinement, satiated their hunger and revenge by the repeated devastation of the fruitful country, which extends above three hundred miles from the banks of the Danube to the straits of the

Hellespont. The sagacious Fritigern had successfully appealed to the

passions, as well as to the interest, of his Barbarian allies; and the

love of rapine, and the hatred of Rome, seconded, or even prevented, the eloquence of his ambassadors. He cemented a strict and useful alliance with the great body of his countrymen, who obeyed Alatheus and Saphrax as the guardians of their infant king: the long animosity of rival tribes was suspended by the sense of their common interest; the

independent part of the nation was associated under one standard; and the chiefs of the Ostrogoths appear to have yielded to the superior

genius of the general of the Visigoths. He obtained the formidable aid

of the Taifalæ, \* whose military renown was disgraced and polluted by the public infamy of their domestic manners. Every youth, on his entrance into the world, was united by the ties of honorable friendship, and brutal love, to some warrior of the tribe; nor could he hope to be released from this unnatural connection, till he had approved his

manhood by slaying, in single combat, a huge bear, or a wild boar of the forest. But the most powerful auxiliaries of the Goths were drawn from the camp of those enemies who had expelled them from their native seats. the loose subordination, and extensive possessions, of the Huns and the Alani, delayed the conquests, and distracted the councils, of that

victorious people. Several of the hords were allured by the liberal

promises of Fritigern; and the rapid cavalry of Scythia added weight and energy to the steady and strenuous efforts of the Gothic infantry. the Sarmatians, who could never forgive the successor of Valentinian, enjoyed and increased the general confusion; and a seasonable irruption

of the Alemanni, into the provinces of Gaul, engaged the attention, and diverted the forces, of the emperor of the West.

chapter XXVI: Progress of The Huns.--Part IV.

One of the most dangerous inconveniences of the introduction of the barbarians into the army and the palace, was sensibly felt in their correspondence with their hostile countrymen; to whom they imprudently,

or maliciously, revealed the weakness of the Roman empire. A soldier, of the lifeguards of Gratian, was of the nation of the Alemanni, and of the tribe of the Lentienses, who dwelt beyond the Lake of Constance. Some domestic business obliged him to request a leave of absence. In a

short visit to his family and friends, he was exposed to their curious

inquiries: and the vanity of the loquacious soldier tempted him to display his intimate acquaintance with the secrets of the state, and the designs of his master. The intelligence, that Gratian was preparing to

lead the military force of Gaul, and of the West, to the assistance of

his uncle Valens, pointed out to the restless spirit of the Alemanni the

moment, and the mode, of a successful invasion. The enterprise of some

light detachments, who, in the month of February, passed the Rhine upon the ice, was the prelude of a more important war. The boldest hopes

of rapine, perhaps of conquest, outweighed the considerations of timid

prudence, or national faith. Every forest, and every village, poured forth a band of hardy adventurers; and the great army of the Alemanni, which, on their approach, was estimated at forty thousand men by the fears of the people, was afterwards magnified to the number of seventy thousand by the vain and credulous flattery of the Imperial court. The

legions, which had been ordered to march into Pannonia, were immediately

recalled, or detained, for the defence of Gaul; the military command was divided between Nanienus and Mellobaudes; and the youthful emperor, though he respected the long experience and sober wisdom of the former, was much more inclined to admire, and to follow, the martial ardor of

his colleague; who was allowed to unite the incompatible characters of count of the domestics, and of king of the Franks. His rival Priarius,

king of the Alemanni, was guided, or rather impelled, by the same

headstrong valor; and as their troops were animated by the spirit of their leaders, they met, they saw, they encountered each other, near the town of Argentaria, or Colmar, in the plains of Alsace. The glory of the day was justly ascribed to the missile weapons, and well-practised evolutions, of the Roman soldiers; the Alemanni, who long maintained their ground, were slaughtered with unrelenting fury; five thousand only

of the Barbarians escaped to the woods and mountains; and the glorious death of their king on the field of battle saved him from the reproaches

of the people, who are always disposed to accuse the justice, or policy,

of an unsuccessful war. After this signal victory, which secured the

peace of Gaul, and asserted the honor of the Roman arms, the emperor

Gratian appeared to proceed without delay on his Eastern expedition; but as he approached the confines of the Alemanni, he suddenly inclined to the left, surprised them by his unexpected passage of the Rhine, and boldly advanced into the heart of their country. The Barbarians opposed to his progress the obstacles of nature and of courage; and still continued to retreat, from one hill to another, till they were

satisfied, by repeated trials, of the power and perseverance of their enemies. Their submission was accepted as a proof, not indeed of their

sincere repentance, but of their actual distress; and a select number of their brave and robust youth was exacted from the faithless nation, as the most substantial pledge of their future moderation. The subjects of the empire, who had so often experienced that the Alemanni could neither be subdued by arms, nor restrained by treaties, might not promise themselves any solid or lasting tranquillity: but they discovered,

in the virtues of their young sovereign, the prospect of a long and auspicious reign. When the legions climbed the mountains, and scaled the fortifications of the Barbarians, the valor of Gratian was distinguished

in the foremost ranks; and the gilt and variegated armor of his guards was pierced and shattered by the blows which they had received in their constant attachment to the person of their sovereign. At the age of

nineteen, the son of Valentinian seemed to possess the talents of peace and war; and his personal success against the Alemanni was interpreted as a sure presage of his Gothic triumphs.

while Gratian deserved and enjoyed the applause of his subjects, the emperor Valens, who, at length, had removed his court and army from antioch, was received by the people of Constantinople as the author

of the public calamity. Before he had reposed himself ten days in the capital, he was urged by the licentious clamors of the Hippodrome to

march against the Barbarians, whom he had invited into his dominions; and the citizens, who are always brave at a distance from any real danger, declared, with confidence, that, if they were supplied with arms, they alone would undertake to deliver the province from the

ravages of an insulting foe. The vain reproaches of an ignorant

multitude hastened the downfall of the Roman empire; they provoked the desperate rashness of Valens; who did not find, either in his reputation

or in his mind, any motives to support with firmness the public contempt. He was soon persuaded, by the successful achievements of his

lieutenants, to despise the power of the Goths, who, by the diligence

of Fritigern, were now collected in the neighborhood of Hadrianople. The

march of the Taifalæ had been intercepted by the valiant Frigerid: the king of those licentious Barbarians was slain in battle; and the

suppliant captives were sent into distant exile to cultivate the

lands of Italy, which were assigned for their settlement in the vacant territories of Modena and Parma. The exploits of Sebastian, who was

recently engaged in the service of Valens, and promoted to the rank of

master-general of the infantry, were still more honorable to himself, and useful to the republic. He obtained the permission of selecting three hundred soldiers from each of the legions; and this separate detachment soon acquired the spirit of discipline, and the exercise

of arms, which were almost forgotten under the reign of Valens. By the

vigor and conduct of Sebastian, a large body of the Goths were surprised

in their camp; and the immense spoil, which was recovered from their

hands, filled the city of Hadrianople, and the adjacent plain. The

splendid narratives, which the general transmitted of his own exploits, alarmed the Imperial court by the appearance of superior merit; and though he cautiously insisted on the difficulties of the Gothic war,

his valor was praised, his advice was rejected; and Valens, who listened with pride and pleasure to the flattering suggestions of the eunuchs

of the palace, was impatient to seize the glory of an easy and assured conquest. His army was strengthened by a numerous reenforcement of

veterans; and his march from Constantinople to Hadrianople was conducted with so much military skill, that he prevented the activity of the barbarians, who designed to occupy the intermediate defiles, and to

intercept either the troops themselves, or their convoys of provisions. the camp of Valens, which he pitched under the walls of Hadrianople, was fortified, according to the practice of the Romans, with a ditch and

rampart; and a most important council was summoned, to decide the fate

of the emperor and of the empire. The party of reason and of delay was

strenuously maintained by Victor, who had corrected, by the lessons

of experience, the native fierceness of the Sarmatian character; while

Sebastian, with the flexible and obsequious eloquence of a courtier,

represented every precaution, and every measure, that implied a doubt

of immediate victory, as unworthy of the courage and majesty of their

invincible monarch. The ruin of Valens was precipitated by the deceitful arts of Fritigern, and the prudent admonitions of the emperor of the west. The advantages of negotiating in the midst of war were

perfectly understood by the general of the Barbarians; and a Christian ecclesiastic was despatched, as the holy minister of peace, to

penetrate, and to perplex, the councils of the enemy. The misfortunes, as well as the provocations, of the Gothic nation, were forcibly and truly described by their ambassador; who protested, in the name of fritigern, that he was still disposed to lay down his arms, or to employ them only in the defence of the empire; if he could secure for his wandering countrymen a tranquil settlement on the waste lands of Thrace, and a sufficient allowance of corn and cattle. But he added, in a whisper of confidential friendship, that the exasperated Barbarians were averse to these reasonable conditions; and that Fritigern was doubtful whether he could accomplish the conclusion of the treaty, unless he found himself supported by the presence and terrors of an Imperial army. about the same time, Count Richomer returned from the West to announce the defeat and submission of the Alemanni, to inform Valens that

his nephew advanced by rapid marches at the head of the veteran and

victorious legions of Gaul, and to request, in the name of Gratian and

of the republic, that every dangerous and decisive measure might be

suspended, till the junction of the two emperors should insure the

success of the Gothic war. But the feeble sovereign of the East was actuated only by the fatal illusions of pride and jealousy. He disdained the importunate advice; he rejected the humiliating aid; he secretly compared the ignominious, at least the inglorious, period of his own

reign, with the fame of a beardless youth; and Valens rushed into the field, to erect his imaginary trophy, before the diligence of his colleague could usurp any share of the triumphs of the day.

On the ninth of August, a day which has deserved to be marked among the

most inauspicious of the Roman Calendar, the emperor Valens, leaving,

under a strong guard, his baggage and military treasure, marched from

Hadrianople to attack the Goths, who were encamped about twelve miles from the city. By some mistake of the orders, or some ignorance of the

ground, the right wing, or column of cavalry arrived in sight of the enemy, whilst the left was still at a considerable distance; the

soldiers were compelled, in the sultry heat of summer, to precipitate their pace; and the line of battle was formed with tedious confusion and

irregular delay. The Gothic cavalry had been detached to forage in the adjacent country; and Fritigern still continued to practise his customary arts. He despatched messengers of peace, made proposals,

required hostages, and wasted the hours, till the Romans, exposed without shelter to the burning rays of the sun, were exhausted by thirst, hunger, and intolerable fatigue. The emperor was persuaded to

send an ambassador to the Gothic camp; the zeal of Richomer, who alone

had courage to accept the dangerous commission, was applauded; and the count of the domestics, adorned with the splendid ensigns of his dignity, had proceeded some way in the space between the two armies, when he was suddenly recalled by the alarm of battle. The hasty and

imprudent attack was made by Bacurius the Iberian, who commanded a body

of archers and targiteers; and as they advanced with rashness, they

retreated with loss and disgrace. In the same moment, the flying

squadrons of Alatheus and Saphrax, whose return was anxiously expected by the general of the Goths, descended like a whirlwind from the hills,

swept across the plain, and added new terrors to the tumultuous, but

irresistible charge of the Barbarian host. The event of the battle of

Hadrianople, so fatal to Valens and to the empire, may be described in a few words: the Roman cavalry fled; the infantry was abandoned,

surrounded, and cut in pieces. The most skilful evolutions, the firmest courage, are scarcely sufficient to extricate a body of foot, encompassed, on an open plain, by superior numbers of horse; but the troops of Valens, oppressed by the weight of the enemy and their own fears, were crowded into a narrow space, where it was impossible for them to extend their ranks, or even to use, with effect, their swords and javelins. In the midst of tumult, of slaughter, and of dismay, the emperor, deserted by his guards and wounded, as it was supposed, with an arrow, sought protection among the Lancearii and the Mattiarii, who still maintained their ground with some appearance of order and firmness. His faithful generals, Trajan and Victor, who perceived his danger, loudly exclaimed that all was lost, unless the person of the emperor could be saved. Some troops, animated by their exhortation, advanced to his relief: they found only a bloody spot, covered with a

heap of broken arms and mangled bodies, without being able to discover their unfortunate prince, either among the living or the dead. Their

search could not indeed be successful, if there is any truth in the circumstances with which some historians have related the death of the emperor. By the care of his attendants, Valens was removed from the field of battle to a neighboring cottage, where they attempted to dress

his wound, and to provide for his future safety. But this humble retreat was instantly surrounded by the enemy: they tried to force the door, they were provoked by a discharge of arrows from the roof, till at

length, impatient of delay, they set fire to a pile of dry fagots, and consumed the cottage with the Roman emperor and his train. Valens

perished in the flames; and a youth, who dropped from the window, alone escaped, to attest the melancholy tale, and to inform the Goths of the

inestimable prize which they had lost by their own rashness. A great

number of brave and distinguished officers perished in the battle of

Hadrianople, which equalled in the actual loss, and far surpassed in the fatal consequences, the misfortune which Rome had formerly sustained in the fields of Cannæ. Two master-generals of the cavalry and infantry, two great officers of the palace, and thirty-five tribunes, were found among the slain; and the death of Sebastian might satisfy the world, that he was the victim, as well as the author, of the public calamity. above two thirds of the Roman army were destroyed: and the darkness of the night was esteemed a very favorable circumstance, as it served to conceal the flight of the multitude, and to protect the more orderly

retreat of Victor and Richomer, who alone, amidst the general consternation, maintained the advantage of calm courage and regular discipline.

while the impressions of grief and terror were still recent in the minds

of men, the most celebrated rhetorician of the age composed the funeral

oration of a vanquished army, and of an unpopular prince, whose throne was already occupied by a stranger. "There are not wanting," says the candid Libanius, "those who arraign the prudence of the emperor, or who

impute the public misfortune to the want of courage and discipline in the troops. For my own part, I reverence the memory of their former exploits: I reverence the glorious death, which they bravely received,

standing, and fighting in their ranks: I reverence the field of battle,

stained with their blood, and the blood of the Barbarians. Those

honorable marks have been already washed away by the rains; but the

lofty monuments of their bones, the bones of generals, of centurions, and of valiant warriors, claim a longer period of duration. The king

himself fought and fell in the foremost ranks of the battle. His attendants presented him with the fleetest horses of the Imperial

stable, that would soon have carried him beyond the pursuit of the enemy. They vainly pressed him to reserve his important life for the future service of the republic. He still declared that he was unworthy to survive so many of the bravest and most faithful of his subjects; and the monarch was nobly buried under a mountain of the slain. Let none, therefore, presume to ascribe the victory of the Barbarians to the fear, the weakness, or the imprudence, of the Roman troops. The chiefs and the soldiers were animated by the virtue of their ancestors, whom they equalled in discipline and the arts of war. Their generous emulation was

supported by the love of glory, which prompted them to contend at the

same time with heat and thirst, with fire and the sword; and cheerfully to embrace an honorable death, as their refuge against flight and

infamy. The indignation of the gods has been the only cause of the

success of our enemies." The truth of history may disclaim some parts of this panegyric, which cannot strictly be reconciled with the character

of Valens, or the circumstances of the battle: but the fairest commendation is due to the eloquence, and still more to the generosity,

of the sophist of Antioch.

the pride of the Goths was elated by this memorable victory; but their avarice was disappointed by the mortifying discovery, that the richest

part of the Imperial spoil had been within the walls of Hadrianople. they hastened to possess the reward of their valor; but they were encountered by the remains of a vanquished army, with an intrepid

resolution, which was the effect of their despair, and the only hope of their safety. The walls of the city, and the ramparts of the adjacent camp, were lined with military engines, that threw stones of an enormous weight; and astonished the ignorant Barbarians by the noise, and

velocity, still more than by the real effects, of the discharge. The

soldiers, the citizens, the provincials, the domestics of the palace, were united in the danger, and in the defence: the furious assault of the Goths was repulsed; their secret arts of treachery and treason were discovered; and, after an obstinate conflict of many hours, they retired to their tents; convinced, by experience, that it would be far more advisable to observe the treaty, which their sagacious leader had tacitly stipulated with the fortifications of great and populous cities. after the hasty and impolitic massacre of three hundred deserters, an act of justice extremely useful to the discipline of the Roman armies, the Goths indignantly raised the siege of Hadrianople. The scene of war and tumult was instantly converted into a silent solitude: the multitude

suddenly disappeared; the secret paths of the woods and mountains were

marked with the footsteps of the trembling fugitives, who sought a refuge in the distant cities of Illyricum and Macedonia; and the faithful officers of the household, and the treasury, cautiously

proceeded in search of the emperor, of whose death they were still

ignorant. The tide of the Gothic inundation rolled from the walls

of Hadrianople to the suburbs of Constantinople. The Barbarians were

surprised with the splendid appearance of the capital of the East, the

height and extent of the walls, the myriads of wealthy and affrighted citizens who crowded the ramparts, and the various prospect of the sea and land. While they gazed with hopeless desire on the inaccessible beauties of Constantinople, a sally was made from one of the gates by a party of Saracens, who had been fortunately engaged in the service

of Valens. The cavalry of Scythia was forced to yield to the admirable

swiftness and spirit of the Arabian horses: their riders were skilled

in the evolutions of irregular war; and the Northern Barbarians were astonished and dismayed, by the inhuman ferocity of the Barbarians of the South. A Gothic soldier was slain by the dagger of an Arab; and the

hairy, naked savage, applying his lips to the wound, expressed a horrid delight, while he sucked the blood of his vanquished enemy. The army of the Goths, laden with the spoils of the wealthy suburbs and the adjacent territory, slowly moved, from the Bosphorus, to the mountains which form the western boundary of Thrace. The important pass of Succi was betrayed by the fear, or the misconduct, of Maurus; and the Barbarians, who no

longer had any resistance to apprehend from the scattered and vanquished troops of the East, spread themselves over the face of a fertile and cultivated country, as far as the confines of Italy and the Hadriatic

Sea.

the Romans, who so coolly, and so concisely, mention the acts of justice which were exercised by the legions, reserve their compassion, and their eloquence, for their own sufferings, when the provinces were invaded, and desolated, by the arms of the successful Barbarians. The simple circumstantial narrative (did such a narrative exist) of the ruin of a single town, of the misfortunes of a single family, might exhibit an

interesting and instructive picture of human manners: but the tedious

repetition of vague and declamatory complaints would fatigue the attention of the most patient reader. The same censure may be applied, though not perhaps in an equal degree, to the profane, and the ecclesiastical, writers of this unhappy period; that their minds were

inflamed by popular and religious animosity; and that the true size and color of every object is falsified by the exaggerations of their corrupt eloquence. The vehement Jerom might justly deplore the calamities

inflicted by the Goths, and their barbarous allies, on his native country of Pannonia, and the wide extent of the provinces, from the walls of Constantinople to the foot of the Julian Alps; the rapes, the

massacres, the conflagrations; and, above all, the profanation of the churches, that were turned into stables, and the contemptuous treatment

of the relics of holy martyrs. But the Saint is surely transported beyond the limits of nature and history, when he affirms, "that, in those desert countries, nothing was left except the sky and the earth; that, after the destruction of the cities, and the extirpation of the

human race, the land was overgrown with thick forests and inextricable brambles; and that the universal desolation, announced by the prophet

Zephaniah, was accomplished, in the scarcity of the beasts, the birds, and even of the fish." These complaints were pronounced about twenty

years after the death of Valens; and the Illyrian provinces, which were constantly exposed to the invasion and passage of the Barbarians, still continued, after a calamitous period of ten centuries, to supply new

materials for rapine and destruction. Could it even be supposed, that a large tract of country had been left without cultivation and without

inhabitants, the consequences might not have been so fatal to the

inferior productions of animated nature. The useful and feeble animals, which are nourished by the hand of man, might suffer and perish, if they were deprived of his protection; but the beasts of the forest,

his enemies or his victims, would multiply in the free and undisturbed

possession of their solitary domain. The various tribes that people the air, or the waters, are still less connected with the fate of the human

species; and it is highly probable that the fish of the Danube would

have felt more terror and distress, from the approach of a voracious

pike, than from the hostile inroad of a Gothic army.

chapter XXVI: Progress of The Huns.--Part V.

whatever may have been the just measure of the calamities of Europe, there was reason to fear that the same calamities would soon extend to the peaceful countries of Asia. The sons of the Goths had been

judiciously distributed through the cities of the East; and the arts of education were employed to polish, and subdue, the native fierceness

of their temper. In the space of about twelve years, their numbers had continually increased; and the children, who, in the first emigration, were sent over the Hellespont, had attained, with rapid growth, the

strength and spirit of perfect manhood. It was impossible to conceal from their knowledge the events of the Gothic war; and, as those daring

youths had not studied the language of dissimulation, they betrayed their wish, their desire, perhaps their intention, to emulate the

glorious example of their fathers The danger of the times seemed to

justify the jealous suspicions of the provincials; and these suspicions were admitted as unquestionable evidence, that the Goths of Asia had formed a secret and dangerous conspiracy against the public safety. The death of Valens had left the East without a sovereign; and Julius, who filled the important station of master-general of the troops, with a

high reputation of diligence and ability, thought it his duty to consult the senate of Constantinople; which he considered, during the vacancy of the throne, as the representative council of the nation. As soon as he

had obtained the discretionary power of acting as he should judge most expedient for the good of the republic, he assembled the principal

officers, and privately concerted effectual measures for the execution

of his bloody design. An order was immediately promulgated, that, on a

stated day, the Gothic youth should assemble in the capital cities

of their respective provinces; and, as a report was industriously circulated, that they were summoned to receive a liberal gift of lands and money, the pleasing hope allayed the fury of their resentment, and,

perhaps, suspended the motions of the conspiracy. On the appointed day, the unarmed crowd of the Gothic youth was carefully collected in the

square or Forum; the streets and avenues were occupied by the Roman troops, and the roofs of the houses were covered with archers and

slingers. At the same hour, in all the cities of the East, the signal was given of indiscriminate slaughter; and the provinces of Asia were delivered by the cruel prudence of Julius, from a domestic enemy, who,

in a few months, might have carried fire and sword from the Hellespont to the Euphrates. The urgent consideration of the public safety may

undoubtedly authorize the violation of every positive law. How far that, or any other, consideration may operate to dissolve the natural

obligations of humanity and justice, is a doctrine of which I still desire to remain ignorant.

the emperor Gratian was far advanced on his march towards the plains

of Hadrianople, when he was informed, at first by the confused voice

of fame, and afterwards by the more accurate reports of Victor and

Richomer, that his impatient colleague had been slain in battle, and that two thirds of the Roman army were exterminated by the sword of the

victorious Goths. Whatever resentment the rash and jealous vanity of his

uncle might deserve, the resentment of a generous mind is easily subdued by the softer emotions of grief and compassion; and even the sense of

pity was soon lost in the serious and alarming consideration of the

state of the republic. Gratian was too late to assist, he was too weak to revenge, his unfortunate colleague; and the valiant and modest youth felt himself unequal to the support of a sinking world. A formidable tempest of the Barbarians of Germany seemed ready to burst over the

provinces of Gaul; and the mind of Gratian was oppressed and distracted by the administration of the Western empire. In this important crisis, the government of the East, and the conduct of the Gothic war, required the undivided attention of a hero and a statesman. A subject invested with such ample command would not long have preserved his fidelity to a distant benefactor; and the Imperial council embraced the wise and manly

resolution of conferring an obligation, rather than of yielding to an

insult. It was the wish of Gratian to bestow the purple as the reward

of virtue; but, at the age of nineteen, it is not easy for a prince, educated in the supreme rank, to understand the true characters of his

ministers and generals. He attempted to weigh, with an impartial hand, their various merits and defects; and, whilst he checked the rash confidence of ambition, he distrusted the cautious wisdom which despaired of the republic. As each moment of delay diminished something

of the power and resources of the future sovereign of the East, the

situation of the times would not allow a tedious debate. The choice of

Gratian was soon declared in favor of an exile, whose father, only three

years before, had suffered, under the sanction of his authority, an

unjust and ignominious death. The great Theodosius, a name celebrated in

history, and dear to the Catholic church, was summoned to the Imperial court, which had gradually retreated from the confines of Thrace to the

more secure station of Sirmium. Five months after the death of Valens, the emperor Gratian produced before the assembled troops his colleague and their master; who, after a modest, perhaps a sincere, resistance, was compelled to accept, amidst the general acclamations, the diadem, the purple, and the equal title of Augustus. The provinces of Thrace, asia, and Egypt, over which Valens had reigned, were resigned to the administration of the new emperor; but, as he was specially intrusted with the conduct of the Gothic war, the Illyrian præfecture was dismembered; and the two great dioceses of Dacia and Macedonia were added to the dominions of the Eastern empire.

the same province, and perhaps the same city, which had given to the throne the virtues of Trajan, and the talents of Hadrian, was the

original seat of another family of Spaniards, who, in a less fortunate age, possessed, near fourscore years, the declining empire of Rome. They emerged from the obscurity of municipal honors by the active spirit of the elder Theodosius, a general whose exploits in Britain and Africa

have formed one of the most splendid parts of the annals of Valentinian. the son of that general, who likewise bore the name of Theodosius, was educated, by skilful preceptors, in the liberal studies of youth; but

he was instructed in the art of war by the tender care and severe discipline of his father. Under the standard of such a leader, young theodosius sought glory and knowledge, in the most distant scenes of

military action; inured his constitution to the difference of seasons and climates; distinguished his valor by sea and land; and observed the

various warfare of the Scots, the Saxons, and the Moors. His own merit, and the recommendation of the conqueror of Africa, soon raised him to a

separate command; and, in the station of Duke of Mæsia, he vanquished an army of Sarmatians; saved the province; deserved the love of the

soldiers; and provoked the envy of the court. His rising fortunes were

soon blasted by the disgrace and execution of his illustrious father; and Theodosius obtained, as a favor, the permission of retiring to a

private life in his native province of Spain. He displayed a firm and temperate character in the ease with which he adapted himself to this

new situation. His time was almost equally divided between the town and country; the spirit, which had animated his public conduct, was shown

in the active and affectionate performance of every social duty; and the diligence of the soldier was profitably converted to the improvement of

his ample patrimony, which lay between Valladolid and Segovia, in the

midst of a fruitful district, still famous for a most exquisite breed of

sheep. From the innocent, but humble labors of his farm, Theodosius was transported, in less than four months, to the throne of the Eastern empire; and the whole period of the history of the world will not

perhaps afford a similar example, of an elevation at the same time so

pure and so honorable. The princes who peaceably inherit the sceptre of their fathers, claim and enjoy a legal right, the more secure as it is absolutely distinct from the merits of their personal characters. The

subjects, who, in a monarchy, or a popular state, acquire the possession

of supreme power, may have raised themselves, by the superiority either

of genius or virtue, above the heads of their equals; but their

virtue is seldom exempt from ambition; and the cause of the successful candidate is frequently stained by the guilt of conspiracy, or civil war. Even in those governments which allow the reigning monarch to declare a colleague or a successor, his partial choice, which may be

influenced by the blindest passions, is often directed to an unworthy

object But the most suspicious malignity cannot ascribe to Theodosius,

in his obscure solitude of Caucha, the arts, the desires, or even the

hopes, of an ambitious statesman; and the name of the Exile would long

since have been forgotten, if his genuine and distinguished virtues had

not left a deep impression in the Imperial court. During the season

of prosperity, he had been neglected; but, in the public distress, his

superior merit was universally felt and acknowledged. What confidence

must have been reposed in his integrity, since Gratian could trust, that a pious son would forgive, for the sake of the republic, the murder of

his father! What expectations must have been formed of his abilities to encourage the hope, that a single man could save, and restore, the empire of the East! Theodosius was invested with the purple in the thirty-third year of his age. The vulgar gazed with admiration on the

manly beauty of his face, and the graceful majesty of his person, which they were pleased to compare with the pictures and medals of the emperor trajan; whilst intelligent observers discovered, in the qualities of his

heart and understanding, a more important resemblance to the best and

greatest of the Roman princes.

It is not without the most sincere regret, that I must now take leave of an accurate and faithful guide, who has composed the history of his

own times, without indulging the prejudices and passions, which usually affect the mind of a contemporary. Ammianus Marcellinus, who terminates

his useful work with the defeat and death of Valens, recommends the

more glorious subject of the ensuing reign to the youthful vigor and eloquence of the rising generation. The rising generation was not disposed to accept his advice or to imitate his example; and, in the

study of the reign of Theodosius, we are reduced to illustrate the

partial narrative of Zosimus, by the obscure hints of fragments and chronicles, by the figurative style of poetry or panegyric, and by the

precarious assistance of the ecclesiastical writers, who, in the heat of

religious faction, are apt to despise the profane virtues of sincerity and moderation. Conscious of these disadvantages, which will continue to involve a considerable portion of the decline and fall of the Roman empire, I shall proceed with doubtful and timorous steps. Yet I may boldly pronounce, that the battle of Hadrianople was never revenged by any signal or decisive victory of Theodosius over the Barbarians: and the expressive silence of his venal orators may be confirmed by the

observation of the condition and circumstances of the times. The fabric

of a mighty state, which has been reared by the labors of successive ages, could not be overturned by the misfortune of a single day, if the fatal power of the imagination did not exaggerate the real measure of the calamity. The loss of forty thousand Romans, who fell in the plains

of Hadrianople, might have been soon recruited in the populous provinces

of the East, which contained so many millions of inhabitants. The courage of a soldier is found to be the cheapest, and most common,

quality of human nature; and sufficient skill to encounter an

undisciplined foe might have been speedily taught by the care of the

surviving centurions. If the Barbarians were mounted on the horses, and equipped with the armor, of their vanquished enemies, the numerous studs

of Cappadocia and Spain would have supplied new squadrons of cavalry; the thirty-four arsenals of the empire were plentifully stored with

magazines of offensive and defensive arms: and the wealth of Asia might

still have yielded an ample fund for the expenses of the war. But the effects which were produced by the battle of Hadrianople on the minds

of the Barbarians and of the Romans, extended the victory of the former, and the defeat of the latter, far beyond the limits of a single day. A

Gothic chief was heard to declare, with insolent moderation, that, for

his own part, he was fatigued with slaughter: but that he was astonished

how a people, who fled before him like a flock of sheep, could still

presume to dispute the possession of their treasures and provinces. the same terrors which the name of the Huns had spread among the Gothic tribes, were inspired, by the formidable name of the Goths, among the subjects and soldiers of the Roman empire. If Theodosius, hastily collecting his scattered forces, had led them into the field to encounter a victorious enemy, his army would have been vanquished by their own fears; and his rashness could not have been excused by the chance of success. But the great Theodosius, an epithet which he

honorably deserved on this momentous occasion, conducted himself as the firm and faithful guardian of the republic. He fixed his head-quarters at Thessalonica, the capital of the Macedonian diocese; from whence

he could watch the irregular motions of the Barbarians, and direct the

operations of his lieutenants, from the gates of Constantinople to the

shores of the Hadriatic. The fortifications and garrisons of the cities were strengthened; and the troops, among whom a sense of order and discipline was revived, were insensibly emboldened by the confidence of their own safety. From these secure stations, they were encouraged to make frequent sallies on the Barbarians, who infested the adjacent country; and, as they were seldom allowed to engage, without some decisive superiority, either of ground or of numbers, their enterprises were, for the most part, successful; and they were soon convinced, by their own experience, of the possibility of vanquishing their invincible enemies. The detachments of these separate garrisons were generally

united into small armies; the same cautious measures were pursued, according to an extensive and well-concerted plan of operations; the events of each day added strength and spirit to the Roman arms; and the artful diligence of the emperor, who circulated the most favorable

reports of the success of the war, contributed to subdue the pride of the Barbarians, and to animate the hopes and courage of his subjects.

If, instead of this faint and imperfect outline, we could accurately

represent the counsels and actions of Theodosius, in four successive campaigns, there is reason to believe, that his consummate skill would deserve the applause of every military reader. The republic had formerly been saved by the delays of Fabius; and, while the splendid trophies of

Scipio, in the field of Zama, attract the eyes of posterity, the camps and marches of the dictator among the hills of the Campania, may claim a juster proportion of the solid and independent fame, which the general

is not compelled to share, either with fortune or with his troops. Such was likewise the merit of Theodosius; and the infirmities of his body, which most unseasonably languished under a long and dangerous disease, could not oppress the vigor of his mind, or divert his attention from the public service.

the deliverance and peace of the Roman provinces was the work of

prudence, rather than of valor: the prudence of Theodosius was seconded by fortune: and the emperor never failed to seize, and to improve, every favorable circumstance. As long as the superior genius of Fritigern

preserved the union, and directed the motions of the Barbarians, their

power was not inadequate to the conquest of a great empire. The death of that hero, the predecessor and master of the renowned Alaric, relieved an impatient multitude from the intolerable yoke of discipline and discretion. The Barbarians, who had been restrained by his authority, abandoned themselves to the dictates of their passions; and their

passions were seldom uniform or consistent. An army of conquerors was broken into many disorderly bands of savage robbers; and their blind and irregular fury was not less pernicious to themselves, than to their enemies. Their mischievous disposition was shown in the destruction of every object which they wanted strength to remove, or taste to enjoy; and they often consumed, with improvident rage, the harvests, or the granaries, which soon afterwards became necessary for their own

subsistence. A spirit of discord arose among the independent tribes and nations, which had been united only by the bands of a loose and

voluntary alliance. The troops of the Huns and the Alani would naturally

upbraid the flight of the Goths; who were not disposed to use with

moderation the advantages of their fortune; the ancient jealousy of the Ostrogoths and the Visigoths could not long be suspended; and the

haughty chiefs still remembered the insults and injuries, which they had

reciprocally offered, or sustained, while the nation was seated in the countries beyond the Danube. The progress of domestic faction abated the more diffusive sentiment of national animosity; and the officers of theodosius were instructed to purchase, with liberal gifts and promises, the retreat or service of the discontented party. The acquisition

of Modar, a prince of the royal blood of the Amali, gave a bold and faithful champion to the cause of Rome. The illustrious deserter

soon obtained the rank of master-general, with an important command;

surprised an army of his countrymen, who were immersed in wine and

sleep; and, after a cruel slaughter of the astonished Goths, returned with an immense spoil, and four thousand wagons, to the Imperial camp.

In the hands of a skilful politician, the most different means may be

successfully applied to the same ends; and the peace of the empire, which had been forwarded by the divisions, was accomplished by the

reunion, of the Gothic nation. Athanaric, who had been a patient

spectator of these extraordinary events, was at length driven, by the chance of arms, from the dark recesses of the woods of Caucaland. He no

longer hesitated to pass the Danube; and a very considerable part of the

subjects of Fritigern, who already felt the inconveniences of anarchy, were easily persuaded to acknowledge for their king a Gothic Judge, whose birth they respected, and whose abilities they had frequently experienced. But age had chilled the daring spirit of Athanaric; and,

instead of leading his people to the field of battle and victory, he wisely listened to the fair proposal of an honorable and advantageous treaty. Theodosius, who was acquainted with the merit and power of his

new ally, condescended to meet him at the distance of several miles from Constantinople; and entertained him in the Imperial city, with the confidence of a friend, and the magnificence of a monarch. "The barbarian prince observed, with curious attention, the variety of

objects which attracted his notice, and at last broke out into a sincere and passionate exclamation of wonder. I now behold (said he) what I

never could believe, the glories of this stupendous capital! And as

he cast his eyes around, he viewed, and he admired, the commanding

situation of the city, the strength and beauty of the walls and public edifices, the capacious harbor, crowded with innumerable vessels, the

perpetual concourse of distant nations, and the arms and discipline of the troops. Indeed, (continued Athanaric,) the emperor of the Romans is a god upon earth; and the presumptuous man, who dares to lift his hand against him, is guilty of his own blood." The Gothic king did not long enjoy this splendid and honorable reception; and, as temperance was not the virtue of his nation, it may justly be suspected, that his mortal disease was contracted amidst the pleasures of the Imperial banquets. but the policy of Theodosius derived more solid benefit from the death, than he could have expected from the most faithful services, of his ally. The funeral of Athanaric was performed with solemn rites in the capital of the East; a stately monument was erected to his memory; and his whole army, won by the liberal courtesy, and decent grief,

of Theodosius, enlisted under the standard of the Roman empire. The

submission of so great a body of the Visigoths was productive of the

most salutary consequences; and the mixed influence of force, of reason, and of corruption, became every day more powerful, and more extensive. each independent chieftain hastened to obtain a separate treaty, from the apprehension that an obstinate delay might expose him, alone and

unprotected, to the revenge, or justice, of the conqueror. The general,

or rather the final, capitulation of the Goths, may be dated four years,

one month, and twenty-five days, after the defeat and death of the emperor Valens.

the provinces of the Danube had been already relieved from the

oppressive weight of the Gruthungi, or Ostrogoths, by the voluntary

retreat of Alatheus and Saphrax, whose restless spirit had prompted them to seek new scenes of rapine and glory. Their destructive course was

pointed towards the West; but we must be satisfied with a very obscure and imperfect knowledge of their various adventures. The Ostrogoths

impelled several of the German tribes on the provinces of Gaul; concluded, and soon violated, a treaty with the emperor Gratian; advanced into the unknown countries of the North; and, after an interval

of more than four years, returned, with accumulated force, to the banks

of the Lower Danube. Their troops were recruited with the fiercest warriors of Germany and Scythia; and the soldiers, or at least the historians, of the empire, no longer recognized the name and countenances of their former enemies. The general who commanded the

military and naval powers of the Thracian frontier, soon perceived that

his superiority would be disadvantageous to the public service; and that the Barbarians, awed by the presence of his fleet and legions, would

probably defer the passage of the river till the approaching winter. The dexterity of the spies, whom he sent into the Gothic camp, allured the Barbarians into a fatal snare. They were persuaded that, by a bold attempt, they might surprise, in the silence and darkness of the night, the sleeping army of the Romans; and the whole multitude was hastily embarked in a fleet of three thousand canoes. The bravest of the

Ostrogoths led the van; the main body consisted of the remainder

of their subjects and soldiers; and the women and children securely followed in the rear. One of the nights without a moon had been selected for the execution of their design; and they had almost reached the

southern bank of the Danube, in the firm confidence that they should find an easy landing and an unguarded camp. But the progress of the barbarians was suddenly stopped by an unexpected obstacle a triple line

of vessels, strongly connected with each other, and which formed an

impenetrable chain of two miles and a half along the river. While they

struggled to force their way in the unequal conflict, their right flank was overwhelmed by the irresistible attack of a fleet of galleys, which were urged down the stream by the united impulse of oars and of the tide. The weight and velocity of those ships of war broke, and sunk, and dispersed, the rude and feeble canoes of the Barbarians; their valor was ineffectual; and Alatheus, the king, or general, of the Ostrogoths,

perished with his bravest troops, either by the sword of the Romans, or

in the waves of the Danube. The last division of this unfortunate fleet

might regain the opposite shore; but the distress and disorder of the

multitude rendered them alike incapable, either of action or counsel; and they soon implored the clemency of the victorious enemy. On this

occasion, as well as on many others, it is a difficult task to reconcile the passions and prejudices of the writers of the age of Theodosius. The

partial and malignant historian, who misrepresents every action of his

reign, affirms, that the emperor did not appear in the field of battle till the Barbarians had been vanquished by the valor and conduct of his

lieutenant Promotus. The flattering poet, who celebrated, in the court

of Honorius, the glory of the father and of the son, ascribes the

victory to the personal prowess of Theodosius; and almost insinuates, that the king of the Ostrogoths was slain by the hand of the emperor. the truth of history might perhaps be found in a just medium between these extreme and contradictory assertions.

the original treaty which fixed the settlement of the Goths, ascertained their privileges, and stipulated their obligations, would illustrate the

history of Theodosius and his successors. The series of their history

has imperfectly preserved the spirit and substance of this single agreement. The ravages of war and tyranny had provided many large tracts

of fertile but uncultivated land for the use of those Barbarians who

might not disdain the practice of agriculture. A numerous colony of the Visigoths was seated in Thrace; the remains of the Ostrogoths were

planted in Phrygia and Lydia; their immediate wants were supplied by a distribution of corn and cattle; and their future industry was encouraged by an exemption from tribute, during a certain term of years. the Barbarians would have deserved to feel the cruel and perfidious

policy of the Imperial court, if they had suffered themselves to be dispersed through the provinces. They required, and they obtained, the sole possession of the villages and districts assigned for their

residence; they still cherished and propagated their native manners and language; asserted, in the bosom of despotism, the freedom of their domestic government; and acknowledged the sovereignty of the emperor, without submitting to the inferior jurisdiction of the laws and

magistrates of Rome. The hereditary chiefs of the tribes and families were still permitted to command their followers in peace and war; but the royal dignity was abolished; and the generals of the Goths were appointed and removed at the pleasure of the emperor. An army of forty thousand Goths was maintained for the perpetual service of the empire of the East; and those haughty troops, who assumed the title of Federati,

or allies, were distinguished by their gold collars, liberal pay, and

licentious privileges. Their native courage was improved by the use

of arms and the knowledge of discipline; and, while the republic was

guarded, or threatened, by the doubtful sword of the Barbarians, the

last sparks of the military flame were finally extinguished in the minds

of the Romans. Theodosius had the address to persuade his allies, that the conditions of peace, which had been extorted from him by prudence and necessity, were the voluntary expressions of his sincere friendship for the Gothic nation. A different mode of vindication or apology was

opposed to the complaints of the people; who loudly censured these

shameful and dangerous concessions. The calamities of the war were

painted in the most lively colors; and the first symptoms of the return

of order, of plenty, and security, were diligently exaggerated. The advocates of Theodosius could affirm, with some appearance of truth and

reason, that it was impossible to extirpate so many warlike tribes, who were rendered desperate by the loss of their native country; and that the exhausted provinces would be revived by a fresh supply of soldiers and husbandmen. The Barbarians still wore an angry and hostile aspect; but the experience of past times might encourage the hope, that they would acquire the habits of industry and obedience; that their manners would be polished by time, education, and the influence of Christianity; and that their posterity would insensibly blend with the great body of the Roman people.

Notwithstanding these specious arguments, and these sanguine expectations, it was apparent to every discerning eye, that the Goths would long remain the enemies, and might soon become the conquerors

of the Roman empire. Their rude and insolent behavior expressed their contempt of the citizens and provincials, whom they insulted with

impunity. To the zeal and valor of the Barbarians Theodosius was

indebted for the success of his arms: but their assistance was

precarious; and they were sometimes seduced, by a treacherous and

inconstant disposition, to abandon his standard, at the moment when their service was the most essential. During the civil war against

Maximus, a great number of Gothic deserters retired into the morasses

of Macedonia, wasted the adjacent provinces, and obliged the intrepid

monarch to expose his person, and exert his power, to suppress the

rising flame of rebellion. The public apprehensions were fortified by the strong suspicion, that these tumults were not the effect of accidental passion, but the result of deep and premeditated design. It was generally believed, that the Goths had signed the treaty of

peace with a hostile and insidious spirit; and that their chiefs had

previously bound themselves, by a solemn and secret oath, never to

keep faith with the Romans; to maintain the fairest show of loyalty and friendship, and to watch the favorable moment of rapine, of conquest, and of revenge. But as the minds of the Barbarians were not insensible to the power of gratitude, several of the Gothic leaders sincerely devoted themselves to the service of the empire, or, at least, of the emperor; the whole nation was insensibly divided into two opposite factions, and much sophistry was employed in conversation and dispute, to compare the obligations of their first, and second, engagements. The

Goths, who considered themselves as the friends of peace, of justice, and of Rome, were directed by the authority of Fravitta, a valiant and

honorable youth, distinguished above the rest of his countrymen by the

politeness of his manners, the liberality of his sentiments, and the

mild virtues of social life. But the more numerous faction adhered to the fierce and faithless Priulf, \* who inflamed the passions, and asserted the independence, of his warlike followers. On one of the

solemn festivals, when the chiefs of both parties were invited to the

Imperial table, they were insensibly heated by wine, till they forgot the usual restraints of discretion and respect, and betrayed, in the

presence of Theodosius, the fatal secret of their domestic disputes. the emperor, who had been the reluctant witness of this extraordinary controversy, dissembled his fears and resentment, and soon dismissed the tumultuous assembly. Fravitta, alarmed and exasperated by the insolence

of his rival, whose departure from the palace might have been the signal

of a civil war, boldly followed him; and, drawing his sword, laid

Priulf dead at his feet. Their companions flew to arms; and the faithful champion of Rome would have been oppressed by superior numbers, if he

had not been protected by the seasonable interposition of the Imperial

guards. Such were the scenes of Barbaric rage, which disgraced the

palace and table of the Roman emperor; and, as the impatient Goths could

only be restrained by the firm and temperate character of Theodosius, the public safety seemed to depend on the life and abilities of a single

man. End of Vol. 2

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HISTORY OF THE DECLINE AND FALL OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE

by Edward Gibbon

with notes by the Rev. H. H. Milman

Volume 3

chapter XXVII: Civil Wars, Reign Of Theodosius.--Part I.

Death Of Gratian.--Ruin Of Arianism.--St. Ambrose.--First

Civil War, Against Maximus.--Character, Administration, And

Penance Of Theodosius.--Death Of Valentinian II.--Second

Civil War, Against Eugenius.--Death Of Theodosius.

the fame of Gratian, before he had accomplished the twentieth year of

his age, was equal to that of the most celebrated princes. His gentle and amiable disposition endeared him to his private friends, the

graceful affability of his manners engaged the affection of the people: the men of letters, who enjoyed the liberality, acknowledged the taste and eloquence, of their sovereign; his valor and dexterity in arms were equally applauded by the soldiers; and the clergy considered the humble

piety of Gratian as the first and most useful of his virtues. The

victory of Colmar had delivered the West from a formidable invasion; and the grateful provinces of the East ascribed the merits of Theodosius to the author of his greatness, and of the public safety. Gratian survived those memorable events only four or five years; but he survived his

reputation; and, before he fell a victim to rebellion, he had lost, in a

great measure, the respect and confidence of the Roman world.

the remarkable alteration of his character or conduct may not be imputed to the arts of flattery, which had besieged the son of Valentinian from

his infancy; nor to the headstrong passions which the that gentle youth appears to have escaped. A more attentive view of the life of Gratian

may perhaps suggest the true cause of the disappointment of the public

hopes. His apparent virtues, instead of being the hardy productions of experience and adversity, were the premature and artificial fruits of a royal education. The anxious tenderness of his father was continually employed to bestow on him those advantages, which he might perhaps esteem the more highly, as he himself had been deprived of them; and the

most skilful masters of every science, and of every art, had labored to form the mind and body of the young prince. [1] The knowledge which they

painfully communicated was displayed with ostentation, and celebrated with lavish praise. His soft and tractable disposition received the fair

impression of their judicious precepts, and the absence of passion might easily be mistaken for the strength of reason. His preceptors gradually

rose to the rank and consequence of ministers of state: [2] and, as they wisely dissembled their secret authority, he seemed to act with firmness, with propriety, and with judgment, on the most important

occasions of his life and reign. But the influence of this elaborate

instruction did not penetrate beyond the surface; and the skilful

preceptors, who so accurately guided the steps of their royal pupil, could not infuse into his feeble and indolent character the vigorous and

independent principle of action which renders the laborious pursuit

of glory essentially necessary to the happiness, and almost to the existence, of the hero. As soon as time and accident had removed those faithful counsellors from the throne, the emperor of the West insensibly descended to the level of his natural genius; abandoned the reins of

government to the ambitious hands which were stretched forwards to grasp them; and amused his leisure with the most frivolous gratifications. A

public sale of favor and injustice was instituted, both in the court and

in the provinces, by the worthless delegates of his power, whose merit

it was made sacrilege to question. [3] The conscience of the credulous

prince was directed by saints and bishops; [4] who procured an Imperial edict to punish, as a capital offence, the violation, the neglect, or even the ignorance, of the divine law. [5] Among the various arts which had exercised the youth of Gratian, he had applied himself, with

singular inclination and success, to manage the horse, to draw the bow, and to dart the javelin; and these qualifications, which might be useful to a soldier, were prostituted to the viler purposes of hunting. Large

parks were enclosed for the Imperial pleasures, and plentifully stocked with every species of wild beasts; and Gratian neglected the duties, and even the dignity, of his rank, to consume whole days in the vain display

of his dexterity and boldness in the chase. The pride and wish of the

Roman emperor to excel in an art, in which he might be surpassed by the

meanest of his slaves, reminded the numerous spectators of the examples

of Nero and Commodus, but the chaste and temperate Gratian was a

stranger to their monstrous vices; and his hands were stained only with the blood of animals. [6] The behavior of Gratian, which degraded his character in the eyes of mankind, could not have disturbed the security

of his reign, if the army had not been provoked to resent their peculiar

injuries. As long as the young emperor was guided by the instructions of

his masters, he professed himself the friend and pupil of the soldiers;

many of his hours were spent in the familiar conversation of the camp; and the health, the comforts, the rewards, the honors, of his faithful troops, appeared to be the objects of his attentive concern. But, after Gratian more freely indulged his prevailing taste for hunting and shooting, he naturally connected himself with the most dexterous

ministers of his favorite amusement. A body of the Alani was received

into the military and domestic service of the palace; and the admirable

skill, which they were accustomed to display in the unbounded plains

of Scythia, was exercised, on a more narrow theatre, in the parks and enclosures of Gaul. Gratian admired the talents and customs of these favorite guards, to whom alone he intrusted the defence of his person; and, as if he meant to insult the public opinion, he frequently showed

himself to the soldiers and people, with the dress and arms, the long bow, the sounding quiver, and the fur garments of a Scythian warrior. the unworthy spectacle of a Roman prince, who had renounced the dress and manners of his country, filled the minds of the legions with grief and indignation. [7] Even the Germans, so strong and formidable in the armies of the empire, affected to disdain the strange and horrid appearance of the savages of the North, who, in the space of a few

years, had wandered from the banks of the Volga to those of the Seine. A

loud and licentious murmur was echoed through the camps and garrisons of the West; and as the mild indolence of Gratian neglected to extinguish the first symptoms of discontent, the want of love and respect was not

supplied by the influence of fear. But the subversion of an established

government is always a work of some real, and of much apparent, difficulty; and the throne of Gratian was protected by the sanctions of custom, law, religion, and the nice balance of the civil and military

powers, which had been established by the policy of Constantine. It is

not very important to inquire from what cause the revolt of Britain was produced. Accident is commonly the parent of disorder; the seeds

of rebellion happened to fall on a soil which was supposed to be more fruitful than any other in tyrants and usurpers; [8] the legions of that

sequestered island had been long famous for a spirit of presumption and arrogance; [9] and the name of Maximus was proclaimed, by the tumultuary, but unanimous voice, both of the soldiers and of the

provincials. The emperor, or the rebel,--for this title was not yet ascertained by fortune,--was a native of Spain, the countryman, the fellow-soldier, and the rival of Theodosius whose elevation he had not

seen without some emotions of envy and resentment: the events of his

life had long since fixed him in Britain; and I should not be unwilling to find some evidence for the marriage, which he is said to have contracted with the daughter of a wealthy lord of Caernarvonshire. [10] but this provincial rank might justly be considered as a state of exile and obscurity; and if Maximus had obtained any civil or military office,

he was not invested with the authority either of governor or general.

[11] His abilities, and even his integrity, are acknowledged by the partial writers of the age; and the merit must indeed have been conspicuous that could extort such a confession in favor of the

vanquished enemy of Theodosius. The discontent of Maximus might incline

him to censure the conduct of his sovereign, and to encourage, perhaps, without any views of ambition, the murmurs of the troops. But in the

midst of the tumult, he artfully, or modestly, refused to ascend the throne; and some credit appears to have been given to his own positive declaration, that he was compelled to accept the dangerous present of the Imperial purple. [12]

[Footnote 1: Valentinian was less attentive to the religion of his son;

since he intrusted the education of Gratian to Ausonius, a professed

Pagan. (Mem. de l'Academie des Inscriptions, tom. xv. p. 125-138). The

poetical fame of Ausonius condemns the taste of his age.]

[Footnote 2: Ausonius was successively promoted to the Praetorian

praefecture of Italy, (A.D. 377,) and of Gaul, (A.D. 378;) and was at length invested with the consulship, (A.D. 379.) He expressed his

gratitude in a servile and insipid piece of flattery, (Actio Gratiarum,

p. 699-736,) which has survived more worthy productions.]

[Footnote 3: Disputare de principali judicio non oportet. Sacrilegii enim instar est dubitare, an is dignus sit, quem elegerit imperator. codex Justinian, l. ix. tit. xxix. leg. 3. This convenient law was

revived and promulgated, after the death of Gratian, by the feeble court

of Milan.]

[Footnote 4: Ambrose composed, for his instruction, a theological treatise on the faith of the Trinity: and Tillemont, (Hist. des empereurs, tom. v. p. 158, 169,) ascribes to the archbishop the merit of

Gratian's intolerant laws.]

[Footnote 5: Qui divinae legis sanctitatem nesciendo omittunt, aut

negligende violant, et offendunt, sacrilegium committunt. Codex

Justinian. l. ix. tit. xxix. leg. 1. Theodosius indeed may claim his

share in the merit of this comprehensive law.]

[Footnote 6: Ammianus (xxxi. 10) and the younger Victor acknowledge the

virtues of Gratian; and accuse, or rather lament, his degenerate taste. the odious parallel of Commodus is saved by "licet incruentus;" and

perhaps Philostorgius (l. x. c. 10, and Godefroy, p. 41) had guarded with some similar reserve, the comparison of Nero.]

[Footnote 7: Zosimus (l. iv. p. 247) and the younger Victor ascribe the

revolution to the favor of the Alani, and the discontent of the Roman troops Dum exercitum negligeret, et paucos ex Alanis, quos ingenti auro ad sa transtulerat, anteferret veteri ac Romano militi.]

[Footnote 8: Britannia fertilis provincia tyrannorum, is a memorable expression, used by Jerom in the Pelagian controversy, and variously tortured in the disputes of our national antiquaries. The revolutions

of the last age appeared to justify the image of the sublime Bossuet,

"sette ile, plus orageuse que les mers qui l'environment."]

[Footnote 9: Zosimus says of the British soldiers.]

[Footnote 10: Helena, the daughter of Eudda. Her chapel may still be

seen at Caer-segont, now Caer-narvon. (Carte's Hist. of England, vol. i.

p. 168, from Rowland's Mona Antiqua.) The prudent reader may not perhaps be satisfied with such Welsh evidence.]

[Footnote 11: Camden (vol. i. introduct. p. ci.) appoints him governor at Britain; and the father of our antiquities is followed, as usual, by

his blind progeny. Pacatus and Zosimus had taken some pains to prevent this error, or fable; and I shall protect myself by their decisive testimonies. Regali habitu exulem suum, illi exules orbis induerunt, (in

Panegyr. Vet. xii. 23,) and the Greek historian still less equivocally,

(Maximus) (l. iv. p. 248.)]

[Footnote 12: Sulpicius Severus, Dialog. ii. 7. Orosius, l. vii. c.

34. p. 556. They both acknowledge (Sulpicius had been his subject) his

innocence and merit. It is singular enough, that Maximus should be less favorably treated by Zosimus, the partial adversary of his rival.]

but there was danger likewise in refusing the empire; and from the

moment that Maximus had violated his allegiance to his lawful sovereign,

he could not hope to reign, or even to live, if he confined his moderate ambition within the narrow limits of Britain. He boldly and wisely

resolved to prevent the designs of Gratian; the youth of the island crowded to his standard, and he invaded Gaul with a fleet and army, which were long afterwards remembered, as the emigration of a considerable part of the British nation. [13] The emperor, in his

peaceful residence of Paris, was alarmed by their hostile approach; and the darts which he idly wasted on lions and bears, might have been employed more honorably against the rebels. But his feeble efforts announced his degenerate spirit and desperate situation; and deprived

him of the resources, which he still might have found, in the support

of his subjects and allies. The armies of Gaul, instead of opposing the

march of Maximus, received him with joyful and loyal acclamations; and the shame of the desertion was transferred from the people to the

prince. The troops, whose station more immediately attached them to the

service of the palace, abandoned the standard of Gratian the first time that it was displayed in the neighborhood of Paris. The emperor of the west fled towards Lyons, with a train of only three hundred horse; and,

in the cities along the road, where he hoped to find refuge, or at least a passage, he was taught, by cruel experience, that every gate is shut against the unfortunate. Yet he might still have reached, in safety, the dominions of his brother; and soon have returned with the forces

of Italy and the East; if he had not suffered himself to be fatally deceived by the perfidious governor of the Lyonnese province. Gratian was amused by protestations of doubtful fidelity, and the hopes of a

support, which could not be effectual; till the arrival of Andragathius, the general of the cavalry of Maximus, put an end to his suspense. That

resolute officer executed, without remorse, the orders or the intention

of the usurper. Gratian, as he rose from supper, was delivered into the

hands of the assassin: and his body was denied to the pious and pressing entreaties of his brother Valentinian. [14] The death of the emperor was followed by that of his powerful general Mellobaudes, the king of the franks; who maintained, to the last moment of his life, the ambiguous

reputation, which is the just recompense of obscure and subtle policy.

[15] These executions might be necessary to the public safety: but the

successful usurper, whose power was acknowledged by all the provinces of the West, had the merit, and the satisfaction, of boasting, that, except those who had perished by the chance of war, his triumph was not stained by the blood of the Romans. [16]

[Footnote 13: Archbishop Usher (Antiquat. Britan. Eccles. p. 107, 108)

has diligently collected the legends of the island, and the continent. the whole emigration consisted of 30,000 soldiers, and 100,000

plebeians, who settled in Bretagne. Their destined brides, St. Ursula with 11,000 noble, and 60,000 plebeian, virgins, mistook their way;

landed at Cologne, and were all most cruelly murdered by the Huns. But the plebeian sisters have been defrauded of their equal honors; and what

is still harder, John Trithemius presumes to mention the children of these British virgins.]

[Footnote 14: Zosimus (l. iv. p. 248, 249) has transported the death

of Gratian from Lugdunum in Gaul (Lyons) to Singidunum in Moesia. Some

hints may be extracted from the Chronicles; some lies may be detected in

Sozomen (l. vii. c. 13) and Socrates, (l. v. c. 11.) Ambrose is our

most authentic evidence, (tom. i. Enarrat. in Psalm lxi. p. 961, tom ii. epist. xxiv. p. 888 &c., and de Obitu Valentinian Consolat. Ner. 28, p.

1182.)]

[Footnote 15: Pacatus (xii. 28) celebrates his fidelity; while his treachery is marked in Prosper's Chronicle, as the cause of the ruin of

Gratian. Ambrose, who has occasion to exculpate himself, only condemns the death of Vallio, a faithful servant of Gratian, (tom. ii. epist.

xxiv. p. 891, edit. Benedict.) \* Note: Le Beau contests the reading

in the chronicle of Prosper upon which this charge rests. Le Beau, iv.

232.--M. \* Note: According to Pacatus, the Count Vallio, who commanded the army, was carried to Chalons to be burnt alive; but Maximus, dreading the imputation of cruelty, caused him to be secretly strangled by his Bretons. Macedonius also, master of the offices, suffered the death which he merited. Le Beau, iv. 244.--M.]

[Footnote 16: He protested, nullum ex adversariis nisi in acissie

occubu. Sulp. Jeverus in Vit. B. Martin, c. 23. The orator Theodosius bestows reluctant, and therefore weighty, praise on his clemency. Si cui ille, pro ceteris sceleribus suis, minus crudelis fuisse videtur,

(Panegyr. Vet. xii. 28.)]

the events of this revolution had passed in such rapid succession, that

it would have been impossible for Theodosius to march to the relief of

his benefactor, before he received the intelligence of his defeat and death. During the season of sincere grief, or ostentatious mourning, the Eastern emperor was interrupted by the arrival of the principal chamberlain of Maximus; and the choice of a venerable old man, for an

office which was usually exercised by eunuchs, announced to the court of constantinople the gravity and temperance of the British usurper.

the ambassador condescended to justify, or excuse, the conduct of his

master; and to protest, in specious language, that the murder of

Gratian had been perpetrated, without his knowledge or consent, by the

precipitate zeal of the soldiers. But he proceeded, in a firm and equal tone, to offer Theodosius the alternative of peace, or war. The speech

of the ambassador concluded with a spirited declaration, that although

Maximus, as a Roman, and as the father of his people, would choose

rather to employ his forces in the common defence of the republic,

he was armed and prepared, if his friendship should be rejected, to dispute, in a field of battle, the empire of the world. An immediate and peremptory answer was required; but it was extremely difficult for theodosius to satisfy, on this important occasion, either the feelings

of his own mind, or the expectations of the public. The imperious voice

of honor and gratitude called aloud for revenge. From the liberality

of Gratian, he had received the Imperial diadem; his patience would encourage the odious suspicion, that he was more deeply sensible of former injuries, than of recent obligations; and if he accepted the friendship, he must seem to share the guilt, of the assassin. Even the

principles of justice, and the interest of society, would receive a fatal blow from the impunity of Maximus; and the example of successful

usurpation would tend to dissolve the artificial fabric of government, and once more to replunge the empire in the crimes and calamities of the preceding age. But, as the sentiments of gratitude and honor

should invariably regulate the conduct of an individual, they may be overbalanced in the mind of a sovereign, by the sense of superior duties; and the maxims both of justice and humanity must permit the escape of an atrocious criminal, if an innocent people would be involved

in the consequences of his punishment. The assassin of Gratian had

usurped, but he actually possessed, the most warlike provinces of the empire: the East was exhausted by the misfortunes, and even by the

success, of the Gothic war; and it was seriously to be apprehended, that, after the vital strength of the republic had been wasted in a doubtful and destructive contest, the feeble conqueror would remain an easy prey to the Barbarians of the North. These weighty considerations engaged Theodosius to dissemble his resentment, and to accept the alliance of the tyrant. But he stipulated, that Maximus should content

himself with the possession of the countries beyond the Alps. The brother of Gratian was confirmed and secured in the sovereignty of

Italy, Africa, and the Western Illyricum; and some honorable conditions were inserted in the treaty, to protect the memory, and the laws, of the deceased emperor. [17] According to the custom of the age, the images

of the three Imperial colleagues were exhibited to the veneration of the people; nor should it be lightly supposed, that, in the moment of a solemn reconciliation, Theodosius secretly cherished the intention of

perfidy and revenge. [18]

[Footnote 17: Ambrose mentions the laws of Gratian, quas non abrogavit

hostia (tom. ii epist. xvii. p. 827.)]

[Footnote 18: Zosimus, l. iv. p. 251, 252. We may disclaim his odious

suspicions; but we cannot reject the treaty of peace which the friends

of Theodosius have absolutely forgotten, or slightly mentioned.]

the contempt of Gratian for the Roman soldiers had exposed him to the fatal effects of their resentment. His profound veneration for the christian clergy was rewarded by the applause and gratitude of a

powerful order, which has claimed, in every age, the privilege of dispensing honors, both on earth and in heaven. [19] The orthodox bishops bewailed his death, and their own irreparable loss; but they were soon comforted by the discovery, that Gratian had committed the

sceptre of the East to the hands of a prince, whose humble faith and fervent zeal, were supported by the spirit and abilities of a more

vigorous character. Among the benefactors of the church, the fame of constantine has been rivalled by the glory of Theodosius. If Constantine

had the advantage of erecting the standard of the cross, the emulation

of his successor assumed the merit of subduing the Arian heresy, and of abolishing the worship of idols in the Roman world. Theodosius was the first of the emperors baptized in the true faith of the Trinity. although he was born of a Christian family, the maxims, or at least the practice, of the age, encouraged him to delay the ceremony of

his initiation; till he was admonished of the danger of delay, by the

serious illness which threatened his life, towards the end of the first

year of his reign. Before he again took the field against the Goths,

he received the sacrament of baptism [20] from Acholius, the orthodox bishop of Thessalonica: [21] and, as the emperor ascended from the holy font, still glowing with the warm feelings of regeneration, he dictated a solemn edict, which proclaimed his own faith, and prescribed the

religion of his subjects. "It is our pleasure (such is the Imperial

style) that all the nations, which are governed by our clemency and

moderation, should steadfastly adhere to the religion which was taught by St. Peter to the Romans; which faithful tradition has preserved; and which is now professed by the pontiff Damasus, and by Peter, bishop of alexandria, a man of apostolic holiness. According to the discipline of the apostles, and the doctrine of the gospel, let us believe the

sole deity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; under an equal

majesty, and a pious Trinity. We authorize the followers of this doctrine to assume the title of Catholic Christians; and as we judge, that all others are extravagant madmen, we brand them with the infamous

name of Heretics; and declare that their conventicles shall no longer

usurp the respectable appellation of churches. Besides the condemnation

of divine justice, they must expect to suffer the severe penalties, which our authority, guided by heavenly wisdom, shall think proper to

inflict upon them." [22] The faith of a soldier is commonly the fruit of

instruction, rather than of inquiry; but as the emperor always fixed his eyes on the visible landmarks of orthodoxy, which he had so prudently constituted, his religious opinions were never affected by the specious texts, the subtle arguments, and the ambiguous creeds of the Arian doctors. Once indeed he expressed a faint inclination to converse with the eloquent and learned Eunomius, who lived in retirement at a small distance from Constantinople. But the dangerous interview was prevented by the prayers of the empress Flaccilla, who trembled for the

salvation of her husband; and the mind of Theodosius was confirmed by a theological argument, adapted to the rudest capacity. He had lately bestowed on his eldest son, Arcadius, the name and honors of Augustus, and the two princes were seated on a stately throne to receive the

homage of their subjects. A bishop, Amphilochius of Iconium, approached the throne, and after saluting, with due reverence, the person of his

sovereign, he accosted the royal youth with the same familiar tenderness which he might have used towards a plebeian child. Provoked by this

insolent behavior, the monarch gave orders, that the rustic priest

should be instantly driven from his presence. But while the guards were forcing him to the door, the dexterous polemic had time to execute his design, by exclaiming, with a loud voice, "Such is the treatment, O emperor! which the King of heaven has prepared for those impious men, who affect to worship the Father, but refuse to acknowledge the equal

majesty of his divine Son." Theodosius immediately embraced the bishop

of Iconium, and never forgot the important lesson, which he had received from this dramatic parable. [23]

[Footnote 19: Their oracle, the archbishop of Milan, assigns to his

pupil Gratian, a high and respectable place in heaven, (tom. ii. de

Obit. Val. Consol p. 1193.)]

[Footnote 20: For the baptism of Theodosius, see Sozomen, (l. vii. c.

4,) Socrates, (l. v. c. 6,) and Tillemont, (Hist. des Empereurs, tom. v.

p. 728.)]

[Footnote 21: Ascolius, or Acholius, was honored by the friendship, and the praises, of Ambrose; who styles him murus fidei atque sanctitatis,

(tom. ii. epist. xv. p. 820;) and afterwards celebrates his speed and diligence in running to Constantinople, Italy, &c., (epist. xvi. p.

822.) a virtue which does not appertain either to a wall, or a bishop.]

[Footnote 22: Codex Theodos. l. xvi. tit. i. leg. 2, with Godefroy's commentary, tom. vi. p. 5-9. Such an edict deserved the warmest praises

of Baronius, auream sanctionem, edictum pium et salutare.--Sic itua ad astra.]

[Footnote 23: Sozomen, l. vii. c. 6. Theodoret, l. v. c. 16. Tillemont

is displeased (Mem. Eccles. tom. vi. p. 627, 628) with the terms of

"rustic bishop," "obscure city." Yet I must take leave to think, that both Amphilochius and Iconium were objects of inconsiderable magnitude

in the Roman empire.]

chapter XXVII: Civil Wars, Reign Of Theodosius.--Part II.

constantinople was the principal seat and fortress of Arianism; and,

in a long interval of forty years, [24] the faith of the princes and

prelates, who reigned in the capital of the East, was rejected in the

purer schools of Rome and Alexandria. The archiepiscopal throne of

Macedonius, which had been polluted with so much Christian blood, was

successively filled by Eudoxus and Damophilus. Their diocese enjoyed a free importation of vice and error from every province of the empire; the eager pursuit of religious controversy afforded a new occupation to the busy idleness of the metropolis; and we may credit the assertion

of an intelligent observer, who describes, with some pleasantry, the effects of their loquacious zeal. "This city," says he, "is full of

mechanics and slaves, who are all of them profound theologians; and

preach in the shops, and in the streets. If you desire a man to change a piece of silver, he informs you, wherein the Son differs from the father; if you ask the price of a loaf, you are told by way of reply, that the Son is inferior to the Father; and if you inquire, whether the bath is ready, the answer is, that the Son was made out of nothing."

[25] The heretics, of various denominations, subsisted in peace under the protection of the Arians of Constantinople; who endeavored to secure the attachment of those obscure sectaries, while they abused, with

unrelenting severity, the victory which they had obtained over the followers of the council of Nice. During the partial reigns of constantius and Valens, the feeble remnant of the Homoousians was deprived of the public and private exercise of their religion; and it

has been observed, in pathetic language, that the scattered flock was

left without a shepherd to wander on the mountains, or to be devoured by rapacious wolves. [26] But, as their zeal, instead of being subdued, derived strength and vigor from oppression, they seized the first

moments of imperfect freedom, which they had acquired by the death

of Valens, to form themselves into a regular congregation, under the conduct of an episcopal pastor. Two natives of Cappadocia, Basil, and Gregory Nazianzen, [27] were distinguished above all their contemporaries, [28] by the rare union of profane eloquence and of

orthodox piety.

these orators, who might sometimes be compared, by themselves, and by the public, to the most celebrated of the ancient Greeks, were united by the ties of the strictest friendship. They had cultivated, with equal ardor, the same liberal studies in the schools of Athens; they

had retired, with equal devotion, to the same solitude in the deserts

of Pontus; and every spark of emulation, or envy, appeared to be totally extinguished in the holy and ingenuous breasts of Gregory and Basil. but the exaltation of Basil, from a private life to the archiepiscopal throne of Caesarea, discovered to the world, and perhaps to himself, the pride of his character; and the first favor which he condescended to bestow on his friend, was received, and perhaps was intended, as a cruel

insult. [29] Instead of employing the superior talents of Gregory in

some useful and conspicuous station, the haughty prelate selected, among the fifty bishoprics of his extensive province, the wretched village of

Sasima, [30] without water, without verdure, without society, situate at the junction of three highways, and frequented only by the incessant

passage of rude and clamorous wagoners. Gregory submitted with

reluctance to this humiliating exile; he was ordained bishop of Sasima; but he solemnly protests, that he never consummated his spiritual

marriage with this disgusting bride. He afterwards consented to

undertake the government of his native church of Nazianzus, [31] of which his father had been bishop above five-and-forty years. But as

he was still conscious that he deserved another audience, and another theatre, he accepted, with no unworthy ambition, the honorable

invitation, which was addressed to him from the orthodox party of constantinople. On his arrival in the capital, Gregory was entertained

in the house of a pious and charitable kinsman; the most spacious

room was consecrated to the uses of religious worship; and the name of anastasia was chosen to express the resurrection of the Nicene faith. this private conventicle was afterwards converted into a magnificent church; and the credulity of the succeeding age was prepared to believe the miracles and visions, which attested the presence, or at least the

protection, of the Mother of God. [32] The pulpit of the Anastasia was the scene of the labors and triumphs of Gregory Nazianzen; and, in the

space of two years, he experienced all the spiritual adventures which constitute the prosperous or adverse fortunes of a missionary. [33] The arians, who were provoked by the boldness of his enterprise, represented

his doctrine, as if he had preached three distinct and equal Deities; and the devout populace was excited to suppress, by violence and tumult, the irregular assemblies of the Athanasian heretics. From the cathedral

of St. Sophia there issued a motley crowd "of common beggars, who had forfeited their claim to pity; of monks, who had the appearance of goats

or satyrs; and of women, more terrible than so many Jezebels." The doors

of the Anastasia were broke open; much mischief was perpetrated, or attempted, with sticks, stones, and firebrands; and as a man lost his

life in the affray, Gregory, who was summoned the next morning before the magistrate, had the satisfaction of supposing, that he publicly confessed the name of Christ. After he was delivered from the fear and danger of a foreign enemy, his infant church was disgraced and distracted by intestine faction. A stranger who assumed the name of

Maximus, [34] and the cloak of a Cynic philosopher, insinuated himself

into the confidence of Gregory; deceived and abused his favorable

opinion; and forming a secret connection with some bishops of Egypt, attempted, by a clandestine ordination, to supplant his patron in the episcopal seat of Constantinople. These mortifications might sometimes tempt the Cappadocian missionary to regret his obscure solitude. But

his fatigues were rewarded by the daily increase of his fame and his congregation; and he enjoyed the pleasure of observing, that the greater

part of his numerous audience retired from his sermons satisfied with the eloquence of the preacher, [35] or dissatisfied with the manifold

imperfections of their faith and practice. [36]

[Footnote 24: Sozomen, l. vii. c. v. Socrates, l. v. c. 7. Marcellin.

in Chron. The account of forty years must be dated from the election or

intrusion of Eusebius, who wisely exchanged the bishopric of Nicomedia for the throne of Constantinople.]

[Footnote 25: See Jortin's Remarks on Ecclesiastical History, vol. iv.

p. 71. The thirty-third Oration of Gregory Nazianzen affords indeed some

similar ideas, even some still more ridiculous; but I have not yet found the words of this remarkable passage, which I allege on the faith of a correct and liberal scholar.]

[Footnote 26: See the thirty-second Oration of Gregory Nazianzen, and the account of his own life, which he has composed in 1800 iambics.

Yet every physician is prone to exaggerate the inveterate nature of the disease which he has cured.]

[Footnote 27: I confess myself deeply indebted to the two lives of

Gregory Nazianzen, composed, with very different views, by Tillemont

(Mem. Eccles. tom. ix. p. 305-560, 692-731) and Le Clerc, (Bibliotheque

Universelle, tom. xviii. p. 1-128.)]

[Footnote 28: Unless Gregory Nazianzen mistook thirty years in his own age, he was born, as well as his friend Basil, about the year 329. The

preposterous chronology of Suidas has been graciously received, because

it removes the scandal of Gregory's father, a saint likewise, begetting children after he became a bishop, (Tillemont, Mem. Eccles. tom. ix. p.

693-697.)]

[Footnote 29: Gregory's Poem on his own Life contains some beautiful

lines, (tom. ii. p. 8,) which burst from the heart, and speak the pangs

of injured and lost friendship. ----In the Midsummer Night's Dream,

Helena addresses the same pathetic complaint to her friend Hermia:--Is all the counsel that we two have shared. The sister's vows, &c.

Shakspeare had never read the poems of Gregory Nazianzen; he was

ignorant of the Greek language; but his mother tongue, the language of

Nature, is the same in Cappadocia and in Britain.]

[Footnote 30: This unfavorable portrait of Sasimae is drawn by Gregory

Nazianzen, (tom. ii. de Vita sua, p. 7, 8.) Its precise situation, forty-nine miles from Archelais, and thirty-two from Tyana, is fixed in the Itinerary of Antoninus, (p. 144, edit. Wesseling.)]

[Footnote 31: The name of Nazianzus has been immortalized by

Gregory; but his native town, under the Greek or Roman title of diocaesarea, (Tillemont, Mem. Eccles. tom. ix. p. 692,) is mentioned by

Pliny, (vi. 3,) Ptolemy, and Hierocles, (Itinerar. Wesseling, p. 709).

It appears to have been situate on the edge of Isauria.]

[Footnote 32: See Ducange, Constant. Christiana, l. iv. p. 141, 142. The

Sozomen (l. vii. c. 5) is interpreted to mean the Virgin Mary.]

[Footnote 33: Tillemont (Mem. Eccles. tom. ix. p. 432, &c.) diligently collects, enlarges, and explains, the oratorical and poetical hints of

Gregory himself.]

[Footnote 34: He pronounced an oration (tom. i. Orat. xxiii. p. 409)

in his praise; but after their quarrel, the name of Maximus was changed

into that of Heron, (see Jerom, tom. i. in Catalog. Script. Eccles. p.

301). I touch slightly on these obscure and personal squabbles.]

[Footnote 35: Under the modest emblem of a dream, Gregory (tom. ii. carmen ix. p. 78) describes his own success with some human complacency.

Yet it should seem, from his familiar conversation with his auditor St.

Jerom, (tom. i. Epist. ad Nepotian. p. 14,) that the preacher understood the true value of popular applause.]

[Footnote 36: Lachrymae auditorum laudes tuae sint, is the lively and

judicious advice of St. Jerom.]

the Catholics of Constantinople were animated with joyful confidence by the baptism and edict of Theodosius; and they impatiently waited the effects of his gracious promise. Their hopes were speedily accomplished; and the emperor, as soon as he had finished the operations of the campaign, made his public entry into the capital at the head of a

victorious army. The next day after his arrival, he summoned Damophilus to his presence, and offered that Arian prelate the hard alternative of

subscribing the Nicene creed, or of instantly resigning, to the orthodox believers, the use and possession of the episcopal palace, the cathedral

of St. Sophia, and all the churches of Constantinople. The zeal of damophilus, which in a Catholic saint would have been justly applauded, embraced, without hesitation, a life of poverty and exile, [37] and his

removal was immediately followed by the purification of the Imperial city. The Arians might complain, with some appearance of justice, that an inconsiderable congregation of sectaries should usurp the hundred churches, which they were insufficient to fill; whilst the far greater

part of the people was cruelly excluded from every place of religious worship. Theodosius was still inexorable; but as the angels who

protected the Catholic cause were only visible to the eyes of faith, he

prudently reenforced those heavenly legions with the more effectual aid of temporal and carnal weapons; and the church of St. Sophia was

occupied by a large body of the Imperial guards. If the mind of Gregory was susceptible of pride, he must have felt a very lively satisfaction, when the emperor conducted him through the streets in solemn triumph; and, with his own hand, respectfully placed him on the archiepiscopal throne of Constantinople. But the saint (who had not subdued the

imperfections of human virtue) was deeply affected by the mortifying consideration, that his entrance into the fold was that of a wolf,

rather than of a shepherd; that the glittering arms which surrounded his

person, were necessary for his safety; and that he alone was the object

of the imprecations of a great party, whom, as men and citizens, it was

impossible for him to despise. He beheld the innumerable multitude of either sex, and of every age, who crowded the streets, the windows, and the roofs of the houses; he heard the tumultuous voice of rage, grief, astonishment, and despair; and Gregory fairly confesses, that on the

memorable day of his installation, the capital of the East wore the appearance of a city taken by storm, and in the hands of a Barbarian conqueror. [38] About six weeks afterwards, Theodosius declared his

resolution of expelling from all the churches of his dominions the bishops and their clergy who should obstinately refuse to believe, or at

least to profess, the doctrine of the council of Nice. His lieutenant,

Sapor, was armed with the ample powers of a general law, a special commission, and a military force; [39] and this ecclesiastical

revolution was conducted with so much discretion and vigor, that the

religion of the emperor was established, without tumult or bloodshed, in all the provinces of the East. The writings of the Arians, if they had been permitted to exist, [40] would perhaps contain the lamentable story

of the persecution, which afflicted the church under the reign of the

impious Theodosius; and the sufferings of their holy confessors might claim the pity of the disinterested reader. Yet there is reason to

imagine, that the violence of zeal and revenge was, in some measure, eluded by the want of resistance; and that, in their adversity, the arians displayed much less firmness than had been exerted by the

orthodox party under the reigns of Constantius and Valens. The moral character and conduct of the hostile sects appear to have been governed by the same common principles of nature and religion: but a very

material circumstance may be discovered, which tended to distinguish the degrees of their theological faith. Both parties, in the schools, as well as in the temples, acknowledged and worshipped the divine majesty

of Christ; and, as we are always prone to impute our own sentiments and

passions to the Deity, it would be deemed more prudent and respectful to exaggerate, than to circumscribe, the adorable perfections of the Son of

God. The disciple of Athanasius exulted in the proud confidence, that

he had entitled himself to the divine favor; while the follower of Arius

must have been tormented by the secret apprehension, that he was

guilty, perhaps, of an unpardonable offence, by the scanty praise, and

parsimonious honors, which he bestowed on the Judge of the World. The

opinions of Arianism might satisfy a cold and speculative mind: but the doctrine of the Nicene creed, most powerfully recommended by the merits

of faith and devotion, was much better adapted to become popular and

successful in a believing age.

[Footnote 37: Socrates (l. v. c. 7) and Sozomen (l. vii. c. 5) relate the evangelical words and actions of Damophilus without a word of approbation. He considered, says Socrates, that it is difficult to

resist the powerful, but it was easy, and would have been profitable, to

submit.]

[Footnote 38: See Gregory Nazianzen, tom. ii. de Vita sua, p. 21,

22. For the sake of posterity, the bishop of Constantinople records a

stupendous prodigy. In the month of November, it was a cloudy morning, but the sun broke forth when the procession entered the church.]

[Footnote 39: Of the three ecclesiastical historians, Theodoret alone

(l. v. c. 2) has mentioned this important commission of Sapor, which tillemont (Hist. des Empereurs, tom. v. p. 728) judiciously removes from the reign of Gratian to that of Theodosius.]

[Footnote 40: I do not reckon Philostorgius, though he mentions (l.

ix. c. 19) the explosion of Damophilus. The Eunomian historian has been carefully strained through an orthodox sieve.]

the hope, that truth and wisdom would be found in the assemblies of the

orthodox clergy, induced the emperor to convene, at Constantinople, a synod of one hundred and fifty bishops, who proceeded, without much difficulty or delay, to complete the theological system which had been established in the council of Nice. The vehement disputes of the fourth century had been chiefly employed on the nature of the Son of God; and the various opinions which were embraced, concerning the Second, were extended and transferred, by a natural analogy, to the Third person of the Trinity. [41] Yet it was found, or it was thought, necessary, by the

victorious adversaries of Arianism, to explain the ambiguous language of

some respectable doctors; to confirm the faith of the Catholics; and to condemn an unpopular and inconsistent sect of Macedonians; who freely admitted that the Son was consubstantial to the Father, while they were fearful of seeming to acknowledge the existence of Three Gods. A final and unanimous sentence was pronounced to ratify the equal Deity of the Holy Ghost: the mysterious doctrine has been received by all the

nations, and all the churches of the Christian world; and their grateful

reverence has assigned to the bishops of Theodosius the second rank among the general councils. [42] Their knowledge of religious truth may

have been preserved by tradition, or it may have been communicated by inspiration; but the sober evidence of history will not allow much weight to the personal authority of the Fathers of Constantinople. In an age when the ecclesiastics had scandalously degenerated from the model

of apostolic purity, the most worthless and corrupt were always the most eager to frequent, and disturb, the episcopal assemblies. The conflict and fermentation of so many opposite interests and tempers inflamed the

passions of the bishops: and their ruling passions were, the love

of gold, and the love of dispute. Many of the same prelates who now applauded the orthodox piety of Theodosius, had repeatedly changed, with prudent flexibility, their creeds and opinions; and in the various

revolutions of the church and state, the religion of their sovereign was the rule of their obsequious faith. When the emperor suspended his

prevailing influence, the turbulent synod was blindly impelled by the absurd or selfish motives of pride, hatred, or resentment. The death of

Meletius, which happened at the council of Constantinople, presented the most favorable opportunity of terminating the schism of Antioch, by suffering his aged rival, Paulinus, peaceably to end his days in the episcopal chair. The faith and virtues of Paulinus were unblemished. But

his cause was supported by the Western churches; and the bishops of the synod resolved to perpetuate the mischiefs of discord, by the hasty

ordination of a perjured candidate, [43] rather than to betray the

imagined dignity of the East, which had been illustrated by the birth and death of the Son of God. Such unjust and disorderly proceedings forced the gravest members of the assembly to dissent and to secede; and the clamorous majority which remained masters of the field of battle, could be compared only to wasps or magpies, to a flight of cranes, or to a flock of geese. [44]

[Footnote 41: Le Clerc has given a curious extract (Bibliotheque

Universelle, tom. xviii. p. 91-105) of the theological sermons which

Gregory Nazianzen pronounced at Constantinople against the Arians, eunomians, Macedonians, &c. He tells the Macedonians, who deified the father and the Son without the Holy Ghost, that they might as well be

styled Tritheists as Ditheists. Gregory himself was almost a Tritheist; and his monarchy of heaven resembles a well-regulated aristocracy.]

[Footnote 42: The first general council of Constantinople now triumphs

in the Vatican; but the popes had long hesitated, and their hesitation

perplexes, and almost staggers, the humble Tillemont, (Mem. Eccles. tom.

ix. p. 499, 500.)]

[Footnote 43: Before the death of Meletius, six or eight of his most

popular ecclesiastics, among whom was Flavian, had abjured, for the

sake of peace, the bishopric of Antioch, (Sozomen, l. vii. c. 3, 11.

Socrates, l. v. c. v.) Tillemont thinks it his duty to disbelieve the

story; but he owns that there are many circumstances in the life of flavian which seem inconsistent with the praises of Chrysostom, and the character of a saint, (Mem. Eccles. tom. x. p. 541.)]

[Footnote 44: Consult Gregory Nazianzen, de Vita sua, tom. ii. p. 25-28.

His general and particular opinion of the clergy and their assemblies

may be seen in verse and prose, (tom. i. Orat. i. p. 33. Epist. lv.

p. 814, tom. ii. Carmen x. p. 81.) Such passages are faintly marked by tillemont, and fairly produced by Le Clerc.]

a suspicion may possibly arise, that so unfavorable a picture of ecclesiastical synods has been drawn by the partial hand of some

obstinate heretic, or some malicious infidel. But the name of the

sincere historian who has conveyed this instructive lesson to the knowledge of posterity, must silence the impotent murmurs of

superstition and bigotry. He was one of the most pious and eloquent bishops of the age; a saint, and a doctor of the church; the scourge of arianism, and the pillar of the orthodox faith; a distinguished member

of the council of Constantinople, in which, after the death of Meletius,

he exercised the functions of president; in a word--Gregory Nazianzen

himself. The harsh and ungenerous treatment which he experienced,

[45] instead of derogating from the truth of his evidence, affords an additional proof of the spirit which actuated the deliberations of the

synod. Their unanimous suffrage had confirmed the pretensions which the bishop of Constantinople derived from the choice of the people, and the approbation of the emperor. But Gregory soon became the victim of malice and envy. The bishops of the East, his strenuous adherents, provoked by his moderation in the affairs of Antioch, abandoned him, without

support, to the adverse faction of the Egyptians; who disputed the

validity of his election, and rigorously asserted the obsolete canon, that prohibited the licentious practice of episcopal translations. The

pride, or the humility, of Gregory prompted him to decline a contest which might have been imputed to ambition and avarice; and he publicly

offered, not without some mixture of indignation, to renounce the

government of a church which had been restored, and almost created, by his labors. His resignation was accepted by the synod, and by the emperor, with more readiness than he seems to have expected. At the time when he might have hoped to enjoy the fruits of his victory,

his episcopal throne was filled by the senator Nectarius; and the new archbishop, accidentally recommended by his easy temper and venerable aspect, was obliged to delay the ceremony of his consecration, till

he had previously despatched the rites of his baptism. [46] After this remarkable experience of the ingratitude of princes and prelates,

Gregory retired once more to his obscure solitude of Cappadocia; where he employed the remainder of his life, about eight years, in the exercises of poetry and devotion. The title of Saint has been added to

his name: but the tenderness of his heart, [47] and the elegance of

his genius, reflect a more pleasing lustre on the memory of Gregory

Nazianzen.

[Footnote 45: See Gregory, tom. ii. de Vita sua, p. 28-31. The fourteenth, twenty-seventh, and thirty-second Orations were pronounced

in the several stages of this business. The peroration of the last,

(tom. i. p. 528,) in which he takes a solemn leave of men and angels, the city and the emperor, the East and the West, &c., is pathetic, and almost sublime.]

[Footnote 46: The whimsical ordination of Nectarius is attested by

Sozomen, (l. vii. c. 8;) but Tillemont observes, (Mem. Eccles. tom. ix.

p. 719,) Apres tout, ce narre de Sozomene est si honteux, pour tous ceux

qu'il y mele, et surtout pour Theodose, qu'il vaut mieux travailler a le detruire, qu'a le soutenir; an admirable canon of criticism!]

[Footnote 47: I can only be understood to mean, that such was his

natural temper when it was not hardened, or inflamed, by religious zeal. from his retirement, he exhorts Nectarius to prosecute the heretics of constantinople.]

It was not enough that Theodosius had suppressed the insolent reign

of Arianism, or that he had abundantly revenged the injuries which the Catholics sustained from the zeal of Constantius and Valens. The

orthodox emperor considered every heretic as a rebel against the supreme

powers of heaven and of earth; and each of those powers might exercise their peculiar jurisdiction over the soul and body of the guilty. the decrees of the council of Constantinople had ascertained the true standard of the faith; and the ecclesiastics, who governed the conscience of Theodosius, suggested the most effectual methods of

persecution. In the space of fifteen years, he promulgated at least fifteen severe edicts against the heretics; [48] more especially against those who rejected the doctrine of the Trinity; and to deprive them of every hope of escape, he sternly enacted, that if any laws or rescripts

should be alleged in their favor, the judges should consider them as the

illegal productions either of fraud or forgery. The penal statutes were directed against the ministers, the assemblies, and the persons of the heretics; and the passions of the legislator were expressed in the

language of declamation and invective. I. The heretical teachers, who

usurped the sacred titles of Bishops, or Presbyters, were not only excluded from the privileges and emoluments so liberally granted to the

orthodox clergy, but they were exposed to the heavy penalties of exile and confiscation, if they presumed to preach the doctrine, or to

practise the rites, of their accursed sects. A fine of ten pounds of

gold (above four hundred pounds sterling) was imposed on every person who should dare to confer, or receive, or promote, an heretical

ordination: and it was reasonably expected, that if the race of pastors could be extinguished, their helpless flocks would be compelled, by

ignorance and hunger, to return within the pale of the Catholic church.

II. The rigorous prohibition of conventicles was carefully extended to every possible circumstance, in which the heretics could assemble with the intention of worshipping God and Christ according to the dictates of their conscience. Their religious meetings, whether public or secret, by day or by night, in cities or in the country, were equally proscribed by the edicts of Theodosius; and the building, or ground, which had been

used for that illegal purpose, was forfeited to the Imperial domain.

III. It was supposed, that the error of the heretics could proceed only from the obstinate temper of their minds; and that such a temper was a fit object of censure and punishment. The anathemas of the church were fortified by a sort of civil excommunication; which separated them from their fellow-citizens, by a peculiar brand of infamy; and this declaration of the supreme magistrate tended to justify, or at least to excuse, the insults of a fanatic populace. The sectaries were gradually disqualified from the possession of honorable or lucrative employments; and Theodosius was satisfied with his own justice, when he decreed, that, as the Eunomians distinguished the nature of the Son from that

of the Father, they should be incapable of making their wills or of

receiving any advantage from testamentary donations. The guilt of the

Manichaean heresy was esteemed of such magnitude, that it could be expiated only by the death of the offender; and the same capital

punishment was inflicted on the Audians, or Quartodecimans, [49] who

should dare to perpetrate the atrocious crime of celebrating on an

improper day the festival of Easter. Every Roman might exercise the

right of public accusation; but the office of Inquisitors of the Faith, a name so deservedly abhorred, was first instituted under the reign of theodosius. Yet we are assured, that the execution of his penal edicts was seldom enforced; and that the pious emperor appeared less desirous to punish, than to reclaim, or terrify, his refractory subjects. [50]

[Footnote 48: See the Theodosian Code, l. xvi. tit. v. leg. 6--23, with Godefroy's commentary on each law, and his general summary, or

Paratitlon, tom vi. p. 104-110.]

[Footnote 49: They always kept their Easter, like the Jewish Passover,

on the fourteenth day of the first moon after the vernal equinox; and thus pertinaciously opposed the Roman Church and Nicene synod, which had fixed Easter to a Sunday. Bingham's Antiquities, l. xx. c. 5, vol. ii.

p. 309, fol. edit.]

[Footnote 50: Sozomen, l. vii. c. 12.]

the theory of persecution was established by Theodosius, whose justice and piety have been applauded by the saints: but the practice of it, in the fullest extent, was reserved for his rival and colleague, Maximus, the first, among the Christian princes, who shed the blood of his christian subjects on account of their religious opinions. The cause of the Priscillianists, [51] a recent sect of heretics, who disturbed the provinces of Spain, was transferred, by appeal, from the synod of bordeaux to the Imperial consistory of Treves; and by the sentence of the Praetorian praefect, seven persons were tortured, condemned, and executed. The first of these was Priscillian [52] himself, bishop of avila, in Spain; who adorned the advantages of birth and fortune, by the accomplishments of eloquence and learning. Two presbyters, and two deacons, accompanied their beloved master in his death, which they esteemed as a glorious martyrdom; and the number of religious victims was completed by the execution of Latronian, a poet, who rivalled the fame of the ancients; and of Euchrocia, a noble matron of Bordeaux, the widow of the orator Delphidius. [54] Two bishops who had embraced the

sentiments of Priscillian, were condemned to a distant and dreary exile;

[55] and some indulgence was shown to the meaner criminals, who assumed the merit of an early repentance. If any credit could be allowed to confessions extorted by fear or pain, and to vague reports, the

offspring of malice and credulity, the heresy of the Priscillianists would be found to include the various abominations of magic, of impiety, and of lewdness. [56] Priscillian, who wandered about the world in the company of his spiritual sisters, was accused of praying stark naked in the midst of the congregation; and it was confidently asserted, that the effects of his criminal intercourse with the daughter of Euchrocia

had been suppressed, by means still more odious and criminal. But an accurate, or rather a candid, inquiry will discover, that if the Priscillianists violated the laws of nature, it was not by the

licentiousness, but by the austerity, of their lives. They absolutely condemned the use of the marriage-bed; and the peace of families was

often disturbed by indiscreet separations. They enjoyed, or recommended, a total abstinence from all anima food; and their continual prayers, fasts, and vigils, inculcated a rule of strict and perfect devotion. The

speculative tenets of the sect, concerning the person of Christ, and the

nature of the human soul, were derived from the Gnostic and Manichaean

system; and this vain philosophy, which had been transported from egypt to Spain, was ill adapted to the grosser spirits of the West. the obscure disciples of Priscillian suffered languished, and gradually disappeared: his tenets were rejected by the clergy and people, but his death was the subject of a long and vehement controversy; while some arraigned, and others applauded, the justice of his sentence. It is with pleasure that we can observe the humane inconsistency of the most

illustrious saints and bishops, Ambrose of Milan, [57] and Martin of tours, [58] who, on this occasion, asserted the cause of toleration. they pitied the unhappy men, who had been executed at Treves; they

refused to hold communion with their episcopal murderers; and if Martin deviated from that generous resolution, his motives were laudable, and

his repentance was exemplary. The bishops of Tours and Milan pronounced, without hesitation, the eternal damnation of heretics; but they were

surprised, and shocked, by the bloody image of their temporal death, and the honest feelings of nature resisted the artificial prejudices

of theology. The humanity of Ambrose and Martin was confirmed by the

scandalous irregularity of the proceedings against Priscillian and his adherents. The civil and ecclesiastical ministers had transgressed the

limits of their respective provinces. The secular judge had presumed to

receive an appeal, and to pronounce a definitive sentence, in a

matter of faith, and episcopal jurisdiction. The bishops had disgraced themselves, by exercising the functions of accusers in a criminal

prosecution. The cruelty of Ithacius, [59] who beheld the tortures, and

solicited the death, of the heretics, provoked the just indignation

of mankind; and the vices of that profligate bishop were admitted as a

proof, that his zeal was instigated by the sordid motives of interest.

Since the death of Priscillian, the rude attempts of persecution have been refined and methodized in the holy office, which assigns their distinct parts to the ecclesiastical and secular powers. The devoted

victim is regularly delivered by the priest to the magistrate, and by the magistrate to the executioner; and the inexorable sentence of the church, which declares the spiritual guilt of the offender, is expressed

in the mild language of pity and intercession.

[Footnote 51: See the Sacred History of Sulpicius Severus, (l. ii. p.

437-452, edit. Ludg. Bat. 1647,) a correct and original writer. Dr.

Lardner (Credibility, &c., part ii. vol. ix. p. 256-350) has labored this article with pure learning, good sense, and moderation. Tillemont

(Mem. Eccles. tom. viii. p. 491-527) has raked together all the dirt of the fathers; a useful scavenger!]

[Footnote 52: Severus Sulpicius mentions the arch-heretic with esteem and pity Faelix profecto, si non pravo studio corrupisset optimum

ingenium prorsus multa in eo animi et corporis bona cerneres. (Hist.

Sacra, l ii. p. 439.) Even Jerom (tom. i. in Script. Eccles. p. 302)

speaks with temper of Priscillian and Latronian.]

[Footnote 53: The bishopric (in Old Castile) is now worth 20,000 ducats a year, (Busching's Geography, vol. ii. p. 308,) and is therefore much

less likely to produce the author of a new heresy.]

[Footnote 54: Exprobrabatur mulieri viduae nimia religio, et diligentius culta divinitas, (Pacat. in Panegyr. Vet. xii. 29.) Such was the idea of a humane, though ignorant, polytheist.]

[Footnote 55: One of them was sent in Sillinam insulam quae ultra britannianest. What must have been the ancient condition of the rocks of

Scilly? (Camden's Britannia, vol. ii. p. 1519.)]

[Footnote 56: The scandalous calumnies of Augustin, Pope Leo, &c., which tillemont swallows like a child, and Lardner refutes like a man, may

suggest some candid suspicions in favor of the older Gnostics.]

[Footnote 57: Ambros. tom. ii. Epist. xxiv. p. 891.]

[Footnote 58: In the Sacred History, and the Life of St. Martin,

Sulpicius Severus uses some caution; but he declares himself more freely

in the Dialogues, (iii. 15.) Martin was reproved, however, by his own conscience, and by an angel; nor could he afterwards perform miracles with so much ease.]

[Footnote 59: The Catholic Presbyter (Sulp. Sever. l. ii. p. 448) and the Pagan Orator (Pacat. in Panegyr. Vet. xii. 29) reprobate, with equal

indignation, the character and conduct of Ithacius.]

chapter XXVII: Civil Wars, Reign Of Theodosius.--Part III.

among the ecclesiastics, who illustrated the reign of Theodosius,

Gregory Nazianzen was distinguished by the talents of an eloquent

preacher; the reputation of miraculous gifts added weight and dignity to the monastic virtues of Martin of Tours; [60] but the palm of episcopal

vigor and ability was justly claimed by the intrepid Ambrose. [61] He was descended from a noble family of Romans; his father had exercised the important office of Praetorian praefect of Gaul; and the son, after

passing through the studies of a liberal education, attained, in the

regular gradation of civil honors, the station of consular of Liguria, a province which included the Imperial residence of Milan. At the age

of thirty-four, and before he had received the sacrament of baptism, ambrose, to his own surprise, and to that of the world, was suddenly transformed from a governor to an archbishop. Without the least

mixture, as it is said, of art or intrigue, the whole body of the

people unanimously saluted him with the episcopal title; the concord and perseverance of their acclamations were ascribed to a praeternatural

impulse; and the reluctant magistrate was compelled to undertake a

spiritual office, for which he was not prepared by the habits and

occupations of his former life. But the active force of his genius soon

qualified him to exercise, with zeal and prudence, the duties of his ecclesiastical jurisdiction; and while he cheerfully renounced the vain and splendid trappings of temporal greatness, he condescended, for the

good of the church, to direct the conscience of the emperors, and to control the administration of the empire. Gratian loved and revered him as a father; and the elaborate treatise on the faith of the Trinity was designed for the instruction of the young prince. After his tragic death, at a time when the empress Justina trembled for her own safety, and for that of her son Valentinian, the archbishop of Milan was despatched, on two different embassies, to the court of Treves.

He exercised, with equal firmness and dexterity, the powers of his

spiritual and political characters; and perhaps contributed, by his authority and eloquence, to check the ambition of Maximus, and to

protect the peace of Italy. [62] Ambrose had devoted his life, and his abilities, to the service of the church. Wealth was the object of his contempt; he had renounced his private patrimony; and he sold, without

hesitation, the consecrated plate, for the redemption of captives. The clergy and people of Milan were attached to their archbishop; and he deserved the esteem, without soliciting the favor, or apprehending the displeasure, of his feeble sovereigns.

[Footnote 60: The Life of St. Martin, and the Dialogues concerning his

miracles contain facts adapted to the grossest barbarism, in a style not

unworthy of the Augustan age. So natural is the alliance between good taste and good sense, that I am always astonished by this contrast.]

[Footnote 61: The short and superficial Life of St. Ambrose, by his deacon Paulinus, (Appendix ad edit. Benedict. p. i.--xv.,) has the merit

of original evidence. Tillemont (Mem. Eccles. tom. x. p. 78-306) and the Benedictine editors (p. xxxi.--lxiii.) have labored with their usual diligence.]

[Footnote 62: Ambrose himself (tom. ii. Epist. xxiv. p. 888--891) gives the emperor a very spirited account of his own embassy.]

the government of Italy, and of the young emperor, naturally devolved to

his mother Justina, a woman of beauty and spirit, but who, in the

midst of an orthodox people, had the misfortune of professing the Arian

heresy, which she endeavored to instil into the mind of her son. Justina was persuaded, that a Roman emperor might claim, in his own dominions, the public exercise of his religion; and she proposed to the archbishop, as a moderate and reasonable concession, that he should resign the use

of a single church, either in the city or the suburbs of Milan. But the conduct of Ambrose was governed by very different principles. [63] The

palaces of the earth might indeed belong to Caesar; but the churches were the houses of God; and, within the limits of his diocese, he

himself, as the lawful successor of the apostles, was the only minister

of God. The privileges of Christianity, temporal as well as spiritual, were confined to the true believers; and the mind of Ambrose was

satisfied, that his own theological opinions were the standard of truth and orthodoxy. The archbishop, who refused to hold any conference,

or negotiation, with the instruments of Satan, declared, with modest firmness, his resolution to die a martyr, rather than to yield to the

impious sacrilege; and Justina, who resented the refusal as an act

of insolence and rebellion, hastily determined to exert the Imperial

prerogative of her son. As she desired to perform her public devotions

on the approaching festival of Easter, Ambrose was ordered to appear before the council. He obeyed the summons with the respect of a faithful

subject, but he was followed, without his consent, by an innumerable

people they pressed, with impetuous zeal, against the gates of the

palace; and the affrighted ministers of Valentinian, instead of

pronouncing a sentence of exile on the archbishop of Milan, humbly

requested that he would interpose his authority, to protect the person

of the emperor, and to restore the tranquility of the capital. But the

promises which Ambrose received and communicated were soon violated by a perfidious court; and, during six of the most solemn days, which christian piety had set apart for the exercise of religion, the city was agitated by the irregular convulsions of tumult and fanaticism. The

officers of the household were directed to prepare, first, the Portian, and afterwards, the new, Basilica, for the immediate reception of the emperor and his mother. The splendid canopy and hangings of the royal

seat were arranged in the customary manner; but it was found necessary to defend them. by a strong guard, from the insults of the populace. the Arian ecclesiastics, who ventured to show themselves in the streets, were exposed to the most imminent danger of their lives; and Ambrose enjoyed the merit and reputation of rescuing his personal enemies from the hands of the enraged multitude.

[Footnote 63: His own representation of his principles and conduct (tom.

ii. Epist. xx xxi. xxii. p. 852-880) is one of the curious monuments

of ecclesiastical antiquity. It contains two letters to his sister

Marcellina, with a petition to Valentinian and the sermon de Basilicis

non madendis.]

but while he labored to restrain the effects of their zeal, the pathetic

vehemence of his sermons continually inflamed the angry and seditious temper of the people of Milan. The characters of Eve, of the wife of

Job, of Jezebel, of Herodias, were indecently applied to the mother

of the emperor; and her desire to obtain a church for the Arians was compared to the most cruel persecutions which Christianity had endured

under the reign of Paganism. The measures of the court served only to expose the magnitude of the evil. A fine of two hundred pounds of gold was imposed on the corporate body of merchants and manufacturers: an

order was signified, in the name of the emperor, to all the officers, and inferior servants, of the courts of justice, that, during the continuance of the public disorders, they should strictly confine themselves to their houses; and the ministers of Valentinian imprudently confessed, that the most respectable part of the citizens of Milan was attached to the cause of their archbishop. He was again solicited to

restore peace to his country, by timely compliance with the will of

his sovereign. The reply of Ambrose was couched in the most humble and

respectful terms, which might, however, be interpreted as a serious declaration of civil war. "His life and fortune were in the hands of the emperor; but he would never betray the church of Christ, or degrade the dignity of the episcopal character. In such a cause he was prepared to suffer whatever the malice of the daemon could inflict; and he only wished to die in the presence of his faithful flock, and at the foot of the altar; he had not contributed to excite, but it was in the power of

God alone to appease, the rage of the people: he deprecated the scenes

of blood and confusion which were likely to ensue; and it was his fervent prayer, that he might not survive to behold the ruin of a flourishing city, and perhaps the desolation of all Italy." [64] The

obstinate bigotry of Justina would have endangered the empire of her

son, if, in this contest with the church and people of Milan, she could

have depended on the active obedience of the troops of the palace. A

large body of Goths had marched to occupy the Basilica, which was the object of the dispute: and it might be expected from the Arian

principles, and barbarous manners, of these foreign mercenaries, that they would not entertain any scruples in the execution of the most

sanguinary orders. They were encountered, on the sacred threshold, by the archbishop, who, thundering against them a sentence of excommunication, asked them, in the tone of a father and a master, whether it was to invade the house of God, that they had implored the

hospitable protection of the republic. The suspense of the Barbarians allowed some hours for a more effectual negotiation; and the empress was persuaded, by the advice of her wisest counsellors, to leave the catholics in possession of all the churches of Milan; and to dissemble, till a more convenient season, her intentions of revenge. The mother of

Valentinian could never forgive the triumph of Ambrose; and the royal

youth uttered a passionate exclamation, that his own servants were ready to betray him into the hands of an insolent priest.

[Footnote 64: Retz had a similar message from the queen, to request that

he would appease the tumult of Paris. It was no longer in his power,

&c. A quoi j'ajoutai tout ce que vous pouvez vous imaginer de respect de douleur, de regret, et de soumission, &c. (Memoires, tom. i. p.

140.) Certainly I do not compare either the causes or the men yet the coadjutor himself had some idea (p. 84) of imitating St. Ambrose]

the laws of the empire, some of which were inscribed with the name of

Valentinian, still condemned the Arian heresy, and seemed to excuse the

resistance of the Catholics. By the influence of Justina, an edict of toleration was promulgated in all the provinces which were subject to the court of Milan; the free exercise of their religion was granted to those who professed the faith of Rimini; and the emperor declared, that all persons who should infringe this sacred and salutary constitution,

should be capitally punished, as the enemies of the public peace. [65] the character and language of the archbishop of Milan may justify the

suspicion, that his conduct soon afforded a reasonable ground, or at

least a specious pretence, to the Arian ministers; who watched the

opportunity of surprising him in some act of disobedience to a law which

he strangely represents as a law of blood and tyranny. A sentence of easy and honorable banishment was pronounced, which enjoined Ambrose to depart from Milan without delay; whilst it permitted him to choose the

place of his exile, and the number of his companions. But the authority

of the saints, who have preached and practised the maxims of passive

loyalty, appeared to Ambrose of less moment than the extreme and

pressing danger of the church. He boldly refused to obey; and his

refusal was supported by the unanimous consent of his faithful people.

[66] They guarded by turns the person of their archbishop; the gates of the cathedral and the episcopal palace were strongly secured; and the

Imperial troops, who had formed the blockade, were unwilling to risk the attack, of that impregnable fortress. The numerous poor, who had been

relieved by the liberality of Ambrose, embraced the fair occasion

of signalizing their zeal and gratitude; and as the patience of the

multitude might have been exhausted by the length and uniformity of

nocturnal vigils, he prudently introduced into the church of Milan the

useful institution of a loud and regular psalmody. While he maintained this arduous contest, he was instructed, by a dream, to open the earth

in a place where the remains of two martyrs, Gervasius and Protasius,

[67] had been deposited above three hundred years. Immediately under the

pavement of the church two perfect skeletons were found, [68] with the

heads separated from their bodies, and a plentiful effusion of blood. the holy relics were presented, in solemn pomp, to the veneration of the

people; and every circumstance of this fortunate discovery was admirably adapted to promote the designs of Ambrose. The bones of the martyrs, their blood, their garments, were supposed to contain a healing power; and the praeternatural influence was communicated to the most distant objects, without losing any part of its original virtue. The extraordinary cure of a blind man, [69] and the reluctant confessions

of several daemoniacs, appeared to justify the faith and sanctity of ambrose; and the truth of those miracles is attested by Ambrose

himself, by his secretary Paulinus, and by his proselyte, the celebrated augustin, who, at that time, professed the art of rhetoric in Milan. the reason of the present age may possibly approve the incredulity of

Justina and her Arian court; who derided the theatrical representations which were exhibited by the contrivance, and at the expense, of the archbishop. [70] Their effect, however, on the minds of the people, was

rapid and irresistible; and the feeble sovereign of Italy found himself

unable to contend with the favorite of Heaven. The powers likewise of the earth interposed in the defence of Ambrose: the disinterested advice

of Theodosius was the genuine result of piety and friendship; and the

mask of religious zeal concealed the hostile and ambitious designs of the tyrant of Gaul. [71]

[Footnote 65: Sozomen alone (l. vii. c. 13) throws this luminous fact

into a dark and perplexed narrative.]

[Footnote 66: Excubabat pia plebs in ecclesia, mori parata cum episcopo

suo.... Nos, adhuc frigidi, excitabamur tamen civitate attonita atque curbata. Augustin. Confession. l. ix. c. 7]

[Footnote 67: Tillemont, Mem. Eccles. tom. ii. p. 78, 498. Many churches

in Italy, Gaul, &c., were dedicated to these unknown martyrs, of whom

St. Gervaise seems to have been more fortunate than his companion.]

[Footnote 68: Invenimus mirae magnitudinis viros duos, ut prisca aetas ferebat, tom. ii. Epist. xxii. p. 875. The size of these skeletons was fortunately, or skillfully, suited to the popular prejudice of the

gradual decrease of the human stature, which has prevailed in every age

since the time of Homer.--Grandiaque effossis mirabitur ossa sepulchris.]

[Footnote 69: Ambros. tom. ii. Epist. xxii. p. 875. Augustin. Confes, l.

ix. c. 7, de Civitat. Dei, l. xxii. c. 8. Paulin. in Vita St. Ambros. c. 14, in Append. Benedict. p. 4. The blind man's name was Severus; he touched the holy garment, recovered his sight, and devoted the rest of

his life (at least twenty-five years) to the service of the church. I

should recommend this miracle to our divines, if it did not prove the worship of relics, as well as the Nicene creed.]

[Footnote 70: Paulin, in Tit. St. Ambros. c. 5, in Append. Benedict. p.

5.]

[Footnote 71: Tillemont, Mem. Eccles. tom. x. p. 190, 750. He partially allow the mediation of Theodosius, and capriciously rejects that of

Maximus, though it is attested by Prosper, Sozomen, and Theodoret.]

the reign of Maximus might have ended in peace and prosperity, could

he have contented himself with the possession of three ample countries, which now constitute the three most flourishing kingdoms of modern europe. But the aspiring usurper, whose sordid ambition was not dignified by the love of glory and of arms, considered his actual forces as the instruments only of his future greatness, and his success was the

immediate cause of his destruction. The wealth which he extorted [72] from the oppressed provinces of Gaul, Spain, and Britain, was employed

in levying and maintaining a formidable army of Barbarians, collected, for the most part, from the fiercest nations of Germany. The conquest

of Italy was the object of his hopes and preparations: and he secretly

meditated the ruin of an innocent youth, whose government was abhorred and despised by his Catholic subjects. But as Maximus wished to occupy, without resistance, the passes of the Alps, he received, with perfidious

smiles, Domninus of Syria, the ambassador of Valentinian, and pressed

him to accept the aid of a considerable body of troops, for the service

of a Pannonian war. The penetration of Ambrose had discovered the snares

of an enemy under the professions of friendship; [73] but the Syrian domninus was corrupted, or deceived, by the liberal favor of the court

of Treves; and the council of Milan obstinately rejected the suspicion

of danger, with a blind confidence, which was the effect, not of courage, but of fear. The march of the auxiliaries was guided by the ambassador; and they were admitted, without distrust, into the fortresses of the Alps. But the crafty tyrant followed, with hasty and

silent footsteps, in the rear; and, as he diligently intercepted all

intelligence of his motions, the gleam of armor, and the dust excited by the troops of cavalry, first announced the hostile approach of a

stranger to the gates of Milan. In this extremity, Justina and her son

might accuse their own imprudence, and the perfidious arts of Maximus; but they wanted time, and force, and resolution, to stand against the

Gauls and Germans, either in the field, or within the walls of a large and disaffected city. Flight was their only hope, Aquileia their only

refuge; and as Maximus now displayed his genuine character, the brother

of Gratian might expect the same fate from the hands of the same assassin. Maximus entered Milan in triumph; and if the wise archbishop

refused a dangerous and criminal connection with the usurper, he might

indirectly contribute to the success of his arms, by inculcating, from the pulpit, the duty of resignation, rather than that of resistance.

[74] The unfortunate Justina reached Aquileia in safety; but she distrusted the strength of the fortifications: she dreaded the event

of a siege; and she resolved to implore the protection of the great theodosius, whose power and virtue were celebrated in all the countries

of the West. A vessel was secretly provided to transport the Imperial family; they embarked with precipitation in one of the obscure harbors

of Venetia, or Istria; traversed the whole extent of the Adriatic and

Ionian Seas; turned the extreme promontory of Peloponnesus; and, after a long, but successful navigation, reposed themselves in the port of thessalonica. All the subjects of Valentinian deserted the cause of a prince, who, by his abdication, had absolved them from the duty of allegiance; and if the little city of Aemona, on the verge of Italy, had

not presumed to stop the career of his inglorious victory, Maximus would

have obtained, without a struggle, the sole possession of the Western empire.

[Footnote 72: The modest censure of Sulpicius (Dialog. iii. 15) inflicts a much deeper wound than the declamation of Pacatus, (xii. 25, 26.)]

[Footnote 73: Esto tutior adversus hominem, pacis involurco tegentem, was the wise caution of Ambrose (tom. ii. p. 891) after his return from

his second embassy.]

[Footnote 74: Baronius (A.D. 387, No. 63) applies to this season of

public distress some of the penitential sermons of the archbishop.]

Instead of inviting his royal guests to take the palace of constantinople, Theodosius had some unknown reasons to fix their

residence at Thessalonica; but these reasons did not proceed from contempt or indifference, as he speedily made a visit to that city, accompanied by the greatest part of his court and senate. After the first tender expressions of friendship and sympathy, the pious emperor

of the East gently admonished Justina, that the guilt of heresy was

sometimes punished in this world, as well as in the next; and that the

public profession of the Nicene faith would be the most efficacious step to promote the restoration of her son, by the satisfaction which it must

occasion both on earth and in heaven. The momentous question of peace or war was referred, by Theodosius, to the deliberation of his council; and the arguments which might be alleged on the side of honor and justice,

had acquired, since the death of Gratian, a considerable degree of additional weight. The persecution of the Imperial family, to which theodosius himself had been indebted for his fortune, was now aggravated by recent and repeated injuries. Neither oaths nor treaties could

restrain the boundless ambition of Maximus; and the delay of vigorous and decisive measures, instead of prolonging the blessings of peace, would expose the Eastern empire to the danger of a hostile invasion. The barbarians, who had passed the Danube, had lately assumed the character

of soldiers and subjects, but their native fierceness was yet untamed: and the operations of a war, which would exercise their valor, and diminish their numbers, might tend to relieve the provinces from an intolerable oppression. Notwithstanding these specious and solid

reasons, which were approved by a majority of the council, Theodosius

still hesitated whether he should draw the sword in a contest which could no longer admit any terms of reconciliation; and his magnanimous character was not disgraced by the apprehensions which he felt for the

safety of his infant sons, and the welfare of his exhausted people. In this moment of anxious doubt, while the fate of the Roman world depended

on the resolution of a single man, the charms of the princess Galla most

powerfully pleaded the cause of her brother Valentinian. [75] The heart

of Theodosius wa softened by the tears of beauty; his affections were

insensibly engaged by the graces of youth and innocence: the art of

Justina managed and directed the impulse of passion; and the celebration

of the royal nuptials was the assurance and signal of the civil war. The

unfeeling critics, who consider every amorous weakness as an indelible

stain on the memory of a great and orthodox emperor, are inclined,

on this occasion, to dispute the suspicious evidence of the historian

Zosimus. For my own part, I shall frankly confess, that I am willing to find, or even to seek, in the revolutions of the world, some traces of the mild and tender sentiments of domestic life; and amidst the crowd

of fierce and ambitious conquerors, I can distinguish, with peculiar complacency, a gentle hero, who may be supposed to receive his armor from the hands of love. The alliance of the Persian king was secured by the faith of treaties; the martial Barbarians were persuaded to follow the standard, or to respect the frontiers, of an active and liberal

monarch; and the dominions of Theodosius, from the Euphrates to the adriatic, resounded with the preparations of war both by land and sea. the skilful disposition of the forces of the East seemed to multiply their numbers, and distracted the attention of Maximus. He had reason to fear, that a chosen body of troops, under the command of the intrepid arbogastes, would direct their march along the banks of the Danube, and boldly penetrate through the Rhaetian provinces into the centre of Gaul. a powerful fleet was equipped in the harbors of Greece and Epirus, with an apparent design, that, as soon as the passage had been opened by a

naval victory, Valentinian and his mother should land in Italy, proceed, without delay, to Rome, and occupy the majestic seat of religion and empire. In the mean while, Theodosius himself advanced at the head of a brave and disciplined army, to encounter his unworthy rival, who, after the siege of Aemona, [7511] had fixed his camp in the neighborhood of

Siscia, a city of Pannonia, strongly fortified by the broad and rapid

stream of the Save.

[Footnote 75: The flight of Valentinian, and the love of Theodosius for his sister, are related by Zosimus, (l. iv. p. 263, 264.) Tillemont

produces some weak and ambiguous evidence to antedate the second

marriage of Theodosius, (Hist. des Empereurs, to. v. p. 740,) and consequently to refute ces contes de Zosime, qui seroient trop contraires a la piete de Theodose.]

[Footnote 7511: Aemonah, Laybach. Siscia Sciszek.--M.]

chapter XXVII: Civil Wars, Reign Of Theodosius.--Part IV.

the veterans, who still remembered the long resistance, and successive

resources, of the tyrant Magnentius, might prepare themselves for the

labors of three bloody campaigns. But the contest with his successor, who, like him, had usurped the throne of the West, was easily decided in the term of two months, [76] and within the space of two hundred miles. the superior genius of the emperor of the East might prevail over the feeble Maximus, who, in this important crisis, showed himself destitute

of military skill, or personal courage; but the abilities of Theodosius were seconded by the advantage which he possessed of a numerous and active cavalry. The Huns, the Alani, and, after their example, the

Goths themselves, were formed into squadrons of archers; who fought on

horseback, and confounded the steady valor of the Gauls and Germans, by the rapid motions of a Tartar war. After the fatigue of a long march, in the heat of summer, they spurred their foaming horses into the waters

of the Save, swam the river in the presence of the enemy, and instantly charged and routed the troops who guarded the high ground on the

opposite side. Marcellinus, the tyrant's brother, advanced to support them with the select cohorts, which were considered as the hope and

strength of the army. The action, which had been interrupted by the approach of night, was renewed in the morning; and, after a sharp conflict, the surviving remnant of the bravest soldiers of Maximus threw down their arms at the feet of the conqueror. Without suspending his

march, to receive the loyal acclamations of the citizens of Aemona, theodosius pressed forwards to terminate the war by the death or captivity of his rival, who fled before him with the diligence of fear. from the summit of the Julian Alps, he descended with such incredible

speed into the plain of Italy, that he reached Aquileia on the evening

of the first day; and Maximus, who found himself encompassed on all

sides, had scarcely time to shut the gates of the city. But the gates could not long resist the effort of a victorious enemy; and the despair, the disaffection, the indifference of the soldiers and people, hastened the downfall of the wretched Maximus. He was dragged from his throne,

rudely stripped of the Imperial ornaments, the robe, the diadem, and the purple slippers; and conducted, like a malefactor, to the camp and

presence of Theodosius, at a place about three miles from Aquileia. the behavior of the emperor was not intended to insult, and he showed disposition to pity and forgive, the tyrant of the West, who had never been his personal enemy, and was now become the object of his contempt.

Our sympathy is the most forcibly excited by the misfortunes to which we are exposed; and the spectacle of a proud competitor, now prostrate at

his feet, could not fail of producing very serious and solemn thoughts

in the mind of the victorious emperor. But the feeble emotion of

involuntary pity was checked by his regard for public justice, and the

memory of Gratian; and he abandoned the victim to the pious zeal of the soldiers, who drew him out of the Imperial presence, and instantly

separated his head from his body. The intelligence of his defeat and death was received with sincere or well-dissembled joy: his son Victor,

on whom he had conferred the title of Augustus, died by the order,

perhaps by the hand, of the bold Arbogastes; and all the military plans

of Theodosius were successfully executed. When he had thus terminated the civil war, with less difficulty and bloodshed than he might

naturally expect, he employed the winter months of his residence at

Milan, to restore the state of the afflicted provinces; and early in the

spring he made, after the example of Constantine and Constantius, his triumphal entry into the ancient capital of the Roman empire. [77]

[Footnote 76: See Godefroy's Chronology of the Laws, Cod. Theodos, tom

l. p. cxix.]

[Footnote 77: Besides the hints which may be gathered from chronicles and ecclesiastical history, Zosimus (l. iv. p. 259--267,) Orosius, (l.

vii. c. 35,) and Pacatus, (in Panegyr. Vet. xii. 30-47,) supply the

loose and scanty materials of this civil war. Ambrose (tom. ii. Epist.

xl. p. 952, 953) darkly alludes to the well-known events of a magazine

surprised, an action at Petovio, a Sicilian, perhaps a naval, victory,

&c., Ausonius (p. 256, edit. Toll.) applauds the peculiar merit and good fortune of Aquileia.] The orator, who may be silent without danger, may

praise without difficulty, and without reluctance; [78] and posterity will confess, that the character of Theodosius [79] might furnish the

subject of a sincere and ample panegyric. The wisdom of his laws, and the success of his arms, rendered his administration respectable in the eyes both of his subjects and of his enemies. He loved and practised the virtues of domestic life, which seldom hold their residence in the palaces of kings. Theodosius was chaste and temperate; he enjoyed, without excess, the sensual and social pleasures of the table; and the warmth of his amorous passions was never diverted from their lawful

objects. The proud titles of Imperial greatness were adorned by the tender names of a faithful husband, an indulgent father; his uncle was

raised, by his affectionate esteem, to the rank of a second parent: theodosius embraced, as his own, the children of his brother and sister; and the expressions of his regard were extended to the most distant and obscure branches of his numerous kindred. His familiar friends were judiciously selected from among those persons, who, in the equal

intercourse of private life, had appeared before his eyes without a

mask; the consciousness of personal and superior merit enabled him to despise the accidental distinction of the purple; and he proved by

his conduct, that he had forgotten all the injuries, while he most

gratefully remembered all the favors and services, which he had received before he ascended the throne of the Roman empire. The serious or

lively tone of his conversation was adapted to the age, the rank, or the character of his subjects, whom he admitted into his society; and the affability of his manners displayed the image of his mind. Theodosius

respected the simplicity of the good and virtuous: every art, every talent, of a useful, or even of an innocent nature, was rewarded by his

judicious liberality; and, except the heretics, whom he persecuted with implacable hatred, the diffusive circle of his benevolence was circumscribed only by the limits of the human race. The government of a mighty empire may assuredly suffice to occupy the time, and the abilities, of a mortal: yet the diligent prince, without aspiring to the

unsuitable reputation of profound learning, always reserved some moments

of his leisure for the instructive amusement of reading. History, which enlarged his experience, was his favorite study. The annals of Rome, in the long period of eleven hundred years, presented him with a various and splendid picture of human life: and it has been particularly

observed, that whenever he perused the cruel acts of Cinna, of Marius,

or of Sylla, he warmly expressed his generous detestation of those enemies of humanity and freedom. His disinterested opinion of past events was usefully applied as the rule of his own actions; and theodosius has deserved the singular commendation, that his virtues always seemed to expand with his fortune: the season of his prosperity was that of his moderation; and his clemency appeared the most conspicuous after the danger and success of a civil war. The Moorish

guards of the tyrant had been massacred in the first heat of the

victory, and a small number of the most obnoxious criminals suffered the punishment of the law. But the emperor showed himself much more attentive to relieve the innocent than to chastise the guilty. The

oppressed subjects of the West, who would have deemed themselves happy

in the restoration of their lands, were astonished to receive a sum of

money equivalent to their losses; and the liberality of the conqueror

supported the aged mother, and educated the orphan daughters, of

Maximus. [80] A character thus accomplished might almost excuse the extravagant supposition of the orator Pacatus; that, if the elder Brutus could be permitted to revisit the earth, the stern republican would abjure, at the feet of Theodosius, his hatred of kings; and ingenuously confess, that such a monarch was the most faithful guardian of the

happiness and dignity of the Roman people. [81]

[Footnote 78: Quam promptum laudare principem, tam tutum siluisse de

principe, (Pacat. in Panegyr. Vet. xii. 2.) Latinus Pacatus Drepanius, a native of Gaul, pronounced this oration at Rome, (A.D. 388.) He was afterwards proconsul of Africa; and his friend Ausonius praises him as a

poet second only to Virgil. See Tillemont, Hist. des Empereurs, tom. v.

p. 303.]

[Footnote 79: See the fair portrait of Theodosius, by the younger

Victor; the strokes are distinct, and the colors are mixed. The praise

of Pacatus is too vague; and Claudian always seems afraid of exalting the father above the son.]

[Footnote 80: Ambros. tom. ii. Epist. xl. p. 55. Pacatus, from the want

of skill or of courage, omits this glorious circumstance.]

[Footnote 81: Pacat. in Panegyr. Vet. xii. 20.]

Yet the piercing eye of the founder of the republic must have discerned two essential imperfections, which might, perhaps, have abated his

recent love of despostism. The virtuous mind of Theodosius was often

relaxed by indolence, [82] and it was sometimes inflamed by passion.

[83] In the pursuit of an important object, his active courage was capable of the most vigorous exertions; but, as soon as the design was accomplished, or the danger was surmounted, the hero sunk into

inglorious repose; and, forgetful that the time of a prince is the

property of his people, resigned himself to the enjoyment of the

innocent, but trifling, pleasures of a luxurious court. The natural disposition of Theodosius was hasty and choleric; and, in a station where none could resist, and few would dissuade, the fatal consequence

of his resentment, the humane monarch was justly alarmed by the consciousness of his infirmity and of his power. It was the constant

study of his life to suppress, or regulate, the intemperate sallies

of passion and the success of his efforts enhanced the merit of his clemency. But the painful virtue which claims the merit of victory, is exposed to the danger of defeat; and the reign of a wise and merciful

prince was polluted by an act of cruelty which would stain the annals

of Nero or Domitian. Within the space of three years, the inconsistent

historian of Theodosius must relate the generous pardon of the citizens

of Antioch, and the inhuman massacre of the people of Thessalonica.

[Footnote 82: Zosimus, l. iv. p. 271, 272. His partial evidence is

marked by an air of candor and truth. He observes these vicissitudes of

sloth and activity, not as a vice, but as a singularity in the character

of Theodosius.]

[Footnote 83: This choleric temper is acknowledged and excused by Victor

Sed habes (says Ambrose, in decent and many language, to his sovereign)

nature impetum, quem si quis lenire velit, cito vertes ad misericordiam:

si quis stimulet, in magis exsuscitas, ut eum revocare vix possis, (tom.

ii. Epist. li. p. 998.) Theodosius (Claud. in iv. Hon. 266, &c.) exhorts

his son to moderate his anger.]

the lively impatience of the inhabitants of Antioch was never satisfied with their own situation, or with the character and conduct of their

successive sovereigns. The Arian subjects of Theodosius deplored the

loss of their churches; and as three rival bishops disputed the throne

of Antioch, the sentence which decided their pretensions excited the

murmurs of the two unsuccessful congregations. The exigencies of the

Gothic war, and the inevitable expense that accompanied the conclusion

of the peace, had constrained the emperor to aggravate the weight of the public impositions; and the provinces of Asia, as they had not been

involved in the distress were the less inclined to contribute to the

relief, of Europe. The auspicious period now approached of the tenth

year of his reign; a festival more grateful to the soldiers, who

received a liberal donative, than to the subjects, whose voluntary

offerings had been long since converted into an extraordinary and

oppressive burden. The edicts of taxation interrupted the repose, and

pleasures, of Antioch; and the tribunal of the magistrate was besieged by a suppliant crowd; who, in pathetic, but, at first, in respectful

language, solicited the redress of their grievances. They were gradually

incensed by the pride of their haughty rulers, who treated their complaints as a criminal resistance; their satirical wit degenerated

into sharp and angry invectives; and, from the subordinate powers of

government, the invectives of the people insensibly rose to attack the sacred character of the emperor himself. Their fury, provoked by a feeble opposition, discharged itself on the images of the Imperial family, which were erected, as objects of public veneration, in the

most conspicuous places of the city. The statues of Theodosius, of his father, of his wife Flaccilla, of his two sons, Arcadius and Honorius, were insolently thrown down from their pedestals, broken in pieces, or dragged with contempt through the streets; and the indignities which were offered to the representations of Imperial majesty, sufficiently declared the impious and treasonable wishes of the populace. The tumult was almost immediately suppressed by the arrival of a body of archers: and Antioch had leisure to reflect on the nature and consequences of

her crime. [84] According to the duty of his office, the governor of the

province despatched a faithful narrative of the whole transaction: while the trembling citizens intrusted the confession of their crime, and the assurances of their repentance, to the zeal of Flavian, their bishop, and to the eloquence of the senator Hilarius, the friend, and most

probably the disciple, of Libanius; whose genius, on this melancholy

occasion, was not useless to his country. [85] But the two capitals, antioch and Constantinople, were separated by the distance of eight

hundred miles; and, notwithstanding the diligence of the Imperial posts, the guilty city was severely punished by a long and dreadful interval of

suspense. Every rumor agitated the hopes and fears of the Antiochians, and they heard with terror, that their sovereign, exasperated by the

insult which had been offered to his own statues, and more especially, to those of his beloved wife, had resolved to level with the ground the

offending city; and to massacre, without distinction of age or sex, the criminal inhabitants; [86] many of whom were actually driven, by their apprehensions, to seek a refuge in the mountains of Syria, and the adjacent desert. At length, twenty-four days after the sedition, the

general Hellebicus and Caesarius, master of the offices, declared the will of the emperor, and the sentence of Antioch. That proud capital was degraded from the rank of a city; and the metropolis of the East,

stripped of its lands, its privileges, and its revenues, was subjected,

under the humiliating denomination of a village, to the jurisdiction of

Laodicea. [87] The baths, the Circus, and the theatres were shut: and, that every source of plenty and pleasure might at the same time be

intercepted, the distribution of corn was abolished, by the severe

instructions of Theodosius. His commissioners then proceeded to inquire

into the guilt of individuals; of those who had perpetrated, and of those who had not prevented, the destruction of the sacred statues. The tribunal of Hellebicus and Caesarius, encompassed with armed soldiers, was erected in the midst of the Forum. The noblest, and most wealthy, of the citizens of Antioch appeared before them in chains; the examination was assisted by the use of torture, and their sentence was pronounced or

suspended, according to the judgment of these extraordinary magistrates. the houses of the criminals were exposed to sale, their wives and children were suddenly reduced, from affluence and luxury, to the most abject distress; and a bloody execution was expected to conclude the

horrors of the day, [88] which the preacher of Antioch, the eloquent chrysostom, has represented as a lively image of the last and universal

judgment of the world. But the ministers of Theodosius performed, with

reluctance, the cruel task which had been assigned them; they dropped a gentle tear over the calamities of the people; and they listened with

reverence to the pressing solicitations of the monks and hermits, who descended in swarms from the mountains. [89] Hellebicus and Caesarius were persuaded to suspend the execution of their sentence; and it was agreed that the former should remain at Antioch, while the latter

returned, with all possible speed, to Constantinople; and presumed once

more to consult the will of his sovereign. The resentment of Theodosius

had already subsided; the deputies of the people, both the bishop and the orator, had obtained a favorable audience; and the reproaches of the emperor were the complaints of injured friendship, rather than the stern

menaces of pride and power. A free and general pardon was granted to the city and citizens of Antioch; the prison doors were thrown open; the senators, who despaired of their lives, recovered the possession of their houses and estates; and the capital of the East was restored to the enjoyment of her ancient dignity and splendor. Theodosius condescended to praise the senate of Constantinople, who had generously

interceded for their distressed brethren: he rewarded the eloquence of

Hilarius with the government of Palestine; and dismissed the bishop of antioch with the warmest expressions of his respect and gratitude. A thousand new statues arose to the clemency of Theodosius; the applause

of his subjects was ratified by the approbation of his own heart; and the emperor confessed, that, if the exercise of justice is the most

important duty, the indulgence of mercy is the most exquisite pleasure,

of a sovereign. [90]

[Footnote 84: The Christians and Pagans agreed in believing that the

sedition of Antioch was excited by the daemons. A gigantic woman (says

Sozomen, l. vii. c. 23) paraded the streets with a scourge in her hand. an old man, says Libanius, (Orat. xii. p. 396,) transformed himself into a youth, then a boy, &c.]

[Footnote 85: Zosimus, in his short and disingenuous account, (l. iv.

p. 258, 259,) is certainly mistaken in sending Libanius himself to constantinople. His own orations fix him at Antioch.]

[Footnote 86: Libanius (Orat. i. p. 6, edit. Venet.) declares, that

under such a reign the fear of a massacre was groundless and absurd, especially in the emperor's absence, for his presence, according to the eloquent slave, might have given a sanction to the most bloody acts.]

[Footnote 87: Laodicea, on the sea-coast, sixty-five miles from Antioch,

(see Noris Epoch. Syro-Maced. Dissert. iii. p. 230.) The Antiochians were offended, that the dependent city of Seleucia should presume to

intercede for them.]

[Footnote 88: As the days of the tumult depend on the movable festival

of Easter, they can only be determined by the previous determination of the year. The year 387 has been preferred, after a laborious inquiry, by Tillemont (Hist. des. Emp. tom. v. p. 741-744) and Montfaucon,

(Chrysostom, tom. xiii. p. 105-110.)]

[Footnote 89: Chrysostom opposes their courage, which was not attended with much risk, to the cowardly flight of the Cynics.]

[Footnote 90: The sedition of Antioch is represented in a lively, and almost dramatic, manner by two orators, who had their respective shares

of interest and merit. See Libanius (Orat. xiv. xv. p. 389-420, edit.

Morel. Orat. i. p. 1-14, Venet. 1754) and the twenty orations of St.

John Chrysostom, de Statuis, (tom. ii. p. 1-225, edit. Montfaucon.) I do

not pretend to much personal acquaintance with Chrysostom but Tillemont

(Hist. des. Empereurs, tom. v. p. 263-283) and Hermant (Vie de St. chrysostome, tom. i. p. 137-224) had read him with pious curiosity and diligence.]

the sedition of Thessalonica is ascribed to a more shameful cause, and was productive of much more dreadful consequences. That great city, the

metropolis of all the Illyrian provinces, had been protected from the dangers of the Gothic war by strong fortifications and a numerous

garrison. Botheric, the general of those troops, and, as it should seem from his name, a Barbarian, had among his slaves a beautiful boy, who excited the impure desires of one of the charioteers of the Circus. the insolent and brutal lover was thrown into prison by the order

of Botheric; and he sternly rejected the importunate clamors of the

multitude, who, on the day of the public games, lamented the absence of their favorite; and considered the skill of a charioteer as an object

of more importance than his virtue. The resentment of the people was

imbittered by some previous disputes; and, as the strength of the

garrison had been drawn away for the service of the Italian war, the feeble remnant, whose numbers were reduced by desertion, could not save the unhappy general from their licentious fury. Botheric, and several

of his principal officers, were inhumanly murdered; their mangled bodies were dragged about the streets; and the emperor, who then resided at

Milan, was surprised by the intelligence of the audacious and wanton cruelty of the people of Thessalonica. The sentence of a dispassionate

judge would have inflicted a severe punishment on the authors of the crime; and the merit of Botheric might contribute to exasperate the

grief and indignation of his master.

the fiery and choleric temper of Theodosius was impatient of the dilatory forms of a judicial inquiry; and he hastily resolved, that the blood of his lieutenant should be expiated by the blood of the guilty

people. Yet his mind still fluctuated between the counsels of clemency and of revenge; the zeal of the bishops had almost extorted from the

reluctant emperor the promise of a general pardon; his passion was again

inflamed by the flattering suggestions of his minister Rufinus; and, after Theodosius had despatched the messengers of death, he attempted, when it was too late, to prevent the execution of his orders. The

punishment of a Roman city was blindly committed to the undistinguishing

sword of the Barbarians; and the hostile preparations were concerted with the dark and perfidious artifice of an illegal conspiracy. The

people of Thessalonica were treacherously invited, in the name of their

sovereign, to the games of the Circus; and such was their insatiate avidity for those amusements, that every consideration of fear, or

suspicion, was disregarded by the numerous spectators. As soon as the assembly was complete, the soldiers, who had secretly been posted round the Circus, received the signal, not of the races, but of a general

massacre. The promiscuous carnage continued three hours, without discrimination of strangers or natives, of age or sex, of innocence or

guilt; the most moderate accounts state the number of the slain at seven thousand; and it is affirmed by some writers that more than fifteen thousand victims were sacrificed to the names of Botheric. A foreign

merchant, who had probably no concern in his murder, offered his own

life, and all his wealth, to supply the place of one of his two sons; but, while the father hesitated with equal tenderness, while he was doubtful to choose, and unwilling to condemn, the soldiers determined

his suspense, by plunging their daggers at the same moment into the breasts of the defenceless youths. The apology of the assassins, that they were obliged to produce the prescribed number of heads, serves only to increase, by an appearance of order and design, the horrors of the

massacre, which was executed by the commands of Theodosius. The guilt

of the emperor is aggravated by his long and frequent residence at thessalonica. The situation of the unfortunate city, the aspect of the

streets and buildings, the dress and faces of the inhabitants, were familiar, and even present, to his imagination; and Theodosius possessed a quick and lively sense of the existence of the people whom he destroyed. [91]

[Footnote 91: The original evidence of Ambrose, (tom. ii. Epist. li. p.

998.) Augustin, (de Civitat. Dei, v. 26,) and Paulinus, (in Vit. Ambros. c. 24,) is delivered in vague expressions of horror and pity. It is

illustrated by the subsequent and unequal testimonies of Sozomen, (l.

vii. c. 25,) Theodoret, (l. v. c. 17,) Theophanes, (Chronograph. p.

62,) Cedrenus, (p. 317,) and Zonaras, (tom. ii. l. xiii. p. 34.) Zosimus alone, the partial enemy of Theodosius, most unaccountably passes over

in silence the worst of his actions.]

the respectful attachment of the emperor for the orthodox clergy, had disposed him to love and admire the character of Ambrose; who united all the episcopal virtues in the most eminent degree. The friends and

ministers of Theodosius imitated the example of their sovereign; and

he observed, with more surprise than displeasure, that all his secret counsels were immediately communicated to the archbishop; who acted from the laudable persuasion, that every measure of civil government may

have some connection with the glory of God, and the interest of the true

religion. The monks and populace of Callinicum, [9111] an obscure town

on the frontier of Persia, excited by their own fanaticism, and by that of their bishop, had tumultuously burnt a conventicle of the

Valentinians, and a synagogue of the Jews. The seditious prelate was condemned, by the magistrate of the province, either to rebuild the

synagogue, or to repay the damage; and this moderate sentence was confirmed by the emperor. But it was not confirmed by the archbishop

of Milan. [92] He dictated an epistle of censure and reproach, more

suitable, perhaps, if the emperor had received the mark of circumcision, and renounced the faith of his baptism. Ambrose considers the toleration

of the Jewish, as the persecution of the Christian, religion; boldly declares that he himself, and every true believer, would eagerly dispute with the bishop of Callinicum the merit of the deed, and the crown of

martyrdom; and laments, in the most pathetic terms, that the execution

of the sentence would be fatal to the fame and salvation of Theodosius. as this private admonition did not produce an immediate effect, the archbishop, from his pulpit, [93] publicly addressed the emperor on his throne; [94] nor would he consent to offer the oblation of the altar, till he had obtained from Theodosius a solemn and positive declaration, which secured the impunity of the bishop and monks of Callinicum. The

recantation of Theodosius was sincere; [95] and, during the term of his

residence at Milan, his affection for Ambrose was continually increased by the habits of pious and familiar conversation.

[Footnote 9111: Raeca, on the Euphrates--M.]

[Footnote 92: See the whole transaction in Ambrose, (tom. ii. Epist.

xl. xli. p. 950-956,) and his biographer Paulinus, (c. 23.) Bayle and Barbeyrac (Morales des Peres, c. xvii. p. 325, &c.) have justly condemned the archbishop.]

[Footnote 93: His sermon is a strange allegory of Jeremiah's rod, of an almond tree, of the woman who washed and anointed the feet of Christ. but the peroration is direct and personal.]

[Footnote 94: Hodie, Episcope, de me proposuisti. Ambrose modestly confessed it; but he sternly reprimanded Timasius, general of the horse and foot, who had presumed to say that the monks of Callinicum deserved

punishment.]

[Footnote 95: Yet, five years afterwards, when Theodosius was absent from his spiritual guide, he tolerated the Jews, and condemned the destruction of their synagogues. Cod. Theodos. l. xvi. tit. viii. leg.

9, with Godefroy's Commentary, tom. vi. p. 225.]

when Ambrose was informed of the massacre of Thessalonica, his mind was filled with horror and anguish. He retired into the country to

indulge his grief, and to avoid the presence of Theodosius. But as the archbishop was satisfied that a timid silence would render him the accomplice of his guilt, he represented, in a private letter, the enormity of the crime; which could only be effaced by the tears of

penitence. The episcopal vigor of Ambrose was tempered by prudence; and he contented himself with signifying [96] an indirect sort of excommunication, by the assurance, that he had been warned in a

vision not to offer the oblation in the name, or in the presence, of theodosius; and by the advice, that he would confine himself to the

use of prayer, without presuming to approach the altar of Christ, or to receive the holy eucharist with those hands that were still polluted with the blood of an innocent people. The emperor was deeply affected by

his own reproaches, and by those of his spiritual father; and after he

had bewailed the mischievous and irreparable consequences of his rash fury, he proceeded, in the accustomed manner, to perform his devotions

in the great church of Milan. He was stopped in the porch by the archbishop; who, in the tone and language of an ambassador of Heaven, declared to his sovereign, that private contrition was not sufficient to atone for a public fault, or to appease the justice of the offended deity. Theodosius humbly represented, that if he had contracted the

guilt of homicide, David, the man after God's own heart, had been

guilty, not only of murder, but of adultery. "You have imitated David in

his crime, imitate then his repentance," was the reply of the undaunted ambrose. The rigorous conditions of peace and pardon were accepted; and the public penance of the emperor Theodosius has been recorded as one of the most honorable events in the annals of the church. According to the

mildest rules of ecclesiastical discipline, which were established in the fourth century, the crime of homicide was expiated by the penitence

of twenty years: [97] and as it was impossible, in the period of human

life, to purge the accumulated guilt of the massacre of Thessalonica, the murderer should have been excluded from the holy communion till the hour of his death. But the archbishop, consulting the maxims of

religious policy, granted some indulgence to the rank of his illustrious

penitent, who humbled in the dust the pride of the diadem; and the

public edification might be admitted as a weighty reason to abridge the duration of his punishment. It was sufficient, that the emperor of the

Romans, stripped of the ensigns of royalty, should appear in a mournful and suppliant posture; and that, in the midst of the church of Milan,

he should humbly solicit, with sighs and tears, the pardon of his sins.

[98] In this spiritual cure, Ambrose employed the various methods of

mildness and severity. After a delay of about eight months, Theodosius was restored to the communion of the faithful; and the edict which

interposes a salutary interval of thirty days between the sentence and the execution, may be accepted as the worthy fruits of his repentance.

[99] Posterity has applauded the virtuous firmness of the archbishop; and the example of Theodosius may prove the beneficial influence

of those principles, which could force a monarch, exalted above the apprehension of human punishment, to respect the laws, and ministers, of an invisible Judge. "The prince," says Montesquieu, "who is actuated by the hopes and fears of religion, may be compared to a lion, docile

only to the voice, and tractable to the hand, of his keeper." [100] The

motions of the royal animal will therefore depend on the inclination, and interest, of the man who has acquired such dangerous authority over

him; and the priest, who holds in his hands the conscience of a

king, may inflame, or moderate, his sanguinary passions. The cause

of humanity, and that of persecution, have been asserted, by the same ambrose, with equal energy, and with equal success.

[Footnote 96: Ambros. tom. ii. Epist. li. p. 997-1001. His epistle is a

miserable rhapsody on a noble subject. Ambrose could act better than he could write. His compositions are destitute of taste, or genius; without the spirit of Tertullian, the copious elegance of Lactantius the lively wit of Jerom, or the grave energy of Augustin.]

[Footnote 97: According to the discipline of St. Basil, (Canon lvi.,) the voluntary homicide was four years a mourner; five a hearer; seven in a prostrate state; and four in a standing posture. I have the original

(Beveridge, Pandect. tom. ii. p. 47-151) and a translation (Chardon,

Hist. des Sacremens, tom. iv. p. 219-277) of the Canonical Epistles of

St. Basil.]

[Footnote 98: The penance of Theodosius is authenticated by Ambrose,

(tom. vi. de Obit. Theodos. c. 34, p. 1207,) Augustin, (de Civitat. Dei,

v. 26,) and Paulinus, (in Vit. Ambros. c. 24.) Socrates is ignorant;

Sozomen (l. vii. c. 25) concise; and the copious narrative of Theodoret

(l. v. c. 18) must be used with precaution.]

[Footnote 99: Codex Theodos. l. ix. tit. xl. leg. 13. The date and circumstances of this law are perplexed with difficulties; but I feel

myself inclined to favor the honest efforts of Tillemont (Hist. des Emp. tom. v. p. 721) and Pagi, (Critica, tom. i. p. 578.)]

[Footnote 100: Un prince qui aime la religion, et qui la craint, est

un lion qui cede a la main qui le flatte, ou a la voix qui l'appaise. esprit des Loix, l. xxiv. c. 2.]

chapter XXVII: Civil Wars, Reign Of Theodosius.--Part V.

after the defeat and death of the tyrant of Gaul, the Roman world was in the possession of Theodosius. He derived from the choice of Gratian his

honorable title to the provinces of the East: he had acquired the West by the right of conquest; and the three years which he spent in Italy were usefully employed to restore the authority of the laws, and to correct the abuses which had prevailed with impunity under the

usurpation of Maximus, and the minority of Valentinian. The name of

Valentinian was regularly inserted in the public acts: but the tender age, and doubtful faith, of the son of Justina, appeared to require the

prudent care of an orthodox guardian; and his specious ambition might

have excluded the unfortunate youth, without a struggle, and almost without a murmur, from the administration, and even from the

inheritance, of the empire. If Theodosius had consulted the rigid maxims

of interest and policy, his conduct would have been justified by his friends; but the generosity of his behavior on this memorable occasion

has extorted the applause of his most inveterate enemies. He seated

Valentinian on the throne of Milan; and, without stipulating any present

or future advantages, restored him to the absolute dominion of all the

provinces, from which he had been driven by the arms of Maximus. To the restitution of his ample patrimony, Theodosius added the free and

generous gift of the countries beyond the Alps, which his successful

valor had recovered from the assassin of Gratian. [101] Satisfied with the glory which he had acquired, by revenging the death of his benefactor, and delivering the West from the yoke of tyranny, the emperor returned from Milan to Constantinople; and, in the peaceful

possession of the East, insensibly relapsed into his former habits

of luxury and indolence. Theodosius discharged his obligation to the brother, he indulged his conjugal tenderness to the sister, of

Valentinian; and posterity, which admires the pure and singular glory

of his elevation, must applaud his unrivalled generosity in the use of

victory.

[Footnote 101: It is the niggard praise of Zosimus himself, (l. iv.

p. 267.) Augustin says, with some happiness of expression,

Valentinianum.... misericordissima veneratione restituit.] The empress

Justina did not long survive her return to Italy; and, though she beheld the triumph of Theodosius, she was not allowed to influence the

government of her son. [102] The pernicious attachment to the Arian

sect, which Valentinian had imbibed from her example and instructions, was soon erased by the lessons of a more orthodox education. His growing

zeal for the faith of Nice, and his filial reverence for the character and authority of Ambrose, disposed the Catholics to entertain the most favorable opinion of the virtues of the young emperor of the West. [103] they applauded his chastity and temperance, his contempt of pleasure,

his application to business, and his tender affection for his two

sisters; which could not, however, seduce his impartial equity to

pronounce an unjust sentence against the meanest of his subjects. But this amiable youth, before he had accomplished the twentieth year of

his age, was oppressed by domestic treason; and the empire was again

involved in the horrors of a civil war. Arbogastes, [104] a gallant

soldier of the nation of the Franks, held the second rank in the

service of Gratian. On the death of his master he joined the standard

of Theodosius; contributed, by his valor and military conduct, to the destruction of the tyrant; and was appointed, after the victory,

master-general of the armies of Gaul. His real merit, and apparent fidelity, had gained the confidence both of the prince and people; his boundless liberality corrupted the allegiance of the troops; and, whilst

he was universally esteemed as the pillar of the state, the bold and crafty Barbarian was secretly determined either to rule, or to ruin, the empire of the West. The important commands of the army were distributed among the Franks; the creatures of Arbogastes were promoted to all the honors and offices of the civil government; the progress of the conspiracy removed every faithful servant from the presence of

Valentinian; and the emperor, without power and without intelligence,

insensibly sunk into the precarious and dependent condition of a captive. [105] The indignation which he expressed, though it might arise only from the rash and impatient temper of youth, may be candidly ascribed to the generous spirit of a prince, who felt that he was

not unworthy to reign. He secretly invited the archbishop of Milan to

undertake the office of a mediator; as the pledge of his sincerity, and the guardian of his safety. He contrived to apprise the emperor of the east of his helpless situation, and he declared, that, unless Theodosius could speedily march to his assistance, he must attempt to escape from the palace, or rather prison, of Vienna in Gaul, where he had

imprudently fixed his residence in the midst of the hostile faction. but the hopes of relief were distant, and doubtful: and, as every day furnished some new provocation, the emperor, without strength or counsel, too hastily resolved to risk an immediate contest with his

powerful general. He received Arbogastes on the throne; and, as the count approached with some appearance of respect, delivered to him a

paper, which dismissed him from all his employments. "My authority,"

replied Arbogastes, with insulting coolness, "does not depend on the

smile or the frown of a monarch;" and he contemptuously threw the paper

on the ground. The indignant monarch snatched at the sword of one of the guards, which he struggled to draw from its scabbard; and it was

not without some degree of violence that he was prevented from using the deadly weapon against his enemy, or against himself. A few days after this extraordinary quarrel, in which he had exposed his resentment and

his weakness, the unfortunate Valentinian was found strangled in his apartment; and some pains were employed to disguise the manifest guilt

of Arbogastes, and to persuade the world, that the death of the young emperor had been the voluntary effect of his own despair. [106] His body was conducted with decent pomp to the sepulchre of Milan; and the archbishop pronounced a funeral oration to commemorate his virtues and

his misfortunes. [107] On this occasion the humanity of Ambrose tempted

him to make a singular breach in his theological system; and to comfort the weeping sisters of Valentinian, by the firm assurance, that their

pious brother, though he had not received the sacrament of baptism, was introduced, without difficulty, into the mansions of eternal bliss.

[108]

[Footnote 102: Sozomen, l. vii. c. 14. His chronology is very

irregular.]

[Footnote 103: See Ambrose, (tom. ii. de Obit. Valentinian. c. 15,

&c. p. 1178. c. 36, &c. p. 1184.) When the young emperor gave an entertainment, he fasted himself; he refused to see a handsome actress,

&c. Since he ordered his wild beasts to to be killed, it is ungenerous

in Philostor (l. xi. c. 1) to reproach him with the love of that amusement.]

[Footnote 104: Zosimus (l. iv. p. 275) praises the enemy of Theodosius. but he is detested by Socrates (l. v. c. 25) and Orosius, (l. vii. c.

35.)]

[Footnote 105: Gregory of Tours (l. ii. c. 9, p. 165, in the second

volume of the Historians of France) has preserved a curious fragment of

Sulpicius Alexander, an historian far more valuable than himself.]

[Footnote 106: Godefroy (Dissertat. ad. Philostorg. p. 429-434) has diligently collected all the circumstances of the death of Valentinian

II. The variations, and the ignorance, of contemporary writers, prove that it was secret.]

[Footnote 107: De Obitu Valentinian. tom. ii. p. 1173-1196. He is forced to speak a discreet and obscure language: yet he is much bolder than any

layman, or perhaps any other ecclesiastic, would have dared to be.]

[Footnote 108: See c. 51, p. 1188, c. 75, p. 1193. Dom Chardon,

(Hist. des Sacramens, tom. i. p. 86,) who owns that St. Ambrose most

strenuously maintains the indispensable necessity of baptism, labors to

reconcile the contradiction.]

the prudence of Arbogastes had prepared the success of his ambitious designs: and the provincials, in whose breast every sentiment of

patriotism or loyalty was extinguished, expected, with tame resignation, the unknown master, whom the choice of a Frank might place on the

Imperial throne. But some remains of pride and prejudice still opposed the elevation of Arbogastes himself; and the judicious Barbarian thought

it more advisable to reign under the name of some dependent Roman.

He bestowed the purple on the rhetorician Eugenius; [109] whom he had already raised from the place of his domestic secretary to the rank of

master of the offices. In the course, both of his private and public

service, the count had always approved the attachment and abilities of eugenius; his learning and eloquence, supported by the gravity of his

manners, recommended him to the esteem of the people; and the reluctance with which he seemed to ascend the throne, may inspire a favorable

prejudice of his virtue and moderation. The ambassadors of the new emperor were immediately despatched to the court of Theodosius, to communicate, with affected grief, the unfortunate accident of the death

of Valentinian; and, without mentioning the name of Arbogastes, to

request, that the monarch of the East would embrace, as his lawful colleague, the respectable citizen, who had obtained the unanimous

suffrage of the armies and provinces of the West. [110] Theodosius was

justly provoked, that the perfidy of a Barbarian, should have destroyed,

in a moment, the labors, and the fruit, of his former victory; and he was excited by the tears of his beloved wife, [111] to revenge the fate

of her unhappy brother, and once more to assert by arms the violated

majesty of the throne. But as the second conquest of the West was a task

of difficulty and danger, he dismissed, with splendid presents, and an ambiguous answer, the ambassadors of Eugenius; and almost two years were consumed in the preparations of the civil war. Before he formed any decisive resolution, the pious emperor was anxious to discover the will

of Heaven; and as the progress of Christianity had silenced the oracles

of Delphi and Dodona, he consulted an Egyptian monk, who possessed,

in the opinion of the age, the gift of miracles, and the knowledge

of futurity. Eutropius, one of the favorite eunuchs of the palace of constantinople, embarked for Alexandria, from whence he sailed up the

Nile, as far as the city of Lycopolis, or of Wolves, in the remote

province of Thebais. [112] In the neighborhood of that city, and on the

summit of a lofty mountain, the holy John [113] had constructed, with

his own hands, an humble cell, in which he had dwelt above fifty years, without opening his door, without seeing the face of a woman, and without tasting any food that had been prepared by fire, or any human art. Five days of the week he spent in prayer and meditation; but on

Saturdays and Sundays he regularly opened a small window, and gave audience to the crowd of suppliants who successively flowed from every

part of the Christian world. The eunuch of Theodosius approached the window with respectful steps, proposed his questions concerning the event of the civil war, and soon returned with a favorable oracle, which animated the courage of the emperor by the assurance of a bloody, but

infallible victory. [114] The accomplishment of the prediction was forwarded by all the means that human prudence could supply. The

industry of the two master-generals, Stilicho and Timasius, was directed to recruit the numbers, and to revive the discipline of the Roman

legions. The formidable troops of Barbarians marched under the ensigns

of their national chieftains. The Iberian, the Arab, and the Goth, who gazed on each other with mutual astonishment, were enlisted in the

service of the same prince; [1141] and the renowned Alaric acquired,

in the school of Theodosius, the knowledge of the art of war, which he afterwards so fatally exerted for the destruction of Rome. [115]

[Footnote 109: Quem sibi Germanus famulam delegerat exul, is the contemptuous expression of Claudian, (iv. Cons. Hon. 74.) Eugenius

professed Christianity; but his secret attachment to Paganism (Sozomen,

l. vii. c. 22, Philostorg. l. xi. c. 2) is probable in a grammarian, and would secure the friendship of Zosimus, (l. iv. p. 276, 277.)]

[Footnote 110: Zosimus (l. iv. p. 278) mentions this embassy; but he is diverted by another story from relating the event.]

[Footnote 111: Zosim. l. iv. p. 277. He afterwards says (p. 280) that

Galla died in childbed; and intimates, that the affliction of her

husband was extreme but short.]

[Footnote 112: Lycopolis is the modern Siut, or Osiot, a town of Said, about the size of St. Denys, which drives a profitable trade with the

kingdom of Senaar, and has a very convenient fountain, "cujus potu signa

virgini tatis eripiuntur." See D'Anville, Description de l'Egypte, p.

181 Abulfeda, Descript. Egypt. p. 14, and the curious Annotations, p.

25, 92, of his editor Michaelis.]

[Footnote 113: The Life of John of Lycopolis is described by his two friends, Rufinus (l. ii. c. i. p. 449) and Palladius, (Hist. Lausiac. c. 43, p. 738,) in Rosweyde's great Collection of the Vitae Patrum. tillemont (Mem. Eccles. tom. x. p. 718, 720) has settled the chronology.]

[Footnote 114: Sozomen, l. vii. c. 22. Claudian (in Eutrop. l. i. 312)

mentions the eunuch's journey; but he most contemptuously derides the egyptian dreams, and the oracles of the Nile.]

[Footnote 1141]: Gibbon has embodied the picturesque verses of claudian:--

.... Nec tantis dissona linguis

Turba, nec armorum cultu diversion unquam]

[Footnote 115: Zosimus, l. iv. p. 280. Socrates, l. vii. 10. Alaric

himself (de Bell. Getico, 524) dwells with more complacency on his early exploits against the Romans.

.... Tot Augustos Hebro qui teste fugavi.

Yet his vanity could scarcely have proved this plurality of flying emperors.]

the emperor of the West, or, to speak more properly, his general arbogastes, was instructed by the misconduct and misfortune of Maximus,

how dangerous it might prove to extend the line of defence against a

skilful antagonist, who was free to press, or to suspend, to contract,

or to multiply, his various methods of attack. [116] Arbogastes fixed

his station on the confines of Italy; the troops of Theodosius were

permitted to occupy, without resistance, the provinces of Pannonia, as far as the foot of the Julian Alps; and even the passes of the mountains were negligently, or perhaps artfully, abandoned to the bold invader.

He descended from the hills, and beheld, with some astonishment, the formidable camp of the Gauls and Germans, that covered with arms and tents the open country which extends to the walls of Aquileia, and the banks of the Frigidus, [117] or Cold River. [118] This narrow theatre of the war, circumscribed by the Alps and the Adriatic, did not allow much

room for the operations of military skill; the spirit of Arbogastes would have disdained a pardon; his guilt extinguished the hope of a

negotiation; and Theodosius was impatient to satisfy his glory and

revenge, by the chastisement of the assassins of Valentinian. Without weighing the natural and artificial obstacles that opposed his efforts, the emperor of the East immediately attacked the fortifications of

his rivals, assigned the post of honorable danger to the Goths, and cherished a secret wish, that the bloody conflict might diminish the

pride and numbers of the conquerors. Ten thousand of those auxiliaries, and Bacurius, general of the Iberians, died bravely on the field of battle. But the victory was not purchased by their blood; the Gauls

maintained their advantage; and the approach of night protected the disorderly flight, or retreat, of the troops of Theodosius. The emperor

retired to the adjacent hills; where he passed a disconsolate night, without sleep, without provisions, and without hopes; [119] except that

strong assurance, which, under the most desperate circumstances, the

independent mind may derive from the contempt of fortune and of life. the triumph of Eugenius was celebrated by the insolent and dissolute joy

of his camp; whilst the active and vigilant Arbogastes secretly detached a considerable body of troops to occupy the passes of the mountains, and to encompass the rear of the Eastern army. The dawn of day discovered to the eyes of Theodosius the extent and the extremity of his danger; but

his apprehensions were soon dispelled, by a friendly message from the

leaders of those troops who expressed their inclination to desert the

standard of the tyrant. The honorable and lucrative rewards, which they stipulated as the price of their perfidy, were granted without

hesitation; and as ink and paper could not easily be procured, the emperor subscribed, on his own tablets, the ratification of the treaty. the spirit of his soldiers was revived by this seasonable reenforcement; and they again marched, with confidence, to surprise the camp of a tyrant, whose principal officers appeared to distrust, either the

justice or the success of his arms. In the heat of the battle, a violent tempest, [120] such as is often felt among the Alps, suddenly arose from the East. The army of Theodosius was sheltered by their position from the impetuosity of the wind, which blew a cloud of dust in the faces

of the enemy, disordered their ranks, wrested their weapons from their

hands, and diverted, or repelled, their ineffectual javelins. This accidental advantage was skilfully improved, the violence of the storm was magnified by the superstitious terrors of the Gauls; and they

yielded without shame to the invisible powers of heaven, who seemed to

militate on the side of the pious emperor. His victory was decisive; and the deaths of his two rivals were distinguished only by the difference

of their characters. The rhetorician Eugenius, who had almost acquired the dominion of the world, was reduced to implore the mercy of the conqueror; and the unrelenting soldiers separated his head from his body as he lay prostrate at the feet of Theodosius. Arbogastes, after the

loss of a battle, in which he had discharged the duties of a soldier and a general, wandered several days among the mountains. But when he was convinced that his cause was desperate, and his escape impracticable, the intrepid Barbarian imitated the example of the ancient Romans, and turned his sword against his own breast. The fate of the empire was determined in a narrow corner of Italy; and the legitimate successor

of the house of Valentinian embraced the archbishop of Milan, and

graciously received the submission of the provinces of the West. Those

provinces were involved in the guilt of rebellion; while the inflexible courage of Ambrose alone had resisted the claims of successful

usurpation. With a manly freedom, which might have been fatal to any

other subject, the archbishop rejected the gifts of Eugenius, [1201] declined his correspondence, and withdrew himself from Milan, to avoid the odious presence of a tyrant, whose downfall he predicted in discreet and ambiguous language. The merit of Ambrose was applauded by the conqueror, who secured the attachment of the people by his alliance with the church; and the clemency of Theodosius is ascribed to the humane

intercession of the archbishop of Milan. [121]

[Footnote 116: Claudian (in iv. Cons. Honor. 77, &c.) contrasts the

military plans of the two usurpers:--

.... Novitas audere priorem

Suadebat; cautumque dabant exempla sequentem.

Hic nova moliri praeceps: hic quaerere tuta

Providus. Hic fusis; colectis viribus ille.

Hic vagus excurrens; hic claustra reductus

Dissimiles, sed morte pares......]

[Footnote 117: The Frigidus, a small, though memorable, stream in the country of Goretz, now called the Vipao, falls into the Sontius, or

Lisonzo, above Aquileia, some miles from the Adriatic. See D'Anville's ancient and modern maps, and the Italia Antiqua of Cluverius, (tom. i. c. 188.)]

[Footnote 118: Claudian's wit is intolerable: the snow was dyed red; the cold ver smoked; and the channel must have been choked with carcasses the current had not been swelled with blood. Confluxit populus: totam

pater undique secum Moverat Aurorem; mixtis hic Colchus Iberis, Hic

mitra velatus Arabs, hic crine decoro Armenius, hic picta Saces, fucataque Medus, Hic gemmata tiger tentoria fixerat Indus.--De Laud.

Stil. l. 145.--M.]

[Footnote 119: Theodoret affirms, that St. John, and St. Philip, appeared to the waking, or sleeping, emperor, on horseback, &c. This

is the first instance of apostolic chivalry, which afterwards became so

popular in Spain, and in the Crusades.]

[Footnote 120: Te propter, gelidis Aquilo de monte procellis

Obruit adversas acies; revolutaque tela

Vertit in auctores, et turbine reppulit hastas

O nimium dilecte Deo, cui fundit ab antris

Aeolus armatas hyemes; cui militat Aether,

Et conjurati veniunt ad classica venti.

these famous lines of Claudian (in iii. Cons. Honor. 93, &c. A.D. 396) are alleged by his contemporaries, Augustin and Orosius; who suppress the Pagan deity of Aeolus, and add some circumstances from the

information of eye-witnesses. Within four months after the victory,

it was compared by Ambrose to the miraculous victories of Moses and

Joshua.]

[Footnote 1201: Arbogastes and his emperor had openly espoused the

Pagan party, according to Ambrose and Augustin. See Le Beau, v. 40. beugnot (Histoire de la Destruction du Paganisme) is more full, and

perhaps somewhat fanciful, on this remarkable reaction in favor of

Paganism, but compare p 116.--M.]

[Footnote 121: The events of this civil war are gathered from Ambrose,

(tom. ii. Epist. lxii. p. 1022,) Paulinus, (in Vit. Ambros. c. 26-34,) augustin, (de Civitat. Dei, v. 26,) Orosius, (l. vii. c. 35,) Sozomen,

(l. vii. c. 24,) Theodoret, (l. v. c. 24,) Zosimus, (l. iv. p. 281,

282,) Claudian, (in iii. Cons. Hon. 63-105, in iv. Cons. Hon. 70-117,) and the Chronicles published by Scaliger.]

after the defeat of Eugenius, the merit, as well as the authority, of theodosius was cheerfully acknowledged by all the inhabitants of the

Roman world. The experience of his past conduct encouraged the most

pleasing expectations of his future reign; and the age of the emperor, which did not exceed fifty years, seemed to extend the prospect of the

public felicity. His death, only four months after his victory, was considered by the people as an unforeseen and fatal event, which destroyed, in a moment, the hopes of the rising generation. But the

indulgence of ease and luxury had secretly nourished the principles

of disease. [122] The strength of Theodosius was unable to support the sudden and violent transition from the palace to the camp; and the

increasing symptoms of a dropsy announced the speedy dissolution of the emperor. The opinion, and perhaps the interest, of the public had confirmed the division of the Eastern and Western empires; and the two

royal youths, Arcadius and Honorius, who had already obtained, from the tenderness of their father, the title of Augustus, were destined to fill the thrones of Constantinople and of Rome. Those princes were not

permitted to share the danger and glory of the civil war; [123] but as

soon as Theodosius had triumphed over his unworthy rivals, he called

his younger son, Honorius, to enjoy the fruits of the victory, and to

receive the sceptre of the West from the hands of his dying father. The arrival of Honorius at Milan was welcomed by a splendid exhibition of the games of the Circus; and the emperor, though he was oppressed by the weight of his disorder, contributed by his presence to the public joy. but the remains of his strength were exhausted by the painful effort which he made to assist at the spectacles of the morning. Honorius

supplied, during the rest of the day, the place of his father; and the great Theodosius expired in the ensuing night. Notwithstanding the

recent animosities of a civil war, his death was universally lamented. the Barbarians, whom he had vanquished and the churchmen, by whom he had been subdued, celebrated, with loud and sincere applause, the qualities

of the deceased emperor, which appeared the most valuable in their eyes. The Romans were terrified by the impending dangers of a feeble and divided administration, and every disgraceful moment of the unfortunate

reigns of Arcadius and Honorius revived the memory of their irreparable

loss.

[Footnote 122: This disease, ascribed by Socrates (l. v. c. 26) to the fatigues of war, is represented by Philostorgius (l. xi. c. 2) as the effect of sloth and intemperance; for which Photius calls him an

impudent liar, (Godefroy, Dissert. p. 438.)]

[Footnote 123: Zosimus supposes, that the boy Honorius accompanied his father, (l. iv. p. 280.) Yet the quanto flagrabrant pectora voto is all that flattery would allow to a contemporary poet; who clearly describes the emperor's refusal, and the journey of Honorius, after the victory

(Claudian in iii. Cons. 78-125.)]

In the faithful picture of the virtues of Theodosius, his imperfections

have not been dissembled; the act of cruelty, and the habits of

indolence, which tarnished the glory of one of the greatest of the Roman

princes. An historian, perpetually adverse to the fame of Theodosius,

has exaggerated his vices, and their pernicious effects; he boldly asserts, that every rank of subjects imitated the effeminate manners

of their sovereign; and that every species of corruption polluted the course of public and private life; and that the feeble restraints of

order and decency were insufficient to resist the progress of that degenerate spirit, which sacrifices, without a blush, the consideration

of duty and interest to the base indulgence of sloth and appetite. [124] the complaints of contemporary writers, who deplore the increase of

luxury, and depravation of manners, are commonly expressive of their

peculiar temper and situation. There are few observers, who possess a clear and comprehensive view of the revolutions of society; and who are capable of discovering the nice and secret springs of action, which

impel, in the same uniform direction, the blind and capricious passions

of a multitude of individuals. If it can be affirmed, with any degree of truth, that the luxury of the Romans was more shameless and dissolute in the reign of Theodosius than in the age of Constantine, perhaps, or

of Augustus, the alteration cannot be ascribed to any beneficial

improvements, which had gradually increased the stock of national

riches. A long period of calamity or decay must have checked the

industry, and diminished the wealth, of the people; and their profuse

luxury must have been the result of that indolent despair, which enjoys the present hour, and declines the thoughts of futurity. The uncertain condition of their property discouraged the subjects of Theodosius from engaging in those useful and laborious undertakings which require an immediate expense, and promise a slow and distant advantage. The frequent examples of ruin and desolation tempted them not to spare the

remains of a patrimony, which might, every hour, become the prey of the

rapacious Goth. And the mad prodigality which prevails in the confusion

of a shipwreck, or a siege, may serve to explain the progress of luxury amidst the misfortunes and terrors of a sinking nation.

[Footnote 124: Zosimus, l. iv. p. 244.]

the effeminate luxury, which infected the manners of courts and cities,

had instilled a secret and destructive poison into the camps of the

legions; and their degeneracy has been marked by the pen of a military writer, who had accurately studied the genuine and ancient principles of

Roman discipline. It is the just and important observation of Vegetius, that the infantry was invariably covered with defensive armor, from the foundation of the city, to the reign of the emperor Gratian. The

relaxation of discipline, and the disuse of exercise, rendered the

soldiers less able, and less willing, to support the fatigues of the

service; they complained of the weight of the armor, which they seldom wore; and they successively obtained the permission of laying aside both their cuirasses and their helmets. The heavy weapons of their ancestors, the short sword, and the formidable pilum, which had subdued the world,

insensibly dropped from their feeble hands. As the use of the shield

is incompatible with that of the bow, they reluctantly marched into the field; condemned to suffer either the pain of wounds, or the ignominy of flight, and always disposed to prefer the more shameful alternative. The cavalry of the Goths, the Huns, and the Alani, had felt the benefits, and adopted the use, of defensive armor; and, as they excelled in the

management of missile weapons, they easily overwhelmed the naked and trembling legions, whose heads and breasts were exposed, without defence, to the arrows of the Barbarians. The loss of armies, the destruction of cities, and the dishonor of the Roman name, ineffectually

solicited the successors of Gratian to restore the helmets and the cuirasses of the infantry. The enervated soldiers abandoned their

own and the public defence; and their pusillanimous indolence may be considered as the immediate cause of the downfall of the empire. [125]

[Footnote 125: Vegetius, de Re Militari, l. i. c. 10. The series of calamities which he marks, compel us to believe, that the Hero, to whom he dedicates his book, is the last and most inglorious of the

Valentinians.]

chapter XXVIII: Destruction Of Paganism.--Part I.

Final Destruction Of Paganism.--Introduction Of The Worship

Of Saints, And Relics, Among The Christians.

the ruin of Paganism, in the age of Theodosius, is perhaps the

only example of the total extirpation of any ancient and popular

superstition; and may therefore deserve to be considered as a singular event in the history of the human mind. The Christians, more especially the clergy, had impatiently supported the prudent delays of Constantine, and the equal toleration of the elder Valentinian; nor could they deem their conquest perfect or secure, as long as their adversaries were

permitted to exist. The influence which Ambrose and his brethren had acquired over the youth of Gratian, and the piety of Theodosius, was employed to infuse the maxims of persecution into the breasts of their

Imperial proselytes. Two specious principles of religious jurisprudence were established, from whence they deduced a direct and rigorous conclusion, against the subjects of the empire who still adhered to the ceremonies of their ancestors: that the magistrate is, in some measure,

guilty of the crimes which he neglects to prohibit, or to punish; and, that the idolatrous worship of fabulous deities, and real daemons, is the most abominable crime against the supreme majesty of the Creator. the laws of Moses, and the examples of Jewish history, [1] were hastily,

perhaps erroneously, applied, by the clergy, to the mild and universal

reign of Christianity. [2] The zeal of the emperors was excited to

vindicate their own honor, and that of the Deity: and the temples of the

Roman world were subverted, about sixty years after the conversion of constantine.

[Footnote 1: St. Ambrose (tom. ii. de Obit. Theodos. p. 1208) expressly

praises and recommends the zeal of Josiah in the destruction of idolatry the language of Julius Firmicus Maternus on the same subject (de Errore

Profan. Relig. p. 467, edit. Gronov.) is piously inhuman. Nec filio

jubet (the Mosaic Law) parci, nec fratri, et per amatam conjugera

gladium vindicem ducit, &c.]

[Footnote 2: Bayle (tom. ii. p. 406, in his Commentaire Philosophique)

justifies, and limits, these intolerant laws by the temporal reign of

Jehovah over the Jews. The attempt is laudable.]

from the age of Numa to the reign of Gratian, the Romans preserved the

regular succession of the several colleges of the sacerdotal order. [3] fifteen Pontiffs exercised their supreme jurisdiction over all things, and persons, that were consecrated to the service of the gods; and the

various questions which perpetually arose in a loose and traditionary

system, were submitted to the judgment of their holy tribunal Fifteen

grave and learned Augurs observed the face of the heavens, and

prescribed the actions of heroes, according to the flight of birds. fifteen keepers of the Sibylline books (their name of Quindecemvirs was derived from their number) occasionally consulted the history of future, and, as it should seem, of contingent, events. Six Vestals devoted their

virginity to the guard of the sacred fire, and of the unknown pledges of the duration of Rome; which no mortal had been suffered to behold with

impunity. [4] Seven Epulos prepared the table of the gods, conducted the

solemn procession, and regulated the ceremonies of the annual festival. the three Flamens of Jupiter, of Mars, and of Quirinus, were considered as the peculiar ministers of the three most powerful deities, who watched over the fate of Rome and of the universe. The King of the

Sacrifices represented the person of Numa, and of his successors, in the

religious functions, which could be performed only by royal hands. The confraternities of the Salians, the Lupercals, &c., practised such rites as might extort a smile of contempt from every reasonable man, with a lively confidence of recommending themselves to the favor of the

immortal gods. The authority, which the Roman priests had formerly

obtained in the counsels of the republic, was gradually abolished by the establishment of monarchy, and the removal of the seat of empire. But the dignity of their sacred character was still protected by the laws, and manners of their country; and they still continued, more especially the college of pontiffs, to exercise in the capital, and sometimes

in the provinces, the rights of their ecclesiastical and civil

jurisdiction. Their robes of purple, chariotz of state, and sumptuous entertainments, attracted the admiration of the people; and they

received, from the consecrated lands, and the public revenue, an ample

stipend, which liberally supported the splendor of the priesthood, and all the expenses of the religious worship of the state. As the service

of the altar was not incompatible with the command of armies, the

Romans, after their consulships and triumphs, aspired to the place of

pontiff, or of augur; the seats of Cicero [5] and Pompey were filled, in the fourth century, by the most illustrious members of the senate; and the dignity of their birth reflected additional splendor on their

sacerdotal character. The fifteen priests, who composed the college of

pontiffs, enjoyed a more distinguished rank as the companions of their

sovereign; and the Christian emperors condescended to accept the robe and ensigns, which were appropriated to the office of supreme

pontiff. But when Gratian ascended the throne, more scrupulous or more enlightened, he sternly rejected those profane symbols; [6] applied to the service of the state, or of the church, the revenues of the priests and vestals; abolished their honors and immunities; and dissolved the ancient fabric of Roman superstition, which was supported by the

opinions and habits of eleven hundred years. Paganism was still the constitutional religion of the senate. The hall, or temple, in which they assembled, was adorned by the statue and altar of Victory; [7] a

majestic female standing on a globe, with flowing garments, expanded wings, and a crown of laurel in her outstretched hand. [8] The senators were sworn on the altar of the goddess to observe the laws of the emperor and of the empire: and a solemn offering of wine and incense was the ordinary prelude of their public deliberations. The removal of this ancient monument was the only injury which Constantius had offered to the superstition of the Romans. The altar of Victory was again restored by Julian, tolerated by Valentinian, and once more banished from the

senate by the zeal of Gratian. [10] But the emperor yet spared the

statues of the gods which were exposed to the public veneration: four

hundred and twenty-four temples, or chapels, still remained to satisfy the devotion of the people; and in every quarter of Rome the delicacy of the Christians was offended by the fumes of idolatrous sacrifice. [11]

[Footnote 3: See the outlines of the Roman hierarchy in Cicero, (de

Legibus, ii. 7, 8,) Livy, (i. 20,) Dionysius Halicarnassensis, (l. ii.

p. 119-129, edit. Hudson,) Beaufort, (Republique Romaine, tom. i. p.

1-90,) and Moyle, (vol. i. p. 10-55.) The last is the work of an English whig, as well as of a Roman antiquary.]

[Footnote 4: These mystic, and perhaps imaginary, symbols have given birth to various fables and conjectures. It seems probable, that the

Palladium was a small statue (three cubits and a half high) of Minerva, with a lance and distaff; that it was usually enclosed in a seria, or barrel; and that a similar barrel was placed by its side to disconcert curiosity, or sacrilege. See Mezeriac (Comment. sur les Epitres d'Ovide, tom i. p. 60--66) and Lipsius, (tom. iii. p. 610 de Vesta, &c. c 10.)]

[Footnote 5: Cicero frankly (ad Atticum, l. ii. Epist. 5) or indirectly

(ad Familiar. l. xv. Epist. 4) confesses that the Augurate is the

supreme object of his wishes. Pliny is proud to tread in the footsteps

of Cicero, (l. iv. Epist. 8,) and the chain of tradition might be continued from history and marbles.]

[Footnote 6: Zosimus, l. iv. p. 249, 250. I have suppressed the foolish

pun about Pontifex and Maximus.]

[Footnote 7: This statue was transported from Tarentum to Rome, placed

in the Curia Julia by Caesar, and decorated by Augustus with the spoils

of Egypt.]

[Footnote 8: Prudentius (l. ii. in initio) has drawn a very awkward

portrait of Victory; but the curious reader will obtain more

satisfaction from Montfaucon's Antiquities, (tom. i. p. 341.)]

[Footnote 9: See Suetonius (in August. c. 35) and the Exordium of

Pliny's Panegyric.]

[Footnote 10: These facts are mutually allowed by the two advocates,

Symmachus and Ambrose.]

[Footnote 11: The Notitia Urbis, more recent than Constantine, does not find one Christian church worthy to be named among the edifices of the city. Ambrose (tom. ii. Epist. xvii. p. 825) deplores the public

scandals of Rome, which continually offended the eyes, the ears, and the

nostrils of the faithful.]

but the Christians formed the least numerous party in the senate of

Rome: [12] and it was only by their absence, that they could express their dissent from the legal, though profane, acts of a Pagan majority.

In that assembly, the dying embers of freedom were, for a moment,

revived and inflamed by the breath of fanaticism. Four respectable deputations were successively voted to the Imperial court, [13] to

represent the grievances of the priesthood and the senate, and to

solicit the restoration of the altar of Victory. The conduct of this

important business was intrusted to the eloquent Symmachus, [14] a wealthy and noble senator, who united the sacred characters of pontiff and augur with the civil dignities of proconsul of Africa and praefect

of the city. The breast of Symmachus was animated by the warmest zeal for the cause of expiring Paganism; and his religious antagonists

lamented the abuse of his genius, and the inefficacy of his moral

virtues. [15] The orator, whose petition is extant to the emperor

Valentinian, was conscious of the difficulty and danger of the office which he had assumed. He cautiously avoids every topic which might appear to reflect on the religion of his sovereign; humbly declares, that prayers and entreaties are his only arms; and artfully draws

his arguments from the schools of rhetoric, rather than from those of

philosophy. Symmachus endeavors to seduce the imagination of a young

prince, by displaying the attributes of the goddess of victory;

he insinuates, that the confiscation of the revenues, which were consecrated to the service of the gods, was a measure unworthy of his

liberal and disinterested character; and he maintains, that the Roman

sacrifices would be deprived of their force and energy, if they were

no longer celebrated at the expense, as well as in the name, of the

republic. Even scepticism is made to supply an apology for superstition. the great and incomprehensible secret of the universe eludes the inquiry

of man. Where reason cannot instruct, custom may be permitted to

guide; and every nation seems to consult the dictates of prudence, by a faithful attachment to those rites and opinions, which have received the sanction of ages. If those ages have been crowned with glory and

prosperity, if the devout people have frequently obtained the blessings which they have solicited at the altars of the gods, it must appear

still more advisable to persist in the same salutary practice; and not to risk the unknown perils that may attend any rash innovations. The test of antiquity and success was applied with singular advantage to the

religion of Numa; and Rome herself, the celestial genius that presided

over the fates of the city, is introduced by the orator to plead her

own cause before the tribunal of the emperors. "Most excellent princes,"

says the venerable matron, "fathers of your country! pity and respect

my age, which has hitherto flowed in an uninterrupted course of piety.

Since I do not repent, permit me to continue in the practice of my ancient rites. Since I am born free, allow me to enjoy my domestic

institutions. This religion has reduced the world under my laws. These

rites have repelled Hannibal from the city, and the Gauls from the capitol. Were my gray hairs reserved for such intolerable disgrace? I am ignorant of the new system that I am required to adopt; but I am well assured, that the correction of old age is always an ungrateful and ignominious office." [16] The fears of the people supplied what the discretion of the orator had suppressed; and the calamities, which afflicted, or threatened, the declining empire, were unanimously

imputed, by the Pagans, to the new religion of Christ and of constantine.

[Footnote 12: Ambrose repeatedly affirms, in contradiction to common

sense (Moyle's Works, vol. ii. p. 147,) that the Christians had a

majority in the senate.]

[Footnote 13: The first (A.D. 382) to Gratian, who refused them audience; the second (A.D. 384) to Valentinian, when the field was disputed by Symmachus and Ambrose; the third (A.D. 388) to Theodosius; and the fourth (A.D. 392) to Valentinian. Lardner (Heathen Testimonies,

vol. iv. p. 372-399) fairly represents the whole transaction.]

[Footnote 14: Symmachus, who was invested with all the civil and

sacerdotal honors, represented the emperor under the two characters of

Pontifex Maximus, and Princeps Senatus. See the proud inscription at the

head of his works. \* Note: Mr. Beugnot has made it doubtful whether

Symmachus was more than Pontifex Major. Destruction du Paganisme, vol.

i. p. 459.--M.]

[Footnote 15: As if any one, says Prudentius (in Symmach. i. 639) should dig in the mud with an instrument of gold and ivory. Even saints, and

polemic saints, treat this adversary with respect and civility.]

[Footnote 16: See the fifty-fourth Epistle of the tenth book of

Symmachus. In the form and disposition of his ten books of Epistles, he

imitated the younger Pliny; whose rich and florid style he was supposed, by his friends, to equal or excel, (Macrob. Saturnal. l. v. c. i.) But the luxcriancy of Symmachus consists of barren leaves, without fruits, and even without flowers. Few facts, and few sentiments, can be extracted from his verbose correspondence.]

but the hopes of Symmachus were repeatedly baffled by the firm and dexterous opposition of the archbishop of Milan, who fortified the emperors against the fallacious eloquence of the advocate of Rome.

In this controversy, Ambrose condescends to speak the language of a

philosopher, and to ask, with some contempt, why it should be thought

necessary to introduce an imaginary and invisible power, as the cause

of those victories, which were sufficiently explained by the valor and discipline of the legions. He justly derides the absurd reverence for antiquity, which could only tend to discourage the improvements of art, and to replunge the human race into their original barbarism. from thence, gradually rising to a more lofty and theological tone,

he pronounces, that Christianity alone is the doctrine of truth and

salvation; and that every mode of Polytheism conducts its deluded

votaries, through the paths of error, to the abyss of eternal perdition.

[17] Arguments like these, when they were suggested by a favorite bishop, had power to prevent the restoration of the altar of Victory; but the same arguments fell, with much more energy and effect, from the

mouth of a conqueror; and the gods of antiquity were dragged in triumph at the chariot-wheels of Theodosius. [18] In a full meeting of the

senate, the emperor proposed, according to the forms of the republic, the important question, Whether the worship of Jupiter, or that of christ, should be the religion of the Romans. [1811] The liberty of

suffrages, which he affected to allow, was destroyed by the hopes and fears that his presence inspired; and the arbitrary exile of Symmachus was a recent admonition, that it might be dangerous to oppose the wishes of the monarch. On a regular division of the senate, Jupiter was condemned and degraded by the sense of a very large majority; and it

is rather surprising, that any members should be found bold enough to declare, by their speeches and votes, that they were still attached to the interest of an abdicated deity. [19] The hasty conversion of the

senate must be attributed either to supernatural or to sordid motives; and many of these reluctant proselytes betrayed, on every favorable

occasion, their secret disposition to throw aside the mask of odious dissimulation. But they were gradually fixed in the new religion, as the cause of the ancient became more hopeless; they yielded to the authority

of the emperor, to the fashion of the times, and to the entreaties of their wives and children, [20] who were instigated and governed by the clergy of Rome and the monks of the East. The edifying example of the anician family was soon imitated by the rest of the nobility: the Bassi, the Paullini, the Gracchi, embraced the Christian religion; and "the

luminaries of the world, the venerable assembly of Catos (such are the

high-flown expressions of Prudentius) were impatient to strip themselves

of their pontifical garment; to cast the skin of the old serpent; to assume the snowy robes of baptismal innocence, and to humble the pride

of the consular fasces before tombs of the martyrs." [21] The citizens, who subsisted by their own industry, and the populace, who were

supported by the public liberality, filled the churches of the Lateran, and Vatican, with an incessant throng of devout proselytes. The decrees

of the senate, which proscribed the worship of idols, were ratified by the general consent of the Romans; [22] the splendor of the Capitol was defaced, and the solitary temples were abandoned to ruin and contempt.

[23] Rome submitted to the yoke of the Gospel; and the vanquished

provinces had not yet lost their reverence for the name and authority of

Rome. [2311]

[Footnote 17: See Ambrose, (tom. ii. Epist. xvii. xviii. p. 825-833.) the former of these epistles is a short caution; the latter is a formal

reply of the petition or libel of Symmachus. The same ideas are more copiously expressed in the poetry, if it may deserve that name, of

Prudentius; who composed his two books against Symmachus (A.D. 404) while that senator was still alive. It is whimsical enough that

Montesquieu (Considerations, &c. c. xix. tom. iii. p. 487) should

overlook the two professed antagonists of Symmachus, and amuse himself with descanting on the more remote and indirect confutations of Orosius,

St. Augustin, and Salvian.]

[Footnote 18: See Prudentius (in Symmach. l. i. 545, &c.) The Christian agrees with the Pagan Zosimus (l. iv. p. 283) in placing this visit of theodosius after the second civil war, gemini bis victor caede Tyranni,

(l. i. 410.) But the time and circumstances are better suited to his first triumph.]

[Footnote 1811: M. Beugnot (in his Histoire de la Destruction du

Paganisme en Occident, i. p. 483-488) questions, altogether, the truth

of this statement. It is very remarkable that Zosimus and Prudentius concur in asserting the fact of the question being solemnly deliberated by the senate, though with directly opposite results. Zosimus declares that the majority of the assembly adhered to the ancient religion of

Rome; Gibbon has adopted the authority of Prudentius, who, as a Latin writer, though a poet, deserves more credit than the Greek historian. both concur in placing this scene after the second triumph of theodosius; but it has been almost demonstrated (and Gibbon--see the

preceding note--seems to have acknowledged this) by Pagi and Tillemont, that Theodosius did not visit Rome after the defeat of Eugenius. M. beugnot urges, with much force, the improbability that the Christian emperor would submit such a question to the senate, whose authority was

nearly obsolete, except on one occasion, which was almost hailed as an epoch in the restoration of her ancient privileges. The silence of ambrose and of Jerom on an event so striking, and redounding so much to the honor of Christianity, is of considerable weight. M. Beugnot would ascribe the whole scene to the poetic imagination of Prudentius; but

I must observe, that, however Prudentius is sometimes elevated by the

grandeur of his subject to vivid and eloquent language, this flight of

invention would be so much bolder and more vigorous than usual with this

poet, that I cannot but suppose there must have been some foundation for the story, though it may have been exaggerated by the poet, or

misrepresented by the historian.--M]

[Footnote 19: Prudentius, after proving that the sense of the senate is declared by a legal majority, proceeds to say, (609, &c.)--

Adspice quam pleno subsellia nostra Senatu

Decernant infame Jovis pulvinar, et omne

Idolum longe purgata ex urbe fugandum,

Qua vocat egregii sententia Principis, illuc

Libera, cum pedibus, tum corde, frequentia transit.

Zosimus ascribes to the conscript feathers a heathenish courage, which few of them are found to possess.]

[Footnote 20: Jerom specifies the pontiff Albinus, who was surrounded with such a believing family of children and grandchildren, as would

have been sufficient to convert even Jupiter himself; an extraordinary

proselyted (tom. i. ad Laetam, p. 54.)]

[Footnote 21:

Exultare Patres videas, pulcherrima mundi

Lumina; Conciliumque senum gestire Catonum

Candidiore toga niveum pietatis amictum

Sumere; et exuvias deponere pontificales.

the fancy of Prudentius is warmed and elevated by victory]

[Footnote 22: Prudentius, after he has described the conversion of the

senate and people, asks, with some truth and confidence,

Et dubitamus adhuc Romam, tibi, Christe, dicatam

In leges transisse tuas?]

[Footnote 23: Jerom exults in the desolation of the Capitol, and the

other temples of Rome, (tom. i. p. 54, tom. ii. p. 95.)]

[Footnote 2311: M. Beugnot is more correct in his general estimate of the measures enforced by Theodosius for the abolition of Paganism. He

seized (according to Zosimus) the funds bestowed by the public for the expense of sacrifices. The public sacrifices ceased, not because they were positively prohibited, but because the public treasury would no

longer bear the expense. The public and the private sacrifices in the

provinces, which were not under the same regulations with those of the capital, continued to take place. In Rome itself, many pagan ceremonies, which were without sacrifice, remained in full force. The gods, therefore, were invoked, the temples were frequented, the pontificates

inscribed, according to ancient usage, among the family titles of honor; and it cannot be asserted that idolatry was completely destroyed by theodosius. See Beugnot, p. 491.--M.]

chapter XXVIII: Destruction Of Paganism.--Part II.

the filial piety of the emperors themselves engaged them to proceed, with some caution and tenderness, in the reformation of the eternal city. Those absolute monarchs acted with less regard to the prejudices

of the provincials. The pious labor which had been suspended near twenty

years since the death of Constantius, [24] was vigorously resumed, and finally accomplished, by the zeal of Theodosius. Whilst that warlike

prince yet struggled with the Goths, not for the glory, but for the

safety, of the republic, he ventured to offend a considerable party of

his subjects, by some acts which might perhaps secure the protection of

Heaven, but which must seem rash and unseasonable in the eye of human

prudence. The success of his first experiments against the Pagans encouraged the pious emperor to reiterate and enforce his edicts of

proscription: the same laws which had been originally published in the

provinces of the East, were applied, after the defeat of Maximus, to the whole extent of the Western empire; and every victory of the orthodox theodosius contributed to the triumph of the Christian and Catholic faith. [25] He attacked superstition in her most vital part, by

prohibiting the use of sacrifices, which he declared to be criminal as well as infamous; and if the terms of his edicts more strictly condemned the impious curiosity which examined the entrails of the victim, [26] every subsequent explanation tended to involve in the same guilt the

general practice of immolation, which essentially constituted the

religion of the Pagans. As the temples had been erected for the purpose

of sacrifice, it was the duty of a benevolent prince to remove from his

subjects the dangerous temptation of offending against the laws which

he had enacted. A special commission was granted to Cynegius, the

Praetorian praefect of the East, and afterwards to the counts Jovius and Gaudentius, two officers of distinguished rank in the West; by which they were directed to shut the temples, to seize or destroy the

instruments of idolatry, to abolish the privileges of the priests, and to confiscate the consecrated property for the benefit of the emperor,

of the church, or of the army. [27] Here the desolation might have

stopped: and the naked edifices, which were no longer employed in the

service of idolatry, might have been protected from the destructive

rage of fanaticism. Many of those temples were the most splendid and beautiful monuments of Grecian architecture; and the emperor himself was

interested not to deface the splendor of his own cities, or to diminish the value of his own possessions. Those stately edifices might be

suffered to remain, as so many lasting trophies of the victory of christ. In the decline of the arts they might be usefully converted into

magazines, manufactures, or places of public assembly: and perhaps, when the walls of the temple had been sufficiently purified by holy rites, the worship of the true Deity might be allowed to expiate the ancient

guilt of idolatry. But as long as they subsisted, the Pagans fondly cherished the secret hope, that an auspicious revolution, a second

Julian, might again restore the altars of the gods: and the earnestness with which they addressed their unavailing prayers to the throne, [28]

increased the zeal of the Christian reformers to extirpate, without

mercy, the root of superstition. The laws of the emperors exhibit

some symptoms of a milder disposition: [29] but their cold and languid efforts were insufficient to stem the torrent of enthusiasm and rapine, which was conducted, or rather impelled, by the spiritual rulers of the church. In Gaul, the holy Martin, bishop of Tours, [30] marched at the

head of his faithful monks to destroy the idols, the temples, and the consecrated trees of his extensive diocese; and, in the execution of this arduous task, the prudent reader will judge whether Martin was

supported by the aid of miraculous powers, or of carnal weapons. In

Syria, the divine and excellent Marcellus, [31] as he is styled by theodoret, a bishop animated with apostolic fervor, resolved to level with the ground the stately temples within the diocese of Apamea. His attack was resisted by the skill and solidity with which the temple of

Jupiter had been constructed. The building was seated on an eminence:

on each of the four sides, the lofty roof was supported by fifteen massy columns, sixteen feet in circumference; and the large stone, of which they were composed, were firmly cemented with lead and iron. The force

of the strongest and sharpest tools had been tried without effect. It was found necessary to undermine the foundations of the columns, which fell down as soon as the temporary wooden props had been consumed with fire; and the difficulties of the enterprise are described under the allegory of a black daemon, who retarded, though he could not defeat, the operations of the Christian engineers. Elated with victory,

Marcellus took the field in person against the powers of darkness; a

numerous troop of soldiers and gladiators marched under the episcopal banner, and he successively attacked the villages and country temples

of the diocese of Apamea. Whenever any resistance or danger was apprehended, the champion of the faith, whose lameness would not allow

him either to fight or fly, placed himself at a convenient distance, beyond the reach of darts. But this prudence was the occasion of his death: he was surprised and slain by a body of exasperated rustics; and the synod of the province pronounced, without hesitation, that the holy

Marcellus had sacrificed his life in the cause of God. In the support of this cause, the monks, who rushed with tumultuous fury from the desert, distinguished themselves by their zeal and diligence. They deserved the enmity of the Pagans; and some of them might deserve the reproaches of avarice and intemperance; of avarice, which they gratified with holy

plunder, and of intemperance, which they indulged at the expense of the

people, who foolishly admired their tattered garments, loud psalmody, and artificial paleness. [32] A small number of temples was protected by the fears, the venality, the taste, or the prudence, of the civil and ecclesiastical governors. The temple of the Celestial Venus at Carthage, whose sacred precincts formed a circumference of two miles, was

judiciously converted into a Christian church; [33] and a similar consecration has preserved inviolate the majestic dome of the Pantheon at Rome. [34] But in almost every province of the Roman world, an army

of fanatics, without authority, and without discipline, invaded the peaceful inhabitants; and the ruin of the fairest structures of antiquity still displays the ravages of those Barbarians, who alone had time and inclination to execute such laborious destruction.

[Footnote 24: Libanius (Orat. pro Templis, p. 10, Genev. 1634, published by James Godefroy, and now extremely scarce) accuses Valentinian and

Valens of prohibiting sacrifices. Some partial order may have been

issued by the Eastern emperor; but the idea of any general law

is contradicted by the silence of the Code, and the evidence of ecclesiastical history. Note: See in Reiske's edition of Libanius, tom.

ii. p. 155. Sacrific was prohibited by Valens, but not the offering of

incense.--M.]

[Footnote 25: See his laws in the Theodosian Code, l. xvi. tit. x. leg.

7-11.]

[Footnote 26: Homer's sacrifices are not accompanied with any

inquisition of entrails, (see Feithius, Antiquitat. Homer. l. i. c. 10,

16.) The Tuscans, who produced the first Haruspices, subdued both the

Greeks and the Romans, (Cicero de Divinatione, ii. 23.)]

[Footnote 27: Zosimus, l. iv. p. 245, 249. Theodoret. l. v. c. 21.

Idatius in Chron. Prosper. Aquitan. l. iii. c. 38, apud Baronium, Annal. eccles. A.D. 389, No. 52. Libanius (pro Templis, p. 10) labors to prove that the commands of Theodosius were not direct and positive. \* Note:

Libanius appears to be the best authority for the East, where, under theodosius, the work of devastation was carried on with very different degrees of violence, according to the temper of the local authorities and of the clergy; and more especially the neighborhood of the more fanatican monks. Neander well observes, that the prohibition of

sacrifice would be easily misinterpreted into an authority for the destruction of the buildings in which sacrifices were performed.

(Geschichte der Christlichen religion ii. p. 156.) An abuse of this kind

led to this remarkable oration of Libanius. Neander, however, justly doubts whether this bold vindication or at least exculpation, of

Paganism was ever delivered before, or even placed in the hands of the christian emperor.--M.]

[Footnote 28: Cod. Theodos, l. xvi. tit. x. leg. 8, 18. There is room to believe, that this temple of Edessa, which Theodosius wished to save for civil uses, was soon afterwards a heap of ruins, (Libanius pro Templis,

p. 26, 27, and Godefroy's notes, p. 59.)]

[Footnote 29: See this curious oration of Libanius pro Templis,

pronounced, or rather composed, about the year 390. I have consulted, with advantage, Dr. Lardner's version and remarks, (Heathen Testimonies,

vol. iv. p. 135-163.)]

[Footnote 30: See the Life of Martin by Sulpicius Severus, c. 9-14. The

saint once mistook (as Don Quixote might have done) a harmless funeral for an idolatrous procession, and imprudently committed a miracle.]

[Footnote 31: Compare Sozomen, (l. vii. c. 15) with Theodoret, (l. v. c.

21.) Between them, they relate the crusade and death of Marcellus.]

[Footnote 32: Libanius, pro Templis, p. 10-13. He rails at these black-garbed men, the Christian monks, who eat more than elephants. Poor elephants! they are temperate animals.]

[Footnote 33: Prosper. Aquitan. l. iii. c. 38, apud Baronium; Annal. eccles. A.D. 389, No. 58, &c. The temple had been shut some time, and the access to it was overgrown with brambles.]

[Footnote 34: Donatus, Roma Antiqua et Nova, l. iv. c. 4, p. 468. This consecration was performed by Pope Boniface IV. I am ignorant of the favorable circumstances which had preserved the Pantheon above two

hundred years after the reign of Theodosius.]

In this wide and various prospect of devastation, the spectator may distinguish the ruins of the temple of Serapis, at Alexandria. [35]

Serapis does not appear to have been one of the native gods, or

monsters, who sprung from the fruitful soil of superstitious Egypt. [36] the first of the Ptolemies had been commanded, by a dream, to import the mysterious stranger from the coast of Pontus, where he had been long adored by the inhabitants of Sinope; but his attributes and his reign were so imperfectly understood, that it became a subject of dispute, whether he represented the bright orb of day, or the gloomy monarch

of the subterraneous regions. [37] The Egyptians, who were obstinately devoted to the religion of their fathers, refused to admit this foreign deity within the walls of their cities. [38] But the obsequious priests, who were seduced by the liberality of the Ptolemies, submitted, without

resistance, to the power of the god of Pontus: an honorable and domestic

genealogy was provided; and this fortunate usurper was introduced

into the throne and bed of Osiris, [39] the husband of Isis, and the celestial monarch of Egypt. Alexandria, which claimed his peculiar

protection, gloried in the name of the city of Serapis. His temple, [40] which rivalled the pride and magnificence of the Capitol, was erected

on the spacious summit of an artificial mount, raised one hundred steps above the level of the adjacent parts of the city; and the interior cavity was strongly supported by arches, and distributed into vaults and

subterraneous apartments. The consecrated buildings were surrounded by a quadrangular portico; the stately halls, and exquisite statues, displayed the triumph of the arts; and the treasures of ancient learning were preserved in the famous Alexandrian library, which had arisen with

new splendor from its ashes. [41] After the edicts of Theodosius had

severely prohibited the sacrifices of the Pagans, they were still tolerated in the city and temple of Serapis; and this singular

indulgence was imprudently ascribed to the superstitious terrors of the christians themselves; as if they had feared to abolish those ancient

rites, which could alone secure the inundations of the Nile, the

harvests of Egypt, and the subsistence of Constantinople. [42]

[Footnote 35: Sophronius composed a recent and separate history, (Jerom,

in Script. Eccles. tom. i. p. 303,) which has furnished materials to

Socrates, (l. v. c. 16.) Theodoret, (l. v. c. 22,) and Rufinus, (l. ii. c. 22.) Yet the last, who had been at Alexandria before and after the event, may deserve the credit of an original witness.]

[Footnote 36: Gerard Vossius (Opera, tom. v. p. 80, and de Idoloaltria,

l. i. c. 29) strives to support the strange notion of the Fathers; that the patriarch Joseph was adored in Egypt, as the bull Apis, and the

god Serapis. \* Note: Consult du Dieu Serapis et son Origine, par J D.

Guigniaut, (the translator of Creuzer's Symbolique,) Paris, 1828; and in the fifth volume of Bournouf's translation of Tacitus.--M.]

[Footnote 37: Origo dei nondum nostris celebrata. Aegyptiorum antistites

sic memorant, &c., Tacit. Hist. iv. 83. The Greeks, who had travelled

into Egypt, were alike ignorant of this new deity.]

[Footnote 38: Macrobius, Saturnal, l. i. c. 7. Such a living fact decisively proves his foreign extraction.]

[Footnote 39: At Rome, Isis and Serapis were united in the same temple. the precedency which the queen assumed, may seem to betray her unequal alliance with the stranger of Pontus. But the superiority of the female

sex was established in Egypt as a civil and religious institution,

(Diodor. Sicul. tom. i. l. i. p. 31, edit. Wesseling,) and the same

order is observed in Plutarch's Treatise of Isis and Osiris; whom he

identifies with Serapis.]

[Footnote 40: Ammianus, (xxii. 16.) The Expositio totius Mundi, (p. 8,

in Hudson's Geograph. Minor. tom. iii.,) and Rufinus, (l. ii. c. 22,) celebrate the Serapeum, as one of the wonders of the world.]

[Footnote 41: See Memoires de l'Acad. des Inscriptions, tom. ix. p.

397-416. The old library of the Ptolemies was totally consumed in caesar's Alexandrian war. Marc Antony gave the whole collection of

Pergamus (200,000 volumes) to Cleopatra, as the foundation of the new

library of Alexandria.]

[Footnote 42: Libanius (pro Templis, p. 21) indiscreetly provokes his christian masters by this insulting remark.]

at that time [43] the archiepiscopal throne of Alexandria was filled by theophilus, [44] the perpetual enemy of peace and virtue; a bold, bad

man, whose hands were alternately polluted with gold and with blood. His

pious indignation was excited by the honors of Serapis; and the insults which he offered to an ancient temple of Bacchus, [4411] convinced the

Pagans that he meditated a more important and dangerous enterprise.

In the tumultuous capital of Egypt, the slightest provocation was

sufficient to inflame a civil war. The votaries of Serapis, whose

strength and numbers were much inferior to those of their antagonists,

rose in arms at the instigation of the philosopher Olympius, [45] who exhorted them to die in the defence of the altars of the gods. These

Pagan fanatics fortified themselves in the temple, or rather fortress,

of Serapis; repelled the besiegers by daring sallies, and a resolute defence; and, by the inhuman cruelties which they exercised on their christian prisoners, obtained the last consolation of despair. The efforts of the prudent magistrate were usefully exerted for the establishment of a truce, till the answer of Theodosius should determine the fate of Serapis. The two parties assembled, without arms, in the

principal square; and the Imperial rescript was publicly read. But when a sentence of destruction against the idols of Alexandria was

pronounced, the Christians set up a shout of joy and exultation, whilst the unfortunate Pagans, whose fury had given way to consternation,

retired with hasty and silent steps, and eluded, by their flight or

obscurity, the resentment of their enemies. Theophilus proceeded to demolish the temple of Serapis, without any other difficulties, than those which he found in the weight and solidity of the materials: but these obstacles proved so insuperable, that he was obliged to leave the foundations; and to content himself with reducing the edifice itself to a heap of rubbish, a part of which was soon afterwards cleared away, to

make room for a church, erected in honor of the Christian martyrs. the valuable library of Alexandria was pillaged or destroyed; and near twenty years afterwards, the appearance of the empty shelves excited the

regret and indignation of every spectator, whose mind was not totally darkened by religious prejudice. [46] The compositions of ancient

genius, so many of which have irretrievably perished, might surely

have been excepted from the wreck of idolatry, for the amusement and

instruction of succeeding ages; and either the zeal or the avarice of the archbishop, [47] might have been satiated with the rich spoils, which were the reward of his victory. While the images and vases of gold and silver were carefully melted, and those of a less valuable metal were contemptuously broken, and cast into the streets, Theophilus

labored to expose the frauds and vices of the ministers of the idols; their dexterity in the management of the loadstone; their secret methods

of introducing a human actor into a hollow statue; [4711] and their

scandalous abuse of the confidence of devout husbands and unsuspecting females. [48] Charges like these may seem to deserve some degree of credit, as they are not repugnant to the crafty and interested spirit of

superstition. But the same spirit is equally prone to the base practice

of insulting and calumniating a fallen enemy; and our belief is

naturally checked by the reflection, that it is much less difficult to invent a fictitious story, than to support a practical fraud. The colossal statue of Serapis [49] was involved in the ruin of his temple and religion. A great number of plates of different metals, artificially

joined together, composed the majestic figure of the deity, who touched

on either side the walls of the sanctuary. The aspect of Serapis, his

sitting posture, and the sceptre, which he bore in his left hand, were extremely similar to the ordinary representations of Jupiter. He was distinguished from Jupiter by the basket, or bushel, which was placed on

his head; and by the emblematic monster which he held in his right hand; the head and body of a serpent branching into three tails, which were again terminated by the triple heads of a dog, a lion, and a wolf.

It was confidently affirmed, that if any impious hand should dare to violate the majesty of the god, the heavens and the earth would

instantly return to their original chaos. An intrepid soldier, animated by zeal, and armed with a weighty battle-axe, ascended the ladder; and even the Christian multitude expected, with some anxiety, the event

of the combat. [50] He aimed a vigorous stroke against the cheek of

Serapis; the cheek fell to the ground; the thunder was still silent, and both the heavens and the earth continued to preserve their accustomed

order and tranquillity. The victorious soldier repeated his blows: the

huge idol was overthrown, and broken in pieces; and the limbs of Serapis were ignominiously dragged through the streets of Alexandria. His

mangled carcass was burnt in the Amphitheatre, amidst the shouts of the

populace; and many persons attributed their conversion to this discovery

of the impotence of their tutelar deity. The popular modes of religion, that propose any visible and material objects of worship, have the advantage of adapting and familiarizing themselves to the senses of

mankind: but this advantage is counterbalanced by the various and

inevitable accidents to which the faith of the idolater is exposed.

It is scarcely possible, that, in every disposition of mind, he should

preserve his implicit reverence for the idols, or the relics, which the

naked eye, and the profane hand, are unable to distinguish from the

most common productions of art or nature; and if, in the hour of danger, their secret and miraculous virtue does not operate for their own

preservation, he scorns the vain apologies of his priests, and justly derides the object, and the folly, of his superstitious attachment.

[51] After the fall of Serapis, some hopes were still entertained by the Pagans, that the Nile would refuse his annual supply to the impious

masters of Egypt; and the extraordinary delay of the inundation seemed to announce the displeasure of the river-god. But this delay was soon compensated by the rapid swell of the waters. They suddenly rose to

such an unusual height, as to comfort the discontented party with the

pleasing expectation of a deluge; till the peaceful river again subsided to the well-known and fertilizing level of sixteen cubits, or about thirty English feet. [52]

[Footnote 43: We may choose between the date of Marcellinus (A.D. 389)

or that of Prosper, ( A.D. 391.) Tillemont (Hist. des Emp. tom. v. p.

310, 756) prefers the former, and Pagi the latter.]

[Footnote 44: Tillemont, Mem. Eccles. tom. xi. p. 441-500. The ambiguous

situation of Theophilus--a saint, as the friend of Jerom a devil, as the enemy of Chrysostom--produces a sort of impartiality; yet, upon the whole, the balance is justly inclined against him.]

[Footnote 4411: No doubt a temple of Osiris. St. Martin, iv 398-M.]

[Footnote 45: Lardner (Heathen Testimonies, vol. iv. p. 411) has alleged beautiful passage from Suidas, or rather from Damascius, which show the devout and virtuous Olympius, not in the light of a warrior, but of a

prophet.]

[Footnote 46: Nos vidimus armaria librorum, quibus direptis, exinanita ea a nostris hominibus, nostris temporibus memorant. Orosius, l. vi. c.

15, p. 421, edit. Havercamp. Though a bigot, and a controversial writer.

Orosius seems to blush.]

[Footnote 47: Eunapius, in the Lives of Antoninus and Aedesius, execrates the sacrilegious rapine of Theophilus. Tillemont (Mem. Eccles. tom. xiii. p. 453) quotes an epistle of Isidore of Pelusium, which

reproaches the primate with the idolatrous worship of gold, the auri

sacra fames.]

[Footnote 4711: An English traveller, Mr. Wilkinson, has discovered the

secret of the vocal Memnon. There was a cavity in which a person was concealed, and struck a stone, which gave a ringing sound like brass. the Arabs, who stood below when Mr. Wilkinson performed the miracle, described sound just as the author of the epigram.--M.]

[Footnote 48: Rufinus names the priest of Saturn, who, in the character

of the god, familiarly conversed with many pious ladies of quality, till he betrayed himself, in a moment of transport, when he could not disguise the tone of his voice. The authentic and impartial narrative

of Aeschines, (see Bayle, Dictionnaire Critique, Scamandre,) and the adventure of Mudus, (Joseph. Antiquitat. Judaic. l. xviii. c. 3, p. 877 edit. Havercamp,) may prove that such amorous frauds have been practised with success.]

[Footnote 49: See the images of Serapis, in Montfaucon, (tom. ii. p.

297:) but the description of Macrobius (Saturnal. l. i. c. 20) is much

more picturesque and satisfactory.]

[Footnote 50:

Sed fortes tremuere manus, motique verenda

Majestate loci, si robora sacra ferirent

In sua credebant redituras membra secures.

(Lucan. iii. 429.) "Is it true," (said Augustus to a veteran of Italy, at whose house he supped) "that the man who gave the first blow to the

golden statue of Anaitis, was instantly deprived of his eyes, and of his

life?"--"I was that man, (replied the clear-sighted veteran,) and you

now sup on one of the legs of the goddess." (Plin. Hist. Natur. xxxiii.

24)]

[Footnote 51: The history of the reformation affords frequent examples

of the sudden change from superstition to contempt.]

[Footnote 52: Sozomen, l. vii. c. 20. I have supplied the measure. The

same standard, of the inundation, and consequently of the cubit, has

uniformly subsisted since the time of Herodotus. See Freret, in the

Mem. de l'Academie des Inscriptions, tom. xvi. p. 344-353. Greaves's

Miscellaneous Works, vol. i. p. 233. The Egyptian cubit is about twenty-two inches of the English measure. \* Note: Compare Wilkinson's thebes and Egypt, p. 313.--M.]

the temples of the Roman empire were deserted, or destroyed; but the

ingenious superstition of the Pagans still attempted to elude the laws

of Theodosius, by which all sacrifices had been severely prohibited. The

inhabitants of the country, whose conduct was less opposed to the eye of

malicious curiosity, disguised their religious, under the appearance of convivial, meetings. On the days of solemn festivals, they assembled in

great numbers under the spreading shade of some consecrated trees; sheep and oxen were slaughtered and roasted; and this rural entertainment was

sanctified by the use of incense, and by the hymns which were sung in

honor of the gods. But it was alleged, that, as no part of the animal was made a burnt-offering, as no altar was provided to receive the blood, and as the previous oblation of salt cakes, and the concluding ceremony of libations, were carefully omitted, these festal meetings did not involve the guests in the guilt, or penalty, of an illegal

sacrifice. [53] Whatever might be the truth of the facts, or the merit

of the distinction, [54] these vain pretences were swept away by the last edict of Theodosius, which inflicted a deadly wound on the superstition of the Pagans. [55] [5511] This prohibitory law is expressed in the most absolute and comprehensive terms. "It is our will and pleasure," says the emperor, "that none of our subjects, whether

magistrates or private citizens, however exalted or however humble may be their rank and condition, shall presume, in any city or in any place, to worship an inanimate idol, by the sacrifice of a guiltless victim." the act of sacrificing, and the practice of divination by the entrails

of the victim, are declared (without any regard to the object of the inquiry) a crime of high treason against the state, which can be expiated only by the death of the guilty. The rites of Pagan

superstition, which might seem less bloody and atrocious, are abolished, as highly injurious to the truth and honor of religion; luminaries,

garlands, frankincense, and libations of wine, are specially enumerated and condemned; and the harmless claims of the domestic genius, of the

household gods, are included in this rigorous proscription. The use of any of these profane and illegal ceremonies, subjects the offender to the forfeiture of the house or estate, where they have been performed; and if he has artfully chosen the property of another for the scene of

his impiety, he is compelled to discharge, without delay, a heavy fine of twenty-five pounds of gold, or more than one thousand pounds

sterling. A fine, not less considerable, is imposed on the connivance

of the secret enemies of religion, who shall neglect the duty of their

respective stations, either to reveal, or to punish, the guilt of

idolatry. Such was the persecuting spirit of the laws of Theodosius, which were repeatedly enforced by his sons and grandsons, with the loud and unanimous applause of the Christian world. [56]

[Footnote 53: Libanius (pro Templis, p. 15, 16, 17) pleads their cause with gentle and insinuating rhetoric. From the earliest age, such feasts

had enlivened the country: and those of Bacchus (Georgic. ii. 380) had

produced the theatre of Athens. See Godefroy, ad loc. Liban. and Codex theodos. tom. vi. p. 284.]

[Footnote 54: Honorius tolerated these rustic festivals, (A.D. 399.)

"Absque ullo sacrificio, atque ulla superstitione damnabili." But nine

years afterwards he found it necessary to reiterate and enforce the same

proviso, (Codex Theodos. l. xvi. tit. x. leg. 17, 19.)]

[Footnote 55: Cod. Theodos. l. xvi. tit. x. leg. 12. Jortin (Remarks on eccles. History, vol. iv. p. 134) censures, with becoming asperity, the

style and sentiments of this intolerant law.]

[Footnote 5511: Paganism maintained its ground for a considerable time

in the rural districts. Endelechius, a poet who lived at the beginning

of the fifth century, speaks of the cross as Signum quod perhibent esse crucis Dei, Magnis qui colitur solus inurbibus. In the middle of the

same century, Maximus, bishop of Turin, writes against the heathen deities as if their worship was still in full vigor in the neighborhood

of his city. Augustine complains of the encouragement of the Pagan rites by heathen landowners; and Zeno of Verona, still later, reproves the apathy of the Christian proprietors in conniving at this abuse. (Compare

Neander, ii. p. 169.) M. Beugnot shows that this was the case throughout the north and centre of Italy and in Sicily. But neither of these authors has adverted to one fact, which must have tended greatly to

retard the progress of Christianity in these quarters. It was still chiefly a slave population which cultivated the soil; and however, in the towns, the better class of Christians might be eager to communicate

"the blessed liberty of the gospel" to this class of mankind; however their condition could not but be silently ameliorated by the humanizing

influence of Christianity; yet, on the whole, no doubt the servile class would be the least fitted to receive the gospel; and its general

propagation among them would be embarrassed by many peculiar difficulties. The rural population was probably not entirely converted before the general establishment of the monastic institutions. Compare

Quarterly Review of Beugnot. vol lvii. p. 52--M.]

[Footnote 56: Such a charge should not be lightly made; but it may

surely be justified by the authority of St. Augustin, who thus addresses the Donatists: "Quis nostrum, quis vestrum non laudat leges ab Imperatoribus datas adversus sacrificia Paganorum? Et certe longe

ibi poera severior constituta est; illius quippe impietatis capitale

supplicium est." Epist. xciii. No. 10, quoted by Le Clerc, (Bibliotheque choisie, tom. viii. p. 277,) who adds some judicious reflections on the

intolerance of the victorious Christians. \* Note: Yet Augustine, with

laudable inconsistency, disapproved of the forcible demolition of the temples. "Let us first extirpate the idolatry of the hearts of the

heathen, and they will either themselves invite us or anticipate us in the execution of this good work," tom. v. p. 62. Compare Neander, ii.

169, and, in p. 155, a beautiful passage from Chrysostom against all

violent means of propagating Christianity.--M.]

chapter XXVIII: Destruction Of Paganism.--Part III.

In the cruel reigns of Decius and Dioclesian, Christianity had been

proscribed, as a revolt from the ancient and hereditary religion of the empire; and the unjust suspicions which were entertained of a dark and dangerous faction, were, in some measure, countenanced by the

inseparable union and rapid conquests of the Catholic church. But the

same excuses of fear and ignorance cannot be applied to the Christian emperors who violated the precepts of humanity and of the Gospel. The experience of ages had betrayed the weakness, as well as folly, of

Paganism; the light of reason and of faith had already exposed, to the

greatest part of mankind, the vanity of idols; and the declining sect, which still adhered to their worship, might have been permitted to enjoy, in peace and obscurity, the religious costumes of their ancestors. Had the Pagans been animated by the undaunted zeal which

possessed the minds of the primitive believers, the triumph of the church must have been stained with blood; and the martyrs of Jupiter and apollo might have embraced the glorious opportunity of devoting their

lives and fortunes at the foot of their altars. But such obstinate zeal was not congenial to the loose and careless temper of Polytheism. The

violent and repeated strokes of the orthodox princes were broken by the

soft and yielding substance against which they were directed; and the ready obedience of the Pagans protected them from the pains and

penalties of the Theodosian Code. [57] Instead of asserting, that the authority of the gods was superior to that of the emperor, they desisted, with a plaintive murmur, from the use of those sacred rites which their sovereign had condemned. If they were sometimes tempted by a sally of passion, or by the hopes of concealment, to indulge their favorite superstition, their humble repentance disarmed the severity

of the Christian magistrate, and they seldom refused to atone for their

rashness, by submitting, with some secret reluctance, to the yoke of the

Gospel. The churches were filled with the increasing multitude of these

unworthy proselytes, who had conformed, from temporal motives, to the

reigning religion; and whilst they devoutly imitated the postures, and

recited the prayers, of the faithful, they satisfied their conscience by the silent and sincere invocation of the gods of antiquity. [58] If the

Pagans wanted patience to suffer they wanted spirit to resist; and the scattered myriads, who deplored the ruin of the temples, yielded, without a contest, to the fortune of their adversaries. The disorderly

opposition [59] of the peasants of Syria, and the populace of alexandria, to the rage of private fanaticism, was silenced by the

name and authority of the emperor. The Pagans of the West, without contributing to the elevation of Eugenius, disgraced, by their

partial attachment, the cause and character of the usurper. The clergy

vehemently exclaimed, that he aggravated the crime of rebellion by the

guilt of apostasy; that, by his permission, the altar of victory was again restored; and that the idolatrous symbols of Jupiter and Hercules were displayed in the field, against the invincible standard of the cross. But the vain hopes of the Pagans were soon annihilated by the defeat of Eugenius; and they were left exposed to the resentment of the conqueror, who labored to deserve the favor of Heaven by the extirpation

of idolatry. [60]

[Footnote 57: Orosius, l. vii. c. 28, p. 537. Augustin (Enarrat. in

Psalm cxl apud Lardner, Heathen Testimonies, vol. iv. p. 458) insults their cowardice. "Quis eorum comprehensus est in sacrificio (cum his

legibus sta prohiberentur) et non negavit?"]

[Footnote 58: Libanius (pro Templis, p. 17, 18) mentions, without censure the occasional conformity, and as it were theatrical play, of these hypocrites.]

[Footnote 59: Libanius concludes his apology (p. 32) by declaring to the emperor, that unless he expressly warrants the destruction of the temples, the proprietors will defend themselves and the laws.]

[Footnote 60: Paulinus, in Vit. Ambros. c. 26. Augustin de Civitat. Dei,

l. v. c. 26. Theodoret, l. v. c. 24.]

a nation of slaves is always prepared to applaud the clemency of their

master, who, in the abuse of absolute power, does not proceed to the

last extremes of injustice and oppression. Theodosius might undoubtedly

have proposed to his Pagan subjects the alternative of baptism or of death; and the eloquent Libanius has praised the moderation of a prince, who never enacted, by any positive law, that all his subjects should

immediately embrace and practise the religion of their sovereign. [61] the profession of Christianity was not made an essential qualification for the enjoyment of the civil rights of society, nor were any peculiar

hardships imposed on the sectaries, who credulously received the fables

of Ovid, and obstinately rejected the miracles of the Gospel. The

palace, the schools, the army, and the senate, were filled with declared and devout Pagans; they obtained, without distinction, the civil and

military honors of the empire. [6111] Theodosius distinguished his

liberal regard for virtue and genius by the consular dignity, which

he bestowed on Symmachus; [62] and by the personal friendship which he expressed to Libanius; [63] and the two eloquent apologists of Paganism were never required either to change or to dissemble their religious

opinions. The Pagans were indulged in the most licentious freedom of

speech and writing; the historical and philosophic remains of Eunapius,

Zosimus, [64] and the fanatic teachers of the school of Plato, betray the most furious animosity, and contain the sharpest invectives, against the sentiments and conduct of their victorious adversaries. If these audacious libels were publicly known, we must applaud the good sense of the Christian princes, who viewed, with a smile of contempt, the last

struggles of superstition and despair. [65] But the Imperial laws, which prohibited the sacrifices and ceremonies of Paganism, were rigidly executed; and every hour contributed to destroy the influence of a

religion, which was supported by custom, rather than by argument. The devotion or the poet, or the philosopher, may be secretly nourished by prayer, meditation, and study; but the exercise of public worship appears to be the only solid foundation of the religious sentiments

of the people, which derive their force from imitation and habit. The

interruption of that public exercise may consummate, in the period of a few years, the important work of a national revolution. The memory of theological opinions cannot long be preserved, without the artificial

helps of priests, of temples, and of books. [66] The ignorant vulgar, whose minds are still agitated by the blind hopes and terrors of

superstition, will be soon persuaded by their superiors to direct their

vows to the reigning deities of the age; and will insensibly imbibe an ardent zeal for the support and propagation of the new doctrine, which

spiritual hunger at first compelled them to accept. The generation that arose in the world after the promulgation of the Imperial laws, was attracted within the pale of the Catholic church: and so rapid, yet so

gentle, was the fall of Paganism, that only twenty-eight years after the death of Theodosius, the faint and minute vestiges were no longer

visible to the eye of the legislator. [67]

[Footnote 61: Libanius suggests the form of a persecuting edict, which Theodosius might enact, (pro Templis, p. 32;) a rash joke, and a dangerous experiment. Some princes would have taken his advice.]

[Footnote 6111: The most remarkable instance of this, at a much later

period, occurs in the person of Merobaudes, a general and a poet, who flourished in the first half of the fifth century. A statue in honor of

Merobaudes was placed in the Forum of Trajan, of which the inscription

is still extant. Fragments of his poems have been recovered by the

industry and sagacity of Niebuhr. In one passage, Merobaudes, in the genuine heathen spirit, attributes the ruin of the empire to the abolition of Paganism, and almost renews the old accusation of Atheism against Christianity. He impersonates some deity, probably Discord, who summons Bellona to take arms for the destruction of Rome; and in a strain of fierce irony recommends to her other fatal measures, to extirpate the gods of Rome:--

Roma, ipsique tremant furialia murmura reges.

Jam superos terris atque hospita numina pelle:

Romanos populare Deos, et nullus in aris

Vestoe exoratoe fotus strue palleat ignis.

Ilis instructa dolis palatia celsa subibo;

Majorum mores, et pectora prisca fugabo

Funditus; atque simul, nullo discrimine rerum,

Spernantur fortes, nec sic reverentia justis.

Attica neglecto pereat facundia Phoebo:

Indignis contingat honos, et pondera rerum;

Non virtus sed casus agat; tristique cupido;

Pectoribus saevi demens furor aestuet aevi;

Omniaque hoec sine mente Jovis, sine numine sumimo.

Merobaudes in Niebuhr's edit. of the Byzantines, p. 14.--M.]

[Footnote 62: Denique pro meritis terrestribus aequa rependens

Munera, sacricolis summos impertit honores.

Dux bonus, et certare sinit cum laude suorum,

Nec pago implicitos per debita culmina mundi Ire

viros prohibet.

Ipse magistratum tibi consulis, ipse tribunal

Contulit.

Prudent. in Symmach. i. 617, &c.

Note: I have inserted some lines omitted by Gibbon.--M.]

[Footnote 63: Libanius (pro Templis, p. 32) is proud that Theodosius

should thus distinguish a man, who even in his presence would swear by Jupiter. Yet this presence seems to be no more than a figure of

rhetoric.]

[Footnote 64: Zosimus, who styles himself Count and Ex-advocate of the treasury, reviles, with partial and indecent bigotry, the Christian

princes, and even the father of his sovereign. His work must have been privately circulated, since it escaped the invectives of the ecclesiastical historians prior to Evagrius, (l. iii. c. 40-42,) who lived towards the end of the sixth century. \* Note: Heyne in his disquisitio in Zosimum Ejusque Fidem. places Zosimum towards the close

of the fifth century. Zosim. Heynii, p. xvii.--M.]

[Footnote 65: Yet the Pagans of Africa complained, that the times would

not allow them to answer with freedom the City of God; nor does St. augustin (v. 26) deny the charge.]

[Footnote 66: The Moors of Spain, who secretly preserved the Mahometan

religion above a century, under the tyranny of the Inquisition,

possessed the Koran, with the peculiar use of the Arabic tongue. See the curious and honest story of their expulsion in Geddes, (Miscellanies,

vol. i. p. 1-198.)]

[Footnote 67: Paganos qui supersunt, quanquam jam nullos esse credamus,

&c. Cod. Theodos. l. xvi. tit. x. leg. 22, A.D. 423. The younger theodosius was afterwards satisfied, that his judgment had been somewhat

premature. Note: The statement of Gibbon is much too strongly worded.

M. Beugnot has traced the vestiges of Paganism in the West, after this

period, in monuments and inscriptions with curious industry. Compare

likewise note, p. 112, on the more tardy progress of Christianity in the

rural districts.--M.]

the ruin of the Pagan religion is described by the sophists as a dreadful and amazing prodigy, which covered the earth with darkness, and restored the ancient dominion of chaos and of night. They relate,

in solemn and pathetic strains, that the temples were converted into

sepulchres, and that the holy places, which had been adorned by the

statues of the gods, were basely polluted by the relics of Christian

martyrs. "The monks" (a race of filthy animals, to whom Eunapius is tempted to refuse the name of men) "are the authors of the new worship, which, in the place of those deities who are conceived by the

understanding, has substituted the meanest and most contemptible slaves. the heads, salted and pickled, of those infamous malefactors, who for the multitude of their crimes have suffered a just and ignominious death; their bodies still marked by the impression of the lash, and the scars of those tortures which were inflicted by the sentence of the

magistrate; such" (continues Eunapius) "are the gods which the earth

produces in our days; such are the martyrs, the supreme arbitrators of

our prayers and petitions to the Deity, whose tombs are now consecrated as the objects of the veneration of the people." [68] Without approving the malice, it is natural enough to share the surprise of the sophist, the spectator of a revolution, which raised those obscure victims of the

laws of Rome to the rank of celestial and invisible protectors of the

Roman empire. The grateful respect of the Christians for the martyrs of the faith, was exalted, by time and victory, into religious adoration; and the most illustrious of the saints and prophets were deservedly associated to the honors of the martyrs. One hundred and fifty years after the glorious deaths of St. Peter and St. Paul, the Vatican and the

Ostian road were distinguished by the tombs, or rather by the trophies,

of those spiritual heroes. [69] In the age which followed the conversion

of Constantine, the emperors, the consuls, and the generals of armies, devoutly visited the sepulchres of a tentmaker and a fisherman; [70] and their venerable bones were deposited under the altars of Christ,

on which the bishops of the royal city continually offered the unbloody

sacrifice. [71] The new capital of the Eastern world, unable to produce any ancient and domestic trophies, was enriched by the spoils of dependent provinces. The bodies of St. Andrew, St. Luke, and St. timothy, had reposed near three hundred years in the obscure graves, from whence they were transported, in solemn pomp, to the church of the apostles, which the magnificence of Constantine had founded on the banks

of the Thracian Bosphorus. [72] About fifty years afterwards, the same banks were honored by the presence of Samuel, the judge and prophet of the people of Israel. His ashes, deposited in a golden vase, and covered with a silken veil, were delivered by the bishops into each other's

hands. The relics of Samuel were received by the people with the same

joy and reverence which they would have shown to the living prophet; the highways, from Palestine to the gates of Constantinople, were filled with an uninterrupted procession; and the emperor Arcadius himself, at the head of the most illustrious members of the clergy and senate, advanced to meet his extraordinary guest, who had always deserved and claimed the homage of kings. [73] The example of Rome and Constantinople confirmed the faith and discipline of the Catholic world. The honors of the saints and martyrs, after a feeble and ineffectual murmur of profane

reason, [74] were universally established; and in the age of Ambrose and

Jerom, something was still deemed wanting to the sanctity of a Christian church, till it had been consecrated by some portion of holy relics, which fixed and inflamed the devotion of the faithful.

[Footnote 68: See Eunapius, in the Life of the sophist Aedesius; in that

of Eustathius he foretells the ruin of Paganism.]

[Footnote 69: Caius, (apud Euseb. Hist. Eccles. l. ii. c. 25,) a Roman

presbyter, who lived in the time of Zephyrinus, (A.D. 202-219,) is an early witness of this superstitious practice.]

[Footnote 70: Chrysostom. Quod Christus sit Deus. Tom. i. nov. edit.

No. 9. I am indebted for this quotation to Benedict the XIVth's pastoral

letter on the Jubilee of the year 1759. See the curious and entertaining

letters of M. Chais, tom. iii.]

[Footnote 71: Male facit ergo Romanus episcopus? qui, super mortuorum

hominum, Petri & Pauli, secundum nos, ossa veneranda ... offeri Domino

sacrificia, et tumulos eorum, Christi arbitratur altaria. Jerom. tom.

ii. advers. Vigilant. p. 183.]

[Footnote 72: Jerom (tom. ii. p. 122) bears witness to these translations, which are neglected by the ecclesiastical historians. the passion of St. Andrew at Patrae is described in an epistle from the clergy of Achaia, which Baronius (Annal. Eccles. A.D. 60, No. 34) wishes to believe, and Tillemont is forced to reject. St. Andrew was adopted as the spiritual founder of Constantinople, (Mem. Eccles. tom. i. p.

317-323, 588-594.)]

[Footnote 73: Jerom (tom. ii. p. 122) pompously describes the translation of Samuel, which is noticed in all the chronicles of the times.]

[Footnote 74: The presbyter Vigilantius, the Protestant of his age, firmly, though ineffectually, withstood the superstition of monks,

relics, saints, fasts, &c., for which Jerom compares him to the Hydra, cerberus, the Centaurs, &c., and considers him only as the organ of the daemon, (tom. ii. p. 120-126.) Whoever will peruse the controversy of

St. Jerom and Vigilantius, and St. Augustin's account of the miracles of

St. Stephen, may speedily gain some idea of the spirit of the Fathers.]

In the long period of twelve hundred years, which elapsed between the

reign of Constantine and the reformation of Luther, the worship of

saints and relics corrupted the pure and perfect simplicity of the christian model: and some symptoms of degeneracy may be observed even

in the first generations which adopted and cherished this pernicious

innovation.

I. The satisfactory experience, that the relics of saints were more

valuable than gold or precious stones, [75] stimulated the clergy to

multiply the treasures of the church. Without much regard for truth or

probability, they invented names for skeletons, and actions for names. the fame of the apostles, and of the holy men who had imitated their

virtues, was darkened by religious fiction. To the invincible band of

genuine and primitive martyrs, they added myriads of imaginary heroes, who had never existed, except in the fancy of crafty or credulous

legendaries; and there is reason to suspect, that Tours might not be the

only diocese in which the bones of a malefactor were adored, instead

of those of a saint. [76] A superstitious practice, which tended to increase the temptations of fraud, and credulity, insensibly extinguished the light of history, and of reason, in the Christian world.

[Footnote 75: M. de Beausobre (Hist. du Manicheisme, tom. ii. p. 648)

has applied a worldly sense to the pious observation of the clergy of

Smyrna, who carefully preserved the relics of St. Polycarp the martyr.]

[Footnote 76: Martin of Tours (see his Life, c. 8, by Sulpicius Severus) extorted this confession from the mouth of the dead man. The error is allowed to be natural; the discovery is supposed to be miraculous. Which

of the two was likely to happen most frequently?]

II. But the progress of superstition would have been much less rapid and victorious, if the faith of the people had not been assisted by the

seasonable aid of visions and miracles, to ascertain the authenticity and virtue of the most suspicious relics. In the reign of the

younger Theodosius, Lucian, [77] a presbyter of Jerusalem, and the ecclesiastical minister of the village of Caphargamala, about twenty

miles from the city, related a very singular dream, which, to remove

his doubts, had been repeated on three successive Saturdays. A venerable figure stood before him, in the silence of the night, with a long beard, a white robe, and a gold rod; announced himself by the name of Gamaliel, and revealed to the astonished presbyter, that his own corpse, with the bodies of his son Abibas, his friend Nicodemus, and the illustrious

Stephen, the first martyr of the Christian faith, were secretly buried

in the adjacent field. He added, with some impatience, that it was time to release himself and his companions from their obscure prison; that their appearance would be salutary to a distressed world; and that they

had made choice of Lucian to inform the bishop of Jerusalem of their

situation and their wishes. The doubts and difficulties which still

retarded this important discovery were successively removed by new

visions; and the ground was opened by the bishop, in the presence of an

innumerable multitude. The coffins of Gamaliel, of his son, and of his friend, were found in regular order; but when the fourth coffin, which contained the remains of Stephen, was shown to the light, the earth trembled, and an odor, such as that of paradise, was smelt, which

instantly cured the various diseases of seventy-three of the assistants. the companions of Stephen were left in their peaceful residence of caphargamala: but the relics of the first martyr were transported, in

solemn procession, to a church constructed in their honor on Mount Sion; and the minute particles of those relics, a drop of blood, [78] or the

scrapings of a bone, were acknowledged, in almost every province of the

Roman world, to possess a divine and miraculous virtue. The grave and

learned Augustin, [79] whose understanding scarcely admits the excuse of credulity, has attested the innumerable prodigies which were performed

in Africa by the relics of St. Stephen; and this marvellous narrative is

inserted in the elaborate work of the City of God, which the bishop

of Hippo designed as a solid and immortal proof of the truth of christianity. Augustin solemnly declares, that he has selected those

miracles only which were publicly certified by the persons who were either the objects, or the spectators, of the power of the martyr. Many

prodigies were omitted, or forgotten; and Hippo had been less favorably treated than the other cities of the province. And yet the bishop enumerates above seventy miracles, of which three were resurrections from the dead, in the space of two years, and within the limits of his

own diocese. [80] If we enlarge our view to all the dioceses, and all the saints, of the Christian world, it will not be easy to calculate the fables, and the errors, which issued from this inexhaustible source. but we may surely be allowed to observe, that a miracle, in that age of

superstition and credulity, lost its name and its merit, since it could

scarcely be considered as a deviation from the ordinary and established

laws of nature.

[Footnote 77: Lucian composed in Greek his original narrative, which has been translated by Avitus, and published by Baronius, (Annal. Eccles. a.D. 415, No. 7-16.) The Benedictine editors of St. Augustin have given

(at the end of the work de Civitate Dei) two several copies, with many

various readings. It is the character of falsehood to be loose and

inconsistent. The most incredible parts of the legend are smoothed and

softened by Tillemont, (Mem. Eccles. tom. ii. p. 9, &c.)]

[Footnote 78: A phial of St. Stephen's blood was annually liquefied at Naples, till he was superseded by St. Jamarius, (Ruinart. Hist.

Persecut. Vandal p. 529.)]

[Footnote 79: Augustin composed the two-and-twenty books de Civitate Dei

in the space of thirteen years, A.D. 413-426. Tillemont, (Mem. Eccles. tom. xiv. p. 608, &c.) His learning is too often borrowed, and his arguments are too often his own; but the whole work claims the merit of a magnificent design, vigorously, and not unskilfully, executed.]

[Footnote 80: See Augustin de Civitat. Dei, l. xxii. c. 22, and the appendix, which contains two books of St. Stephen's miracles, by evodius, bishop of Uzalis. Freculphus (apud Basnage, Hist. des Juifs, tom. vii. p. 249) has preserved a Gallic or a Spanish proverb, "Whoever

pretends to have read all the miracles of St. Stephen, he lies."]

III. The innumerable miracles, of which the tombs of the martyrs were the perpetual theatre, revealed to the pious believer the actual state and constitution of the invisible world; and his religious speculations appeared to be founded on the firm basis of fact and experience. whatever might be the condition of vulgar souls, in the long interval between the dissolution and the resurrection of their bodies, it was evident that the superior spirits of the saints and martyrs did not consume that portion of their existence in silent and inglorious sleep.

[81] It was evident (without presuming to determine the place of their

habitation, or the nature of their felicity) that they enjoyed the

lively and active consciousness of their happiness, their virtue, and their powers; and that they had already secured the possession of their eternal reward. The enlargement of their intellectual faculties

surpassed the measure of the human imagination; since it was proved by experience, that they were capable of hearing and understanding the

various petitions of their numerous votaries; who, in the same moment of time, but in the most distant parts of the world, invoked the name and assistance of Stephen or of Martin. [82] The confidence of their

petitioners was founded on the persuasion, that the saints, who reigned with Christ, cast an eye of pity upon earth; that they were warmly

interested in the prosperity of the Catholic Church; and that the

individuals, who imitated the example of their faith and piety, were the

peculiar and favorite objects of their most tender regard. Sometimes,

indeed, their friendship might be influenced by considerations of a less exalted kind: they viewed with partial affection the places which had been consecrated by their birth, their residence, their death, their burial, or the possession of their relics. The meaner passions of pride, avarice, and revenge, may be deemed unworthy of a celestial breast; yet the saints themselves condescended to testify their grateful approbation

of the liberality of their votaries; and the sharpest bolts of

punishment were hurled against those impious wretches, who violated their magnificent shrines, or disbelieved their supernatural power. [83] atrocious, indeed, must have been the guilt, and strange would have been the scepticism, of those men, if they had obstinately resisted the

proofs of a divine agency, which the elements, the whole range of the animal creation, and even the subtle and invisible operations of the

human mind, were compelled to obey. [84] The immediate, and almost

instantaneous, effects that were supposed to follow the prayer, or the

offence, satisfied the Christians of the ample measure of favor and authority which the saints enjoyed in the presence of the Supreme

God; and it seemed almost superfluous to inquire whether they were continually obliged to intercede before the throne of grace; or whether they might not be permitted to exercise, according to the dictates of their benevolence and justice, the delegated powers of their subordinate

ministry. The imagination, which had been raised by a painful effort to the contemplation and worship of the Universal Cause, eagerly embraced

such inferior objects of adoration as were more proportioned to its

gross conceptions and imperfect faculties. The sublime and simple theology of the primitive Christians was gradually corrupted; and the

Monarchy of heaven, already clouded by metaphysical subtleties, was degraded by the introduction of a popular mythology, which tended to

restore the reign of polytheism. [85]

[Footnote 81: Burnet (de Statu Mortuorum, p. 56-84) collects the

opinions of the Fathers, as far as they assert the sleep, or repose, of

human souls till the day of judgment. He afterwards exposes (p. 91, &c.) the inconveniences which must arise, if they possessed a more active and

sensible existence.]

[Footnote 82: Vigilantius placed the souls of the prophets and martyrs, either in the bosom of Abraham, (in loco refrigerii,) or else under the altar of God. Nec posse suis tumulis et ubi voluerunt adesse praesentes. but Jerom (tom. ii. p. 122) sternly refutes this blasphemy. Tu Deo leges

pones? Tu apostolis vincula injicies, ut usque ad diem judicii teneantur custodia, nec sint cum Domino suo; de quibus scriptum est, Sequuntur agnum quocunque vadit. Si Agnus ubique, ergo, et hi, qui cum Agno sunt,

ubique esse credendi sunt. Et cum diabolus et daemones tote vagentur in

orbe, &c.]

[Footnote 83: Fleury Discours sur l'Hist. Ecclesiastique, iii p. 80.]

[Footnote 84: At Minorca, the relics of St. Stephen converted, in eight days, 540 Jews; with the help, indeed, of some wholesome severities,

such as burning the synagogue, driving the obstinate infidels to starve among the rocks, &c. See the original letter of Severus, bishop of

Minorca (ad calcem St. Augustin. de Civ. Dei,) and the judicious remarks

of Basnage, (tom. viii. p. 245-251.)]

[Footnote 85: Mr. Hume (Essays, vol. ii. p. 434) observes, like a

philosopher, the natural flux and reflux of polytheism and theism.]

IV. As the objects of religion were gradually reduced to the standard

of the imagination, the rites and ceremonies were introduced that seemed

most powerfully to affect the senses of the vulgar. If, in the beginning

of the fifth century, [86] Tertullian, or Lactantius, [87] had been

suddenly raised from the dead, to assist at the festival of some popular

saint, or martyr, [88] they would have gazed with astonishment, and

indignation, on the profane spectacle, which had succeeded to the pure and spiritual worship of a Christian congregation. As soon as the doors

of the church were thrown open, they must have been offended by the

smoke of incense, the perfume of flowers, and the glare of lamps and tapers, which diffused, at noonday, a gaudy, superfluous, and, in their

opinion, a sacrilegious light. If they approached the balustrade of the altar, they made their way through the prostrate crowd, consisting, for the most part, of strangers and pilgrims, who resorted to the city on the vigil of the feast; and who already felt the strong intoxication of fanaticism, and, perhaps, of wine. Their devout kisses were imprinted on the walls and pavement of the sacred edifice; and their fervent prayers were directed, whatever might be the language of their church, to the bones, the blood, or the ashes of the saint, which were usually concealed, by a linen or silken veil, from the eyes of the vulgar. the Christians frequented the tombs of the martyrs, in the hope of

obtaining, from their powerful intercession, every sort of spiritual, but more especially of temporal, blessings. They implored the

preservation of their health, or the cure of their infirmities; the fruitfulness of their barren wives, or the safety and happiness of their children. Whenever they undertook any distant or dangerous journey, they

requested, that the holy martyrs would be their guides and protectors

on the road; and if they returned without having experienced any

misfortune, they again hastened to the tombs of the martyrs, to celebrate, with grateful thanksgivings, their obligations to the memory and relics of those heavenly patrons. The walls were hung round with

symbols of the favors which they had received; eyes, and hands, and feet, of gold and silver: and edifying pictures, which could not long escape the abuse of indiscreet or idolatrous devotion, represented the

image, the attributes, and the miracles of the tutelar saint. The same

uniform original spirit of superstition might suggest, in the most distant ages and countries, the same methods of deceiving the credulity, and of affecting the senses of mankind: [89] but it must ingenuously be confessed, that the ministers of the Catholic church imitated the profane model, which they were impatient to destroy. The most

respectable bishops had persuaded themselves that the ignorant rustics would more cheerfully renounce the superstitions of Paganism, if they found some resemblance, some compensation, in the bosom of Christianity. the religion of Constantine achieved, in less than a century, the final conquest of the Roman empire: but the victors themselves were insensibly

subdued by the arts of their vanquished rivals. [90] [9011]

[Footnote 86: D'Aubigne (see his own Memoires, p. 156-160) frankly

offered, with the consent of the Huguenot ministers, to allow the first

400 years as the rule of faith. The Cardinal du Perron haggled for forty

years more, which were indiscreetly given. Yet neither party would have found their account in this foolish bargain.]

[Footnote 87: The worship practised and inculcated by Tertullian,

Lactantius Arnobius, &c., is so extremely pure and spiritual, that their declamations against the Pagan sometimes glance against the Jewish, ceremonies.]

[Footnote 88: Faustus the Manichaean accuses the Catholics of idolatry.

Vertitis idola in martyres.... quos votis similibus colitis. M. de beausobre, (Hist. Critique du Manicheisme, tom. ii. p. 629-700,) a Protestant, but a philosopher, has represented, with candor and

learning, the introduction of Christian idolatry in the fourth and fifth centuries.]

[Footnote 89: The resemblance of superstition, which could not be

imitated, might be traced from Japan to Mexico. Warburton has seized this idea, which he distorts, by rendering it too general and absolute,

(Divine Legation, vol. iv. p. 126, &c.)]

[Footnote 90: The imitation of Paganism is the subject of Dr.

Middleton's agreeable letter from Rome. Warburton's animadversions

obliged him to connect (vol. iii. p. 120-132,) the history of the two

religions, and to prove the antiquity of the Christian copy.]

[Footnote 9011: But there was always this important difference between christian and heathen Polytheism. In Paganism this was the whole

religion; in the darkest ages of Christianity, some, however obscure and

vague, Christian notions of future retribution, of the life after death,

lurked at the bottom, and operated, to a certain extent, on the thoughts and feelings, sometimes on the actions.--M.]

chapter XXIX: Division Of Roman Empire Between Sons Of Theodosius.--Part

I.

Final Division Of The Roman Empire Between The Sons Of

Theodosius.--Reign Of Arcadius And Honorius--Administration

Of Rufinus And Stilicho.--Revolt And Defeat Of Gildo In

Africa.

the genius of Rome expired with Theodosius; the last of the successors

of Augustus and Constantine, who appeared in the field at the head

of their armies, and whose authority was universally acknowledged throughout the whole extent of the empire. The memory of his virtues

still continued, however, to protect the feeble and inexperienced youth

of his two sons. After the death of their father, Arcadius and Honorius were saluted, by the unanimous consent of mankind, as the lawful emperors of the East, and of the West; and the oath of fidelity was eagerly taken by every order of the state; the senates of old and

new Rome, the clergy, the magistrates, the soldiers, and the people. arcadius, who was then about eighteen years of age, was born in Spain,

in the humble habitation of a private family. But he received a princely education in the palace of Constantinople; and his inglorious life was

spent in that peaceful and splendid seat of royalty, from whence he appeared to reign over the provinces of Thrace, Asia Minor, Syria, and egypt, from the Lower Danube to the confines of Persia and Aethiopia.

His younger brother Honorius, assumed, in the eleventh year of his age, the nominal government of Italy, Africa, Gaul, Spain, and Britain; and the troops, which guarded the frontiers of his kingdom, were opposed, on

one side, to the Caledonians, and on the other, to the Moors. The

great and martial praefecture of Illyricum was divided between the two princes: the defence and possession of the provinces of Noricum,

Pannonia, and Dalmatia still belonged to the Western empire; but the two

large dioceses of Dacia and Macedonia, which Gratian had intrusted to the valor of Theodosius, were forever united to the empire of the East. the boundary in Europe was not very different from the line which now

separates the Germans and the Turks; and the respective advantages of territory, riches, populousness, and military strength, were fairly balanced and compensated, in this final and permanent division of the

Roman empire. The hereditary sceptre of the sons of Theodosius appeared to be the gift of nature, and of their father; the generals and

ministers had been accustomed to adore the majesty of the royal infants; and the army and people were not admonished of their rights, and of their power, by the dangerous example of a recent election. The gradual discovery of the weakness of Arcadius and Honorius, and the repeated calamities of their reign, were not sufficient to obliterate the deep and early impressions of loyalty. The subjects of Rome, who still

reverenced the persons, or rather the names, of their sovereigns, beheld, with equal abhorrence, the rebels who opposed, and the ministers who abused, the authority of the throne.

theodosius had tarnished the glory of his reign by the elevation of

Rufinus; an odious favorite, who, in an age of civil and religious faction, has deserved, from every party, the imputation of every crime. the strong impulse of ambition and avarice [1] had urged Rufinus to abandon his native country, an obscure corner of Gaul, [2] to advance

his fortune in the capital of the East: the talent of bold and ready elocution, [3] qualified him to succeed in the lucrative profession of the law; and his success in that profession was a regular step to the

most honorable and important employments of the state. He was raised, by

just degrees, to the station of master of the offices. In the exercise

of his various functions, so essentially connected with the whole system

of civil government, he acquired the confidence of a monarch, who soon discovered his diligence and capacity in business, and who long

remained ignorant of the pride, the malice, and the covetousness of his disposition. These vices were concealed beneath the mask of profound dissimulation; [4] his passions were subservient only to the passions

of his master; yet in the horrid massacre of Thessalonica, the cruel

Rufinus inflamed the fury, without imitating the repentance, of theodosius. The minister, who viewed with proud indifference the rest

of mankind, never forgave the appearance of an injury; and his personal enemies had forfeited, in his opinion, the merit of all public services.

Promotus, the master-general of the infantry, had saved the empire from the invasion of the Ostrogoths; but he indignantly supported the

preeminence of a rival, whose character and profession he despised; and

in the midst of a public council, the impatient soldier was provoked to chastise with a blow the indecent pride of the favorite. This act

of violence was represented to the emperor as an insult, which it was

incumbent on his dignity to resent. The disgrace and exile of Promotus were signified by a peremptory order, to repair, without delay, to a military station on the banks of the Danube; and the death of that

general (though he was slain in a skirmish with the Barbarians) was

imputed to the perfidious arts of Rufinus. [5] The sacrifice of a hero

gratified his revenge; the honors of the consulship elated his vanity; but his power was still imperfect and precarious, as long as the important posts of praefect of the East, and of praefect of constantinople, were filled by Tatian, [6] and his son Proculus; whose

united authority balanced, for some time, the ambition and favor of the master of the offices. The two praefects were accused of rapine and corruption in the administration of the laws and finances. For the trial of these illustrious offenders, the emperor constituted a special commission: several judges were named to share the guilt and reproach

of injustice; but the right of pronouncing sentence was reserved to the

president alone, and that president was Rufinus himself. The father,

stripped of the praefecture of the East, was thrown into a dungeon; but the son, conscious that few ministers can be found innocent, where an enemy is their judge, had secretly escaped; and Rufinus must have been satisfied with the least obnoxious victim, if despotism had not condescended to employ the basest and most ungenerous artifice. The

prosecution was conducted with an appearance of equity and moderation, which flattered Tatian with the hope of a favorable event: his confidence was fortified by the solemn assurances, and perfidious

oaths, of the president, who presumed to interpose the sacred name of theodosius himself; and the unhappy father was at last persuaded to

recall, by a private letter, the fugitive Proculus. He was instantly

seized, examined, condemned, and beheaded, in one of the suburbs of constantinople, with a precipitation which disappointed the clemency of the emperor. Without respecting the misfortunes of a consular senator, the cruel judges of Tatian compelled him to behold the execution of his

son: the fatal cord was fastened round his own neck; but in the moment when he expected. and perhaps desired, the relief of a speedy death, he was permitted to consume the miserable remnant of his old age in poverty and exile. [7] The punishment of the two praefects might, perhaps, be excused by the exceptionable parts of their own conduct; the enmity

of Rufinus might be palliated by the jealous and unsociable nature

of ambition. But he indulged a spirit of revenge equally repugnant to

prudence and to justice, when he degraded their native country of Lycia from the rank of Roman provinces; stigmatized a guiltless people with a mark of ignominy; and declared, that the countrymen of Tatian and

Proculus should forever remain incapable of holding any employment of

honor or advantage under the Imperial government. [8] The new praefect

of the East (for Rufinus instantly succeeded to the vacant honors of

his adversary) was not diverted, however, by the most criminal pursuits, from the performance of the religious duties, which in that age were considered as the most essential to salvation. In the suburb of chalcedon, surnamed the Oak, he had built a magnificent villa; to which

he devoutly added a stately church, consecrated to the apostles St.

Peter and St. Paul, and continually sanctified by the prayers and

penance of a regular society of monks. A numerous, and almost general,

synod of the bishops of the Eastern empire, was summoned to celebrate, at the same time, the dedication of the church, and the baptism of the founder. This double ceremony was performed with extraordinary pomp; and when Rufinus was purified, in the holy font, from all the sins that

he had hitherto committed, a venerable hermit of Egypt rashly proposed

himself as the sponsor of a proud and ambitious statesman. [9]

[Footnote 1: Alecto, envious of the public felicity, convenes an

infernal synod Megaera recommends her pupil Rufinus, and excites him to deeds of mischief, &c. But there is as much difference between claudian's fury and that of Virgil, as between the characters of Turnus and Rufinus.]

[Footnote 2: It is evident, (Tillemont, Hist. des Emp. tom. v. p. 770,) though De Marca is ashamed of his countryman, that Rufinus was born at elusa, the metropolis of Novempopulania, now a small village of Gassony,

(D'Anville, Notice de l'Ancienne Gaule, p. 289.)]

[Footnote 3: Philostorgius, l. xi c. 3, with Godefroy's Dissert. p.

440.]

[Footnote 4: A passage of Suidas is expressive of his profound dissimulation.]

[Footnote 5: Zosimus, l. iv. p. 272, 273.]

[Footnote 6: Zosimus, who describes the fall of Tatian and his son, (l.

iv. p. 273, 274,) asserts their innocence; and even his testimony may

outweigh the charges of their enemies, (Cod. Theod. tom. iv. p. 489,) who accuse them of oppressing the Curiae. The connection of Tatian with the Arians, while he was praefect of Egypt, (A.D. 373,) inclines tillemont to believe that he was guilty of every crime, (Hist. des Emp. tom. v. p. 360. Mem. Eccles. tom vi. p. 589.)]

[Footnote 7:--Juvenum rorantia colla Ante patrum vultus stricta cecidere

securi.

Ibat grandaevus nato moriente superstes

Post trabeas exsul.

---In Rufin. i. 248.

the facts of Zosimus explain the allusions of Claudian; but his classic

interpreters were ignorant of the fourth century. The fatal cord,

I found, with the help of Tillemont, in a sermon of St. Asterius of amasea.]

[Footnote 8: This odious law is recited and repealed by Arcadius, (A.D.

296,) on the Theodosian Code, l. ix. tit. xxxviii. leg. 9. The sense as it is explained by Claudian, (in Rufin. i. 234,) and Godefroy, (tom.

iii. p. 279,) is perfectly clear.

---Exscindere cives

Funditus; et nomen gentis delere laborat.

the scruples of Pagi and Tillemont can arise only from their zeal for the glory of Theodosius.]

[Footnote 9: Ammonius.... Rufinum propriis manibus suscepit sacro fonte

mundatum. See Rosweyde's Vitae Patrum, p. 947. Sozomen (l. viii. c. 17)

mentions the church and monastery; and Tillemont (Mem. Eccles. tom. ix.

p. 593) records this synod, in which St. Gregory of Nyssa performed a conspicuous part.]

the character of Theodosius imposed on his minister the task of

hypocrisy, which disguised, and sometimes restrained, the abuse of

power; and Rufinus was apprehensive of disturbing the indolent slumber

of a prince still capable of exerting the abilities and the virtue, which had raised him to the throne. [10] But the absence, and, soon afterwards, the death, of the emperor, confirmed the absolute authority

of Rufinus over the person and dominions of Arcadius; a feeble youth, whom the imperious praefect considered as his pupil, rather than his

sovereign. Regardless of the public opinion, he indulged his passions without remorse, and without resistance; and his malignant and rapacious

spirit rejected every passion that might have contributed to his own

glory, or the happiness of the people. His avarice, [11] which seems to have prevailed, in his corrupt mind, over every other sentiment, attracted the wealth of the East, by the various arts of partial and

general extortion; oppressive taxes, scandalous bribery, immoderate fines, unjust confiscations, forced or fictitious testaments, by which the tyrant despoiled of their lawful inheritance the children of

strangers, or enemies; and the public sale of justice, as well as

of favor, which he instituted in the palace of Constantinople. The ambitious candidate eagerly solicited, at the expense of the fairest

part of his patrimony, the honors and emoluments of some provincial

government; the lives and fortunes of the unhappy people were abandoned to the most liberal purchaser; and the public discontent was sometimes appeased by the sacrifice of an unpopular criminal, whose punishment was profitable only to the praefect of the East, his accomplice and

his judge. If avarice were not the blindest of the human passions, the

motives of Rufinus might excite our curiosity; and we might be tempted to inquire with what view he violated every principle of humanity and

justice, to accumulate those immense treasures, which he could not spend without folly, nor possess without danger. Perhaps he vainly imagined, that he labored for the interest of an only daughter, on whom he

intended to bestow his royal pupil, and the august rank of Empress of the East. Perhaps he deceived himself by the opinion, that his avarice was the instrument of his ambition. He aspired to place his fortune on a secure and independent basis, which should no longer depend on the caprice of the young emperor; yet he neglected to conciliate the hearts

of the soldiers and people, by the liberal distribution of those riches, which he had acquired with so much toil, and with so much guilt. The extreme parsimony of Rufinus left him only the reproach and envy of

ill-gotten wealth; his dependants served him without attachment; the

universal hatred of mankind was repressed only by the influence of

servile fear. The fate of Lucian proclaimed to the East, that the

praefect, whose industry was much abated in the despatch of ordinary business, was active and indefatigable in the pursuit of revenge.

Lucian, the son of the praefect Florentius, the oppressor of Gaul, and the enemy of Julian, had employed a considerable part of his

inheritance, the fruit of rapine and corruption, to purchase the friendship of Rufinus, and the high office of Count of the East. But the

new magistrate imprudently departed from the maxims of the court, and

of the times; disgraced his benefactor by the contrast of a virtuous and temperate administration; and presumed to refuse an act of injustice, which might have tended to the profit of the emperor's uncle. Arcadius was easily persuaded to resent the supposed insult; and the praefect

of the East resolved to execute in person the cruel vengeance, which he

meditated against this ungrateful delegate of his power. He performed with incessant speed the journey of seven or eight hundred miles, from constantinople to Antioch, entered the capital of Syria at the dead of

night, and spread universal consternation among a people ignorant of

his design, but not ignorant of his character. The Count of the fifteen

provinces of the East was dragged, like the vilest malefactor, before the arbitrary tribunal of Rufinus. Notwithstanding the clearest evidence

of his integrity, which was not impeached even by the voice of an accuser, Lucian was condemned, almost with out a trial, to suffer a cruel and ignominious punishment. The ministers of the tyrant, by the

orders, and in the presence, of their master, beat him on the neck with

leather thongs armed at the extremities with lead; and when he fainted

under the violence of the pain, he was removed in a close litter, to conceal his dying agonies from the eyes of the indignant city. No

sooner had Rufinus perpetrated this inhuman act, the sole object of his expedition, than he returned, amidst the deep and silent curses of a trembling people, from Antioch to Constantinople; and his diligence was accelerated by the hope of accomplishing, without delay, the nuptials of

his daughter with the emperor of the East. [12]

[Footnote 10: Montesquieu (Esprit des Loix, l. xii. c. 12) praises one

of the laws of Theodosius addressed to the praefect Rufinus, (l. ix. tit. iv. leg. unic.,) to discourage the prosecution of treasonable, or

sacrilegious, words. A tyrannical statute always proves the existence of tyranny; but a laudable edict may only contain the specious professions,

or ineffectual wishes, of the prince, or his ministers. This, I am afraid, is a just, though mortifying, canon of criticism.]

[Footnote 11:

--fluctibus auri Expleri sitis ista nequit--

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Congestae cumulantur opes; orbisque ruinas Accipit una domus.

this character (Claudian, in. Rufin. i. 184-220) is confirmed by Jerom, a disinterested witness, (dedecus insatiabilis avaritiae, tom. i. ad

Heliodor. p. 26,) by Zosimus, (l. v. p. 286,) and by Suidas, who copied the history of Eunapius.]

[Footnote 12:

--Caetera segnis;

Ad facinus velox; penitus regione remotas

Impiger ire vias.

this allusion of Claudian (in Rufin. i. 241) is again explained by the circumstantial narrative of Zosimus, (l. v. p. 288, 289.)]

but Rufinus soon experienced, that a prudent minister should constantly

secure his royal captive by the strong, though invisible chain of habit; and that the merit, and much more easily the favor, of the absent, are obliterated in a short time from the mind of a weak and capricious

sovereign. While the praefect satiated his revenge at Antioch, a secret conspiracy of the favorite eunuchs, directed by the great chamberlain eutropius, undermined his power in the palace of Constantinople. They discovered that Arcadius was not inclined to love the daughter of

Rufinus, who had been chosen, without his consent, for his bride; and they contrived to substitute in her place the fair Eudoxia, the daughter

of Bauto, [13] a general of the Franks in the service of Rome; and who was educated, since the death of her father, in the family of the sons

of Promotus. The young emperor, whose chastity had been strictly guarded by the pious care of his tutor Arsenius, [14] eagerly listened to the artful and flattering descriptions of the charms of Eudoxia: he gazed with impatient ardor on her picture, and he understood the necessity of concealing his amorous designs from the knowledge of a minister who was

so deeply interested to oppose the consummation of his happiness. Soon after the return of Rufinus, the approaching ceremony of the royal

nuptials was announced to the people of Constantinople, who prepared to celebrate, with false and hollow acclamations, the fortune of his daughter. A splendid train of eunuchs and officers issued, in hymeneal

pomp, from the gates of the palace; bearing aloft the diadem, the

robes, and the inestimable ornaments, of the future empress. The solemn

procession passed through the streets of the city, which were adorned with garlands, and filled with spectators; but when it reached the house

of the sons of Promotus, the principal eunuch respectfully entered the mansion, invested the fair Eudoxia with the Imperial robes, and conducted her in triumph to the palace and bed of Arcadius. [15] The

secrecy and success with which this conspiracy against Rufinus had been conducted, imprinted a mark of indelible ridicule on the character of a

minister, who had suffered himself to be deceived, in a post where the arts of deceit and dissimulation constitute the most distinguished

merit. He considered, with a mixture of indignation and fear, the

victory of an aspiring eunuch, who had secretly captivated the favor

of his sovereign; and the disgrace of his daughter, whose interest was inseparably connected with his own, wounded the tenderness, or, at

least, the pride of Rufinus. At the moment when he flattered himself that he should become the father of a line of kings, a foreign maid, who

had been educated in the house of his implacable enemies, was introduced

into the Imperial bed; and Eudoxia soon displayed a superiority of sense and spirit, to improve the ascendant which her beauty must acquire

over the mind of a fond and youthful husband. The emperor would soon be

instructed to hate, to fear, and to destroy the powerful subject, whom

he had injured; and the consciousness of guilt deprived Rufinus of every

hope, either of safety or comfort, in the retirement of a private

life. But he still possessed the most effectual means of defending

his dignity, and perhaps of oppressing his enemies. The praefect

still exercised an uncontrolled authority over the civil and military

government of the East; and his treasures, if he could resolve to use them, might be employed to procure proper instruments for the execution

of the blackest designs, that pride, ambition, and revenge could suggest to a desperate statesman. The character of Rufinus seemed to justify the accusations that he conspired against the person of his sovereign, to

seat himself on the vacant throne; and that he had secretly invited the Huns and the Goths to invade the provinces of the empire, and to

increase the public confusion. The subtle praefect, whose life had been

spent in the intrigues of the palace, opposed, with equal arms, the artful measures of the eunuch Eutropius; but the timid soul of Rufinus was astonished by the hostile approach of a more formidable rival, of the great Stilicho, the general, or rather the master, of the empire of the West. [16]

[Footnote 13: Zosimus (l. iv. p. 243) praises the valor, prudence, and

integrity of Bauto the Frank. See Tillemont, Hist. des Empereurs, tom.

v. p. 771.]

[Footnote 14: Arsenius escaped from the palace of Constantinople, and

passed fifty-five years in rigid penance in the monasteries of Egypt.

See Tillemont, Mem. Eccles. tom. xiv. p. 676-702; and Fleury, Hist eccles. tom. v. p. 1, &c.; but the latter, for want of authentic

materials, has given too much credit to the legend of Metaphrastes.]

[Footnote 15: This story (Zosimus, l. v. p. 290) proves that the

hymeneal rites of antiquity were still practised, without idolatry, by the Christians of the East; and the bride was forcibly conducted from the house of her parents to that of her husband. Our form of marriage

requires, with less delicacy, the express and public consent of a

virgin.]

[Footnote 16: Zosimus, (l. v. p. 290,) Orosius, (l. vii. c. 37,) and the Chronicle of Marcellinus. Claudian (in Rufin. ii. 7-100) paints, in

lively colors, the distress and guilt of the praefect.]

the celestial gift, which Achilles obtained, and Alexander envied, of a poet worthy to celebrate the actions of heroes has been enjoyed by

Stilicho, in a much higher degree than might have been expected from the declining state of genius, and of art. The muse of Claudian,

[17] devoted to his service, was always prepared to stigmatize his adversaries, Rufinus, or Eutropius, with eternal infamy; or to paint,

in the most splendid colors, the victories and virtues of a powerful benefactor. In the review of a period indifferently supplied with authentic materials, we cannot refuse to illustrate the annals of

Honorius, from the invectives, or the panegyrics, of a contemporary writer; but as Claudian appears to have indulged the most ample

privilege of a poet and a courtier, some criticism will be requisite to translate the language of fiction or exaggeration, into the truth and

simplicity of historic prose. His silence concerning the family of

Stilicho may be admitted as a proof, that his patron was neither able,

nor desirous, to boast of a long series of illustrious progenitors; and the slight mention of his father, an officer of Barbarian cavalry in the

service of Valens, seems to countenance the assertion, that the general, who so long commanded the armies of Rome, was descended from the savage and perfidious race of the Vandals. [18] If Stilicho had not possessed the external advantages of strength and stature, the most flattering bard, in the presence of so many thousand spectators, would have

hesitated to affirm, that he surpassed the measure of the demi-gods of antiquity; and that whenever he moved, with lofty steps, through the

streets of the capital, the astonished crowd made room for the stranger, who displayed, in a private condition, the awful majesty of a hero. From

his earliest youth he embraced the profession of arms; his prudence and

valor were soon distinguished in the field; the horsemen and archers

of the East admired his superior dexterity; and in each degree of his

military promotions, the public judgment always prevented and approved the choice of the sovereign. He was named, by Theodosius, to ratify a solemn treaty with the monarch of Persia; he supported, during that

important embassy, the dignity of the Roman name; and after he return to Constantinople, his merit was rewarded by an intimate and honorable alliance with the Imperial family. Theodosius had been prompted, by a

pious motive of fraternal affection, to adopt, for his own, the daughter

of his brother Honorius; the beauty and accomplishments of Serena [19] were universally admired by the obsequious court; and Stilicho obtained the preference over a crowd of rivals, who ambitiously disputed the hand

of the princess, and the favor of her adopted father. [20] The assurance that the husband of Serena would be faithful to the throne, which he was

permitted to approach, engaged the emperor to exalt the fortunes, and to employ the abilities, of the sagacious and intrepid Stilicho. He rose, through the successive steps of master of the horse, and count of the domestics, to the supreme rank of master-general of all the cavalry and

infantry of the Roman, or at least of the Western, empire; [21] and his enemies confessed, that he invariably disdained to barter for gold the rewards of merit, or to defraud the soldiers of the pay and

gratifications which they deserved or claimed, from the liberality of the state. [22] The valor and conduct which he afterwards displayed,

in the defence of Italy, against the arms of Alaric and Radagaisus, may

justify the fame of his early achievements and in an age less attentive to the laws of honor, or of pride, the Roman generals might yield the preeminence of rank, to the ascendant of superior genius. [23]

He lamented, and revenged, the murder of Promotus, his rival and his friend; and the massacre of many thousands of the flying Bastarnae is

represented by the poet as a bloody sacrifice, which the Roman Achilles

offered to the manes of another Patroclus. The virtues and victories of

Stilicho deserved the hatred of Rufinus: and the arts of calumny might

have been successful if the tender and vigilant Serena had not protected

her husband against his domestic foes, whilst he vanquished in the field the enemies of the empire. [24] Theodosius continued to support an

unworthy minister, to whose diligence he delegated the government of the palace, and of the East; but when he marched against the tyrant eugenius, he associated his faithful general to the labors and glories

of the civil war; and in the last moments of his life, the dying monarch

recommended to Stilicho the care of his sons, and of the republic.

[25] The ambition and the abilities of Stilicho were not unequal to the

important trust; and he claimed the guardianship of the two empires, during the minority of Arcadius and Honorius. [26] The first measure of

his administration, or rather of his reign, displayed to the nations the

vigor and activity of a spirit worthy to command. He passed the Alps

in the depth of winter; descended the stream of the Rhine, from the fortress of Basil to the marshes of Batavia; reviewed the state of the garrisons; repressed the enterprises of the Germans; and, after establishing along the banks a firm and honorable peace, returned, with

incredible speed, to the palace of Milan. [27] The person and court of

Honorius were subject to the master-general of the West; and the armies and provinces of Europe obeyed, without hesitation, a regular authority, which was exercised in the name of their young sovereign. Two rivals

only remained to dispute the claims, and to provoke the vengeance, of

Stilicho. Within the limits of Africa, Gildo, the Moor, maintained a

proud and dangerous independence; and the minister of Constantinople asserted his equal reign over the emperor, and the empire, of the East.

[Footnote 17: Stilicho, directly or indirectly, is the perpetual theme of Claudian. The youth and private life of the hero are vaguely expressed in the poem on his first consulship, 35-140.]

[Footnote 18: Vandalorum, imbellis, avarae, perfidae, et dolosae,

gentis, genere editus. Orosius, l. vii. c. 38. Jerom (tom. i. ad

Gerontiam, p. 93) call him a Semi-Barbarian.]

[Footnote 19: Claudian, in an imperfect poem, has drawn a fair, perhaps a flattering, portrait of Serena. That favorite niece of Theodosius was born, as well as here sister Thermantia, in Spain; from whence, in their earliest youth, they were honorably conducted to the palace of constantinople.]

[Footnote 20: Some doubt may be entertained, whether this adoption was

legal or only metaphorical, (see Ducange, Fam. Byzant. p. 75.) An

old inscription gives Stilicho the singular title of Pro-gener Divi theodosius]

[Footnote 21: Claudian (Laus Serenae, 190, 193) expresses, in poetic

language "the dilectus equorum," and the "gemino mox idem culmine duxit agmina." The inscription adds, "count of the domestics," an important command, which Stilicho, in the height of his grandeur, might prudently

retain.]

[Footnote 22: The beautiful lines of Claudian (in i. Cons. Stilich. ii.

113) displays his genius; but the integrity of Stilicho (in the military administration) is much more firmly established by the unwilling evidence of Zosimus, (l. v. p. 345.)]

[Footnote 23:--Si bellica moles Ingrueret, quamvis annis et jure minori,

Cedere grandaevos equitum peditumque magistros

adspiceres. Claudian, Laus Seren. p. 196, &c. A modern general would deem their submission either heroic patriotism or abject servility.]

[Footnote 24: Compare the poem on the first consulship (i. 95-115) with the Laus Serenoe (227-237, where it unfortunately breaks off.) We may

perceive the deep, inveterate malice of Rufinus.]

[Footnote 25:--Quem fratribus ipse Discedens, clypeum defensoremque dedisti. Yet the nomination (iv. Cons. Hon. 432) was private, (iii. cons. Hon. 142,) cunctos discedere... jubet; and may therefore be

suspected. Zosimus and Suidas apply to Stilicho and Rufinus the same equal title of guardians, or procurators.]

[Footnote 26: The Roman law distinguishes two sorts of minority, which expired at the age of fourteen, and of twenty-five. The one was subject to the tutor, or guardian, of the person; the other, to the curator, or trustee, of the estate, (Heineccius, Antiquitat. Rom. ad Jurisprudent.

pertinent. l. i. tit. xxii. xxiii. p. 218-232.) But these legal ideas were never accurately transferred into the constitution of an elective

monarchy.]

[Footnote 27: See Claudian, (i. Cons. Stilich. i. 188-242;) but he must allow more than fifteen days for the journey and return between Milan and Leyden.]

chapter XXIX: Division Of Roman Empire Between Sons Of Theodosius.--Part

II.

the impartiality which Stilicho affected, as the common guardian of the

royal brothers, engaged him to regulate the equal division of the arms, the jewels, and the magnificent wardrobe and furniture of the deceased emperor. [28] But the most important object of the inheritance consisted of the numerous legions, cohorts, and squadrons, of Romans,

or Barbarians, whom the event of the civil war had united under the

standard of Theodosius. The various multitudes of Europe and Asia, exasperated by recent animosities, were overawed by the authority of a

single man; and the rigid discipline of Stilicho protected the lands of the citizens from the rapine of the licentious soldier. [29] Anxious,

however, and impatient, to relieve Italy from the presence of this formidable host, which could be useful only on the frontiers of the empire, he listened to the just requisition of the minister of Arcadius, declared his intention of reconducting in person the troops of the East, and dexterously employed the rumor of a Gothic tumult to conceal his

private designs of ambition and revenge. [30] The guilty soul of Rufinus was alarmed by the approach of a warrior and a rival, whose enmity he deserved; he computed, with increasing terror, the narrow space of his

life and greatness; and, as the last hope of safety, he interposed the authority of the emperor Arcadius. Stilicho, who appears to have directed his march along the sea-coast of the Adriatic, was not far distant from the city of Thessalonica, when he received a peremptory

message, to recall the troops of the East, and to declare, that his

nearer approach would be considered, by the Byzantine court, as an act

of hostility. The prompt and unexpected obedience of the general of the west, convinced the vulgar of his loyalty and moderation; and, as he had already engaged the affection of the Eastern troops, he recommended to their zeal the execution of his bloody design, which might be accomplished in his absence, with less danger, perhaps, and with less

reproach. Stilicho left the command of the troops of the East to Gainas, the Goth, on whose fidelity he firmly relied, with an assurance, at

least, that the hardy Barbarians would never be diverted from his

purpose by any consideration of fear or remorse. The soldiers were easily persuaded to punish the enemy of Stilicho and of Rome; and such was the general hatred which Rufinus had excited, that the fatal secret, communicated to thousands, was faithfully preserved during the long

march from Thessalonica to the gates of Constantinople. As soon as they

had resolved his death, they condescended to flatter his pride; the ambitious praefect was seduced to believe, that those powerful auxiliaries might be tempted to place the diadem on his head; and the treasures which he distributed, with a tardy and reluctant hand, were accepted by the indignant multitude as an insult, rather than as a gift. at the distance of a mile from the capital, in the field of Mars, before the palace of Hebdomon, the troops halted: and the emperor, as well as

his minister, advanced, according to ancient custom, respectfully to

salute the power which supported their throne. As Rufinus passed along the ranks, and disguised, with studied courtesy, his innate haughtiness, the wings insensibly wheeled from the right and left, and enclosed the devoted victim within the circle of their arms. Before he could reflect

on the danger of his situation, Gainas gave the signal of death; a daring and forward soldier plunged his sword into the breast of the

guilty praefect, and Rufinus fell, groaned, and expired, at the feet

of the affrighted emperor. If the agonies of a moment could expiate the crimes of a whole life, or if the outrages inflicted on a breathless corpse could be the object of pity, our humanity might perhaps be affected by the horrid circumstances which accompanied the murder

of Rufinus. His mangled body was abandoned to the brutal fury of the

populace of either sex, who hastened in crowds, from every quarter of the city, to trample on the remains of the haughty minister, at whose frown they had so lately trembled. His right hand was cut off, and carried through the streets of Constantinople, in cruel mockery, to extort contributions for the avaricious tyrant, whose head was publicly exposed, borne aloft on the point of a long lance. [31] According to the savage maxims of the Greek republics, his innocent family would have

shared the punishment of his crimes. The wife and daughter of Rufinus were indebted for their safety to the influence of religion. Her

sanctuary protected them from the raging madness of the people; and they were permitted to spend the remainder of their lives in the exercise of christian devotions, in the peaceful retirement of Jerusalem. [32]

[Footnote 28: I. Cons. Stilich. ii. 88-94. Not only the robes and diadems of the deceased emperor, but even the helmets, sword-hilts, belts, rasses, &c., were enriched with pearls, emeralds, and diamonds.]

[Footnote 29:--Tantoque remoto Principe, mutatas orbis non sensit

habenas. This high commendation (i. Cons. Stil. i. 149) may be justified by the fears of the dying emperor, (de Bell. Gildon. 292-301;) and the

peace and good order which were enjoyed after his death, (i. Cons. Stil

i. 150-168.)]

[Footnote 30: Stilicho's march, and the death of Rufinus, are described by Claudian, (in Rufin. l. ii. 101-453, Zosimus, l. v. p. 296, 297,)

Sozomen (l. viii. c. 1,) Socrates, l. vi. c. 1,) Philostorgius, (l. xi c. 3, with Godefory, p. 441,) and the Chronicle of Marcellinus.]

[Footnote 31: The dissection of Rufinus, which Claudian performs with the savage coolness of an anatomist, (in Rufin. ii. 405-415,) is

likewise specified by Zosimus and Jerom, (tom. i. p. 26.)]

[Footnote 32: The Pagan Zosimus mentions their sanctuary and pilgrimage. the sister of Rufinus, Sylvania, who passed her life at Jerusalem, is famous in monastic history. 1. The studious virgin had diligently, and even repeatedly, perused the commentators on the Bible, Origen, Gregory, basil, &c., to the amount of five millions of lines. 2. At the age of threescore, she could boast, that she had never washed her hands, face,

or any part of her whole body, except the tips of her fingers to receive the communion. See the Vitae Patrum, p. 779, 977.] The servile poet of

Stilicho applauds, with ferocious joy, this horrid deed, which, in the execution, perhaps, of justice, violated every law of nature and

society, profaned the majesty of the prince, and renewed the dangerous examples of military license. The contemplation of the universal order and harmony had satisfied Claudian of the existence of the Deity; but the prosperous impunity of vice appeared to contradict his moral attributes; and the fate of Rufinus was the only event which could dispel the religious doubts of the poet. [33] Such an act might

vindicate the honor of Providence, but it did not much contribute to the

happiness of the people. In less than three months they were informed

of the maxims of the new administration, by a singular edict, which established the exclusive right of the treasury over the spoils of

Rufinus; and silenced, under heavy penalties, the presumptuous claims

of the subjects of the Eastern empire, who had been injured by his

rapacious tyranny. [34] Even Stilicho did not derive from the murder of

his rival the fruit which he had proposed; and though he gratified his

revenge, his ambition was disappointed. Under the name of a favorite, the weakness of Arcadius required a master, but he naturally preferred the obsequious arts of the eunuch Eutropius, who had obtained his domestic confidence: and the emperor contemplated, with terror and aversion, the stern genius of a foreign warrior. Till they were divided by the jealousy of power, the sword of Gainas, and the charms of eudoxia, supported the favor of the great chamberlain of the palace: the

perfidious Goth, who was appointed master-general of the East, betrayed, without scruple, the interest of his benefactor; and the same troops, who had so lately massacred the enemy of Stilicho, were engaged to

support, against him, the independence of the throne of Constantinople. the favorites of Arcadius fomented a secret and irreconcilable war against a formidable hero, who aspired to govern, and to defend, the two empires of Rome, and the two sons of Theodosius. They incessantly

labored, by dark and treacherous machinations, to deprive him of the esteem of the prince, the respect of the people, and the friendship of the Barbarians. The life of Stilicho was repeatedly attempted by the dagger of hired assassins; and a decree was obtained from the senate

of Constantinople, to declare him an enemy of the republic, and to confiscate his ample possessions in the provinces of the East. At a time when the only hope of delaying the ruin of the Roman name depended on the firm union, and reciprocal aid, of all the nations to whom it had been gradually communicated, the subjects of Arcadius and Honorius were instructed, by their respective masters, to view each other in a foreign, and even hostile, light; to rejoice in their mutual calamities, and to embrace, as their faithful allies, the Barbarians, whom they excited to invade the territories of their countrymen. [35] The natives

of Italy affected to despise the servile and effeminate Greeks of byzantium, who presumed to imitate the dress, and to usurp the dignity,

of Roman senators; [36] and the Greeks had not yet forgot the sentiments

of hatred and contempt, which their polished ancestors had so long entertained for the rude inhabitants of the West. The distinction of two governments, which soon produced the separation of two nations, will

justify my design of suspending the series of the Byzantine history, to

prosecute, without interruption, the disgraceful, but memorable, reign

of Honorius.

[Footnote 33: See the beautiful exordium of his invective against

Rufinus, which is curiously discussed by the sceptic Bayle, Dictionnaire critique, Rufin. Not. E.]

[Footnote 34: See the Theodosian Code, l. ix. tit. xlii. leg. 14, 15. the new ministers attempted, with inconsistent avarice, to seize the spoils of their predecessor, and to provide for their own future

security.]

[Footnote 35: See Claudian, (i. Cons. Stilich, l. i. 275, 292, 296, l.

ii. 83,) and Zosimus, (l. v. p. 302.)]

[Footnote 36: Claudian turns the consulship of the eunuch Eutropius into a national reflection, (l. ii. 134):--

---Plaudentem cerne senatum,

Et Byzantinos proceres Graiosque Quirites:

O patribus plebes, O digni consule patres.

It is curious to observe the first symptoms of jealousy and schism between old and new Rome, between the Greeks and Latins.]

the prudent Stilicho, instead of persisting to force the inclinations

of a prince, and people, who rejected his government, wisely abandoned arcadius to his unworthy favorites; and his reluctance to involve the two empires in a civil war displayed the moderation of a minister, who had so often signalized his military spirit and abilities. But if

Stilicho had any longer endured the revolt of Africa, he would have betrayed the security of the capital, and the majesty of the Western emperor, to the capricious insolence of a Moorish rebel. Gildo, [37] the brother of the tyrant Firmus, had preserved and obtained, as the reward

of his apparent fidelity, the immense patrimony which was forfeited by treason: long and meritorious service, in the armies of Rome, raised him to the dignity of a military count; the narrow policy of the court of theodosius had adopted the mischievous expedient of supporting a legal

government by the interest of a powerful family; and the brother of firmus was invested with the command of Africa. His ambition soon

usurped the administration of justice, and of the finances, without account, and without control; and he maintained, during a reign of twelve years, the possession of an office, from which it was impossible to remove him, without the danger of a civil war. During those twelve

years, the provinces of Africa groaned under the dominion of a tyrant, who seemed to unite the unfeeling temper of a stranger with the partial

resentments of domestic faction. The forms of law were often superseded by the use of poison; and if the trembling guests, who were invited to the table of Gildo, presumed to express fears, the insolent suspicion

served only to excite his fury, and he loudly summoned the ministers of death. Gildo alternately indulged the passions of avarice and lust;

[38] and if his days were terrible to the rich, his nights were not

less dreadful to husbands and parents. The fairest of their wives and daughters were prostituted to the embraces of the tyrant; and afterwards abandoned to a ferocious troop of Barbarians and assassins, the black,

or swarthy, natives of the desert; whom Gildo considered as the only of

his throne. In the civil war between Theodosius and Eugenius, the count,

or rather the sovereign, of Africa, maintained a haughty and suspicious

neutrality; refused to assist either of the contending parties with troops or vessels, expected the declaration of fortune, and reserved for the conqueror the vain professions of his allegiance. Such professions would not have satisfied the master of the Roman world; but the death

of Theodosius, and the weakness and discord of his sons, confirmed the

power of the Moor; who condescended, as a proof of his moderation, to abstain from the use of the diadem, and to supply Rome with the customary tribute, or rather subsidy, of corn. In every division of the empire, the five provinces of Africa were invariably assigned to the west; and Gildo had to govern that extensive country in the name of

Honorius, but his knowledge of the character and designs of Stilicho

soon engaged him to address his homage to a more distant and feeble

sovereign. The ministers of Arcadius embraced the cause of a perfidious

rebel; and the delusive hope of adding the numerous cities of Africa to the empire of the East, tempted them to assert a claim, which they were

incapable of supporting, either by reason or by arms. [39]

[Footnote 37: Claudian may have exaggerated the vices of Gildo; but his

Moorish extraction, his notorious actions, and the complaints of St. augustin, may justify the poet's invectives. Baronius (Annal. Eccles. a.D. 398, No. 35-56) has treated the African rebellion with skill and

learning.]

[Footnote 38:

Instat terribilis vivis, morientibus haeres,

Virginibus raptor, thalamis obscoenus adulter.

Nulla quies: oritur praeda cessante libido,

Divitibusque dies, et nox metuenda maritis.

Mauris clarissima quaeque

Fastidita datur.

----De Bello Gildonico, 165, 189.

baronius condemns, still more severely, the licentiousness of Gildo; as his wife, his daughter, and his sister, were examples of perfect chastity. The adulteries of the African soldiers are checked by one of the Imperial laws.]

[Footnote 39: Inque tuam sortem numerosas transtulit urbes. Claudian

(de Bell. Gildonico, 230-324) has touched, with political delicacy, the intrigues of the Byzantine court, which are likewise mentioned by

Zosimus, (l. v. p. 302.)]

when Stilicho had given a firm and decisive answer to the pretensions of the Byzantine court, he solemnly accused the tyrant of Africa before the tribunal, which had formerly judged the kings and nations of the earth; and the image of the republic was revived, after a long interval, under the reign of Honorius. The emperor transmitted an accurate and ample detail of the complaints of the provincials, and the crimes of Gildo, to the Roman senate; and the members of that venerable assembly were

required to pronounce the condemnation of the rebel. Their unanimous

suffrage declared him the enemy of the republic; and the decree of the

senate added a sacred and legitimate sanction to the Roman arms. [40] A

people, who still remembered that their ancestors had been the

masters of the world, would have applauded, with conscious pride, the

representation of ancient freedom; if they had not since been accustomed to prefer the solid assurance of bread to the unsubstantial visions of

liberty and greatness. The subsistence of Rome depended on the harvests

of Africa; and it was evident, that a declaration of war would be the signal of famine. The praefect Symmachus, who presided in the deliberations of the senate, admonished the minister of his just apprehension, that as soon as the revengeful Moor should prohibit the exportation of corn, the and perhaps the safety, of the capital would be threatened by the hungry rage of a turbulent multitude. [41] The

prudence of Stilicho conceived and executed, without delay, the most effectual measure for the relief of the Roman people. A large and

seasonable supply of corn, collected in the inland provinces of Gaul, was embarked on the rapid stream of the Rhone, and transported, by an easy navigation, from the Rhone to the Tyber. During the whole term

of the African war, the granaries of Rome were continually filled, her dignity was vindicated from the humiliating dependence, and the minds

of an immense people were quieted by the calm confidence of peace and

plenty. [42]

[Footnote 40: Symmachus (l. iv. epist. 4) expresses the judicial forms

of the senate; and Claudian (i. Cons. Stilich. l. i. 325, &c.) seems to feel the spirit of a Roman.]

[Footnote 41: Claudian finely displays these complaints of Symmachus, in a speech of the goddess of Rome, before the throne of Jupiter, (de Bell

Gildon. 28-128.)]

[Footnote 42: See Claudian (in Eutrop. l. i 401, &c. i. Cons. Stil. l.

i. 306, &c. i. Cons. Stilich. 91, &c.)]

the cause of Rome, and the conduct of the African war, were intrusted by

Stilicho to a general, active and ardent to avenge his private injuries

on the head of the tyrant. The spirit of discord which prevailed in the

house of Nabal, had excited a deadly quarrel between two of his sons,

Gildo and Mascezel. [43] The usurper pursued, with implacable rage, the

life of his younger brother, whose courage and abilities he feared; and

Mascezel, oppressed by superior power, refuge in the court of Milan, where he soon received the cruel intelligence that his two innocent and helpless children had been murdered by their inhuman uncle. The affliction of the father was suspended only by the desire of revenge. the vigilant Stilicho already prepared to collect the naval and military force of the Western empire; and he had resolved, if the tyrant should be able to wage an equal and doubtful war, to march against him in

person. But as Italy required his presence, and as it might be dangerous to weaken the of the frontier, he judged it more advisable, that

Mascezel should attempt this arduous adventure at the head of a chosen body of Gallic veterans, who had lately served exhorted to convince the world that they could subvert, as well as defend the throne of a usurper, consisted of the Jovian, the Herculian, and the Augustan

legions; of the Nervian auxiliaries; of the soldiers who displayed

in their banners the symbol of a lion, and of the troops which were distinguished by the auspicious names of Fortunate, and Invincible. Yet

such was the smallness of their establishments, or the difficulty of

recruiting, that these seven bands, [44] of high dignity and reputation

in the service of Rome, amounted to no more than five thousand effective

men. [45] The fleet of galleys and transports sailed in tempestuous weather from the port of Pisa, in Tuscany, and steered their course to the little island of Capraria; which had borrowed that name from the wild goats, its original inhabitants, whose place was occupied by a new colony of a strange and savage appearance. "The whole island (says an

ingenious traveller of those times) is filled, or rather defiled, by

men who fly from the light. They call themselves Monks, or solitaries, because they choose to live alone, without any witnesses of their actions. They fear the gifts of fortune, from the apprehension of

losing them; and, lest they should be miserable, they embrace a life of

voluntary wretchedness. How absurd is their choice! how perverse their

understanding! to dread the evils, without being able to support the blessings, of the human condition. Either this melancholy madness is the effect of disease, or exercise on their own bodies the tortures which are inflicted on fugitive slaves by the hand of justice." [46] Such was the contempt of a profane magistrate for the monks as the chosen

servants of God. [47] Some of them were persuaded, by his entreaties, to embark on board the fleet; and it is observed, to the praise of the Roman general, that his days and nights were employed in prayer, fasting, and the occupation of singing psalms. The devout leader, who, with such a reenforcement, appeared confident of victory, avoided the dangerous rocks of Corsica, coasted along the eastern side of Sardinia, and secured his ships against the violence of the south wind, by casting anchor in the and capacious harbor of Cagliari, at the distance of one

hundred and forty miles from the African shores. [48]

[Footnote 43: He was of a mature age; since he had formerly (A.D. 373)

served against his brother Firmus (Ammian. xxix. 5.) Claudian, who

understood the court of Milan, dwells on the injuries, rather than the

merits, of Mascezel, (de Bell. Gild. 389-414.) The Moorish war was not worthy of Honorius, or Stilicho, &c.]

[Footnote 44: Claudian, Bell. Gild. 415-423. The change of discipline allowed him to use indifferently the names of Legio Cohors, Manipulus.

See Notitia Imperii, S. 38, 40.]

[Footnote 45: Orosius (l. vii. c. 36, p. 565) qualifies this account with an expression of doubt, (ut aiunt;) and it scarcely coincides with

Zosimus, (l. v. p. 303.) Yet Claudian, after some declamation about cadmus, soldiers, frankly owns that Stilicho sent a small army lest the

rebels should fly, ne timeare times, (i. Cons. Stilich. l. i. 314 &c.)]

[Footnote 46: Claud. Rutil. Numatian. Itinerar. i. 439-448. He afterwards (515-526) mentions a religious madman on the Isle of Gorgona. for such profane remarks, Rutilius and his accomplices are styled, by

his commentator, Barthius, rabiosi canes diaboli. Tillemont (Mem. eccles com. xii. p. 471) more calmly observes, that the unbelieving poet

praises where he means to censure.]

[Footnote 47: Orosius, l. vii. c. 36, p. 564. Augustin commends two of these savage saints of the Isle of Goats, (epist. lxxxi. apud Tillemont,

Mem. Eccles. tom. xiii. p. 317, and Baronius, Annal Eccles. A.D. 398 No.

51.)]

[Footnote 48: Here the first book of the Gildonic war is terminated. The

rest of Claudian's poem has been lost; and we are ignorant how or where the army made good their landing in Afica.]

Gildo was prepared to resist the invasion with all the forces of Africa. by the liberality of his gifts and promises, he endeavored to secure the doubtful allegiance of the Roman soldiers, whilst he attracted to

his standard the distant tribes of Gaetulia and Aethiopia. He proudly

reviewed an army of seventy thousand men, and boasted, with the rash

presumption which is the forerunner of disgrace, that his numerous cavalry would trample under their horses' feet the troops of Mascezel, and involve, in a cloud of burning sand, the natives of the cold regions

of Gaul and Germany. [49] But the Moor, who commanded the legions of

Honorius, was too well acquainted with the manners of his countrymen, to entertain any serious apprehension of a naked and disorderly host of barbarians; whose left arm, instead of a shield, was protected only by mantle; who were totally disarmed as soon as they had darted their

javelin from their right hand; and whose horses had never He fixed his camp of five thousand veterans in the face of a superior enemy, and, after the delay of three days, gave the signal of a general engagement.

[50] As Mascezel advanced before the front with fair offers of peace and pardon, he encountered one of the foremost standard-bearers of the africans, and, on his refusal to yield, struck him on the arm with his

sword. The arm, and the standard, sunk under the weight of the blow; and the imaginary act of submission was hastily repeated by all the

standards of the line. At this the disaffected cohorts proclaimed the name of their lawful sovereign; the Barbarians, astonished by the defection of their Roman allies, dispersed, according to their custom,

in tumultuary flight; and Mascezel obtained the of an easy, and almost bloodless, victory. [51] The tyrant escaped from the field of battle to the sea-shore; and threw himself into a small vessel, with the hope of

reaching in safety some friendly port of the empire of the East; but the

obstinacy of the wind drove him back into the harbor of Tabraca, [52] which had acknowledged, with the rest of the province, the dominion of

Honorius, and the authority of his lieutenant. The inhabitants, as a

proof of their repentance and loyalty, seized and confined the person of

Gildo in a dungeon; and his own despair saved him from the intolerable torture of supporting the presence of an injured and victorious brother.

[53] The captives and the spoils of Africa were laid at the feet of the emperor; but more sincere, in the midst of prosperity, still affected to consult the laws of the republic; and referred to the senate and people

of Rome the judgment of the most illustrious criminals. [54] Their trial was public and solemn; but the judges, in the exercise of this obsolete and precarious jurisdiction, were impatient to punish the African

magistrates, who had intercepted the subsistence of the Roman people. the rich and guilty province was oppressed by the Imperial ministers, who had a visible interest to multiply the number of the accomplices of

Gildo; and if an edict of Honorius seems to check the malicious

industry of informers, a subsequent edict, at the distance of ten years, continues and renews the prosecution of the which had been committed in the time of the general rebellion. [55] The adherents of the tyrant who escaped the first fury of the soldiers, and the judges, might derive

some consolation from the tragic fate of his brother, who could never

obtain his pardon for the extraordinary services which he had performed. after he had finished an important war in the space of a single winter,

Mascezel was received at the court of Milan with loud applause, affected

gratitude, and secret jealousy; [56] and his death, which, perhaps, was the effect of passage of a bridge, the Moorish prince, who accompanied the master-general of the West, was suddenly thrown from his horse into the river; the officious haste of the attendants was on the countenance

of Stilicho; and while they delayed the necessary assistance, the

unfortunate Mascezel was irrecoverably drowned. [57]

[Footnote 49: Orosius must be responsible for the account. The

presumption of Gildo and his various train of Barbarians is celebrated by Claudian, Cons. Stil. l. i. 345-355.]

[Footnote 50: St. Ambrose, who had been dead about a year, revealed, in a vision, the time and place of the victory. Mascezel afterwards related

his dream to Paulinus, the original biographer of the saint, from whom

it might easily pass to Orosius.]

[Footnote 51: Zosimus (l. v. p. 303) supposes an obstinate combat; but the narrative of Orosius appears to conceal a real fact, under the disguise of a miracle.]

[Footnote 52: Tabraca lay between the two Hippos, (Cellarius, tom. ii.

p. 112; D'Anville, tom. iii. p. 84.) Orosius has distinctly named the field of battle, but our ignorance cannot define the precise situation.]

[Footnote 53: The death of Gildo is expressed by Claudian (i. Cons.

Stil. 357) and his best interpreters, Zosimus and Orosius.]

[Footnote 54: Claudian (ii. Cons. Stilich. 99-119) describes their trial (tremuit quos Africa nuper, cernunt rostra reos,) and applauds the

restoration of the ancient constitution. It is here that he introduces the famous sentence, so familiar to the friends of despotism:

---Nunquam libertas gratior exstat,

Quam sub rege pio.

but the freedom which depends on royal piety, scarcely deserves appellation]

[Footnote 55: See the Theodosian Code, l. ix. tit. xxxix. leg. 3, tit.

xl. leg. 19.]

[Footnote 56: Stilicho, who claimed an equal share in all the victories

of Theodosius and his son, particularly asserts, that Africa was

recovered by the wisdom of his counsels, (see an inscription produced by baronius.)]

[Footnote 57: I have softened the narrative of Zosimus, which, in its crude simplicity, is almost incredible, (l. v. p. 303.) Orosius damns the victorious general (p. 538) for violating the right of sanctuary.]

the joy of the African triumph was happily connected with the nuptials

of the emperor Honorius, and of his cousin Maria, the daughter of

Stilicho: and this equal and honorable alliance seemed to invest the

powerful minister with the authority of a parent over his submissive

pupil. The muse of Claudian was not silent on this propitious day; [58]

he sung, in various and lively strains, the happiness of the royal pair; and the glory of the hero, who confirmed their union, and supported their throne. The ancient fables of Greece, which had almost ceased to be the object of religious faith, were saved from oblivion by the genius

of poetry. The picture of the Cyprian grove, the seat of harmony and

love; the triumphant progress of Venus over her native seas, and the

mild influence which her presence diffused in the palace of Milan, express to every age the natural sentiments of the heart, in the just and pleasing language of allegorical fiction. But the amorous impatience which Claudian attributes to the young prince, [59] must excite the

smiles of the court; and his beauteous spouse (if she deserved the

praise of beauty) had not much to fear or to hope from the passions of

her lover. Honorius was only in the fourteenth year of his age;

Serena, the mother of his bride, deferred, by art of persuasion, the consummation of the royal nuptials; Maria died a virgin, after she had been ten years a wife; and the chastity of the emperor was secured by the coldness, perhaps, the debility,of his constitution. [60]

His subjects, who attentively studied the character of their young

sovereign, discovered that Honorius was without passions, and consequently without talents; and that his feeble and languid disposition was alike incapable of discharging the duties of his rank,

or of enjoying the pleasures of his age. In his early youth he made some

progress in the exercises of riding and drawing the bow: but he soon

relinquished these fatiguing occupations, and the amusement of feeding

poultry became the serious and daily care of the monarch of the West,

[61] who resigned the reins of empire to the firm and skilful hand of

his guardian Stilicho. The experience of history will countenance the

suspicion that a prince who was born in the purple, received a worse education than the meanest peasant of his dominions; and that the ambitious minister suffered him to attain the age of manhood, without attempting to excite his courage, or to enlighten his under standing.

[62] The predecessors of Honorius were accustomed to animate by their example, or at least by their presence, the valor of the legions; and the dates of their laws attest the perpetual activity of their motions through the provinces of the Roman world. But the son of Theodosius

passed the slumber of his life, a captive in his palace, a stranger in

his country, and the patient, almost the indifferent, spectator of the

ruin of the Western empire, which was repeatedly attacked, and finally

subverted, by the arms of the Barbarians. In the eventful history of a

reign of twenty-eight years, it will seldom be necessary to mention the

name of the emperor Honorius.

[Footnote 58: Claudian,as the poet laureate, composed a serious and elaborate epithalamium of 340 lines; besides some gay Fescennines, which were sung, in a more licentious tone, on the wedding night.]

[Footnote 59:

Calet obvius ire

Jam princeps, tardumque cupit discedere solem.

Nobilis haud aliter sonipes.

(De Nuptiis Honor. et Mariae, and more freely in the Fescennines

112-116)

Dices, O quoties,hoc mihi dulcius

Quam flavos decics vincere Sarmatas.

....

Tum victor madido prosilias toro,

Nocturni referens vulnera proelii.]

[Footnote 60: See Zosimus, l. v. p. 333.]

[Footnote 61: Procopius de Bell. Gothico, l. i. c. 2. I have borrowed the general practice of Honorius, without adopting the singular, and

indeed improbable tale, which is related by the Greek historian.]

[Footnote 62: The lessons of Theodosius, or rather Claudian, (iv. Cons.

Honor 214-418,) might compose a fine institution for the future

prince of a great and free nation. It was far above Honorius, and his degenerate subjects.]

chapter XXX: Revolt Of The Goths.--Part I.

Revolt Of The Goths.--They Plunder Greece.--Two Great

Invasions Of Italy By Alaric And Radagaisus.--They Are

Repulsed By Stilicho.--The Germans Overrun Gaul.--Usurpation

Of Constantine In The West.--Disgrace And Death Of Stilicho.

If the subjects of Rome could be ignorant of their obligations to the

great Theodosius, they were too soon convinced, how painfully the spirit and abilities of their deceased emperor had supported the frail and

mouldering edifice of the republic. He died in the month of January; and before the end of the winter of the same year, the Gothic nation was in arms. [1] The Barbarian auxiliaries erected their independent standard; and boldly avowed the hostile designs, which they had long cherished in their ferocious minds. Their countrymen, who had been condemned, by the conditions of the last treaty, to a life of tranquility and labor, deserted their farms at the first sound of the trumpet; and eagerly

resumed the weapons which they had reluctantly laid down. The barriers

of the Danube were thrown open; the savage warriors of Scythia issued from their forests; and the uncommon severity of the winter allowed the

poet to remark, "that they rolled their ponderous wagons over the broad and icy back of the indignant river." [2] The unhappy natives of the

provinces to the south of the Danube submitted to the calamities, which,

in the course of twenty years, were almost grown familiar to their

imagination; and the various troops of Barbarians, who gloried in the

Gothic name, were irregularly spread from woody shores of Dalmatia, to the walls of Constantinople. [3] The interruption, or at least the diminution, of the subsidy, which the Goths had received from the

prudent liberality of Theodosius, was the specious pretence of their

revolt: the affront was imbittered by their contempt for the unwarlike

sons of Theodosius; and their resentment was inflamed by the weakness,

or treachery, of the minister of Arcadius. The frequent visits of

Rufinus to the camp of the Barbarians whose arms and apparel he affected to imitate, were considered as a sufficient evidence of his guilty correspondence, and the public enemy, from a motive either of gratitude

or of policy, was attentive, amidst the general devastation, to spare the private estates of the unpopular praefect. The Goths, instead of being impelled by the blind and headstrong passions of their chiefs, were now directed by the bold and artful genius of Alaric. That renowned

leader was descended from the noble race of the Balti; [4] which yielded

only to the royal dignity of the Amali: he had solicited the command of the Roman armies; and the Imperial court provoked him to demonstrate the folly of their refusal, and the importance of their loss. Whatever hopes

might be entertained of the conquest of Constantinople, the judicious

general soon abandoned an impracticable enterprise. In the midst of a divided court and a discontented people, the emperor Arcadius was terrified by the aspect of the Gothic arms; but the want of wisdom and

valor was supplied by the strength of the city; and the fortifications, both of the sea and land, might securely brave the impotent and random darts of the Barbarians. Alaric disdained to trample any longer on the

prostrate and ruined countries of Thrace and Dacia, and he resolved to seek a plentiful harvest of fame and riches in a province which had

hitherto escaped the ravages of war. [5]

[Footnote 1: The revolt of the Goths, and the blockade of constantinople, are distinctly mentioned by Claudian, (in Rufin. l. ii.

7-100,) Zosimus, (l. v. 292,) and Jornandes, (de Rebus Geticis, c. 29.)]

[Footnote 2:--

Alii per toga ferocis

Danubii solidata ruunt; expertaque remis

Frangunt stagna rotis.

claudian and Ovid often amuse their fancy by interchanging the metaphors and properties of liquid water, and solid ice. Much false wit has been expended in this easy exercise.]

[Footnote 3: Jerom, tom. i. p. 26. He endeavors to comfort his friend

Heliodorus, bishop of Altinum, for the loss of his nephew, Nepotian, by a curious recapitulation of all the public and private misfortunes of the times. See Tillemont, Mem. Eccles. tom. xii. p. 200, &c.]

[Footnote 4: Baltha or bold: origo mirifica, says Jornandes, (c. 29.) this illustrious race long continued to flourish in France, in the

Gothic province of Septimania, or Languedoc; under the corrupted appellation of Boax; and a branch of that family afterwards settled in the kingdom of Naples (Grotius in Prolegom. ad Hist. Gothic. p. 53.) The

lords of Baux, near Arles, and of seventy-nine subordinate places, were

independent of the counts of Provence, (Longuerue, Description de la france, tom. i. p. 357).]

[Footnote 5: Zosimus (l. v. p. 293-295) is our best guide for the conquest of Greece: but the hints and allusion of Claudian are so many

rays of historic light.]

the character of the civil and military officers, on whom Rufinus had devolved the government of Greece, confirmed the public suspicion, that

he had betrayed the ancient seat of freedom and learning to the Gothic

invader. The proconsul Antiochus was the unworthy son of a respectable father; and Gerontius, who commanded the provincial troops, was much better qualified to execute the oppressive orders of a tyrant, than to defend, with courage and ability, a country most remarkably fortified by the hand of nature. Alaric had traversed, without resistance, the plains

of Macedonia and Thessaly, as far as the foot of Mount Oeta, a steep and woody range of hills, almost impervious to his cavalry. They stretched from east to west, to the edge of the sea-shore; and left, between the

precipice and the Malian Gulf, an interval of three hundred feet, which,

in some places, was contracted to a road capable of admitting only a

single carriage. [6] In this narrow pass of Thermopylae, where Leonidas and the three hundred Spartans had gloriously devoted their lives, the

Goths might have been stopped, or destroyed, by a skilful general; and

perhaps the view of that sacred spot might have kindled some sparks of

military ardor in the breasts of the degenerate Greeks. The troops which

had been posted to defend the Straits of Thermopylae, retired, as they were directed, without attempting to disturb the secure and rapid

passage of Alaric; [7] and the fertile fields of Phocis and Boeotia were

instantly covered by a deluge of Barbarians who massacred the males

of an age to bear arms, and drove away the beautiful females, with the

spoil and cattle of the flaming villages. The travellers, who visited

Greece several years afterwards, could easily discover the deep and bloody traces of the march of the Goths; and Thebes was less indebted for her preservation to the strength of her seven gates, than to the eager haste of Alaric, who advanced to occupy the city of Athens, and the important harbor of the Piraeus. The same impatience urged him to

prevent the delay and danger of a siege, by the offer of a capitulation; and as soon as the Athenians heard the voice of the Gothic herald, they were easily persuaded to deliver the greatest part of their wealth, as the ransom of the city of Minerva and its inhabitants. The treaty was

ratified by solemn oaths, and observed with mutual fidelity. The Gothic

prince, with a small and select train, was admitted within the walls;

he indulged himself in the refreshment of the bath, accepted a splendid banquet, which was provided by the magistrate, and affected to show that

he was not ignorant of the manners of civilized nations. [8] But the whole territory of Attica, from the promontory of Sunium to the town

of Megara, was blasted by his baleful presence; and, if we may use the comparison of a contemporary philosopher, Athens itself resembled the bleeding and empty skin of a slaughtered victim. The distance between

Megara and Corinth could not much exceed thirty miles; but the bad road, an expressive name, which it still bears among the Greeks, was, or might easily have been made, impassable for the march of an enemy. The thick and gloomy woods of Mount Cithaeron covered the inland country; the

Scironian rocks approached the water's edge, and hung over the

narrow and winding path, which was confined above six miles along the

sea-shore. [9] The passage of those rocks, so infamous in every age, was terminated by the Isthmus of Corinth; and a small a body of firm and intrepid soldiers might have successfully defended a temporary

intrenchment of five or six miles from the Ionian to the Aegean Sea. The confidence of the cities of Peloponnesus in their natural rampart, had tempted them to neglect the care of their antique walls; and the avarice

of the Roman governors had exhausted and betrayed the unhappy province.

[10] Corinth, Argos, Sparta, yielded without resistance to the arms

of the Goths; and the most fortunate of the inhabitants were saved, by death, from beholding the slavery of their families and the conflagration of their cities. [11] The vases and statues were distributed among the Barbarians, with more regard to the value of the

materials, than to the elegance of the workmanship; the female captives

submitted to the laws of war; the enjoyment of beauty was the reward of

valor; and the Greeks could not reasonably complain of an abuse which was justified by the example of the heroic times. [12] The descendants

of that extraordinary people, who had considered valor and discipline as the walls of Sparta, no longer remembered the generous reply of their ancestors to an invader more formidable than Alaric. "If thou art a god, thou wilt not hurt those who have never injured thee; if thou art a

man, advance:--and thou wilt find men equal to thyself." [13] From thermopylae to Sparta, the leader of the Goths pursued his victorious

march without encountering any mortal antagonists: but one of the advocates of expiring Paganism has confidently asserted, that the walls

of Athens were guarded by the goddess Minerva, with her formidable aegis, and by the angry phantom of Achilles; [14] and that the conqueror was dismayed by the presence of the hostile deities of Greece. In an age of miracles, it would perhaps be unjust to dispute the claim of the

historian Zosimus to the common benefit: yet it cannot be dissembled, that the mind of Alaric was ill prepared to receive, either in sleeping

or waking visions, the impressions of Greek superstition. The songs of

Homer, and the fame of Achilles, had probably never reached the ear of the illiterate Barbarian; and the Christian faith, which he had devoutly embraced, taught him to despise the imaginary deities of Rome and athens. The invasion of the Goths, instead of vindicating the honor, contributed, at least accidentally, to extirpate the last remains of

Paganism: and the mysteries of Ceres, which had subsisted eighteen

hundred years, did not survive the destruction of Eleusis, and the calamities of Greece. [15]

[Footnote 6: Compare Herodotus (l. vii. c. 176) and Livy, (xxxvi. 15.) the narrow entrance of Greece was probably enlarged by each successive

ravisher.]

[Footnote 7: He passed, says Eunapius, (in Vit. Philosoph. p. 93, edit. commelin, 1596,) through the straits, of Thermopylae.]

[Footnote 8: In obedience to Jerom and Claudian, (in Rufin. l. ii. 191,)

I have mixed some darker colors in the mild representation of Zosimus, who wished to soften the calamities of Athens.

Nec fera Cecropias traxissent vincula matres.

Synesius (Epist. clvi. p. 272, edit. Petav.) observes, that Athens, whose sufferings he imputes to the proconsul's avarice, was at that time

less famous for her schools of philosophy than for her trade of honey.]

[Footnote 9:--

Vallata mari Scironia rupes,

Et duo continuo connectens aequora muro

Isthmos.

--Claudian de Bel. Getico, 188.

the Scironian rocks are described by Pausanias, (l. i. c. 44, p. 107, edit. Kuhn,) and our modern travellers, Wheeler (p. 436) and Chandler,

(p. 298.) Hadrian made the road passable for two carriages.]

[Footnote 10: Claudian (in Rufin. l. ii. 186, and de Bello Getico,

611, &c.) vaguely, though forcibly, delineates the scene of rapine and destruction.]

[Footnote 11: These generous lines of Homer (Odyss. l. v. 306) were transcribed by one of the captive youths of Corinth: and the tears of

Mummius may prove that the rude conqueror, though he was ignorant of the

value of an original picture, possessed the purest source of good taste, a benevolent heart, (Plutarch, Symposiac. l. ix. tom. ii. p. 737, edit. wechel.)]

[Footnote 12: Homer perpetually describes the exemplary patience of those female captives, who gave their charms, and even their hearts, to the murderers of their fathers, brothers, &c. Such a passion (of eriphile for Achilles) is touched with admirable delicacy by Racine.]

[Footnote 13: Plutarch (in Pyrrho, tom. ii. p. 474, edit. Brian) gives the genuine answer in the Laconic dialect. Pyrrhus attacked Sparta with

25,000 foot, 2000 horse, and 24 elephants, and the defence of that open town is a fine comment on the laws of Lycurgus, even in the last stage

of decay.]

[Footnote 14: Such, perhaps, as Homer (Iliad, xx. 164) had so nobly

painted him.]

[Footnote 15: Eunapius (in Vit. Philosoph. p. 90-93) intimates that a troop of monks betrayed Greece, and followed the Gothic camp. \* Note: the expression is curious: Vit. Max. t. i. p. 53, edit. Boissonade.--M.]

the last hope of a people who could no longer depend on their arms, their gods, or their sovereign, was placed in the powerful assistance

of the general of the West; and Stilicho, who had not been permitted to

repulse, advanced to chastise, the invaders of Greece. [16] A numerous fleet was equipped in the ports of Italy; and the troops, after a short and prosperous navigation over the Ionian Sea, were safely disembarked

on the isthmus, near the ruins of Corinth. The woody and mountainous country of Arcadia, the fabulous residence of Pan and the Dryads, became the scene of a long and doubtful conflict between the two generals

not unworthy of each other. The skill and perseverance of the Roman at

length prevailed; and the Goths, after sustaining a considerable loss from disease and desertion, gradually retreated to the lofty mountain of

Pholoe, near the sources of the Peneus, and on the frontiers of Elis; a

sacred country, which had formerly been exempted from the calamities

of war. [17] The camp of the Barbarians was immediately besieged; the waters of the river [18] were diverted into another channel; and while they labored under the intolerable pressure of thirst and hunger, a

strong line of circumvallation was formed to prevent their escape. After these precautions, Stilicho, too confident of victory, retired to enjoy

his triumph, in the theatrical games, and lascivious dances, of the

Greeks; his soldiers, deserting their standards, spread themselves over the country of their allies, which they stripped of all that had been

saved from the rapacious hands of the enemy. Alaric appears to have

seized the favorable moment to execute one of those hardy enterprises,

in which the abilities of a general are displayed with more genuine

lustre, than in the tumult of a day of battle. To extricate himself from the prison of Peloponnesus, it was necessary that he should pierce the intrenchments which surrounded his camp; that he should perform a difficult and dangerous march of thirty miles, as far as the Gulf of corinth; and that he should transport his troops, his captives, and his

spoil, over an arm of the sea, which, in the narrow interval between

Rhium and the opposite shore, is at least half a mile in breadth. [19] the operations of Alaric must have been secret, prudent, and rapid;

since the Roman general was confounded by the intelligence, that the

Goths, who had eluded his efforts, were in full possession of the

important province of Epirus. This unfortunate delay allowed Alaric

sufficient time to conclude the treaty, which he secretly negotiated, with the ministers of Constantinople. The apprehension of a civil war compelled Stilicho to retire, at the haughty mandate of his rivals, from the dominions of Arcadius; and he respected, in the enemy of Rome, the

honorable character of the ally and servant of the emperor of the East.

[Footnote 16: For Stilicho's Greek war, compare the honest narrative of

Zosimus (l. v. p. 295, 296) with the curious circumstantial flattery of claudian, (i. Cons. Stilich. l. i. 172-186, iv. Cons. Hon. 459-487.) As the event was not glorious, it is artfully thrown into the shade.]

[Footnote 17: The troops who marched through Elis delivered up their arms. This security enriched the Eleans, who were lovers of a rural

life. Riches begat pride: they disdained their privilege, and they

suffered. Polybius advises them to retire once more within their magic circle. See a learned and judicious discourse on the Olympic games, which Mr. West has prefixed to his translation of Pindar.]

[Footnote 18: Claudian (in iv. Cons. Hon. 480) alludes to the fact without naming the river; perhaps the Alpheus, (i. Cons. Stil. l. i.

185.)

---Et Alpheus Geticis angustus acervis

Tardior ad Siculos etiamnum pergit amores.

Yet I should prefer the Peneus, a shallow stream in a wide and deep bed, which runs through Elis, and falls into the sea below Cyllene. It had been joined with the Alpheus to cleanse the Augean stable. (Cellarius, tom. i. p. 760. Chandler's Travels, p. 286.)]

[Footnote 19: Strabo, l. viii. p. 517. Plin. Hist. Natur. iv. 3.

wheeler, p. 308. Chandler, p. 275. They measured from different points the distance between the two lands.]

a Grecian philosopher, [20] who visited Constantinople soon after the death of Theodosius, published his liberal opinions concerning the duties of kings, and the state of the Roman republic. Synesius observes, and deplores, the fatal abuse, which the imprudent bounty of the late emperor had introduced into the military service. The citizens and

subjects had purchased an exemption from the indispensable duty of defending their country; which was supported by the arms of Barbarian

mercenaries. The fugitives of Scythia were permitted to disgrace the illustrious dignities of the empire; their ferocious youth, who disdained the salutary restraint of laws, were more anxious to acquire the riches, than to imitate the arts, of a people, the object of their contempt and hatred; and the power of the Goths was the stone of tantalus, perpetually suspended over the peace and safety of the devoted

state. The measures which Synesius recommends, are the dictates of a bold and generous patriot. He exhorts the emperor to revive the courage

of his subjects, by the example of manly virtue; to banish luxury from the court and from the camp; to substitute, in the place of the barbarian mercenaries, an army of men, interested in the defence of their laws and of their property; to force, in such a moment of public danger, the mechanic from his shop, and the philosopher from his school; to rouse the indolent citizen from his dream of pleasure, and to arm, for the protection of agriculture, the hands of the laborious

husbandman. At the head of such troops, who might deserve the name, and would display the spirit, of Romans, he animates the son of Theodosius to encounter a race of Barbarians, who were destitute of any real courage; and never to lay down his arms, till he had chased them far away into the solitudes of Scythia; or had reduced them to the state of

ignominious servitude, which the Lacedaemonians formerly imposed on the captive Helots. [21] The court of Arcadius indulged the zeal, applauded the eloquence, and neglected the advice, of Synesius. Perhaps the

philosopher who addresses the emperor of the East in the language of

reason and virtue, which he might have used to a Spartan king, had not condescended to form a practicable scheme, consistent with the temper, and circumstances, of a degenerate age. Perhaps the pride of the

ministers, whose business was seldom interrupted by reflection, might

reject, as wild and visionary, every proposal, which exceeded the

measure of their capacity, and deviated from the forms and precedents

of office. While the oration of Synesius, and the downfall of the barbarians, were the topics of popular conversation, an edict was

published at Constantinople, which declared the promotion of Alaric to the rank of master-general of the Eastern Illyricum. The Roman

provincials, and the allies, who had respected the faith of treaties, were justly indignant, that the ruin of Greece and Epirus should be

so liberally rewarded. The Gothic conqueror was received as a lawful

magistrate, in the cities which he had so lately besieged. The fathers, whose sons he had massacred, the husbands, whose wives he had violated, were subject to his authority; and the success of his rebellion encouraged the ambition of every leader of the foreign mercenaries. The

use to which Alaric applied his new command, distinguishes the firm and judicious character of his policy. He issued his orders to the four

magazines and manufactures of offensive and defensive arms, Margus,

Ratiaria, Naissus, and Thessalonica, to provide his troops with an extraordinary supply of shields, helmets, swords, and spears; the

unhappy provincials were compelled to forge the instruments of their

own destruction; and the Barbarians removed the only defect which had

sometimes disappointed the efforts of their courage. [22] The birth of alaric, the glory of his past exploits, and the confidence in his future designs, insensibly united the body of the nation under his victorious

standard; and, with the unanimous consent of the Barbarian chieftains, the master-general of Illyricum was elevated, according to ancient custom, on a shield, and solemnly proclaimed king of the Visigoths. [23] armed with this double power, seated on the verge of the two empires,

he alternately sold his deceitful promises to the courts of Arcadius and

Honorius; [24] till he declared and executed his resolution of invading the dominions of the West. The provinces of Europe which belonged to the Eastern emperor, were already exhausted; those of Asia were

inaccessible; and the strength of Constantinople had resisted his attack. But he was tempted by the fame, the beauty, the wealth of Italy, which he had twice visited; and he secretly aspired to plant the

Gothic standard on the walls of Rome, and to enrich his army with the accumulated spoils of three hundred triumphs. [25]

[Footnote 20: Synesius passed three years (A.D. 397-400) at constantinople, as deputy from Cyrene to the emperor Arcadius. He

presented him with a crown of gold, and pronounced before him the

instructive oration de Regno, (p. 1-32, edit. Petav. Paris, 1612.) The

philosopher was made bishop of Ptolemais, A.D. 410, and died about 430.

See Tillemont, Mem. Eccles. tom. xii. p. 490, 554, 683-685.]

[Footnote 21: Synesius de Regno, p. 21-26.]

[Footnote 22:--qui foedera rumpit

Ditatur: qui servat, eget: vastator Achivae

Gentis, et Epirum nuper populatus inultam,

Praesidet Illyrico: jam, quos obsedit, amicos

Ingreditur muros; illis responsa daturus,

Quorum conjugibus potitur, natosque peremit.

claudian in Eutrop. l. ii. 212. Alaric applauds his own policy (de bell Getic. 533-543) in the use which he had made of this Illyrian

jurisdiction.]

[Footnote 23: Jornandes, c. 29, p. 651. The Gothic historian adds, with

unusual spirit, Cum suis deliberans suasit suo labore quaerere regna,

quam alienis per otium subjacere.

Discors odiisque anceps civilibus orbis,

Non sua vis tutata diu, dum foedera fallax

Ludit, et alternae perjuria venditat aulae.

---Claudian de Bell. Get. 565]

[Footnote 25: Alpibus Italiae ruptis penetrabis ad Urbem. this authentic prediction was announced by Alaric, or at least by claudian, (de Bell. Getico, 547,) seven years before the event. But as

it was not accomplished within the term which has been rashly fixed the

interpreters escaped through an ambiguous meaning.]

the scarcity of facts, [26] and the uncertainty of dates, [27] oppose

our attempts to describe the circumstances of the first invasion of

Italy by the arms of Alaric. His march, perhaps from Thessalonica, through the warlike and hostile country of Pannonia, as far as the foot

of the Julian Alps; his passage of those mountains, which were strongly

guarded by troops and intrenchments; the siege of Aquileia, and the conquest of the provinces of Istria and Venetia, appear to have employed a considerable time. Unless his operations were extremely cautious and

slow, the length of the interval would suggest a probable suspicion, that the Gothic king retreated towards the banks of the Danube; and

reenforced his army with fresh swarms of Barbarians, before he again attempted to penetrate into the heart of Italy. Since the public and

important events escape the diligence of the historian, he may amuse

himself with contemplating, for a moment, the influence of the arms

of Alaric on the fortunes of two obscure individuals, a presbyter

of Aquileia and a husbandman of Verona. The learned Rufinus, who was

summoned by his enemies to appear before a Roman synod, [28] wisely

preferred the dangers of a besieged city; and the Barbarians, who furiously shook the walls of Aquileia, might save him from the cruel

sentence of another heretic, who, at the request of the same bishops, was severely whipped, and condemned to perpetual exile on a desert

island. [29] The old man, [30] who had passed his simple and innocent

life in the neighborhood of Verona, was a stranger to the quarrels both

of kings and of bishops; his pleasures, his desires, his knowledge, were confined within the little circle of his paternal farm; and a staff

supported his aged steps, on the same ground where he had sported in

his infancy. Yet even this humble and rustic felicity (which Claudian describes with so much truth and feeling) was still exposed to the

undistinguishing rage of war. His trees, his old contemporary trees,

[31] must blaze in the conflagration of the whole country; a detachment

of Gothic cavalry might sweep away his cottage and his family; and the

power of Alaric could destroy this happiness, which he was not able either to taste or to bestow. "Fame," says the poet, "encircling with terror her gloomy wings, proclaimed the march of the Barbarian army, and filled Italy with consternation:" the apprehensions of each individual were increased in just proportion to the measure of his fortune: and the

most timid, who had already embarked their valuable effects, meditated their escape to the Island of Sicily, or the African coast. The public distress was aggravated by the fears and reproaches of superstition.

[32] Every hour produced some horrid tale of strange and portentous accidents; the Pagans deplored the neglect of omens, and the

interruption of sacrifices; but the Christians still derived some comfort from the powerful intercession of the saints and martyrs. [33]

[Footnote 26: Our best materials are 970 verses of Claudian in the poem

on the Getic war, and the beginning of that which celebrates the sixth consulship of Honorius. Zosimus is totally silent; and we are reduced to such scraps, or rather crumbs, as we can pick from Orosius and the chronicles.]

[Footnote 27: Notwithstanding the gross errors of Jornandes, who confounds the Italian wars of Alaric, (c. 29,) his date of the consulship of Stilicho and Aurelian (A.D. 400) is firm and respectable.

It is certain from Claudian (Tillemont, Hist. des Emp. tom. v. p. 804) that the battle of Polentia was fought A.D. 403; but we cannot easily fill the interval.]

[Footnote 28: Tantum Romanae urbis judicium fugis, ut magis obsidionem barbaricam, quam pacatoe urbis judicium velis sustinere. Jerom, tom.

ii. p. 239. Rufinus understood his own danger; the peaceful city was

inflamed by the beldam Marcella, and the rest of Jerom's faction.]

[Footnote 29: Jovinian, the enemy of fasts and of celibacy, who was

persecuted and insulted by the furious Jerom, (Jortin's Remarks, vol.

iv. p. 104, &c.) See the original edict of banishment in the Theodosian code, xvi. tit. v. leg. 43.]

[Footnote 30: This epigram (de Sene Veronensi qui suburbium nusquam egres sus est) is one of the earliest and most pleasing compositions of claudian. Cowley's imitation (Hurd's edition, vol. ii. p. 241) has

some natural and happy strokes: but it is much inferior to the original

portrait, which is evidently drawn from the life.]

[Footnote 31:

Ingentem meminit parvo qui germine quercum

Aequaevumque videt consenuisse nemus.

A neighboring wood born with himself he sees,

And loves his old contemporary trees.

In this passage, Cowley is perhaps superior to his original; and the english poet, who was a good botanist, has concealed the oaks under a

more general expression.]

[Footnote 32: Claudian de Bell. Get. 199-266. He may seem prolix: but fear and superstition occupied as large a space in the minds of the

Italians.]

[Footnote 33: From the passages of Paulinus, which Baronius has

produced, (Annal. Eccles. A.D. 403, No. 51,) it is manifest that the

general alarm had pervaded all Italy, as far as Nola in Campania, where that famous penitent had fixed his abode.]

chapter XXX: Revolt Of The Goths.--Part II.

the emperor Honorius was distinguished, above his subjects, by the

preeminence of fear, as well as of rank. The pride and luxury in which

he was educated, had not allowed him to suspect, that there existed

on the earth any power presumptuous enough to invade the repose of the

successor of Augustus. The arts of flattery concealed the impending danger, till Alaric approached the palace of Milan. But when the sound

of war had awakened the young emperor, instead of flying to arms with the spirit, or even the rashness, of his age, he eagerly listened to those timid counsellors, who proposed to convey his sacred person, and his faithful attendants, to some secure and distant station in the

provinces of Gaul. Stilicho alone [34] had courage and authority to

resist his disgraceful measure, which would have abandoned Rome and

Italy to the Barbarians; but as the troops of the palace had been lately detached to the Rhaetian frontier, and as the resource of new levies was

slow and precarious, the general of the West could only promise, that

if the court of Milan would maintain their ground during his absence,

he would soon return with an army equal to the encounter of the Gothic

king. Without losing a moment, (while each moment was so important to the public safety,) Stilicho hastily embarked on the Larian Lake, ascended the mountains of ice and snow, amidst the severity of an Alpine winter, and suddenly repressed, by his unexpected presence, the enemy, who had disturbed the tranquillity of Rhaetia. [35] The Barbarians,

perhaps some tribes of the Alemanni, respected the firmness of a chief, who still assumed the language of command; and the choice which he condescended to make, of a select number of their bravest youth, was considered as a mark of his esteem and favor. The cohorts, who were delivered from the neighboring foe, diligently repaired to the Imperial

standard; and Stilicho issued his orders to the most remote troops of the West, to advance, by rapid marches, to the defence of Honorius and

of Italy. The fortresses of the Rhine were abandoned; and the safety

of Gaul was protected only by the faith of the Germans, and the ancient terror of the Roman name. Even the legion, which had been stationed to guard the wall of Britain against the Caledonians of the North, was

hastily recalled; [36] and a numerous body of the cavalry of the Alani was persuaded to engage in the service of the emperor, who anxiously expected the return of his general. The prudence and vigor of Stilicho were conspicuous on this occasion, which revealed, at the same time, the weakness of the falling empire. The legions of Rome, which had long

since languished in the gradual decay of discipline and courage, were exterminated by the Gothic and civil wars; and it was found impossible, without exhausting and exposing the provinces, to assemble an army for the defence of Italy.

[Footnote 34: Solus erat Stilicho, &c., is the exclusive commendation which Claudian bestows, (del Bell. Get. 267,) without condescending to except the emperor. How insignificant must Honorius have appeared in his

own court.]

[Footnote 35: The face of the country, and the hardiness of Stilicho, are finely described, (de Bell. Get. 340-363.)]

[Footnote 36:

Venit et extremis legio praetenta Britannis,

Quae Scoto dat frena truci.

---De Bell. Get. 416.

Yet the most rapid march from Edinburgh, or Newcastle, to Milan, must

have required a longer space of time than Claudian seems willing to allow for the duration of the Gothic war.]

chapter XXX: Revolt Of The Goths.--Part III.

when Stilicho seemed to abandon his sovereign in the unguarded palace of

Milan, he had probably calculated the term of his absence, the distance

of the enemy, and the obstacles that might retard their march. He

principally depended on the rivers of Italy, the Adige, the Mincius, the Oglio, and the Addua, which, in the winter or spring, by the fall of

rains, or by the melting of the snows, are commonly swelled into broad and impetuous torrents. [37] But the season happened to be remarkably dry: and the Goths could traverse, without impediment, the wide and

stony beds, whose centre was faintly marked by the course of a shallow

stream. The bridge and passage of the Addua were secured by a strong detachment of the Gothic army; and as Alaric approached the walls,

or rather the suburbs, of Milan, he enjoyed the proud satisfaction of

seeing the emperor of the Romans fly before him. Honorius, accompanied by a feeble train of statesmen and eunuchs, hastily retreated towards the Alps, with a design of securing his person in the city of Arles, which had often been the royal residence of his predecessors. [3711] But

Honorius [38] had scarcely passed the Po, before he was overtaken by the speed of the Gothic cavalry; [39] since the urgency of the danger compelled him to seek a temporary shelter within the fortifications of asta, a town of Liguria or Piemont, situate on the banks of the Tanarus.

[40] The siege of an obscure place, which contained so rich a prize, and seemed incapable of a long resistance, was instantly formed, and indefatigably pressed, by the king of the Goths; and the bold declaration, which the emperor might afterwards make, that his breast

had never been susceptible of fear, did not probably obtain much credit, even in his own court. [41] In the last, and almost hopeless extremity, after the Barbarians had already proposed the indignity of a capitulation, the Imperial captive was suddenly relieved by the fame, the approach, and at length the presence, of the hero, whom he had so

long expected. At the head of a chosen and intrepid vanguard, Stilicho

swam the stream of the Addua, to gain the time which he must have lost

in the attack of the bridge; the passage of the Po was an enterprise of

much less hazard and difficulty; and the successful action, in which he cut his way through the Gothic camp under the walls of Asta, revived the

hopes, and vindicated the honor, of Rome. Instead of grasping the fruit

of his victory, the Barbarian was gradually invested, on every side, by the troops of the West, who successively issued through all the passes

of the Alps; his quarters were straitened; his convoys were

intercepted; and the vigilance of the Romans prepared to form a chain

of fortifications, and to besiege the lines of the besiegers. A military council was assembled of the long-haired chiefs of the Gothic nation;

of aged warriors, whose bodies were wrapped in furs, and whose stern countenances were marked with honorable wounds. They weighed the glory

of persisting in their attempt against the advantage of securing their

plunder; and they recommended the prudent measure of a seasonable

retreat. In this important debate, Alaric displayed the spirit of the conqueror of Rome; and after he had reminded his countrymen of their achievements and of their designs, he concluded his animating speech by the solemn and positive assurance that he was resolved to find in Italy either a kingdom or a grave. [42]

[Footnote 37: Every traveller must recollect the face of Lombardy, (see fonvenelle, tom. v. p. 279,) which is often tormented by the capricious and irregular abundance of waters. The Austrians, before Genoa, were encamped in the dry bed of the Polcevera. "Ne sarebbe" (says Muratori)

"mai passato per mente a que' buoni Alemanni, che quel picciolo torrente potesse, per cosi dire, in un instante cangiarsi in un terribil

gigante." (Annali d'Italia, tom. xvi. p. 443, Milan, 1752, 8vo edit.)]

[Footnote 3711: According to Le Beau and his commentator M. St. Martin,

Honorius did not attempt to fly. Settlements were offered to the Goths

in Lombardy, and they advanced from the Po towards the Alps to take

possession of them. But it was a treacherous stratagem of Stilicho, who

surprised them while they were reposing on the faith of this treaty. Le beau, v. x.]

[Footnote 38: Claudian does not clearly answer our question, Where was

Honorius himself? Yet the flight is marked by the pursuit; and my idea

of the Gothic was is justified by the Italian critics, Sigonius (tom.

P, ii. p. 369, de Imp. Occident. l. x.) and Muratori, (Annali d'Italia. tom. iv. p. 45.)]

[Footnote 39: One of the roads may be traced in the Itineraries, (p.

98, 288, 294, with Wesseling's Notes.) Asta lay some miles on the right

hand.]

[Footnote 40: Asta, or Asti, a Roman colony, is now the capital of a

pleasant country, which, in the sixteenth century, devolved to the dukes

of Savoy, (Leandro Alberti Descrizzione d'Italia, p. 382.)]

[Footnote 41: Nec me timor impulit ullus. He might hold this proud

language the next year at Rome, five hundred miles from the scene of danger (vi. Cons. Hon. 449.)]

[Footnote 42: Hanc ego vel victor regno, vel morte tenebo Victus,

humum.----The speeches (de Bell. Get. 479-549) of the Gothic Nestor, and achilles, are strong, characteristic, adapted to the circumstances; and

possibly not less genuine than those of Livy.]

the loose discipline of the Barbarians always exposed them to the danger

of a surprise; but, instead of choosing the dissolute hours of riot and

intemperance, Stilicho resolved to attack the Christian Goths, whilst they were devoutly employed in celebrating the festival of Easter. [43] the execution of the stratagem, or, as it was termed by the clergy of the sacrilege, was intrusted to Saul, a Barbarian and a Pagan, who

had served, however, with distinguished reputation among the veteran

generals of Theodosius. The camp of the Goths, which Alaric had pitched

in the neighborhood of Pollentia, [44] was thrown into confusion by the sudden and impetuous charge of the Imperial cavalry; but, in a few

moments, the undaunted genius of their leader gave them an order, and a field of battle; and, as soon as they had recovered from their astonishment, the pious confidence, that the God of the Christians would assert their cause, added new strength to their native valor. In this engagement, which was long maintained with equal courage and success, the chief of the Alani, whose diminutive and savage form concealed a

magnanimous soul approved his suspected loyalty, by the zeal with which

he fought, and fell, in the service of the republic; and the fame of this gallant Barbarian has been imperfectly preserved in the verses of claudian, since the poet, who celebrates his virtue, has omitted the

mention of his name. His death was followed by the flight and dismay of the squadrons which he commanded; and the defeat of the wing of cavalry might have decided the victory of Alaric, if Stilicho had not

immediately led the Roman and Barbarian infantry to the attack. The

skill of the general, and the bravery of the soldiers, surmounted every

obstacle. In the evening of the bloody day, the Goths retreated from the field of battle; the intrenchments of their camp were forced, and the

scene of rapine and slaughter made some atonement for the calamities which they had inflicted on the subjects of the empire. [45] The

magnificent spoils of Corinth and Argos enriched the veterans of the west; the captive wife of Alaric, who had impatiently claimed his

promise of Roman jewels and Patrician handmaids, [46] was reduced to

implore the mercy of the insulting foe; and many thousand prisoners,

released from the Gothic chains, dispersed through the provinces of

Italy the praises of their heroic deliverer. The triumph of Stilicho

[47] was compared by the poet, and perhaps by the public, to that of

Marius; who, in the same part of Italy, had encountered and destroyed another army of Northern Barbarians. The huge bones, and the empty

helmets, of the Cimbri and of the Goths, would easily be confounded by

succeeding generations; and posterity might erect a common trophy to the

memory of the two most illustrious generals, who had vanquished, on the

same memorable ground, the two most formidable enemies of Rome. [48]

[Footnote 43: Orosius (l. vii. c. 37) is shocked at the impiety of the

Romans, who attacked, on Easter Sunday, such pious Christians. Yet, at the same time, public prayers were offered at the shrine of St. Thomas

of Edessa, for the destruction of the Arian robber. See Tillemont (Hist des Emp. tom. v. p. 529) who quotes a homily, which has been erroneously ascribed to St. Chrysostom.]

[Footnote 44: The vestiges of Pollentia are twenty-five miles to the

south-east of Turin. Urbs, in the same neighborhood, was a royal chase of the kings of Lombardy, and a small river, which excused the

prediction, "penetrabis ad urbem," (Cluver. Ital. Antiq tom. i. p.

83-85.)]

[Footnote 45: Orosius wishes, in doubtful words, to insinuate the defeat

of the Romans. "Pugnantes vicimus, victores victi sumus." Prosper (in chron.) makes it an equal and bloody battle, but the Gothic writers cassiodorus (in Chron.) and Jornandes (de Reb. Get. c. 29) claim a decisive victory.]

[Footnote 46: Demens Ausonidum gemmata monilia matrum, Romanasque alta famulas cervice petebat. De Bell. Get. 627.]

[Footnote 47: Claudian (de Bell. Get. 580-647) and Prudentius (in

Symmach. n. 694-719) celebrate, without ambiguity, the Roman victory of

Pollentia. They are poetical and party writers; yet some credit is due to the most suspicious witnesses, who are checked by the recent

notoriety of facts.]

[Footnote 48: Claudian's peroration is strong and elegant; but the

identity of the Cimbric and Gothic fields must be understood (like

Virgil's Philippi, Georgic i. 490) according to the loose geography of a poet. Verselle and Pollentia are sixty miles from each other; and the

latitude is still greater, if the Cimbri were defeated in the wide and barren plain of Verona, (Maffei, Verona Illustrata, P. i. p. 54-62.)]

the eloquence of Claudian [49] has celebrated, with lavish applause, the

victory of Pollentia, one of the most glorious days in the life of his

patron; but his reluctant and partial muse bestows more genuine praise

on the character of the Gothic king. His name is, indeed, branded with the reproachful epithets of pirate and robber, to which the conquerors

of every age are so justly entitled; but the poet of Stilicho is compelled to acknowledge that Alaric possessed the invincible temper

of mind, which rises superior to every misfortune, and derives new

resources from adversity. After the total defeat of his infantry, he escaped, or rather withdrew, from the field of battle, with the greatest

part of his cavalry entire and unbroken. Without wasting a moment to

lament the irreparable loss of so many brave companions, he left his

victorious enemy to bind in chains the captive images of a Gothic king;

[50] and boldly resolved to break through the unguarded passes of the apennine, to spread desolation over the fruitful face of Tuscany, and to conquer or die before the gates of Rome. The capital was saved by the active and incessant diligence of Stilicho; but he respected the despair

of his enemy; and, instead of committing the fate of the republic to the chance of another battle, he proposed to purchase the absence of the Barbarians. The spirit of Alaric would have rejected such terms, the

permission of a retreat, and the offer of a pension, with contempt and

indignation; but he exercised a limited and precarious authority over the independent chieftains who had raised him, for their service, above the rank of his equals; they were still less disposed to follow an

unsuccessful general, and many of them were tempted to consult their

interest by a private negotiation with the minister of Honorius. The

king submitted to the voice of his people, ratified the treaty with the empire of the West, and repassed the Po with the remains of the flourishing army which he had led into Italy. A considerable part of the

Roman forces still continued to attend his motions; and Stilicho, who

maintained a secret correspondence with some of the Barbarian chiefs, was punctually apprised of the designs that were formed in the camp and council of Alaric. The king of the Goths, ambitious to signalize

his retreat by some splendid achievement, had resolved to occupy the

important city of Verona, which commands the principal passage of the

Rhaetian Alps; and, directing his march through the territories of those

German tribes, whose alliance would restore his exhausted strength, to

invade, on the side of the Rhine, the wealthy and unsuspecting provinces

of Gaul. Ignorant of the treason which had already betrayed his bold and

judicious enterprise, he advanced towards the passes of the mountains, already possessed by the Imperial troops; where he was exposed, almost at the same instant, to a general attack in the front, on his flanks, and in the rear. In this bloody action, at a small distance from the walls of Verona, the loss of the Goths was not less heavy than that which they had sustained in the defeat of Pollentia; and their valiant

king, who escaped by the swiftness of his horse, must either have been

slain or made prisoner, if the hasty rashness of the Alani had not disappointed the measures of the Roman general. Alaric secured the

remains of his army on the adjacent rocks; and prepared himself, with

undaunted resolution, to maintain a siege against the superior numbers

of the enemy, who invested him on all sides. But he could not oppose the destructive progress of hunger and disease; nor was it possible for

him to check the continual desertion of his impatient and capricious barbarians. In this extremity he still found resources in his own courage, or in the moderation of his adversary; and the retreat of the

Gothic king was considered as the deliverance of Italy. [51] Yet the

people, and even the clergy, incapable of forming any rational judgment

of the business of peace and war, presumed to arraign the policy of

Stilicho, who so often vanquished, so often surrounded, and so often dismissed the implacable enemy of the republic. The first momen of the public safety is devoted to gratitude and joy; but the second is diligently occupied by envy and calumny. [52]

[Footnote 49: Claudian and Prudentius must be strictly examined, to

reduce the figures, and extort the historic sense, of those poets.]

[Footnote 50:

Et gravant en airain ses freles avantages

De mes etats conquis enchainer les images.

the practice of exposing in triumph the images of kings and provinces was familiar to the Romans. The bust of Mithridates himself was twelve feet high, of massy gold, (Freinshem. Supplement. Livian. ciii. 47.)]

[Footnote 51: The Getic war, and the sixth consulship of Honorius,

obscurely connect the events of Alaric's retreat and losses.]

[Footnote 52: Taceo de Alarico... saepe visto, saepe concluso, semperque dimisso. Orosius, l. vii. c. 37, p. 567. Claudian (vi. Cons. Hon. 320) drops the curtain with a fine image.]

the citizens of Rome had been astonished by the approach of Alaric; and the diligence with which they labored to restore the walls of the capital, confessed their own fears, and the decline of the empire. after the retreat of the Barbarians, Honorius was directed to accept the dutiful invitation of the senate, and to celebrate, in the Imperial city, the auspicious aera of the Gothic victory, and of his sixth consulship. [53] The suburbs and the streets, from the Milvian bridge to the Palatine mount, were filled by the Roman people, who, in the space

of a hundred years, had only thrice been honored with the presence

of their sovereigns. While their eyes were fixed on the chariot where

Stilicho was deservedly seated by the side of his royal pupil, they applauded the pomp of a triumph, which was not stained, like that of constantine, or of Theodosius, with civil blood. The procession passed

under a lofty arch, which had been purposely erected: but in less than

seven years, the Gothic conquerors of Rome might read, if they were able to read, the superb inscription of that monument, which attested the total defeat and destruction of their nation. [54] The emperor resided

several months in the capital, and every part of his behavior was

regulated with care to conciliate the affection of the clergy, the

senate, and the people of Rome. The clergy was edified by his frequent

visits and liberal gifts to the shrines of the apostles. The senate, who, in the triumphal procession, had been excused from the humiliating ceremony of preceding on foot the Imperial chariot, was treated with the decent reverence which Stilicho always affected for that assembly. the people was repeatedly gratified by the attention and courtesy of

Honorius in the public games, which were celebrated on that occasion with a magnificence not unworthy of the spectator. As soon as the appointed number of chariot-races was concluded, the decoration of the Circus was suddenly changed; the hunting of wild beasts afforded a various and splendid entertainment; and the chase was succeeded by a

military dance, which seems, in the lively description of Claudian, to

present the image of a modern tournament.

[Footnote 53: The remainder of Claudian's poem on the sixth consulship

of Honorius, describes the journey, the triumph, and the games,

(330-660.)]

[Footnote 54: See the inscription in Mascou's History of the Ancient

Germans, viii. 12. The words are positive and indiscreet: Getarum

nationem in omne aevum domitam, &c.]

In these games of Honorius, the inhuman combats of gladiators [55]

polluted, for the last time, the amphitheater of Rome. The first christian emperor may claim the honor of the first edict which condemned the art and amusement of shedding human blood; [56] but this benevolent

law expressed the wishes of the prince, without reforming an inveterate abuse, which degraded a civilized nation below the condition of savage cannibals. Several hundred, perhaps several thousand, victims were annually slaughtered in the great cities of the empire; and the month

of December, more peculiarly devoted to the combats of gladiators, still exhibited to the eyes of the Roman people a grateful spectacle of blood and cruelty. Amidst the general joy of the victory of Pollentia, a christian poet exhorted the emperor to extirpate, by his authority, the horrid custom which had so long resisted the voice of humanity and

religion. [57] The pathetic representations of Prudentius were less effectual than the generous boldness of Telemachus, and Asiatic monk, whose death was more useful to mankind than his life. [58] The Romans were provoked by the interruption of their pleasures; and the rash

monk, who had descended into the arena to separate the gladiators, was

overwhelmed under a shower of stones. But the madness of the people soon

subsided; they respected the memory of Telemachus, who had deserved the

honors of martyrdom; and they submitted, without a murmur, to the

laws of Honorius, which abolished forever the human sacrifices of the amphitheater. [5811] The citizens, who adhered to the manners of their ancestors, might perhaps insinuate that the last remains of a martial

spirit were preserved in this school of fortitude, which accustomed the

Romans to the sight of blood, and to the contempt of death; a vain and cruel prejudice, so nobly confuted by the valor of ancient Greece, and

of modern Europe! [59]

[Footnote 55: On the curious, though horrid, subject of the gladiators, consult the two books of the Saturnalia of Lipsius, who, as an antiquarian, is inclined to excuse the practice of antiquity, (tom. iii.

p. 483-545.)]

[Footnote 56: Cod. Theodos. l. xv. tit. xii. leg. i. The Commentary of

Godefroy affords large materials (tom. v. p. 396) for the history of

gladiators.]

[Footnote 57: See the peroration of Prudentius (in Symmach. l. ii.

1121-1131) who had doubtless read the eloquent invective of Lactantius,

(Divin. Institut. l. vi. c. 20.) The Christian apologists have not

spared these bloody games, which were introduced in the religious festivals of Paganism.]

[Footnote 58: Theodoret, l. v. c. 26. I wish to believe the story of St. telemachus. Yet no church has been dedicated, no altar has been erected, to the only monk who died a martyr in the cause of humanity.]

[Footnote 5811: Muller, in his valuable Treatise, de Genio, moribus et

luxu aevi Theodosiani, is disposed to question the effect produced by the heroic, or rather saintly, death of Telemachus. No prohibitory law

of Honorius is to be found in the Theodosian Code, only the old and

imperfect edict of Constantine. But Muller has produced no evidence or allusion to gladiatorial shows after this period. The combats with wild beasts certainly lasted till the fall of the Western empire; but the

gladiatorial combats ceased either by common consent, or by Imperial edict.--M.]

[Footnote 59: Crudele gladiatorum spectaculum et inhumanum nonnullis

videri solet, et haud scio an ita sit, ut nunc fit. Cicero Tusculan. ii.

17. He faintly censures the abuse, and warmly defends the use, of these

sports; oculis nulla poterat esse fortior contra dolorem et mortem disciplina. Seneca (epist. vii.) shows the feelings of a man.]

the recent danger, to which the person of the emperor had been exposed

in the defenceless palace of Milan, urged him to seek a retreat in some

inaccessible fortress of Italy, where he might securely remain, while the open country was covered by a deluge of Barbarians. On the coast of the Adriatic, about ten or twelve miles from the most southern of the

seven mouths of the Po, the Thessalians had founded the ancient colony

of Ravenna, [60] which they afterwards resigned to the natives of

Umbria. Augustus, who had observed the opportunity of the place,

prepared, at the distance of three miles from the old town, a capacious

harbor, for the reception of two hundred and fifty ships of war. This

naval establishment, which included the arsenals and magazines, the barracks of the troops, and the houses of the artificers, derived its

origin and name from the permanent station of the Roman fleet; the

intermediate space was soon filled with buildings and inhabitants, and the three extensive and populous quarters of Ravenna gradually contributed to form one of the most important cities of Italy. The

principal canal of Augustus poured a copious stream of the waters of the Po through the midst of the city, to the entrance of the harbor; the

same waters were introduced into the profound ditches that encompassed the walls; they were distributed by a thousand subordinate canals,

into every part of the city, which they divided into a variety of small

islands; the communication was maintained only by the use of boats and bridges; and the houses of Ravenna, whose appearance may be compared to that of Venice, were raised on the foundation of wooden piles. the adjacent country, to the distance of many miles, was a deep and

impassable morass; and the artificial causeway, which connected Ravenna with the continent, might be easily guarded or destroyed, on the approach of a hostile army These morasses were interspersed, however, with vineyards: and though the soil was exhausted by four or five crops, the town enjoyed a more plentiful supply of wine than of fresh water.

[61] The air, instead of receiving the sickly, and almost pestilential, exhalations of low and marshy grounds, was distinguished, like the

neighborhood of Alexandria, as uncommonly pure and salubrious; and this

singular advantage was ascribed to the regular tides of the Adriatic, which swept the canals, interrupted the unwholesome stagnation of the waters, and floated, every day, the vessels of the adjacent country into the heart of Ravenna. The gradual retreat of the sea has left the modern city at the distance of four miles from the Adriatic; and as early as the fifth or sixth century of the Christian aera, the port of Augustus was converted into pleasant orchards; and a lonely grove of pines covered the ground where the Roman fleet once rode at anchor. [62] Even this alteration contributed to increase the natural strength of the

place, and the shallowness of the water was a sufficient barrier against the large ships of the enemy. This advantageous situation was fortified by art and labor; and in the twentieth year of his age, the emperor of the West, anxious only for his personal safety, retired to the perpetual confinement of the walls and morasses of Ravenna. The example of

Honorius was imitated by his feeble successors, the Gothic kings, and afterwards the Exarchs, who occupied the throne and palace of the emperors; and till the middle of the eight century, Ravenna was considered as the seat of government, and the capital of Italy. [63]

[Footnote 60: This account of Ravenna is drawn from Strabo, (l. v. p.

327,) Pliny, (iii. 20,) Stephen of Byzantium, (sub voce, p. 651, edit. berkel,) Claudian, (in vi. Cons. Honor. 494, &c.,) Sidonius Apollinaris,

(l. i. epist. 5, 8,) Jornandes, (de Reb. Get. c. 29,) Procopius (de bell, (lothic, l. i. c. i. p. 309, edit. Louvre,) and Cluverius, (Ital. antiq tom i. p. 301-307.) Yet I still want a local antiquarian and a

good topographical map.]

[Footnote 61: Martial (Epigram iii. 56, 57) plays on the trick of the

knave, who had sold him wine instead of water; but he seriously declares that a cistern at Ravenna is more valuable than a vineyard. Sidonius complains that the town is destitute of fountains and aqueducts; and ranks the want of fresh water among the local evils, such as the croaking of frogs, the stinging of gnats, &c.]

[Footnote 62: The fable of Theodore and Honoria, which Dryden has so admirably transplanted from Boccaccio, (Giornata iii. novell. viii.,) was acted in the wood of Chiassi, a corrupt word from Classis, the naval

station which, with the intermediate road, or suburb the Via Caesaris, constituted the triple city of Ravenna.]

[Footnote 63: From the year 404, the dates of the Theodosian Code become

sedentary at Constantinople and Ravenna. See Godefroy's Chronology of the Laws, tom. i. p. cxlviii., &c.]

the fears of Honorius were not without foundation, nor were his

precautions without effect. While Italy rejoiced in her deliverance from the Goths, a furious tempest was excited among the nations of Germany, who yielded to the irresistible impulse that appears to have been

gradually communicated from the eastern extremity of the continent of asia. The Chinese annals, as they have been interpreted by the earned

industry of the present age, may be usefully applied to reveal the

secret and remote causes of the fall of the Roman empire. The extensive territory to the north of the great wall was possessed, after the flight

of the Huns, by the victorious Sienpi, who were sometimes broken into

independent tribes, and sometimes reunited under a supreme chief; till at length, styling themselves Topa, or masters of the earth, they acquired a more solid consistence, and a more formidable power. The Topa

soon compelled the pastoral nations of the eastern desert to acknowledge the superiority of their arms; they invaded China in a period of weakness and intestine discord; and these fortunate Tartars, adopting the laws and manners of the vanquished people, founded an Imperial dynasty, which reigned near one hundred and sixty years over the

northern provinces of the monarchy. Some generations before they ascended the throne of China, one of the Topa princes had enlisted in

his cavalry a slave of the name of Moko, renowned for his valor, but who was tempted, by the fear of punishment, to desert his standard, and to range the desert at the head of a hundred followers. This gang of

robbers and outlaws swelled into a camp, a tribe, a numerous people, distinguished by the appellation of Geougen; and their hereditary chieftains, the posterity of Moko the slave, assumed their rank among the Scythian monarchs. The youth of Toulun, the greatest of his descendants, was exercised by those misfortunes which are the school of

heroes. He bravely struggled with adversity, broke the imperious yoke of the Topa, and became the legislator of his nation, and the conqueror of tartary. His troops were distributed into regular bands of a hundred and of a thousand men; cowards were stoned to death; the most splendid

honors were proposed as the reward of valor; and Toulun, who had

knowledge enough to despise the learning of China, adopted only such arts and institutions as were favorable to the military spirit of his

government. His tents, which he removed in the winter season to a more

southern latitude, were pitched, during the summer, on the fruitful banks of the Selinga. His conquests stretched from Corea far beyond the

River Irtish. He vanquished, in the country to the north of the Caspian

Sea, the nation of the Huns; and the new title of Khan, or Cagan, expressed the fame and power which he derived from this memorable

victory. [64]

[Footnote 64: See M. de Guignes, Hist. des Huns, tom. i. p. 179-189, tom

ii p. 295, 334-338.]

the chain of events is interrupted, or rather is concealed, as it passes from the Volga to the Vistula, through the dark interval which separates the extreme limits of the Chinese, and of the Roman, geography. Yet the temper of the Barbarians, and the experience of successive emigrations,

sufficiently declare, that the Huns, who were oppressed by the arms of the Geougen, soon withdrew from the presence of an insulting victor. the countries towards the Euxine were already occupied by their kindred tribes; and their hasty flight, which they soon converted into a bold attack, would more naturally be directed towards the rich and level

plains, through which the Vistula gently flows into the Baltic Sea. The

North must again have been alarmed, and agitated, by the invasion of the

Huns; [6411] and the nations who retreated before them must have pressed with incumbent weight on the confines of Germany. [65] The inhabitants

of those regions, which the ancients have assigned to the Suevi, the

Vandals, and the Burgundians, might embrace the resolution of abandoning to the fugitives of Sarmatia their woods and morasses; or at least of discharging their superfluous numbers on the provinces of the Roman empire. [66] About four years after the victorious Toulun had assumed the title of Khan of the Geougen, another Barbarian, the haughty

Rhodogast, or Radagaisus, [67] marched from the northern extremities of

Germany almost to the gates of Rome, and left the remains of his army to achieve the destruction of the West. The Vandals, the Suevi, and the burgundians, formed the strength of this mighty host; but the Alani, who

had found a hospitable reception in their new seats, added their active cavalry to the heavy infantry of the Germans; and the Gothic adventurers crowded so eagerly to the standard of Radagaisus, that by some

historians, he has been styled the King of the Goths. Twelve thousand warriors, distinguished above the vulgar by their noble birth, or their

valiant deeds, glittered in the van; [68] and the whole multitude, which was not less than two hundred thousand fighting men, might be increased, by the accession of women, of children, and of slaves, to the amount of four hundred thousand persons. This formidable emigration issued from the same coast of the Baltic, which had poured forth the myriads of the Cimbri and Teutones, to assault Rome and Italy in the vigor of the

republic. After the departure of those Barbarians, their native country, which was marked by the vestiges of their greatness, long ramparts, and gigantic moles, [69] remained, during some ages, a vast and dreary solitude; till the human species was renewed by the powers of

generation, and the vacancy was filled by the influx of new inhabitants. the nations who now usurp an extent of land which they are unable to cultivate, would soon be assisted by the industrious poverty of their

neighbors, if the government of Europe did not protect the claims of dominion and property.

[Footnote 6411: There is no authority which connects this inroad of the teutonic tribes with the movements of the Huns. The Huns can hardly have

reached the shores of the Baltic, and probably the greater part of the forces of Radagaisus, particularly the Vandals, had long occupied a more

southern position.--M.]

[Footnote 65: Procopius (de Bell. Vandal. l. i. c. iii. p. 182) has

observed an emigration from the Palus Maeotis to the north of Germany, which he ascribes to famine. But his views of ancient history are

strangely darkened by ignorance and error.]

[Footnote 66: Zosimus (l. v. p. 331) uses the general description of the nations beyond the Danube and the Rhine. Their situation, and consequently their names, are manifestly shown, even in the various epithets which each ancient writer may have casually added.]

[Footnote 67: The name of Rhadagast was that of a local deity of the Obotrites, (in Mecklenburg.) A hero might naturally assume the appellation of his tutelar god; but it is not probable that the barbarians should worship an unsuccessful hero. See Mascou, Hist. of the

Germans, viii. 14. \* Note: The god of war and of hospitality with the

Vends and all the Sclavonian races of Germany bore the name of Radegast, apparently the same with Rhadagaisus. His principal temple was at Rhetra

in Mecklenburg. It was adorned with great magnificence. The statue of the gold was of gold. St. Martin, v. 255. A statue of Radegast, of much coarser materials, and of the rudest workmanship, was discovered between

1760 and 1770, with those of other Wendish deities, on the supposed site

of Rhetra. The names of the gods were cut upon them in Runic characters.

See the very curious volume on these antiquities--Die Gottesdienstliche alterthumer der Obotriter--Masch and Wogen. Berlin, 1771.--M.]

[Footnote 68: Olympiodorus (apud Photium, p. 180), uses the Greek word which does not convey any precise idea. I suspect that they were the

princes and nobles with their faithful companions; the knights with their squires, as they would have been styled some centuries afterwards.]

[Footnote 69: Tacit. de Moribus Germanorum, c. 37.]

chapter XXX: Revolt Of The Goths.--Part IV.

the correspondence of nations was, in that age, so imperfect and

precarious, that the revolutions of the North might escape the knowledge

of the court of Ravenna; till the dark cloud, which was collected along the coast of the Baltic, burst in thunder upon the banks of the

Upper Danube. The emperor of the West, if his ministers disturbed his amusements by the news of the impending danger, was satisfied with being the occasion, and the spectator, of the war. [70] The safety of Rome was

intrusted to the counsels, and the sword, of Stilicho; but such was the feeble and exhausted state of the empire, that it was impossible to

restore the fortifications of the Danube, or to prevent, by a vigorous effort, the invasion of the Germans. [71] The hopes of the vigilant

minister of Honorius were confined to the defence of Italy. He once more abandoned the provinces, recalled the troops, pressed the new levies, which were rigorously exacted, and pusillanimously eluded; employed the

most efficacious means to arrest, or allure, the deserters; and offered the gift of freedom, and of two pieces of gold, to all the slaves who would enlist. [72] By these efforts he painfully collected, from the

subjects of a great empire, an army of thirty or forty thousand men, which, in the days of Scipio or Camillus, would have been instantly furnished by the free citizens of the territory of Rome. [73] The thirty legions of Stilicho were reenforced by a large body of Barbarian auxiliaries; the faithful Alani were personally attached to his service; and the troops of Huns and of Goths, who marched under the banners of their native princes, Huldin and Sarus, were animated by interest and resentment to oppose the ambition of Radagaisus. The king of the confederate Germans passed, without resistance, the Alps, the Po, and the Apennine; leaving on one hand the inaccessible palace of Honorius,

securely buried among the marshes of Ravenna; and, on the other, the camp of Stilicho, who had fixed his head-quarters at Ticinum, or Pavia, but who seems to have avoided a decisive battle, till he had assembled

his distant forces. Many cities of Italy were pillaged, or destroyed; and the siege of Florence, [74] by Radagaisus, is one of the earliest events in the history of that celebrated republic; whose firmness checked and delayed the unskillful fury of the Barbarians. The senate and people trembled at their approached within a hundred and eighty

miles of Rome; and anxiously compared the danger which they had escaped, with the new perils to which they were exposed. Alaric was a Christian and a soldier, the leader of a disciplined army; who understood the laws

of war, who respected the sanctity of treaties, and who had familiarly conversed with the subjects of the empire in the same camps, and the

same churches. The savage Radagaisus was a stranger to the manners, the

religion, and even the language, of the civilized nations of the South. the fierceness of his temper was exasperated by cruel superstition; and

it was universally believed, that he had bound himself, by a solemn vow, to reduce the city into a heap of stones and ashes, and to sacrifice the

most illustrious of the Roman senators on the altars of those gods who were appeased by human blood. The public danger, which should have

reconciled all domestic animosities, displayed the incurable madness

of religious faction. The oppressed votaries of Jupiter and Mercury

respected, in the implacable enemy of Rome, the character of a devout

Pagan; loudly declared, that they were more apprehensive of the

sacrifices, than of the arms, of Radagaisus; and secretly rejoiced in the calamities of their country, which condemned the faith of their christian adversaries. [75] [7511]

[Footnote 70:

Cujus agendi

Spectator vel causa fui,

---(Claudian, vi. Cons. Hon. 439,)

is the modest language of Honorius, in speaking of the Gothic war, which

he had seen somewhat nearer.]

[Footnote 71: Zosimus (l. v. p. 331) transports the war, and the victory

of Stilisho, beyond the Danube. A strange error, which is awkwardly and

imperfectly cured (Tillemont, Hist. des Emp. tom. v. p. 807.) In

good policy, we must use the service of Zosimus, without esteeming or trusting him.]

[Footnote 72: Codex Theodos. l. vii. tit. xiii. leg. 16. The date of this law A.D. 406. May 18 satisfies me, as it had done Godefroy, (tom.

ii. p. 387,) of the true year of the invasion of Radagaisus. Tillemont,

Pagi, and Muratori, prefer the preceding year; but they are bound, by certain obligations of civility and respect, to St. Paulinus of Nola.]

[Footnote 73: Soon after Rome had been taken by the Gauls, the senate,

on a sudden emergency, armed ten legions, 3000 horse, and 42,000 foot; a force which the city could not have sent forth under Augustus, (Livy,

xi. 25.) This declaration may puzzle an antiquary, but it is clearly explained by Montesquieu.]

[Footnote 74: Machiavel has explained, at least as a philosopher, the

origin of Florence, which insensibly descended, for the benefit of trade, from the rock of Faesulae to the banks of the Arno, (Istoria fiorentina, tom. i. p. 36. Londra, 1747.) The triumvirs sent a colony to Florence, which, under Tiberius, (Tacit. Annal. i. 79,) deserved the

reputation and name of a flourishing city. See Cluver. Ital. Antiq. tom.

i. p. 507, &c.]

[Footnote 75: Yet the Jupiter of Radagaisus, who worshipped Thor and woden, was very different from the Olympic or Capitoline Jove. The accommodating temper of Polytheism might unite those various and remote deities; but the genuine Romans ahhorred the human sacrifices of Gaul and Germany.]

[Footnote 7511: Gibbon has rather softened the language of Augustine as to this threatened insurrection of the Pagans, in order to restore the

prohibited rites and ceremonies of Paganism; and their treasonable hopes that the success of Radagaisus would be the triumph of idolatry. Compare

ii. 25--M.]

florence was reduced to the last extremity; and the fainting courage of the citizens was supported only by the authority of St. Ambrose; who had communicated, in a dream, the promise of a speedy deliverance. [76] On a sudden, they beheld, from their walls, the banners of Stilicho, who advanced, with his united force, to the relief of the faithful city; and who soon marked that fatal spot for the grave of the Barbarian host. The apparent contradictions of those writers who variously relate the defeat

of Radagaisus, may be reconciled without offering much violence to their respective testimonies. Orosius and Augustin, who were intimately connected by friendship and religion, ascribed this miraculous victory to the providence of God, rather than to the valor of man. [77] They

strictly exclude every idea of chance, or even of bloodshed; and

positively affirm, that the Romans, whose camp was the scene of plenty and idleness, enjoyed the distress of the Barbarians, slowly expiring

on the sharp and barren ridge of the hills of Faesulae, which rise above the city of Florence. Their extravagant assertion that not a single

soldier of the Christian army was killed, or even wounded, may be dismissed with silent contempt; but the rest of the narrative of augustin and Orosius is consistent with the state of the war, and the character of Stilicho. Conscious that he commanded the last army of the

republic, his prudence would not expose it, in the open field, to the

headstrong fury of the Germans. The method of surrounding the enemy with

strong lines of circumvallation, which he had twice employed against the

Gothic king, was repeated on a larger scale, and with more considerable effect. The examples of Caesar must have been familiar to the most

illiterate of the Roman warriors; and the fortifications of Dyrrachium, which connected twenty-four castles, by a perpetual ditch and rampart

of fifteen miles, afforded the model of an intrenchment which might confine, and starve, the most numerous host of Barbarians. [78] The

Roman troops had less degenerated from the industry, than from the

valor, of their ancestors; and if their servile and laborious work

offended the pride of the soldiers, Tuscany could supply many thousand

peasants, who would labor, though, perhaps, they would not fight, for the salvation of their native country. The imprisoned multitude of

horses and men [79] was gradually destroyed, by famine rather than by the sword; but the Romans were exposed, during the progress of such an extensive work, to the frequent attacks of an impatient enemy. The despair of the hungry Barbarians would precipitate them against the fortifications of Stilicho; the general might sometimes indulge the ardor of his brave auxiliaries, who eagerly pressed to assault the camp

of the Germans; and these various incidents might produce the sharp and bloody conflicts which dignify the narrative of Zosimus, and the chronicles of Prosper and Marcellinus. [80] A seasonable supply of men and provisions had been introduced into the walls of Florence, and the famished host of Radagaisus was in its turn besieged. The proud monarch

of so many warlike nations, after the loss of his bravest warriors, was reduced to confide either in the faith of a capitulation, or in the clemency of Stilicho. [81] But the death of the royal captive, who was ignominiously beheaded, disgraced the triumph of Rome and of christianity; and the short delay of his execution was sufficient to brand the conqueror with the guilt of cool and deliberate cruelty. [82] the famished Germans, who escaped the fury of the auxiliaries, were sold as slaves, at the contemptible price of as many single pieces of gold; but the difference of food and climate swept away great numbers of those

unhappy strangers; and it was observed, that the inhuman purchasers,

instead of reaping the fruits of their labor were soon obliged to

provide the expense of their interment Stilicho informed the emperor and the senate of his success; and deserved, a second time, the glorious title of Deliverer of Italy. [83]

[Footnote 76: Paulinus (in Vit. Ambros c. 50) relates this story, which

he received from the mouth of Pansophia herself, a religious matron of florence. Yet the archbishop soon ceased to take an active part in the business of the world, and never became a popular saint.]

[Footnote 77: Augustin de Civitat. Dei, v. 23. Orosius, l. vii. c. 37,

p. 567-571. The two friends wrote in Africa, ten or twelve years after the victory; and their authority is implicitly followed by Isidore of

Seville, (in Chron. p. 713, edit. Grot.) How many interesting facts

might Orosius have inserted in the vacant space which is devoted to

pious nonsense!]

[Footnote 78:

Franguntur montes, planumque per ardua Caesar

Ducit opus: pandit fossas, turritaque summis

Disponit castella jugis, magnoque necessu

Amplexus fines, saltus, memorosaque tesqua

Et silvas, vastaque feras indagine claudit.!

Yet the simplicity of truth (Caesar, de Bell. Civ. iii. 44) is far

greater than the amplifications of Lucan, (Pharsal. l. vi. 29-63.)]

[Footnote 79: The rhetorical expressions of Orosius, "in arido et aspero

montis jugo;" "in unum ac parvum verticem," are not very suitable to the encampment of a great army. But Faesulae, only three miles from florence, might afford space for the head-quarters of Radagaisus, and would be comprehended within the circuit of the Roman lines.]

[Footnote 80: See Zosimus, l. v. p. 331, and the Chronicles of Prosper and Marcellinus.]

[Footnote 81: Olympiodorus (apud Photium, p. 180) uses an expression which would denote a strict and friendly alliance, and render Stilicho

still more criminal. The paulisper detentus, deinde interfectus, of

Orosius, is sufficiently odious. \* Note: Gibbon, by translating this

passage of Olympiodorus, as if it had been good Greek, has probably fallen into an error. The natural order of the words is as Gibbon translates it; but it is almost clear, refers to the Gothic chiefs,

"whom Stilicho, after he had defeated Radagaisus, attached to his army."

So in the version corrected by Classen for Niebuhr's edition of the byzantines, p. 450.--M.]

[Footnote 82: Orosius, piously inhuman, sacrifices the king and people, agag and the Amalekites, without a symptom of compassion. The bloody actor is less detestable than the cool, unfeeling historian.----Note: considering the vow, which he was universally believed to have made, to destroy Rome, and to sacrifice the senators on the altars, and that he

is said to have immolated his prisoners to his gods, the execution of

Radagaisus, if, as it appears, he was taken in arms, cannot deserve

Gibbon's severe condemnation. Mr. Herbert (notes to his poem of Attila,

p. 317) justly observes, that "Stilicho had probably authority for

hanging him on the first tree." Marcellinus, adds Mr. Herbert, attributes the execution to the Gothic chiefs Sarus.--M.]

[Footnote 83: And Claudian's muse, was she asleep? had she been ill

paid! Methinks the seventh consulship of Honorius (A.D. 407) would have furnished the subject of a noble poem. Before it was discovered that the

state could no longer be saved, Stilicho (after Romulus, Camillus and

Marius) might have been worthily surnamed the fourth founder of Rome.]

the fame of the victory, and more especially of the miracle, has encouraged a vain persuasion, that the whole army, or rather nation, of

Germans, who migrated from the shores of the Baltic, miserably perished

under the walls of Florence. Such indeed was the fate of Radagaisus

himself, of his brave and faithful companions, and of more than one third of the various multitude of Sueves and Vandals, of Alani and burgundians, who adhered to the standard of their general. [84] The

union of such an army might excite our surprise, but the causes of

separation are obvious and forcible; the pride of birth, the insolence

of valor, the jealousy of command, the impatience of subordination, and the obstinate conflict of opinions, of interests, and of passions, among

so many kings and warriors, who were untaught to yield, or to obey. after the defeat of Radagaisus, two parts of the German host, which must

have exceeded the number of one hundred thousand men, still remained

in arms, between the Apennine and the Alps, or between the Alps and the danube. It is uncertain whether they attempted to revenge the death

of their general; but their irregular fury was soon diverted by the prudence and firmness of Stilicho, who opposed their march, and facilitated their retreat; who considered the safety of Rome and Italy as the great object of his care, and who sacrificed, with too much

indifference, the wealth and tranquillity of the distant provinces. [85] the Barbarians acquired, from the junction of some Pannonian deserters, the knowledge of the country, and of the roads; and the invasion of

Gaul, which Alaric had designed, was executed by the remains of the

great army of Radagaisus. [86]

[Footnote 84: A luminous passage of Prosper's Chronicle, "In tres

partes, pes diversos principes, diversus exercitus," reduces the miracle

of Florence and connects the history of Italy, Gaul, and Germany.]

[Footnote 85: Orosius and Jerom positively charge him with instigating the in vasion. "Excitatae a Stilichone gentes," &c. They must mean a directly. He saved Italy at the expense of Gaul]

[Footnote 86: The Count de Buat is satisfied, that the Germans who

invaded Gaul were the two thirds that yet remained of the army of

Radagaisus. See the Histoire Ancienne des Peuples de l'Europe, (tom.

vii. p. 87, 121. Paris, 1772;) an elaborate work, which I had not the advantage of perusing till the year 1777. As early as 1771, I find the

same idea expressed in a rough draught of the present History. I

have since observed a similar intimation in Mascou, (viii. 15.) Such agreement, without mutual communication, may add some weight to our common sentiment.]

Yet if they expected to derive any assistance from the tribes of

Germany, who inhabited the banks of the Rhine, their hopes were disappointed. The Alemanni preserved a state of inactive neutrality; and the Franks distinguished their zeal and courage in the defence of the

of the empire. In the rapid progress down the Rhine, which was the first act of the administration of Stilicho, he had applied himself, with

peculiar attention, to secure the alliance of the warlike Franks, and to remove the irreconcilable enemies of peace and of the republic.

Marcomir, one of their kings, was publicly convicted, before the tribunal of the Roman magistrate, of violating the faith of treaties. He was sentenced to a mild, but distant exile, in the province of Tuscany; and this degradation of the regal dignity was so far from exciting the

resentment of his subjects, that they punished with death the turbulent

Sunno, who attempted to revenge his brother; and maintained a dutiful allegiance to the princes, who were established on the throne by the choice of Stilicho. [87] When the limits of Gaul and Germany were shaken by the northern emigration, the Franks bravely encountered the single force of the Vandals; who, regardless of the lessons of adversity,

had again separated their troops from the standard of their Barbarian allies. They paid the penalty of their rashness; and twenty thousand

Vandals, with their king Godigisclus, were slain in the field of battle. the whole people must have been extirpated, if the squadrons of the alani, advancing to their relief, had not trampled down the infantry

of the Franks; who, after an honorable resistance, were compelled to

relinquish the unequal contest. The victorious confederates pursued their march, and on the last day of the year, in a season when the waters of the Rhine were most probably frozen, they entered, without

opposition, the defenceless provinces of Gaul. This memorable passage

of the Suevi, the Vandals, the Alani, and the Burgundians, who never afterwards retreated, may be considered as the fall of the Roman empire

in the countries beyond the Alps; and the barriers, which had so long

separated the savage and the civilized nations of the earth, were from that fatal moment levelled with the ground. [88]

[Footnote 87:

Provincia missos

Expellet citius fasces, quam Francia reges

Quos dederis.

claudian (i. Cons. Stil. l. i. 235, &c.) is clear and satisfactory. these kings of France are unknown to Gregory of Tours; but the author

of the Gesta Francorum mentions both Sunno and Marcomir, and names the

latter as the father of Pharamond, (in tom. ii. p. 543.) He seems to write from good materials, which he did not understand.]

[Footnote 88: See Zosimus, (l. vi. p. 373,) Orosius, (l. vii. c. 40, p.

576,) and the Chronicles. Gregory of Tours (l. ii. c. 9, p. 165, in the second volume of the Historians of France) has preserved a valuable fragment of Renatus Profuturus Frigeridus, whose three names denote a christian, a Roman subject, and a Semi-Barbarian.]

while the peace of Germany was secured by the attachment of the Franks, and the neutrality of the Alemanni, the subjects of Rome, unconscious of their approaching calamities, enjoyed the state of quiet and prosperity, which had seldom blessed the frontiers of Gaul. Their flocks and

herds were permitted to graze in the pastures of the Barbarians; their

huntsmen penetrated, without fear or danger, into the darkest recesses

of the Hercynian wood. [89] The banks of the Rhine were crowned, like those of the Tyber, with elegant houses, and well-cultivated farms; and

if a poet descended the river, he might express his doubt, on which side was situated the territory of the Romans. [90] This scene of peace and plenty was suddenly changed into a desert; and the prospect of the

smoking ruins could alone distinguish the solitude of nature from the desolation of man. The flourishing city of Mentz was surprised and destroyed; and many thousand Christians were inhumanly massacred in the church. Worms perished after a long and obstinate siege; Strasburgh,

Spires, Rheims, Tournay, Arras, Amiens, experienced the cruel oppression

of the German yoke; and the consuming flames of war spread from the banks of the Rhine over the greatest part of the seventeen provinces of

Gaul. That rich and extensive country, as far as the ocean, the Alps, and the Pyrenees, was delivered to the Barbarians, who drove before them, in a promiscuous crowd, the bishop, the senator, and the

virgin, laden with the spoils of their houses and altars. [91] The ecclesiastics, to whom we are indebted for this vague description of the

public calamities, embraced the opportunity of exhorting the Christians to repent of the sins which had provoked the Divine Justice, and to

renounce the perishable goods of a wretched and deceitful world. But as the Pelagian controversy, [92] which attempts to sound the abyss

of grace and predestination, soon became the serious employment of the Latin clergy, the Providence which had decreed, or foreseen, or

permitted, such a train of moral and natural evils, was rashly weighed

in the imperfect and fallacious balance of reason. The crimes, and the

misfortunes, of the suffering people, were presumptuously compared with those of their ancestors; and they arraigned the Divine Justice, which did not exempt from the common destruction the feeble, the guiltless, the infant portion of the human species. These idle disputants

overlooked the invariable laws of nature, which have connected peace with innocence, plenty with industry, and safety with valor. The timid and selfish policy of the court of Ravenna might recall the Palatine

legions for the protection of Italy; the remains of the stationary troops might be unequal to the arduous task; and the Barbarian auxiliaries might prefer the unbounded license of spoil to the benefits

of a moderate and regular stipend. But the provinces of Gaul were filled with a numerous race of hardy and robust youth, who, in the defence of their houses, their families, and their altars, if they had dared to die, would have deserved to vanquish. The knowledge of their native country would have enabled them to oppose continual and insuperable

obstacles to the progress of an invader; and the deficiency of the barbarians, in arms, as well as in discipline, removed the only pretence which excuses the submission of a populous country to the inferior

numbers of a veteran army. When France was invaded by Charles V., he

inquired of a prisoner, how many days Paris might be distant from the frontier; "Perhaps twelve, but they will be days of battle:" [93] such was the gallant answer which checked the arrogance of that ambitious

prince. The subjects of Honorius, and those of Francis I., were animated by a very different spirit; and in less than two years, the divided troops of the savages of the Baltic, whose numbers, were they fairly

stated, would appear contemptible, advanced, without a combat, to the foot of the Pyrenean Mountains.

[Footnote 89: Claudian (i. Cons. Stil. l. i. 221, &c., l. ii. 186) describes the peace and prosperity of the Gallic frontier. The Abbe dubos (Hist. Critique, &c., tom. i. p. 174) would read Alba (a nameless

rivulet of the Ardennes) instead of Albis; and expatiates on the danger of the Gallic cattle grazing beyond the Elbe. Foolish enough! In

poetical geography, the Elbe, and the Hercynian, signify any river,

or any wood, in Germany. Claudian is not prepared for the strict examination of our antiquaries.]

[Footnote 90:--Germinasque viator Cum videat ripas, quae sit Romana

requirat.]

[Footnote 91: Jerom, tom. i. p. 93. See in the 1st vol. of the

Historians of France, p. 777, 782, the proper extracts from the Carmen de Providentil Divina, and Salvian. The anonymous poet was himself a captive, with his bishop and fellow-citizens.]

[Footnote 92: The Pelagian doctrine, which was first agitated A.D.

405, was condemned, in the space of ten years, at Rome and Carthage. St augustin fought and conquered; but the Greek church was favorable to his adversaries; and (what is singular enough) the people did not take any

part in a dispute which they could not understand.]

[Footnote 93: See the Memoires de Guillaume du Bellay, l. vi. In French, the original reproof is less obvious, and more pointed, from the double

sense of the word journee, which alike signifies, a day's travel, or a battle.]

In the early part of the reign of Honorius, the vigilance of Stilicho

had successfully guarded the remote island of Britain from her incessant enemies of the ocean, the mountains, and the Irish coast. [94] But those

restless Barbarians could not neglect the fair opportunity of the Gothic war, when the walls and stations of the province were stripped of the

Roman troops. If any of the legionaries were permitted to return from the Italian expedition, their faithful report of the court and character

of Honorius must have tended to dissolve the bonds of allegiance, and to exasperate the seditious temper of the British army. The spirit of

revolt, which had formerly disturbed the age of Gallienus, was revived by the capricious violence of the soldiers; and the unfortunate, perhaps the ambitious, candidates, who were the objects of their choice, were the instruments, and at length the victims, of their passion. [95]

Marcus was the first whom they placed on the throne, as the lawful emperor of Britain and of the West. They violated, by the hasty murder

of Marcus, the oath of fidelity which they had imposed on themselves; and their disapprobation of his manners may seem to inscribe an

honorable epitaph on his tomb. Gratian was the next whom they adorned with the diadem and the purple; and, at the end of four months, Gratian experienced the fate of his predecessor. The memory of the great constantine, whom the British legions had given to the church and to the empire, suggested the singular motive of their third choice. They discovered in the ranks a private soldier of the name of Constantine, and their impetuous levity had already seated him on the throne, before they perceived his incapacity to sustain the weight of that glorious appellation. [96] Yet the authority of Constantine was less precarious, and his government was more successful, than the transient reigns of

Marcus and of Gratian. The danger of leaving his inactive troops in those camps, which had been twice polluted with blood and sedition,

urged him to attempt the reduction of the Western provinces. He landed at Boulogne with an inconsiderable force; and after he had reposed

himself some days, he summoned the cities of Gaul, which had escaped the yoke of the Barbarians, to acknowledge their lawful sovereign. they obeyed the summons without reluctance. The neglect of the court

of Ravenna had absolved a deserted people from the duty of allegiance; their actual distress encouraged them to accept any circumstances of change, without apprehension, and, perhaps, with some degree of hope; and they might flatter themselves, that the troops, the authority, and even the name of a Roman emperor, who fixed his residence in Gaul, would

protect the unhappy country from the rage of the Barbarians. The first

successes of Constantine against the detached parties of the Germans, were magnified by the voice of adulation into splendid and decisive

victories; which the reunion and insolence of the enemy soon reduced to their just value. His negotiations procured a short and precarious truce; and if some tribes of the Barbarians were engaged, by the

liberality of his gifts and promises, to undertake the defence of the

Rhine, these expensive and uncertain treaties, instead of restoring the pristine vigor of the Gallic frontier, served only to disgrace the

majesty of the prince, and to exhaust what yet remained of the treasures

of the republic. Elated, however, with this imaginary triumph, the vain deliverer of Gaul advanced into the provinces of the South, to encounter a more pressing and personal danger. Sarus the Goth was ordered to

lay the head of the rebel at the feet of the emperor Honorius; and the forces of Britain and Italy were unworthily consumed in this domestic

quarrel. After the loss of his two bravest generals, Justinian and

Nevigastes, the former of whom was slain in the field of battle, the

latter in a peaceful but treacherous interview, Constantine fortified

himself within the walls of Vienna. The place was ineffectually attacked

seven days; and the Imperial army supported, in a precipitate retreat, the ignominy of purchasing a secure passage from the freebooters and

outlaws of the Alps. [97] Those mountains now separated the dominions of two rival monarchs; and the fortifications of the double frontier were

guarded by the troops of the empire, whose arms would have been more

usefully employed to maintain the Roman limits against the Barbarians of

Germany and Scythia.

[Footnote 94: Claudian, (i. Cons. Stil. l. ii. 250.) It is supposed that the Scots of Ireland invaded, by sea, the whole western coast of britain: and some slight credit may be given even to Nennius and the

Irish traditions, (Carte's Hist. of England, vol. i. p. 169.) Whitaker's

Genuine History of the Britons, p. 199. The sixty-six lives of St.

Patrick, which were extant in the ninth century, must have contained as many thousand lies; yet we may believe, that, in one of these Irish

inroads the future apostle was led away captive, (Usher, Antiquit. eccles Britann. p. 431, and Tillemont, Mem. Eccles. tom. xvi. p. 45 782,

&c.)]

[Footnote 95: The British usurpers are taken from Zosimus, (l. vi. p.

371-375,) Orosius, (l. vii. c. 40, p. 576, 577,) Olympiodorus,

(apud Photium, p. 180, 181,) the ecclesiastical historians, and the chronicles. The Latins are ignorant of Marcus.]

[Footnote 96: Cum in Constantino inconstantiam... execrarentur,

(Sidonius Apollinaris, l. v. epist. 9, p. 139, edit. secund. Sirmond.)

Yet Sidonius might be tempted, by so fair a pun, to stigmatize a prince who had disgraced his grandfather.]

[Footnote 97: Bagaudoe is the name which Zosimus applies to them;

perhaps they deserved a less odious character, (see Dubos, Hist. critique, tom. i. p. 203, and this History, vol. i. p. 407.) We shall

hear of them again.]

chapter XXX: Revolt Of The Goths.--Part V.

On the side of the Pyrenees, the ambition of Constantine might be justified by the proximity of danger; but his throne was soon established by the conquest, or rather submission, of Spain; which

yielded to the influence of regular and habitual subordination, and

received the laws and magistrates of the Gallic praefecture. The only

opposition which was made to the authority of Constantine proceeded not

so much from the powers of government, or the spirit of the people, as from the private zeal and interest of the family of Theodosius. Four brothers [98] had obtained, by the favor of their kinsman, the deceased emperor, an honorable rank and ample possessions in their native country; and the grateful youths resolved to risk those advantages in the service of his son. After an unsuccessful effort to maintain their

ground at the head of the stationary troops of Lusitania, they retired to their estates; where they armed and levied, at their own expense, a considerable body of slaves and dependants, and boldly marched to occupy the strong posts of the Pyrenean Mountains. This domestic insurrection alarmed and perplexed the sovereign of Gaul and Britain; and he was compelled to negotiate with some troops of Barbarian auxiliaries, for the service of the Spanish war. They were distinguished by the title of

Honorians; [99] a name which might have reminded them of their fidelity to their lawful sovereign; and if it should candidly be allowed that the

Scots were influenced by any partial affection for a British prince, the

Moors and the Marcomanni could be tempted only by the profuse liberality

of the usurper, who distributed among the Barbarians the military, and even the civil, honors of Spain. The nine bands of Honorians, which may be easily traced on the establishment of the Western empire, could not exceed the number of five thousand men: yet this inconsiderable force was sufficient to terminate a war, which had threatened the power and

safety of Constantine. The rustic army of the Theodosian family was

surrounded and destroyed in the Pyrenees: two of the brothers had the

good fortune to escape by sea to Italy, or the East; the other two, after an interval of suspense, were executed at Arles; and if Honorius could remain insensible of the public disgrace, he might perhaps be affected by the personal misfortunes of his generous kinsmen. Such were the feeble arms which decided the possession of the Western provinces

of Europe, from the wall of Antoninus to the columns of Hercules. The events of peace and war have undoubtedly been diminished by the narrow and imperfect view of the historians of the times, who were equally

ignorant of the causes, and of the effects, of the most important

revolutions. But the total decay of the national strength had annihilated even the last resource of a despotic government; and the

revenue of exhausted provinces could no longer purchase the military

service of a discontented and pusillanimous people.

[Footnote 98: Verinianus, Didymus, Theodosius, and Lagodius, who

in modern courts would be styled princes of the blood, were not distinguished by any rank or privileges above the rest of their fellow-subjects.]

[Footnote 99: These Honoriani, or Honoriaci, consisted of two bands of

Scots, or Attacotti, two of Moors, two of Marcomanni, the Victores, the asca in, and the Gallicani, (Notitia Imperii, sect. xxxiii. edit. Lab.) they were part of the sixty-five Auxilia Palatina, and are properly

styled by Zosimus, (l. vi. 374.)]

the poet, whose flattery has ascribed to the Roman eagle the victories

of Pollentia and Verona, pursues the hasty retreat of Alaric, from the confines of Italy, with a horrid train of imaginary spectres, such as

might hover over an army of Barbarians, which was almost exterminated by war, famine, and disease. [100] In the course of this unfortunate expedition, the king of the Goths must indeed have sustained a considerable loss; and his harassed forces required an interval of

repose, to recruit their numbers and revive their confidence. Adversity

had exercised and displayed the genius of Alaric; and the fame of

his valor invited to the Gothic standard the bravest of the Barbarian warriors; who, from the Euxine to the Rhine, were agitated by the desire

of rapine and conquest. He had deserved the esteem, and he soon accepted the friendship, of Stilicho himself. Renouncing the service of the emperor of the East, Alaric concluded, with the court of Ravenna, a treaty of peace and alliance, by which he was declared master-general

of the Roman armies throughout the praefecture of Illyricum; as it was claimed, according to the true and ancient limits, by the minister of

Honorius. [101] The execution of the ambitious design, which was either

stipulated, or implied, in the articles of the treaty, appears to

have been suspended by the formidable irruption of Radagaisus; and the neutrality of the Gothic king may perhaps be compared to the

indifference of Caesar, who, in the conspiracy of Catiline, refused either to assist, or to oppose, the enemy of the republic. After the defeat of the Vandals, Stilicho resumed his pretensions to the provinces

of the East; appointed civil magistrates for the administration of

justice, and of the finances; and declared his impatience to lead to the gates of Constantinople the united armies of the Romans and of the

Goths. The prudence, however, of Stilicho, his aversion to civil war, and his perfect knowledge of the weakness of the state, may countenance the suspicion, that domestic peace, rather than foreign conquest, was the object of his policy; and that his principal care was to employ the forces of Alaric at a distance from Italy. This design could not long escape the penetration of the Gothic king, who continued to hold a doubtful, and perhaps a treacherous, correspondence with the rival courts; who protracted, like a dissatisfied mercenary, his languid

operations in Thessaly and Epirus, and who soon returned to claim the extravagant reward of his ineffectual services. From his camp near aemona, [102] on the confines of Italy, he transmitted to the emperor of the West a long account of promises, of expenses, and of demands; called for immediate satisfaction, and clearly intimated the consequences of a refusal. Yet if his conduct was hostile, his language was decent and dutiful. He humbly professed himself the friend of Stilicho, and the

soldier of Honorius; offered his person and his troops to march, without delay, against the usurper of Gaul; and solicited, as a permanent

retreat for the Gothic nation, the possession of some vacant province of the Western empire.

[Footnote 100:

Comitatur euntem

Pallor, et atra fames; et saucia lividus ora

Luctus; et inferno stridentes agmine morbi.

---Claudian in vi. Cons. Hon. 821, &c.]

[Footnote 101: These dark transactions are investigated by the Count de Bual (Hist. des Peuples de l'Europe, tom. vii. c. iii.--viii. p.

69-206,) whose laborious accuracy may sometimes fatigue a superficial

reader.]

[Footnote 102: See Zosimus, l. v. p. 334, 335. He interrupts his scanty

narrative to relate the fable of Aemona, and of the ship Argo; which was drawn overland from that place to the Adriatic. Sozomen (l. viii. c.

25, l. ix. c. 4) and Socrates (l. vii. c. 10) cast a pale and doubtful

light; and Orosius (l. vii. c. 38, p. 571) is abominably partial.]

the political and secret transactions of two statesmen, who labored to deceive each other and the world, must forever have been concealed in the impenetrable darkness of the cabinet, if the debates of a popular assembly had not thrown some rays of light on the correspondence of alaric and Stilicho. The necessity of finding some artificial support for a government, which, from a principle, not of moderation, but of weakness, was reduced to negotiate with its own subjects, had insensibly

revived the authority of the Roman senate; and the minister of Honorius

respectfully consulted the legislative council of the republic. Stilicho assembled the senate in the palace of the Caesars; represented, in a

studied oration, the actual state of affairs; proposed the demands of the Gothic king, and submitted to their consideration the choice of

peace or war. The senators, as if they had been suddenly awakened from a dream of four hundred years, appeared, on this important occasion, to be inspired by the courage, rather than by the wisdom, of their

predecessors. They loudly declared, in regular speeches, or in tumultuary acclamations, that it was unworthy of the majesty of Rome to

purchase a precarious and disgraceful truce from a Barbarian king; and that, in the judgment of a magnanimous people, the chance of ruin was always preferable to the certainty of dishonor. The minister, whose

pacific intentions were seconded only by the voice of a few servile and

venal followers, attempted to allay the general ferment, by an apology for his own conduct, and even for the demands of the Gothic prince. "The

payment of a subsidy, which had excited the indignation of the Romans,

ought not (such was the language of Stilicho) to be considered in the

odious light, either of a tribute, or of a ransom, extorted by the

menaces of a Barbarian enemy. Alaric had faithfully asserted the just

pretensions of the republic to the provinces which were usurped by the

Greeks of Constantinople: he modestly required the fair and stipulated

recompense of his services; and if he had desisted from the prosecution

of his enterprise, he had obeyed, in his retreat, the peremptory, though

private, letters of the emperor himself. These contradictory orders (he would not dissemble the errors of his own family) had been procured by the intercession of Serena. The tender piety of his wife had been too deeply affected by the discord of the royal brothers, the sons of her adopted father; and the sentiments of nature had too easily prevailed

over the stern dictates of the public welfare." These ostensible

reasons, which faintly disguise the obscure intrigues of the palace

of Ravenna, were supported by the authority of Stilicho; and obtained, after a warm debate, the reluctant approbation of the senate. The tumult

of virtue and freedom subsided; and the sum of four thousand pounds of

gold was granted, under the name of a subsidy, to secure the peace

of Italy, and to conciliate the friendship of the king of the Goths.

Lampadius alone, one of the most illustrious members of the assembly,

still persisted in his dissent; exclaimed, with a loud voice, "This is

not a treaty of peace, but of servitude;" [103] and escaped the danger

of such bold opposition by immediately retiring to the sanctuary of a christian church. [See Palace Of The Caesars]

[Footnote 103: Zosimus, l. v. p. 338, 339. He repeats the words of

Lampadius, as they were spoke in Latin, "Non est ista pax, sed pactio

servi tutis," and then translates them into Greek for the benefit of his

readers. \* Note: From Cicero's XIIth Philippic, 14.--M.]

but the reign of Stilicho drew towards its end; and the proud minister

might perceive the symptoms of his approaching disgrace. The generous boldness of Lampadius had been applauded; and the senate, so patiently

resigned to a long servitude, rejected with disdain the offer of

invidious and imaginary freedom. The troops, who still assumed the name and prerogatives of the Roman legions, were exasperated by the partial affection of Stilicho for the Barbarians: and the people imputed to the

mischievous policy of the minister the public misfortunes, which were the natural consequence of their own degeneracy. Yet Stilicho might have continued to brave the clamors of the people, and even of the soldiers,

if he could have maintained his dominion over the feeble mind of his

pupil. But the respectful attachment of Honorius was converted into fear, suspicion, and hatred. The crafty Olympius, [104] who concealed

his vices under the mask of Christian piety, had secretly undermined the benefactor, by whose favor he was promoted to the honorable offices of the Imperial palace. Olympius revealed to the unsuspecting emperor, who had attained the twenty-fifth year of his age, that he was without weight, or authority, in his own government; and artfully alarmed his timid and indolent disposition by a lively picture of the designs of

Stilicho, who already meditated the death of his sovereign, with the ambitious hope of placing the diadem on the head of his son Eucherius. the emperor was instigated, by his new favorite, to assume the tone

of independent dignity; and the minister was astonished to find, that

secret resolutions were formed in the court and council, which were

repugnant to his interest, or to his intentions. Instead of residing in the palace of Rome, Honorius declared that it was his pleasure to return to the secure fortress of Ravenna. On the first intelligence of the death of his brother Arcadius, he prepared to visit Constantinople, and to regulate, with the authority of a guardian, the provinces of the infant Theodosius. [105] The representation of the difficulty and expense of such a distant expedition, checked this strange and sudden

sally of active diligence; but the dangerous project of showing the emperor to the camp of Pavia, which was composed of the Roman troops, the enemies of Stilicho, and his Barbarian auxiliaries, remained fixed and unalterable. The minister was pressed, by the advice of his confidant, Justinian, a Roman advocate, of a lively and penetrating

genius, to oppose a journey so prejudicial to his reputation and safety.

His strenuous but ineffectual efforts confirmed the triumph of Olympius; and the prudent lawyer withdrew himself from the impending ruin of his

patron.

[Footnote 104: He came from the coast of the Euxine, and exercised a

splendid office. His actions justify his character, which Zosimus (l. v.

p. 340) exposes with visible satisfaction. Augustin revered the piety

of Olympius, whom he styles a true son of the church, (Baronius, Annal. eccles, Eccles. A.D. 408, No. 19, &c. Tillemont, Mem. Eccles. tom. xiii.

p. 467, 468.) But these praises, which the African saint so unworthily bestows, might proceed as well from ignorance as from adulation.]

[Footnote 105: Zosimus, l. v. p. 338, 339. Sozomen, l. ix. c. 4.

Stilicho offered to undertake the journey to Constantinople, that he

might divert Honorius from the vain attempt. The Eastern empire would

not have obeyed, and could not have been conquered.]

In the passage of the emperor through Bologna, a mutiny of the guards was excited and appeased by the secret policy of Stilicho; who announced

his instructions to decimate the guilty, and ascribed to his own

intercession the merit of their pardon. After this tumult, Honorius embraced, for the last time, the minister whom he now considered as a tyrant, and proceeded on his way to the camp of Pavia; where he was

received by the loyal acclamations of the troops who were assembled for the service of the Gallic war. On the morning of the fourth day, he

pronounced, as he had been taught, a military oration in the presence

of the soldiers, whom the charitable visits, and artful discourses, of

Olympius had prepared to execute a dark and bloody conspiracy. At the first signal, they massacred the friends of Stilicho, the most

illustrious officers of the empire; two Praetorian praefects, of Gaul and of Italy; two masters-general of the cavalry and infantry; the

master of the offices; the quaestor, the treasurer, and the count of the domestics. Many lives were lost; many houses were plundered; the furious

sedition continued to rage till the close of the evening; and the trembling emperor, who was seen in the streets of Pavia without his

robes or diadem, yielded to the persuasions of his favorite; condemned the memory of the slain; and solemnly approved the innocence and fidelity of their assassins. The intelligence of the massacre of Pavia filled the mind of Stilicho with just and gloomy apprehensions; and he

instantly summoned, in the camp of Bologna, a council of the confederate

leaders, who were attached to his service, and would be involved in his

ruin. The impetuous voice of the assembly called aloud for arms, and for revenge; to march, without a moment's delay, under the banners of a hero, whom they had so often followed to victory; to surprise, to

oppress, to extirpate the guilty Olympius, and his degenerate Romans; and perhaps to fix the diadem on the head of their injured general.

Instead of executing a resolution, which might have been justified by

success, Stilicho hesitated till he was irrecoverably lost. He was still

ignorant of the fate of the emperor; he distrusted the fidelity of his

own party; and he viewed with horror the fatal consequences of arming a crowd of licentious Barbarians against the soldiers and people of Italy. the confederates, impatient of his timorous and doubtful delay, hastily

retired, with fear and indignation. At the hour of midnight, Sarus, a Gothic warrior, renowned among the Barbarians themselves for his

strength and valor, suddenly invaded the camp of his benefactor,

plundered the baggage, cut in pieces the faithful Huns, who guarded

his person, and penetrated to the tent, where the minister, pensive and

sleepless, meditated on the dangers of his situation. Stilicho escaped with difficulty from the sword of the Goths and, after issuing a last and generous admonition to the cities of Italy, to shut their gates against the Barbarians, his confidence, or his despair, urged him to throw himself into Ravenna, which was already in the absolute possession

of his enemies. Olympius, who had assumed the dominion of Honorius, was

speedily informed, that his rival had embraced, as a suppliant the altar

of the Christian church. The base and cruel disposition of the hypocrite was incapable of pity or remorse; but he piously affected to elude,

rather than to violate, the privilege of the sanctuary. Count Heraclian, with a troop of soldiers, appeared, at the dawn of day, before the gates

of the church of Ravenna. The bishop was satisfied by a solemn oath, that the Imperial mandate only directed them to secure the person of

Stilicho: but as soon as the unfortunate minister had been tempted beyond the holy threshold, he produced the warrant for his instant execution. Stilicho supported, with calm resignation, the injurious

names of traitor and parricide; repressed the unseasonable zeal of his followers, who were ready to attempt an ineffectual rescue; and, with a firmness not unworthy of the last of the Roman generals, submitted his

neck to the sword of Heraclian. [106]

[Footnote 106: Zosimus (l. v. p. 336-345) has copiously, though not clearly, related the disgrace and death of Stilicho. Olympiodorus, (apud

Phot. p. 177.) Orosius, (l. vii. c. 38, p. 571, 572,) Sozomen, (l.

ix. c. 4,) and Philostorgius, (l. xi. c. 3, l. xii. c. 2,) afford

supplemental hints.]

the servile crowd of the palace, who had so long adored the fortune of

Stilicho, affected to insult his fall; and the most distant connection with the master-general of the West, which had so lately been a title to wealth and honors, was studiously denied, and rigorously punished. His family, united by a triple alliance with the family of Theodosius,

might envy the condition of the meanest peasant. The flight of his son eucherius was intercepted; and the death of that innocent youth soon followed the divorce of Thermantia, who filled the place of her sister

Maria; and who, like Maria, had remained a virgin in the Imperial bed.

[107] The friends of Stilicho, who had escaped the massacre of Pavia, were persecuted by the implacable revenge of Olympius; and the most exquisite cruelty was employed to extort the confession of a treasonable and sacrilegious conspiracy. They died in silence: their firmness

justified the choice, [108] and perhaps absolved the innocence of their

patron: and the despotic power, which could take his life without a trial, and stigmatize his memory without a proof, has no jurisdiction

over the impartial suffrage of posterity. [109] The services of Stilicho are great and manifest; his crimes, as they are vaguely stated in the

language of flattery and hatred, are obscure at least, and improbable. about four months after his death, an edict was published, in the name

of Honorius, to restore the free communication of the two empires, which

had been so long interrupted by the public enemy. [110] The minister, whose fame and fortune depended on the prosperity of the state, was accused of betraying Italy to the Barbarians; whom he repeatedly

vanquished at Pollentia, at Verona, and before the walls of Florence.

His pretended design of placing the diadem on the head of his son eucherius, could not have been conducted without preparations or accomplices; and the ambitious father would not surely have left the future emperor, till the twentieth year of his age, in the humble

station of tribune of the notaries. Even the religion of Stilicho was arraigned by the malice of his rival. The seasonable, and almost

miraculous, deliverance was devoutly celebrated by the applause of the clergy; who asserted, that the restoration of idols, and the persecution

of the church, would have been the first measure of the reign of eucherius. The son of Stilicho, however, was educated in the bosom of christianity, which his father had uniformly professed, and zealously

supported. [111] [1111] Serena had borrowed her magnificent necklace from the statue of Vesta; [112] and the Pagans execrated the memory

of the sacrilegious minister, by whose order the Sibylline books, the

oracles of Rome, had been committed to the flames. [113] The pride and

power of Stilicho constituted his real guilt. An honorable reluctance to shed the blood of his countrymen appears to have contributed to the

success of his unworthy rival; and it is the last humiliation of the character of Honorius, that posterity has not condescended to reproach

him with his base ingratitude to the guardian of his youth, and the

support of his empire.

[Footnote 107: Zosimus, l. v. p. 333. The marriage of a Christian with two sisters, scandalizes Tillemont, (Hist. des Empereurs, tom. v. p.

557;) who expects, in vain, that Pope Innocent I. should have done

something in the way either of censure or of dispensation.]

[Footnote 108: Two of his friends are honorably mentioned, (Zosimus,

l. v. p. 346:) Peter, chief of the school of notaries, and the great chamberlain Deuterius. Stilicho had secured the bed-chamber; and it is

surprising that, under a feeble prince, the bed-chamber was not able to

secure him.]

[Footnote 109: Orosius (l. vii. c. 38, p. 571, 572) seems to copy the false and furious manifestos, which were dispersed through the provinces by the new administration.]

[Footnote 110: See the Theodosian code, l. vii. tit. xvi. leg. 1, l.

ix. tit. xlii. leg. 22. Stilicho is branded with the name of proedo

publicus, who employed his wealth, ad omnem ditandam, inquietandamque barbariem.]

[Footnote 111: Augustin himself is satisfied with the effectual laws, which Stilicho had enacted against heretics and idolaters; and which are still extant in the Code. He only applies to Olympius for their confirmation, (Baronius, Annal. Eccles. A.D. 408, No. 19.)]

[Footnote 112: Zosimus, l. v. p. 351. We may observe the bad taste of the age, in dressing their statues with such awkward finery.]

[Footnote 113: See Rutilius Numatianus, (Itinerar. l. ii. 41-60,) to whom religious enthusiasm has dictated some elegant and forcible

lines. Stilicho likewise stripped the gold plates from the doors of the capitol, and read a prophetic sentence which was engraven under them,

(Zosimus, l. v. p. 352.) These are foolish stories: yet the charge of

impiety adds weight and credit to the praise which Zosimus reluctantly bestows on his virtues. Note: One particular in the extorted praise of

Zosimus, deserved the notice of the historian, as strongly opposed to the former imputations of Zosimus himself, and indicative of he corrupt

practices of a declining age. "He had never bartered promotion in the army for bribes, nor peculated in the supplies of provisions for the army." l. v. c. xxxiv.--M.]

[Footnote 1111: Hence, perhaps, the accusation of treachery is countenanced by Hatilius:--

Quo magis est facinus diri Stilichonis iniquum

Proditor arcani quod fuit imperii.

Romano generi dum nititur esse superstes,

Crudelis summis miscuit ima furor.

Dumque timet, quicquid se fecerat ipso timeri,

Immisit Latiae barbara tela neci. Rutil. Itin. II. 41.--M.]

Among the train of dependants whose wealth and dignity

attracted the notice of their own times, our curiosity is excited

by the celebrated name of the poet Claudian, who enjoyed the

favor of Stilicho, and was overwhelmed in the ruin of his patron.

the titular offices of tribune and notary fixed his rank in the Imperial court: he was indebted to the powerful intercession of Serena for his

marriage with a very rich heiress of the province of Africa; [114] and the statute of Claudian, erected in the forum of Trajan, was a monument

of the taste and liberality of the Roman senate. [115] After the praises

of Stilicho became offensive and criminal, Claudian was exposed to the enmity of a powerful and unforgiving courtier, whom he had provoked by the insolence of wit. He had compared, in a lively epigram, the opposite characters of two Praetorian praefects of Italy; he contrasts the

innocent repose of a philosopher, who sometimes resigned the hours of business to slumber, perhaps to study, with the interesting diligence

of a rapacious minister, indefatigable in the pursuit of unjust or

sacrilegious, gain. "How happy," continues Claudian, "how happy might it be for the people of Italy, if Mallius could be constantly awake, and

if Hadrian would always sleep!" [116] The repose of Mallius was

not disturbed by this friendly and gentle admonition; but the cruel

vigilance of Hadrian watched the opportunity of revenge, and easily

obtained, from the enemies of Stilicho, the trifling sacrifice of an

obnoxious poet. The poet concealed himself, however, during the tumult

of the revolution; and, consulting the dictates of prudence rather than of honor, he addressed, in the form of an epistle, a suppliant and

humble recantation to the offended praefect. He deplores, in mournful

strains, the fatal indiscretion into which he had been hurried by

passion and folly; submits to the imitation of his adversary the

generous examples of the clemency of gods, of heroes, and of lions; and expresses his hope that the magnanimity of Hadrian will not trample on a defenceless and contemptible foe, already humbled by disgrace and

poverty, and deeply wounded by the exile, the tortures, and the death of

his dearest friends. [117] Whatever might be the success of his prayer,

or the accidents of his future life, the period of a few years levelled

in the grave the minister and the poet: but the name of Hadrian is almost sunk in oblivion, while Claudian is read with pleasure in every country which has retained, or acquired, the knowledge of the Latin

language. If we fairly balance his merits and his defects, we shall acknowledge that Claudian does not either satisfy, or silence, our

reason. It would not be easy to produce a passage that deserves the epithet of sublime or pathetic; to select a verse that melts the heart

or enlarges the imagination. We should vainly seek, in the poems of claudian, the happy invention, and artificial conduct, of an interesting fable; or the just and lively representation of the characters and

situations of real life. For the service of his patron, he published

occasional panegyrics and invectives: and the design of these slavish compositions encouraged his propensity to exceed the limits of truth and

nature. These imperfections, however, are compensated in some degree by the poetical virtues of Claudian. He was endowed with the rare and

precious talent of raising the meanest, of adorning the most barren, and

of diversifying the most similar, topics: his coloring, more especially

in descriptive poetry, is soft and splendid; and he seldom fails to display, and even to abuse, the advantages of a cultivated

understanding, a copious fancy, an easy, and sometimes forcible, expression; and a perpetual flow of harmonious versification. To these commendations, independent of any accidents of time and place, we must add the peculiar merit which Claudian derived from the unfavorable circumstances of his birth. In the decline of arts, and of empire, a native of Egypt, [118] who had received the education of a Greek, assumed, in a mature age, the familiar use, and absolute command, of the Latin language; [119] soared above the heads of his feeble contemporaries; and placed himself, after an interval of three hundred

years, among the poets of ancient Rome. [120]

[Footnote 114: At the nuptials of Orpheus (a modest comparison!) all the

parts of animated nature contributed their various gifts; and the gods themselves enriched their favorite. Claudian had neither flocks, nor

herds, nor vines, nor olives. His wealthy bride was heiress to them all. but he carried to Africa a recommendatory letter from Serena, his Juno, and was made happy, (Epist. ii. ad Serenam.)]

[Footnote 115: Claudian feels the honor like a man who deserved it, (in

praefat Bell. Get.) The original inscription, on marble, was found at

Rome, in the fifteenth century, in the house of Pomponius Laetus. The

statue of a poet, far superior to Claudian, should have been erected, during his lifetime, by the men of letters, his countrymen and contemporaries. It was a noble design.]

[Footnote 116: See Epigram xxx.

Mallius indulget somno noctesque diesque:

Insomnis Pharius sacra, profana, rapit.

Omnibus, hoc, Italae gentes, exposcite votis;

Mallius ut vigilet, dormiat ut Pharius.

Hadrian was a Pharian, (of Alexandrian.) See his public life in

Godefroy, Cod. Theodos. tom. vi. p. 364. Mallius did not always sleep.

He composed some elegant dialogues on the Greek systems of natural

philosophy, (Claud, in Mall. Theodor. Cons. 61-112.)]

[Footnote 117: See Claudian's first Epistle. Yet, in some places, an air of irony and indignation betrays his secret reluctance. \* Note:

M. Beugnot has pointed out one remarkable characteristic of Claudian's

poetry, and of the times--his extraordinary religious indifference. Here

is a poet writing at the actual crisis of the complete triumph of the

new religion, the visible extinction of the old: if we may so speak, a

strictly historical poet, whose works, excepting his Mythological poem

on the rape of Proserpine, are confined to temporary subjects, and to the politics of his own eventful day; yet, excepting in one or two

small and indifferent pieces, manifestly written by a Christian, and

interpolated among his poems, there is no allusion whatever to the great

religious strife. No one would know the existence of Christianity at that period of the world, by reading the works of Claudian. His

panegyric and his satire preserve the same religious impartiality; award their most lavish praise or their bitterest invective on Christian or

Pagan; he insults the fall of Eugenius, and glories in the victories

of Theodosius. Under the child,--and Honorius never became more than a child,--Christianity continued to inflict wounds more and more deadly on expiring Paganism. Are the gods of Olympus agitated with apprehension at the birth of this new enemy? They are introduced as rejoicing at his appearance, and promising long years of glory. The whole prophetic choir of Paganism, all the oracles throughout the world, are summoned to predict the felicity of his reign. His birth is compared to that

of Apollo, but the narrow limits of an island must not confine the new deity--

... Non littora nostro

Sufficerent angusta Deo.

augury and divination, the shrines of Ammon, and of Delphi, the Persian

Magi, and the Etruscan seers, the Chaldean astrologers, the Sibyl

herself, are described as still discharging their prophetic functions, and celebrating the natal day of this Christian prince. They are noble

lines, as well as curious illustrations of the times:

... Quae tunc documenta futuri?

Quae voces avium? quanti per inane volatus?

Quis vatum discursus erat? Tibi corniger Ammon,

Et dudum taciti rupere silentia Delphi.

Te Persae cecinere Magi, te sensit Etruscus

Augur, et inspectis Babylonius horruit astris;

Chaldaei stupuere senes, Cumanaque rursus

Itonuit rupes, rabidae delubra Sibyllae.

--Claud. iv. Cons. Hon. 141.

from the Quarterly Review of Beugnot. Hist. de la Paganisme en Occident,

Q. R. v. lvii. p. 61.--M.]

[Footnote 118: National vanity has made him a Florentine, or a Spaniard. but the first Epistle of Claudian proves him a native of Alexandria,

(Fabricius, Bibliot. Latin. tom. iii. p. 191-202, edit. Ernest.)]

[Footnote 119: His first Latin verses were composed during the consulship of Probinus, A.D. 395.

Romanos bibimus primum, te consule, fontes, Et Latiae cessit Graia thalia togae.

besides some Greek epigrams, which are still extant, the Latin poet had composed, in Greek, the Antiquities of Tarsus, Anazarbus, Berytus, Nice,

&c. It is more easy to supply the loss of good poetry, than of authentic

history.]

[Footnote 120: Strada (Prolusion v. vi.) allows him to contend with the five heroic poets, Lucretius, Virgil, Ovid, Lucan, and Statius. His

patron is the accomplished courtier Balthazar Castiglione. His admirers are numerous and passionate. Yet the rigid critics reproach the exotic weeds, or flowers, which spring too luxuriantly in his Latian soil]

chapter XXXI: Invasion Of Italy, Occupation Of Territories By barbarians.--Part I.

Invasion Of Italy By Alaric.--Manners Of The Roman Senate

And People.--Rome Is Thrice Besieged, And At Length

Pillaged, By The Goths.--Death Of Alaric.--The Goths

Evacuate Italy.--Fall Of Constantine.--Gaul And Spain Are

Occupied By The Barbarians. --Independence Of Britain.

the incapacity of a weak and distracted government may often assume the appearance, and produce the effects, of a treasonable correspondence with the public enemy. If Alaric himself had been introduced into the council of Ravenna, he would probably have advised the same measures which were actually pursued by the ministers of Honorius. [1] The king

of the Goths would have conspired, perhaps with some reluctance, to destroy the formidable adversary, by whose arms, in Italy, as well as in

Greece, he had been twice overthrown. Their active and interested hatred

laboriously accomplished the disgrace and ruin of the great Stilicho. the valor of Sarus, his fame in arms, and his personal, or hereditary,

influence over the confederate Barbarians, could recommend him only to the friends of their country, who despised, or detested, the worthless characters of Turpilio, Varanes, and Vigilantius. By the pressing

instances of the new favorites, these generals, unworthy as they had

shown themselves of the names of soldiers, [2] were promoted to the command of the cavalry, of the infantry, and of the domestic troops. The

Gothic prince would have subscribed with pleasure the edict which the fanaticism of Olympius dictated to the simple and devout emperor.

Honorius excluded all persons, who were adverse to the Catholic church, from holding any office in the state; obstinately rejected the service

of all those who dissented from his religion; and rashly disqualified

many of his bravest and most skilful officers, who adhered to the

Pagan worship, or who had imbibed the opinions of Arianism. [3] These

measures, so advantageous to an enemy, Alaric would have approved, and

might perhaps have suggested; but it may seem doubtful, whether the barbarian would have promoted his interest at the expense of the inhuman and absurd cruelty which was perpetrated by the direction, or at least with the connivance of the Imperial ministers. The foreign auxiliaries, who had been attached to the person of Stilicho, lamented his death; but the desire of revenge was checked by a natural apprehension for the

safety of their wives and children; who were detained as hostages in the strong cities of Italy, where they had likewise deposited their most

valuable effects. At the same hour, and as if by a common signal, the cities of Italy were polluted by the same horrid scenes of universal

massacre and pillage, which involved, in promiscuous destruction, the families and fortunes of the Barbarians. Exasperated by such an injury, which might have awakened the tamest and most servile spirit, they cast a look of indignation and hope towards the camp of Alaric, and unanimously swore to pursue, with just and implacable war, the

perfidious nation who had so basely violated the laws of hospitality. by the imprudent conduct of the ministers of Honorius, the republic

lost the assistance, and deserved the enmity, of thirty thousand of her bravest soldiers; and the weight of that formidable army, which alone

might have determined the event of the war, was transferred from the

scale of the Romans into that of the Goths.

[Footnote 1: The series of events, from the death of Stilicho to the arrival of Alaric before Rome, can only be found in Zosimus, l. v. p.

347-350.]

[Footnote 2: The expression of Zosimus is strong and lively, sufficient to excite the contempt of the enemy.]

[Footnote 3: Eos qui catholicae sectae sunt inimici, intra palatium

militare pro hibemus. Nullus nobis sit aliqua ratione conjunctus, qui a

nobis fidest religione discordat. Cod. Theodos. l. xvi. tit. v. leg. 42, and Godefroy's Commentary, tom. vi. p. 164. This law was applied in the

utmost latitude, and rigorously executed. Zosimus, l. v. p. 364.]

In the arts of negotiation, as well as in those of war, the Gothic king

maintained his superior ascendant over an enemy, whose seeming changes

proceeded from the total want of counsel and design. From his camp, on the confines of Italy, Alaric attentively observed the revolutions of the palace, watched the progress of faction and discontent, disguised the hostile aspect of a Barbarian invader, and assumed the more popular appearance of the friend and ally of the great Stilicho: to whose

virtues, when they were no longer formidable, he could pay a just tribute of sincere praise and regret. The pressing invitation of the

malecontents, who urged the king of the Goths to invade Italy, was enforced by a lively sense of his personal injuries; and he might especially complain, that the Imperial ministers still delayed and eluded the payment of the four thousand pounds of gold which had been

granted by the Roman senate, either to reward his services, or to appease his fury. His decent firmness was supported by an artful

moderation, which contributed to the success of his designs. He

required a fair and reasonable satisfaction; but he gave the strongest assurances, that, as soon as he had obtained it, he would immediately

retire. He refused to trust the faith of the Romans, unless Aetius and

Jason, the sons of two great officers of state, were sent as hostages to

his camp; but he offered to deliver, in exchange, several of the noblest

youths of the Gothic nation. The modesty of Alaric was interpreted, by the ministers of Ravenna, as a sure evidence of his weakness and fear. they disdained either to negotiate a treaty, or to assemble an army; and with a rash confidence, derived only from their ignorance of the extreme danger, irretrievably wasted the decisive moments of peace and war. while they expected, in sullen silence, that the Barbarians would evacuate the confines of Italy, Alaric, with bold and rapid marches,

passed the Alps and the Po; hastily pillaged the cities of Aquileia, altinum, Concordia, and Cremona, which yielded to his arms; increased

his forces by the accession of thirty thousand auxiliaries; and, without

meeting a single enemy in the field, advanced as far as the edge of the

morass which protected the impregnable residence of the emperor of the west. Instead of attempting the hopeless siege of Ravenna, the prudent

leader of the Goths proceeded to Rimini, stretched his ravages along the

sea-coast of the Hadriatic, and meditated the conquest of the ancient

mistress of the world. An Italian hermit, whose zeal and sanctity were

respected by the Barbarians themselves, encountered the victorious

monarch, and boldly denounced the indignation of Heaven against the

oppressors of the earth; but the saint himself was confounded by the

solemn asseveration of Alaric, that he felt a secret and praeternatural

impulse, which directed, and even compelled, his march to the gates of

Rome. He felt, that his genius and his fortune were equal to the most arduous enterprises; and the enthusiasm which he communicated to the Goths, insensibly removed the popular, and almost superstitious,

reverence of the nations for the majesty of the Roman name. His troops, animated by the hopes of spoil, followed the course of the Flaminian way, occupied the unguarded passes of the Apennine, [4] descended into the rich plains of Umbria; and, as they lay encamped on the banks of the Clitumnus, might wantonly slaughter and devour the milk-white oxen, which had been so long reserved for the use of Roman triumphs. [5] A

lofty situation, and a seasonable tempest of thunder and lightning,

preserved the little city of Narni; but the king of the Goths, despising the ignoble prey, still advanced with unabated vigor; and after he had

passed through the stately arches, adorned with the spoils of Barbaric

victories, he pitched his camp under the walls of Rome. [6]

[Footnote 4: Addison (see his Works, vol. ii. p. 54, edit. Baskerville)

has given a very picturesque description of the road through the apennine. The Goths were not at leisure to observe the beauties of the prospect; but they were pleased to find that the Saxa Intercisa, a

narrow passage which Vespasian had cut through the rock, (Cluver. Italia antiq. tom. i. p. 168,) was totally neglected.

Hine albi, Clitumne, greges, et maxima taurus

Victima, saepe tuo perfusi flumine sacro,

Romanos ad templa Deum duxere triumphos.

--Georg. ii. 147.

besides Virgil, most of the Latin poets, Propertius, Lucan, Silius

Italicus, Claudian, &c., whose passages may be found in Cluverius and addison, have celebrated the triumphal victims of the Clitumnus.]

[Footnote 6: Some ideas of the march of Alaric are borrowed from the

journey of Honorius over the same ground. (See Claudian in vi. Cons.

Hon. 494-522.) The measured distance between Ravenna and Rome was

254 Roman miles. Itinerar. Wesseling, p. 126.] During a period of six

hundred and nineteen years, the seat of empire had never been violated by the presence of a foreign enemy. The unsuccessful expedition of

Hannibal [7] served only to display the character of the senate and

people; of a senate degraded, rather than ennobled, by the comparison of an assembly of kings; and of a people, to whom the ambassador of Pyrrhus ascribed the inexhaustible resources of the Hydra. [8] Each of the

senators, in the time of the Punic war, had accomplished his term of the

military service, either in a subordinate or a superior station; and the decree, which invested with temporary command all those who had been consuls, or censors, or dictators, gave the republic the immediate assistance of many brave and experienced generals. In the beginning of the war, the Roman people consisted of two hundred and fifty thousand citizens of an age to bear arms. [9] Fifty thousand had already died in the defence of their country; and the twenty-three legions which were employed in the different camps of Italy, Greece, Sardinia, Sicily, and

Spain, required about one hundred thousand men. But there still remained an equal number in Rome, and the adjacent territory, who were animated by the same intrepid courage; and every citizen was trained, from his earliest youth, in the discipline and exercises of a soldier. Hannibal was astonished by the constancy of the senate, who, without raising the siege of Capua, or recalling their scattered forces, expected his approach. He encamped on the banks of the Anio, at the distance of three

miles from the city; and he was soon informed, that the ground on which

he had pitched his tent, was sold for an adequate price at a public auction; [911] and that a body of troops was dismissed by an opposite

road, to reenforce the legions of Spain. [10] He led his Africans to the

gates of Rome, where he found three armies in order of battle, prepared to receive him; but Hannibal dreaded the event of a combat, from which he could not hope to escape, unless he destroyed the last of his enemies; and his speedy retreat confessed the invincible courage of the

Romans.

[Footnote 7: The march and retreat of Hannibal are described by Livy,

l. xxvi. c. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11; and the reader is made a spectator of the

interesting scene.]

[Footnote 8: These comparisons were used by Cyneas, the counsellor of

Pyrrhus, after his return from his embassy, in which he had diligently

studied the discipline and manners of Rome. See Plutarch in Pyrrho. tom.

ii. p. 459.]

[Footnote 9: In the three census which were made of the Roman people, about the time of the second Punic war, the numbers stand as follows,

(see Livy, Epitom. l. xx. Hist. l. xxvii. 36. xxix. 37:) 270,213,

137,108 214,000. The fall of the second, and the rise of the third, appears so enormous, that several critics, notwithstanding the unanimity

of the Mss., have suspected some corruption of the text of Livy. (See drakenborch ad xxvii. 36, and Beaufort, Republique Romaine, tom. i. p.

325.) They did not consider that the second census was taken only at

Rome, and that the numbers were diminished, not only by the death, but

likewise by the absence, of many soldiers. In the third census, Livy expressly affirms, that the legions were mustered by the care of

particular commissaries. From the numbers on the list we must always deduct one twelfth above threescore, and incapable of bearing arms. See

Population de la France, p. 72.]

[Footnote 911: Compare the remarkable transaction in Jeremiah xxxii. 6, to 44, where the prophet purchases his uncle's estate at the approach

of the Babylonian captivity, in his undoubting confidence in the future restoration of the people. In the one case it is the triumph of

religious faith, in the other of national pride.--M.]

[Footnote 10: Livy considers these two incidents as the effects only

of chance and courage. I suspect that they were both managed by the admirable policy of the senate.]

from the time of the Punic war, the uninterrupted succession of senators

had preserved the name and image of the republic; and the degenerate

subjects of Honorius ambitiously derived their descent from the heroes who had repulsed the arms of Hannibal, and subdued the nations of the earth. The temporal honors which the devout Paula [11] inherited and despised, are carefully recapitulated by Jerom, the guide of her conscience, and the historian of her life. The genealogy of her father,

Rogatus, which ascended as high as Agamemnon, might seem to betray a Grecian origin; but her mother, Blaesilla, numbered the Scipios, aemilius Paulus, and the Gracchi, in the list of her ancestors; and toxotius, the husband of Paula, deduced his royal lineage from Aeneas, the father of the Julian line. The vanity of the rich, who desired to be noble, was gratified by these lofty pretensions. Encouraged by the applause of their parasites, they easily imposed on the credulity of the vulgar; and were countenanced, in some measure, by the custom of adopting the name of their patron, which had always prevailed among the freedmen and clients of illustrious families. Most of those families,

however, attacked by so many causes of external violence or internal decay, were gradually extirpated; and it would be more reasonable to

seek for a lineal descent of twenty generations, among the mountains of the Alps, or in the peaceful solitude of Apulia, than on the theatre

of Rome, the seat of fortune, of danger, and of perpetual revolutions.

Under each successive reign, and from every province of the empire, a crowd of hardy adventurers, rising to eminence by their talents or their

vices, usurped the wealth, the honors, and the palaces of Rome; and

oppressed, or protected, the poor and humble remains of consular families; who were ignorant, perhaps, of the glory of their ancestors.

[12]

[Footnote 11: See Jerom, tom. i. p. 169, 170, ad Eustochium; he bestows

on Paula the splendid titles of Gracchorum stirps, soboles Scipionum,

Pauli haeres, cujus vocabulum trahit, Martiae Papyriae Matris Africani

vera et germana propago. This particular description supposes a more

solid title than the surname of Julius, which Toxotius shared with a thousand families of the western provinces. See the Index of Tacitus, of

Gruter's Inscriptions, &c.]

[Footnote 12: Tacitus (Annal. iii. 55) affirms, that between the battle

of Actium and the reign of Vespasian, the senate was gradually filled with new families from the Municipia and colonies of Italy.]

In the time of Jerom and Claudian, the senators unanimously yielded the

preeminence to the Anician line; and a slight view of their history will

serve to appreciate the rank and antiquity of the noble families, which contended only for the second place. [13] During the five first ages

of the city, the name of the Anicians was unknown; they appear to have derived their origin from Praeneste; and the ambition of those new citizens was long satisfied with the Plebeian honors of tribunes of the people. [14] One hundred and sixty-eight years before the Christian aera, the family was ennobled by the Praetorship of Anicius, who

gloriously terminated the Illyrian war, by the conquest of the nation, and the captivity of their king. [15] From the triumph of that general, three consulships, in distant periods, mark the succession of the anician name. [16] From the reign of Diocletian to the final extinction

of the Western empire, that name shone with a lustre which was not eclipsed, in the public estimation, by the majesty of the Imperial

purple. [17] The several branches, to whom it was communicated, united, by marriage or inheritance, the wealth and titles of the Annian, the

Petronian, and the Olybrian houses; and in each generation the number

of consulships was multiplied by an hereditary claim. [18] The Anician family excelled in faith and in riches: they were the first of the

Roman senate who embraced Christianity; and it is probable that Anicius

Julian, who was afterwards consul and praefect of the city, atoned for

his attachment to the party of Maxentius, by the readiness with which

he accepted the religion of Constantine. [19] Their ample patrimony was

increased by the industry of Probus, the chief of the Anician family; who shared with Gratian the honors of the consulship, and exercised, four times, the high office of Praetorian praefect. [20] His immense estates were scattered over the wide extent of the Roman world; and though the public might suspect or disapprove the methods by which they

had been acquired, the generosity and magnificence of that fortunate

statesman deserved the gratitude of his clients, and the admiration of

strangers. [21] Such was the respect entertained for his memory, that the two sons of Probus, in their earliest youth, and at the request

of the senate, were associated in the consular dignity; a memorable distinction, without example, in the annals of Rome. [22]

[Footnote 13:

Nec quisquam Procerum tentet (licet aere vetusto

Floreat, et claro cingatur Roma senatu)

Se jactare parem; sed prima sede relicta

Aucheniis, de jure licet certare secundo.

---Claud. in Prob. et Olybrii Coss. 18.

Such a compliment paid to the obscure name of the Auchenii has amazed the critics; but they all agree, that whatever may be the true reading, the sense of Claudian can be applied only to the Anician family.]

[Footnote 14: The earliest date in the annals of Pighius, is that of M. anicius Gallus. Trib. Pl. A. U. C. 506. Another tribune, Q. Anicius, A.

U. C. 508, is distinguished by the epithet of Praenestinus. Livy (xlv.

43) places the Anicii below the great families of Rome.]

[Footnote 15: Livy, xliv. 30, 31, xlv. 3, 26, 43. He fairly appreciates the merit of Anicius, and justly observes, that his fame was clouded by the superior lustre of the Macedonian, which preceded the Illyrian triumph.]

[Footnote 16: The dates of the three consulships are, A. U. C. 593, 818,

967 the two last under the reigns of Nero and Caracalla. The second

of these consuls distinguished himself only by his infamous flattery,

(Tacit. Annal. xv. 74;) but even the evidence of crimes, if they bear the stamp of greatness and antiquity, is admitted, without reluctance, to prove the genealogy of a noble house.]

[Footnote 17: In the sixth century, the nobility of the Anician name is

mentioned (Cassiodor. Variar. l. x. Ep. 10, 12) with singular respect by the minister of a Gothic king of Italy.]

[Footnote 18:

Fixus in omnes

Cognatos procedit honos; quemcumque requiras

Hac de stirpe virum, certum est de Consule

nasci. Per fasces numerantur Avi, semperque

renata Nobilitate virent, et prolem fata sequuntur.

(Claudian in Prob. et Olyb. Consulat. 12, &c.) The Annii, whose

name seems to have merged in the Anician, mark the Fasti with many consulships, from the time of Vespasian to the fourth century.]

[Footnote 19: The title of first Christian senator may be justified by the authority of Prudentius (in Symmach. i. 553) and the dislike of the

Pagans to the Anician family. See Tillemont, Hist. des Empereurs, tom.

iv. p. 183, v. p. 44. Baron. Annal. A.D. 312, No. 78, A.D. 322, No. 2.]

[Footnote 20: Probus... claritudine generis et potentia et opum

magnitudine, cognitus Orbi Romano, per quem universum poene patrimonia

sparsa possedit, juste an secus non judicioli est nostri. Ammian

Marcellin. xxvii. 11. His children and widow erected for him a

magnificent tomb in the Vatican, which was demolished in the time of

Pope Nicholas V. to make room for the new church of St. Peter Baronius, who laments the ruin of this Christian monument, has diligently

preserved the inscriptions and basso-relievos. See Annal. Eccles. A.D.

395, No. 5-17.]

[Footnote 21: Two Persian satraps travelled to Milan and Rome, to hear

St. Ambrose, and to see Probus, (Paulin. in Vit. Ambros.) Claudian (in cons. Probin. et Olybr. 30-60) seems at a loss how to express the glory

of Probus.]

[Footnote 22: See the poem which Claudian addressed to the two noble

youths.]

chapter XXXI: Invasion Of Italy, Occupation Of Territories By barbarians.--Part II.

"The marbles of the Anician palace," were used as a proverbial expression of opulence and splendor; [23] but the nobles and senators of

Rome aspired, in due gradation, to imitate that illustrious family. The accurate description of the city, which was composed in the Theodosian age, enumerates one thousand seven hundred and eighty houses, the

residence of wealthy and honorable citizens. [24] Many of these stately

mansions might almost excuse the exaggeration of the poet; that Rome contained a multitude of palaces, and that each palace was equal to a city: since it included within its own precincts every thing which could be subservient either to use or luxury; markets, hippodromes, temples, fountains, baths, porticos, shady groves, and artificial aviaries. [25] the historian Olympiodorus, who represents the state of Rome when it was besieged by the Goths, [26] continues to observe, that several of the

richest senators received from their estates an annual income of four thousand pounds of gold, above one hundred and sixty thousand pounds

sterling; without computing the stated provision of corn and wine, which, had they been sold, might have equalled in value one third of the money. Compared to this immoderate wealth, an ordinary revenue of a thousand or fifteen hundred pounds of gold might be considered as no

more than adequate to the dignity of the senatorian rank, which required

many expenses of a public and ostentatious kind. Several examples are recorded, in the age of Honorius, of vain and popular nobles, who celebrated the year of their praetorship by a festival, which lasted

seven days, and cost above one hundred thousand pounds sterling. [27] the estates of the Roman senators, which so far exceeded the proportion

of modern wealth, were not confined to the limits of Italy. Their

possessions extended far beyond the Ionian and Aegean Seas, to the most distant provinces: the city of Nicopolis, which Augustus had founded as an eternal monument of the Actian victory, was the property of the devout Paula; [28] and it is observed by Seneca, that the rivers, which

had divided hostile nations, now flowed through the lands of private citizens. [29] According to their temper and circumstances, the estates

of the Romans were either cultivated by the labor of their slaves, or

granted, for a certain and stipulated rent, to the industrious farmer. the economical writers of antiquity strenuously recommend the former

method, wherever it may be practicable; but if the object should be

removed, by its distance or magnitude, from the immediate eye of the master, they prefer the active care of an old hereditary tenant, attached to the soil, and interested in the produce, to the mercenary administration of a negligent, perhaps an unfaithful, steward. [30]

[Footnote 23: Secundinus, the Manichaean, ap. Baron. Annal. Eccles. A.D.

390, No. 34.]

[Footnote 24: See Nardini, Roma Antica, p. 89, 498, 500.]

[Footnote 25:

Quid loquar inclusas inter laquearia sylvas;

Vernula queis vario carmine ludit avis.

claud. Rutil. Numatian. Itinerar. ver. 111. The poet lived at the time of the Gothic invasion. A moderate palace would have covered cincinnatus's farm of four acres (Val. Max. iv. 4.) In laxitatem ruris excurrunt, says Seneca, Epist. 114. See a judicious note of Mr. Hume, essays, vol. i. p. 562, last 8vo edition.]

[Footnote 26: This curious account of Rome, in the reign of Honorius, is found in a fragment of the historian Olympiodorus, ap. Photium, p. 197.]

[Footnote 27: The sons of Alypius, of Symmachus, and of Maximus, spent, during their respective praetorships, twelve, or twenty, or forty, centenaries, (or hundred weight of gold.) See Olympiodor. ap. Phot. p.

197. This popular estimation allows some latitude; but it is difficult to explain a law in the Theodosian Code, (l. vi. leg. 5,) which fixes the expense of the first praetor at 25,000, of the second at 20,000, and of the third at 15,000 folles. The name of follis (see Mem. de

l'Academie des Inscriptions, tom. xxviii. p. 727) was equally applied to a purse of 125 pieces of silver, and to a small copper coin of the value

of 1/2625 part of that purse. In the former sense, the 25,000 folles would be equal to 150,000 L.; in the latter, to five or six ponuds

sterling The one appears extravagant, the other is ridiculous. There

must have existed some third and middle value, which is here understood; but ambiguity is an excusable fault in the language of laws.]

[Footnote 28: Nicopolis...... in Actiaco littore sita possessioris

vestra nunc pars vel maxima est. Jerom. in Praefat. Comment. ad Epistol. ad Titum, tom. ix. p. 243. M. D. Tillemont supposes, strangely enough, that it was part of Agamemnon's inheritance. Mem. Eccles. tom. xii. p.

85.]

[Footnote 29: Seneca, Epist. lxxxix. His language is of the declamatory

kind: but declamation could scarcely exaggerate the avarice and luxury

of the Romans. The philosopher himself deserved some share of the

reproach, if it be true that his rigorous exaction of Quadringenties, above three hundred thousand pounds which he had lent at high interest,

provoked a rebellion in Britain, (Dion Cassius, l. lxii. p. 1003.) according to the conjecture of Gale (Antoninus's Itinerary in Britain,

p. 92,) the same Faustinus possessed an estate near Bury, in Suffolk and another in the kingdom of Naples.]

[Footnote 30: Volusius, a wealthy senator, (Tacit. Annal. iii. 30,) always preferred tenants born on the estate. Columella, who received this maxim from him, argues very judiciously on the subject. De Re

Rustica, l. i. c. 7, p. 408, edit. Gesner. Leipsig, 1735.]

the opulent nobles of an immense capital, who were never excited by the pursuit of military glory, and seldom engaged in the occupations of civil government, naturally resigned their leisure to the business and amusements of private life. At Rome, commerce was always held

in contempt: but the senators, from the first age of the republic,

increased their patrimony, and multiplied their clients, by the

lucrative practice of usury; and the obselete laws were eluded, or

violated, by the mutual inclinations and interest of both parties. [31] a considerable mass of treasure must always have existed at Rome, either

in the current coin of the empire, or in the form of gold and silver

plate; and there were many sideboards in the time of Pliny which contained more solid silver, than had been transported by Scipio from

vanquished Carthage. [32] The greater part of the nobles, who dissipated their fortunes in profuse luxury, found themselves poor in the midst of wealth, and idle in a constant round of dissipation. Their desires were continually gratified by the labor of a thousand hands; of the numerous train of their domestic slaves, who were actuated by the fear of

punishment; and of the various professions of artificers and merchants, who were more powerfully impelled by the hopes of gain. The ancients were destitute of many of the conveniences of life, which have been

invented or improved by the progress of industry; and the plenty of

glass and linen has diffused more real comforts among the modern

nations of Europe, than the senators of Rome could derive from all the

refinements of pompous or sensual luxury. [33] Their luxury, and their

manners, have been the subject of minute and laborious disposition: but as such inquiries would divert me too long from the design of the present work, I shall produce an authentic state of Rome and its

inhabitants, which is more peculiarly applicable to the period of the

Gothic invasion. Ammianus Marcellinus, who prudently chose the capital

of the empire as the residence the best adapted to the historian of

his own times, has mixed with the narrative of public events a lively

representation of the scenes with which he was familiarly conversant. the judicious reader will not always approve of the asperity of censure, the choice of circumstances, or the style of expression; he will perhaps detect the latent prejudices, and personal resentments, which soured the temper of Ammianus himself; but he will surely observe, with philosophic curiosity, the interesting and original picture of the manners of Rome.

[34]

[Footnote 31: Valesius (ad Ammian. xiv. 6) has proved, from Chrysostom and Augustin, that the senators were not allowed to lend money at usury.

Yet it appears from the Theodosian Code, (see Godefroy ad l. ii. tit.

xxxiii. tom. i. p. 230-289,) that they were permitted to take six

percent., or one half of the legal interest; and, what is more singular, this permission was granted to the young senators.]

[Footnote 32: Plin. Hist. Natur. xxxiii. 50. He states the silver at

only 4380 pounds, which is increased by Livy (xxx. 45) to 100,023: the former seems too little for an opulent city, the latter too much for any

private sideboard.]

[Footnote 33: The learned Arbuthnot (Tables of Ancient Coins, &c. p.

153) has observed with humor, and I believe with truth, that Augustus

had neither glass to his windows, nor a shirt to his back. Under the

lower empire, the use of linen and glass became somewhat more common. \*

Note: The discovery of glass in such common use at Pompeii, spoils the argument of Arbuthnot. See Sir W. Gell. Pompeiana, 2d ser. p. 98.--M.]

[Footnote 34: It is incumbent on me to explain the liberties which I

have taken with the text of Ammianus. 1. I have melted down into

one piece the sixth chapter of the fourteenth and the fourth of the twenty-eighth book. 2. I have given order and connection to the confused

mass of materials. 3. I have softened some extravagant hyperbeles, and

pared away some superfluities of the original. 4. I have developed some

observations which were insinuated rather than expressed. With these allowances, my version will be found, not literal indeed, but faithful and exact.]

"The greatness of Rome"--such is the language of the historian--"was founded on the rare, and almost incredible, alliance of virtue and of fortune. The long period of her infancy was employed in a laborious

struggle against the tribes of Italy, the neighbors and enemies of the rising city. In the strength and ardor of youth, she sustained the storms of war; carried her victorious arms beyond the seas and the

mountains; and brought home triumphal laurels from every country of the

globe. At length, verging towards old age, and sometimes conquering by the terror only of her name, she sought the blessings of ease and tranquillity. The venerable city, which had trampled on the necks of the fiercest nations, and established a system of laws, the perpetual

guardians of justice and freedom, was content, like a wise and wealthy

parent, to devolve on the Caesars, her favorite sons, the care of

governing her ample patrimony. [35] A secure and profound peace, such as

had been once enjoyed in the reign of Numa, succeeded to the tumults of a republic; while Rome was still adored as the queen of the earth; and the subject nations still reverenced the name of the people, and the

majesty of the senate. But this native splendor," continues Ammianus,

"is degraded, and sullied, by the conduct of some nobles, who, unmindful

of their own dignity, and of that of their country, assume an unbounded

license of vice and folly. They contend with each other in the empty

vanity of titles and surnames; and curiously select, or invent, the most

lofty and sonorous appellations, Reburrus, or Fabunius, Pagonius,

or Tarasius, [36] which may impress the ears of the vulgar with astonishment and respect. From a vain ambition of perpetuating their

memory, they affect to multiply their likeness, in statues of bronze and

marble; nor are they satisfied, unless those statues are covered with

plates of gold; an honorable distinction, first granted to Acilius the consul, after he had subdued, by his arms and counsels, the power of

King Antiochus. The ostentation of displaying, of magnifying, perhaps, the rent-roll of the estates which they possess in all the provinces, from the rising to the setting sun, provokes the just resentment of every man, who recollects, that their poor and invincible ancestors were

not distinguished from the meanest of the soldiers, by the delicacy

of their food, or the splendor of their apparel. But the modern nobles

measure their rank and consequence according to the loftiness of their chariots, [37] and the weighty magnificence of their dress. Their long

robes of silk and purple float in the wind; and as they are agitated, by art or accident, they occasionally discover the under garments, the rich tunics, embroidered with the figures of various animals. [38] Followed by a train of fifty servants, and tearing up the pavement, they move along the streets with the same impetuous speed as if they travelled with post-horses; and the example of the senators is boldly imitated by the matrons and ladies, whose covered carriages are continually driving

round the immense space of the city and suburbs. Whenever these persons

of high distinction condescend to visit the public baths, they assume,

on their entrance, a tone of loud and insolent command, and appropriate to their own use the conveniences which were designed for the Roman

people. If, in these places of mixed and general resort, they meet any of the infamous ministers of their pleasures, they express their affection by a tender embrace; while they proudly decline the

salutations of their fellow-citizens, who are not permitted to aspire above the honor of kissing their hands, or their knees. As soon as they

have indulged themselves in the refreshment of the bath, they resume their rings, and the other ensigns of their dignity, select from their

private wardrobe of the finest linen, such as might suffice for a dozen

persons, the garments the most agreeable to their fancy, and maintain till their departure the same haughty demeanor; which perhaps might have been excused in the great Marcellus, after the conquest of Syracuse.

Sometimes, indeed, these heroes undertake more arduous achievements; they visit their estates in Italy, and procure themselves, by the toil

of servile hands, the amusements of the chase. [39] If at any time, but more especially on a hot day, they have courage to sail, in their

painted galleys, from the Lucrine Lake [40] to their elegant villas

on the seacoast of Puteoli and Cayeta, [41] they compare their own expeditions to the marches of Caesar and Alexander. Yet should a fly

presume to settle on the silken folds of their gilded umbrellas; should a sunbeam penetrate through some unguarded and imperceptible chink, they deplore their intolerable hardships, and lament, in affected language, that they were not born in the land of the Cimmerians, [42] the regions

of eternal darkness. In these journeys into the country, [43] the whole body of the household marches with their master. In the same manner as the cavalry and infantry, the heavy and the light armed troops, the advanced guard and the rear, are marshalled by the skill of their

military leaders; so the domestic officers, who bear a rod, as an ensign

of authority, distribute and arrange the numerous train of slaves and attendants. The baggage and wardrobe move in the front; and are

immediately followed by a multitude of cooks, and inferior ministers, employed in the service of the kitchens, and of the table. The main body is composed of a promiscuous crowd of slaves, increased by the accidental concourse of idle or dependent plebeians. The rear is closed by the favorite band of eunuchs, distributed from age to youth, according to the order of seniority. Their numbers and their deformity excite the horror of the indignant spectators, who are ready to execrate the memory of Semiramis, for the cruel art which she invented, of frustrating the purposes of nature, and of blasting in the bud the hopes

of future generations. In the exercise of domestic jurisdiction, the

nobles of Rome express an exquisite sensibility for any personal injury, and a contemptuous indifference for the rest of the human species. when they have called for warm water, if a slave has been tardy in his

obedience, he is instantly chastised with three hundred lashes: but

should the same slave commit a wilful murder, the master will mildly

observe, that he is a worthless fellow; but that, if he repeats the

offence, he shall not escape punishment. Hospitality was formerly the

virtue of the Romans; and every stranger, who could plead either

merit or misfortune, was relieved, or rewarded by their generosity. At

present, if a foreigner, perhaps of no contemptible rank, is introduced to one of the proud and wealthy senators, he is welcomed indeed in the first audience, with such warm professions, and such kind inquiries, that he retires, enchanted with the affability of his illustrious friend, and full of regret that he had so long delayed his journey to

Rome, the active seat of manners, as well as of empire. Secure of a favorable reception, he repeats his visit the ensuing day, and is

mortified by the discovery, that his person, his name, and his country, are already forgotten. If he still has resolution to persevere, he

is gradually numbered in the train of dependants, and obtains the

permission to pay his assiduous and unprofitable court to a haughty

patron, incapable of gratitude or friendship; who scarcely deigns to

remark his presence, his departure, or his return. Whenever the

rich prepare a solemn and popular entertainment; [44] whenever they celebrate, with profuse and pernicious luxury, their private banquets; the choice of the guests is the subject of anxious deliberation. The

modest, the sober, and the learned, are seldom preferred; and the

nomenclators, who are commonly swayed by interested motives, have the address to insert, in the list of invitations, the obscure names of the

most worthless of mankind. But the frequent and familiar companions

of the great, are those parasites, who practise the most useful of all arts, the art of flattery; who eagerly applaud each word, and every action, of their immortal patron; gaze with rapture on his marble columns and variegated pavements; and strenuously praise the pomp and elegance which he is taught to consider as a part of his personal merit. at the Roman tables, the birds, the squirrels, [45] or the fish, which appear of an uncommon size, are contemplated with curious attention; a

pair of scales is accurately applied, to ascertain their real weight; and, while the more rational guests are disgusted by the vain and tedious repetition, notaries are summoned to attest, by an authentic

record, the truth of such a marvelous event. Another method of

introduction into the houses and society of the great, is derived from the profession of gaming, or, as it is more politely styled, of play. the confederates are united by a strict and indissoluble bond of friendship, or rather of conspiracy; a superior degree of skill in the tesserarian art (which may be interpreted the game of dice and tables)

[46] is a sure road to wealth and reputation. A master of that sublime

science, who in a supper, or assembly, is placed below a magistrate, displays in his countenance the surprise and indignation which Cato

might be supposed to feel, when he was refused the praetorship by the votes of a capricious people. The acquisition of knowledge seldom engages the curiosity of nobles, who abhor the fatigue, and disdain the advantages, of study; and the only books which they peruse are the

Satires of Juvenal, and the verbose and fabulous histories of Marius

Maximus. [47] The libraries, which they have inherited from their fathers, are secluded, like dreary sepulchres, from the light of day.

[48] But the costly instruments of the theatre, flutes, and enormous

lyres, and hydraulic organs, are constructed for their use; and the

harmony of vocal and instrumental music is incessantly repeated in the

palaces of Rome. In those palaces, sound is preferred to sense, and the care of the body to that of the mind."

It is allowed as a salutary maxim, that the light and frivolous

suspicion of a contagious malady, is of sufficient weight to excuse the visits of the most intimate friends; and even the servants, who are despatched to make the decent inquiries, are not suffered to return

home, till they have undergone the ceremony of a previous ablution.

Yet this selfish and unmanly delicacy occasionally yields to the more

imperious passion of avarice. The prospect of gain will urge a rich and gouty senator as far as Spoleto; every sentiment of arrogance and dignity is subdued by the hopes of an inheritance, or even of a legacy; and a wealthy childless citizen is the most powerful of the Romans. The art of obtaining the signature of a favorable testament, and sometimes

of hastening the moment of its execution, is perfectly understood; and

it has happened, that in the same house, though in different apartments, a husband and a wife, with the laudable design of overreaching each

other, have summoned their respective lawyers, to declare, at the same time, their mutual, but contradictory, intentions. The distress which follows and chastises extravagant luxury, often reduces the great to the

use of the most humiliating expedients. When they desire to borrow, they employ the base and supplicating style of the slave in the comedy; but when they are called upon to pay, they assume the royal and tragic declamation of the grandsons of Hercules. If the demand is repeated, they readily procure some trusty sycophant, instructed to maintain a charge of poison, or magic, against the insolent creditor; who is seldom

released from prison, till he has signed a discharge of the whole debt. these vices, which degrade the moral character of the Romans, are mixed with a puerile superstition, that disgraces their understanding. They

listen with confidence to the predictions of haruspices, who pretend to read, in the entrails of victims, the signs of future greatness and

prosperity; and there are many who do not presume either to bathe, or to dine, or to appear in public, till they have diligently consulted, according to the rules of astrology, the situation of Mercury, and the aspect of the moon. [49] It is singular enough, that this vain credulity

may often be discovered among the profane sceptics, who impiously doubt,

or deny, the existence of a celestial power."

[Footnote 35: Claudian, who seems to have read the history of Ammianus,

speaks of this great revolution in a much less courtly style:--

Postquam jura ferox in se communia Caesar

Transtulit; et lapsi mores; desuetaque priscis

Artibus, in gremium pacis servile recessi.

--De Be. Gildonico, p. 49.]

[Footnote 36: The minute diligence of antiquarians has not been able to verify these extraordinary names. I am of opinion that they were

invented by the historian himself, who was afraid of any personal satire

or application. It is certain, however, that the simple denominations

of the Romans were gradually lengthened to the number of four, five, or even seven, pompous surnames; as, for instance, Marcus Maecius Maemmius furius Balburius Caecilianus Placidus. See Noris Cenotaph Piran Dissert.

iv. p. 438.]

[Footnote 37: The or coaches of the romans, were often of solid silver, curiously carved and engraved; and the trappings of the mules, or

horses, were embossed with gold. This magnificence continued from the

reign of Nero to that of Honorius; and the Appian way was covered with the splendid equipages of the nobles, who came out to meet St. Melania, when she returned to Rome, six years before the Gothic siege, (Seneca, epist. lxxxvii. Plin. Hist. Natur. xxxiii. 49. Paulin. Nolan. apud baron. Annal. Eccles. A.D. 397, No. 5.) Yet pomp is well exchange for convenience; and a plain modern coach, that is hung upon springs, is

much preferable to the silver or gold carts of antiquity, which rolled

on the axle-tree, and were exposed, for the most part, to the inclemency

of the weather.]

[Footnote 38: In a homily of Asterius, bishop of Amasia, M. de Valois

has discovered (ad Ammian. xiv. 6) that this was a new fashion; that bears, wolves lions, and tigers, woods, hunting-matches, &c., were

represented in embroidery: and that the more pious coxcombs substituted the figure or legend of some favorite saint.]

[Footnote 39: See Pliny's Epistles, i. 6. Three large wild boars were allured and taken in the toils without interrupting the studies of the

philosophic sportsman.]

[Footnote 40: The change from the inauspicious word Avernus, which

stands in the text, is immaterial. The two lakes, Avernus and Lucrinus, communicated with each other, and were fashioned by the stupendous

moles of Agrippa into the Julian port, which opened, through a narrow entrance, into the Gulf of Puteoli. Virgil, who resided on the spot, has described (Georgic ii. 161) this work at the moment of its execution: and his commentators, especially Catrou, have derived much light from

Strabo, Suetonius, and Dion. Earthquakes and volcanoes have changed the face of the country, and turned the Lucrine Lake, since the year 1538,

into the Monte Nuovo. See Camillo Pellegrino Discorsi della Campania felice, p. 239, 244, &c. Antonii Sanfelicii Campania, p. 13, 88--Note: compare Lyell's Geology, ii. 72.--M.]

[Footnote 41: The regna Cumana et Puteolana; loca caetiroqui valde expe tenda, interpellantium autem multitudine paene fugienda. Cicero ad attic. xvi. 17.]

[Footnote 42: The proverbial expression of Cimmerian darkness was

originally borrowed from the description of Homer, (in the eleventh book

of the Odyssey,) which he applies to a remote and fabulous country on the shores of the ocean. See Erasmi Adagia, in his works, tom. ii. p.

593, the Leyden edition.]

[Footnote 43: We may learn from Seneca (epist. cxxiii.) three curious circumstances relative to the journeys of the Romans. 1. They were

preceded by a troop of Numidian light horse, who announced, by a cloud

of dust, the approach of a great man. 2. Their baggage mules transported

not only the precious vases, but even the fragile vessels of crystal and

murra, which last is almost proved, by the learned French translator

of Seneca, (tom. iii. p. 402-422,) to mean the porcelain of China and

Japan. 3. The beautiful faces of the young slaves were covered with a

medicated crust, or ointment, which secured them against the effects of the sun and frost.]

[Footnote 44: Distributio solemnium sportularum. The sportuloe, or

sportelloe, were small baskets, supposed to contain a quantity of hot

provisions of the value of 100 quadrantes, or twelvepence halfpenny, which were ranged in order in the hall, and ostentatiously distributed to the hungry or servile crowd who waited at the door. This indelicate custom is very frequently mentioned in the epigrams of Martial, and the

satires of Juvenal. See likewise Suetonius, in Claud. c. 21, in Neron. c. 16, in Domitian, c. 4, 7. These baskets of provisions were afterwards converted into large pieces of gold and silver coin, or plate, which were mutually given and accepted even by persons of the highest rank,

(see Symmach. epist. iv. 55, ix. 124, and Miscell. p. 256,) on solemn

occasions, of consulships, marriages, &c.]

[Footnote 45: The want of an English name obliges me to refer to the common genus of squirrels, the Latin glis, the French loir; a little animal, who inhabits the woods, and remains torpid in cold weather, (see

Plin. Hist. Natur. viii. 82. Buffon, Hist. Naturelle, tom. viii. 153.

Pennant's Synopsis of Quadrupeds, p. 289.) The art of rearing and fattening great numbers of glires was practised in Roman villas as a

profitable article of rural economy, (Varro, de Re Rustica, iii. 15.) the excessive demand of them for luxurious tables was increased by the foolish prohibitions of the censors; and it is reported that they are

still esteemed in modern Rome, and are frequently sent as presents by the Colonna princes, (see Brotier, the last editor of Pliny tom. ii. p.

453. epud Barbou, 1779.)--Note: Is it not the dormouse?--M.]

[Footnote 46: This game, which might be translated by the more familiar

names of trictrac, or backgammon, was a favorite amusement of the

gravest Romans; and old Mucius Scaevola, the lawyer, had the reputation

of a very skilful player. It was called ludus duodecim scriptorum, from the twelve scripta, or lines, which equally divided the alvevolus

or table. On these, the two armies, the white and the black, each consisting of fifteen men, or catculi, were regularly placed, and alternately moved according to the laws of the game, and the chances of the tesseroe, or dice. Dr. Hyde, who diligently traces the history and

varieties of the nerdiludium (a name of Persic etymology) from Ireland to Japan, pours forth, on this trifling subject, a copious torrent

of classic and Oriental learning. See Syntagma Dissertat. tom. ii. p.

217-405.]

[Footnote 47: Marius Maximus, homo omnium verbosissimus, qui, et

mythistoricis se voluminibus implicavit. Vopiscus in Hist. August.

p. 242. He wrote the lives of the emperors, from Trajan to Alexander

Severus. See Gerard Vossius de Historicis Latin. l. ii. c. 3, in his works, vol. iv. p. 47.]

[Footnote 48: This satire is probably exaggerated. The Saturnalia of

Macrobius, and the epistles of Jerom, afford satisfactory proofs, that christian theology and classic literature were studiously cultivated by

several Romans, of both sexes, and of the highest rank.]

[Footnote 49: Macrobius, the friend of these Roman nobles, considered the siara as the cause, or at least the signs, of future events, (de

Somn. Scipion l. i. c 19. p. 68.)]

chapter XXXI: Invasion Of Italy, Occupation Of Territories By barbarians.--Part II.

In populous cities, which are the seat of commerce and manufactures, the middle ranks of inhabitants, who derive their subsistence from the dexterity or labor of their hands, are commonly the most prolific, the most useful, and, in that sense, the most respectable part of the community. But the plebeians of Rome, who disdained such sedentary and

servile arts, had been oppressed from the earliest times by the weight

of debt and usury; and the husbandman, during the term of his military

service, was obliged to abandon the cultivation of his farm. [50] The

lands of Italy which had been originally divided among the families of free and indigent proprietors, were insensibly purchased or usurped by the avarice of the nobles; and in the age which preceded the fall of the

republic, it was computed that only two thousand citizens were possessed

of an independent substance. [51] Yet as long as the people bestowed, by their suffrages, the honors of the state, the command of the legions, and the administration of wealthy provinces, their conscious pride alleviated in some measure, the hardships of poverty; and their wants were seasonably supplied by the ambitious liberality of the candidates, who aspired to secure a venal majority in the thirty-five tribes, or the hundred and ninety-three centuries, of Rome. But when the prodigal commons had not only imprudently alienated the use, but the inheritance

of power, they sunk, under the reign of the Caesars, into a vile and wretched populace, which must, in a few generations, have been totally extinguished, if it had not been continually recruited by the

manumission of slaves, and the influx of strangers. As early as the time

of Hadrian, it was the just complaint of the ingenuous natives, that the capital had attracted the vices of the universe, and the manners of the

most opposite nations. The intemperance of the Gauls, the cunning and

levity of the Greeks, the savage obstinacy of the Egyptians and Jews, the servile temper of the Asiatics, and the dissolute, effeminate

prostitution of the Syrians, were mingled in the various multitude, which, under the proud and false denomination of Romans, presumed to despise their fellow-subjects, and even their sovereigns, who dwelt beyond the precincts of the Eternal City. [52]

[Footnote 50: The histories of Livy (see particularly vi. 36) are full

of the extortions of the rich, and the sufferings of the poor debtors. the melancholy story of a brave old soldier (Dionys. Hal. l. vi. c.

26, p. 347, edit. Hudson, and Livy, ii. 23) must have been frequently

repeated in those primitive times, which have been so undeservedly

praised.]

[Footnote 51: Non esse in civitate duo millia hominum qui rem habereni. cicero. Offic. ii. 21, and Comment. Paul. Manut. in edit. Graev. This

vague computation was made A. U. C. 649, in a speech of the tribune

Philippus, and it was his object, as well as that of the Gracchi, (see

Plutarch,) to deplore, and perhaps to exaggerate, the misery of the common people.]

[Footnote 52: See the third Satire (60-125) of Juvenal, who indignantly complains,

Quamvis quota portio faecis Achaei!

Jampridem Syrus in Tiberem defluxit Orontes;

Et linguam et mores, &c.

Seneca, when he proposes to comfort his mother (Consolat. ad Helv. c.

6) by the reflection, that a great part of mankind were in a state of exile, reminds her how few of the inhabitants of Rome were born in the city.]

Yet the name of that city was still pronounced with respect: the frequent and capricious tumults of its inhabitants were indulged with

impunity; and the successors of Constantine, instead of crushing the

last remains of the democracy by the strong arm of military power, embraced the mild policy of Augustus, and studied to relieve the

poverty, and to amuse the idleness, of an innumerable people. [53] I. for the convenience of the lazy plebeians, the monthly distributions of corn were converted into a daily allowance of bread; a great number of

ovens were constructed and maintained at the public expense; and at the appointed hour, each citizen, who was furnished with a ticket, ascended the flight of steps, which had been assigned to his peculiar quarter or division, and received, either as a gift, or at a very low price, a loaf

of bread of the weight of three pounds, for the use of his family. II. the forest of Lucania, whose acorns fattened large droves of wild hogs,

[54] afforded, as a species of tribute, a plentiful supply of cheap and wholesome meat. During five months of the year, a regular allowance of bacon was distributed to the poorer citizens; and the annual consumption

of the capital, at a time when it was much declined from its former

lustre, was ascertained, by an edict from Valentinian the Third, at three millions six hundred and twenty-eight thousand pounds. [55] III.

In the manners of antiquity, the use of oil was indispensable for the

lamp, as well as for the bath; and the annual tax, which was imposed on africa for the benefit of Rome, amounted to the weight of three millions

of pounds, to the measure, perhaps, of three hundred thousand English

gallons. IV. The anxiety of Augustus to provide the metropolis with

sufficient plenty of corn, was not extended beyond that necessary article of human subsistence; and when the popular clamor accused the dearness and scarcity of wine, a proclamation was issued, by the grave

reformer, to remind his subjects that no man could reasonably complain

of thirst, since the aqueducts of Agrippa had introduced into the city

so many copious streams of pure and salubrious water. [56] This rigid

sobriety was insensibly relaxed; and, although the generous design of aurelian [57] does not appear to have been executed in its full extent, the use of wine was allowed on very easy and liberal terms. The administration of the public cellars was delegated to a magistrate of

honorable rank; and a considerable part of the vintage of Campania was

reserved for the fortunate inhabitants of Rome.

[Footnote 53: Almost all that is said of the bread, bacon, oil, wine,

&c., may be found in the fourteenth book of the Theodosian Code; which expressly treats of the police of the great cities. See particularly the titles iii. iv. xv. xvi. xvii. xxiv. The collateral testimonies are produced in Godefroy's Commentary, and it is needless to transcribe them. According to a law of Theodosius, which appreciates in money the

military allowance, a piece of gold (eleven shillings) was equivalent to eighty pounds of bacon, or to eighty pounds of oil, or to twelve modii

(or pecks) of salt, (Cod. Theod. l. viii. tit. iv. leg. 17.) This equation, compared with another of seventy pounds of bacon for an amphora, (Cod. Theod. l. xiv. tit. iv. leg. 4,) fixes the price of wine at about sixteenpence the gallon.]

[Footnote 54: The anonymous author of the Description of the World (p.

14. in tom. iii. Geograph. Minor. Hudson) observes of Lucania, in his barbarous Latin, Regio optima, et ipsa omnibus habundans, et lardum

multum foras. Proptor quod est in montibus, cujus aescam animalium

rariam, &c.]

[Footnote 55: See Novell. ad calcem Cod. Theod. D. Valent. l. i. tit.

xv. This law was published at Rome, June 29th, A.D. 452.]

[Footnote 56: Sueton. in August. c. 42. The utmost debauch of the emperor himself, in his favorite wine of Rhaetia, never exceeded a sextarius, (an English pint.) Id. c. 77. Torrentius ad loc. and arbuthnot's Tables, p. 86.]

[Footnote 57: His design was to plant vineyards along the sea-coast of

Hetruria, (Vopiscus, in Hist. August. p. 225;) the dreary, unwholesome,

uncultivated Maremme of modern Tuscany]

the stupendous aqueducts, so justly celebrated by the praises of augustus himself, replenished the Thermoe, or baths, which had been constructed in every part of the city, with Imperial magnificence. The baths of Antoninus Caracalla, which were open, at stated hours, for the

indiscriminate service of the senators and the people, contained above

sixteen hundred seats of marble; and more than three thousand were

reckoned in the baths of Diocletian. [58] The walls of the lofty apartments were covered with curious mosaics, that imitated the art of the pencil in the elegance of design, and the variety of colors. The egyptian granite was beautifully encrusted with the precious green

marble of Numidia; the perpetual stream of hot water was poured into the capacious basins, through so many wide mouths of bright and massy

silver; and the meanest Roman could purchase, with a small copper coin, the daily enjoyment of a scene of pomp and luxury, which might excite the envy of the kings of Asia. [59] From these stately palaces issued a

swarm of dirty and ragged plebeians, without shoes and without a mantle; who loitered away whole days in the street of Forum, to hear news and to hold disputes; who dissipated in extravagant gaming, the miserable

pittance of their wives and children; and spent the hours of the night

in the obscure taverns, and brothels, in the indulgence of gross and

vulgar sensuality. [60]

[Footnote 58: Olympiodor. apud Phot. p. 197.]

[Footnote 59: Seneca (epistol. lxxxvi.) compares the baths of Scipio africanus, at his villa of Liternum, with the magnificence (which was continually increasing) of the public baths of Rome, long before the

stately Thermae of Antoninus and Diocletian were erected. The quadrans

paid for admission was the quarter of the as, about one eighth of an english penny.]

[Footnote 60: Ammianus, (l. xiv. c. 6, and l. xxviii. c. 4,) after describing the luxury and pride of the nobles of Rome, exposes, with equal indignation, the vices and follies of the common people.]

but the most lively and splendid amusement of the idle multitude, depended on the frequent exhibition of public games and spectacles. the piety of Christian princes had suppressed the inhuman combats of

gladiators; but the Roman people still considered the Circus as their

home, their temple, and the seat of the republic. The impatient crowd

rushed at the dawn of day to secure their places, and there were many who passed a sleepless and anxious night in the adjacent porticos. From the morning to the evening, careless of the sun, or of the rain, the spectators, who sometimes amounted to the number of four hundred thousand, remained in eager attention; their eyes fixed on the horses and charioteers, their minds agitated with hope and fear, for the

success of the colors which they espoused: and the happiness of Rome appeared to hang on the event of a race. [61] The same immoderate ardor inspired their clamors and their applause, as often as they were entertained with the hunting of wild beasts, and the various modes of theatrical representation. These representations in modern capitals

may deserve to be considered as a pure and elegant school of taste, and perhaps of virtue. But the Tragic and Comic Muse of the Romans, who seldom aspired beyond the imitation of Attic genius, [62] had been almost totally silent since the fall of the republic; [63] and their

place was unworthily occupied by licentious farce, effeminate music, and

splendid pageantry. The pantomimes, [64] who maintained their reputation from the age of Augustus to the sixth century, expressed, without the

use of words, the various fables of the gods and heroes of antiquity; and the perfection of their art, which sometimes disarmed the gravity of the philosopher, always excited the applause and wonder of the people. the vast and magnificent theatres of Rome were filled by three thousand female dancers, and by three thousand singers, with the masters of the

respective choruses. Such was the popular favor which they enjoyed, that, in a time of scarcity, when all strangers were banished from the city, the merit of contributing to the public pleasures exempted them from a law, which was strictly executed against the professors of the

liberal arts. [65]

[Footnote 61: Juvenal. Satir. xi. 191, &c. The expressions of the

historian Ammianus are not less strong and animated than those of the

satirist and both the one and the other painted from the life. The

numbers which the great Circus was capable of receiving are taken from the original Notitioe of the city. The differences between them prove that they did not transcribe each other; but the same may appear

incredible, though the country on these occasions flocked to the city.]

[Footnote 62: Sometimes indeed they composed original pieces.

Vestigia Graeca

Ausi deserere et celeb rare domestica facta.

Horat. Epistol. ad Pisones, 285, and the learned, though perplexed note

of Dacier, who might have allowed the name of tragedies to the Brutus and the Decius of Pacuvius, or to the Cato of Maternus. The Octavia, ascribed to one of the Senecas, still remains a very unfavorable

specimen of Roman tragedy.]

[Footnote 63: In the time of Quintilian and Pliny, a tragic poet was

reduced to the imperfect method of hiring a great room, and reading his

play to the company, whom he invited for that purpose. (See Dialog. de

Oratoribus, c. 9, 11, and Plin. Epistol. vii. 17.)]

[Footnote 64: See the dialogue of Lucian, entitled the Saltatione, tom.

ii. p. 265-317, edit. Reitz. The pantomimes obtained the honorable name; and it was required, that they should be conversant with almost every art and science. Burette (in the Memoires de l'Academie des

Inscriptions, tom. i. p. 127, &c.) has given a short history of the art

of pantomimes.]

[Footnote 65: Ammianus, l. xiv. c. 6. He complains, with decent

indignation that the streets of Rome were filled with crowds of females, who might have given children to the state, but whose only occupation was to curl and dress their hair, and jactari volubilibus gyris, dum experimunt innumera simulacra, quae finxere fabulae theatrales.]

It is said, that the foolish curiosity of Elagabalus attempted to discover, from the quantity of spiders' webs, the number of the

inhabitants of Rome. A more rational method of inquiry might not have been undeserving of the attention of the wisest princes, who could easily have resolved a question so important for the Roman government, and so interesting to succeeding ages. The births and deaths of the citizens were duly registered; and if any writer of antiquity had condescended to mention the annual amount, or the common average, we

might now produce some satisfactory calculation, which would destroy the extravagant assertions of critics, and perhaps confirm the modest and

probable conjectures of philosophers. [66] The most diligent researches

have collected only the following circumstances; which, slight and

imperfect as they are, may tend, in some degree, to illustrate the

question of the populousness of ancient Rome. I. When the capital of the empire was besieged by the Goths, the circuit of the walls was accurately measured, by Ammonius, the mathematician, who found it equal to twenty-one miles. [67] It should not be forgotten that the form of the city was almost that of a circle; the geometrical figure which is

known to contain the largest space within any given circumference. II. the architect Vitruvius, who flourished in the Augustan age, and whose evidence, on this occasion, has peculiar weight and authority, observes, that the innumerable habitations of the Roman people would have spread themselves far beyond the narrow limits of the city; and that the want

of ground, which was probably contracted on every side by gardens and

villas, suggested the common, though inconvenient, practice of raising the houses to a considerable height in the air. [68] But the loftiness

of these buildings, which often consisted of hasty work and insufficient

materials, was the cause of frequent and fatal accidents; and it was

repeatedly enacted by Augustus, as well as by Nero, that the height of

private edifices within the walls of Rome, should not exceed the measure

of seventy feet from the ground. [69] III. Juvenal [70] laments, as

it should seem from his own experience, the hardships of the poorer citizens, to whom he addresses the salutary advice of emigrating, without delay, from the smoke of Rome, since they might purchase, in the

little towns of Italy, a cheerful commodious dwelling, at the same price which they annually paid for a dark and miserable lodging. House-rent was therefore immoderately dear: the rich acquired, at an enormous expense, the ground, which they covered with palaces and gardens; but the body of the Roman people was crowded into a narrow space; and the different floors, and apartments, of the same house, were divided, as it

is still the custom of Paris, and other cities, among several families

of plebeians. IV. The total number of houses in the fourteen regions

of the city, is accurately stated in the description of Rome, composed

under the reign of Theodosius, and they amount to forty-eight thousand three hundred and eighty-two. [71] The two classes of domus and of

insuloe, into which they are divided, include all the habitations of the capital, of every rank and condition from the marble palace of the anicii, with a numerous establishment of freedmen and slaves, to the

lofty and narrow lodging-house, where the poet Codrus and his wife were

permitted to hire a wretched garret immediately under the files. If we adopt the same average, which, under similar circumstances, has been found applicable to Paris, [72] and indifferently allow about twenty-five persons for each house, of every degree, we may fairly estimate the inhabitants of Rome at twelve hundred thousand: a number which cannot be thought excessive for the capital of a mighty empire, though it exceeds the populousness of the greatest cities of modern europe. [73] [7311]

[Footnote 66: Lipsius (tom. iii. p. 423, de Magnitud. Romana, l. iii. c. 3) and Isaac Vossius (Observant. Var. p. 26-34) have indulged strange dreams, of four, or eight, or fourteen, millions in Rome. Mr. Hume,

(Essays, vol. i. p. 450-457,) with admirable good sense and scepticism betrays some secret disposition to extenuate the populousness of ancient times.]

[Footnote 67: Olympiodor. ap. Phot. p. 197. See Fabricius, Bibl. Graec. tom. ix. p. 400.]

[Footnote 68: In ea autem majestate urbis, et civium infinita frequentia, innumerabiles habitationes opus fuit explicare. Ergo cum

recipero non posset area plana tantam multitudinem in urbe, ad auxilium altitudinis aedificiorum res ipsa coegit devenire. Vitruv. ii. 8. This

passage, which I owe to Vossius, is clear, strong, and comprehensive.]

[Footnote 69: The successive testimonies of Pliny, Aristides, Claudian,

Rutilius, &c., prove the insufficiency of these restrictive edicts. See

Lipsius, de Magnitud. Romana, l. iii. c. 4.

Tabulata tibi jam tertia fumant;

Tu nescis; nam si gradibus trepidatur ab imis

Ultimus ardebit, quem tegula sola tuetur

A pluvia. ---Juvenal. Satir. iii. 199]

[Footnote 70: Read the whole third satire, but particularly 166, 223,

&c. The description of a crowded insula, or lodging-house, in Petronius,

(c. 95, 97,) perfectly tallies with the complaints of Juvenal; and we

learn from legal authority, that, in the time of Augustus, (Heineccius,

Hist. Juris. Roman. c. iv. p. 181,) the ordinary rent of the several coenacula, or apartments of an insula, annually produced forty thousand

sesterces, between three and four hundred pounds sterling, (Pandect. l.

xix. tit. ii. No. 30,) a sum which proves at once the large extent, and

high value, of those common buildings.]

[Footnote 71: This sum total is composed of 1780 domus, or great houses

of 46,602 insuloe, or plebeian habitations, (see Nardini, Roma Antica,

l. iii. p. 88;) and these numbers are ascertained by the agreement of the texts of the different Notitioe. Nardini, l. viii. p. 498, 500.]

[Footnote 72: See that accurate writer M. de Messance, Recherches sur la

Population, p. 175-187. From probable, or certain grounds, he assigns to

Paris 23,565 houses, 71,114 families, and 576,630 inhabitants.]

[Footnote 73: This computation is not very different from that which M. brotier, the last editor of Tacitus, (tom. ii. p. 380,) has assumed from similar principles; though he seems to aim at a degree of precision which it is neither possible nor important to obtain.]

[Footnote 7311: M. Dureau de la Malle (Economic Politique des Romaines, t. i. p. 369) quotes a passage from the xvth chapter of Gibbon, in which

he estimates the population of Rome at not less than a million, and adds

(omitting any reference to this passage,) that he (Gibbon) could not

have seriously studied the question. M. Dureau de la Malle proceeds to argue that Rome, as contained within the walls of Servius Tullius,

occupying an area only one fifth of that of Paris, could not have contained 300,000 inhabitants; within those of Aurelian not more than

560,000, inclusive of soldiers and strangers. The suburbs, he endeavors to show, both up to the time of Aurelian, and after his reign, were

neither so extensive, nor so populous, as generally supposed. M. dureau de la Malle has but imperfectly quoted the important passage

of Dionysius, that which proves that when he wrote (in the time of augustus) the walls of Servius no longer marked the boundary of the city. In many places they were so built upon, that it was impossible to trace them. There was no certain limit, where the city ended and ceased to be the city; it stretched out to so boundless an extent into the country. Ant. Rom. iv. 13. None of M. de la Malle's arguments appear to

me to prove, against this statement, that these irregular suburbs did

not extend so far in many parts, as to make it impossible to calculate accurately the inhabited area of the city. Though no doubt the city, as

reconstructed by Nero, was much less closely built and with many more

open spaces for palaces, temples, and other public edifices, yet many

passages seem to prove that the laws respecting the height of houses were not rigidly enforced. A great part of the lower especially of the

slave population, were very densely crowded, and lived, even more than

in our modern towns, in cellars and subterranean dwellings under the

public edifices. Nor do M. de la Malle's arguments, by which he would explain the insulae insulae (of which the Notitiae Urbis give us the

number) as rows of shops, with a chamber or two within the domus,

or houses of the wealthy, satisfy me as to their soundness of their

scholarship. Some passages which he adduces directly contradict his theory; none, as appears to me, distinctly prove it. I must adhere to the old interpretation of the word, as chiefly dwellings for the

middling or lower classes, or clusters of tenements, often perhaps,

under the same roof. On this point, Zumpt, in the Dissertation before

quoted, entirely disagrees with M. de la Malle. Zumpt has likewise detected the mistake of M. de la Malle as to the "canon" of corn,

mentioned in the life of Septimius Severus by Spartianus. On this canon the French writer calculates the inhabitants of Rome at that time. But the "canon" was not the whole supply of Rome, but that quantity which the state required for the public granaries to supply the gratuitous distributions to the people, and the public officers and slaves; no doubt likewise to keep down the general price. M. Zumpt reckons the

population of Rome at 2,000,000. After careful consideration, I should conceive the number in the text, 1,200,000, to be nearest the truth--M.

1845.]

Such was the state of Rome under the reign of Honorius; at the time when the Gothic army formed the siege, or rather the blockade, of the city.

[74] By a skilful disposition of his numerous forces, who impatiently watched the moment of an assault, Alaric encompassed the walls, commanded the twelve principal gates, intercepted all communication with the adjacent country, and vigilantly guarded the navigation of the Tyber, from which the Romans derived the surest and most plentiful

supply of provisions. The first emotions of the nobles, and of the

people, were those of surprise and indignation, that a vile Barbarian

should dare to insult the capital of the world: but their arrogance was

soon humbled by misfortune; and their unmanly rage, instead of being directed against an enemy in arms, was meanly exercised on a defenceless and innocent victim. Perhaps in the person of Serena, the Romans might

have respected the niece of Theodosius, the aunt, nay, even the adoptive mother, of the reigning emperor: but they abhorred the widow

of Stilicho; and they listened with credulous passion to the tale

of calumny, which accused her of maintaining a secret and criminal correspondence with the Gothic invader. Actuated, or overawed, by the

same popular frenzy, the senate, without requiring any evidence of his

guilt, pronounced the sentence of her death. Serena was ignominiously

strangled; and the infatuated multitude were astonished to find, that this cruel act of injustice did not immediately produce the retreat of the Barbarians, and the deliverance of the city. That unfortunate city

gradually experienced the distress of scarcity, and at length the horrid calamities of famine. The daily allowance of three pounds of bread was

reduced to one half, to one third, to nothing; and the price of corn

still continued to rise in a rapid and extravagant proportion. The

poorer citizens, who were unable to purchase the necessaries of life,

solicited the precarious charity of the rich; and for a while the public

misery was alleviated by the humanity of Laeta, the widow of the emperor

Gratian, who had fixed her residence at Rome, and consecrated to the use

of the indigent the princely revenue which she annually received from the grateful successors of her husband. [75] But these private and temporary donatives were insufficient to appease the hunger of a

numerous people; and the progress of famine invaded the marble palaces

of the senators themselves. The persons of both sexes, who had been educated in the enjoyment of ease and luxury, discovered how little is

requisite to supply the demands of nature; and lavished their unavailing treasures of gold and silver, to obtain the coarse and scanty sustenance which they would formerly have rejected with disdain. The food the most

repugnant to sense or imagination, the aliments the most unwholesome and pernicious to the constitution, were eagerly devoured, and fiercely disputed, by the rage of hunger. A dark suspicion was entertained, that

some desperate wretches fed on the bodies of their fellow-creatures, whom they had secretly murdered; and even mothers, (such was the horrid conflict of the two most powerful instincts implanted by nature in the

human breast,) even mothers are said to have tasted the flesh of their

slaughtered infants! [76] Many thousands of the inhabitants of Rome expired in their houses, or in the streets, for want of sustenance; and as the public sepulchres without the walls were in the power of the enemy the stench, which arose from so many putrid and unburied carcasses, infected the air; and the miseries of famine were succeeded and aggravated by the contagion of a pestilential disease. The assurances of speedy and effectual relief, which were repeatedly transmitted from the court of Ravenna, supported for some time, the fainting resolution of the Romans, till at length the despair of any human aid tempted them to accept the offers of a praeternatural deliverance. Pompeianus, praefect of the city, had been persuaded, by the art or fanaticism of some Tuscan diviners, that, by the mysterious force of spells and sacrifices, they could extract the lightning from the clouds, and point those celestial fires against the camp of the barbarians. [77] The important secret was communicated to Innocent, the bishop of Rome; and the successor of St. Peter is accused, perhaps without foundation, of preferring the safety of the republic to the

rigid severity of the Christian worship. But when the question was agitated in the senate; when it was proposed, as an essential condition, that those sacrifices should be performed in the Capitol, by the authority, and in the presence, of the magistrates, the majority of that respectable assembly, apprehensive either of the Divine or of the

Imperial displeasure, refused to join in an act, which appeared almost equivalent to the public restoration of Paganism. [78]

[Footnote 74: For the events of the first siege of Rome, which are often confounded with those of the second and third, see Zosimus, l. v.

p. 350-354, Sozomen, l. ix. c. 6, Olympiodorus, ap. Phot. p. 180,

Philostorgius, l. xii. c. 3, and Godefroy, Dissertat. p. 467-475.]

[Footnote 75: The mother of Laeta was named Pissumena. Her father, family, and country, are unknown. Ducange, Fam. Byzantium, p. 59.]

[Footnote 76: Ad nefandos cibos erupit esurientium rabies, et sua

invicem membra laniarunt, dum mater non parcit lactenti infantiae; et

recipit utero, quem paullo ante effuderat. Jerom. ad Principiam, tom. i.

p. 121. The same horrid circumstance is likewise told of the sieges

of Jerusalem and Paris. For the latter, compare the tenth book of the

Henriade, and the Journal de Henri IV. tom. i. p. 47-83; and observe that a plain narrative of facts is much more pathetic, than the most

labored descriptions of epic poetry]

[Footnote 77: Zosimus (l. v. p. 355, 356) speaks of these ceremonies

like a Greek unacquainted with the national superstition of Rome and tuscany. I suspect, that they consisted of two parts, the secret and the

public; the former were probably an imitation of the arts and spells, by which Numa had drawn down Jupiter and his thunder on Mount Aventine.

Quid agant laqueis, quae carmine dicant,

Quaque trahant superis sedibus arte Jovem,

Scire nefas homini.

the ancilia, or shields of Mars, the pignora Imperii, which were carried

in solemn procession on the calends of March, derived their origin from this mysterious event, (Ovid. Fast. iii. 259-398.) It was probably designed to revive this ancient festival, which had been suppressed by theodosius. In that case, we recover a chronological date (March the

1st, A.D. 409) which has not hitherto been observed. \* Note: On this curious question of the knowledge of conducting lightning, processed by the ancients, consult Eusebe Salverte, des Sciences Occultes, l. xxiv.

Paris, 1829.--M.]

[Footnote 78: Sozomen (l. ix. c. 6) insinuates that the experiment was actually, though unsuccessfully, made; but he does not mention the name

of Innocent: and Tillemont, (Mem. Eccles. tom. x. p. 645) is determined not to believe, that a pope could be guilty of such impious condescension.]

the last resource of the Romans was in the clemency, or at least in the

moderation, of the king of the Goths. The senate, who in this emergency assumed the supreme powers of government, appointed two ambassadors to negotiate with the enemy. This important trust was delegated to basilius, a senator, of Spanish extraction, and already conspicuous in the administration of provinces; and to John, the first tribune of the

notaries, who was peculiarly qualified, by his dexterity in business, as well as by his former intimacy with the Gothic prince. When they were

introduced into his presence, they declared, perhaps in a more lofty

style than became their abject condition, that the Romans were resolved to maintain their dignity, either in peace or war; and that, if Alaric

refused them a fair and honorable capitulation, he might sound his trumpets, and prepare to give battle to an innumerable people, exercised

in arms, and animated by despair. "The thicker the hay, the easier it is

mowed," was the concise reply of the Barbarian; and this rustic metaphor was accompanied by a loud and insulting laugh, expressive of his contempt for the menaces of an unwarlike populace, enervated by luxury before they were emaciated by famine. He then condescended to fix the

ransom, which he would accept as the price of his retreat from the walls of Rome: all the gold and silver in the city, whether it were the property of the state, or of individuals; all the rich and precious

movables; and all the slaves that could prove their title to the name of barbarians. The ministers of the senate presumed to ask, in a modest and

suppliant tone, "If such, O king, are your demands, what do you

intend to leave us?" "Your Lives!" replied the haughty conqueror: they trembled, and retired. Yet, before they retired, a short suspension

of arms was granted, which allowed some time for a more temperate

negotiation. The stern features of Alaric were insensibly relaxed; he abated much of the rigor of his terms; and at length consented to raise the siege, on the immediate payment of five thousand pounds of gold,

of thirty thousand pounds of silver, of four thousand robes of silk,

of three thousand pieces of fine scarlet cloth, and of three thousand

pounds weight of pepper. [79] But the public treasury was exhausted; the annual rents of the great estates in Italy and the provinces, had been exchanged, during the famine, for the vilest sustenance; the hoards of

secret wealth were still concealed by the obstinacy of avarice; and

some remains of consecrated spoils afforded the only resource that could avert the impending ruin of the city. As soon as the Romans had

satisfied the rapacious demands of Alaric, they were restored, in some

measure, to the enjoyment of peace and plenty. Several of the gates were cautiously opened; the importation of provisions from the river and the adjacent country was no longer obstructed by the Goths; the citizens

resorted in crowds to the free market, which was held during three days

in the suburbs; and while the merchants who undertook this gainful trade made a considerable profit, the future subsistence of the city was

secured by the ample magazines which were deposited in the public and private granaries. A more regular discipline than could have been expected, was maintained in the camp of Alaric; and the wise Barbarian

justified his regard for the faith of treaties, by the just severity with which he chastised a party of licentious Goths, who had insulted

some Roman citizens on the road to Ostia. His army, enriched by the contributions of the capital, slowly advanced into the fair and fruitful

province of Tuscany, where he proposed to establish his winter quarters; and the Gothic standard became the refuge of forty thousand Barbarian

slaves, who had broke their chains, and aspired, under the command of their great deliverer, to revenge the injuries and the disgrace of their cruel servitude. About the same time, he received a more honorable

reenforcement of Goths and Huns, whom Adolphus, [80] the brother of his wife, had conducted, at his pressing invitation, from the banks of the Danube to those of the Tyber, and who had cut their way, with some difficulty and loss, through the superior number of the Imperial troops. a victorious leader, who united the daring spirit of a Barbarian with the art and discipline of a Roman general, was at the head of a hundred thousand fighting men; and Italy pronounced, with terror and respect, the formidable name of Alaric. [81]

[Footnote 79: Pepper was a favorite ingredient of the most expensive

Roman cookery, and the best sort commonly sold for fifteen denarii,

or ten shillings, the pound. See Pliny, Hist. Natur. xii. 14. It was brought from India; and the same country, the coast of Malabar, still affords the greatest plenty: but the improvement of trade and navigation

has multiplied the quantity and reduced the price. See Histoire

Politique et Philosophique, &c., tom. i. p. 457.]

[Footnote 80: This Gothic chieftain is called by Jornandes and Isidore, athaulphus; by Zosimus and Orosius, Ataulphus; and by Olympiodorus, adaoulphus. I have used the celebrated name of Adolphus, which seems to be authorized by the practice of the Swedes, the sons or brothers of the ancient Goths.]

[Footnote 81: The treaty between Alaric and the Romans, &c., is taken from Zosimus, l. v. p. 354, 355, 358, 359, 362, 363. The additional circumstances are too few and trifling to require any other quotation.]

chapter XXXI: Invasion Of Italy, Occupation Of Territories By barbarians.--Part III.

at the distance of fourteen centuries, we may be satisfied with relating the military exploits of the conquerors of Rome, without presuming to

investigate the motives of their political conduct. In the midst of

his apparent prosperity, Alaric was conscious, perhaps, of some secret weakness, some internal defect; or perhaps the moderation which he displayed, was intended only to deceive and disarm the easy credulity

of the ministers of Honorius. The king of the Goths repeatedly declared, that it was his desire to be considered as the friend of peace, and

of the Romans. Three senators, at his earnest request, were sent ambassadors to the court of Ravenna, to solicit the exchange of

hostages, and the conclusion of the treaty; and the proposals, which he

more clearly expressed during the course of the negotiations, could only

inspire a doubt of his sincerity, as they might seem inadequate to the state of his fortune. The Barbarian still aspired to the rank

of master-general of the armies of the West; he stipulated an annual

subsidy of corn and money; and he chose the provinces of Dalmatia,

Noricum, and Venetia, for the seat of his new kingdom, which would have commanded the important communication between Italy and the Danube. If these modest terms should be rejected, Alaric showed a disposition to

relinquish his pecuniary demands, and even to content himself with the possession of Noricum; an exhausted and impoverished country,

perpetually exposed to the inroads of the Barbarians of Germany. [82] but the hopes of peace were disappointed by the weak obstinacy, or

interested views, of the minister Olympius. Without listening to the

salutary remonstrances of the senate, he dismissed their ambassadors

under the conduct of a military escort, too numerous for a retinue of

honor, and too feeble for any army of defence. Six thousand Dalmatians, the flower of the Imperial legions, were ordered to march from Ravenna to Rome, through an open country which was occupied by the formidable

myriads of the Barbarians. These brave legionaries, encompassed and betrayed, fell a sacrifice to ministerial folly; their general, Valens, with a hundred soldiers, escaped from the field of battle; and one of the ambassadors, who could no longer claim the protection of the law

of nations, was obliged to purchase his freedom with a ransom of thirty thousand pieces of gold. Yet Alaric, instead of resenting this act of

impotent hostility, immediately renewed his proposals of peace; and the

second embassy of the Roman senate, which derived weight and dignity from the presence of Innocent, bishop of the city, was guarded from the dangers of the road by a detachment of Gothic soldiers. [83]

[Footnote 82: Zosimus, l. v. p. 367 368, 369.]

[Footnote 83: Zosimus, l. v. p. 360, 361, 362. The bishop, by remaining at Ravenna, escaped the impending calamities of the city. Orosius, l.

vii. c. 39, p. 573.]

Olympius [84] might have continued to insult the just resentment of a

people who loudly accused him as the author of the public calamities; but his power was undermined by the secret intrigues of the palace. The favorite eunuchs transferred the government of Honorius, and the empire, to Jovius, the Praetorian praefect; an unworthy servant, who did

not atone, by the merit of personal attachment, for the errors and

misfortunes of his administration. The exile, or escape, of the guilty

Olympius, reserved him for more vicissitudes of fortune: he experienced the adventures of an obscure and wandering life; he again rose to power;

he fell a second time into disgrace; his ears were cut off; he expired

under the lash; and his ignominious death afforded a grateful spectacle to the friends of Stilicho. After the removal of Olympius, whose character was deeply tainted with religious fanaticism, the Pagans and

heretics were delivered from the impolitic proscription, which excluded them from the dignities of the state. The brave Gennerid, [85] a soldier

of Barbarian origin, who still adhered to the worship of his ancestors,

had been obliged to lay aside the military belt: and though he was

repeatedly assured by the emperor himself, that laws were not made for persons of his rank or merit, he refused to accept any partial dispensation, and persevered in honorable disgrace, till he had extorted a general act of justice from the distress of the Roman government. The conduct of Gennerid in the important station to which he was promoted or

restored, of master-general of Dalmatia, Pannonia, Noricum, and Rhaetia,

seemed to revive the discipline and spirit of the republic. From a life

of idleness and want, his troops were soon habituated to severe exercise and plentiful subsistence; and his private generosity often supplied the

rewards, which were denied by the avarice, or poverty, of the court of

Ravenna. The valor of Gennerid, formidable to the adjacent Barbarians, was the firmest bulwark of the Illyrian frontier; and his vigilant care assisted the empire with a reenforcement of ten thousand Huns, who arrived on the confines of Italy, attended by such a convoy of

provisions, and such a numerous train of sheep and oxen, as might

have been sufficient, not only for the march of an army, but for the

settlement of a colony. But the court and councils of Honorius still

remained a scene of weakness and distraction, of corruption and anarchy.

Instigated by the praefect Jovius, the guards rose in furious mutiny, and demanded the heads of two generals, and of the two principal eunuchs. The generals, under a perfidious promise of safety, were sent

on shipboard, and privately executed; while the favor of the eunuchs

procured them a mild and secure exile at Milan and Constantinople. eusebius the eunuch, and the Barbarian Allobich, succeeded to the command of the bed-chamber and of the guards; and the mutual jealousy of these subordinate ministers was the cause of their mutual destruction. by the insolent order of the count of the domestics, the great chamberlain was shamefully beaten to death with sticks, before the eyes

of the astonished emperor; and the subsequent assassination of Allobich,

in the midst of a public procession, is the only circumstance of his

life, in which Honorius discovered the faintest symptom of courage or

resentment. Yet before they fell, Eusebius and Allobich had contributed their part to the ruin of the empire, by opposing the conclusion of a treaty which Jovius, from a selfish, and perhaps a criminal, motive,

had negotiated with Alaric, in a personal interview under the walls

of Rimini. During the absence of Jovius, the emperor was persuaded to assume a lofty tone of inflexible dignity, such as neither his

situation, nor his character, could enable him to support; and a letter,

signed with the name of Honorius, was immediately despatched to the

Praetorian praefect, granting him a free permission to dispose of the

public money, but sternly refusing to prostitute the military honors of

Rome to the proud demands of a Barbarian. This letter was imprudently communicated to Alaric himself; and the Goth, who in the whole transaction had behaved with temper and decency, expressed, in the most

outrageous language, his lively sense of the insult so wantonly offered to his person and to his nation. The conference of Rimini was hastily

interrupted; and the praefect Jovius, on his return to Ravenna, was compelled to adopt, and even to encourage, the fashionable opinions

of the court. By his advice and example, the principal officers of the

state and army were obliged to swear, that, without listening, in any circumstances, to any conditions of peace, they would still persevere

in perpetual and implacable war against the enemy of the republic. This

rash engagement opposed an insuperable bar to all future negotiation. the ministers of Honorius were heard to declare, that, if they had only

in voked the name of the Deity, they would consult the public safety, and trust their souls to the mercy of Heaven: but they had sworn by the

sacred head of the emperor himself; they had sworn by the sacred head of the emperor himself; they had touched, in solemn ceremony, that august

seat of majesty and wisdom; and the violation of their oath would exposethem to the temporal penalties of sacrilege and rebellion. [86]

[Footnote 84: For the adventures of Olympius, and his successors in the

ministry, see Zosimus, l. v. p. 363, 365, 366, and Olympiodor. ap. Phot.

p. 180, 181. ]

[Footnote 85: Zosimus (l. v. p. 364) relates this circumstance with

visible complacency, and celebrates the character of Gennerid as the

last glory of expiring Paganism. Very different were the sentiments

of the council of Carthage, who deputed four bishops to the court of

Ravenna to complain of the law, which had been just enacted, that all conversions to Christianity should be free and voluntary. See Baronius, annal. Eccles. A.D. 409, No. 12, A.D. 410, No. 47, 48.]

[Footnote 86: Zosimus, l. v. p. 367, 368, 369. This custom of swearing by the head, or life, or safety, or genius, of the sovereign, was of the

highest antiquity, both in Egypt (Genesis, xlii. 15) and Scythia. It was

soon transferred, by flattery, to the Caesars; and Tertullian complains, that it was the only oath which the Romans of his time affected to

reverence. See an elegant Dissertation of the Abbe Mossieu on the Oaths

of the Ancients, in the Mem de l'Academie des Inscriptions, tom. i. p.

208, 209.]

while the emperor and his court enjoyed, with sullen pride, the security

of the marches and fortifications of Ravenna, they abandoned Rome, almost without defence, to the resentment of Alaric. Yet such was the

moderation which he still preserved, or affected, that, as he moved with

his army along the Flaminian way, he successively despatched the bishops of the towns of Italy to reiterate his offers of peace, and to congradulate the emperor, that he would save the city and its

inhabitants from hostile fire, and the sword of the Barbarians. [87] these impending calamities were, however, averted, not indeed by the wisdom of Honorius, but by the prudence or humanity of the Gothic king; who employed a milder, though not less effectual, method of conquest.

Instead of assaulting the capital, he successfully directed his efforts against the Port of Ostia, one of the boldest and most stupendous works of Roman magnificence. [88] The accidents to which the precarious

subsistence of the city was continually exposed in a winter navigation, and an open road, had suggested to the genius of the first Caesar the

useful design, which was executed under the reign of Claudius. The artificial moles, which formed the narrow entrance, advanced far into the sea, and firmly repelled the fury of the waves, while the largest

vessels securely rode at anchor within three deep and capacious basins, which received the northern branch of the Tyber, about two miles from the ancient colony of Ostia. [89] The Roman Port insensibly swelled to the size of an episcopal city, [90] where the corn of Africa was deposited in spacious granaries for the use of the capital. As soon as alaric was in possession of that important place, he summoned the city to surrender at discretion; and his demands were enforced by the positive declaration, that a refusal, or even a delay, should be

instantly followed by the destruction of the magazines, on which the

life of the Roman people depended. The clamors of that people, and the terror of famine, subdued the pride of the senate; they listened, without reluctance, to the proposal of placing a new emperor on the throne of the unworthy Honorius; and the suffrage of the Gothic conqueror bestowed the purple on Attalus, praefect of the city. the grateful monarch immediately acknowledged his protector as

master-general of the armies of the West; Adolphus, with the rank of count of the domestics, obtained the custody of the person of Attalus; and the two hostile nations seemed to be united in the closest bands of friendship and alliance. [91]

[Footnote 87: Zosimus, l. v. p. 368, 369. I have softened the expressions of Alaric, who expatiates, in too florid a manner, on the

history of Rome]

[Footnote 88: See Sueton. in Claud. c. 20. Dion Cassius, l. lx. p. 949, edit Reimar, and the lively description of Juvenal, Satir. xii. 75, &c.

In the sixteenth century, when the remains of this Augustan port were

still visible, the antiquarians sketched the plan, (see D'Anville, Mem. de l'Academie des Inscriptions, tom. xxx. p. 198,) and declared, with enthusiasm, that all the monarchs of Europe would be unable to execute

so great a work, (Bergier, Hist. des grands Chemins des Romains, tom.

ii. p. 356.)]

[Footnote 89: The Ostia Tyberina, (see Cluver. Italia Antiq. l. iii.

p. 870-879,) in the plural number, the two mouths of the Tyber, were

separated by the Holy Island, an equilateral triangle, whose sides were each of them computed at about two miles. The colony of Ostia was founded immediately beyond the left, or southern, and the Port

immediately beyond the right, or northern, branch of hte river; and the distance between their remains measures something more than two miles

on Cingolani's map. In the time of Strabo, the sand and mud deposited by the Tyber had choked the harbor of Ostia; the progress of the same cause

has added much to the size of the Holy Islands, and gradually left both

Ostia and the Port at a considerable distance from the shore. The dry channels (fiumi morti) and the large estuaries (stagno di Ponente, di

Levante) mark the changes of the river, and the efforts of the sea. consult, for the present state of this dreary and desolate tract, the excellent map of the ecclesiastical state by the mathematicians of benedict XIV.; an actual survey of the Agro Romano, in six sheets, by cingolani, which contains 113,819 rubbia, (about 570,000 acres;) and the

large topographical map of Ameti, in eight sheets.]

[Footnote 90: As early as the third, (Lardner's Credibility of the

Gospel, part ii. vol. iii. p. 89-92,) or at least the fourth, century,

(Carol. a Sancta Paulo, Notit. Eccles. p. 47,) the Port of Rome was an episcopal city, which was demolished, as it should seem in the ninth century, by Pope Gregory IV., during the incursions of the Arabs. It

is now reduced to an inn, a church, and the house, or palace, of the bishop; who ranks as one of six cardinal-bishops of the Roman church.

See Eschinard, Deserizione di Roman et dell' Agro Romano, p. 328. \*

Note: Compare Sir W. Gell. Rome and its Vicinity vol. ii p. 134.--M.]

[Footnote 91: For the elevation of Attalus, consult Zosimus, l. vi. p.

377-380, Sozomen, l. ix. c. 8, 9, Olympiodor. ap. Phot. p. 180, 181,

Philostorg. l. xii. c. 3, and Godefroy's Dissertat. p. 470.]

the gates of the city were thrown open, and the new emperor of the

Romans, encompassed on every side by the Gothic arms, was conducted, in tumultuous procession, to the palace of Augustus and Trajan. After he

had distributed the civil and military dignities among his favorites and followers, Attalus convened an assembly of the senate; before whom, in a format and florid speech, he asserted his resolution of restoring the

majesty of the republic, and of uniting to the empire the provinces of egypt and the East, which had once acknowledged the sovereignty of Rome.

Such extravagant promises inspired every reasonable citizen with a just contempt for the character of an unwarlike usurper, whose elevation was the deepest and most ignominious wound which the republic had yet

sustained from the insolence of the Barbarians. But the populace, with their usual levity, applauded the change of masters. The public discontent was favorable to the rival of Honorius; and the sectaries,

oppressed by his persecuting edicts, expected some degree of countenance, or at least of toleration, from a prince, who, in his

native country of Ionia, had been educated in the Pagan superstition, and who had since received the sacrament of baptism from the hands of an arian bishop. [92] The first days of the reign of Attalus were fair and

prosperous. An officer of confidence was sent with an inconsiderable body of troops to secure the obedience of Africa; the greatest part of

Italy submitted to the terror of the Gothic powers; and though the city of Bologna made a vigorous and effectual resistance, the people of

Milan, dissatisfied perhaps with the absence of Honorius, accepted, with loud acclamations, the choice of the Roman senate. At the head of a formidable army, Alaric conducted his royal captive almost to the gates

of Ravenna; and a solemn embassy of the principal ministers, of Jovius, the Praetorian praefect, of Valens, master of the cavalry and infantry,

of the quaestor Potamius, and of Julian, the first of the notaries, was introduced, with martial pomp, into the Gothic camp. In the name of their sovereign, they consented to acknowledge the lawful election

of his competitor, and to divide the provinces of Italy and the West between the two emperors. Their proposals were rejected with disdain; and the refusal was aggravated by the insulting clemency of Attalus, who condescended to promise, that, if Honorius would instantly resign the

purple, he should be permitted to pass the remainder of his life in the

peaceful exile of some remote island. [93] So desperate indeed did the

situation of the son of Theodosius appear, to those who were the best acquainted with his strength and resources, that Jovius and Valens, his

minister and his general, betrayed their trust, infamously deserted the sinking cause of their benefactor, and devoted their treacherous allegiance to the service of his more fortunate rival. Astonished by

such examples of domestic treason, Honorius trembled at the approach of every servant, at the arrival of every messenger. He dreaded the secret enemies, who might lurk in his capital, his palace, his bed-chamber; and some ships lay ready in the harbor of Ravenna, to transport the abdicated monarch to the dominions of his infant nephew, the emperor of the East.

[Footnote 92: We may admit the evidence of Sozomen for the Arian baptism, and that of Philostorgius for the Pagan education, of Attalus. the visible joy of Zosimus, and the discontent which he imputes to the anician family, are very unfavorable to the Christianity of the new emperor.]

[Footnote 93: He carried his insolence so far, as to declare that

he should mutilate Honorius before he sent him into exile. But this assertion of Zosimus is destroyed by the more impartial testimony

of Olympiodorus; who attributes the ungenerous proposal (which was absolutely rejected by Attalus) to the baseness, and perhaps the treachery, of Jovius.]

but there is a Providence (such at least was the opinion of the

historian Procopius) [94] that watches over innocence and folly; and the pretensions of Honorius to its peculiar care cannot reasonably be disputed. At the moment when his despair, incapable of any wise or manly

resolution, meditated a shameful flight, a seasonable reenforcement of four thousand veterans unexpectedly landed in the port of Ravenna. To these valiant strangers, whose fidelity had not been corrupted by the factions of the court, he committed the walls and gates of the city; and the slumbers of the emperor were no longer disturbed by the apprehension

of imminent and internal danger. The favorable intelligence which was

received from Africa suddenly changed the opinions of men, and the state

of public affairs. The troops and officers, whom Attalus had sent into that province, were defeated and slain; and the active zeal of Heraclian

maintained his own allegiance, and that of his people. The faithful count of Africa transmitted a large sum of money, which fixed the attachment of the Imperial guards; and his vigilance, in preventing the exportation of corn and oil, introduced famine, tumult, and discontent,

into the walls of Rome. The failure of the African expedition was the

source of mutual complaint and recrimination in the party of Attalus; and the mind of his protector was insensibly alienated from the interest

of a prince, who wanted spirit to command, or docility to obey. The most

imprudent measures were adopted, without the knowledge, or against the advice, of Alaric; and the obstinate refusal of the senate, to allow,

in the embarkation, the mixture even of five hundred Goths, betrayed a suspicious and distrustful temper, which, in their situation, was

neither generous nor prudent. The resentment of the Gothic king was exasperated by the malicious arts of Jovius, who had been raised to the

rank of patrician, and who afterwards excused his double perfidy, by declaring, without a blush, that he had only seemed to abandon the

service of Honorius, more effectually to ruin the cause of the usurper.

In a large plain near Rimini, and in the presence of an innumerable

multitude of Romans and Barbarians, the wretched Attalus was publicly despoiled of the diadem and purple; and those ensigns of royalty were

sent by Alaric, as the pledge of peace and friendship, to the son

of Theodosius. [95] The officers who returned to their duty, were

reinstated in their employments, and even the merit of a tardy

repentance was graciously allowed; but the degraded emperor of the

Romans, desirous of life, and insensible of disgrace, implored the

permission of following the Gothic camp, in the train of a haughty and capricious Barbarian. [96]

[Footnote 94: Procop. de Bell. Vandal. l. i. c. 2.]

[Footnote 95: See the cause and circumstances of the fall of Attalus in

Zosimus, l. vi. p. 380-383. Sozomen, l. ix. c. 8. Philostorg. l. xii. c. 3. The two acts of indemnity in the Theodosian Code, l. ix. tit.

xxxviii. leg. 11, 12, which were published the 12th of February, and the

8th of August, A.D. 410, evidently relate to this usurper.]

[Footnote 96: In hoc, Alaricus, imperatore, facto, infecto, refecto, ac defecto... Mimum risit, et ludum spectavit imperii. Orosius, l. vii. c.

42, p. 582.]

the degradation of Attalus removed the only real obstacle to the conclusion of the peace; and Alaric advanced within three miles of

Ravenna, to press the irresolution of the Imperial ministers, whose

insolence soon returned with the return of fortune. His indignation was

kindled by the report, that a rival chieftain, that Sarus, the personal enemy of Adolphus, and the hereditary foe of the house of Balti, had been received into the palace. At the head of three hundred followers, that fearless Barbarian immediately sallied from the gates of Ravenna;

surprised, and cut in pieces, a considerable body of Goths; reentered the city in triumph; and was permitted to insult his adversary, by the

voice of a herald, who publicly declared that the guilt of Alaric had forever excluded him from the friendship and alliance of the emperor.

[97] The crime and folly of the court of Ravenna was expiated, a third time, by the calamities of Rome. The king of the Goths, who no longer dissembled his appetite for plunder and revenge, appeared in arms under the walls of the capital; and the trembling senate, without any hopes of

relief, prepared, by a desperate resistance, to defray the ruin of their country. But they were unable to guard against the secret conspiracy

of their slaves and domestics; who, either from birth or interest, were attached to the cause of the enemy. At the hour of midnight, the

Salarian gate was silently opened, and the inhabitants were awakened by the tremendous sound of the Gothic trumpet. Eleven hundred and

sixty-three years after the foundation of Rome, the Imperial city, which had subdued and civilized so considerable a part of mankind, was delivered to the licentious fury of the tribes of Germany and Scythia.

[98]

[Footnote 97: Zosimus, l. vi. p. 384. Sozomen, l. ix. c. 9.

Philostorgius, l. xii. c. 3. In this place the text of Zosimus is

mutilated, and we have lost the remainder of his sixth and last book, which ended with the sack of Rome. Credulous and partial as he is, we

must take our leave of that historian with some regret.]

[Footnote 98: Adest Alaricus, trepidam Romam obsidet, turbat, irrumpit.

Orosius, l. vii. c. 39, p. 573. He despatches this great event in seven words; but he employs whole pages in celebrating the devotion of the

Goths. I have extracted from an improbable story of Procopius, the circumstances which had an air of probability. Procop. de Bell. Vandal.

l. i. c. 2. He supposes that the city was surprised while the senators

slept in the afternoon; but Jerom, with more authority and more reason, affirms, that it was in the night, nocte Moab capta est. nocte cecidit

murus ejus, tom. i. p. 121, ad Principiam.]

the proclamation of Alaric, when he forced his entrance into a

vanquished city, discovered, however, some regard for the laws of

humanity and religion. He encouraged his troops boldly to seize the

rewards of valor, and to enrich themselves with the spoils of a wealthy and effeminate people: but he exhorted them, at the same time, to spare the lives of the unresisting citizens, and to respect the churches

of the apostles, St. Peter and St. Paul, as holy and inviolable

sanctuaries. Amidst the horrors of a nocturnal tumult, several of the christian Goths displayed the fervor of a recent conversion; and some

instances of their uncommon piety and moderation are related, and

perhaps adorned, by the zeal of ecclesiastical writers. [99] While the barbarians roamed through the city in quest of prey, the humble dwelling

of an aged virgin, who had devoted her life to the service of the altar, was forced open by one of the powerful Goths. He immediately demanded, though in civil language, all the gold and silver in her possession; and was astonished at the readiness with which she conducted him to a

splendid hoard of massy plate, of the richest materials, and the most curious workmanship. The Barbarian viewed with wonder and delight this

valuable acquisition, till he was interrupted by a serious admonition, addressed to him in the following words: "These," said she, "are the consecrated vessels belonging to St. Peter: if you presume to touch them, the sacrilegious deed will remain on your conscience. for my part, I dare not keep what I am unable to defend." The Gothic captain, struck with reverential awe, despatched a messenger to inform the king of the treasure which he had discovered; and received a

peremptory order from Alaric, that all the consecrated plate and

ornaments should be transported, without damage or delay, to the church

of the apostle. From the extremity, perhaps, of the Quirinal hill, to the distant quarter of the Vatican, a numerous detachment of Goths,

marching in order of battle through the principal streets, protected, with glittering arms, the long train of their devout companions, who bore aloft, on their heads, the sacred vessels of gold and silver; and the martial shouts of the Barbarians were mingled with the sound of

religious psalmody. From all the adjacent houses, a crowd of Christians

hastened to join this edifying procession; and a multitude of fugitives, without distinction of age, or rank, or even of sect, had the good fortune to escape to the secure and hospitable sanctuary of the Vatican. the learned work, concerning the City of God, was professedly composed by St. Augustin, to justify the ways of Providence in the destruction

of the Roman greatness. He celebrates, with peculiar satisfaction, this

memorable triumph of Christ; and insults his adversaries, by challenging them to produce some similar example of a town taken by storm, in which the fabulous gods of antiquity had been able to protect either themselves or their deluded votaries. [100]

[Footnote 99: Orosius (l. vii. c. 39, p. 573-576) applauds the piety of the Christian Goths, without seeming to perceive that the greatest part

of them were Arian heretics. Jornandes (c. 30, p. 653) and Isidore of

Seville, (Chron. p. 417, edit. Grot.,) who were both attached to the

Gothic cause, have repeated and embellished these edifying tales. according to Isidore, Alaric himself was heard to say, that he waged war with the Romans, and not with the apostles. Such was the style of the

seventh century; two hundred years before, the fame and merit had been ascribed, not to the apostles, but to Christ.]

[Footnote 100: See Augustin, de Civitat. Dei, l. i. c. 1-6. He

particularly appeals to the examples of Troy, Syracuse, and Tarentum.]

In the sack of Rome, some rare and extraordinary examples of Barbarian

virtue have been deservedly applauded. But the holy precincts of the Vatican, and the apostolic churches, could receive a very small

proportion of the Roman people; many thousand warriors, more especially

of the Huns, who served under the standard of Alaric, were strangers to the name, or at least to the faith, of Christ; and we may suspect, without any breach of charity or candor, that in the hour of savage

license, when every passion was inflamed, and every restraint was

removed, the precepts of the Gospel seldom influenced the behavior of the Gothic Christians. The writers, the best disposed to exaggerate their clemency, have freely confessed, that a cruel slaughter was made

of the Romans; [101] and that the streets of the city were filled with dead bodies, which remained without burial during the general consternation. The despair of the citizens was sometimes converted into fury: and whenever the Barbarians were provoked by opposition, they extended the promiscuous massacre to the feeble, the innocent, and the

helpless. The private revenge of forty thousand slaves was exercised without pity or remorse; and the ignominious lashes, which they had formerly received, were washed away in the blood of the guilty, or

obnoxious, families. The matrons and virgins of Rome were exposed to

injuries more dreadful, in the apprehension of chastity, than death

itself; and the ecclesiastical historian has selected an example of female virtue, for the admiration of future ages. [102] A Roman lady, of

singular beauty and orthodox faith, had excited the impatient desires

of a young Goth, who, according to the sagacious remark of Sozomen, was attached to the Arian heresy. Exasperated by her obstinate resistance,

he drew his sword, and, with the anger of a lover, slightly wounded her

neck. The bleeding heroine still continued to brave his resentment, and to repel his love, till the ravisher desisted from his unavailing efforts, respectfully conducted her to the sanctuary of the Vatican, and

gave six pieces of gold to the guards of the church, on condition that they should restore her inviolate to the arms of her husband. Such

instances of courage and generosity were not extremely common. The brutal soldiers satisfied their sensual appetites, without consulting either the inclination or the duties of their female captives: and a

nice question of casuistry was seriously agitated, Whether those tender

victims, who had inflexibly refused their consent to the violation which they sustained, had lost, by their misfortune, the glorious crown of

virginity. [103] Their were other losses indeed of a more substantial

kind, and more general concern. It cannot be presumed, that all the barbarians were at all times capable of perpetrating such amorous

outrages; and the want of youth, or beauty, or chastity, protected the

greatest part of the Roman women from the danger of a rape. But avarice

is an insatiate and universal passion; since the enjoyment of almost every object that can afford pleasure to the different tastes and tempers of mankind may be procured by the possession of wealth. In the

pillage of Rome, a just preference was given to gold and jewels, which contain the greatest value in the smallest compass and weight: but, after these portable riches had been removed by the more diligent

robbers, the palaces of Rome were rudely stripped of their splendid and costly furniture. The sideboards of massy plate, and the variegated wardrobes of silk and purple, were irregularly piled in the wagons, that always followed the march of a Gothic army. The most exquisite works

of art were roughly handled, or wantonly destroyed; many a statue was

melted for the sake of the precious materials; and many a vase, in the division of the spoil, was shivered into fragments by the stroke of a battle-axe.

the acquisition of riches served only to stimulate the avarice of the rapacious Barbarians, who proceeded, by threats, by blows, and by tortures, to force from their prisoners the confession of hidden treasure. [104] Visible splendor and expense were alleged as the proof

of a plentiful fortune; the appearance of poverty was imputed to a

parsimonious disposition; and the obstinacy of some misers, who endured the most cruel torments before they would discover the secret object of their affection, was fatal to many unhappy wretches, who expired under the lash, for refusing to reveal their imaginary treasures. The edifices

of Rome, though the damage has been much exaggerated, received some

injury from the violence of the Goths. At their entrance through the

Salarian gate, they fired the adjacent houses to guide their march, and to distract the attention of the citizens; the flames, which encountered

no obstacle in the disorder of the night, consumed many private and

public buildings; and the ruins of the palace of Sallust [105] remained,

in the age of Justinian, a stately monument of the Gothic conflagration.

[106] Yet a contemporary historian has observed, that fire could

scarcely consume the enormous beams of solid brass, and that the

strength of man was insufficient to subvert the foundations of ancient structures. Some truth may possibly be concealed in his devout assertion, that the wrath of Heaven supplied the imperfections of

hostile rage; and that the proud Forum of Rome, decorated with the

statues of so many gods and heroes, was levelled in the dust by the

stroke of lightning. [107]

[Footnote 101: Jerom (tom. i. p. 121, ad Principiam) has applied to the

sack of Rome all the strong expressions of Virgil:--

Quis cladem illius noctis, quis funera fando,

Explicet, &c.

Procopius (l. i. c. 2) positively affirms that great numbers were slain by the Goths. Augustin (de Civ. Dei, l. i. c. 12, 13) offers Christian comfort for the death of those whose bodies (multa corpora) had remained

(in tanta strage) unburied. Baronius, from the different writings of the fathers, has thrown some light on the sack of Rome. Annal. Eccles. A.D.

410, No. 16-34.]

[Footnote 102: Sozomen. l. ix. c. 10. Augustin (de Civitat. Dei, l.

i. c. 17) intimates, that some virgins or matrons actually killed themselves to escape violation; and though he admires their spirit, he

is obliged, by his theology, to condemn their rash presumption. Perhaps the good bishop of Hippo was too easy in the belief, as well as too

rigid in the censure, of this act of female heroism. The twenty

maidens (if they ever existed) who threw themselves into the Elbe, when

Magdeburgh was taken by storm, have been multiplied to the number of twelve hundred. See Harte's History of Gustavus Adolphus, vol. i. p.

308.]

[Footnote 103: See Augustin de Civitat. Dei, l. i. c. 16, 18. He treats the subject with remarkable accuracy: and after admitting that there cannot be any crime where there is no consent, he adds, Sed quia non

solum quod ad dolorem, verum etiam quod ad libidinem, pertinet, in corpore alieno pepetrari potest; quicquid tale factum fuerit, etsi

retentam constantissimo animo pudicitiam non excutit, pudorem tamen

incutit, ne credatur factum cum mentis etiam voluntate, quod fieri fortasse sine carnis aliqua voluptate non potuit. In c. 18 he makes some curious distinctions between moral and physical virginity.]

[Footnote 104: Marcella, a Roman lady, equally respectable for her rank,

her age, and her piety, was thrown on the ground, and cruelly beaten and whipped, caesam fustibus flagellisque, &c. Jerom, tom. i. p. 121, ad Principiam. See Augustin, de Civ. Dei, l. c. 10. The modern Sacco di Roma, p. 208, gives an idea of the various methods of torturing

prisoners for gold.]

[Footnote 105: The historian Sallust, who usefully practiced the vices which he has so eloquently censured, employed the plunder of Numidia to adorn his palace and gardens on the Quirinal hill. The spot where the

house stood is now marked by the church of St. Susanna, separated only by a street from the baths of Diocletian, and not far distant from the

Salarian gate. See Nardini, Roma Antica, p. 192, 193, and the great

I'lan of Modern Rome, by Nolli.]

[Footnote 106: The expressions of Procopius are distinct and moderate,

(de Bell. Vandal. l. i. c. 2.) The Chronicle of Marcellinus speaks too

strongly partem urbis Romae cremavit; and the words of Philostorgius (l.

xii. c. 3) convey a false and exaggerated idea. Bargaeus has composed a particular dissertation (see tom. iv. Antiquit. Rom. Graev.) to prove that the edifices of Rome were not subverted by the Goths and Vandals.]

[Footnote 107: Orosius, l. ii. c. 19, p. 143. He speaks as if he disapproved all statues; vel Deum vel hominem mentiuntur. They consisted

of the kings of Alba and Rome from Aeneas, the Romans, illustrious either in arms or arts, and the deified Caesars. The expression which he

uses of Forum is somewhat ambiguous, since there existed five principal fora; but as they were all contiguous and adjacent, in the plain which

is surrounded by the Capitoline, the Quirinal, the Esquiline, and the

Palatine hills, they might fairly be considered as one. See the Roma antiqua of Donatus, p. 162-201, and the Roma Antica of Nardini, p.

212-273. The former is more useful for the ancient descriptions, the

latter for the actual topography.]

chapter XXXI: Invasion Of Italy, Occupation Of Territories By barbarians.--Part IV.

whatever might be the numbers of equestrian or plebeian rank, who

perished in the massacre of Rome, it is confidently affirmed that only

one senator lost his life by the sword of the enemy. [108] But it was

not easy to compute the multitudes, who, from an honorable station and a

prosperous fortune, were suddenly reduced to the miserable condition of captives and exiles. As the Barbarians had more occasion for money than for slaves, they fixed at a moderate price the redemption of their

indigent prisoners; and the ransom was often paid by the benevolence of their friends, or the charity of strangers. [109] The captives, who were

regularly sold, either in open market, or by private contract, would

have legally regained their native freedom, which it was impossible for a citizen to lose, or to alienate. [110] But as it was soon discovered that the vindication of their liberty would endanger their lives; and that the Goths, unless they were tempted to sell, might be provoked to murder, their useless prisoners; the civil jurisprudence had been already qualified by a wise regulation, that they should be obliged to

serve the moderate term of five years, till they had discharged by their

labor the price of their redemption. [111] The nations who invaded the

Roman empire, had driven before them, into Italy, whole troops of hungry and affrighted provincials, less apprehensive of servitude than of famine. The calamities of Rome and Italy dispersed the inhabitants to the most lonely, the most secure, the most distant places of refuge. while the Gothic cavalry spread terror and desolation along the

sea-coast of Campania and Tuscany, the little island of Igilium,

separated by a narrow channel from the Argentarian promontory, repulsed,

or eluded, their hostile attempts; and at so small a distance from Rome,

great numbers of citizens were securely concealed in the thick woods

of that sequestered spot. [112] The ample patrimonies, which many

senatorian families possessed in Africa, invited them, if they had time, and prudence, to escape from the ruin of their country, to embrace the shelter of that hospitable province. The most illustrious of these fugitives was the noble and pious Proba, [113] the widow of the praefect

Petronius. After the death of her husband, the most powerful subject

of Rome, she had remained at the head of the Anician family, and

successively supplied, from her private fortune, the expense of the consulships of her three sons. When the city was besieged and taken by the Goths, Proba supported, with Christian resignation, the loss of

immense riches; embarked in a small vessel, from whence she beheld, at

sea, the flames of her burning palace, and fled with her daughter Laeta, and her granddaughter, the celebrated virgin, Demetrias, to the coast of africa. The benevolent profusion with which the matron distributed the fruits, or the price, of her estates, contributed to alleviate the

misfortunes of exile and captivity. But even the family of Proba herself was not exempt from the rapacious oppression of Count Heraclian, who basely sold, in matrimonial prostitution, the noblest maidens of Rome to the lust or avarice of the Syrian merchants. The Italian fugitives were dispersed through the provinces, along the coast of Egypt and Asia, as far as Constantinople and Jerusalem; and the village of Bethlem, the

solitary residence of St. Jerom and his female converts, was crowded with illustrious beggars of either sex, and every age, who excited the

public compassion by the remembrance of their past fortune. [114] This awful catastrophe of Rome filled the astonished empire with grief and terror. So interesting a contrast of greatness and ruin, disposed the fond credulity of the people to deplore, and even to exaggerate, the afflictions of the queen of cities. The clergy, who applied to recent events the lofty metaphors of oriental prophecy, were sometimes tempted to confound the destruction of the capital and the dissolution of the

globe.

[Footnote 108: Orosius (l. ii. c. 19, p. 142) compares the cruelty

of the Gauls and the clemency of the Goths. Ibi vix quemquam inventum

senatorem, qui vel absens evaserit; hic vix quemquam requiri, qui forte

ut latens perierit. But there is an air of rhetoric, and perhaps of falsehood, in this antithesis; and Socrates (l. vii. c. 10) affirms,

perhaps by an opposite exaggeration, that many senators were put to death with various and exquisite tortures.]

[Footnote 109: Multi... Christiani incaptivitatem ducti sunt. Augustin, de Civ Dei, l. i. c. 14; and the Christians experienced no peculiar

hardships.]

[Footnote 110: See Heineccius, Antiquitat. Juris Roman. tom. i. p. 96.]

[Footnote 111: Appendix Cod. Theodos. xvi. in Sirmond. Opera, tom. i. p.

735. This edict was published on the 11th of December, A.D. 408, and is

more reasonable than properly belonged to the ministers of Honorius.]

[Footnote 112: Eminus Igilii sylvosa cacumina miror; Quem fraudare nefas

laudis honore suae.

Haec proprios nuper tutata est insula saltus;

Sive loci ingenio, seu Domini genio.

Gurgite cum modico victricibus obstitit

armis, Tanquam longinquo dissociata mari.

Haec multos lacera suscepit ab urbe fugates,

Hic fessis posito certa timore salus.

Plurima terreno populaverat aequora bello,

Contra naturam classe timendus eques:

Unum, mira fides, vario discrimine portum!

Tam prope Romanis, tam procul esse Getis.

---Rutilius, in Itinerar. l. i. 325

the island is now called Giglio. See Cluver. Ital. Antiq. l. ii. ]

[Footnote 113: As the adventures of Proba and her family are connected with the life of St. Augustin, they are diligently illustrated by tillemont, Mem. Eccles. tom. xiii. p. 620-635. Some time after their arrival in Africa, Demetrias took the veil, and made a vow of virginity; an event which was considered as of the highest importance to Rome and to the world. All the Saints wrote congratulatory letters to her; that

of Jerom is still extant, (tom. i. p. 62-73, ad Demetriad. de servand

Virginitat.,) and contains a mixture of absurd reasoning, spirited declamation, and curious facts, some of which relate to the siege and

sack of Rome.]

[Footnote 114: See the pathetic complaint of Jerom, (tom. v. p. 400,)

in his preface to the second book of his Commentaries on the Prophet ezekiel.]

there exists in human nature a strong propensity to depreciate the advantages, and to magnify the evils, of the present times. Yet, when the first emotions had subsided, and a fair estimate was made of the

real damage, the more learned and judicious contemporaries were forced to confess, that infant Rome had formerly received more essential

injury from the Gauls, than she had now sustained from the Goths in

her declining age. [115] The experience of eleven centuries has enabled

posterity to produce a much more singular parallel; and to affirm with confidence, that the ravages of the Barbarians, whom Alaric had led from the banks of the Danube, were less destructive than the hostilities exercised by the troops of Charles the Fifth, a Catholic prince, who

styled himself Emperor of the Romans. [116] The Goths evacuated the city at the end of six days, but Rome remained above nine months in the possession of the Imperialists; and every hour was stained by some atrocious act of cruelty, lust, and rapine. The authority of Alaric

preserved some order and moderation among the ferocious multitude which acknowledged him for their leader and king; but the constable of Bourbon

had gloriously fallen in the attack of the walls; and the death of the general removed every restraint of discipline from an army which consisted of three independent nations, the Italians, the Spaniards, and the Germans. In the beginning of the sixteenth century, the manners of

Italy exhibited a remarkable scene of the depravity of mankind. They

united the sanguinary crimes that prevail in an unsettled state of

society, with the polished vices which spring from the abuse of art and

luxury; and the loose adventurers, who had violated every prejudice of

patriotism and superstition to assault the palace of the Roman pontiff,

must deserve to be considered as the most profligate of the Italians. at the same aera, the Spaniards were the terror both of the Old and

New World: but their high-spirited valor was disgraced by gloomy pride,

rapacious avarice, and unrelenting cruelty. Indefatigable in the pursuit

of fame and riches, they had improved, by repeated practice, the most exquisite and effectual methods of torturing their prisoners: many

of the Castilians, who pillaged Rome, were familiars of the holy

inquisition; and some volunteers, perhaps, were lately returned from the conquest of Mexico The Germans were less corrupt than the Italians,

less cruel than the Spaniards; and the rustic, or even savage, aspect

of those Tramontane warriors, often disguised a simple and merciful disposition. But they had imbibed, in the first fervor of the

reformation, the spirit, as well as the principles of Luther. It was their favorite amusement to insult, or destroy, the consecrated objects

of Catholic superstition; they indulged, without pity or remorse, a devout hatred against the clergy of every denomination and degree, who form so considerable a part of the inhabitants of modern Rome; and their fanatic zeal might aspire to subvert the throne of Anti-christ, to

purify, with blood and fire, the abominations of the spiritual Babylon.

[117]

[Footnote 115: Orosius, though with some theological partiality, states this comparison, l. ii. c. 19, p. 142, l. vii. c. 39, p. 575. But,

in the history of the taking of Rome by the Gauls, every thing is

uncertain, and perhaps fabulous. See Beaufort sur l'Incertitude, &c., de l'Histoire Romaine, p. 356; and Melot, in the Mem. de l'Academie des

Inscript. tom. xv. p. 1-21.]

[Footnote 116: The reader who wishes to inform himself of the circumstances of his famous event, may peruse an admirable narrative in dr. Robertson's History of Charles V. vol. ii. p. 283; or consult the annali d'Italia of the learned Muratori, tom. xiv. p. 230-244, octavo edition. If he is desirous of examining the originals, he may have

recourse to the eighteenth book of the great, but unfinished, history

of Guicciardini. But the account which most truly deserves the name of authentic and original, is a little book, entitled, Il Sacco di Roma, composed, within less than a month after the assault of the city, by the brother of the historian Guicciardini, who appears to have been an able

magistrate and a dispassionate writer.]

[Footnote 117: The furious spirit of Luther, the effect of temper and enthusiasm, has been forcibly attacked, (Bossuet, Hist. des Variations des Eglises Protestantes, livre i. p. 20-36,) and feebly defended,

(Seckendorf. Comment. de Lutheranismo, especially l. i. No. 78, p. 120, and l. iii. No. 122, p. 556.)] The retreat of the victorious Goths, who evacuated Rome on the sixth day, [118] might be the result of prudence; but it was not surely the effect of fear. [119] At the head of an army encumbered with rich and weighty spoils, their intrepid leader advanced along the Appian way into the southern provinces of Italy, destroying whatever dared to oppose his passage, and contenting himself with the

plunder of the unresisting country. The fate of Capua, the proud and

luxurious metropolis of Campania, and which was respected, even in its decay, as the eighth city of the empire, [120] is buried in oblivion; whilst the adjacent town of Nola [121] has been illustrated, on this

occasion, by the sanctity of Paulinus, [122] who was successively a consul, a monk, and a bishop. At the age of forty, he renounced the enjoyment of wealth and honor, of society and literature, to embrace a life of solitude and penance; and the loud applause of the clergy encouraged him to despise the reproaches of his worldly friends, who ascribed this desperate act to some disorder of the mind or body. [123] an early and passionate attachment determined him to fix his humble dwelling in one of the suburbs of Nola, near the miraculous tomb of St. faelix, which the public devotion had already surrounded with five

large and populous churches. The remains of his fortune, and of his

understanding, were dedicated to the service of the glorious martyr; whose praise, on the day of his festival, Paulinus never failed to celebrate by a solemn hymn; and in whose name he erected a sixth church,

of superior elegance and beauty, which was decorated with many curious

pictures, from the history of the Old and New Testament. Such assiduous

zeal secured the favor of the saint, [124] or at least of the people; and, after fifteen years' retirement, the Roman consul was compelled to accept the bishopric of Nola, a few months before the city was invested by the Goths. During the siege, some religious persons were satisfied that they had seen, either in dreams or visions, the divine form of their tutelar patron; yet it soon appeared by the event, that Faelix wanted power, or inclination, to preserve the flock of which he

had formerly been the shepherd. Nola was not saved from the general devastation; [125] and the captive bishop was protected only by the

general opinion of his innocence and poverty. Above four years elapsed from the successful invasion of Italy by the arms of Alaric, to the

voluntary retreat of the Goths under the conduct of his successor adolphus; and, during the whole time, they reigned without control over a country, which, in the opinion of the ancients, had united all the

various excellences of nature and art. The prosperity, indeed, which

Italy had attained in the auspicious age of the Antonines, had gradually declined with the decline of the empire.

the fruits of a long peace perished under the rude grasp of the barbarians; and they themselves were incapable of tasting the more elegant refinements of luxury, which had been prepared for the use of the soft and polished Italians. Each soldier, however, claimed an ample

portion of the substantial plenty, the corn and cattle, oil and wine, that was daily collected and consumed in the Gothic camp; and the

principal warriors insulted the villas and gardens, once inhabited by Lucullus and Cicero, along the beauteous coast of Campania. Their trembling captives, the sons and daughters of Roman senators, presented,

in goblets of gold and gems, large draughts of Falernian wine to the

haughty victors; who stretched their huge limbs under the shade of

plane-trees, [126] artificially disposed to exclude the scorching rays, and to admit the genial warmth, of the sun. These delights were enhanced by the memory of past hardships: the comparison of their native soil, the bleak and barren hills of Scythia, and the frozen banks of the Elbe and Danube, added new charms to the felicity of the Italian climate.

[127]

[Footnote 118: Marcellinus, in Chron. Orosius, (l. vii. c. 39, p. 575,) asserts, that he left Rome on the third day; but this difference is easily reconciled by the successive motions of great bodies of troops.]

[Footnote 119: Socrates (l. vii. c. 10) pretends, without any color of truth, or reason, that Alaric fled on the report that the armies of the eastern empire were in full march to attack him.]

[Footnote 120: Ausonius de Claris Urbibus, p. 233, edit. Toll. The

luxury of Capua had formerly surpassed that of Sybaris itself. See athenaeus Deipnosophist. l. xii. p. 528, edit. Casaubon.]

[Footnote 121: Forty-eight years before the foundation of Rome, (about

800 before the Christian aera,) the Tuscans built Capua and Nola, at the distance of twenty-three miles from each other; but the latter of the two cities never emerged from a state of mediocrity.]

[Footnote 122: Tillemont (Mem. Eccles. tom. xiv. p. 1-46) has compiled, with his usual diligence, all that relates to the life and writings of

Paulinus, whose retreat is celebrated by his own pen, and by the praises

of St. Ambrose, St. Jerom, St. Augustin, Sulpicius Severus, &c., his christian friends and contemporaries.]

[Footnote 123: See the affectionate letters of Ausonius (epist.

xix.--xxv. p. 650-698, edit. Toll.) to his colleague, his friend, and

his disciple, Paulinus. The religion of Ausonius is still a problem,

(see Mem. de l'Academie des Inscriptions, tom. xv. p. 123-138.) I believe that it was such in his own time, and, consequently, that in his

heart he was a Pagan.]

[Footnote 124: The humble Paulinus once presumed to say, that he believed St. Faelix did love him; at least, as a master loves his little dog.]

[Footnote 125: See Jornandes, de Reb. Get. c. 30, p. 653. Philostorgius,

l. xii. c. 3. Augustin. de Civ. Dei, l.i.c. 10. Baronius, Annal. Eccles. a.D. 410, No. 45, 46.]

[Footnote 126: The platanus, or plane-tree, was a favorite of the ancients, by whom it was propagated, for the sake of shade, from the east to Gaul. Plin. Hist. Natur. xii. 3, 4, 5. He mentions several of an enormous size; one in the Imperial villa, at Velitrae, which Caligula called his nest, as the branches were capable of holding a large table, the proper attendants, and the emperor himself, whom Pliny quaintly

styles pars umbroe; an expression which might, with equal reason, be applied to Alaric]

[Footnote 127: The prostrate South to the destroyer yields

Her boasted titles, and her golden fields;

With grim delight the brood of winter view

A brighter day, and skies of azure hue;

Scent the new fragrance of the opening rose,

And quaff the pendent vintage as it grows.

See Gray's Poems, published by Mr. Mason, p. 197. Instead of compiling tables of chronology and natural history, why did not Mr. Gray apply the powers of his genius to finish the philosophic poem, of which he has

left such an exquisite specimen?]

whether fame, or conquest, or riches, were the object or Alaric, he

pursued that object with an indefatigable ardor, which could neither be

quelled by adversity nor satiated by success. No sooner had he reached the extreme land of Italy, than he was attracted by the neighboring

prospect of a fertile and peaceful island. Yet even the possession

of Sicily he considered only as an intermediate step to the important expedition, which he already meditated against the continent of Africa. the Straits of Rhegium and Messina [128] are twelve miles in length, and, in the narrowest passage, about one mile and a half broad; and the fabulous monsters of the deep, the rocks of Scylla, and the whirlpool of charybdis, could terrify none but the most timid and unskilful mariners.

Yet as soon as the first division of the Goths had embarked, a sudden tempest arose, which sunk, or scattered, many of the transports; their courage was daunted by the terrors of a new element; and the whole design was defeated by the premature death of Alaric, which fixed, after a short illness, the fatal term of his conquests. The ferocious character of the Barbarians was displayed in the funeral of a hero whose

valor and fortune they celebrated with mournful applause. By the

labor of a captive multitude, they forcibly diverted the course of the busentinus, a small river that washes the walls of Consentia. The royal

sepulchre, adorned with the splendid spoils and trophies of Rome, was constructed in the vacant bed; the waters were then restored to their

natural channel; and the secret spot, where the remains of Alaric had been deposited, was forever concealed by the inhuman massacre of the

prisoners, who had been employed to execute the work. [129]

[Footnote 128: For the perfect description of the Straits of Messina,

Scylla, Clarybdis, &c., see Cluverius, (Ital. Antiq. l. iv. p. 1293, and

Sicilia Antiq. l. i. p. 60-76), who had diligently studied the ancients, and surveyed with a curious eye the actual face of the country.]

[Footnote 129: Jornandes, de Reb Get. c. 30, p. 654.]

chapter XXXI: Invasion Of Italy, Occupation Of Territories By barbarians.--Part V.

the personal animosities and hereditary feuds of the Barbarians were

suspended by the strong necessity of their affairs; and the brave adolphus, the brother-in-law of the deceased monarch, was unanimously elected to succeed to his throne. The character and political system

of the new king of the Goths may be best understood from his own conversation with an illustrious citizen of Narbonne; who afterwards, in a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, related it to St. Jerom, in the presence

of the historian Orosius. "In the full confidence of valor and victory,

I once aspired (said Adolphus) to change the face of the universe; to

obliterate the name of Rome; to erect on its ruins the dominion of the

Goths; and to acquire, like Augustus, the immortal fame of the founder

of a new empire. By repeated experiments, I was gradually convinced, that laws are essentially necessary to maintain and regulate a well-constituted state; and that the fierce, untractable humor of the

Goths was incapable of bearing the salutary yoke of laws and civil

government. From that moment I proposed to myself a different object of

glory and ambition; and it is now my sincere wish that the gratitude of future ages should acknowledge the merit of a stranger, who employed the sword of the Goths, not to subvert, but to restore and maintain, the prosperity of the Roman empire." [130] With these pacific views, the successor of Alaric suspended the operations of war; and seriously

negotiated with the Imperial court a treaty of friendship and alliance.

It was the interest of the ministers of Honorius, who were now released from the obligation of their extravagant oath, to deliver Italy from the

intolerable weight of the Gothic powers; and they readily accepted their

service against the tyrants and Barbarians who infested the provinces beyond the Alps. [131] Adolphus, assuming the character of a Roman

general, directed his march from the extremity of Campania to the

southern provinces of Gaul. His troops, either by force of agreement,

immediately occupied the cities of Narbonne, Thoulouse, and Bordeaux; and though they were repulsed by Count Boniface from the walls of

Marseilles, they soon extended their quarters from the Mediterranean to the Ocean.

the oppressed provincials might exclaim, that the miserable remnant, which the enemy had spared, was cruelly ravished by their pretended allies; yet some specious colors were not wanting to palliate, or

justify the violence of the Goths. The cities of Gaul, which they attacked, might perhaps be considered as in a state of rebellion against the government of Honorius: the articles of the treaty, or the secret

instructions of the court, might sometimes be alleged in favor of the seeming usurpations of Adolphus; and the guilt of any irregular,

unsuccessful act of hostility might always be imputed, with an appearance of truth, to the ungovernable spirit of a Barbarian host,

impatient of peace or discipline. The luxury of Italy had been less effectual to soften the temper, than to relax the courage, of the

Goths; and they had imbibed the vices, without imitating the arts and

institutions, of civilized society. [132]

[Footnote 130: Orosius, l. vii. c. 43, p. 584, 585. He was sent by St. augustin in the year 415, from Africa to Palestine, to visit St. Jerom, and to consult with him on the subject of the Pelagian controversy.]

[Footnote 131: Jornandes supposes, without much probability, that adolphus visited and plundered Rome a second time, (more locustarum erasit) Yet he agrees with Orosius in supposing that a treaty of peace was concluded between the Gothic prince and Honorius. See Oros. l. vii. c. 43 p. 584, 585. Jornandes, de Reb. Geticis, c. 31, p. 654, 655.]

[Footnote 132: The retreat of the Goths from Italy, and their first transactions in Gaul, are dark and doubtful. I have derived much assistance from Mascou, (Hist. of the Ancient Germans, l. viii. c. 29,

35, 36, 37,) who has illustrated, and connected, the broken chronicles and fragments of the times.]

the professions of Adolphus were probably sincere, and his attachment to the cause of the republic was secured by the ascendant which a Roman

princess had acquired over the heart and understanding of the Barbarian

king. Placidia, [133] the daughter of the great Theodosius, and of

Galla, his second wife, had received a royal education in the palace of constantinople; but the eventful story of her life is connected with the revolutions which agitated the Western empire under the reign of her brother Honorius. When Rome was first invested by the arms of Alaric,

Placidia, who was then about twenty years of age, resided in the city; and her ready consent to the death of her cousin Serena has a cruel and ungrateful appearance, which, according to the circumstances of the action, may be aggravated, or excused, by the consideration of

her tender age. [134] The victorious Barbarians detained, either as a

hostage or a captive, [135] the sister of Honorius; but, while she was exposed to the disgrace of following round Italy the motions of a Gothic camp, she experienced, however, a decent and respectful treatment. The authority of Jornandes, who praises the beauty of Placidia, may perhaps be counterbalanced by the silence, the expressive silence, of her flatterers: yet the splendor of her birth, the bloom of youth, the elegance of manners, and the dexterous insinuation which she condescended to employ, made a deep impression on the mind of Adolphus; and the Gothic king aspired to call himself the brother of the emperor. the ministers of Honorius rejected with disdain the proposal of an alliance so injurious to every sentiment of Roman pride; and repeatedly

urged the restitution of Placidia, as an indispensable condition of the treaty of peace. But the daughter of Theodosius submitted, without

reluctance, to the desires of the conqueror, a young and valiant prince, who yielded to Alaric in loftiness of stature, but who excelled in the

more attractive qualities of grace and beauty. The marriage of Adolphus and Placidia [136] was consummated before the Goths retired from Italy; and the solemn, perhaps the anniversary day of their nuptials was afterwards celebrated in the house of Ingenuus, one of the most

illustrious citizens of Narbonne in Gaul. The bride, attired and adorned

like a Roman empress, was placed on a throne of state; and the king of the Goths, who assumed, on this occasion, the Roman habit, contented

himself with a less honorable seat by her side. The nuptial gift, which, according to the custom of his nation, [137] was offered to Placidia, consisted of the rare and magnificent spoils of her country. Fifty beautiful youths, in silken robes, carried a basin in each hand; and one

of these basins was filled with pieces of gold, the other with precious

stones of an inestimable value. Attalus, so long the sport of fortune, and of the Goths, was appointed to lead the chorus of the Hymeneal

song; and the degraded emperor might aspire to the praise of a skilful

musician. The Barbarians enjoyed the insolence of their triumph; and the provincials rejoiced in this alliance, which tempered, by the mild

influence of love and reason, the fierce spirit of their Gothic lord.

[138]

[Footnote 133: See an account of Placidia in Ducange Fam. Byzant. p. 72; and Tillemont, Hist. des Empereurs, tom. v. p. 260, 386, &c. tom. vi. p.

240.]

[Footnote 134: Zosim. l. v. p. 350.]

[Footnote 135: Zosim. l. vi. p. 383. Orosius, (l. vii. c. 40, p. 576,) and the Chronicles of Marcellinus and Idatius, seem to suppose, that the

Goths did not carry away Placidia till after the last siege of Rome.]

[Footnote 136: See the pictures of Adolphus and Placidia, and the account of their marriage, in Jornandes, de Reb. Geticis, c. 31, p. 654,

655. With regard to the place where the nuptials were stipulated, or consummated, or celebrated, the Mss. of Jornandes vary between two

neighboring cities, Forli and Imola, (Forum Livii and Forum Cornelii.)

It is fair and easy to reconcile the Gothic historian with Olympiodorus,

(see Mascou, l. viii. c. 46:) but Tillemont grows peevish, and swears that it is not worth while to try to conciliate Jornandes with any good authors.]

[Footnote 137: The Visigoths (the subjects of Adolphus) restrained by

subsequent laws, the prodigality of conjugal love. It was illegal for a husband to make any gift or settlement for the benefit of his wife during the first year of their marriage; and his liberality could not at any time exceed the tenth part of his property. The Lombards were

somewhat more indulgent: they allowed the morgingcap immediately after the wedding night; and this famous gift, the reward of virginity might equal the fourth part of the husband's substance. Some cautious maidens,

indeed, were wise enough to stipulate beforehand a present, which they were too sure of not deserving. See Montesquieu, Esprit des Loix, l.

xix. c. 25. Muratori, delle Antichita Italiane, tom. i. Dissertazion,

xx. p. 243.]

[Footnote 138: We owe the curious detail of this nuptial feast to the

historian Olympiodorus, ap. Photium, p. 185, 188.]

the hundred basins of gold and gems, presented to Placidia at her

nuptial feast, formed an inconsiderable portion of the Gothic treasures;

of which some extraordinary specimens may be selected from the history

of the successors of Adolphus. Many curious and costly ornaments of pure

gold, enriched with jewels, were found in their palace of Narbonne, when

it was pillaged, in the sixth century, by the Franks: sixty cups, caps,

or chalices; fifteen patens, or plates, for the use of the communion; twenty boxes, or cases, to hold the books of the Gospels: this consecrated wealth [139] was distributed by the son of Clovis among the churches of his dominions, and his pious liberality seems to upbraid

some former sacrilege of the Goths. They possessed, with more security

of conscience, the famous missorium, or great dish for the service of the table, of massy gold, of the weight of five hundred pounds, and of far superior value, from the precious stones, the exquisite workmanship, and the tradition, that it had been presented by Aetius, the patrician, to Torismond, king of the Goths. One of the successors of Torismond

purchased the aid of the French monarch by the promise of this

magnificent gift. When he was seated on the throne of Spain, he delivered it with reluctance to the ambassadors of Dagobert; despoiled them on the road; stipulated, after a long negotiation, the inadequate

ransom of two hundred thousand pieces of gold; and preserved the

missorium, as the pride of the Gothic treasury. [140] When that treasury, after the conquest of Spain, was plundered by the Arabs, they admired, and they have celebrated, another object still more remarkable; a table of considerable size, of one single piece of solid emerald,

[141] encircled with three rows of fine pearls, supported by three

hundred and sixty-five feet of gems and massy gold, and estimated at the

price of five hundred thousand pieces of gold. [142] Some portion of the Gothic treasures might be the gift of friendship, or the tribute

of obedience; but the far greater part had been the fruits of war and

rapine, the spoils of the empire, and perhaps of Rome.

[Footnote 139: See in the great collection of the Historians of France by Dom Bouquet, tom. ii. Greg. Turonens. l. iii. c. 10, p. 191. Gesta

Regum Francorum, c. 23, p. 557. The anonymous writer, with an ignorance worthy of his times, supposes that these instruments of Christian worship had belonged to the temple of Solomon. If he has any meaning it

must be, that they were found in the sack of Rome.]

[Footnote 140: Consult the following original testimonies in the

Historians of France, tom. ii. Fredegarii Scholastici Chron. c. 73, p.

441. Fredegar. Fragment. iii. p. 463. Gesta Regis Dagobert, c. 29, p.

587. The accession of Sisenand to the throne of Spain happened A.D.

631. The 200,000 pieces of gold were appropriated by Dagobert to the foundation of the church of St. Denys.]

[Footnote 141: The president Goguet (Origine des Loix, &c., tom. ii. p.

239) is of opinion, that the stupendous pieces of emerald, the

statues and columns which antiquity has placed in Egypt, at Gades, at Constantinople, were in reality artificial compositions of colored

glass. The famous emerald dish, which is shown at Genoa, is supposed to countenance the suspicion.]

[Footnote 142: Elmacin. Hist. Saracenica, l. i. p. 85. Roderic. Tolet.

Hist. Arab. c. 9. Cardonne, Hist. de l'Afrique et de l'Espagne sous les arabes tom. i. p. 83. It was called the Table of Solomon, according to the custom of the Orientals, who ascribe to that prince every ancient work of knowledge or magnificence.]

after the deliverance of Italy from the oppression of the Goths, some

secret counsellor was permitted, amidst the factions of the palace, to

heal the wounds of that afflicted country. [143] By a wise and humane

regulation, the eight provinces which had been the most deeply injured, campania, Tuscany, Picenum, Samnium, Apulia, Calabria, Bruttium, and

Lucania, obtained an indulgence of five years: the ordinary tribute was

reduced to one fifth, and even that fifth was destined to restore and

support the useful institution of the public posts. By another law, the lands which had been left without inhabitants or cultivation, were

granted, with some diminution of taxes, to the neighbors who should

occupy, or the strangers who should solicit them; and the new possessors were secured against the future claims of the fugitive proprietors. about the same time a general amnesty was published in the name of

Honorius, to abolish the guilt and memory of all the involuntary

offences which had been committed by his unhappy subjects, during the term of the public disorder and calamity A decent and respectful attention was paid to the restoration of the capital; the citizens were encouraged to rebuild the edifices which had been destroyed or damaged by hostile fire; and extraordinary supplies of corn were imported from the coast of Africa. The crowds that so lately fled before the sword of the Barbarians, were soon recalled by the hopes of plenty and pleasure; and Albinus, praefect of Rome, informed the court, with some anxiety and

surprise, that, in a single day, he had taken an account of the arrival

of fourteen thousand strangers. [144] In less than seven years, the

vestiges of the Gothic invasion were almost obliterated; and the city appeared to resume its former splendor and tranquillity. The venerable

matron replaced her crown of laurel, which had been ruffled by the

storms of war; and was still amused, in the last moment of her decay, with the prophecies of revenge, of victory, and of eternal dominion.

[145]

[Footnote 143: His three laws are inserted in the Theodosian Code, l.

xi. tit. xxviii. leg. 7. L. xiii. tit. xi. leg. 12. L. xv. tit. xiv.

leg. 14 The expressions of the last are very remarkable; since they contain not only a pardon, but an apology.]

[Footnote 144: Olympiodorus ap. Phot. p. 188. Philostorgius (l. xii. c.

5) observes, that when Honorius made his triumphal entry, he encouraged the Romans, with his hand and voice, to rebuild their city; and the Chronicle of Prosper commends Heraclian, qui in Romanae urbis

reparationem strenuum exhibuerat ministerium.]

[Footnote 145: The date of the voyage of Claudius Rutilius Numatianus

is clogged with some difficulties; but Scaliger has deduced from astronomical characters, that he left Rome the 24th of September and embarked at Porto the 9th of October, A.D. 416. See Tillemont, Hist. des empereurs, tom, v. p. 820. In this poetical Itinerary, Rutilius (l. i.

115, &c.) addresses Rome in a high strain of congratulation:--

erige crinales lauros, seniumque sacrati Verticis in virides, Roma,

recinge comas, &c.]

this apparent tranquillity was soon disturbed by the approach of a

hostile armament from the country which afforded the daily subsistence

of the Roman people. Heraclian, count of Africa, who, under the most difficult and distressful circumstances, had supported, with active

loyalty, the cause of Honorius, was tempted, in the year of his consulship, to assume the character of a rebel, and the title of emperor. The ports of Africa were immediately filled with the naval forces, at the head of which he prepared to invade Italy: and his fleet, when it cast anchor at the mouth of the Tyber, indeed surpassed the fleets of Xerxes and Alexander, if all the vessels, including the royal

galley, and the smallest boat, did actually amount to the incredible

number of three thousand two hundred. [146] Yet with such an armament, which might have subverted, or restored, the greatest empires of the earth, the African usurper made a very faint and feeble impression on the provinces of his rival. As he marched from the port, along the road which leads to the gates of Rome, he was encountered, terrified, and

routed, by one of the Imperial captains; and the lord of this mighty

host, deserting his fortune and his friends, ignominiously fled with a

single ship. [147] When Heraclian landed in the harbor of Carthage, he found that the whole province, disdaining such an unworthy ruler, had

returned to their allegiance. The rebel was beheaded in the ancient temple of Memory his consulship was abolished: [148] and the remains

of his private fortune, not exceeding the moderate sum of four thousand

pounds of gold, were granted to the brave Constantius, who had already defended the throne, which he afterwards shared with his feeble

sovereign. Honorius viewed, with supine indifference, the calamities

of Rome and Italy; [149] but the rebellious attempts of Attalus and

Heraclian, against his personal safety, awakened, for a moment, the torpid instinct of his nature. He was probably ignorant of the causes and events which preserved him from these impending dangers; and as

Italy was no longer invaded by any foreign or domestic enemies, he

peaceably existed in the palace of Ravenna, while the tyrants beyond the alps were repeatedly vanquished in the name, and by the lieutenants,

of the son of Theodosius. [150] In the course of a busy and interesting

narrative I might possibly forget to mention the death of such a prince: and I shall therefore take the precaution of observing, in this place, that he survived the last siege of Rome about thirteen years.

[Footnote 146: Orosius composed his history in Africa, only two years after the event; yet his authority seems to be overbalanced by the

improbability of the fact. The Chronicle of Marcellinus gives Heraclian

700 ships and 3000 men: the latter of these numbers is ridiculously corrupt; but the former would please me very much.]

[Footnote 147: The Chronicle of Idatius affirms, without the least appearance of truth, that he advanced as far as Otriculum, in Umbria, where he was overthrown in a great battle, with the loss of 50,000 men.]

[Footnote 148: See Cod. Theod. l. xv. tit. xiv. leg. 13. The legal acts

performed in his name, even the manumission of slaves, were declared

invalid, till they had been formally repeated.]

[Footnote 149: I have disdained to mention a very foolish, and probably a false, report, (Procop. de Bell. Vandal. l. i. c. 2,) that Honorius was alarmed by the loss of Rome, till he understood that it was not a favorite chicken of that name, but only the capital of the world, which had been lost. Yet even this story is some evidence of the public

opinion.]

[Footnote 150: The materials for the lives of all these tyrants are taken from six contemporary historians, two Latins and four Greeks:

Orosius, l. vii. c. 42, p. 581, 582, 583; Renatus Profuturus Frigeridus, apud Gregor Turon. l. ii. c. 9, in the Historians of France, tom. ii. p.

165, 166; Zosimus, l. v. p. 370, 371; Olympiodorus, apud Phot. p. 180,

181, 184, 185; Sozomen, l. ix. c. 12, 13, 14, 15; and Philostorgius, l.

xii. c. 5, 6, with Godefroy's Dissertation, p. 477-481; besides the four Chronicles of Prosper Tyro, Prosper of Aquitain, Idatius, and

Marcellinus.]

the usurpation of Constantine, who received the purple from the legions

of Britain, had been successful, and seemed to be secure. His title was acknowledged, from the wall of Antoninus to the columns of Hercules; and, in the midst of the public disorder he shared the dominion, and the plunder, of Gaul and Spain, with the tribes of Barbarians, whose destructive progress was no longer checked by the Rhine or Pyrenees.

Stained with the blood of the kinsmen of Honorius, he extorted, from the court of Ravenna, with which he secretly corresponded, the ratification

of his rebellious claims Constantine engaged himself, by a solemn

promise, to deliver Italy from the Goths; advanced as far as the banks

of the Po; and after alarming, rather than assisting, his pusillanimous ally, hastily returned to the palace of Arles, to celebrate, with

intemperate luxury, his vain and ostentatious triumph. But this transient prosperity was soon interrupted and destroyed by the revolt of count Gerontius, the bravest of his generals; who, during the absence of

his son Constants, a prince already invested with the Imperial purple,

had been left to command in the provinces of Spain. From some reason, of which we are ignorant, Gerontius, instead of assuming the diadem,

placed it on the head of his friend Maximus, who fixed his residence at Tarragona, while the active count pressed forwards, through the

Pyrenees, to surprise the two emperors, Constantine and Constans, before they could prepare for their defence. The son was made prisoner at

Vienna, and immediately put to death: and the unfortunate youth had

scarcely leisure to deplore the elevation of his family; which had tempted, or compelled him, sacrilegiously to desert the peaceful

obscurity of the monastic life. The father maintained a siege within the walls of Arles; but those walls must have yielded to the assailants, had

not the city been unexpectedly relieved by the approach of an Italian army. The name of Honorius, the proclamation of a lawful emperor, astonished the contending parties of the rebels. Gerontius, abandoned by

his own troops, escaped to the confines of Spain; and rescued his name from oblivion, by the Roman courage which appeared to animate the last

moments of his life. In the middle of the night, a great body of his

perfidious soldiers surrounded and attacked his house, which he had

strongly barricaded. His wife, a valiant friend of the nation of the alani, and some faithful slaves, were still attached to his person; and

he used, with so much skill and resolution, a large magazine of darts and arrows, that above three hundred of the assailants lost their lives

in the attempt. His slaves when all the missile weapons were spent, fled at the dawn of day; and Gerontius, if he had not been restrained by conjugal tenderness, might have imitated their example; till the

soldiers, provoked by such obstinate resistance, applied fire on all

sides to the house. In this fatal extremity, he complied with the

request of his Barbarian friend, and cut off his head. The wife of

Gerontius, who conjured him not to abandon her to a life of misery and disgrace, eagerly presented her neck to his sword; and the tragic scene was terminated by the death of the count himself, who, after three

ineffectual strokes, drew a short dagger, and sheathed it in his heart.

[151] The unprotected Maximus, whom he had invested with the purple, was

indebted for his life to the contempt that was entertained of his power and abilities. The caprice of the Barbarians, who ravaged Spain, once

more seated this Imperial phantom on the throne: but they soon resigned

him to the justice of Honorius; and the tyrant Maximus, after he had been shown to the people of Ravenna and Rome, was publicly executed.

[Footnote 151: The praises which Sozomen has bestowed on this act of despair, appear strange and scandalous in the mouth of an ecclesiastical

historian. He observes (p. 379) that the wife of Gerontius was a christian; and that her death was worthy of her religion, and of

immortal fame.]

the general, (Constantius was his name,) who raised by his approach the siege of Arles, and dissipated the troops of Gerontius, was born a Roman; and this remarkable distinction is strongly expressive of the decay of military spirit among the subjects of the empire. The strength and majesty which were conspicuous in the person of that general, [152]

marked him, in the popular opinion, as a candidate worthy of the throne, which he afterwards ascended. In the familiar intercourse of private

life, his manners were cheerful and engaging; nor would he sometimes disdain, in the license of convivial mirth, to vie with the pantomimes themselves, in the exercises of their ridiculous profession. But when the trumpet summoned him to arms; when he mounted his horse, and, bending down (for such was his singular practice) almost upon the neck, fiercely rolled his large animated eyes round the field, Constantius then struck terror into his foes, and inspired his soldiers with the assurance of victory. He had received from the court of Ravenna the

important commission of extirpating rebellion in the provinces of the west; and the pretended emperor Constantine, after enjoying a short and anxious respite, was again besieged in his capital by the arms of a

more formidable enemy. Yet this interval allowed time for a successful

negotiation with the Franks and Alemanni and his ambassador, Edobic,

soon returned at the head of an army, to disturb the operations of the

siege of Arles. The Roman general, instead of expecting the attack in

his lines, boldly and perhaps wisely, resolved to pass the Rhone, and to

meet the Barbarians. His measures were conducted with so much skill and

secrecy, that, while they engaged the infantry of Constantius in the front, they were suddenly attacked, surrounded, and destroyed, by the cavalry of his lieutenant Ulphilas, who had silently gained an advantageous post in their rear. The remains of the army of Edobic were

preserved by flight or submission, and their leader escaped from the field of battle to the house of a faithless friend; who too clearly

understood, that the head of his obnoxious guest would be an acceptable and lucrative present for the Imperial general. On this occasion, constantius behaved with the magnanimity of a genuine Roman. Subduing,

or suppressing, every sentiment of jealousy, he publicly acknowledged the merit and services of Ulphilas; but he turned with horror from the assassin of Edobic; and sternly intimated his commands, that the camp

should no longer be polluted by the presence of an ungrateful wretch, who had violated the laws of friendship and hospitality. The usurper, who beheld, from the walls of Arles, the ruin of his last hopes, was tempted to place some confidence in so generous a conqueror. He

required a solemn promise for his security; and after receiving, by the

imposition of hands, the sacred character of a Christian Presbyter, he

ventured to open the gates of the city. But he soon experienced that the principles of honor and integrity, which might regulate the ordinary conduct of Constantius, were superseded by the loose doctrines of

political morality. The Roman general, indeed, refused to sully his

laurels with the blood of Constantine; but the abdicated emperor, and

his son Julian, were sent under a strong guard into Italy; and before they reached the palace of Ravenna, they met the ministers of death.

[Footnote 152: It is the expression of Olympiodorus, which he seems to have borrowed from Aeolus, a tragedy of Euripides, of which some fragments only are now extant, (Euripid. Barnes, tom. ii. p. 443, ver

38.) This allusion may prove, that the ancient tragic poets were still familiar to the Greeks of the fifth century.]

at a time when it was universally confessed, that almost every man

in the empire was superior in personal merit to the princes whom the accident of their birth had seated on the throne, a rapid succession of

usurpers, regardless of the fate of their predecessors, still continued to arise. This mischief was peculiarly felt in the provinces of

Spain and Gaul, where the principles of order and obedience had been extinguished by war and rebellion. Before Constantine resigned the

purple, and in the fourth month of the siege of Arles, intelligence was

received in the Imperial camp, that Jovinus has assumed the diadem at

Mentz, in the Upper Germany, at the instigation of Goar, king of the Alani, and of Guntiarius, king of the Burgundians; and that the candidate, on whom they had bestowed the empire, advanced with a formidable host of Barbarians, from the banks of the Rhine to those of the Rhone. Every circumstance is dark and extraordinary in the short

history of the reign of Jovinus. It was natural to expect, that a brave and skilful general, at the head of a victorious army, would have asserted, in a field of battle, the justice of the cause of Honorius. the hasty retreat of Constantius might be justified by weighty reasons; but he resigned, without a struggle, the possession of Gaul; and dardanus, the Praetorian praefect, is recorded as the only magistrate who refused to yield obedience to the usurper. [153] When the Goths, two

years after the siege of Rome, established their quarters in Gaul, it was natural to suppose that their inclinations could be divided only between the emperor Honorius, with whom they had formed a recent alliance, and the degraded Attalus, whom they reserved in their camp for the occasional purpose of acting the part of a musician or a monarch.

Yet in a moment of disgust, (for which it is not easy to assign a cause,

or a date,) Adolphus connected himself with the usurper of Gaul; and

imposed on Attalus the ignominious task of negotiating the treaty, which

ratified his own disgrace. We are again surprised to read, that, instead

of considering the Gothic alliance as the firmest support of his throne, Jovinus upbraided, in dark and ambiguous language, the officious

importunity of Attalus; that, scorning the advice of his great ally,

he invested with the purple his brother Sebastian; and that he most

imprudently accepted the service of Sarus, when that gallant chief, the

soldier of Honorius, was provoked to desert the court of a prince, who

knew not how to reward or punish. Adolphus, educated among a race of warriors, who esteemed the duty of revenge as the most precious and

sacred portion of their inheritance, advanced with a body of ten thousand Goths to encounter the hereditary enemy of the house of Balti.

He attacked Sarus at an unguarded moment, when he was accompanied only by eighteen or twenty of his valiant followers. United by friendship, animated by despair, but at length oppressed by multitudes, this band

of heroes deserved the esteem, without exciting the compassion, of their enemies; and the lion was no sooner taken in the toils, [154] than

he was instantly despatched. The death of Sarus dissolved the loose alliance which Adolphus still maintained with the usurpers of Gaul. He again listened to the dictates of love and prudence; and soon satisfied the brother of Placidia, by the assurance that he would immediately transmit to the palace of Ravenna the heads of the two tyrants, Jovinus and Sebastian. The king of the Goths executed his promise without difficulty or delay; the helpless brothers, unsupported by any personal

merit, were abandoned by their Barbarian auxiliaries; and the short

opposition of Valentia was expiated by the ruin of one of the noblest cities of Gaul. The emperor, chosen by the Roman senate, who had been

promoted, degraded, insulted, restored, again degraded, and again

insulted, was finally abandoned to his fate; but when the Gothic king withdrew his protection, he was restrained, by pity or contempt, from

offering any violence to the person of Attalus. The unfortunate Attalus, who was left without subjects or allies, embarked in one of the ports

of Spain, in search of some secure and solitary retreat: but he was

intercepted at sea, conducted to the presence of Honorius, led in triumph through the streets of Rome or Ravenna, and publicly exposed to the gazing multitude, on the second step of the throne of his invincible conqueror. The same measure of punishment, with which, in the days of

his prosperity, he was accused of menacing his rival, was inflicted on attalus himself; he was condemned, after the amputation of two fingers, to a perpetual exile in the Isle of Lipari, where he was supplied with the decent necessaries of life. The remainder of the reign of Honorius was undisturbed by rebellion; and it may be observed, that, in the space

of five years, seven usurpers had yielded to the fortune of a prince, who was himself incapable either of counsel or of action.

[Footnote 153: Sidonius Apollinaris, (l. v. epist. 9, p. 139, and Not.

Sirmond. p. 58,) after stigmatizing the inconstancy of Constantine, the facility of Jovinus, the perfidy of Gerontius, continues to observe, that all the vices of these tyrants were united in the person of dardanus. Yet the praefect supported a respectable character in the world, and even in the church; held a devout correspondence with St. augustin and St. Jerom; and was complimented by the latter (tom. iii.

p. 66) with the epithets of Christianorum Nobilissime, and Nobilium christianissime.]

[Footnote 154: The expression may be understood almost literally:

Olympiodorus says a sack, or a loose garment; and this method of entangling and catching an enemy, laciniis contortis, was much practised by the Huns, (Ammian. xxxi. 2.) Il fut pris vif avec des filets, is the translation of Tillemont, Hist. des Empereurs, tom. v. p. 608. \* Note: bekker in his Photius reads something, but in the new edition of the bysantines, he retains the old version, which is translated Scutis, as

if they protected him with their shields, in order to take him alive.

Photius, Bekker, p. 58.--M]

chapter XXXI: Invasion Of Italy, Occupation Of Territories By barbarians.--Part VI.

the situation of Spain, separated, on all sides, from the enemies of

Rome, by the sea, by the mountains, and by intermediate provinces, had

secured the long tranquillity of that remote and sequestered country; and we may observe, as a sure symptom of domestic happiness, that, in a

period of four hundred years, Spain furnished very few materials to the

history of the Roman empire. The footsteps of the Barbarians, who, in the reign of Gallienus, had penetrated beyond the Pyrenees, were soon

obliterated by the return of peace; and in the fourth century of the christian aera, the cities of Emerita, or Merida, of Corduba, Seville, bracara, and Tarragona, were numbered with the most illustrious of the

Roman world. The various plenty of the animal, the vegetable, and the

mineral kingdoms, was improved and manufactured by the skill of an industrious people; and the peculiar advantages of naval stores contributed to support an extensive and profitable trade. [155] The arts and sciences flourished under the protection of the emperors; and if the character of the Spaniards was enfeebled by peace and servitude, the

hostile approach of the Germans, who had spread terror and desolation from the Rhine to the Pyrenees, seemed to rekindle some sparks of

military ardor. As long as the defence of the mountains was intrusted to the hardy and faithful militia of the country, they successfully

repelled the frequent attempts of the Barbarians. But no sooner had the national troops been compelled to resign their post to the Honorian bands, in the service of Constantine, than the gates of Spain were treacherously betrayed to the public enemy, about ten months before the

sack of Rome by the Goths. [156] The consciousness of guilt, and the thirst of rapine, prompted the mercenary guards of the Pyrenees to desert their station; to invite the arms of the Suevi, the Vandals, and the Alani; and to swell the torrent which was poured with irresistible

violence from the frontiers of Gaul to the sea of Africa. The

misfortunes of Spain may be described in the language of its most eloquent historian, who has concisely expressed the passionate, and

perhaps exaggerated, declamations of contemporary writers. [157] "The

irruption of these nations was followed by the most dreadful calamities; as the Barbarians exercised their indiscriminate cruelty on the fortunes

of the Romans and the Spaniards, and ravaged with equal fury the cities and the open country. The progress of famine reduced the miserable

inhabitants to feed on the flesh of their fellow-creatures; and even the wild beasts, who multiplied, without control, in the desert, were exasperated, by the taste of blood, and the impatience of hunger, boldly to attack and devour their human prey. Pestilence soon appeared, the

inseparable companion of famine; a large proportion of the people was

swept away; and the groans of the dying excited only the envy of their

surviving friends. At length the Barbarians, satiated with carnage and

rapine, and afflicted by the contagious evils which they themselves had

introduced, fixed their permanent seats in the depopulated country. The ancient Gallicia, whose limits included the kingdom of Old Castille, was divided between the Suevi and the Vandals; the Alani were scattered over the provinces of Carthagena and Lusitania, from the Mediterranean to the atlantic Ocean; and the fruitful territory of Boetica was allotted to the Silingi, another branch of the Vandalic nation. After regulating this partition, the conquerors contracted with their new subjects some

reciprocal engagements of protection and obedience: the lands were again cultivated; and the towns and villages were again occupied by a captive

people. The greatest part of the Spaniards was even disposed to prefer this new condition of poverty and barbarism, to the severe oppressions

of the Roman government; yet there were many who still asserted their

native freedom; and who refused, more especially in the mountains of

Gallicia, to submit to the Barbarian yoke." [158]

[Footnote 155: Without recurring to the more ancient writers, I shall

quote three respectable testimonies which belong to the fourth and

seventh centuries; the Expositio totius Mundi, (p. 16, in the third

volume of Hudson's Minor Geographers,) Ausonius, (de Claris Urbibus,

p. 242, edit. Toll.,) and Isidore of Seville, (Praefat. ad. Chron. ap.

Grotium, Hist. Goth. 707.) Many particulars relative to the fertility and trade of Spain may be found in Nonnius, Hispania Illustrata; and in

Huet, Hist. du Commerce des Anciens, c. 40. p. 228-234.]

[Footnote 156: The date is accurately fixed in the Fasti, and the chronicle of Idatius. Orosius (l. vii. c. 40, p. 578) imputes the loss

of Spain to the treachery of the Honorians; while Sozomen (l. ix. c. 12) accuses only their negligence.]

[Footnote 157: Idatius wishes to apply the prophecies of Daniel to these national calamities; and is therefore obliged to accommodate the circumstances of the event to the terms of the prediction.]

[Footnote 158: Mariana de Rebus Hispanicis, l. v. c. 1, tom. i. p. 148. comit. 1733. He had read, in Orosius, (l. vii. c. 41, p. 579,) that the barbarians had turned their swords into ploughshares; and that many of the Provincials had preferred inter Barbaros pauperem libertatem, quam

inter Romanos tributariam solicitudinem, sustinere.]

the important present of the heads of Jovinus and Sebastian had approved the friendship of Adolphus, and restored Gaul to the obedience of his brother Honorius. Peace was incompatible with the situation and temper

of the king of the Goths. He readily accepted the proposal of turning

his victorious arms against the Barbarians of Spain; the troops of constantius intercepted his communication with the seaports of Gaul, and gently pressed his march towards the Pyrenees: [159] he passed the mountains, and surprised, in the name of the emperor, the city of barcelona. The fondness of Adolphus for his Roman bride, was not abated by time or possession: and the birth of a son, surnamed, from his

illustrious grandsire, Theodosius, appeared to fix him forever in the

interest of the republic. The loss of that infant, whose remains were deposited in a silver coffin in one of the churches near Barcelona, afflicted his parents; but the grief of the Gothic king was suspended by the labors of the field; and the course of his victories was soon

interrupted by domestic treason.

He had imprudently received into his service one of the followers of

Sarus; a Barbarian of a daring spirit, but of a diminutive stature; whose secret desire of revenging the death of his beloved patron was continually irritated by the sarcasms of his insolent master. Adolphus was assassinated in the palace of Barcelona; the laws of the succession were violated by a tumultuous faction; [160] and a stranger to the royal

race, Singeric, the brother of Sarus himself, was seated on the Gothic throne. The first act of his reign was the inhuman murder of the six children of Adolphus, the issue of a former marriage, whom he tore, without pity, from the feeble arms of a venerable bishop. [161] The

unfortunate Placidia, instead of the respectful compassion, which she

might have excited in the most savage breasts, was treated with cruel and wanton insult. The daughter of the emperor Theodosius, confounded among a crowd of vulgar captives, was compelled to march on foot above twelve miles, before the horse of a Barbarian, the assassin of a husband whom Placidia loved and lamented. [162]

[Footnote 159: This mixture of force and persuasion may be fairly

inferred from comparing Orosius and Jornandes, the Roman and the Gothic

historian.]

[Footnote 160: According to the system of Jornandes, (c. 33, p. 659,) the true hereditary right to the Gothic sceptre was vested in the Amali; but those princes, who were the vassals of the Huns, commanded the tribes of the Ostrogoths in some distant parts of Germany or Scythia.]

[Footnote 161: The murder is related by Olympiodorus: but the number of the children is taken from an epitaph of suspected authority.]

[Footnote 162: The death of Adolphus was celebrated at Constantinople with illuminations and Circensian games. (See Chron. Alexandrin.) It

may seem doubtful whether the Greeks were actuated, on this occasion, be their hatred of the Barbarians, or of the Latins.]

but Placidia soon obtained the pleasure of revenge, and the view of

her ignominious sufferings might rouse an indignant people against the tyrant, who was assassinated on the seventh day of his usurpation. After the death of Singeric, the free choice of the nation bestowed the Gothic

sceptre on Wallia; whose warlike and ambitious temper appeared, in the beginning of his reign, extremely hostile to the republic. He marched

in arms from Barcelona to the shores of the Atlantic Ocean, which the ancients revered and dreaded as the boundary of the world. But when he

reached the southern promontory of Spain, [163] and, from the rock now covered by the fortress of Gibraltar, contemplated the neighboring and fertile coast of Africa, Wallia resumed the designs of conquest, which

had been interrupted by the death of Alaric. The winds and waves again disappointed the enterprise of the Goths; and the minds of a

superstitious people were deeply affected by the repeated disasters of

storms and shipwrecks. In this disposition the successor of Adolphus

no longer refused to listen to a Roman ambassador, whose proposals were enforced by the real, or supposed, approach of a numerous army, under the conduct of the brave Constantius. A solemn treaty was stipulated and

observed; Placidia was honorably restored to her brother; six hundred thousand measures of wheat were delivered to the hungry Goths; [164] and wallia engaged to draw his sword in the service of the empire. A bloody war was instantly excited among the Barbarians of Spain; and the contending princes are said to have addressed their letters, their ambassadors, and their hostages, to the throne of the Western emperor, exhorting him to remain a tranquil spectator of their contest; the events of which must be favorable to the Romans, by the mutual

slaughter of their common enemies. [165] The Spanish war was obstinately

supported, during three campaigns, with desperate valor, and various

success; and the martial achievements of Wallia diffused through the empire the superior renown of the Gothic hero. He exterminated the

Silingi, who had irretrievably ruined the elegant plenty of the province

of Boetica. He slew, in battle, the king of the Alani; and the remains

of those Scythian wanderers, who escaped from the field, instead of choosing a new leader, humbly sought a refuge under the standard of the

Vandals, with whom they were ever afterwards confounded. The Vandals themselves, and the Suevi, yielded to the efforts of the invincible

Goths. The promiscuous multitude of Barbarians, whose retreat had been

intercepted, were driven into the mountains of Gallicia; where they

still continued, in a narrow compass and on a barren soil, to exercise their domestic and implacable hostilities. In the pride of victory, wallia was faithful to his engagements: he restored his Spanish conquests to the obedience of Honorius; and the tyranny of the Imperial

officers soon reduced an oppressed people to regret the time of their barbarian servitude. While the event of the war was still doubtful, the first advantages obtained by the arms of Wallia had encouraged the court

of Ravenna to decree the honors of a triumph to their feeble sovereign.

He entered Rome like the ancient conquerors of nations; and if the

monuments of servile corruption had not long since met with the fate which they deserved, we should probably find that a crowd of poets and

orators, of magistrates and bishops, applauded the fortune, the wisdom, and the invincible courage, of the emperor Honorius. [166]

[Footnote 163:

Quod Tartessiacis avus hujus Vallia terris

Vandalicas turmas, et juncti Martis Alanos

Stravit, et occiduam texere cadavera Calpen.

Sidon. Apollinar. in Panegyr. Anthem. 363 p. 300, edit. Sirmond.]

[Footnote 164: This supply was very acceptable: the Goths were insulted by the Vandals of Spain with the epithet of Truli, because in their extreme distress, they had given a piece of gold for a trula, or about

half a pound of flour. Olympiod. apud Phot. p. 189.]

[Footnote 165: Orosius inserts a copy of these pretended letters.

tu cum omnibus pacem habe, omniumque obsides accipe; nos nobis confligimus nobis perimus, tibi vincimus; immortalis vero quaestus erit

Reipublicae tuae, si utrique pereamus. The idea is just; but I cannot

persuade myself that it was entertained or expressed by the Barbarians.]

[Footnote 166: Roman triumphans ingreditur, is the formal expression of

Prosper's Chronicle. The facts which relate to the death of Adolphus, and the exploits of Wallia, are related from Olympiodorus, (ap. Phot. p.

188,) Orosius, (l. vii. c. 43 p. 584-587,) Jornandes, (de Rebus p. 31,

32,) and the chronicles of Idatius and Isidore.]

Such a triumph might have been justly claimed by the ally of Rome, if wallia, before he repassed the Pyrenees, had extirpated the seeds of the Spanish war. His victorious Goths, forty-three years after they had

passed the Danube, were established, according to the faith of treaties,

in the possession of the second Aquitain; a maritime province between the Garonne and the Loire, under the civil and ecclesiastical

jurisdiction of Bourdeaux. That metropolis, advantageously situated for the trade of the ocean, was built in a regular and elegant form; and its

numerous inhabitants were distinguished among the Gauls by their wealth, their learning, and the politeness of their manners. The adjacent

province, which has been fondly compared to the garden of Eden, is blessed with a fruitful soil, and a temperate climate; the face of the country displayed the arts and the rewards of industry; and the Goths, after their martial toils, luxuriously exhausted the rich vineyards of aquitain. [167] The Gothic limits were enlarged by the additional gift

of some neighboring dioceses; and the successors of Alaric fixed their

royal residence at Thoulouse, which included five populous quarters, or cities, within the spacious circuit of its walls. About the same time,

in the last years of the reign of Honorius, the Goths, the Burgundians, and the Franks, obtained a permanent seat and dominion in the provinces

of Gaul. The liberal grant of the usurper Jovinus to his Burgundian allies, was confirmed by the lawful emperor; the lands of the First,

or Upper, Germany, were ceded to those formidable Barbarians; and they

gradually occupied, either by conquest or treaty, the two provinces which still retain, with the titles of Duchy and County, the national appellation of Burgundy. [168] The Franks, the valiant and faithful allies of the Roman republic, were soon tempted to imitate the invaders, whom they had so bravely resisted. Treves, the capital of Gaul, was

pillaged by their lawless bands; and the humble colony, which they so

long maintained in the district of Toxandia, in Brabant, insensibly

multiplied along the banks of the Meuse and Scheld, till their

independent power filled the whole extent of the Second, or Lower

Germany. These facts may be sufficiently justified by historic evidence; but the foundation of the French monarchy by Pharamond, the conquests, the laws, and even the existence, of that hero, have been justly arraigned by the impartial severity of modern criticism. [169]

[Footnote 167: Ausonius (de Claris Urbibus, p. 257-262) celebrates bourdeaux with the partial affection of a native. See in Salvian (de

Gubern. Dei, p. 228. Paris, 1608) a florid description of the provinces

of Aquitain and Novempopulania.]

[Footnote 168: Orosius (l. vii. c. 32, p. 550) commends the mildness and modesty of these Burgundians, who treated their subjects of Gaul as their Christian brethren. Mascou has illustrated the origin of their kingdom in the four first annotations at the end of his laborious

History of the Ancient Germans, vol. ii. p. 555-572, of the English translation.]

[Footnote 169: See Mascou, l. viii. c. 43, 44, 45. Except in a short and

suspicious line of the Chronicle of Prosper, (in tom. i. p. 638,) the

name of Pharamond is never mentioned before the seventh century. The author of the Gesta Francorum (in tom. ii. p. 543) suggests, probably enough, that the choice of Pharamond, or at least of a king, was

recommended to the Franks by his father Marcomir, who was an exile in tuscany. Note: The first mention of Pharamond is in the Gesta Francorum, assigned to about the year 720. St. Martin, iv. 469. The modern French writers in general subscribe to the opinion of Thierry: Faramond fils de

Markomir, quo que son nom soit bien germanique, et son regne possible,

ne figure pas dans les histoires les plus dignes de foi. A. Thierry,

Lettres l'Histoire de France, p. 90.--M.]

the ruin of the opulent provinces of Gaul may be dated from the establishment of these Barbarians, whose alliance was dangerous and

oppressive, and who were capriciously impelled, by interest or passion, to violate the public peace. A heavy and partial ransom was imposed on the surviving provincials, who had escaped the calamities of war; the fairest and most fertile lands were assigned to the rapacious strangers, for the use of their families, their slaves, and their cattle; and the trembling natives relinquished with a sigh the inheritance of their fathers. Yet these domestic misfortunes, which are seldom the lot of a

vanquished people, had been felt and inflicted by the Romans themselves,

not only in the insolence of foreign conquest, but in the madness of civil discord. The Triumvirs proscribed eighteen of the most flourishing colonies of Italy; and distributed their lands and houses to the

veterans who revenged the death of Caesar, and oppressed the liberty

of their country. Two poets of unequal fame have deplored, in similar circumstances, the loss of their patrimony; but the legionaries of augustus appear to have surpassed, in violence and injustice, the barbarians who invaded Gaul under the reign of Honorius. It was not without the utmost difficulty that Virgil escaped from the sword of the centurion, who had usurped his farm in the neighborhood of Mantua;

[170] but Paulinus of Bourdeaux received a sum of money from his Gothic

purchaser, which he accepted with pleasure and surprise; and though it was much inferior to the real value of his estate, this act of rapine was disguised by some colors of moderation and equity. [171] The odious

name of conquerors was softened into the mild and friendly appellation

of the guests of the Romans; and the Barbarians of Gaul, more especially the Goths, repeatedly declared, that they were bound to the people by the ties of hospitality, and to the emperor by the duty of allegiance and military service. The title of Honorius and his successors, their

laws, and their civil magistrates, were still respected in the provinces

of Gaul, of which they had resigned the possession to the Barbarian allies; and the kings, who exercised a supreme and independent authority

over their native subjects, ambitiously solicited the more honorable

rank of master-generals of the Imperial armies. [172] Such was the

involuntary reverence which the Roman name still impressed on the minds

of those warriors, who had borne away in triumph the spoils of the capitol.

[Footnote 170: O Lycida, vivi pervenimus: advena nostri (Quod nunquam

veriti sumus) ut possessor agelli Diseret: Haec mea sunt; veteres

migrate coloni. Nunc victi tristes, &c.----See the whole of the ninth eclogue, with the useful Commentary of Servius. Fifteen miles of the

Mantuan territory were assigned to the veterans, with a reservation, in favor of the inhabitants, of three miles round the city. Even in this favor they were cheated by Alfenus Varus, a famous lawyer, and one

of the commissioners, who measured eight hundred paces of water and

morass.]

[Footnote 171: See the remarkable passage of the Eucharisticon of

Paulinus, 575, apud Mascou, l. viii. c. 42.]

[Footnote 172: This important truth is established by the accuracy of tillemont, (Hist. des Emp. tom. v. p. 641,) and by the ingenuity of the abbe Dubos, (Hist. de l'Etablissement de la Monarchie Francoise dans les

Gaules, tom. i. p. 259.)]

whilst Italy was ravaged by the Goths, and a succession of feeble tyrants oppressed the provinces beyond the Alps, the British island

separated itself from the body of the Roman empire. The regular forces, which guarded that remote province, had been gradually withdrawn; and britain was abandoned without defence to the Saxon pirates, and the savages of Ireland and Caledonia. The Britons, reduced to this extremity, no longer relied on the tardy and doubtful aid of a declining

monarchy. They assembled in arms, repelled the invaders, and rejoiced

in the important discovery of their own strength. [173] Afflicted by

similar calamities, and actuated by the same spirit, the Armorican

provinces (a name which comprehended the maritime countries of Gaul between the Seine and the Loire [174) resolved to imitate the example of the neighboring island. They expelled the Roman magistrates, who acted

under the authority of the usurper Constantine; and a free government was established among a people who had so long been subject to the arbitrary will of a master. The independence of Britain and Armorica was

soon confirmed by Honorius himself, the lawful emperor of the West; and the letters, by which he committed to the new states the care of their

own safety, might be interpreted as an absolute and perpetual abdication

of the exercise and rights of sovereignty. This interpretation was, in

some measure, justified by the event.

after the usurpers of Gaul had successively fallen, the maritime

provinces were restored to the empire. Yet their obedience was imperfect and precarious: the vain, inconstant, rebellious disposition of the

people, was incompatible either with freedom or servitude; [175] and armorica, though it could not long maintain the form of a republic,

[176] was agitated by frequent and destructive revolts. Britain was

irrecoverably lost. [177] But as the emperors wisely acquiesced in the

independence of a remote province, the separation was not imbittered by the reproach of tyranny or rebellion; and the claims of allegiance and protection were succeeded by the mutual and voluntary offices of

national friendship. [178]

[Footnote 173: Zosimus (l. vi. 376, 383) relates in a few words the

revolt of Britain and Armorica. Our antiquarians, even the great Cambder

himself, have been betrayed into many gross errors, by their imperfect

knowledge of the history of the continent.]

[Footnote 174: The limits of Armorica are defined by two national

geographers, Messieurs De Valois and D'Anville, in their Notitias

of Ancient Gaul. The word had been used in a more extensive, and was afterwards contracted to a much narrower, signification.]

[Footnote 175: Gens inter geminos notissima clauditur amnes,

Armoricana prius veteri cognomine dicta.

Torva, ferox, ventosa, procax, incauta, rebellis;

Inconstans, disparque sibi novitatis amore;

Prodiga verborum, sed non et prodiga facti.

erricus, Monach. in Vit. St. Germani. l. v. apud Vales. Notit.

Galliarum, p. 43. Valesius alleges several testimonies to confirm this character; to which I shall add the evidence of the presbyter constantine, (A.D. 488,) who, in the life of St. Germain, calls the armorican rebels mobilem et indisciplinatum populum. See the Historians

of France, tom. i. p. 643.]

[Footnote 176: I thought it necessary to enter my protest against this part of the system of the Abbe Dubos, which Montesquieu has so

vigorously opposed. See Esprit des Loix, l. xxx. c. 24. Note: See

Memoires de Gallet sur l'Origine des Bretons, quoted by Daru Histoire de Bretagne, i. p. 57. According to the opinion of these authors, the government of Armorica was monarchical from the period of its

independence on the Roman empire.--M.]

[Footnote 177: The words of Procopius (de Bell. Vandal. l. i. c. 2, p.

181, Louvre edition) in a very important passage, which has been too

much neglected Even Bede (Hist. Gent. Anglican. l. i. c. 12, p. 50, edit. Smith) acknowledges that the Romans finally left Britain in the

reign of Honorius. Yet our modern historians and antiquaries extend the term of their dominion; and there are some who allow only the interval

of a few months between their departure and the arrival of the Saxons.]

[Footnote 178: Bede has not forgotten the occasional aid of the legions against the Scots and Picts; and more authentic proof will hereafter be

produced, that the independent Britons raised 12,000 men for the service

of the emperor Anthemius, in Gaul.]

this revolution dissolved the artificial fabric of civil and military

government; and the independent country, during a period of forty

years, till the descent of the Saxons, was ruled by the authority of the clergy, the nobles, and the municipal towns. [179] I. Zosimus, who alone

has preserved the memory of this singular transaction, very accurately

observes, that the letters of Honorius were addressed to the cities

of Britain. [180] Under the protection of the Romans, ninety-two considerable towns had arisen in the several parts of that great

province; and, among these, thirty-three cities were distinguished above the rest by their superior privileges and importance. [181] Each of these cities, as in all the other provinces of the empire, formed a

legal corporation, for the purpose of regulating their domestic policy; and the powers of municipal government were distributed among annual

magistrates, a select senate, and the assembly of the people, according to the original model of the Roman constitution. [182] The management of a common revenue, the exercise of civil and criminal jurisdiction, and the habits of public counsel and command, were inherent to these petty

republics; and when they asserted their independence, the youth of the city, and of the adjacent districts, would naturally range themselves

under the standard of the magistrate. But the desire of obtaining the advantages, and of escaping the burdens, of political society, is a

perpetual and inexhaustible source of discord; nor can it reasonably be

presumed, that the restoration of British freedom was exempt from tumult and faction. The preeminence of birth and fortune must have been frequently violated by bold and popular citizens; and the haughty

nobles, who complained that they were become the subjects of their

own servants, [183] would sometimes regret the reign of an arbitrary

monarch.

II. The jurisdiction of each city over the adjacent country, was

supported by the patrimonial influence of the principal senators; and the smaller towns, the villages, and the proprietors of land, consulted their own safety by adhering to the shelter of these rising republics. the sphere of their attraction was proportioned to the respective degrees of their wealth and populousness; but the hereditary lords of ample possessions, who were not oppressed by the neighborhood of any

powerful city, aspired to the rank of independent princes, and boldly exercised the rights of peace and war. The gardens and villas, which exhibited some faint imitation of Italian elegance, would soon be converted into strong castles, the refuge, in time of danger, of the adjacent country: [184] the produce of the land was applied to purchase arms and horses; to maintain a military force of slaves, of peasants, and of licentious followers; and the chieftain might assume, within his

own domain, the powers of a civil magistrate. Several of these British chiefs might be the genuine posterity of ancient kings; and many more would be tempted to adopt this honorable genealogy, and to vindicate their hereditary claims, which had been suspended by the usurpation of the Caesars. [185] Their situation and their hopes would dispose them to affect the dress, the language, and the customs of their ancestors.

If the princes of Britain relapsed into barbarism, while the cities

studiously preserved the laws and manners of Rome, the whole island must

have been gradually divided by the distinction of two national parties; again broken into a thousand subdivisions of war and faction, by the

various provocations of interest and resentment. The public strength,

instead of being united against a foreign enemy, was consumed in obscure and intestine quarrels; and the personal merit which had placed a

successful leader at the head of his equals, might enable him to subdue the freedom of some neighboring cities; and to claim a rank among the tyrants, [186] who infested Britain after the dissolution of the Roman

government. III. The British church might be composed of thirty or forty bishops, [187] with an adequate proportion of the inferior clergy; and the want of riches (for they seem to have been poor [188) would compel them to deserve the public esteem, by a decent and exemplary behavior.

the interest, as well as the temper of the clergy, was favorable to the peace and union of their distracted country: those salutary lessons

might be frequently inculcated in their popular discourses; and the episcopal synods were the only councils that could pretend to the weight and authority of a national assembly.

In such councils, where the princes and magistrates sat promiscuously with the bishops, the important affairs of the state, as well as of the church, might be freely debated; differences reconciled, alliances formed, contributions imposed, wise resolutions often concerted, and

sometimes executed; and there is reason to believe, that, in moments

of extreme danger, a Pendragon, or Dictator, was elected by the general consent of the Britons. These pastoral cares, so worthy of the episcopal character, were interrupted, however, by zeal and superstition; and the british clergy incessantly labored to eradicate the Pelagian heresy, which they abhorred, as the peculiar disgrace of their native country.

[189]

[Footnote 179: I owe it to myself, and to historic truth, to declare, that some circumstances in this paragraph are founded only on conjecture and analogy. The stubbornness of our language has sometimes forced me to deviate from the conditional into the indicative mood.]

[Footnote 180: Zosimus, l. vi. p. 383.]

[Footnote 181: Two cities of Britain were municipia, nine colonies, ten

Latii jure donatoe, twelve stipendiarioe of eminent note. This detail is taken from Richard of Cirencester, de Situ Britanniae, p. 36; and though

it may not seem probable that he wrote from the Mss. of a Roman general,

he shows a genuine knowledge of antiquity, very extraordinary for a monk

of the fourteenth century.

Note: The names may be found in Whitaker's Hist. of Manchester vol. ii.

330, 379. Turner, Hist. Anglo-Saxons, i. 216.--M.]

[Footnote 182: See Maffei Verona Illustrata, part i. l. v. p. 83-106.]

[Footnote 183: Leges restituit, libertatemque reducit, Et servos famulis

non sinit esse suis. Itinerar. Rutil. l. i. 215.]

[Footnote 184: An inscription (apud Sirmond, Not. ad Sidon. Apollinar.

p. 59) describes a castle, cum muris et portis, tutioni omnium, erected by Dardanus on his own estate, near Sisteron, in the second Narbonnese, and named by him Theopolis.]

[Footnote 185: The establishment of their power would have been easy

indeed, if we could adopt the impracticable scheme of a lively and

learned antiquarian; who supposes that the British monarchs of the

several tribes continued to reign, though with subordinate jurisdiction, from the time of Claudius to that of Honorius. See Whitaker's History of

Manchester, vol. i. p. 247-257.]

[Footnote 186: Procopius, de Bell. Vandal. l. i. c. 3, p. 181. Britannia fertilis provincia tyrannorum, was the expression of Jerom, in the year

415 (tom. ii. p. 255, ad Ctesiphont.) By the pilgrims, who resorted every year to the Holy Land, the monk of Bethlem received the earliest and most accurate intelligence.]

[Footnote 187: See Bingham's Eccles. Antiquities, vol. i. l. ix. c. 6,

p. 394.]

[Footnote 188: It is reported of three British bishops who assisted at the council of Rimini, A.D. 359, tam pauperes fuisse ut nihil haberent.

Sulpicius Severus, Hist. Sacra, l. ii. p. 420. Some of their brethren

however, were in better circumstances.]

[Footnote 189: Consult Usher, de Antiq. Eccles. Britannicar. c. 8-12.]

It is somewhat remarkable, or rather it is extremely natural, that the

revolt of Britain and Armorica should have introduced an appearance of

liberty into the obedient provinces of Gaul. In a solemn edict, [190] filled with the strongest assurances of that paternal affection which

princes so often express, and so seldom feel, the emperor Honorius

promulgated his intention of convening an annual assembly of the seven

provinces: a name peculiarly appropriated to Aquitain and the ancient

Narbonnese, which had long since exchanged their Celtic rudeness for the

useful and elegant arts of Italy. [191] Arles, the seat of government and commerce, was appointed for the place of the assembly; which

regularly continued twenty-eight days, from the fifteenth of August to the thirteenth of September, of every year. It consisted of the

Praetorian praefect of the Gauls; of seven provincial governors, one consular, and six presidents; of the magistrates, and perhaps the bishops, of about sixty cities; and of a competent, though indefinite,

number of the most honorable and opulent possessors of land, who might

justly be considered as the representatives of their country. They were empowered to interpret and communicate the laws of their sovereign; to expose the grievances and wishes of their constituents; to moderate the excessive or unequal weight of taxes; and to deliberate on every subject

of local or national importance, that could tend to the restoration of the peace and prosperity of the seven provinces. If such an institution, which gave the people an interest in their own government, had been

universally established by Trajan or the Antonines, the seeds of public wisdom and virtue might have been cherished and propagated in the empire

of Rome. The privileges of the subject would have secured the throne of the monarch; the abuses of an arbitrary administration might have been

prevented, in some degree, or corrected, by the interposition of these

representative assemblies; and the country would have been defended against a foreign enemy by the arms of natives and freemen. Under the

mild and generous influence of liberty, the Roman empire might have

remained invincible and immortal; or if its excessive magnitude, and the

instability of human affairs, had opposed such perpetual continuance,

its vital and constituent members might have separately preserved their

vigor and independence. But in the decline of the empire, when every

principle of health and life had been exhausted, the tardy application

of this partial remedy was incapable of producing any important or

salutary effects. The emperor Honorius expresses his surprise, that he

must compel the reluctant provinces to accept a privilege which they

should ardently have solicited. A fine of three, or even five, pounds

of gold, was imposed on the absent representatives; who seem to have declined this imaginary gift of a free constitution, as the last and

most cruel insult of their oppressors.

[Footnote 190: See the correct text of this edict, as published by

Sirmond, (Not. ad Sidon. Apollin. p. 148.) Hincmar of Rheims, who assigns a place to the bishops, had probably seen (in the ninth century) a more perfect copy. Dubos, Hist. Critique de la Monarchie Francoise, tom. i. p. 241-255]

[Footnote 191: It is evident from the Notitia, that the seven provinces were the Viennensis, the maritime Alps, the first and second Narbonnese

Novempopulania, and the first and second Aquitain. In the room of the first Aquitain, the Abbe Dubos, on the authority of Hincmar, desires to

introduce the first Lugdunensis, or Lyonnese.]

chapter XXXII: Emperors Arcadius, Eutropius, Theodosius II.--Part I.

Arcadius Emperor Of The East.--Administration And Disgrace

Of Eutropius.--Revolt Of Gainas.--Persecution Of St. John

Chrysostom.--Theodosius II. Emperor Of The East.--His Sister

Pulcheria.--His Wife Eudocia.--The Persian War, And Division

Of Armenia.

the division of the Roman world between the sons of Theodosius marks the final establishment of the empire of the East, which, from the reign

of Arcadius to the taking of Constantinople by the Turks, subsisted one thousand and fifty-eight years, in a state of premature and perpetual decay. The sovereign of that empire assumed, and obstinately retained, the vain, and at length fictitious, title of Emperor of the Romans; and the hereditary appellation of Caesar and Augustus continued to declare, that he was the legitimate successor of the first of men, who had

reigned over the first of nations. The place of Constantinople rivalled, and perhaps excelled, the magnificence of Persia; and the eloquent

sermons of St. Chrysostom [1] celebrate, while they condemn, the pompous

luxury of the reign of Arcadius. "The emperor," says he, "wears on his

head either a diadem, or a crown of gold, decorated with precious stones

of inestimable value. These ornaments, and his purple garments, are reserved for his sacred person alone; and his robes of silk are embroidered with the figures of golden dragons. His throne is of massy

gold. Whenever he appears in public, he is surrounded by his courtiers,

his guards, and his attendants. Their spears, their shields, their cuirasses, the bridles and trappings of their horses, have either the

substance or the appearance of gold; and the large splendid boss in the

midst of their shield is encircled with smaller bosses, which represent the shape of the human eye. The two mules that drew the chariot of the

monarch are perfectly white, and shining all over with gold. The chariot itself, of pure and solid gold, attracts the admiration of the

spectators, who contemplate the purple curtains, the snowy carpet, the

size of the precious stones, and the resplendent plates of gold, that

glitter as they are agitated by the motion of the carriage. The Imperial

pictures are white, on a blue ground; the emperor appears seated on his throne, with his arms, his horses, and his guards beside him; and his

vanquished enemies in chains at his feet." The successors of Constantine established their perpetual residence in the royal city, which he had erected on the verge of Europe and Asia. Inaccessible to the menaces

of their enemies, and perhaps to the complaints of their people, they

received, with each wind, the tributary productions of every climate; while the impregnable strength of their capital continued for ages to defy the hostile attempts of the Barbarians. Their dominions were bounded by the Adriatic and the Tigris; and the whole interval of twenty-five days' navigation, which separated the extreme cold of

Scythia from the torrid zone of Aethiopia, [2] was comprehended within the limits of the empire of the East. The populous countries of that empire were the seat of art and learning, of luxury and wealth; and the

inhabitants, who had assumed the language and manners of Greeks, styled themselves, with some appearance of truth, the most enlightened and civilized portion of the human species. The form of government was a

pure and simple monarchy; the name of the Roman Republic, which so

long preserved a faint tradition of freedom, was confined to the Latin

provinces; and the princes of Constantinople measured their greatness by the servile obedience of their people. They were ignorant how much this

passive disposition enervates and degrades every faculty of the mind. the subjects, who had resigned their will to the absolute commands of a master, were equally incapable of guarding their lives and fortunes against the assaults of the Barbarians, or of defending their reason from the terrors of superstition.

[Footnote 1: Father Montfaucon, who, by the command of his Benedictine

superiors, was compelled (see Longueruana, tom. i. p. 205) to execute the laborious edition of St. Chrysostom, in thirteen volumes in folio, (Paris, 1738,) amused himself with extracting from that immense collection of morals, some curious antiquities, which illustrate the

manners of the Theodosian age, (see Chrysostom, Opera, tom. xiii. p.

192-196,) and his French Dissertation, in the Memoires de l'Acad. des

Inscriptions, tom. xiii. p. 474-490.]

[Footnote 2: According to the loose reckoning, that a ship could sail, with a fair wind, 1000 stadia, or 125 miles, in the revolution of a day and night, Diodorus Siculus computes ten days from the Palus Moeotis to

Rhodes, and four days from Rhodes to Alexandria. The navigation of the

Nile from Alexandria to Syene, under the tropic of Cancer, required, as

it was against the stream, ten days more. Diodor. Sicul. tom. i. l. iii.

p. 200, edit. Wesseling. He might, without much impropriety, measure the extreme heat from the verge of the torrid zone; but he speaks of the

Moeotis in the 47th degree of northern latitude, as if it lay within the

polar circle.]

the first events of the reign of Arcadius and Honorius are so intimately connected, that the rebellion of the Goths, and the fall of Rufinus,

have already claimed a place in the history of the West. It has already been observed, that Eutropius, [3] one of the principal eunuchs of the

palace of Constantinople, succeeded the haughty minister whose ruin he

had accomplished, and whose vices he soon imitated. Every order of the state bowed to the new favorite; and their tame and obsequious

submission encouraged him to insult the laws, and, what is still more difficult and dangerous, the manners of his country. Under the weakest

of the predecessors of Arcadius, the reign of the eunuchs had been

secret and almost invisible. They insinuated themselves into the confidence of the prince; but their ostensible functions were confined to the menial service of the wardrobe and Imperial bed-chamber. They

might direct, in a whisper, the public counsels, and blast, by their

malicious suggestions, the fame and fortunes of the most illustrious citizens; but they never presumed to stand forward in the front of empire, [4] or to profane the public honors of the state. Eutropius was the first of his artificial sex, who dared to assume the character of a Roman magistrate and general. [5] Sometimes, in the presence of the blushing senate, he ascended the tribunal to pronounce judgment, or to

repeat elaborate harangues; and, sometimes, appeared on horseback, at the head of his troops, in the dress and armor of a hero. The disregard

of custom and decency always betrays a weak and ill-regulated mind; nor does Eutropius seem to have compensated for the folly of the design by any superior merit or ability in the execution. His former habits of

life had not introduced him to the study of the laws, or the exercises

of the field; his awkward and unsuccessful attempts provoked the secret contempt of the spectators; the Goths expressed their wish that such a general might always command the armies of Rome; and the name of the minister was branded with ridicule, more pernicious, perhaps, than

hatred, to a public character. The subjects of Arcadius were exasperated by the recollection, that this deformed and decrepit eunuch, [6] who so

perversely mimicked the actions of a man, was born in the most abject condition of servitude; that before he entered the Imperial palace, he

had been successively sold and purchased by a hundred masters, who had exhausted his youthful strength in every mean and infamous office, and at length dismissed him, in his old age, to freedom and poverty.

[7] While these disgraceful stories were circulated, and perhaps exaggerated, in private conversation, the vanity of the favorite was flattered with the most extraordinary honors. In the senate, in the capital, in the provinces, the statues of Eutropius were erected, in brass, or marble, decorated with the symbols of his civil and military

virtues, and inscribed with the pompous title of the third founder of constantinople. He was promoted to the rank of patrician, which began to signify in a popular, and even legal, acceptation, the father of the emperor; and the last year of the fourth century was polluted by the consulship of a eunuch and a slave. This strange and inexpiable prodigy

[8] awakened, however, the prejudices of the Romans. The effeminate consul was rejected by the West, as an indelible stain to the annals of the republic; and without invoking the shades of Brutus and Camillus, the colleague of Eutropius, a learned and respectable magistrate,

[9] sufficiently represented the different maxims of the two administrations.

[Footnote 3: Barthius, who adored his author with the blind superstition

of a commentator, gives the preference to the two books which Claudian composed against Eutropius, above all his other productions, (Baillet

Jugemens des Savans, tom. iv. p. 227.) They are indeed a very elegant and spirited satire; and would be more valuable in an historical light,

if the invective were less vague and more temperate.]

[Footnote 4: After lamenting the progress of the eunuchs in the Roman

palace, and defining their proper functions, Claudian adds,

A fronte recedant.

Imperii.

---In Eutrop. i. 422.

Yet it does not appear that the eunuchs had assumed any of the efficient

offices of the empire, and he is styled only Praepositun sacri cubiculi,

in the edict of his banishment. See Cod. Theod. l. leg 17.

Jamque oblita sui, nec sobria divitiis mens

In miseras leges hominumque negotia ludit

Judicat eunuchus.......

Arma etiam violare parat......

claudian, (i. 229-270,) with that mixture of indignation and humor which always pleases in a satiric poet, describes the insolent folly of the eunuch, the disgrace of the empire, and the joy of the Goths.

Gaudet, cum viderit, hostis,

Et sentit jam deesse viros.]

[Footnote 6: The poet's lively description of his deformity (i. 110-125)

is confirmed by the authentic testimony of Chrysostom, (tom. iii. p.

384, edit Montfaucon;) who observes, that when the paint was washed away the face of Eutropius appeared more ugly and wrinkled than that of an

old woman. Claudian remarks, (i. 469,) and the remark must have been founded on experience, that there was scarcely an interval between the

youth and the decrepit age of a eunuch.]

[Footnote 7: Eutropius appears to have been a native of Armenia or assyria. His three services, which Claudian more particularly describes, were these: 1. He spent many years as the catamite of Ptolemy, a groom

or soldier of the Imperial stables. 2. Ptolemy gave him to the old

general Arintheus, for whom he very skilfully exercised the profession

of a pimp. 3. He was given, on her marriage, to the daughter of arintheus; and the future consul was employed to comb her hair, to

present the silver ewer to wash and to fan his mistress in hot weather.

See l. i. 31-137.]

[Footnote 8: Claudian, (l. i. in Eutrop. l.--22,) after enumerating the various prodigies of monstrous births, speaking animals, showers of blood or stones, double suns, &c., adds, with some exaggeration,

Omnia cesserunt eunucho consule monstra.

the first book concludes with a noble speech of the goddess of Rome to

her favorite Honorius, deprecating the new ignominy to which she was exposed.]

[Footnote 9: Fl. Mallius Theodorus, whose civil honors, and

philosophical works, have been celebrated by Claudian in a very elegant

panegyric.]

the bold and vigorous mind of Rufinus seems to have been actuated by a

more sanguinary and revengeful spirit; but the avarice of the eunuch was not less insatiate than that of the praefect. [10] As long as he despoiled the oppressors, who had enriched themselves with the plunder

of the people, Eutropius might gratify his covetous disposition without

much envy or injustice: but the progress of his rapine soon invaded the wealth which had been acquired by lawful inheritance, or laudable

industry. The usual methods of extortion were practised and improved; and Claudian has sketched a lively and original picture of the public auction of the state. "The impotence of the eunuch," says that agreeable

satirist, "has served only to stimulate his avarice: the same hand which

in his servile condition, was exercised in petty thefts, to unlock the coffers of his master, now grasps the riches of the world; and this

infamous broker of the empire appreciates and divides the Roman

provinces from Mount Haemus to the Tigris. One man, at the expense of

his villa, is made proconsul of Asia; a second purchases Syria with his wife's jewels; and a third laments that he has exchanged his paternal estate for the government of Bithynia. In the antechamber of Eutropius, a large tablet is exposed to public view, which marks the respective

prices of the provinces. The different value of Pontus, of Galatia, of

Lydia, is accurately distinguished. Lycia may be obtained for so many thousand pieces of gold; but the opulence of Phrygia will require a

more considerable sum. The eunuch wishes to obliterate, by the general disgrace, his personal ignominy; and as he has been sold himself, he is desirous of selling the rest of mankind. In the eager contention, the balance, which contains the fate and fortunes of the province, often trembles on the beam; and till one of the scales is inclined, by a

superior weight, the mind of the impartial judge remains in anxious

suspense. [11] Such," continues the indignant poet, "are the fruits of

Roman valor, of the defeat of Antiochus, and of the triumph of Pompey." this venal prostitution of public honors secured the impunity of future crimes; but the riches, which Eutropius derived from confiscation, were already stained with injustice; since it was decent to accuse, and to condemn, the proprietors of the wealth, which he was impatient to confiscate. Some noble blood was shed by the hand of the executioner; and the most inhospitable extremities of the empire were filled with

innocent and illustrious exiles. Among the generals and consuls of the east, Abundantius [12] had reason to dread the first effects of the

resentment of Eutropius. He had been guilty of the unpardonable crime of

introducing that abject slave to the palace of Constantinople; and some degree of praise must be allowed to a powerful and ungrateful favorite, who was satisfied with the disgrace of his benefactor. Abundantius was

stripped of his ample fortunes by an Imperial rescript, and banished to

Pityus, on the Euxine, the last frontier of the Roman world; where

he subsisted by the precarious mercy of the Barbarians, till he could

obtain, after the fall of Eutropius, a milder exile at Sidon, in

Phoenicia. The destruction of Timasius [13] required a more serious and

regular mode of attack. That great officer, the master-general of the armies of Theodosius, had signalized his valor by a decisive victory, which he obtained over the Goths of Thessaly; but he was too prone, after the example of his sovereign, to enjoy the luxury of peace, and to abandon his confidence to wicked and designing flatterers. Timasius had despised the public clamor, by promoting an infamous dependant to the command of a cohort; and he deserved to feel the ingratitude of Bargus, who was secretly instigated by the favorite to accuse his patron of a treasonable conspiracy. The general was arraigned before the tribunal

of Arcadius himself; and the principal eunuch stood by the side of the throne to suggest the questions and answers of his sovereign. But as this form of trial might be deemed partial and arbitrary, the further

inquiry into the crimes of Timasius was delegated to Saturninus and

Procopius; the former of consular rank, the latter still respected as the father-in-law of the emperor Valens. The appearances of a fair and

legal proceeding were maintained by the blunt honesty of Procopius; and

he yielded with reluctance to the obsequious dexterity of his colleague, who pronounced a sentence of condemnation against the unfortunate timasius. His immense riches were confiscated in the name of the emperor, and for the benefit of the favorite; and he was doomed to

perpetual exile a Oasis, a solitary spot in the midst of the

sandy deserts of Libya. [14] Secluded from all human converse, the

master-general of the Roman armies was lost forever to the world; but the circumstances of his fate have been related in a various and contradictory manner. It is insinuated that Eutropius despatched a

private order for his secret execution. [15] It was reported, that, in attempting to escape from Oasis, he perished in the desert, of thirst and hunger; and that his dead body was found on the sands of Libya. [16]

It has been asserted, with more confidence, that his son Syagrius, after

successfully eluding the pursuit of the agents and emissaries of the court, collected a band of African robbers; that he rescued Timasius from the place of his exile; and that both the father and the son disappeared from the knowledge of mankind. [17] But the ungrateful bargus, instead of being suffered to possess the reward of guilt was

soon after circumvented and destroyed, by the more powerful villany of the minister himself, who retained sense and spirit enough to abhor the

instrument of his own crimes.

[Footnote 10: Drunk with riches, is the forcible expression of Zosimus,

(l. v. p. 301;) and the avarice of Eutropius is equally execrated in the

Lexicon of Suidas and the Chronicle of Marcellinus Chrysostom had often admonished the favorite of the vanity and danger of immoderate wealth, tom. iii. p. 381. -certantum saepe duorum Diversum suspendit onus: cum

pondere judex Vergit, et in geminas nutat provincia lances. Claudian (i.

192-209) so curiously distinguishes the circumstances of the sale, that they all seem to allude to particular anecdotes.]

[Footnote 12: Claudian (i. 154-170) mentions the guilt and exile of abundantius; nor could he fail to quote the example of the artist, who

made the first trial of the brazen bull, which he presented to Phalaris.

See Zosimus, l. v. p. 302. Jerom, tom. i. p. 26. The difference of place

is easily reconciled; but the decisive authority of Asterius of Amasia

(Orat. iv. p. 76, apud Tillemont, Hist. des Empereurs, tom. v. p. 435)

must turn the scale in favor of Pityus.]

[Footnote 13: Suidas (most probably from the history of Eunapius)

has given a very unfavorable picture of Timasius. The account of his accuser, the judges, trial, &c., is perfectly agreeable to the practice

of ancient and modern courts. (See Zosimus, l. v. p. 298, 299, 300.) I am almost tempted to quote the romance of a great master, (Fielding's works, vol. iv. p. 49, &c., 8vo. edit.,) which may be considered as the

history of human nature.]

[Footnote 14: The great Oasis was one of the spots in the sands of

Libya, watered with springs, and capable of producing wheat, barley, and

palm-trees. It was about three days' journey from north to south, about

half a day in breadth, and at the distance of about five days' march to the west of Abydus, on the Nile. See D'Anville, Description de l'Egypte,

p. 186, 187, 188. The barren desert which encompasses Oasis (Zosimus, l.

v. p. 300) has suggested the idea of comparative fertility, and even the epithet of the happy island ]

[Footnote 15: The line of Claudian, in Eutrop. l. i. 180,

Marmaricus claris violatur caedibus Hammon,

evidently alludes to his persuasion of the death of Timasius. \* Note: A fragment of Eunapius confirms this account. "Thus having deprived this

great person of his life--a eunuch, a man, a slave, a consul, a minister

of the bed-chamber, one bred in camps." Mai, p. 283, in Niebuhr. 87--M.]

[Footnote 16: Sozomen, l. viii. c. 7. He speaks from report.]

[Footnote 17: Zosimus, l. v. p. 300. Yet he seems to suspect that this

rumor was spread by the friends of Eutropius.]

the public hatred, and the despair of individuals, continually threatened, or seemed to threaten, the personal safety of Eutropius; as well as of the numerous adherents, who were attached to his fortune, and had been promoted by his venal favor. For their mutual defence,

he contrived the safeguard of a law, which violated every principal of

humanity and justice. [18] I. It is enacted, in the name, and by the authority of Arcadius, that all those who should conspire, either with

subjects or with strangers, against the lives of any of the persons whom the emperor considers as the members of his own body, shall be punished with death and confiscation. This species of fictitious and metaphorical treason is extended to protect, not only the illustrious officers of the state and army, who were admitted into the sacred consistory, but likewise the principal domestics of the palace, the senators of constantinople, the military commanders, and the civil magistrates of the provinces; a vague and indefinite list, which, under the successors

of Constantine, included an obscure and numerous train of subordinate

ministers. II. This extreme severity might perhaps be justified, had it been only directed to secure the representatives of the sovereign from any actual violence in the execution of their office. But the whole body

of Imperial dependants claimed a privilege, or rather impunity, which

screened them, in the loosest moments of their lives, from the hasty,

perhaps the justifiable, resentment of their fellow-citizens; and, by a

strange perversion of the laws, the same degree of guilt and punishment was applied to a private quarrel, and to a deliberate conspiracy against the emperor and the empire. The edicts of Arcadius most positively and

most absurdly declares, that in such cases of treason, thoughts and actions ought to be punished with equal severity; that the knowledge

of a mischievous intention, unless it be instantly revealed, becomes equally criminal with the intention itself; [19] and that those

rash men, who shall presume to solicit the pardon of traitors, shall themselves be branded with public and perpetual infamy. III. "With

regard to the sons of the traitors," (continues the emperor,) "although they ought to share the punishment, since they will probably imitate the guilt, of their parents, yet, by the special effect of our Imperial

lenity, we grant them their lives; but, at the same time, we declare them incapable of inheriting, either on the father's or on the mother's

side, or of receiving any gift or legacy, from the testament either of

kinsmen or of strangers. Stigmatized with hereditary infamy, excluded from the hopes of honors or fortune, let them endure the pangs of

poverty and contempt, till they shall consider life as a calamity, and death as a comfort and relief." In such words, so well adapted to insult the feelings of mankind, did the emperor, or rather his favorite eunuch, applaud the moderation of a law, which transferred the same unjust and

inhuman penalties to the children of all those who had seconded, or who

had not disclosed, their fictitious conspiracies. Some of the noblest

regulations of Roman jurisprudence have been suffered to expire; but this edict, a convenient and forcible engine of ministerial tyranny, was carefully inserted in the codes of Theodosius and Justinian; and the

same maxims have been revived in modern ages, to protect the electors of

Germany, and the cardinals of the church of Rome. [20]

[Footnote 18: See the Theodosian Code, l. ix. tit. 14, ad legem corneliam de Sicariis, leg. 3, and the Code of Justinian, l. ix. tit.

viii, viii. ad legem Juliam de Majestate, leg. 5. The alteration of the title, from murder to treason, was an improvement of the subtle tribonian. Godefroy, in a formal dissertation, which he has inserted in

his Commentary, illustrates this law of Arcadius, and explains all the difficult passages which had been perverted by the jurisconsults of the darker ages. See tom. iii. p. 88-111.]

[Footnote 19: Bartolus understands a simple and naked consciousness, without any sign of approbation or concurrence. For this opinion, says baldus, he is now roasting in hell. For my own part, continues the discreet Heineccius, (Element. Jur. Civil l. iv. p. 411,) I must approve the theory of Bartolus; but in practice I should incline to the

sentiments of Baldus. Yet Bartolus was gravely quoted by the lawyers of cardinal Richelieu; and Eutropius was indirectly guilty of the murder of the virtuous De Thou.]

[Footnote 20: Godefroy, tom. iii. p. 89. It is, however, suspected, that this law, so repugnant to the maxims of Germanic freedom, has been

surreptitiously added to the golden bull.] Yet these sanguinary laws, which spread terror among a disarmed and dispirited people, were of too weak a texture to restrain the bold enterprise of Tribigild [21] the

Ostrogoth. The colony of that warlike nation, which had been planted by Theodosius in one of the most fertile districts of Phrygia, [22]

impatiently compared the slow returns of laborious husbandry with the successful rapine and liberal rewards of Alaric; and their leader

resented, as a personal affront, his own ungracious reception in the

palace of Constantinople. A soft and wealthy province, in the heart of the empire, was astonished by the sound of war; and the faithful vassal who had been disregarded or oppressed, was again respected, as soon as he resumed the hostile character of a Barbarian. The vineyards and fruitful fields, between the rapid Marsyas and the winding Maeander,

[23] were consumed with fire; the decayed walls of the cities crumbled

into dust, at the first stroke of an enemy; the trembling inhabitants escaped from a bloody massacre to the shores of the Hellespont; and a considerable part of Asia Minor was desolated by the rebellion of tribigild. His rapid progress was checked by the resistance of the

peasants of Pamphylia; and the Ostrogoths, attacked in a narrow pass, between the city of Selgae, [24] a deep morass, and the craggy cliffs of

Mount Taurus, were defeated with the loss of their bravest troops. But the spirit of their chief was not daunted by misfortune; and his army was continually recruited by swarms of Barbarians and outlaws, who were desirous of exercising the profession of robbery, under the more

honorable names of war and conquest. The rumors of the success of tribigild might for some time be suppressed by fear, or disguised by flattery; yet they gradually alarmed both the court and the capital. every misfortune was exaggerated in dark and doubtful hints; and the future designs of the rebels became the subject of anxious conjecture. whenever Tribigild advanced into the inland country, the Romans were

inclined to suppose that he meditated the passage of Mount Taurus, and the invasion of Syria. If he descended towards the sea, they imputed, and perhaps suggested, to the Gothic chief, the more dangerous project

of arming a fleet in the harbors of Ionia, and of extending his depredations along the maritime coast, from the mouth of the Nile to the port of Constantinople. The approach of danger, and the obstinacy of tribigild, who refused all terms of accommodation, compelled Eutropius to summon a council of war. [25] After claiming for himself the

privilege of a veteran soldier, the eunuch intrusted the guard of Thrace and the Hellespont to Gainas the Goth, and the command of the asiatic army to his favorite, Leo; two generals, who differently, but effectually, promoted the cause of the rebels. Leo, [26] who, from the bulk of his body, and the dulness of his mind, was surnamed the Ajax of the East, had deserted his original trade of a woolcomber, to exercise, with much less skill and success, the military profession; and his

uncertain operations were capriciously framed and executed, with an ignorance of real difficulties, and a timorous neglect of every favorable opportunity. The rashness of the Ostrogoths had drawn them

into a disadvantageous position between the Rivers Melas and Eurymedon, where they were almost besieged by the peasants of Pamphylia; but the arrival of an Imperial army, instead of completing their destruction, afforded the means of safety and victory. Tribigild surprised the

unguarded camp of the Romans, in the darkness of the night; seduced the faith of the greater part of the Barbarian auxiliaries, and dissipated, without much effort, the troops, which had been corrupted by the

relaxation of discipline, and the luxury of the capital. The discontent

of Gainas, who had so boldly contrived and executed the death of

Rufinus, was irritated by the fortune of his unworthy successor; he accused his own dishonorable patience under the servile reign of a eunuch; and the ambitious Goth was convicted, at least in the public

opinion, of secretly fomenting the revolt of Tribigild, with whom he was connected by a domestic, as well as by a national alliance. [27] When

Gainas passed the Hellespont, to unite under his standard the remains

of the Asiatic troops, he skilfully adapted his motions to the wishes

of the Ostrogoths; abandoning, by his retreat, the country which they desired to invade; or facilitating, by his approach, the desertion of the Barbarian auxiliaries. To the Imperial court he repeatedly magnified the valor, the genius, the inexhaustible resources of Tribigild; confessed his own inability to prosecute the war; and extorted the

permission of negotiating with his invincible adversary. The conditions

of peace were dictated by the haughty rebel; and the peremptory demand

of the head of Eutropius revealed the author and the design of this

hostile conspiracy.

[Footnote 21: A copious and circumstantial narrative (which he might

have reserved for more important events) is bestowed by Zosimus (l.

v. p. 304-312) on the revolt of Tribigild and Gainas. See likewise

Socrates, l. vi. c. 6, and Sozomen, l. viii. c. 4. The second book

of Claudian against Eutropius, is a fine, though imperfect, piece of

history.]

[Footnote 22: Claudian (in Eutrop. l. ii. 237-250) very accurately

observes, that the ancient name and nation of the Phrygians extended

very far on every side, till their limits were contracted by the colonies of the Bithvnians of Thrace, of the Greeks, and at last of the

Gauls. His description (ii. 257-272) of the fertility of Phrygia, and of the four rivers that produced gold, is just and picturesque.]

[Footnote 23: Xenophon, Anabasis, l. i. p. 11, 12, edit. Hutchinson.

Strabo, l. xii p. 865, edit. Amstel. Q. Curt. l. iii. c. 1. Claudian compares the junction of the Marsyas and Maeander to that of the Saone and the Rhone, with this difference, however, that the smaller of the

Phrygian rivers is not accelerated, but retarded, by the larger.]

[Footnote 24: Selgae, a colony of the Lacedaemonians, had formerly

numbered twenty thousand citizens; but in the age of Zosimus it was

reduced to a small town. See Cellarius, Geograph. Antiq tom. ii. p.

117.]

[Footnote 25: The council of Eutropius, in Claudian, may be compared to that of Domitian in the fourth Satire of Juvenal. The principal members

of the former were juvenes protervi lascivique senes; one of them had been a cook, a second a woolcomber. The language of their original

profession exposes their assumed dignity; and their trifling conversation about tragedies, dancers, &c., is made still more

ridiculous by the importance of the debate.]

[Footnote 26: Claudian (l. ii. 376-461) has branded him with infamy; and

Zosimus, in more temperate language, confirms his reproaches. L. v. p.

305.]

[Footnote 27: The conspiracy of Gainas and Tribigild, which is attested by the Greek historian, had not reached the ears of Claudian, who attributes the revolt of the Ostrogoth to his own martial spirit, and the advice of his wife.]

chapter XXXII: Emperors Arcadius, Eutropius, Theodosius II.--Part II.

the bold satirist, who has indulged his discontent by the partial and

passionate censure of the Christian emperors, violates the dignity,

rather than the truth, of history, by comparing the son of Theodosius to one of those harmless and simple animals, who scarcely feel that they are the property of their shepherd. Two passions, however, fear and conjugal affection, awakened the languid soul of Arcadius: he was terrified by the threats of a victorious Barbarian; and he yielded to the tender eloquence of his wife Eudoxia, who, with a flood of artificial tears, presenting her infant children to their father,

implored his justice for some real or imaginary insult, which she

imputed to the audacious eunuch. [28] The emperor's hand was directed to

sign the condemnation of Eutropius; the magic spell, which during four

years had bound the prince and the people, was instantly dissolved; and the acclamations that so lately hailed the merit and fortune of the favorite, were converted into the clamors of the soldiers and people, who reproached his crimes, and pressed his immediate execution. In this

hour of distress and despair, his only refuge was in the sanctuary of the church, whose privileges he had wisely or profanely attempted to circumscribe; and the most eloquent of the saints, John Chrysostom, enjoyed the triumph of protecting a prostrate minister, whose choice

had raised him to the ecclesiastical throne of Constantinople. The archbishop, ascending the pulpit of the cathedral, that he might be distinctly seen and heard by an innumerable crowd of either sex and

of every age, pronounced a seasonable and pathetic discourse on the forgiveness of injuries, and the instability of human greatness. The agonies of the pale and affrighted wretch, who lay grovelling under the table of the altar, exhibited a solemn and instructive spectacle; and the orator, who was afterwards accused of insulting the misfortunes of eutropius, labored to excite the contempt, that he might assuage the fury, of the people. [29] The powers of humanity, of superstition, and

of eloquence, prevailed. The empress Eudoxia was restrained by her own

prejudices, or by those of her subjects, from violating the sanctuary of the church; and Eutropius was tempted to capitulate, by the milder arts

of persuasion, and by an oath, that his life should be spared. [30] careless of the dignity of their sovereign, the new ministers of the

palace immediately published an edict to declare, that his late favorite

had disgraced the names of consul and patrician, to abolish his statues, to confiscate his wealth, and to inflict a perpetual exile in the Island

of Cyprus. [31] A despicable and decrepit eunuch could no longer alarm the fears of his enemies; nor was he capable of enjoying what yet

remained, the comforts of peace, of solitude, and of a happy climate. but their implacable revenge still envied him the last moments of a miserable life, and Eutropius had no sooner touched the shores of cyprus, than he was hastily recalled. The vain hope of eluding, by a change of place, the obligation of an oath, engaged the empress to transfer the scene of his trial and execution from Constantinople to the adjacent suburb of Chalcedon. The consul Aurelian pronounced the

sentence; and the motives of that sentence expose the jurisprudence of a despotic government. The crimes which Eutropius had committed against the people might have justified his death; but he was found guilty of

harnessing to his chariot the sacred animals, who, from their breed or color, were reserved for the use of the emperor alone. [32]

[Footnote 28: This anecdote, which Philostorgius alone has preserved,

(l xi. c. 6, and Gothofred. Dissertat. p. 451-456) is curious and

important; since it connects the revolt of the Goths with the secret

intrigues of the palace.]

[Footnote 29: See the Homily of Chrysostom, tom. iii. p. 381-386, which the exordium is particularly beautiful. Socrates, l. vi. c. 5. Sozomen,

l. viii. c. 7. Montfaucon (in his Life of Chrysostom, tom. xiii. p. 135) too hastily supposes that Tribigild was actually in Constantinople; and that he commanded the soldiers who were ordered to seize Eutropius even Claudian, a Pagan poet, (praefat. ad l. ii. in Eutrop. 27,) has

mentioned the flight of the eunuch to the sanctuary.

Suppliciterque pias humilis prostratus ad aras,

Mitigat iratas voce tremente nurus,]

[Footnote 30: Chrysostom, in another homily, (tom. iii. p. 386,) affects to declare that Eutropius would not have been taken, had he not deserted the church. Zosimus, (l. v. p. 313,) on the contrary, pretends, that his enemies forced him from the sanctuary. Yet the promise is an evidence of

some treaty; and the strong assurance of Claudian, (Praefat. ad l. ii.

46,) Sed tamen exemplo non feriere tuo, may be considered as an evidence

of some promise.]

[Footnote 31: Cod. Theod. l. ix. tit. xi. leg. 14. The date of that

law (Jan. 17, A.D. 399) is erroneous and corrupt; since the fall

of Eutropius could not happen till the autumn of the same year. See tillemont, Hist. des Empereurs, tom. v. p. 780.]

[Footnote 32: Zosimus, l. v. p. 313. Philostorgius, l. xi. c. 6.] While this domestic revolution was transacted, Gainas [33] openly revolted from his allegiance; united his forces at Thyatira in Lydia, with those

of Tribigild; and still maintained his superior ascendant over the

rebellious leader of the Ostrogoths. The confederate armies advanced, without resistance, to the straits of the Hellespont and the Bosphorus; and Arcadius was instructed to prevent the loss of his Asiatic dominions, by resigning his authority and his person to the faith of the barbarians. The church of the holy martyr Euphemia, situate on a lofty eminence near Chalcedon, [34] was chosen for the place of the interview.

Gainas bowed with reverence at the feet of the emperor, whilst he

required the sacrifice of Aurelian and Saturninus, two ministers of consular rank; and their naked necks were exposed, by the haughty

rebel, to the edge of the sword, till he condescended to grant them a

precarious and disgraceful respite. The Goths, according to the terms of the agreement, were immediately transported from Asia into Europe; and their victorious chief, who accepted the title of master-general of the Roman armies, soon filled Constantinople with his troops, and distributed among his dependants the honors and rewards of the empire.

In his early youth, Gainas had passed the Danube as a suppliant and a fugitive: his elevation had been the work of valor and fortune; and his

indiscreet or perfidious conduct was the cause of his rapid downfall.

Notwithstanding the vigorous opposition of the archbishop, he

importunately claimed for his Arian sectaries the possession of a

peculiar church; and the pride of the Catholics was offended by the

public toleration of heresy. [35] Every quarter of Constantinople was filled with tumult and disorder; and the Barbarians gazed with such ardor on the rich shops of the jewellers, and the tables of the bankers, which were covered with gold and silver, that it was judged prudent to

remove those dangerous temptations from their sight. They resented the

injurious precaution; and some alarming attempts were made, during the

night, to attack and destroy with fire the Imperial palace. [36] In this

state of mutual and suspicious hostility, the guards and the people of constantinople shut the gates, and rose in arms to prevent or to punish the conspiracy of the Goths. During the absence of Gainas, his troops were surprised and oppressed; seven thousand Barbarians perished in this bloody massacre. In the fury of the pursuit, the Catholics uncovered the roof, and continued to throw down flaming logs of wood, till they

overwhelmed their adversaries, who had retreated to the church or conventicle of the Arians. Gainas was either innocent of the design, or too confident of his success; he was astonished by the intelligence that the flower of his army had been ingloriously destroyed; that he himself was declared a public enemy; and that his countryman, Fravitta, a brave and loyal confederate, had assumed the management of the war by sea and

land. The enterprises of the rebel, against the cities of Thrace, were encountered by a firm and well-ordered defence; his hungry soldiers were

soon reduced to the grass that grew on the margin of the fortifications; and Gainas, who vainly regretted the wealth and luxury of Asia, embraced a desperate resolution of forcing the passage of the Hellespont. He was destitute of vessels; but the woods of the Chersonesus afforded

materials for rafts, and his intrepid Barbarians did not refuse to trust themselves to the waves. But Fravitta attentively watched the progress

of their undertaking As soon as they had gained the middle of the

stream, the Roman galleys, [37] impelled by the full force of oars, of the current, and of a favorable wind, rushed forwards in compact order, and with irresistible weight; and the Hellespont was covered with the fragments of the Gothic shipwreck. After the destruction of his hopes, and the loss of many thousands of his bravest soldiers, Gainas, who could no longer aspire to govern or to subdue the Romans, determined to resume the independence of a savage life. A light and active body

of Barbarian horse, disengaged from their infantry and baggage, might

perform in eight or ten days a march of three hundred miles from the

Hellespont to the Danube; [38] the garrisons of that important frontier

had been gradually annihilated; the river, in the month of December, would be deeply frozen; and the unbounded prospect of Scythia was opened to the ambition of Gainas. This design was secretly communicated to the

national troops, who devoted themselves to the fortunes of their

leader; and before the signal of departure was given, a great number

of provincial auxiliaries, whom he suspected of an attachment to their

native country, were perfidiously massacred. The Goths advanced, by rapid marches, through the plains of Thrace; and they were soon delivered from the fear of a pursuit, by the vanity of Fravitta, [3811] who, instead of extinguishing the war, hastened to enjoy the popular applause, and to assume the peaceful honors of the consulship. But a formidable ally appeared in arms to vindicate the majesty of the empire, and to guard the peace and liberty of Scythia. [39] The superior forces

of Uldin, king of the Huns, opposed the progress of Gainas; a hostile and ruined country prohibited his retreat; he disdained to capitulate; and after repeatedly attempting to cut his way through the ranks of the enemy, he was slain, with his desperate followers, in the field of battle. Eleven days after the naval victory of the Hellespont, the

head of Gainas, the inestimable gift of the conqueror, was received at constantinople with the most liberal expressions of gratitude; and the

public deliverance was celebrated by festivals and illuminations. The triumphs of Arcadius became the subject of epic poems; [40] and the

monarch, no longer oppressed by any hostile terrors, resigned himself to the mild and absolute dominion of his wife, the fair and artful Eudoxia, who was sullied her fame by the persecution of St. John Chrysostom.

[Footnote 33: Zosimus, l. v. p. 313-323,) Socrates, (l. vi. c. 4,)

Sozomen, (l. viii. c. 4,) and Theodoret, (l. v. c. 32, 33,) represent, though with some various circumstances, the conspiracy, defeat, and death of Gainas.]

[Footnote 34: It is the expression of Zosimus himself, (l. v. p. 314,) who inadvertently uses the fashionable language of the Christians. evagrius describes (l. ii. c. 3) the situation, architecture, relics, and miracles, of that celebrated church, in which the general council of chalcedon was afterwards held.]

[Footnote 35: The pious remonstrances of Chrysostom, which do not appear in his own writings, are strongly urged by Theodoret; but his

insinuation, that they were successful, is disproved by facts. Tillemont

(Hist. des Empereurs, tom. v. p. 383) has discovered that the emperor, to satisfy the rapacious demands of Gainas, was obliged to melt the

plate of the church of the apostles.]

[Footnote 36: The ecclesiastical historians, who sometimes guide, and

sometimes follow, the public opinion, most confidently assert, that the

palace of Constantinople was guarded by legions of angels.]

[Footnote 37: Zosmius (l. v. p. 319) mentions these galleys by the name

of Liburnians, and observes that they were as swift (without explaining the difference between them) as the vessels with fifty oars; but that they were far inferior in speed to the triremes, which had been long disused. Yet he reasonably concludes, from the testimony of Polybius, that galleys of a still larger size had been constructed in the

Punic wars. Since the establishment of the Roman empire over the

Mediterranean, the useless art of building large ships of war had

probably been neglected, and at length forgotten.]

[Footnote 38: Chishull (Travels, p. 61-63, 72-76) proceeded from

Gallipoli, through Hadrianople to the Danube, in about fifteen days. He was in the train of an English ambassador, whose baggage consisted of

seventy-one wagons. That learned traveller has the merit of tracing a curious and unfrequented route.]

[Footnote 3833: Fravitta, according to Zosimus, though a Pagan,

received the honors of the consulate. Zosim, v. c. 20. On Fravitta,

see a very imperfect fragment of Eunapius. Mai. ii. 290, in Niebuhr.

92.--M.]

[Footnote 39: The narrative of Zosimus, who actually leads Gainas beyond the Danube, must be corrected by the testimony of Socrates, aud Sozomen, that he was killed in Thrace; and by the precise and authentic dates of the Alexandrian, or Paschal, Chronicle, p. 307. The naval victory of the

Hellespont is fixed to the month Apellaeus, the tenth of the Calends of

January, (December 23;) the head of Gainas was brought to Constantinople the third of the nones of January, (January 3,) in the month Audynaeus.]

[Footnote 40: Eusebius Scholasticus acquired much fame by his poem on the Gothic war, in which he had served. Near forty years afterwards ammonius recited another poem on the same subject, in the presence of the emperor Theodosius. See Socrates, l. vi. c. 6.]

after the death of the indolent Nectarius, the successor of Gregory

Nazianzen, the church of Constantinople was distracted by the ambition

of rival candidates, who were not ashamed to solicit, with gold or flattery, the suffrage of the people, or of the favorite. On this

occasion Eutropius seems to have deviated from his ordinary maxims; and

his uncorrupted judgment was determined only by the superior merit of a

stranger. In a late journey into the East, he had admired the sermons

of John, a native and presbyter of Antioch, whose name has been distinguished by the epithet of Chrysostom, or the Golden Mouth. [41] A

private order was despatched to the governor of Syria; and as the

people might be unwilling to resign their favorite preacher, he was transported, with speed and secrecy in a post-chariot, from Antioch to constantinople. The unanimous and unsolicited consent of the court, the clergy, and the people, ratified the choice of the minister; and, both as a saint and as an orator, the new archbishop surpassed the sanguine expectations of the public. Born of a noble and opulent family, in the capital of Syria, Chrysostom had been educated, by the care of a tender

mother, under the tuition of the most skilful masters. He studied the art of rhetoric in the school of Libanius; and that celebrated sophist, who soon discovered the talents of his disciple, ingenuously confessed that John would have deserved to succeed him, had he not been stolen away by the Christians. His piety soon disposed him to receive the

sacrament of baptism; to renounce the lucrative and honorable profession

of the law; and to bury himself in the adjacent desert, where he

subdued the lusts of the flesh by an austere penance of six years. His

infirmities compelled him to return to the society of mankind; and the authority of Meletius devoted his talents to the service of the church: but in the midst of his family, and afterwards on the archiepiscopal throne, Chrysostom still persevered in the practice of the monastic

virtues. The ample revenues, which his predecessors had consumed in pomp and luxury, he diligently applied to the establishment of hospitals; and the multitudes, who were supported by his charity, preferred the eloquent and edifying discourses of their archbishop to the amusements

of the theatre or the circus. The monuments of that eloquence, which was admired near twenty years at Antioch and Constantinople, have been carefully preserved; and the possession of near one thousand sermons,

or homilies has authorized the critics [42] of succeeding times to appreciate the genuine merit of Chrysostom. They unanimously attribute to the Christian orator the free command of an elegant and copious

language; the judgment to conceal the advantages which he derived from the knowledge of rhetoric and philosophy; an inexhaustible fund of

metaphors and similitudes of ideas and images, to vary and illustrate the most familiar topics; the happy art of engaging the passions in the

service of virtue; and of exposing the folly, as well as the turpitude,

of vice, almost with the truth and spirit of a dramatic representation.

[Footnote 41: The sixth book of Socrates, the eighth of Sozomen, and the fifth of Theodoret, afford curious and authentic materials for the life

of John Chrysostom. Besides those general historians, I have taken for

my guides the four principal biographers of the saint. 1. The author

of a partial and passionate Vindication of the archbishop of constantinople, composed in the form of a dialogue, and under the name

of his zealous partisan, Palladius, bishop of Helenopolis, (Tillemont,

Mem. Eccles. tom. xi. p. 500-533.) It is inserted among the works

of Chrysostom. tom. xiii. p. 1-90, edit. Montfaucon. 2. The moderate erasmus, (tom. iii. epist. Mcl. p. 1331-1347, edit. Lugd. Bat.) His

vivacity and good sense were his own; his errors, in the uncultivated

state of ecclesiastical antiquity, were almost inevitable. 3. The

learned Tillemont, (Mem. Ecclesiastiques, tom. xi. p. 1-405, 547-626,

&c. &c.,) who compiles the lives of the saints with incredible patience and religious accuracy. He has minutely searched the voluminous works

of Chrysostom himself. 4. Father Montfaucon, who has perused those works with the curious diligence of an editor, discovered several new

homilies, and again reviewed and composed the Life of Chrysostom, (Opera chrysostom. tom. xiii. p. 91-177.)]

[Footnote 42: As I am almost a stranger to the voluminous sermons of chrysostom, I have given my confidence to the two most judicious and

moderate of the ecclesiastical critics, Erasmus (tom. iii. p. 1344) and Dupin, (Bibliotheque Ecclesiastique, tom. iii. p. 38:) yet the

good taste of the former is sometimes vitiated by an excessive love

of antiquity; and the good sense of the latter is always restrained by

prudential considerations.]

the pastoral labors of the archbishop of Constantinople provoked, and

gradually united against him, two sorts of enemies; the aspiring clergy, who envied his success, and the obstinate sinners, who were offended by

his reproofs. When Chrysostom thundered, from the pulpit of St. Sophia, against the degeneracy of the Christians, his shafts were spent among the crowd, without wounding, or even marking, the character of any

individual. When he declaimed against the peculiar vices of the rich,

poverty might obtain a transient consolation from his invectives; but the guilty were still sheltered by their numbers; and the reproach

itself was dignified by some ideas of superiority and enjoyment. But as the pyramid rose towards the summit, it insensibly diminished to a

point; and the magistrates, the ministers, the favorite eunuchs, the

ladies of the court, [43] the empress Eudoxia herself, had a much larger

share of guilt to divide among a smaller proportion of criminals. The

personal applications of the audience were anticipated, or confirmed, by the testimony of their own conscience; and the intrepid preacher assumed the dangerous right of exposing both the offence and the offender to the public abhorrence. The secret resentment of the court encouraged the discontent of the clergy and monks of Constantinople, who were too hastily reformed by the fervent zeal of their archbishop. He had condemned, from the pulpit, the domestic females of the clergy of constantinople, who, under the name of servants, or sisters, afforded a

perpetual occasion either of sin or of scandal. The silent and solitary ascetics, who had secluded themselves from the world, were entitled to the warmest approbation of Chrysostom; but he despised and stigmatized, as the disgrace of their holy profession, the crowd of degenerate monks, who, from some unworthy motives of pleasure or profit, so frequently

infested the streets of the capital. To the voice of persuasion, the archbishop was obliged to add the terrors of authority; and his ardor,

in the exercise of ecclesiastical jurisdiction, was not always exempt from passion; nor was it always guided by prudence. Chrysostom was

naturally of a choleric disposition. [44] Although he struggled, according to the precepts of the gospel, to love his private enemies,

he indulged himself in the privilege of hating the enemies of God and

of the church; and his sentiments were sometimes delivered with too much energy of countenance and expression. He still maintained, from some considerations of health or abstinence, his former habits of taking

his repasts alone; and this inhospitable custom, [45] which his enemies

imputed to pride, contributed, at least, to nourish the infirmity of a morose and unsocial humor. Separated from that familiar intercourse, which facilitates the knowledge and the despatch of business, he reposed an unsuspecting confidence in his deacon Serapion; and seldom applied

his speculative knowledge of human nature to the particular character, either of his dependants, or of his equals.

conscious of the purity of his intentions, and perhaps of the

superiority of his genius, the archbishop of Constantinople extended the

jurisdiction of the Imperial city, that he might enlarge the sphere of

his pastoral labors; and the conduct which the profane imputed to an ambitious motive, appeared to Chrysostom himself in the light of a

sacred and indispensable duty. In his visitation through the Asiatic

provinces, he deposed thirteen bishops of Lydia and Phrygia; and indiscreetly declared that a deep corruption of simony and

licentiousness had infected the whole episcopal order. [46] If those bishops were innocent, such a rash and unjust condemnation must excite a well-grounded discontent. If they were guilty, the numerous associates

of their guilt would soon discover that their own safety depended on the

ruin of the archbishop; whom they studied to represent as the tyrant of the Eastern church.

[Footnote 43: The females of Constantinople distinguished themselves by their enmity or their attachment to Chrysostom. Three noble and opulent widows, Marsa, Castricia, and Eugraphia, were the leaders of the

persecution, (Pallad. Dialog. tom. xiii. p. 14.) It was impossible that they should forgive a preacher who reproached their affectation to conceal, by the ornaments of dress, their age and ugliness, (Pallad

p. 27.) Olympias, by equal zeal, displayed in a more pious cause, has

obtained the title of saint. See Tillemont, Mem. Eccles. tom. xi p.

416-440.]

[Footnote 44: Sozomen, and more especially Socrates, have defined the

real character of Chrysostom with a temperate and impartial freedom,

very offensive to his blind admirers. Those historians lived in the next

generation, when party violence was abated, and had conversed with many

persons intimately acquainted with the virtues and imperfections of the

saint.]

[Footnote 45: Palladius (tom. xiii. p. 40, &c.) very seriously defends the archbishop 1. He never tasted wine. 2. The weakness of his stomach

required a peculiar diet. 3. Business, or study, or devotion, often kept

him fasting till sunset. 4. He detested the noise and levity of great dinners. 5. He saved the expense for the use of the poor. 6. He was apprehensive, in a capital like Constantinople, of the envy and reproach

of partial invitations.]

[Footnote 46: Chrysostom declares his free opinion (tom. ix. hom. iii

in Act. Apostol. p. 29) that the number of bishops, who might be saved, bore a very small proportion to those who would be damned.]

this ecclesiastical conspiracy was managed by Theophilus, [47] archbishop of Alexandria, an active and ambitious prelate, who displayed the fruits of rapine in monuments of ostentation. His national dislike to the rising greatness of a city which degraded him from the second to the third rank in the Christian world, was exasperated by some personal dispute with Chrysostom himself. [48] By the private invitation of the empress, Theophilus landed at Constantinople with a stou body of egyptian mariners, to encounter the populace; and a train of dependent bishops, to secure, by their voices, the majority of a synod. The synod

[49] was convened in the suburb of Chalcedon, surnamed the Oak, where Rufinus had erected a stately church and monastery; and their

proceedings were continued during fourteen days, or sessions. A bishop and a deacon accused the archbishop of Constantinople; but the frivolous

or improbable nature of the forty-seven articles which they presented against him, may justly be considered as a fair and unexceptional

panegyric. Four successive summons were signified to Chrysostom; but he

still refused to trust either his person or his reputation in the hands

of his implacable enemies, who, prudently declining the examination of any particular charges, condemned his contumacious disobedience, and

hastily pronounced a sentence of deposition. The synod of the Oak

immediately addressed the emperor to ratify and execute their judgment, and charitably insinuated, that the penalties of treason might be

inflicted on the audacious preacher, who had reviled, under the name

of Jezebel, the empress Eudoxia herself. The archbishop was rudely arrested, and conducted through the city, by one of the Imperial

messengers, who landed him, after a short navigation, near the entrance

of the Euxine; from whence, before the expiration of two days, he was

gloriously recalled.

[Footnote 47: See Tillemont, Mem. Eccles. tom. xi. p. 441-500.]

[Footnote 48: I have purposely omitted the controversy which arose among the monks of Egypt, concerning Origenism and Anthropomorphism; the dissimulation and violence of Theophilus; his artful management of the

simplicity of Epiphanius; the persecution and flight of the long,

or tall, brothers; the ambiguous support which they received at constantinople from Chrysostom, &c. &c.]

[Footnote 49: Photius (p. 53-60) has preserved the original acts of the

synod of the Oak; which destroys the false assertion, that Chrysostom was condemned by no more than thirty-six bishops, of whom twenty-nine were Egyptians. Forty-five bishops subscribed his sentence. See tillemont, Mem. Eccles. tom. xi. p. 595. \* Note: Tillemont argues

strongly for the number of thirty-six--M]

the first astonishment of his faithful people had been mute and passive: they suddenly rose with unanimous and irresistible fury. Theophilus escaped, but the promiscuous crowd of monks and Egyptian mariners was slaughtered without pity in the streets of Constantinople. [50] A

seasonable earthquake justified the interposition of Heaven; the torrent

of sedition rolled forwards to the gates of the palace; and the empress, agitated by fear or remorse, threw herself at the feet of Arcadius, and confessed that the public safety could be purchased only by the

restoration of Chrysostom. The Bosphorus was covered with innumerable

vessels; the shores of Europe and Asia were profusely illuminated; and the acclamations of a victorious people accompanied, from the port to the cathedral, the triumph of the archbishop; who, too easily, consented to resume the exercise of his functions, before his sentence had been

legally reversed by the authority of an ecclesiastical synod. Ignorant,

or careless, of the impending danger, Chrysostom indulged his zeal, or

perhaps his resentment; declaimed with peculiar asperity against female

vices; and condemned the profane honors which were addressed, almost

in the precincts of St. Sophia, to the statue of the empress. His

imprudence tempted his enemies to inflame the haughty spirit of Eudoxia, by reporting, or perhaps inventing, the famous exordium of a sermon,

"Herodias is again furious; Herodias again dances; she once more

requires the head of John;" an insolent allusion, which, as a woman and a sovereign, it was impossible for her to forgive. [51] The short

interval of a perfidious truce was employed to concert more effectual

measures for the disgrace and ruin of the archbishop. A numerous council

of the Eastern prelates, who were guided from a distance by the advice

of Theophilus, confirmed the validity, without examining the justice, of the former sentence; and a detachment of Barbarian troops was introduced

into the city, to suppress the emotions of the people. On the vigil of easter, the solemn administration of baptism was rudely interrupted by the soldiers, who alarmed the modesty of the naked catechumens, and violated, by their presence, the awful mysteries of the Christian worship. Arsacius occupied the church of St. Sophia, and the archiepiscopal throne. The Catholics retreated to the baths of constantine, and afterwards to the fields; where they were still pursued and insulted by the guards, the bishops, and the magistrates. The fatal day of the second and final exile of Chrysostom was marked by the conflagration of the cathedral, of the senate-house, and of the adjacent buildings; and this calamity was imputed, without proof, but not without

probability, to the despair of a persecuted faction. [52]

[Footnote 50: Palladius owns (p. 30) that if the people of constantinople had found Theophilus, they would certainly have thrown

him into the sea. Socrates mentions (l. vi. c. 17) a battle between the

mob and the sailors of Alexandria, in which many wounds were given, and

some lives were lost. The massacre of the monks is observed only by the

Pagan Zosimus, (l. v. p. 324,) who acknowledges that Chrysostom had a

singular talent to lead the illiterate multitude.]

[Footnote 51: See Socrates, l. vi. c. 18. Sozomen, l. viii. c. 20.

Zosimus (l. v. p 324, 327) mentions, in general terms, his invectives against Eudoxia. The homily, which begins with those famous words, is

rejected as spurious. Montfaucon, tom. xiii. p. 151. Tillemont, Mem. eccles. tom xi. p. 603.]

[Footnote 52: We might naturally expect such a charge from Zosimus, (l.

v. p. 327;) but it is remarkable enough, that it should be confirmed by

Socrates, (l. vi. c. 18,) and the Paschal Chronicle, (p. 307.)]

cicero might claim some merit, if his voluntary banishment preserved the peace of the republic; [53] but the submission of Chrysostom was the

indispensable duty of a Christian and a subject. Instead of listening to

his humble prayer, that he might be permitted to reside at Cyzicus, or

Nicomedia, the inflexible empress assigned for his exile the remote and desolate town of Cucusus, among the ridges of Mount Taurus, in the

Lesser Armenia. A secret hope was entertained, that the archbishop might

perish in a difficult and dangerous march of seventy days, in the heat

of summer, through the provinces of Asia Minor, where he was continually threatened by the hostile attacks of the Isaurians, and the more

implacable fury of the monks. Yet Chrysostom arrived in safety at the

place of his confinement; and the three years which he spent at Cucusus, and the neighboring town of Arabissus, were the last and most glorious

of his life. His character was consecrated by absence and persecution; the faults of his administration were no longer remembered; but every tongue repeated the praises of his genius and virtue: and the respectful attention of the Christian world was fixed on a desert spot among the

mountains of Taurus. From that solitude the archbishop, whose active

mind was invigorated by misfortunes, maintained a strict and frequent correspondence [54] with the most distant provinces; exhorted the

separate congregation of his faithful adherents to persevere in their allegiance; urged the destruction of the temples of Phoenicia, and the extirpation of heresy in the Isle of Cyprus; extended his pastoral care to the missions of Persia and Scythia; negotiated, by his ambassadors, with the Roman pontiff and the emperor Honorius; and boldly appealed, from a partial synod, to the supreme tribunal of a free and general council. The mind of the illustrious exile was still independent; but

his captive body was exposed to the revenge of the oppressors, who continued to abuse the name and authority of Arcadius. [55] An order was despatched for the instant removal of Chrysostom to the extreme desert

of Pityus: and his guards so faithfully obeyed their cruel instructions, that, before he reached the sea-coast of the Euxine, he expired at comana, in Pontus, in the sixtieth year of his age. The succeeding

generation acknowledged his innocence and merit. The archbishops of the east, who might blush that their predecessors had been the enemies

of Chrysostom, were gradually disposed, by the firmness of the Roman

pontiff, to restore the honors of that venerable name. [56] At the pious

solicitation of the clergy and people of Constantinople, his relics, thirty years after his death, were transported from their obscure

sepulchre to the royal city. [57] The emperor Theodosius advanced to

receive them as far as Chalcedon; and, falling prostrate on the coffin,

implored, in the name of his guilty parents, Arcadius and Eudoxia, the forgiveness of the injured saint. [58]

[Footnote 53: He displays those specious motives (Post Reditum, c. 13,

14) in the language of an orator and a politician.]

[Footnote 54: Two hundred and forty-two of the epistles of Chrysostom are still extant, (Opera, tom. iii. p. 528-736.) They are addressed to a great variety of persons, and show a firmness of mind much superior to that of Cicero in his exile. The fourteenth epistle contains a curious

narrative of the dangers of his journey.]

[Footnote 55: After the exile of Chrysostom, Theophilus published an enormous and horrible volume against him, in which he perpetually

repeats the polite expressions of hostem humanitatis, sacrilegorum

principem, immundum daemonem; he affirms, that John Chrysostom had delivered his soul to be adulterated by the devil; and wishes that

some further punishment, adequate (if possible) to the magnitude of his crimes, may be inflicted on him. St. Jerom, at the request of his friend theophilus, translated this edifying performance from Greek into Latin.

See Facundus Hermian. Defens. pro iii. Capitul. l. vi. c. 5 published by

Sirmond. Opera, tom. ii. p. 595, 596, 597.]

[Footnote 56: His name was inserted by his successor Atticus in the dyptics of the church of Constantinople, A.D. 418. Ten years afterwards

he was revered as a saint. Cyril, who inherited the place, and the

passions, of his uncle Theophilus, yielded with much reluctance. See facund. Hermian. l. 4, c. 1. Tillemont, Mem. Eccles. tom. xiv. p.

277-283.]

[Footnote 57: Socrates, l. vii. c. 45. Theodoret, l. v. c. 36. This event reconciled the Joannites, who had hitherto refused to acknowledge

his successors. During his lifetime, the Joannites were respected, by the Catholics, as the true and orthodox communion of Constantinople. their obstinacy gradually drove them to the brink of schism.]

[Footnote 58: According to some accounts, (Baronius, Annal. Eccles. A.D.

438 No. 9, 10,) the emperor was forced to send a letter of invitation and excuses, before the body of the ceremonious saint could be moved from Comana.]

chapter XXXII: Emperors Arcadius, Eutropius, Theodosius II.--Part III.

Yet a reasonable doubt may be entertained, whether any stain of

hereditary guilt could be derived from Arcadius to his successor. eudoxia was a young and beautiful woman, who indulged her passions, and despised her husband; Count John enjoyed, at least, the familiar confidence of the empress; and the public named him as the real father

of Theodosius the younger. [59] The birth of a son was accepted,

however, by the pious husband, as an event the most fortunate and

honorable to himself, to his family, and to the Eastern world: and the

royal infant, by an unprecedented favor, was invested with the titles of caesar and Augustus. In less than four years afterwards, Eudoxia, in the bloom of youth, was destroyed by the consequences of a miscarriage; and this untimely death confounded the prophecy of a holy bishop, [60] who, amidst the universal joy, had ventured to foretell, that she should behold the long and auspicious reign of her glorious son. The Catholics applauded the justice of Heaven, which avenged the persecution of St. chrysostom; and perhaps the emperor was the only person who sincerely bewailed the loss of the haughty and rapacious Eudoxia. Such a domestic

misfortune afflicted him more deeply than the public calamities of the east; [61] the licentious excursions, from Pontus to Palestine, of the

Isaurian robbers, whose impunity accused the weakness of the government; and the earthquakes, the conflagrations, the famine, and the flights

of locusts, [62] which the popular discontent was equally disposed to attribute to the incapacity of the monarch. At length, in the thirty-first year of his age, after a reign (if we may abuse that word)

of thirteen years, three months, and fifteen days, Arcadius expired

in the palace of Constantinople. It is impossible to delineate his character; since, in a period very copiously furnished with historical

materials, it has not been possible to remark one action that properly belongs to the son of the great Theodosius.

[Footnote 59: Zosimus, l. v. p. 315. The chastity of an empress should

not be impeached without producing a witness; but it is astonishing, that the witness should write and live under a prince whose legitimacy

he dared to attack. We must suppose that his history was a party libel,

privately read and circulated by the Pagans. Tillemont (Hist. des empereurs, tom. v. p. 782) is not averse to brand the reputation of eudoxia.]

[Footnote 60: Porphyry of Gaza. His zeal was transported by the order which he had obtained for the destruction of eight Pagan temples of that city. See the curious details of his life, (Baronius, A.D. 401, No.

17-51,) originally written in Greek, or perhaps in Syriac, by a monk,

one of his favorite deacons.]

[Footnote 61: Philostorg. l. xi. c. 8, and Godefroy, Dissertat. p. 457.]

[Footnote 62: Jerom (tom. vi. p. 73, 76) describes, in lively colors, the regular and destructive march of the locusts, which spread a dark cloud, between heaven and earth, over the land of Palestine. Seasonable winds scattered them, partly into the Dead Sea, and partly into the

Mediterranean.]

the historian Procopius [63] has indeed illuminated the mind of the dying emperor with a ray of human prudence, or celestial wisdom. arcadius considered, with anxious foresight, the helpless condition

of his son Theodosius, who was no more than seven years of age, the dangerous factions of a minority, and the aspiring spirit of Jezdegerd, the Persian monarch. Instead of tempting the allegiance of an ambitious

subject, by the participation of supreme power, he boldly appealed to the magnanimity of a king; and placed, by a solemn testament, the sceptre of the East in the hands of Jezdegerd himself. The royal

guardian accepted and discharged this honorable trust with unexampled fidelity; and the infancy of Theodosius was protected by the arms and councils of Persia. Such is the singular narrative of Procopius; and his

veracity is not disputed by Agathias, [64] while he presumes to dissent from his judgment, and to arraign the wisdom of a Christian emperor, who, so rashly, though so fortunately, committed his son and his dominions to the unknown faith of a stranger, a rival, and a heathen. at the distance of one hundred and fifty years, this political question

might be debated in the court of Justinian; but a prudent historian will

refuse to examine the propriety, till he has ascertained the truth,

of the testament of Arcadius. As it stands without a parallel in the

history of the world, we may justly require, that it should be attested by the positive and unanimous evidence of contemporaries. The strange

novelty of the event, which excites our distrust, must have attracted their notice; and their universal silence annihilates the vain tradition

of the succeeding age.

[Footnote 63: Procopius, de Bell. Persic. l. i. c. 2, p. 8, edit.

Louvre.]

[Footnote 64: Agathias, l. iv. p. 136, 137. Although he confesses the

prevalence of the tradition, he asserts, that Procopius was the first who had committed it to writing. Tillemont (Hist. des Empereurs, tom.

vi. p. 597) argues very sensibly on the merits of this fable. His criticism was not warped by any ecclesiastical authority: both Procopius and Agathias are half Pagans. \* Note: See St Martin's article on

Jezdegerd, in the Biographie Universelle de Michand.--M.]

the maxims of Roman jurisprudence, if they could fairly be transferred from private property to public dominion, would have adjudged to the emperor Honorius the guardianship of his nephew, till he had attained, at least, the fourteenth year of his age. But the weakness of Honorius, and the calamities of his reign, disqualified him from prosecuting this natural claim; and such was the absolute separation of the two

monarchies, both in interest and affection, that Constantinople would

have obeyed, with less reluctance, the orders of the Persian, than those

of the Italian, court. Under a prince whose weakness is disguised by the external signs of manhood and discretion, the most worthless favorites

may secretly dispute the empire of the palace; and dictate to submissive

provinces the commands of a master, whom they direct and despise. But the ministers of a child, who is incapable of arming them with the

sanction of the royal name, must acquire and exercise an independent authority. The great officers of the state and army, who had been appointed before the death of Arcadius, formed an aristocracy, which

might have inspired them with the idea of a free republic; and the

government of the Eastern empire was fortunately assumed by the praefect anthemius, [65] who obtained, by his superior abilities, a lasting ascendant over the minds of his equals. The safety of the young emperor

proved the merit and integrity of Anthemius; and his prudent firmness

sustained the force and reputation of an infant reign. Uldin, with a formidable host of Barbarians, was encamped in the heart of Thrace; he

proudly rejected all terms of accommodation; and, pointing to the rising

sun, declared to the Roman ambassadors, that the course of that planet

should alone terminate the conquest of the Huns. But the desertion

of his confederates, who were privately convinced of the justice and

liberality of the Imperial ministers, obliged Uldin to repass the danube: the tribe of the Scyrri, which composed his rear-guard, was almost extirpated; and many thousand captives were dispersed to cultivate, with servile labor, the fields of Asia. [66] In the midst of the public triumph, Constantinople was protected by a strong enclosure

of new and more extensive walls; the same vigilant care was applied to restore the fortifications of the Illyrian cities; and a plan was

judiciously conceived, which, in the space of seven years, would have

secured the command of the Danube, by establishing on that river a

perpetual fleet of two hundred and fifty armed vessels. [67]

[Footnote 65: Socrates, l. vii. c. l. Anthemius was the grandson of

Philip, one of the ministers of Constantius, and the grandfather of the emperor Anthemius. After his return from the Persian embassy, he was appointed consul and Praetorian praefect of the East, in the year 405 and held the praefecture about ten years. See his honors and praises in

Godefroy, Cod. Theod. tom. vi. p. 350. Tillemont, Hist. des Emptom. vi.

p. 1. &c.]

[Footnote 66: Sozomen, l. ix. c. 5. He saw some Scyrri at work near

Mount Olympus, in Bithynia, and cherished the vain hope that those captives were the last of the nation.]

[Footnote 67: Cod. Theod. l. vii. tit. xvi. l. xv. tit. i. leg. 49.]

but the Romans had so long been accustomed to the authority of a

monarch, that the first, even among the females, of the Imperial family, who displayed any courage or capacity, was permitted to ascend the

vacant throne of Theodosius. His sister Pulcheria, [68] who was only two

years older than himself, received, at the age of sixteen, the title of augusta; and though her favor might be sometimes clouded by caprice or

intrigue, she continued to govern the Eastern empire near forty years; during the long minority of her brother, and after his death, in her

own name, and in the name of Marcian, her nominal husband. From a motive either of prudence or religion, she embraced a life of celibacy; and

notwithstanding some aspersions on the chastity of Pulcheria, [69] this

resolution, which she communicated to her sisters Arcadia and Marina, was celebrated by the Christian world, as the sublime effort of heroic

piety. In the presence of the clergy and people, the three daughters of arcadius [70] dedicated their virginity to God; and the obligation of their solemn vow was inscribed on a tablet of gold and gems; which they

publicly offered in the great church of Constantinople. Their palace was converted into a monastery; and all males, except the guides of their conscience, the saints who had forgotten the distinction of sexes, were scrupulously excluded from the holy threshold. Pulcheria, her two

sisters, and a chosen train of favorite damsels, formed a religious community: they denounced the vanity of dress; interrupted, by frequent fasts, their simple and frugal diet; allotted a portion of their time to works of embroidery; and devoted several hours of the day and night to the exercises of prayer and psalmody. The piety of a Christian virgin was adorned by the zeal and liberality of an empress. Ecclesiastical

history describes the splendid churches, which were built at the expense of Pulcheria, in all the provinces of the East; her charitable foundations for the benefit of strangers and the poor; the ample donations which she assigned for the perpetual maintenance of monastic

societies; and the active severity with which she labored to suppress the opposite heresies of Nestorius and Eutyches. Such virtues were

supposed to deserve the peculiar favor of the Deity: and the relics of

martyrs, as well as the knowledge of future events, were communicated in

visions and revelations to the Imperial saint. [71] Yet the devotion

of Pulcheria never diverted her indefatigable attention from temporal affairs; and she alone, among all the descendants of the great theodosius, appears to have inherited any share of his manly spirit and abilities. The elegant and familiar use which she had acquired, both

of the Greek and Latin languages, was readily applied to the various

occasions of speaking or writing, on public business: her deliberations were maturely weighed; her actions were prompt and decisive; and, while

she moved, without noise or ostentation, the wheel of government, she discreetly attributed to the genius of the emperor the long tranquillity

of his reign. In the last years of his peaceful life, Europe was indeed afflicted by the arms of war; but the more extensive provinces of Asia

still continued to enjoy a profound and permanent repose. Theodosius the

younger was never reduced to the disgraceful necessity of encountering and punishing a rebellious subject: and since we cannot applaud the

vigor, some praise may be due to the mildness and prosperity, of the administration of Pulcheria.

[Footnote 68: Sozomen has filled three chapters with a magnificent

panegyric of Pulcheria, (l. ix. c. 1, 2, 3;) and Tillemont (Memoires eccles. tom. xv. p. 171-184) has dedicated a separate article to the

honor of St. Pulcheria, virgin and empress. \* Note: The heathen Eunapius

gives a frightful picture of the venality and a justice of the court of

Pulcheria. Fragm. Eunap. in Mai, ii. 293, in p. 97.--M.]

[Footnote 69: Suidas, (Excerpta, p. 68, in Script. Byzant.) pretends,

on the credit of the Nestorians, that Pulcheria was exasperated against their founder, because he censured her connection with the beautiful

Paulinus, and her incest with her brother Theodosius.]

[Footnote 70: See Ducange, Famil. Byzantin. p. 70. Flaccilla, the eldest daughter, either died before Arcadius, or, if she lived till the year

431, (Marcellin. Chron.,) some defect of mind or body must have excluded

her from the honors of her rank.]

[Footnote 71: She was admonished, by repeated dreams, of the place where the relics of the forty martyrs had been buried. The ground

had successively belonged to the house and garden of a woman of constantinople, to a monastery of Macedonian monks, and to a church

of St. Thyrsus, erected by Caesarius, who was consul A.D. 397; and the memory of the relics was almost obliterated. Notwithstanding the charitable wishes of Dr. Jortin, (Remarks, tom. iv. p. 234,) it is not easy to acquit Pulcheria of some share in the pious fraud; which must

have been transacted when she was more than five-and-thirty years of age.]

the Roman world was deeply interested in the education of its master. A

regular course of study and exercise was judiciously instituted; of the

military exercises of riding, and shooting with the bow; of the liberal

studies of grammar, rhetoric, and philosophy: the most skilful masters

of the East ambitiously solicited the attention of their royal pupil; and several noble youths were introduced into the palace, to animate his diligence by the emulation of friendship. Pulcheria alone discharged the

important task of instructing her brother in the arts of government; but her precepts may countenance some suspicions of the extent of her capacity, or of the purity of her intentions. She taught him to maintain a grave and majestic deportment; to walk, to hold his robes, to seat

himself on his throne, in a manner worthy of a great prince; to abstain from laughter; to listen with condescension; to return suitable answers; to assume, by turns, a serious or a placid countenance: in a word, to

represent with grace and dignity the external figure of a Roman emperor. but Theodosius [72] was never excited to support the weight and glory of an illustrious name: and, instead of aspiring to support his ancestors,

he degenerated (if we may presume to measure the degrees of incapacity) below the weakness of his father and his uncle. Arcadius and Honorius

had been assisted by the guardian care of a parent, whose lessons were enforced by his authority and example. But the unfortunate prince, who

is born in the purple, must remain a stranger to the voice of truth; and the son of Arcadius was condemned to pass his perpetual infancy encompassed only by a servile train of women and eunuchs. The ample

leisure which he acquired by neglecting the essential duties of his high

office, was filled by idle amusements and unprofitable studies. Hunting was the only active pursuit that could tempt him beyond the limits of the palace; but he most assiduously labored, sometimes by the light of a

midnight lamp, in the mechanic occupations of painting and carving; and the elegance with which he transcribed religious books entitled the

Roman emperor to the singular epithet of Calligraphes, or a fair writer.

Separated from the world by an impenetrable veil, Theodosius trusted the

persons whom he loved; he loved those who were accustomed to amuse and flatter his indolence; and as he never perused the papers that were

presented for the royal signature, the acts of injustice the most

repugnant to his character were frequently perpetrated in his name. The emperor himself was chaste, temperate, liberal, and merciful; but these

qualities, which can only deserve the name of virtues when they are supported by courage and regulated by discretion, were seldom beneficial, and they sometimes proved mischievous, to mankind. His mind, enervated by a royal education, was oppressed and degraded by abject

superstition: he fasted, he sung psalms, he blindly accepted the

miracles and doctrines with which his faith was continually nourished. theodosius devoutly worshipped the dead and living saints of the catholic church; and he once refused to eat, till an insolent monk, who

had cast an excommunication on his sovereign, condescended to heal the

spiritual wound which he had inflicted. [73]

[Footnote 72: There is a remarkable difference between the two ecclesiastical historians, who in general bear so close a resemblance.

Sozomen (l. ix. c. 1) ascribes to Pulcheria the government of the empire, and the education of her brother, whom he scarcely condescends to praise. Socrates, though he affectedly disclaims all hopes of favor

or fame, composes an elaborate panegyric on the emperor, and cautiously

suppresses the merits of his sister, (l. vii. c. 22, 42.) Philostorgius

(l. xii. c. 7) expresses the influence of Pulcheria in gentle and courtly language. Suidas (Excerpt. p. 53) gives a true character of theodosius; and I have followed the example of Tillemont (tom. vi. p.

25) in borrowing some strokes from the modern Greeks.]

[Footnote 73: Theodoret, l. v. c. 37. The bishop of Cyrrhus, one of the first men of his age for his learning and piety, applauds the obedience

of Theodosius to the divine laws.]

the story of a fair and virtuous maiden, exalted from a private condition to the Imperial throne, might be deemed an incredible romance,

if such a romance had not been verified in the marriage of Theodosius. the celebrated Athenais [74] was educated by her father Leontius in the

religion and sciences of the Greeks; and so advantageous was the opinion which the Athenian philosopher entertained of his contemporaries, that he divided his patrimony between his two sons, bequeathing to his daughter a small legacy of one hundred pieces of gold, in the lively confidence that her beauty and merit would be a sufficient portion. The

jealousy and avarice of her brothers soon compelled Athenais to seek a refuge at Constantinople; and, with some hopes, either of justice

or favor, to throw herself at the feet of Pulcheria. That sagacious

princess listened to her eloquent complaint; and secretly destined the daughter of the philosopher Leontius for the future wife of the emperor

of the East, who had now attained the twentieth year of his age. She easily excited the curiosity of her brother, by an interesting picture

of the charms of Athenais; large eyes, a well-proportioned nose, a fair complexion, golden locks, a slender person, a graceful demeanor, an understanding improved by study, and a virtue tried by distress. theodosius, concealed behind a curtain in the apartment of his

sister, was permitted to behold the Athenian virgin: the modest youth

immediately declared his pure and honorable love; and the royal

nuptials were celebrated amidst the acclamations of the capital and the

provinces. Athenais, who was easily persuaded to renounce the errors of

Paganism, received at her baptism the Christian name of Eudocia; but the cautious Pulcheria withheld the title of Augusta, till the wife of theodosius had approved her fruitfulness by the birth of a daughter, who espoused, fifteen years afterwards, the emperor of the West. The brothers of Eudocia obeyed, with some anxiety, her Imperial summons; but as she could easily forgive their unfortunate unkindness, she indulged the tenderness, or perhaps the vanity, of a sister, by promoting them to the rank of consuls and praefects. In the luxury of the palace,

she still cultivated those ingenuous arts which had contributed to her

greatness; and wisely dedicated her talents to the honor of religion, and of her husband. Eudocia composed a poetical paraphrase of the first eight books of the Old Testament, and of the prophecies of Daniel and

Zechariah; a cento of the verses of Homer, applied to the life and

miracles of Christ, the legend of St. Cyprian, and a panegyric on the

Persian victories of Theodosius; and her writings, which were applauded by a servile and superstitious age, have not been disdained by the candor of impartial criticism. [75] The fondness of the emperor was not abated by time and possession; and Eudocia, after the marriage of her daughter, was permitted to discharge her grateful vows by a solemn

pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Her ostentatious progress through the East may

seem inconsistent with the spirit of Christian humility; she pronounced, from a throne of gold and gems, an eloquent oration to the senate of antioch, declared her royal intention of enlarging the walls of the city, bestowed a donative of two hundred pounds of gold to restore the public baths, and accepted the statues, which were decreed by the

gratitude of Antioch. In the Holy Land, her alms and pious foundations exceeded the munificence of the great Helena, and though the public treasure might be impoverished by this excessive liberality, she enjoyed the conscious satisfaction of returning to Constantinople with the chains of St. Peter, the right arm of St. Stephen, and an undoubted

picture of the Virgin, painted by St. Luke. [76] But this pilgrimage was the fatal term of the glories of Eudocia. Satiated with empty pomp, and

unmindful, perhaps, of her obligations to Pulcheria, she ambitiously aspired to the government of the Eastern empire; the palace was distracted by female discord; but the victory was at last decided, by the superior ascendant of the sister of Theodosius. The execution of

Paulinus, master of the offices, and the disgrace of Cyrus, Praetorian

praefect of the East, convinced the public that the favor of Eudocia was insufficient to protect her most faithful friends; and the uncommon beauty of Paulinus encouraged the secret rumor, that his guilt was that

of a successful lover. [77] As soon as the empress perceived that the affection of Theodosius was irretrievably lost, she requested the permission of retiring to the distant solitude of Jerusalem. She

obtained her request; but the jealousy of Theodosius, or the vindictive

spirit of Pulcheria, pursued her in her last retreat; and Saturninus, count of the domestics, was directed to punish with death two ecclesiastics, her most favored servants. Eudocia instantly revenged them by the assassination of the count; the furious passions which she

indulged on this suspicious occasion, seemed to justify the severity of theodosius; and the empress, ignominiously stripped of the honors of her

rank, [78] was disgraced, perhaps unjustly, in the eyes of the world. the remainder of the life of Eudocia, about sixteen years, was spent in exile and devotion; and the approach of age, the death of Theodosius, the misfortunes of her only daughter, who was led a captive from Rome to Carthage, and the society of the Holy Monks of Palestine, insensibly confirmed the religious temper of her mind. After a full experience of the vicissitudes of human life, the daughter of the philosopher Leontius expired, at Jerusalem, in the sixty-seventh year of her age; protesting, with her dying breath, that she had never transgressed the bounds of

innocence and friendship. [79]

[Footnote 74: Socrates (l. vii. c. 21) mentions her name, (Athenais, the daughter of Leontius, an Athenian sophist,) her baptism, marriage, and

poetical genius. The most ancient account of her history is in John

Malala (part ii. p. 20, 21, edit. Venet. 1743) and in the Paschal chronicle, (p. 311, 312.) Those authors had probably seen original

pictures of the empress Eudocia. The modern Greeks, Zonaras, Cedrenus,

&c., have displayed the love, rather than the talent of fiction. From

Nicephorus, indeed, I have ventured to assume her age. The writer of a romance would not have imagined, that Athenais was near twenty eight

years old when she inflamed the heart of a young emperor.]

[Footnote 75: Socrates, l. vii. c. 21, Photius, p. 413-420. The Homeric cento is still extant, and has been repeatedly printed: but the claim

of Eudocia to that insipid performance is disputed by the critics. See fabricius, Biblioth. Graec. tom. i. p. 357. The Ionia, a miscellaneous dictionary of history and fable, was compiled by another empress of the name of Eudocia, who lived in the eleventh century: and the work is

still extant in manuscript.]

[Footnote 76: Baronius (Annal. Eccles. A.D. 438, 439) is copious and florid, but he is accused of placing the lies of different ages on the

same level of authenticity.]

[Footnote 77: In this short view of the disgrace of Eudocia, I have

imitated the caution of Evagrius (l. i. c. 21) and Count Marcellinus,

(in Chron A.D. 440 and 444.) The two authentic dates assigned by the

latter, overturn a great part of the Greek fictions; and the celebrated

story of the apple, &c., is fit only for the Arabian Nights, where

something not very unlike it may be found.]

[Footnote 78: Priscus, (in Excerpt. Legat. p. 69,) a contemporary, and a courtier, dryly mentions her Pagan and Christian names, without adding any title of honor or respect.]

[Footnote 79: For the two pilgrimages of Eudocia, and her long residence at Jerusalem, her devotion, alms, &c., see Socrates (l. vii. c. 47) and evagrius, (l. i. c. 21, 22.) The Paschal Chronicle may sometimes deserve

regard; and in the domestic history of Antioch, John Malala becomes a writer of good authority. The Abbe Guenee, in a memoir on the fertility

of Palestine, of which I have only seen an extract, calculates the gifts

of Eudocia at 20,488 pounds of gold, above 800,000 pounds sterling.]

the gentle mind of Theodosius was never inflamed by the ambition of conquest, or military renown; and the slight alarm of a Persian war

scarcely interrupted the tranquillity of the East. The motives of this war were just and honorable. In the last year of the reign of Jezdegerd, the supposed guardian of Theodosius, a bishop, who aspired to the crown

of martyrdom, destroyed one of the fire-temples of Susa. [80] His zeal and obstinacy were revenged on his brethren: the Magi excited a cruel

persecution; and the intolerant zeal of Jezdegerd was imitated by his

son Varanes, or Bahram, who soon afterwards ascended the throne. Some christian fugitives, who escaped to the Roman frontier, were sternly demanded, and generously refused; and the refusal, aggravated by commercial disputes, soon kindled a war between the rival monarchies. the mountains of Armenia, and the plains of Mesopotamia, were filled with hostile armies; but the operations of two successive campaigns were

not productive of any decisive or memorable events. Some engagements were fought, some towns were besieged, with various and doubtful

success: and if the Romans failed in their attempt to recover the

long-lost possession of Nisibis, the Persians were repulsed from the walls of a Mesopotamian city, by the valor of a martial bishop, who

pointed his thundering engine in the name of St. Thomas the Apostle.

Yet the splendid victories which the incredible speed of the messenger

Palladius repeatedly announced to the palace of Constantinople, were celebrated with festivals and panegyrics. From these panegyrics the

historians [81] of the age might borrow their extraordinary, and,

perhaps, fabulous tales; of the proud challenge of a Persian hero, who was entangled by the net, and despatched by the sword, of Areobindus the

Goth; of the ten thousand Immortals, who were slain in the attack of the Roman camp; and of the hundred thousand Arabs, or Saracens, who were impelled by a panic terror to throw themselves headlong into the Euphrates. Such events may be disbelieved or disregarded; but the charity of a bishop, Acacius of Amida, whose name might have dignified the saintly calendar, shall not be lost in oblivion. Boldly declaring, that vases of gold and silver are useless to a God who neither eats

nor drinks, the generous prelate sold the plate of the church of Amida; employed the price in the redemption of seven thousand Persian captives;

supplied their wants with affectionate liberality; and dismissed them to their native country, to inform their king of the true spirit of the

religion which he persecuted. The practice of benevolence in the midst

of war must always tend to assuage the animosity of contending

nations; and I wish to persuade myself, that Acacius contributed to the

restoration of peace. In the conference which was held on the limits of the two empires, the Roman ambassadors degraded the personal character

of their sovereign, by a vain attempt to magnify the extent of his

power; when they seriously advised the Persians to prevent, by a timely accommodation, the wrath of a monarch, who was yet ignorant of this distant war. A truce of one hundred years was solemnly ratified; and although the revolutions of Armenia might threaten the public tranquillity, the essential conditions of this treaty were respected

near fourscore years by the successors of Constantine and Artaxerxes.

[Footnote 80: Theodoret, l. v. c. 39 Tillemont. Mem. Eccles tom. xii.

356-364. Assemanni, Bibliot. Oriental. tom. iii. p. 396, tom. iv. p. 61. theodoret blames the rashness of Abdas, but extols the constancy of his

martyrdom. Yet I do not clearly understand the casuistry which prohibits

our repairing the damage which we have unlawfully committed.]

[Footnote 81: Socrates (l. vii. c. 18, 19, 20, 21) is the best author for the Persian war. We may likewise consult the three Chronicles, the

Paschal and those of Marcellinus and Malala.]

Since the Roman and Parthian standards first encountered on the banks of the Euphrates, the kingdom of Armenia [82] was alternately oppressed by

its formidable protectors; and in the course of this History, several events, which inclined the balance of peace and war, have been already

related. A disgraceful treaty had resigned Armenia to the ambition of

Sapor; and the scale of Persia appeared to preponderate. But the royal

race of Arsaces impatiently submitted to the house of Sassan; the turbulent nobles asserted, or betrayed, their hereditary independence; and the nation was still attached to the Christian princes of constantinople. In the beginning of the fifth century, Armenia was divided by the progress of war and faction; [83] and the unnatural division precipitated the downfall of that ancient monarchy. Chosroes, the Persian vassal, reigned over the Eastern and most extensive portion

of the country; while the Western province acknowledged the jurisdiction

of Arsaces, and the supremacy of the emperor Arcadius. [8111] After the death of Arsaces, the Romans suppressed the regal government, and

imposed on their allies the condition of subjects. The military command was delegated to the count of the Armenian frontier; the city of theodosiopolis [84] was built and fortified in a strong situation, on a fertile and lofty ground, near the sources of the Euphrates; and the dependent territories were ruled by five satraps, whose dignity was

marked by a peculiar habit of gold and purple. The less fortunate

nobles, who lamented the loss of their king, and envied the honors of their equals, were provoked to negotiate their peace and pardon at the

Persian court; and returning, with their followers, to the palace of artaxata, acknowledged Chosroes [8411] for their lawful sovereign. about thirty years afterwards, Artasires, the nephew and successor

of Chosroes, fell under the displeasure of the haughty and capricious

nobles of Armenia; and they unanimously desired a Persian governor in the room of an unworthy king. The answer of the archbishop Isaac, whose

sanction they earnestly solicited, is expressive of the character of a

superstitious people. He deplored the manifest and inexcusable vices

of Artasires; and declared, that he should not hesitate to accuse him before the tribunal of a Christian emperor, who would punish, without destroying, the sinner. "Our king," continued Isaac, "is too much addicted to licentious pleasures, but he has been purified in the holy waters of baptism. He is a lover of women, but he does not adore the fire or the elements. He may deserve the reproach of lewdness, but he

is an undoubted Catholic; and his faith is pure, though his manners are flagitious. I will never consent to abandon my sheep to the rage of devouring wolves; and you would soon repent your rash exchange of the

infirmities of a believer, for the specious virtues of a heathen." [85] exasperated by the firmness of Isaac, the factious nobles accused both the king and the archbishop as the secret adherents of the emperor; and absurdly rejoiced in the sentence of condemnation, which, after a partial hearing, was solemnly pronounced by Bahram himself. The descendants of Arsaces were degraded from the royal dignity, [86] which they had possessed above five hundred and sixty years; [87] and the dominions of the unfortunate Artasires, [8711] under the new and

significant appellation of Persarmenia, were reduced into the form of a

province. This usurpation excited the jealousy of the Roman government; but the rising disputes were soon terminated by an amicable, though

unequal, partition of the ancient kingdom of Armenia: [8712] and a territorial acquisition, which Augustus might have despised, reflected

some lustre on the declining empire of the younger Theodosius.

[Footnote 82: This account of the ruin and division of the kingdom of armenia is taken from the third book of the Armenian history of Moses of chorene. Deficient as he is in every qualification of a good historian,

his local information, his passions, and his prejudices are strongly expressive of a native and contemporary. Procopius (de Edificiis, l.

iii. c. 1, 5) relates the same facts in a very different manner; but I

have extracted the circumstances the most probable in themselves, and the least inconsistent with Moses of Chorene.]

[Footnote 83: The western Armenians used the Greek language and characters in their religious offices; but the use of that hostile tongue was prohibited by the Persians in the Eastern provinces, which were obliged to use the Syriac, till the invention of the Armenian

letters by Mesrobes, in the beginning of the fifth century, and the

subsequent version of the Bible into the Armenian language; an event which relaxed to the connection of the church and nation with constantinople.]

[Footnote 84: Moses Choren. l. iii. c. 59, p. 309, and p. 358.

Procopius, de Edificiis, l. iii. c. 5. Theodosiopolis stands, or rather

stood, about thirty-five miles to the east of Arzeroum, the modern capital of Turkish Armenia. See D'Anville, Geographie Ancienne, tom. ii.

p. 99, 100.]

[Footnote 8111: The division of Armenia, according to M. St. Martin, took place much earlier, A. C. 390. The Eastern or Persian division was four times as large as the Western or Roman. This partition took place during the reigns of Theodosius the First, and Varanes (Bahram) the fourth. St. Martin, Sup. to Le Beau, iv. 429. This partition was but

imperfectly accomplished, as both parts were afterwards reunited under chosroes, who paid tribute both to the Roman emperor and to the Persian

king. v. 439.--M.]

[Footnote 8411: Chosroes, according to Procopius (who calls him arsaces, the common name of the Armenian kings) and the Armenian writers, bequeathed to his two sons, to Tigranes the Persian, to Arsaces the Roman, division of Armenia, A. C. 416. With the assistance of the discontented nobles the Persian king placed his son Sapor on the throne

of the Eastern division; the Western at the same time was united to the Roman empire, and called the Greater Armenia. It was then that theodosiopolis was built. Sapor abandoned the throne of Armenia to assert his rights to that of Persia; he perished in the struggle, and after a period of anarchy, Bahram V., who had ascended the throne

of Persia, placed the last native prince, Ardaschir, son of Bahram

Schahpour, on the throne of the Persian division of Armenia. St. Martin,

v. 506. This Ardaschir was the Artasires of Gibbon. The archbishop Isaac

is called by the Armenians the Patriarch Schag. St. Martin, vi. 29.--M.]

[Footnote 85: Moses Choren, l. iii. c. 63, p. 316. According to the

institution of St. Gregory, the Apostle of Armenia, the archbishop was always of the royal family; a circumstance which, in some degree, corrected the influence of the sacerdotal character, and united the

mitre with the crown.]

[Footnote 86: A branch of the royal house of Arsaces still subsisted with the rank and possessions (as it should seem) of Armenian satraps.

See Moses Choren. l. iii. c. 65, p. 321.]

[Footnote 87: Valarsaces was appointed king of Armenia by his brother the Parthian monarch, immediately after the defeat of Antiochus Sidetes,

(Moses Choren. l. ii. c. 2, p. 85,) one hundred and thirty years before christ. Without depending on the various and contradictory periods of the reigns of the last kings, we may be assured, that the ruin of the armenian kingdom happened after the council of Chalcedon, A.D. 431, (l.

iii. c. 61, p. 312;) and under Varamus, or Bahram, king of Persia, (l.

iii. c. 64, p. 317,) who reigned from A.D. 420 to 440. See Assemanni, bibliot. Oriental. tom. iii. p. 396. \* Note: Five hundred and eighty.

St. Martin, ibid. He places this event A. C 429.--M.----Note: According to M. St. Martin, vi. 32, Vagharschah, or Valarsaces, was appointed king by his brother Mithridates the Great, king of Parthia.--M.]

[Footnote 8711: Artasires or Ardaschir was probably sent to the castle

of Oblivion. St. Martin, vi. 31.--M.]

[Footnote 8712: The duration of the Armenian kingdom according to M. St.

Martin, was 580 years.--M]

chapter XXXIII: Conquest Of Africa By The Vandals.--Part I.

Death Of Honorius.--Valentinian III.--Emperor Of The East.

--Administration Of His Mother Placidia--Aetius And

Boniface.--Conquest Of Africa By The Vandals.

during a long and disgraceful reign of twenty-eight years, Honorius, emperor of the West, was separated from the friendship of his brother, and afterwards of his nephew, who reigned over the East; and constantinople beheld, with apparent indifference and secret joy, the calamities of Rome. The strange adventures of Placidia [1] gradually

renewed and cemented the alliance of the two empires. The daughter of the great Theodosius had been the captive, and the queen, of the Goths;

she lost an affectionate husband; she was dragged in chains by his

insulting assassin; she tasted the pleasure of revenge, and was exchanged, in the treaty of peace, for six hundred thousand measures of wheat. After her return from Spain to Italy, Placidia experienced a new

persecution in the bosom of her family. She was averse to a marriage, which had been stipulated without her consent; and the brave constantius, as a noble reward for the tyrants whom he had vanquished,

received, from the hand of Honorius himself, the struggling and the

reluctant hand of the widow of Adolphus. But her resistance ended with the ceremony of the nuptials: nor did Placidia refuse to become the

mother of Honoria and Valentinian the Third, or to assume and exercise an absolute dominion over the mind of her grateful husband. The generous

soldier, whose time had hitherto been divided between social pleasure and military service, was taught new lessons of avarice and ambition:

he extorted the title of Augustus: and the servant of Honorius was associated to the empire of the West. The death of Constantius, in the

seventh month of his reign, instead of diminishing, seemed to inerease the power of Placidia; and the indecent familiarity [2] of her brother, which might be no more than the symptoms of a childish affection, were

universally attributed to incestuous love. On a sudden, by some base intrigues of a steward and a nurse, this excessive fondness was converted into an irreconcilable quarrel: the debates of the emperor and

his sister were not long confined within the walls of the palace; and as the Gothic soldiers adhered to their queen, the city of Ravenna was agitated with bloody and dangerous tumults, which could only be appeased by the forced or voluntary retreat of Placidia and her children. The

royal exiles landed at Constantinople, soon after the marriage of theodosius, during the festival of the Persian victories. They were treated with kindness and magnificence; but as the statues of the emperor Constantius had been rejected by the Eastern court, the title of augusta could not decently be allowed to his widow. Within a few months after the arrival of Placidia, a swift messenger announced the death of

Honorius, the consequence of a dropsy; but the important secret was not divulged, till the necessary orders had been despatched for the march of a large body of troops to the sea-coast of Dalmatia. The shops and the

gates of Constantinople remained shut during seven days; and the loss

of a foreign prince, who could neither be esteemed nor regretted, was celebrated with loud and affected demonstrations of the public grief.

[Footnote 1: See vol. iii. p. 296.]

[Footnote 2: It is the expression of Olympiodorus (apud Phetium p. 197;) who means, perhaps, to describe the same caresses which Mahomet bestowed

on his daughter Phatemah. Quando, (says the prophet himself,) quando

subit mihi desiderium Paradisi, osculor eam, et ingero linguam meam

in os ejus. But this sensual indulgence was justified by miracle and

mystery; and the anecdote has been communicated to the public by the

Reverend Father Maracci in his Version and Confutation of the Koran, tom. i. p. 32.]

while the ministers of Constantinople deliberated, the vacant throne

of Honorius was usurped by the ambition of a stranger. The name of the

rebel was John; he filled the confidential office of Primicerius, or

principal secretary, and history has attributed to his character more

virtues, than can easily be reconciled with the violation of the most

sacred duty. Elated by the submission of Italy, and the hope of an alliance with the Huns, John presumed to insult, by an embassy, the

majesty of the Eastern emperor; but when he understood that his agents

had been banished, imprisoned, and at length chased away with deserved

ignominy, John prepared to assert, by arms, the injustice of his claims.

In such a cause, the grandson of the great Theodosius should have

marched in person: but the young emperor was easily diverted, by his

physicians, from so rash and hazardous a design; and the conduct of the

Italian expedition was prudently intrusted to Ardaburius, and his son aspar, who had already signalized their valor against the Persians. It was resolved, that Ardaburius should embark with the infantry; whilst aspar, at the head of the cavalry, conducted Placidia and her son

Valentinian along the sea-coast of the Adriatic. The march of the cavalry was performed with such active diligence, that they surprised, without resistance, the important city of Aquileia: when the hopes of aspar were unexpectedly confounded by the intelligence, that a storm

had dispersed the Imperial fleet; and that his father, with only two

galleys, was taken and carried a prisoner into the port of Ravenna. Yet this incident, unfortunate as it might seem, facilitated the conquest

of Italy. Ardaburius employed, or abused, the courteous freedom which

he was permitted to enjoy, to revive among the troops a sense of loyalty and gratitude; and as soon as the conspiracy was ripe for execution,

he invited, by private messages, and pressed the approach of, Aspar. A

shepherd, whom the popular credulity transformed into an angel, guided the eastern cavalry by a secret, and, it was thought, an impassable

road, through the morasses of the Po: the gates of Ravenna, after a short struggle, were thrown open; and the defenceless tyrant was delivered to the mercy, or rather to the cruelty, of the conquerors. His

right hand was first cut off; and, after he had been exposed, mounted

on an ass, to the public derision, John was beheaded in the circus

of Aquileia. The emperor Theodosius, when he received the news of the

victory, interrupted the horse-races; and singing, as he marched through the streets, a suitable psalm, conducted his people from the Hippodrome to the church, where he spent the remainder of the day in grateful devotion. [3]

[Footnote 3: For these revolutions of the Western empire, consult

Olympiodor, apud Phot. p. 192, 193, 196, 197, 200; Sozomen, l. ix. c.

16; Socrates, l. vii. 23, 24; Philostorgius, l. xii. c. 10, 11, and

Godefroy, Dissertat p. 486; Procopius, de Bell. Vandal. l. i. c. 3, p.

182, 183, in Chronograph, p. 72, 73, and the Chronicles.]

In a monarchy, which, according to various precedents, might be considered as elective, or hereditary, or patrimonial, it was impossible that the intricate claims of female and collateral succession should be clearly defined; [4] and Theodosius, by the right of consanguinity or conquest, might have reigned the sole legitimate emperor of the

Romans. For a moment, perhaps, his eyes were dazzled by the prospect

of unbounded sway; but his indolent temper gradually acquiesced in the dictates of sound policy. He contented himself with the possession of the East; and wisely relinquished the laborious task of waging a distant and doubtful war against the Barbarians beyond the Alps; or of securing the obedience of the Italians and Africans, whose minds were alienated by the irreconcilable difference of language and interest. Instead of

listening to the voice of ambition, Theodosius resolved to imitate the

moderation of his grandfather, and to seat his cousin Valentinian on the throne of the West. The royal infant was distinguished at Constantinople by the title of Nobilissimus: he was promoted, before his departure from thessalonica, to the rank and dignity of Caesar; and after the conquest

of Italy, the patrician Helion, by the authority of Theodosius, and in the presence of the senate, saluted Valentinian the Third by the name

of Augustus, and solemnly invested him with the diadem and the Imperial

purple. [5] By the agreement of the three females who governed the Roman world, the son of Placidia was betrothed to Eudoxia, the daughter of theodosius and Athenais; and as soon as the lover and his bride had attained the age of puberty, this honorable alliance was faithfully accomplished. At the same time, as a compensation, perhaps, for the expenses of the war, the Western Illyricum was detached from the Italian dominions, and yielded to the throne of Constantinople. [6] The emperor

of the East acquired the useful dominion of the rich and maritime

province of Dalmatia, and the dangerous sovereignty of Pannonia and

Noricum, which had been filled and ravaged above twenty years by a promiscuous crowd of Huns, Ostrogoths, Vandals, and Bavarians. theodosius and Valentinian continued to respect the obligations of their

public and domestic alliance; but the unity of the Roman government was finally dissolved. By a positive declaration, the validity of all future

laws was limited to the dominions of their peculiar author; unless he

should think proper to communicate them, subscribed with his own hand, for the approbation of his independent colleague. [7]

[Footnote 4: See Grotius de Jure Belli et Pacis, l. ii. c. 7. He

has laboriously out vainly, attempted to form a reasonable system of

jurisprudence from the various and discordant modes of royal succession, which have been introduced by fraud or force, by time or accident.]

[Footnote 5: The original writers are not agreed (see Muratori, Annali d'Italia tom. iv. p. 139) whether Valentinian received the Imperial diadem at Rome or Ravenna. In this uncertainty, I am willing to believe, that some respect was shown to the senate.]

[Footnote 6: The count de Buat (Hist. des Peup es de l'Europe, tom.

vii. p. 292-300) has established the reality, explained the motives, and traced the consequences, of this remarkable cession.]

[Footnote 7: See the first Novel of Theodosius, by which he ratifies and communicates (A.D. 438) the Theodosian Code. About forty years before that time, the unity of legislation had been proved by an exception. The

Jews, who were numerous in the cities of Apulia and Calabria, produced a

law of the East to justify their exemption from municipal offices, (Cod. theod. l. xvi. tit. viii. leg. 13;) and the Western emperor was obliged to invalidate, by a special edict, the law, quam constat meis partibus esse damnosam. Cod. Theod. l. xi. tit. i. leg. 158.] Valentinian, when

he received the title of Augustus, was no more than six years of age; and his long minority was intrusted to the guardian care of a mother, who might assert a female claim to the succession of the Western empire.

Placidia envied, but she could not equal, the reputation and virtues of the wife and sister of Theodosius, the elegant genius of Eudocia, the wise and successful policy of Pulcheria. The mother of Valentinian was

jealous of the power which she was incapable of exercising; [8] she

reigned twenty-five years, in the name of her son; and the character of that unworthy emperor gradually countenanced the suspicion that Placidia

had enervated his youth by a dissolute education, and studiously diverted his attention from every manly and honorable pursuit. Amidst the decay of military spirit, her armies were commanded by two generals, aetius [9] and Boniface, [10] who may be deservedly named as the last

of the Romans. Their union might have supported a sinking empire; their discord was the fatal and immediate cause of the loss of Africa. The

invasion and defeat of Attila have immortalized the fame of Aetius; and though time has thrown a shade over the exploits of his rival, the defence of Marseilles, and the deliverance of Africa, attest the

military talents of Count Boniface. In the field of battle, in

partial encounters, in single combats, he was still the terror of the barbarians: the clergy, and particularly his friend Augustin, were edified by the Christian piety which had once tempted him to retire from the world; the people applauded his spotless integrity; the army dreaded

his equal and inexorable justice, which may be displayed in a very

singular example. A peasant, who complained of the criminal intimacy between his wife and a Gothic soldier, was directed to attend his tribunal the following day: in the evening the count, who had diligently

informed himself of the time and place of the assignation, mounted his

horse, rode ten miles into the country, surprised the guilty couple,

punished the soldier with instant death, and silenced the complaints of the husband by presenting him, the next morning, with the head of the adulterer. The abilities of Aetius and Boniface might have been usefully employed against the public enemies, in separate and important commands; but the experience of their past conduct should have decided the real favor and confidence of the empress Placidia. In the melancholy season

of her exile and distress, Boniface alone had maintained her cause with unshaken fidelity: and the troops and treasures of Africa had essentially contributed to extinguish the rebellion. The same rebellion

had been supported by the zeal and activity of Aetius, who brought an army of sixty thousand Huns from the Danube to the confines of Italy, for the service of the usurper. The untimely death of John compelled him to accept an advantageous treaty; but he still continued, the subject and the soldier of Valentinian, to entertain a secret, perhaps a treasonable, correspondence with his Barbarian allies, whose retreat had been purchased by liberal gifts, and more liberal promises. But Aetius

possessed an advantage of singular moment in a female reign; he was

present: he besieged, with artful and assiduous flattery, the palace

of Ravenna; disguised his dark designs with the mask of loyalty and friendship; and at length deceived both his mistress and his absent

rival, by a subtle conspiracy, which a weak woman and a brave man could

not easily suspect. He had secretly persuaded [11] Placidia to recall boniface from the government of Africa; he secretly advised Boniface to disobey the Imperial summons: to the one, he represented the order as a sentence of death; to the other, he stated the refusal as a signal

of revolt; and when the credulous and unsuspectful count had armed the

province in his defence, Aetius applauded his sagacity in foreseeing the

rebellion, which his own perfidy had excited. A temperate inquiry into the real motives of Boniface would have restored a faithful servant to

his duty and to the republic; but the arts of Aetius still continued to betray and to inflame, and the count was urged, by persecution, to embrace the most desperate counsels. The success with which he eluded or

repelled the first attacks, could not inspire a vain confidence, that at the head of some loose, disorderly Africans, he should be able to withstand the regular forces of the West, commanded by a rival, whose

military character it was impossible for him to despise. After some

hesitation, the last struggles of prudence and loyalty, Boniface despatched a trusty friend to the court, or rather to the camp, of

Gonderic, king of the Vandals, with the proposal of a strict alliance, and the offer of an advantageous and perpetual settlement.

[Footnote 8: Cassiodorus (Variar. l. xi. Epist. i. p. 238) has compared the regencies of Placidia and Amalasuntha. He arraigns the weakness

of the mother of Valentinian, and praises the virtues of his royal

mistress. On this occasion, flattery seems to have spoken the language

of truth.]

[Footnote 9: Philostorgius, l. xii. c. 12, and Godefroy's Dissertat. p.

493, &c.; and Renatus Frigeridus, apud Gregor. Turon. l. ii. c. 8, in tom. ii. p. 163. The father of Aetius was Gaudentius, an illustrious citizen of the province of Scythia, and master-general of the cavalry;

his mother was a rich and noble Italian. From his earliest youth, aetius, as a soldier and a hostage, had conversed with the Barbarians.]

[Footnote 10: For the character of Boniface, see Olympiodorus, apud

Phot. p. 196; and St. Augustin apud Tillemont, Memoires Eccles. tom.

xiii. p. 712-715, 886. The bishop of Hippo at length deplored the fall

of his friend, who, after a solemn vow of chastity, had married a

second wife of the Arian sect, and who was suspected of keeping several concubines in his house.]

[Footnote 11: Procopius (de Bell. Vandal. l. i. c. 3, 4, p. 182-186)

relates the fraud of Aetius, the revolt of Boniface, and the loss of africa. This anecdote, which is supported by some collateral testimony,

(see Ruinart, Hist. Persecut. Vandal. p. 420, 421,) seems agreeable to the practice of ancient and modern courts, and would be naturally

revealed by the repentance of Boniface.]

after the retreat of the Goths, the authority of Honorius had obtained a precarious establishment in Spain; except only in the province of

Gallicia, where the Suevi and the Vandals had fortified their camps,

in mutual discord and hostile independence. The Vandals prevailed; and their adversaries were besieged in the Nervasian hills, between Leon and Oviedo, till the approach of Count Asterius compelled, or rather

provoked, the victorious Barbarians to remove the scene of the war to the plains of Boetica. The rapid progress of the Vandals soon acquired a more effectual opposition; and the master-general Castinus marched against them with a numerous army of Romans and Goths. Vanquished in battle by an inferior army, Castinus fled with dishonor to Tarragona; and this memorable defeat, which has been represented as the punishment, was most probably the effect, of his rash presumption. [12] Seville and Carthagena became the reward, or rather the prey, of the ferocious conquerors; and the vessels which they found in the harbor of Carthagena

might easily transport them to the Isles of Majorca and Minorca, where the Spanish fugitives, as in a secure recess, had vainly concealed their families and their fortunes. The experience of navigation, and perhaps the prospect of Africa, encouraged the Vandals to accept the invitation which they received from Count Boniface; and the death of Gonderic

served only to forward and animate the bold enterprise. In the room of a

prince not conspicuous for any superior powers of the mind or body, they acquired his bastard brother, the terrible Genseric; [13] a name, which,

in the destruction of the Roman empire, has deserved an equal rank with the names of Alaric and Attila. The king of the Vandals is described to

have been of a middle stature, with a lameness in one leg, which he had contracted by an accidental fall from his horse. His slow and cautious

speech seldom declared the deep purposes of his soul; he disdained to imitate the luxury of the vanquished; but he indulged the sterner

passions of anger and revenge. The ambition of Genseric was without bounds and without scruples; and the warrior could dexterously employ the dark engines of policy to solicit the allies who might be useful to his success, or to scatter among his enemies the seeds of hatred and contention. Almost in the moment of his departure he was informed that Hermanric, king of the Suevi, had presumed to ravage the Spanish territories, which he was resolved to abandon.

Impatient of the insult, Genseric pursued the hasty retreat of the Suevi as far as Merida; precipitated the king and his army into the River anas, and calmly returned to the sea-shore to embark his victorious troops. The vessels which transported the Vandals over the modern

Straits of Gibraltar, a channel only twelve miles in breadth, were furnished by the Spaniards, who anxiously wished their departure; and by the African general, who had implored their formidable assistance. [14]

[Footnote 12: See the Chronicles of Prosper and Idatius. Salvian (de

Gubernat. Dei, l. vii. p. 246, Paris, 1608) ascribes the victory of the

Vandals to their superior piety. They fasted, they prayed, they carried a Bible in the front of the Host, with the design, perhaps, of

reproaching the perfidy and sacrilege of their enemies.]

[Footnote 13: Gizericus (his name is variously expressed) statura

mediocris et equi casu claudicans, animo profundus, sermone rarus,

luxuriae contemptor, ira turbidus, habendi cupidus, ad solicitandas

gentes providentissimus, semina contentionum jacere, odia miscere

paratus. Jornandes, de Rebus Geticis, c. 33, p. 657. This portrait, which is drawn with some skill, and a strong likeness, must have been copied from the Gothic history of Cassiodorus.]

[Footnote 14: See the Chronicle of Idatius. That bishop, a Spaniard and a contemporary, places the passage of the Vandals in the month of May,

of the year of Abraham, (which commences in October,) 2444. This date, which coincides with A.D. 429, is confirmed by Isidore, another Spanish bishop, and is justly preferred to the opinion of those writers who have

marked for that event one of the two preceding years. See Pagi Critica, tom. ii. p. 205, &c.]

Our fancy, so long accustomed to exaggerate and multiply the martial

swarms of Barbarians that seemed to issue from the North, will perhaps be surprised by the account of the army which Genseric mustered on the coast of Mauritania. The Vandals, who in twenty years had penetrated from the Elbe to Mount Atlas, were united under the command of their warlike king; and he reigned with equal authority over the Alani, who

had passed, within the term of human life, from the cold of Scythia to the excessive heat of an African climate. The hopes of the bold enterprise had excited many brave adventurers of the Gothic nation; and

many desperate provincials were tempted to repair their fortunes by the

same means which had occasioned their ruin. Yet this various multitude amounted only to fifty thousand effective men; and though Genseric artfully magnified his apparent strength, by appointing eighty chinarchs, or commanders of thousands, the fallacious increase of old

men, of children, and of slaves, would scarcely have swelled his army to the number of four-score thousand persons. [15] But his own dexterity, and the discontents of Africa, soon fortified the Vandal powers, by the accession of numerous and active allies. The parts of Mauritania which border on the Great Desert and the Atlantic Ocean, were filled with a fierce and untractable race of men, whose savage temper had been exasperated, rather than reclaimed, by their dread of the Roman arms. the wandering Moors, [16] as they gradually ventured to approach the

seashore, and the camp of the Vandals, must have viewed with terror and astonishment the dress, the armor, the martial pride and discipline

of the unknown strangers who had landed on their coast; and the fair complexions of the blue-eyed warriors of Germany formed a very singular contrast with the swarthy or olive hue which is derived from the

neighborhood of the torrid zone. After the first difficulties had in

some measure been removed, which arose from the mutual ignorance

of their respective language, the Moors, regardless of any future consequence, embraced the alliance of the enemies of Rome; and a crowd

of naked savages rushed from the woods and valleys of Mount Atlas, to satiate their revenge on the polished tyrants, who had injuriously expelled them from the native sovereignty of the land.

[Footnote 15: Compare Procopius (de Bell. Vandal. l. i. c. 5, p. 190) and Victor Vitensis, (de Persecutione Vandal. l. i. c. 1, p. 3, edit.

Ruinart.) We are assured by Idatius, that Genseric evacuated Spain, cum

Vandalis omnibus eorumque familiis; and Possidius (in Vit. Augustin. c.

28, apud Ruinart, p. 427) describes his army as manus ingens immanium

gentium Vandalorum et Alanorum, commixtam secum babens Gothorum gentem, aliarumque diversarum personas.]

[Footnote 16: For the manners of the Moors, see Procopius, (de Bell.

Vandal. l. ii. c. 6, p. 249;) for their figure and complexion, M. de Buffon, (Histoire Naturelle, tom. iii. p. 430.) Procopius says in

general, that the Moors had joined the Vandals before the death of

Valentinian, (de Bell. Vandal. l. i. c. 5, p. 190;) and it is probable that the independent tribes did not embrace any uniform system of

policy.]

the persecution of the Donatists [17] was an event not less favorable to the designs of Genseric. Seventeen years before he landed in Africa, a

public conference was held at Carthage, by the order of the magistrate. the Catholics were satisfied, that, after the invincible reasons which they had alleged, the obstinacy of the schismatics must be inexcusable and voluntary; and the emperor Honorius was persuaded to inflict the

most rigorous penalties on a faction which had so long abused his

patience and clemency. Three hundred bishops, [18] with many thousands

of the inferior clergy, were torn from their churches, stripped of their ecclesiastical possessions, banished to the islands, and proscribed by the laws, if they presumed to conceal themselves in the provinces of africa. Their numerous congregations, both in cities and in the country, were deprived of the rights of citizens, and of the exercise

of religious worship. A regular scale of fines, from ten to two

hundred pounds of silver, was curiously ascertained, according to the distinction of rank and fortune, to punish the crime of assisting at a schismatic conventicle; and if the fine had been levied five times, without subduing the obstinacy of the offender, his future punishment was referred to the discretion of the Imperial court. [19] By these

severities, which obtained the warmest approbation of St. Augustin, [20]

great numbers of Donatists were reconciled to the Catholic Church; but the fanatics, who still persevered in their opposition, were provoked to

madness and despair; the distracted country was filled with tumult and bloodshed; the armed troops of Circumcellions alternately pointed their

rage against themselves, or against their adversaries; and the calendar

of martyrs received on both sides a considerable augmentation. [21]

Under these circumstances, Genseric, a Christian, but an enemy of the orthodox communion, showed himself to the Donatists as a powerful deliverer, from whom they might reasonably expect the repeal of the

odious and oppressive edicts of the Roman emperors. [22] The conquest

of Africa was facilitated by the active zeal, or the secret favor, of a domestic faction; the wanton outrages against the churches and the clergy of which the Vandals are accused, may be fairly imputed to the fanaticism of their allies; and the intolerant spirit which disgraced the triumph of Christianity, contributed to the loss of the most

important province of the West. [23]

[Footnote 17: See Tillemont, Memoires Eccles. tom. xiii. p. 516-558; and the whole series of the persecution, in the original monuments,

published by Dupin at the end of Optatus, p. 323-515.]

[Footnote 18: The Donatist Bishops, at the conference of Carthage, amounted to 279; and they asserted that their whole number was not less than 400. The Catholics had 286 present, 120 absent, besides sixty four

vacant bishoprics.]

[Footnote 19: The fifth title of the sixteenth book of the Theodosian code exhibits a series of the Imperial laws against the Donatists, from the year 400 to the year 428. Of these the 54th law, promulgated by

Honorius, A.D. 414, is the most severe and effectual.]

[Footnote 20: St. Augustin altered his opinion with regard tosthe proper treatment of heretics. His pathetic declaration of pity and indulgence for the Manichaeans, has been inserted by Mr. Locke (vol. iii. p.

469) among the choice specimens of his common-place book. Another

philosopher, the celebrated Bayle, (tom. ii. p. 445-496,) has refuted, with superfluous diligence and ingenuity, the arguments by which the bishop of Hippo justified, in his old age, the persecution of the donatists.]

[Footnote 21: See Tillemont, Mem. Eccles. tom. xiii. p. 586-592, 806. the Donatists boasted of thousands of these voluntary martyrs. augustin asserts, and probably with truth, that these numbers were much exaggerated; but he sternly maintains, that it was better that some

should burn themselves in this world, than that all should burn in hell flames.]

[Footnote 22: According to St. Augustin and Theodoret, the Donatists were inclined to the principles, or at least to the party, of the arians, which Genseric supported. Tillemont, Mem. Eccles. tom. vi. p.

68.]

[Footnote 23: See Baronius, Annal. Eccles. A.D. 428, No. 7, A.D. 439,

No. 35. The cardinal, though more inclined to seek the cause of great events in heaven than on the earth, has observed the apparent connection

of the Vandals and the Donatists. Under the reign of the Barbarians, the

schismatics of Africa enjoyed an obscure peace of one hundred years; at the end of which we may again trace them by the fight of the Imperial

persecutions. See Tillemont, Mem. Eccles. tom. vi. p. 192. &c.]

the court and the people were astonished by the strange intelligence, that a virtuous hero, after so many favors, and so many services, had

renounced his allegiance, and invited the Barbarians to destroy the

province intrusted to his command. The friends of Boniface, who still believed that his criminal behavior might be excused by some honorable

motive, solicited, during the absence of Aetius, a free conference with the Count of Africa; and Darius, an officer of high distinction, was

named for the important embassy. [24] In their first interview at carthage, the imaginary provocations were mutually explained; the

opposite letters of Aetius were produced and compared; and the fraud was easily detected. Placidia and Boniface lamented their fatal error; and the count had sufficient magnanimity to confide in the forgiveness

of his sovereign, or to expose his head to her future resentment. His

repentance was fervent and sincere; but he soon discovered that it was

no longer in his power to restore the edifice which he had shaken to

its foundations. Carthage and the Roman garrisons returned with their

general to the allegiance of Valentinian; but the rest of Africa was

still distracted with war and faction; and the inexorable king of the

Vandals, disdaining all terms of accommodation, sternly refused to

relinquish the possession of his prey. The band of veterans who marched

under the standard of Boniface, and his hasty levies of provincial troops, were defeated with considerable loss; the victorious Barbarians

insulted the open country; and Carthage, Cirta, and Hippo Regius, were the only cities that appeared to rise above the general inundation.

[Footnote 24: In a confidential letter to Count Boniface, St. Augustin, without examining the grounds of the quarrel, piously exhorts him to discharge the duties of a Christian and a subject: to extricate himself without delay from his dangerous and guilty situation; and even, if he could obtain the consent of his wife, to embrace a life of celibacy and

penance, (Tillemont, Mem. Eccles. tom. xiii. p. 890.) The bishop was

intimately connected with Darius, the minister of peace, (Id. tom. xiii.

p. 928.)]

the long and narrow tract of the African coast was filled with frequent

monuments of Roman art and magnificence; and the respective degrees of

improvement might be accurately measured by the distance from Carthage and the Mediterranean. A simple reflection will impress every thinking

mind with the clearest idea of fertility and cultivation: the country was extremely populous; the inhabitants reserved a liberal subsistence for their own use; and the annual exportation, particularly of wheat, was so regular and plentiful, that Africa deserved the name of the common granary of Rome and of mankind. On a sudden the seven fruitful

provinces, from Tangier to Tripoli, were overwhelmed by the invasion

of the Vandals; whose destructive rage has perhaps been exaggerated by

popular animosity, religious zeal, and extravagant declamation. War, in

its fairest form, implies a perpetual violation of humanity and justice; and the hostilities of Barbarians are inflamed by the fierce and lawless

spirit which incessantly disturbs their peaceful and domestic society. the Vandals, where they found resistance, seldom gave quarter; and the deaths of their valiant countrymen were expiated by the ruin of the cities under whose walls they had fallen. Careless of the distinctions

of age, or sex, or rank, they employed every species of indignity and torture, to force from the captives a discovery of their hidden wealth. the stern policy of Genseric justified his frequent examples of military execution: he was not always the master of his own passions, or of those of his followers; and the calamities of war were aggravated by the

licentiousness of the Moors, and the fanaticism of the Donatists. Yet

I shall not easily be persuaded, that it was the common practice of the

Vandals to extirpate the olives, and other fruit trees, of a country where they intended to settle: nor can I believe that it was a usual

stratagem to slaughter great numbers of their prisoners before the walls of a besieged city, for the sole purpose of infecting the air, and producing a pestilence, of which they themselves must have been the first victims. [25]

[Footnote 25: The original complaints of the desolation of Africa are contained 1. In a letter from Capreolus, bishop of Carthage, to excuse

his absence from the council of Ephesus, (ap. Ruinart, p. 427.) 2. In the life of St. Augustin, by his friend and colleague Possidius, (ap.

Ruinart, p. 427.) 3. In the history of the Vandalic persecution, by

Victor Vitensis, (l. i. c. 1, 2, 3, edit. Ruinart.) The last picture, which was drawn sixty years after the event, is more expressive of the author's passions than of the truth of facts.]

the generous mind of Count Boniface was tortured by the exquisite distress of beholding the ruin which he had occasioned, and whose rapid

progress he was unable to check. After the loss of a battle he retired

into Hippo Regius; where he was immediately besieged by an enemy, who considered him as the real bulwark of Africa. The maritime colony of

Hippo, [26] about two hundred miles westward of Carthage, had formerly acquired the distinguishing epithet of Regius, from the residence of

Numidian kings; and some remains of trade and populousness still adhere to the modern city, which is known in Europe by the corrupted name of bona. The military labors, and anxious reflections, of Count Boniface, were alleviated by the edifying conversation of his friend St. Augustin;

[27] till that bishop, the light and pillar of the Catholic church, was gently released, in the third month of the siege, and in the

seventy-sixth year of his age, from the actual and the impending calamities of his country. The youth of Augustin had been stained by the

vices and errors which he so ingenuously confesses; but from the moment

of his conversion to that of his death, the manners of the bishop of

Hippo were pure and austere: and the most conspicuous of his virtues was an ardent zeal against heretics of every denomination; the Manichaeans, the Donatists, and the Pelagians, against whom he waged a perpetual controversy. When the city, some months after his death, was burnt by the Vandals, the library was fortunately saved, which contained his

voluminous writings; two hundred and thirty-two separate books or treatises on theological subjects, besides a complete exposition of the

psalter and the gospel, and a copious magazine of epistles and homilies.

[28] According to the judgment of the most impartial critics, the

superficial learning of Augustin was confined to the Latin language;

[29] and his style, though sometimes animated by the eloquence of

passion, is usually clouded by false and affected rhetoric. But he

possessed a strong, capacious, argumentative mind; he boldly sounded the dark abyss of grace, predestination, free will, and original sin; and the rigid system of Christianity which he framed or restored, [30] has been entertained, with public applause, and secret reluctance, by the

Latin church. [31]

[Footnote 26: See Cellarius, Geograph. Antiq. tom. ii. part ii. p. 112.

Leo African. in Ramusio, tom. i. fol. 70. L'Afrique de Marmol, tom. ii.

p. 434, 437. Shaw's Travels, p. 46, 47. The old Hippo Regius was finally destroyed by the Arabs in the seventh century; but a new town, at the distance of two miles, was built with the materials; and it contained,

in the sixteenth century, about three hundred families of industrious, but turbulent manufacturers. The adjacent territory is renowned for a

pure air, a fertile soil, and plenty of exquisite fruits.]

[Footnote 27: The life of St. Augustin, by Tillemont, fills a quarto

volume (Mem. Eccles. tom. xiii.) of more than one thousand pages; and the diligence of that learned Jansenist was excited, on this occasion, by factious and devout zeal for the founder of his sect.]

[Footnote 28: Such, at least, is the account of Victor Vitensis, (de

Persecut. Vandal. l. i. c. 3;) though Gennadius seems to doubt whether any person had read, or even collected, all the works of St. Augustin,

(see Hieronym. Opera, tom. i. p. 319, in Catalog. Scriptor. Eccles.) they have been repeatedly printed; and Dupin (Bibliotheque Eccles. tom.

iii. p. 158-257) has given a large and satisfactory abstract of them as they stand in the last edition of the Benedictines. My personal acquaintance with the bishop of Hippo does not extend beyond the confessions, and the City of God.]

[Footnote 29: In his early youth (Confess. i. 14) St. Augustin disliked and neglected the study of Greek; and he frankly owns that he read the

Platonists in a Latin version, (Confes. vii. 9.) Some modern critics

have thought, that his ignorance of Greek disqualified him from expounding the Scriptures; and Cicero or Quintilian would have required the knowledge of that language in a professor of rhetoric.]

[Footnote 30: These questions were seldom agitated, from the time of

St. Paul to that of St. Augustin. I am informed that the Greek fathers

maintain the natural sentiments of the Semi-Pelagians; and that the

orthodoxy of St. Augustin was derived from the Manichaean school.]

[Footnote 31: The church of Rome has canonized Augustin, and reprobated calvin. Yet as the real difference between them is invisible even to a theological microscope, the Molinists are oppressed by the authority of the saint, and the Jansenists are disgraced by their resemblance to the

heretic. In the mean while, the Protestant Arminians stand aloof, and deride the mutual perplexity of the disputants, (see a curious Review

of the Controversy, by Le Clerc, Bibliotheque Universelle, tom. xiv.

p. 144-398.) Perhaps a reasoner still more independent may smile in

his turn, when he peruses an Arminian Commentary on the Epistle to the

Romans.]

chapter XXXIII: Conquest Of Africa By The Vandals.--Part II.

by the skill of Boniface, and perhaps by the ignorance of the Vandals, the siege of Hippo was protracted above fourteen months: the sea was continually open; and when the adjacent country had been exhausted by

irregular rapine, the besiegers themselves were compelled by famine to

relinquish their enterprise. The importance and danger of Africa were deeply felt by the regent of the West. Placidia implored the assistance

of her eastern ally; and the Italian fleet and army were reenforced by asper, who sailed from Constantinople with a powerful armament. As

soon as the force of the two empires was united under the command of boniface, he boldly marched against the Vandals; and the loss of a

second battle irretrievably decided the fate of Africa. He embarked with the precipitation of despair; and the people of Hippo were permitted, with their families and effects, to occupy the vacant place of the

soldiers, the greatest part of whom were either slain or made prisoners by the Vandals. The count, whose fatal credulity had wounded the vitals

of the republic, might enter the palace of Ravenna with some anxiety, which was soon removed by the smiles of Placidia. Boniface accepted with

gratitude the rank of patrician, and the dignity of master-general of the Roman armies; but he must have blushed at the sight of those medals,

in which he was represented with the name and attributes of victory.

[32] The discovery of his fraud, the displeasure of the empress, and the distinguished favor of his rival, exasperated the haughty and perfidious

soul of Aetius. He hastily returned from Gaul to Italy, with a retinue,

or rather with an army, of Barbarian followers; and such was the weakness of the government, that the two generals decided their private

quarrel in a bloody battle. Boniface was successful; but he received in the conflict a mortal wound from the spear of his adversary, of which he expired within a few days, in such Christian and charitable sentiments, that he exhorted his wife, a rich heiress of Spain, to accept Aetius for

her second husband. But Aetius could not derive any immediate advantage from the generosity of his dying enemy: he was proclaimed a rebel by the justice of Placidia; and though he attempted to defend some strong fortresses, erected on his patrimonial estate, the Imperial power soon compelled him to retire into Pannonia, to the tents of his faithful

Huns. The republic was deprived, by their mutual discord, of the service

of her two most illustrious champions. [33]

[Footnote 32: Ducange, Fam. Byzant. p. 67. On one side, the head of

Valentinian; on the reverse, Boniface, with a scourge in one hand, and a palm in the other, standing in a triumphal car, which is drawn by four

horses, or, in another medal, by four stags; an unlucky emblem! I should doubt whether another example can be found of the head of a subject on the reverse of an Imperial medal. See Science des Medailles, by the Pere

Jobert, tom. i. p. 132-150, edit. of 1739, by the haron de la Bastie. \*

Note: Lord Mahon, Life of Belisarius, p. 133, mentions one of Belisarius

on the authority of Cedrenus--M.]

[Footnote 33: Procopius (de Bell. Vandal. l. i. c. 3, p. 185) continues the history of Boniface no further than his return to Italy. His death

is mentioned by Prosper and Marcellinus; the expression of the latter, that Aetius, the day before, had provided himself with a longer spear,

implies something like a regular duel.]

It might naturally be expected, after the retreat of Boniface, that the Vandals would achieve, without resistance or delay, the conquest of africa. Eight years, however, elapsed, from the evacuation of Hippo to the reduction of Carthage. In the midst of that interval, the ambitious

Genseric, in the full tide of apparent prosperity, negotiated a treaty

of peace, by which he gave his son Hunneric for a hostage; and consented to leave the Western emperor in the undisturbed possession of the three Mauritanias. [34] This moderation, which cannot be imputed to the

justice, must be ascribed to the policy, of the conqueror.

His throne was encompassed with domestic enemies, who accused the baseness of his birth, and asserted the legitimate claims of his

nephews, the sons of Gonderic. Those nephews, indeed, he sacrificed to his safety; and their mother, the widow of the deceased king, was

precipitated, by his order, into the river Ampsaga. But the public discontent burst forth in dangerous and frequent conspiracies; and the warlike tyrant is supposed to have shed more Vandal blood by the hand

of the executioner, than in the field of battle. [35] The convulsions of africa, which had favored his attack, opposed the firm establishment

of his power; and the various seditions of the Moors and Germans, the donatists and Catholics, continually disturbed, or threatened, the

unsettled reign of the conqueror. As he advanced towards Carthage,

he was forced to withdraw his troops from the Western provinces; the

sea-coast was exposed to the naval enterprises of the Romans of Spain and Italy; and, in the heart of Numidia, the strong inland city of Corta

still persisted in obstinate independence. [36] These difficulties were

gradually subdued by the spirit, the perseverance, and the cruelty

of Genseric; who alternately applied the arts of peace and war to the establishment of his African kingdom. He subscribed a solemn treaty, with the hope of deriving some advantage from the term of its continuance, and the moment of its violation. The vigilance of his enemies was relaxed by the protestations of friendship, which concealed

his hostile approach; and Carthage was at length surprised by the

Vandals, five hundred and eighty-five years after the destruction of the city and republic by the younger Scipio. [37]

[Footnote 34: See Procopius, de Bell. Vandal. l. i. c. 4, p. 186.

Valentinian published several humane laws, to relieve the distress of

his Numidian and Mauritanian subjects; he discharged them, in a great

measure, from the payment of their debts, reduced their tribute to one eighth, and gave them a right of appeal from their provincial

magistrates to the praefect of Rome. Cod. Theod. tom. vi. Novell. p. 11,

12.]

[Footnote 35: Victor Vitensis, de Persecut. Vandal. l. ii. c. 5, p. 26. the cruelties of Genseric towards his subjects are strongly expressed in

Prosper's Chronicle, A.D. 442.]

[Footnote 36: Possidius, in Vit. Augustin. c. 28, apud Ruinart, p. 428.]

[Footnote 37: See the Chronicles of Idatius, Isidore, Prosper, and

Marcellinus. They mark the same year, but different days, for the

surprisal of Carthage.]

a new city had arisen from its ruins, with the title of a colony; and though Carthage might yield to the royal prerogatives of Constantinople, and perhaps to the trade of Alexandria, or the splendor of Antioch, she

still maintained the second rank in the West; as the Rome (if we may

use the style of contemporaries) of the African world. That wealthy and

opulent metropolis [38] displayed, in a dependent condition, the image

of a flourishing republic. Carthage contained the manufactures, the arms, and the treasures of the six provinces. A regular subordination of civil honors gradually ascended from the procurators of the streets and

quarters of the city, to the tribunal of the supreme magistrate, who, with the title of proconsul, represented the state and dignity of a consul of ancient Rome. Schools and gymnasia were instituted for the education of the African youth; and the liberal arts and manners,

grammar, rhetoric, and philosophy, were publicly taught in the Greek and

Latin languages. The buildings of Carthage were uniform and magnificent; a shady grove was planted in the midst of the capital; the new port, a

secure and capacious harbor, was subservient to the commercial indus try of citizens and strangers; and the splendid games of the circus and theatre were exhibited almost in the presence of the Barbarians. The

reputation of the Carthaginians was not equal to that of their country, and the reproach of Punic faith still adhered to their subtle and faithless character. [39] The habits of trade, and the abuse of luxury,

had corrupted their manners; but their impious contempt of monks, and the shameless practice of unnatural lusts, are the two abominations which excite the pious vehemence of Salvian, the preacher of the age.

[40] The king of the Vandals severely reformed the vices of a voluptuous

people; and the ancient, noble, ingenuous freedom of Carthage (these expressions of Victor are not without energy) was reduced by Genseric

into a state of ignominious servitude. After he had permitted his

licentious troops to satiate their rage and avarice, he instituted a

more regular system of rapine and oppression. An edict was promulgated, which enjoined all persons, without fraud or delay, to deliver their

gold, silver, jewels, and valuable furniture or apparel, to the royal

officers; and the attempt to secrete any part of their patrimony was

inexorably punished with death and torture, as an act of treason against the state. The lands of the proconsular province, which formed the

immediate district of Carthage, were accurately measured, and divided among the Barbarians; and the conqueror reserved for his peculiar domain the fertile territory of Byzacium, and the adjacent parts of Numidia and

Getulia. [41]

[Footnote 38: The picture of Carthage; as it flourished in the fourth and fifth centuries, is taken from the Expositio totius Mundi, p. 17,

18, in the third volume of Hudson's Minor Geographers, from Ausonius de Claris Urbibus, p. 228, 229; and principally from Salvian, de

Gubernatione Dei, l. vii. p. 257, 258.]

[Footnote 39: The anonymous author of the Expositio totius Mundi compares in his barbarous Latin, the country and the inhabitants; and, after stigmatizing their want of faith, he coolly concludes, Difficile autem inter eos invenitur bonus, tamen in multis pauci boni esse possunt

P. 18.]

[Footnote 40: He declares, that the peculiar vices of each country were collected in the sink of Carthage, (l. vii. p. 257.) In the indulgence

of vice, the Africans applauded their manly virtue. Et illi se magis

virilis fortitudinis esse crederent, qui maxime vires foeminei usus

probositate fregissent, (p. 268.) The streets of Carthage were polluted by effeminate wretches, who publicly assumed the countenance, the dress, and the character of women, (p. 264.) If a monk appeared in the city, the holy man was pursued with impious scorn and ridicule; de testantibus

ridentium cachinnis, (p. 289.)]

[Footnote 41: Compare Procopius de Bell. Vandal. l. i. c. 5, p. 189,

190, and Victor Vitensis, de Persecut Vandal. l. i. c. 4.]

It was natural enough that Genseric should hate those whom he had

injured: the nobility and senators of Carthage were exposed to his

jealousy and resentment; and all those who refused the ignominious terms, which their honor and religion forbade them to accept, were compelled by the Arian tyrant to embrace the condition of perpetual banishment. Rome, Italy, and the provinces of the East, were filled with a crowd of exiles, of fugitives, and of ingenuous captives, who

solicited the public compassion; and the benevolent epistles of Theod

oret still preserve the names and misfortunes of Caelestian and Maria.

[42] The Syrian bishop deplores the misfortunes of Caelestian, who, from the state of a noble and opulent senator of Carthage, was reduced, with his wife and family, and servants, to beg his bread in a foreign country; but he applauds the resignation of the Christian exile, and the

philosophic temper, which, under the pressure of such calamities, could enjoy more real happiness than was the ordinary lot of wealth and prosperity. The story of Maria, the daughter of the magnificent eudaemon, is singular and interesting. In the sack of Carthage, she was

purchased from the Vandals by some merchants of Syria, who afterwards

sold her as a slave in their native country. A female attendant, transported in the same ship, and sold in the same family, still continued to respect a mistress whom fortune had reduced to the common

level of servitude; and the daughter of Eudaemon received from her

grateful affection the domestic services which she had once required from her obedience. This remarkable behavior divulged the real condition

of Maria, who, in the absence of the bishop of Cyrrhus, was redeemed from slavery oy the generosity of some soldiers of the garrison. The

liberality of Theodoret provided for her decent maintenance; and she

passed ten months among the deaconesses of the church; till she was

unexpectedly informed, that her father, who had escaped from the ruin of carthage, exercised an honorable office in one of the Western provinces.

Her filial impatience was seconded by the pious bishop: Theodoret, in a

letter still extant, recommends Maria to the bishop of Aegae, a maritime city of Cilicia, which was frequented, during the annual fair, by the

vessels of the West; most earnestly requesting, that his colleague would

use the maiden with a tenderness suitable to her birth; and that he would intrust her to the care of such faithful merchants, as would esteem it a sufficient gain, if they restored a daughter, lost beyond all human hope, to the arms of her afflicted parent.

[Footnote 42: Ruinart (p. 441-457) has collected from Theodoret, and

other authors, the misfortunes, real and fabulous, of the inhabitants of carthage.]

among the insipid legends of ecclesiastical history, I am tempted to distinguish the memorable fable of the Seven Sleepers; [43] whose

imaginary date corresponds with the reign of the younger Theodosius, and the conquest of Africa by the Vandals. [44] When the emperor Decius

persecuted the Christians, seven noble youths of Ephesus concealed themselves in a spacious cavern in the side of an adjacent mountain; where they were doomed to perish by the tyrant, who gave orders that the entrance should be firmly secured by the a pile of huge stones. They

immediately fell into a deep slumber, which was miraculously prolonged without injuring the powers of life, during a period of one hundred and eighty-seven years. At the end of that time, the slaves of Adolius, to whom the inheritance of the mountain had descended, removed the stones to supply materials for some rustic edifice: the light of the sun darted

into the cavern, and the Seven Sleepers were permitted to awake. After a

slumber, as they thought of a few hours, they were pressed by the calls

of hunger; and resolved that Jamblichus, one of their number, should

secretly return to the city to purchase bread for the use of his companions. The youth (if we may still employ that appellation) could no

longer recognize the once familiar aspect of his native country; and his

surprise was increased by the appearance of a large cross, triumphantly erected over the principal gate of Ephesus. His singular dress, and

obsolete language, confounded the baker, to whom he offered an ancient

medal of Decius as the current coin of the empire; and Jamblichus, on the suspicion of a secret treasure, was dragged before the judge. Their

mutual inquiries produced the amazing discovery, that two centuries were almost elapsed since Jamblichus and his friends had escaped from the rage of a Pagan tyrant. The bishop of Ephesus, the clergy, the

magistrates, the people, and, as it is said, the emperor Theodosius

himself, hastened to visit the cavern of the Seven Sleepers; who bestowed their benediction, related their story, and at the same

instant peaceably expired. The origin of this marvellous fable cannot be ascribed to the pious fraud and credulity of the modern Greeks,

since the authentic tradition may be traced within half a century of the

supposed miracle. James of Sarug, a Syrian bishop, who was born only two

years after the death of the younger Theodosius, has devoted one of

his two hundred and thirty homilies to the praise of the young men of ephesus. [45] Their legend, before the end of the sixth century, was translated from the Syriac into the Latin language, by the care of

Gregory of Tours. The hostile communions of the East preserve their

memory with equal reverence; and their names are honorably inscribed in the Roman, the Abyssinian, and the Russian calendar. [46] Nor has their

reputation been confined to the Christian world. This popular tale, which Mahomet might learn when he drove his camels to the fairs of

Syria, is introduced as a divine revelation, into the Koran. [47] The

story of the Seven Sleepers has been adopted and adorned by the nations, from Bengal to Africa, who profess the Mahometan religion; [48] and

some vestiges of a similar tradition have been discovered in the remote extremities of Scandinavia. [49] This easy and universal belief, so expressive of the sense of mankind, may be ascribed to the genuine merit

of the fable itself. We imperceptibly advance from youth to age, without

observing the gradual, but incessant, change of human affairs; and even

in our larger experience of history, the imagination is accustomed, by a perpetual series of causes and effects, to unite the most distant

revolutions. But if the interval between two memorable aeras could be

instantly annihilated; if it were possible, after a momentary slumber of two hundred years, to display the new world to the eyes of a spectator, who still retained a lively and recent impression of the old, his

surprise and his reflections would furnish the pleasing subject of a philosophical romance. The scene could not be more advantageously

placed, than in the two centuries which elapsed between the reigns of decius and of Theodosius the Younger. During this period, the seat of

government had been transported from Rome to a new city on the banks

of the Thracian Bosphorus; and the abuse of military spirit had been

suppressed by an artificial system of tame and ceremonious servitude. the throne of the persecuting Decius was filled by a succession of christian and orthodox princes, who had extirpated the fabulous gods of antiquity: and the public devotion of the age was impatient to exalt the

saints and martyrs of the Catholic church, on the altars of Diana and

Hercules. The union of the Roman empire was dissolved; its genius was

humbled in the dust; and armies of unknown Barbarians, issuing from the frozen regions of the North, had established their victorious reign over the fairest provinces of Europe and Africa.

[Footnote 43: The choice of fabulous circumstances is of small

importance; yet I have confined myself to the narrative which was translated from the Syriac by the care of Gregory of Tours, (de Gloria

Martyrum, l. i. c. 95, in Max. Bibliotheca Patrum, tom. xi. p. 856,) to the Greek acts of their martyrdom (apud Photium, p. 1400, 1401) and to the Annals of the Patriarch Eutychius, (tom. i. p. 391, 531, 532, 535,

Vers. Pocock.)]

[Footnote 44: Two Syriac writers, as they are quoted by Assemanni,

(Bibliot. Oriental. tom. i. p. 336, 338,) place the resurrection of the

Seven Sleepers in the year 736 (A.D. 425) or 748, (A.D. 437,) of the aera of the Seleucides. Their Greek acts, which Photius had read, assign the date of the thirty-eighth year of the reign of Theodosius, which

may coincide either with A.D. 439, or 446. The period which had elapsed

since the persecution of Decius is easily ascertained; and nothing less than the ignorance of Mahomet, or the legendaries, could suppose an

internal of three or four hundred years.]

[Footnote 45: James, one of the orthodox fathers of the Syrian church, was born A.D. 452; he began to compose his sermons A.D. 474; he was made bishop of Batnae, in the district of Sarug, and province of Mesopotamia, a.D. 519, and died A.D. 521. (Assemanni, tom. i. p. 288, 289.) For the

homily de Pueris Ephesinis, see p. 335-339: though I could wish that Assemanni had translated the text of James of Sarug, instead of answering the objections of Baronius.]

[Footnote 46: See the Acta Sanctorum of the Bollandists, Mensis Julii, tom. vi. p. 375-397. This immense calendar of Saints, in one hundred and twenty-six years, (1644-1770,) and in fifty volumes in folio, has advanced no further than the 7th day of October. The suppression of the

Jesuits has most probably checked an undertaking, which, through the

medium of fable and superstition, communicates much historical and

philosophical instruction.]

[Footnote 47: See Maracci Alcoran. Sura xviii. tom. ii. p. 420-427, and tom. i. part iv. p. 103. With such an ample privilege, Mahomet has not

shown much taste or ingenuity. He has invented the dog (Al Rakim) the

Seven Sleepers; the respect of the sun, who altered his course twice a day, that he might not shine into the cavern; and the care of God

himself, who preserved their bodies from putrefaction, by turning them to the right and left.]

[Footnote 48: See D'Herbelot, Bibliotheque Orientale, p. 139; and

Renaudot, Hist. Patriarch. Alexandrin. p. 39, 40.]

[Footnote 49: Paul, the deacon of Aquileia, (de Gestis Langobardorum,

l. i. c. 4, p. 745, 746, edit. Grot.,) who lived towards the end of the eight century, has placed in a cavern, under a rock, on the shore of the

ocean, the Seven Sleepers of the North, whose long repose was respected by the Barbarians. Their dress declared them to be Romans and the deacon conjectures, that they were reserved by Providence as the future apostles of those unbelieving countries.]

chapter XXXIV: Attila.--Part I.

The Character, Conquests, And Court Of Attila, King Of The

Huns.--Death Of Theodosius The Younger.--Elevation Of

Marcian To The Empire Of The East.

the Western world was oppressed by the Goths and Vandals, who fled before the Huns; but the achievements of the Huns themselves were not adequate to their power and prosperity. Their victorious hordes had

spread from the Volga to the Danube; but the public force was exhausted by the discord of independent chieftains; their valor was idly consumed

in obscure and predatory excursions; and they often degraded their

national dignity, by condescending, for the hopes of spoil, to enlist

under the banners of their fugitive enemies. In the reign of Attila, [1] the Huns again became the terror of the world; and I shall now describe the character and actions of that formidable Barbarian; who alternately

insulted and invaded the East and the West, and urged the rapid downfall

of the Roman empire.

[Footnote 1: The authentic materials for the history of Attila, may be found in Jornandes (de Rebus Geticis, c. 34-50, p. 668-688, edit. Grot.) and Priscus (Excerpta de Legationibus, p. 33-76, Paris, 1648.) I have

not seen the Lives of Attila, composed by Juvencus Caelius Calanus dalmatinus, in the twelfth century, or by Nicholas Olahus, archbishop

of Gran, in the sixteenth. See Mascou's History of the Germans, ix., and

Maffei Osservazioni Litterarie, tom. i. p. 88, 89. Whatever the modern

Hungarians have added must be fabulous; and they do not seem to have excelled in the art of fiction. They suppose, that when Attila invaded

Gaul and Italy, married innumerable wives, &c., he was one hundred and twenty years of age. Thewrocz Chron. c. i. p. 22, in Script. Hunger. tom. i. p. 76.]

In the tide of emigration which impetuously rolled from the confines

of China to those of Germany, the most powerful and populous tribes may commonly be found on the verge of the Roman provinces. The accumulated weight was sustained for a while by artificial barriers; and the easy condescension of the emperors invited, without satisfying, the insolent demands of the Barbarians, who had acquired an eager appetite for the

luxuries of civilized life. The Hungarians, who ambitiously insert the

name of Attila among their native kings, may affirm with truth that the

hordes, which were subject to his uncle Roas, or Rugilas, had formed their encampments within the limits of modern Hungary, [2] in a fertile country, which liberally supplied the wants of a nation of hunters and

shepherds. In this advantageous situation, Rugilas, and his valiant brothers, who continually added to their power and reputation, commanded the alternative of peace or war with the two empires. His alliance with the Romans of the West was cemented by his personal friendship for the

great Aetius; who was always secure of finding, in the Barbarian camp, a

hospitable reception and a powerful support. At his solicitation, and

in the name of John the usurper, sixty thousand Huns advanced to the confines of Italy; their march and their retreat were alike expensive to the state; and the grateful policy of Aetius abandoned the possession of

Pannonia to his faithful confederates. The Romans of the East were

not less apprehensive of the arms of Rugilas, which threatened the

provinces, or even the capital. Some ecclesiastical historians have destroyed the Barbarians with lightning and pestilence; [3] but theodosius was reduced to the more humble expedient of stipulating an annual payment of three hundred and fifty pounds of gold, and of disguising this dishonorable tribute by the title of general, which the

king of the Huns condescended to accept. The public tranquillity was frequently interrupted by the fierce impatience of the Barbarians, and the perfidious intrigues of the Byzantine court. Four dependent nations, among whom we may distinguish the Barbarians, disclaimed the sovereignty

of the Huns; and their revolt was encouraged and protected by a Roman alliance; till the just claims, and formidable power, of Rugilas, were effectually urged by the voice of Eslaw his ambassador. Peace was the

unanimous wish of the senate: their decree was ratified by the emperor; and two ambassadors were named, Plinthas, a general of Scythian extraction, but of consular rank; and the quaestor Epigenes, a wise and experienced statesman, who was recommended to that office by his ambitious colleague.

[Footnote 2: Hungary has been successively occupied by three Scythian colonies. 1. The Huns of Attila; 2. The Abares, in the sixth century; and, 3. The Turks or Magiars, A.D. 889; the immediate and genuine ancestors of the modern Hungarians, whose connection with the two former

is extremely faint and remote. The Prodromus and Notitia of Matthew belius appear to contain a rich fund of information concerning ancient and modern Hungary. I have seen the extracts in Bibli otheque Ancienne et Moderne, tom. xxii. p. 1-51, and Bibliotheque Raisonnee, tom. xvi. p.

127-175. \* Note: Mailath (in his Geschichte der Magyaren) considers the question of the origin of the Magyars as still undecided. The old

Hungarian chronicles unanimously derived them from the Huns of Attila

See note, vol. iv. pp. 341, 342. The later opinion, adopted by Schlozer, belnay, and Dankowsky, ascribes them, from their language, to the finnish race. Fessler, in his history of Hungary, agrees with Gibbon in

supposing them Turks. Mailath has inserted an ingenious dissertation

of Fejer, which attempts to connect them with the Parthians. Vol. i. ammerkungen p. 50--M.]

[Footnote 3: Socrates, l. vii. c. 43. Theodoret, l. v. c. 36. Tillemont, who always depends on the faith of his ecclesiastical authors,

strenuously contends (Hist. des Emp. tom. vi. p. 136, 607) that the wars and personages were not the same.]

the death of Rugilas suspended the progress of the treaty. His two

nephews, Attila and Bleda, who succeeded to the throne of their

uncle, consented to a personal interview with the ambassadors of constantinople; but as they proudly refused to dismount, the business was transacted on horseback, in a spacious plain near the city of

Margus, in the Upper Maesia. The kings of the Huns assumed the solid benefits, as well as the vain honors, of the negotiation. They dictated the conditions of peace, and each condition was an insult on the majesty

of the empire. Besides the freedom of a safe and plentiful market on the banks of the Danube, they required that the annual contribution should be augmented from three hundred and fifty to seven hundred pounds of

gold; that a fine or ransom of eight pieces of gold should be paid for every Roman captive who had escaped from his Barbarian master; that the emperor should renounce all treaties and engagements with the enemies of the Huns; and that all the fugitives who had taken refuge in the court

or provinces of Theodosius, should be delivered to the justice of their offended sovereign. This justice was rigorously inflicted on

some unfortunate youths of a royal race. They were crucified on the territories of the empire, by the command of Attila: and as soon as the

king of the Huns had impressed the Romans with the terror of his name,

he indulged them in a short and arbitrary respite, whilst he subdued the

rebellious or independent nations of Scythia and Germany. [4]

[Footnote 4: See Priscus, p. 47, 48, and Hist. de Peuples de l'Europe, tom. v. i. c. xii, xiii, xiv, xv.]

attila, the son of Mundzuk, deduced his noble, perhaps his regal, descent [5] from the ancient Huns, who had formerly contended with the monarchs of China. His features, according to the observation of a Gothic historian, bore the stamp of his national origin; and the

portrait of Attila exhibits the genuine deformity of a modern Calmuk;

[6] a large head, a swarthy complexion, small, deep-seated eyes, a flat

nose, a few hairs in the place of a beard, broad shoulders, and a short

square body, of nervous strength, though of a disproportioned form. the haughty step and demeanor of the king of the Huns expressed the consciousness of his superiority above the rest of mankind; and he had a custom of fiercely rolling his eyes, as if he wished to enjoy the terror which he inspired. Yet this savage hero was not inaccessible to pity;

his suppliant enemies might confide in the assurance of peace or pardon; and Attila was considered by his subjects as a just and indulgent

master. He delighted in war; but, after he had ascended the throne in a

mature age, his head, rather than his hand, achieved the conquest of the

North; and the fame of an adventurous soldier was usefully exchanged for that of a prudent and successful general. The effects of personal valor are so inconsiderable, except in poetry or romance, that victory, even among Barbarians, must depend on the degree of skill with which the

passions of the multitude are combined and guided for the service of a

single man. The Scythian conquerors, Attila and Zingis, surpassed their

rude countrymen in art rather than in courage; and it may be observed that the monarchies, both of the Huns and of the Moguls, were erected by their founders on the basis of popular superstition The miraculous conception, which fraud and credulity ascribed to the virgin-mother

of Zingis, raised him above the level of human nature; and the naked

prophet, who in the name of the Deity invested him with the empire of the earth, pointed the valor of the Moguls with irresistible enthusiasm.

[7] The religious arts of Attila were not less skillfully adapted to the character of his age and country. It was natural enough that the

Scythians should adore, with peculiar devotion, the god of war; but as they were incapable of forming either an abstract idea, or a corporeal

representation, they worshipped their tutelar deity under the symbol of an iron cimeter. [8] One of the shepherds of the Huns perceived, that a

heifer, who was grazing, had wounded herself in the foot, and curiously followed the track of the blood, till he discovered, among the long

grass, the point of an ancient sword, which he dug out of the ground and presented to Attila. That magnanimous, or rather that artful,

prince accepted, with pious gratitude, this celestial favor; and, as the rightful possessor of the sword of Mars, asserted his divine and

indefeasible claim to the dominion of the earth. [9] If the rites of

Scythia were practised on this solemn occasion, a lofty altar, or rather

pile of fagots, three hundred yards in length and in breadth, was raised

in a spacious plain; and the sword of Mars was placed erect on the

summit of this rustic altar, which was annually consecrated by the blood of sheep, horses, and of the hundredth captive. [10] Whether

human sacrifices formed any part of the worship of Attila, or whether he

propitiated the god of war with the victims which he continually offered

in the field of battle, the favorite of Mars soon acquired a sacred character, which rended his conquests more easy and more permanent; and the Barbarian princes confessed, in the language of devotion or flattery, that they could not presume to gaze, with a steady eye, on the divine majesty of the king of the Huns. [11] His brother Bleda, who

reigned over a considerable part of the nation, was compelled to resign

his sceptre and his life. Yet even this cruel act was attributed to a

supernatural impulse; and the vigor with which Attila wielded the sword

of Mars, convinced the world that it had been reserved alone for his

invincible arm. [12] But the extent of his empire affords the only

remaining evidence of the number and importance of his victories; and the Scythian monarch, however ignorant of the value of science and

philosophy, might perhaps lament that his illiterate subjects were destitute of the art which could perpetuate the memory of his exploits.

[Footnote 5: Priscus, p. 39. The modern Hungarians have deduced his

genealogy, which ascends, in the thirty-fifth degree, to Ham, the son

of Noah; yet they are ignorant of his father's real name. (De Guignes,

Hist. des Huns, tom. ii. p. 297.)]

[Footnote 6: Compare Jornandes (c. 35, p. 661) with Buffon, Hist.

Naturelle, tom. iii. p. 380. The former had a right to observe, originis

suae sigua restituens. The character and portrait of Attila are probably transcribed from Cassiodorus.]

[Footnote 7: Abulpharag. Pocock, p. 281. Genealogical History of the tartars, by Abulghazi Bahader Khan, part iii c. 15, part iv c. 3. Vie de Gengiscan, par Petit de la Croix, l. 1, c. 1, 6. The relations of the

missionaries, who visited Tartary in the thirteenth century, (see the seventh volume of the Histoire des Voyages,) express the popular

language and opinions; Zingis is styled the son of God, &c. &c.]

[Footnote 8: Nec templum apud eos visitur, aut delubrum, ne tugurium

quidem culmo tectum cerni usquam potest; sed gladius Barbarico ritu humi figitur nudus, eumque ut Martem regionum quas circumcircant praesulem

verecundius colunt. Ammian. Marcellin. xxxi. 2, and the learned Notes of

Lindenbrogius and Valesius.]

[Footnote 9: Priscus relates this remarkable story, both in his own text (p. 65) and in the quotation made by Jornandes, (c. 35, p. 662.) He

might have explained the tradition, or fable, which characterized this famous sword, and the name, as well as attributes, of the Scythian deity, whom he has translated into the Mars of the Greeks and Romans.]

[Footnote 10: Herodot. l. iv. c. 62. For the sake of economy, I have calculated by the smallest stadium. In the human sacrifices, they cut

off the shoulder and arm of the victim, which they threw up into the air, and drew omens and presages from the manner of their falling on the

pile]

[Footnote 11: Priscus, p. 65. A more civilized hero, Augustus himself, was pleased, if the person on whom he fixed his eyes seemed unable to

support their divine lustre. Sueton. in August. c. 79.]

[Footnote 12: The Count de Buat (Hist. des Peuples de l'Europe, tom.

vii. p. 428, 429) attempts to clear Attila from the murder of his brother; and is almost inclined to reject the concurrent testimony of

Jornandes, and the contemporary Chronicles.]

If a line of separation were drawn between the civilized and the savage climates of the globe; between the inhabitants of cities, who cultivated the earth, and the hunters and shepherds, who dwelt in tents, Attila

might aspire to the title of supreme and sole monarch of the Barbarians.

[13] He alone, among the conquerors of ancient and modern times,

united the two mighty kingdoms of Germany and Scythia; and those vague appellations, when they are applied to his reign, may be understood with an ample latitude. Thuringia, which stretched beyond its actual limits as far as the Danube, was in the number of his provinces; he interposed, with the weight of a powerful neighbor, in the domestic affairs of the franks; and one of his lieutenants chastised, and almost exterminated, the Burgundians of the Rhine.

He subdued the islands of the ocean, the kingdoms of Scandinavia, encompassed and divided by the waters of the Baltic; and the Huns might derive a tribute of furs from that northern region, which has been

protected from all other conquerors by the severity of the climate, and the courage of the natives. Towards the East, it is difficult to circumscribe the dominion of Attila over the Scythian deserts; yet we

may be assured, that he reigned on the banks of the Volga; that the king

of the Huns was dreaded, not only as a warrior, but as a magician; [14] that he insulted and vanquished the khan of the formidable Geougen; and that he sent ambassadors to negotiate an equal alliance with the empire

of China. In the proud review of the nations who acknowledged the

sovereignty of Attila, and who never entertained, during his

lifetime, the thought of a revolt, the Gepidae and the Ostrogoths were distinguished by their numbers, their bravery, and the personal merits

of their chiefs. The renowned Ardaric, king of the Gepidae, was the faithful and sagacious counsellor of the monarch, who esteemed his

intrepid genius, whilst he loved the mild and discreet virtues of the

noble Walamir, king of the Ostrogoths. The crowd of vulgar kings, the

leaders of so many martial tribes, who served under the standard of attila, were ranged in the submissive order of guards and domestics

round the person of their master. They watched his nod; they trembled at

his frown; and at the first signal of his will, they executed, without

murmur or hesitation, his stern and absolute commands. In time of peace, the dependent princes, with their national troops, attended the royal camp in regular succession; but when Attila collected his military force, he was able to bring into the field an army of five, or, according to another account, of seven hundred thousand Barbarians. [15]

[Footnote 13: Fortissimarum gentium dominus, qui inaudita ante se

potentia colus Scythica et Germanica regna possedit. Jornandes, c.

49, p. 684. Priscus, p. 64, 65. M. de Guignes, by his knowledge of the chinese, has acquired (tom. ii. p. 295-301) an adequate idea of the empire of Attila.]

[Footnote 14: See Hist. des Huns, tom. ii. p. 296. The Geougen believed that the Huns could excite, at pleasure, storms of wind and rain. This

phenomenon was produced by the stone Gezi; to whose magic power the

loss of a battle was ascribed by the Mahometan Tartars of the fourteenth century. See Cherefeddin Ali, Hist. de Timur Bec, tom. i. p. 82, 83.]

[Footnote 15: Jornandes, c. 35, p. 661, c. 37, p. 667. See Tillemont,

Hist. dea Empereurs, tom. vi. p. 129, 138. Corneille has represented the

pride of Attila to his subject kings, and his tragedy opens with these two ridiculous lines:--

Ils ne sont pas venus, nos deux rois! qu'on leur die

Qu'ils se font trop attendre, et qu'Attila s'ennuie.

the two kings of the Gepidae and the Ostrogoths are profound politicians and sentimental lovers, and the whole piece exhibits the defects without the genius, of the poet.]

the ambassadors of the Huns might awaken the attention of Theodosius, by reminding him that they were his neighbors both in Europe and Asia;

since they touched the Danube on one hand, and reached, with the other, as far as the Tanais. In the reign of his father Arcadius, a band of adventurous Huns had ravaged the provinces of the East; from whence they brought away rich spoils and innumerable captives. [16] They advanced, by a secret path, along the shores of the Caspian Sea; traversed the

snowy mountains of Armenia; passed the Tigris, the Euphrates, and the Halys; recruited their weary cavalry with the generous breed of cappadocian horses; occupied the hilly country of Cilicia, and disturbed the festal songs and dances of the citizens of Antioch. Egypt trembled at their approach; and the monks and pilgrims of the Holy Land prepared to escaped their fury by a speedy embarkation. The memory of this

invasion was still recent in the minds of the Orientals. The subjects

of Attila might execute, with superior forces, the design which these adventurers had so boldly attempted; and it soon became the subject of anxious conjecture, whether the tempest would fall on the dominions of

Rome, or of Persia. Some of the great vassals of the king of the Huns, who were themselves in the rank of powerful princes, had been sent to

ratify an alliance and society of arms with the emperor, or rather with the general of the West. They related, during their residence at Rome, the circumstances of an expedition, which they had lately made into the east. After passing a desert and a morass, supposed by the Romans to be the Lake Maeotis, they penetrated through the mountains, and arrived, at the end of fifteen days' march, on the confines of Media; where they advanced as far as the unknown cities of Basic and Cursic. [1611] they encountered the Persian army in the plains of Media and the air, according to their own expression, was darkened by a cloud of arrows. but the Huns were obliged to retire before the numbers of the enemy. their laborious retreat was effected by a different road; they lost the

greatest part of their booty; and at length returned to the royal camp, with some knowledge of the country, and an impatient desire of revenge.

In the free conversation of the Imperial ambassadors, who discussed, at the court of Attila, the character and designs of their formidable enemy, the ministers of Constantinople expressed their hope, that his

strength might be diverted and employed in a long and doubtful contest with the princes of the house of Sassan. The more sagacious Italians admonished their Eastern brethren of the folly and danger of such a

hope; and convinced them, that the Medes and Persians were incapable

of resisting the arms of the Huns; and that the easy and important acquisition would exalt the pride, as well as power, of the conqueror.

Instead of contenting himself with a moderate contribution, and a

military title, which equalled him only to the generals of Theodosius, attila would proceed to impose a disgraceful and intolerable yoke on the necks of the prostrate and captive Romans, who would then be encompassed, on all sides, by the empire of the Huns. [17]

[Footnote 16:

Alii per Caspia claustra

Armeniasque nives, inopino tramite ducti

Invadunt Orientis opes: jam pascua fumant

Cappadocum, volucrumque parens Argaeus equorum.

Jam rubet altus Halys, nec se defendit iniquo

Monte Cilix; Syriae tractus vestantur amoeni

Assuetumque choris, et laeta plebe canorum,

Proterit imbellem sonipes hostilis Orontem.

---Claudian, in Rufin. l. ii. 28-35.

See likewise, in Eutrop. l. i. 243-251, and the strong description of

Jerom, who wrote from his feelings, tom. i. p. 26, ad Heliodor. p. 200 ad Ocean. Philostorgius (l. ix. c. 8) mentions this irruption.]

[Footnote 1611: Gibbon has made a curious mistake; Basic and Cursic were the names of the commanders of the Huns. Priscus, edit. Bonn, p.

200.--M.]

[Footnote 17: See the original conversation in Priscus, p. 64, 65.]

while the powers of Europe and Asia were solicitous to avert the

impending danger, the alliance of Attila maintained the Vandals in the possession of Africa. An enterprise had been concerted between the courts of Ravenna and Constantinople, for the recovery of that valuable

province; and the ports of Sicily were already filled with the military and naval forces of Theodosius. But the subtle Genseric, who spread his

negotiations round the world, prevented their designs, by exciting the

king of the Huns to invade the Eastern empire; and a trifling incident

soon became the motive, or pretence, of a destructive war. [18] Under the faith of the treaty of Margus, a free market was held on the

Northern side of the Danube, which was protected by a Roman fortress

surnamed Constantia. A troop of Barbarians violated the commercial

security; killed, or dispersed, the unsuspecting traders; and levelled the fortress with the ground. The Huns justified this outrage as an act of reprisal; alleged, that the bishop of Margus had entered their territories, to discover and steal a secret treasure of their kings; and sternly demanded the guilty prelate, the sacrilegious spoil, and the fugitive subjects, who had escaped from the justice of Attila. The

refusal of the Byzantine court was the signal of war; and the Maesians at first applauded the generous firmness of their sovereign. But they were soon intimidated by the destruction of Viminiacum and the adjacent towns; and the people was persuaded to adopt the convenient maxim, that a private citizen, however innocent or respectable, may be justly

sacrificed to the safety of his country. The bishop of Margus, who did

not possess the spirit of a martyr, resolved to prevent the designs which he suspected. He boldly treated with the princes of the Huns:

secured, by solemn oaths, his pardon and reward; posted a numerous detachment of Barbarians, in silent ambush, on the banks of the Danube; and, at the appointed hour, opened, with his own hand, the gates of his episcopal city. This advantage, which had been obtained by treachery,

served as a prelude to more honorable and decisive victories. The

Illyrian frontier was covered by a line of castles and fortresses; and though the greatest part of them consisted only of a single tower, with a small garrison, they were commonly sufficient to repel, or to

intercept, the inroads of an enemy, who was ignorant of the art, and

impatient of the delay, of a regular siege. But these slight obstacles were instantly swept away by the inundation of the Huns. [19] They destroyed, with fire and sword, the populous cities of Sirmium and

Singidunum, of Ratiaria and Marcianopolis, of Naissus and Sardica; where every circumstance of the discipline of the people, and the construction

of the buildings, had been gradually adapted to the sole purpose of defence. The whole breadth of Europe, as it extends above five hundred

miles from the Euxine to the Hadriatic, was at once invaded, and

occupied, and desolated, by the myriads of Barbarians whom Attila led

into the field. The public danger and distress could not, however,

provoke Theodosius to interrupt his amusements and devotion, or to appear in person at the head of the Roman legions. But the troops, which

had been sent against Genseric, were hastily recalled from Sicily; the

garrisons, on the side of Persia, were exhausted; and a military force was collected in Europe, formidable by their arms and numbers, if the

generals had understood the science of command, and the soldiers the duty of obedience. The armies of the Eastern empire were vanquished in three successive engagements; and the progress of Attila may be traced by the fields of battle.

the two former, on the banks of the Utus, and under the walls of

Marcianopolis, were fought in the extensive plains between the Danube and Mount Haemus. As the Romans were pressed by a victorious enemy, they

gradually, and unskilfully, retired towards the Chersonesus of Thrace; and that narrow peninsula, the last extremity of the land, was marked by their third, and irreparable, defeat. By the destruction of this army, attila acquired the indisputable possession of the field. From the

Hellespont to Thermopylae, and the suburbs of Constantinople, he

ravaged, without resistance, and without mercy, the provinces of Thrace and Macedonia. Heraclea and Hadrianople might, perhaps, escape this dreadful irruption of the Huns; but the words, the most expressive of total extirpation and erasure, are applied to the calamities which they

inflicted on seventy cities of the Eastern empire. [20] Theodosius,

his court, and the unwarlike people, were protected by the walls of constantinople; but those walls had been shaken by a recent earthquake, and the fall of fifty-eight towers had opened a large and tremendous breach. The damage indeed was speedily repaired; but this accident was aggravated by a superstitious fear, that Heaven itself had delivered the Imperial city to the shepherds of Scythia, who were strangers to the

laws, the language, and the religion, of the Romans. [21]

[Footnote 18: Priscus, p. 331. His history contained a copious and elegant account of the war, (Evagrius, l. i. c. 17;) but the extracts which relate to the embassies are the only parts that have reached our times. The original work was accessible, however, to the writers from whom we borrow our imperfect knowledge, Jornandes, Theophanes, Count

Marcellinus, Prosper-Tyro, and the author of the Alexandrian, or

Paschal, Chronicle. M. de Buat (Hist. des Peuples de l'Europe, tom. vii. c. xv.) has examined the cause, the circumstances, and the duration of this war; and will not allow it to extend beyond the year 44.]

[Footnote 19: Procopius, de Edificiis, l. 4, c. 5. These fortresses were afterwards restored, strengthened, and enlarged by the emperor

Justinian, but they were soon destroyed by the Abares, who succeeded to the power and possessions of the Huns.]

[Footnote 20: Septuaginta civitates (says Prosper-Tyro) depredatione

vastatoe. The language of Count Marcellinus is still more forcible.

Pene totam Europam, invasis excisisque civitatibus atque castellis, conrasit.]

[Footnote 21: Tillemont (Hist des Empereurs, tom. vi. p. 106, 107) has

paid great attention to this memorable earthquake; which was felt as far from Constantinople as Antioch and Alexandria, and is celebrated by all the ecclesiastical writers. In the hands of a popular preacher, an earthquake is an engine of admirable effect.]

In all their invasions of the civilized empires of the South, the

Scythian shepherds have been uniformly actuated by a savage and destructive spirit. The laws of war, that restrain the exercise of

national rapine and murder, are founded on two principles of substantial

interest: the knowledge of the permanent benefits which may be obtained by a moderate use of conquest; and a just apprehension, lest the desolation which we inflict on the enemy's country may be retaliated on

our own. But these considerations of hope and fear are almost unknown

in the pastoral state of nations. The Huns of Attila may, without

injustice, be compared to the Moguls and Tartars, before their primitive

manners were changed by religion and luxury; and the evidence of

Oriental history may reflect some light on the short and imperfect annals of Rome. After the Moguls had subdued the northern provinces

of China, it was seriously proposed, not in the hour of victory and passion, but in calm deliberate council, to exterminate all the

inhabitants of that populous country, that the vacant land might be converted to the pasture of cattle. The firmness of a Chinese mandarin,

[22] who insinuated some principles of rational policy into the mind of

Zingis, diverted him from the execution of this horrid design. But in the cities of Asia, which yielded to the Moguls, the inhuman abuse of the rights of war was exercised with a regular form of discipline, which

may, with equal reason, though not with equal authority, be imputed to the victorious Huns. The inhabitants, who had submitted to their discretion, were ordered to evacuate their houses, and to assemble

in some plain adjacent to the city; where a division was made of the

vanquished into three parts. The first class consisted of the soldiers

of the garrison, and of the young men capable of bearing arms; and their fate was instantly decided they were either enlisted among the Moguls,

or they were massacred on the spot by the troops, who, with pointed

spears and bended bows, had formed a circle round the captive multitude. the second class, composed of the young and beautiful women, of the artificers of every rank and profession, and of the more wealthy or

honorable citizens, from whom a private ransom might be expected, was distributed in equal or proportionable lots. The remainder, whose life

or death was alike useless to the conquerors, were permitted to return to the city; which, in the mean while, had been stripped of its valuable furniture; and a tax was imposed on those wretched inhabitants for the

indulgence of breathing their native air. Such was the behavior of the

Moguls, when they were not conscious of any extraordinary rigor. [23] but the most casual provocation, the slightest motive of caprice

or convenience, often provoked them to involve a whole people in an

indiscriminate massacre; and the ruin of some flourishing cities was executed with such unrelenting perseverance, that, according to their

own expression, horses might run, without stumbling, over the ground where they had once stood. The three great capitals of Khorasan, Maru,

Neisabour, and Herat, were destroyed by the armies of Zingis; and the exact account which was taken of the slain amounted to four millions three hundred and forty-seven thousand persons. [24] Timur, or tamerlane, was educated in a less barbarous age, and in the profession

of the Mahometan religion; yet, if Attila equalled the hostile ravages

of Tamerlane, [25] either the Tartar or the Hun might deserve the epithet of the Scourge of God. [26]

[Footnote 22: He represented to the emperor of the Moguls that the four

provinces, (Petcheli, Chantong, Chansi, and Leaotong,)which he already

possessed, might annually produce, under a mild administration, 500,000

ounces of silver, 400,000 measures of rice, and 800,000 pieces of silk.

Gaubil, Hist. de la Dynastie des Mongous, p. 58, 59. Yelut chousay (such was the name of the mandarin) was a wise and virtuous minister, who

saved his country, and civilized the conquerors. \* Note: Compare the

life of this remarkable man, translated from the Chinese by M. Abel

Remusat. Nouveaux Melanges Asiatiques, t. ii. p. 64.--M]

[Footnote 23: Particular instances would be endless; but the curious

reader may consult the life of Gengiscan, by Petit de la Croix, the

Histoire des Mongous, and the fifteenth book of the History of the

Huns.]

[Footnote 24: At Maru, 1,300,000; at Herat, 1,600,000; at Neisabour,

1,747,000. D'Herbelot, Bibliotheque Orientale, p. 380, 381. I use the

orthography of D'Anville's maps. It must, however, be allowed, that the Persians were disposed to exaggerate their losses and the Moguls to

magnify their exploits.]

[Footnote 25: Cherefeddin Ali, his servile panegyrist, would afford us

many horrid examples. In his camp before Delhi, Timour massacred 100,000

Indian prisoners, who had smiled when the army of their countrymen appeared in sight, (Hist. de Timur Bec, tom. iii. p. 90.) The people of

Ispahan supplied 70,000 human skulls for the structure of several lofty towers, (id. tom. i. p. 434.) A similar tax was levied on the revolt of bagdad, (tom. iii. p. 370;) and the exact account, which Cherefeddin was not able to procure from the proper officers, is stated by another

historian (Ahmed Arabsiada, tom. ii. p. 175, vera Manger) at 90,000

heads.]

[Footnote 26: The ancients, Jornandes, Priscus, &c., are ignorant of this epithet. The modern Hungarians have imagined, that it was applied, by a hermit of Gaul, to Attila, who was pleased to insert it among the titles of his royal dignity. Mascou, ix. 23, and Tillemont, Hist. des empereurs, tom. vi. p. 143.]

chapter XXXIV: Attila.--Part II.

It may be affirmed, with bolder assurance, that the Huns depopulated the

provinces of the empire, by the number of Roman subjects whom they

led away into captivity. In the hands of a wise legislator, such an

industrious colony might have contributed to diffuse through the deserts

of Scythia the rudiments of the useful and ornamental arts; but these captives, who had been taken in war, were accidentally dispersed among the hordes that obeyed the empire of Attila. The estimate of their

respective value was formed by the simple judgment of unenlightened and

unprejudiced Barbarians. Perhaps they might not understand the merit of a theologian, profoundly skilled in the controversies of the Trinity and the Incarnation; yet they respected the ministers of every religion and the active zeal of the Christian missionaries, without approaching the person or the palace of the monarch, successfully labored in the

propagation of the gospel. [27] The pastoral tribes, who were ignorant

of the distinction of landed property, must have disregarded the use, as well as the abuse, of civil jurisprudence; and the skill of an eloquent

lawyer could excite only their contempt or their abhorrence. [28] The

perpetual intercourse of the Huns and the Goths had communicated the familiar knowledge of the two national dialects; and the Barbarians were ambitious of conversing in Latin, the military idiom even of the Eastern empire. [29] But they disdained the language and the sciences of the

Greeks; and the vain sophist, or grave philosopher, who had enjoyed the flattering applause of the schools, was mortified to find that his

robust servant was a captive of more value and importance than himself. the mechanic arts were encouraged and esteemed, as they tended to

satisfy the wants of the Huns. An architect in the service of Onegesius,

one of the favorites of Attila, was employed to construct a bath; but this work was a rare example of private luxury; and the trades of the

smith, the carpenter, the armorer, were much more adapted to supply a wandering people with the useful instruments of peace and war. But the

merit of the physician was received with universal favor and respect: the Barbarians, who despised death, might be apprehensive of disease; and the haughty conqueror trembled in the presence of a captive, to whom

he ascribed, perhaps, an imaginary power of prolonging or preserving

his life. [30] The Huns might be provoked to insult the misery of their

slaves, over whom they exercised a despotic command; [31] but their

manners were not susceptible of a refined system of oppression; and the efforts of courage and diligence were often recompensed by the gift of freedom. The historian Priscus, whose embassy is a source of curious

instruction, was accosted in the camp of Attila by a stranger, who

saluted him in the Greek language, but whose dress and figure displayed the appearance of a wealthy Scythian. In the siege of Viminiacum, he had

lost, according to his own account, his fortune and liberty; he became the slave of Onegesius; but his faithful services, against the Romans and the Acatzires, had gradually raised him to the rank of the native

Huns; to whom he was attached by the domestic pledges of a new wife and several children. The spoils of war had restored and improved his

private property; he was admitted to the table of his former lord; and the apostate Greek blessed the hour of his captivity, since it had been the introduction to a happy and independent state; which he held by the

honorable tenure of military service. This reflection naturally produced a dispute on the advantages and defects of the Roman government, which was severely arraigned by the apostate, and defended by Priscus in a

prolix and feeble declamation. The freedman of Onegesius exposed, in true and lively colors, the vices of a declining empire, of which he

had so long been the victim; the cruel absurdity of the Roman princes,

unable to protect their subjects against the public enemy, unwilling to trust them with arms for their own defence; the intolerable weight of taxes, rendered still more oppressive by the intricate or arbitrary

modes of collection; the obscurity of numerous and contradictory laws; the tedious and expensive forms of judicial proceedings; the partial administration of justice; and the universal corruption, which increased the influence of the rich, and aggravated the misfortunes of the poor. a sentiment of patriotic sympathy was at length revived in the breast of the fortunate exile; and he lamented, with a flood of tears, the guilt

or weakness of those magistrates who had perverted the wisest and most

salutary institutions. [32]

[Footnote 27: The missionaries of St. Chrysostom had converted great

numbers of the Scythians, who dwelt beyond the Danube in tents and wagons. Theodoret, l. v. c. 31. Photius, p. 1517. The Mahometans, the

Nestorians, and the Latin Christians, thought themselves secure

of gaining the sons and grandsons of Zingis, who treated the rival

missionaries with impartial favor.]

[Footnote 28: The Germans, who exterminated Varus and his legions, had been particularly offended with the Roman laws and lawyers. One of the barbarians, after the effectual precautions of cutting out the tongue of an advocate, and sewing up his mouth, observed, with much satisfaction, that the viper could no longer hiss. Florus, iv. 12.]

[Footnote 29: Priscus, p. 59. It should seem that the Huns preferred the

Gothic and Latin languages to their own; which was probably a harsh and barren idiom.]

[Footnote 30: Philip de Comines, in his admirable picture of the last

moments of Lewis XI., (Memoires, l. vi. c. 12,) represents the insolence

of his physician, who, in five months, extorted 54,000 crowns, and a

rich bishopric, from the stern, avaricious tyrant.]

[Footnote 31: Priscus (p. 61) extols the equity of the Roman laws, which

protected the life of a slave. Occidere solent (says Tacitus of the

Germans) non disciplina et severitate, sed impetu et ira, ut inimicum,

nisi quod impune. De Moribus Germ. c. 25. The Heruli, who were the

subjects of Attila, claimed, and exercised, the power of life and death

over their slaves. See a remarkable instance in the second book of agathias]

[Footnote 32: See the whole conversation in Priscus, p. 59-62.]

the timid or selfish policy of the Western Romans had abandoned the eastern empire to the Huns. [33] The loss of armies, and the want of discipline or virtue, were not supplied by the personal character of the

monarch. Theodosius might still affect the style, as well as the title,

of Invincible Augustus; but he was reduced to solicit the clemency of attila, who imperiously dictated these harsh and humiliating conditions

of peace. I. The emperor of the East resigned, by an express or tacit convention, an extensive and important territory, which stretched along the southern banks of the Danube, from Singidunum, or Belgrade, as far as Novae, in the diocese of Thrace. The breadth was defined by the vague computation of fifteen [3311] days' journey; but, from the proposal of attila to remove the situation of the national market, it soon appeared, that he comprehended the ruined city of Naissus within the limits of

his dominions. II. The king of the Huns required and obtained, that his tribute or subsidy should be augmented from seven hundred pounds of gold to the annual sum of two thousand one hundred; and he stipulated the immediate payment of six thousand pounds of gold, to defray the expenses, or to expiate the guilt, of the war. One might imagine, that

such a demand, which scarcely equalled the measure of private wealth, would have been readily discharged by the opulent empire of the East; and the public distress affords a remarkable proof of the impoverished,

or at least of the disorderly, state of the finances. A large proportion

of the taxes extorted from the people was detained and intercepted

in their passage, though the foulest channels, to the treasury of constantinople. The revenue was dissipated by Theodosius and his favorites in wasteful and profuse luxury; which was disguised by the

names of Imperial magnificence, or Christian charity. The immediate

supplies had been exhausted by the unforeseen necessity of military

preparations. A personal contribution, rigorously, but capriciously,

imposed on the members of the senatorian order, was the only expedient that could disarm, without loss of time, the impatient avarice of attila; and the poverty of the nobles compelled them to adopt the

scandalous resource of exposing to public auction the jewels of their wives, and the hereditary ornaments of their palaces. [34] III. The

king of the Huns appears to have established, as a principle of national

jurisprudence, that he could never lose the property, which he had

once acquired, in the persons who had yielded either a voluntary,

or reluctant, submission to his authority. From this principle he concluded, and the conclusions of Attila were irrevocable laws, that the Huns, who had been taken prisoner in war, should be released without delay, and without ransom; that every Roman captive, who had presumed to escape, should purchase his right to freedom at the price of twelve

pieces of gold; and that all the Barbarians, who had deserted the

standard of Attila, should be restored, without any promise or

stipulation of pardon.

In the execution of this cruel and ignominious treaty, the Imperial

officers were forced to massacre several loyal and noble deserters, who

refused to devote themselves to certain death; and the Romans forfeited all reasonable claims to the friendship of any Scythian people, by this

public confession, that they were destitute either of faith, or power, to protect the suppliant, who had embraced the throne of Theodosius.

[35]

[Footnote 33: Nova iterum Orienti assurgit ruina... quum nulla ab cocidentalibus ferrentur auxilia. Prosper Tyro composed his Chronicle in the West; and his observation implies a censure.]

[Footnote 3311: Five in the last edition of Priscus. Niebuhr, Byz. Hist.

p 147--M]

[Footnote 34: According to the description, or rather invective,

of Chrysostom, an auction of Byzantine luxury must have been very

productive. Every wealthy house possessed a semicircular table of massy

silver such as two men could scarcely lift, a vase of solid gold of the weight of forty pounds, cups, dishes, of the same metal, &c.]

[Footnote 35: The articles of the treaty, expressed without much order

or precision, may be found in Priscus, (p. 34, 35, 36, 37, 53, &c.) count Marcellinus dispenses some comfort, by observing, 1. That Attila

himself solicited the peace and presents, which he had formerly refused; and, 2dly, That, about the same time, the ambassadors of India presented a fine large tame tiger to the emperor Theodosius.]

the firmness of a single town, so obscure, that, except on this

occasion, it has never been mentioned by any historian or geographer, exposed the disgrace of the emperor and empire. Azimus, or Azimuntium, a small city of Thrace on the Illyrian borders, [36] had been distinguished by the martial spirit of its youth, the skill and

reputation of the leaders whom they had chosen, and their daring exploits against the innumerable host of the Barbarians. Instead of tamely expecting their approach, the Azimuntines attacked, in frequent and successful sallies, the troops of the Huns, who gradually declined the dangerous neighborhood, rescued from their hands the spoil and the captives, and recruited their domestic force by the voluntary association of fugitives and deserters. After the conclusion of the treaty, Attila still menaced the empire with implacable war, unless the azimuntines were persuaded, or compelled, to comply with the conditions which their sovereign had accepted. The ministers of Theodosius confessed with shame, and with truth, that they no longer possessed any authority over a society of men, who so bravely asserted their natural

independence; and the king of the Huns condescended to negotiate an equal exchange with the citizens of Azimus. They demanded the

restitution of some shepherds, who, with their cattle, had been accidentally surprised. A strict, though fruitless, inquiry was allowed: but the Huns were obliged to swear, that they did not detain any

prisoners belonging to the city, before they could recover two surviving countrymen, whom the Azimuntines had reserved as pledges for the safety

of their lost companions. Attila, on his side, was satisfied, and deceived, by their solemn asseveration, that the rest of the captives

had been put to the sword; and that it was their constant practice,

immediately to dismiss the Romans and the deserters, who had

obtained the security of the public faith. This prudent and officious dissimulation may be condemned, or excused, by the casuists, as they

incline to the rigid decree of St. Augustin, or to the milder sentiment

of St. Jerom and St. Chrysostom: but every soldier, every statesman,

must acknowledge, that, if the race of the Azimuntines had been encouraged and multiplied, the Barbarians would have ceased to trample

on the majesty of the empire. [37]

[Footnote 36: Priscus, p. 35, 36. Among the hundred and eighty-two forts, or castles, of Thrace, enumerated by Procopius, (de Edificiis,

l. iv. c. xi. tom. ii. p. 92, edit. Paris,) there is one of the name of esimontou, whose position is doubtfully marked, in the neighborhood of anchialus and the Euxine Sea. The name and walls of Azimuntium might

subsist till the reign of Justinian; but the race of its brave defenders

had been carefully extirpated by the jealousy of the Roman princes]

[Footnote 37: The peevish dispute of St. Jerom and St. Augustin, who

labored, by different expedients, to reconcile the seeming quarrel of the two apostles, St. Peter and St. Paul, depends on the solution of an important question, (Middleton's Works, vol. ii. p. 5-20,) which has been frequently agitated by Catholic and Protestant divines, and even by

lawyers and philosophers of every age.]

It would have been strange, indeed, if Theodosius had purchased, by the

loss of honor, a secure and solid tranquillity, or if his tameness had

not invited the repetition of injuries. The Byzantine court was insulted by five or six successive embassies; [38] and the ministers of Attila were uniformly instructed to press the tardy or imperfect execution of the last treaty; to produce the names of fugitives and deserters, who were still protected by the empire; and to declare, with seeming

moderation, that, unless their sovereign obtained complete and immediate

satisfaction, it would be impossible for him, were it even his wish, to check the resentment of his warlike tribes. Besides the motives of pride and interest, which might prompt the king of the Huns to continue this train of negotiation, he was influenced by the less honorable view of enriching his favorites at the expense of his enemies. The Imperial treasury was exhausted, to procure the friendly offices of the ambassadors and their principal attendants, whose favorable report might conduce to the maintenance of peace. The Barbarian monarch was flattered by the liberal reception of his ministers; he computed, with pleasure, the value and splendor of their gifts, rigorously exacted the

performance of every promise which would contribute to their private emolument, and treated as an important business of state the marriage

of his secretary Constantius. [39] That Gallic adventurer, who was

recommended by Aetius to the king of the Huns, had engaged his service to the ministers of Constantinople, for the stipulated reward of a wealthy and noble wife; and the daughter of Count Saturninus was chosen to discharge the obligations of her country. The reluctance of the

victim, some domestic troubles, and the unjust confiscation of her fortune, cooled the ardor of her interested lover; but he still demanded, in the name of Attila, an equivalent alliance; and, after

many ambiguous delays and excuses, the Byzantine court was compelled to

sacrifice to this insolent stranger the widow of Armatius, whose birth,

opulence, and beauty, placed her in the most illustrious rank of the

Roman matrons. For these importunate and oppressive embassies, Attila claimed a suitable return: he weighed, with suspicious pride, the character and station of the Imperial envoys; but he condescended to

promise that he would advance as far as Sardica to receive any ministers who had been invested with the consular dignity. The council of theodosius eluded this proposal, by representing the desolate and ruined condition of Sardica, and even ventured to insinuate that every officer

of the army or household was qualified to treat with the most powerful

princes of Scythia. Maximin, [40] a respectable courtier, whose abilities had been long exercised in civil and military employments, accepted, with reluctance, the troublesome, and perhaps dangerous, commission of reconciling the angry spirit of the king of the Huns.

His friend, the historian Priscus, [41] embraced the opportunity of

observing the Barbarian hero in the peaceful and domestic scenes of

life: but the secret of the embassy, a fatal and guilty secret, was

intrusted only to the interpreter Vigilius. The two last ambassadors

of the Huns, Orestes, a noble subject of the Pannonian province, and edecon, a valiant chieftain of the tribe of the Scyrri, returned at the

same time from Constantinople to the royal camp. Their obscure names were afterwards illustrated by the extraordinary fortune and the contrast of their sons: the two servants of Attila became the fathers of the last Roman emperor of the West, and of the first Barbarian king of

Italy.

[Footnote 38: Montesquieu (Considerations sur la Grandeur, &c. c. xix.)

has delineated, with a bold and easy pencil, some of the most striking circumstances of the pride of Attila, and the disgrace of the Romans. He deserves the praise of having read the Fragments of Priscus, which have been too much disregarded.]

[Footnote 39: See Priscus, p. 69, 71, 72, &c. I would fain believe, that this adventurer was afterwards crucified by the order of Attila, on a

suspicion of treasonable practices; but Priscus (p. 57) has too plainly distinguished two persons of the name of Constantius, who, from the

similar events of their lives, might have been easily confounded.]

[Footnote 40: In the Persian treaty, concluded in the year 422, the wise and eloquent Maximin had been the assessor of Ardaburius, (Socrates,

l. vii. c. 20.) When Marcian ascended the throne, the office of Great chamberlain was bestowed on Maximin, who is ranked, in the public edict, among the four principal ministers of state, (Novell. ad Calc. Cod. theod. p. 31.) He executed a civil and military commission in the eastern provinces; and his death was lamented by the savages of aethiopia, whose incursions he had repressed. See Priscus, p. 40, 41.]

[Footnote 41: Priscus was a native of Panium in Thrace, and deserved, by his eloquence, an honorable place among the sophists of the age.

His Byzantine history, which related to his own times, was comprised

in seven books. See Fabricius, Bibliot. Graec. tom. vi. p. 235, 236.

Notwithstanding the charitable judgment of the critics, I suspect that

Priscus was a Pagan. \* Note: Niebuhr concurs in this opinion. Life of

Priscus in the new edition of the Byzantine historians.--M]

the ambassadors, who were followed by a numerous train of men and

horses, made their first halt at Sardica, at the distance of three

hundred and fifty miles, or thirteen days' journey, from Constantinople. as the remains of Sardica were still included within the limits of the empire, it was incumbent on the Romans to exercise the duties of

hospitality. They provided, with the assistance of the provincials, a

sufficient number of sheep and oxen, and invited the Huns to a splendid,

or at least, a plentiful supper. But the harmony of the entertainment was soon disturbed by mutual prejudice and indiscretion. The greatness

of the emperor and the empire was warmly maintained by their ministers; the Huns, with equal ardor, asserted the superiority of their victorious

monarch: the dispute was inflamed by the rash and unseasonable flattery

of Vigilius, who passionately rejected the comparison of a mere mortal with the divine Theodosius; and it was with extreme difficulty that

Maximin and Priscus were able to divert the conversation, or to soothe the angry minds, of the Barbarians. When they rose from table, the

Imperial ambassador presented Edecon and Orestes with rich gifts of silk

robes and Indian pearls, which they thankfully accepted. Yet Orestes could not forbear insinuating that he had not always been treated with

such respect and liberality: and the offensive distinction which was implied, between his civil office and the hereditary rank of his colleague seems to have made Edecon a doubtful friend, and Orestes an

irreconcilable enemy. After this entertainment, they travelled about one

hundred miles from Sardica to Naissus. That flourishing city, which has

given birth to the great Constantine, was levelled with the ground: the

inhabitants were destroyed or dispersed; and the appearance of some

sick persons, who were still permitted to exist among the ruins of the churches, served only to increase the horror of the prospect. The

surface of the country was covered with the bones of the slain; and the ambassadors, who directed their course to the north-west, were obliged to pass the hills of modern Servia, before they descended into the flat and marshy grounds which are terminated by the Danube. The Huns were

masters of the great river: their navigation was performed in large canoes, hollowed out of the trunk of a single tree; the ministers of theodosius were safely landed on the opposite bank; and their Barbarian associates immediately hastened to the camp of Attila, which was equally

prepared for the amusements of hunting or of war. No sooner had Maximin advanced about two miles [4111] from the Danube, than he began to experience the fastidious insolence of the conqueror. He was sternly forbid to pitch his tents in a pleasant valley, lest he should infringe the distant awe that was due to the royal mansion. [4112] The

ministers of Attila pressed them to communicate the business, and the

instructions, which he reserved for the ear of their sovereign When

Maximin temperately urged the contrary practice of nations, he was still

more confounded to find that the resolutions of the Sacred Consistory, those secrets (says Priscus) which should not be revealed to the gods themselves, had been treacherously disclosed to the public enemy. On his

refusal to comply with such ignominious terms, the Imperial envoy was commanded instantly to depart; the order was recalled; it was again

repeated; and the Huns renewed their ineffectual attempts to subdue the

patient firmness of Maximin. At length, by the intercession of Scotta, the brother of Onegesius, whose friendship had been purchased by a

liberal gift, he was admitted to the royal presence; but, in stead of

obtaining a decisive answer, he was compelled to undertake a

remote journey towards the north, that Attila might enjoy the proud

satisfaction of receiving, in the same camp, the ambassadors of the eastern and Western empires. His journey was regulated by the guides, who obliged him to halt, to hasten his march, or to deviate from the common road, as it best suited the convenience of the king. The Romans, who traversed the plains of Hungary, suppose that they passed several

navigable rivers, either in canoes or portable boats; but there is

reason to suspect that the winding stream of the Teyss, or Tibiscus,

might present itself in different places under different names. From the contiguous villages they received a plentiful and regular supply of

provisions; mead instead of wine, millet in the place of bread, and a certain liquor named camus, which according to the report of Priscus, was distilled from barley. [42] Such fare might appear coarse and

indelicate to men who had tasted the luxury of Constantinople; but,

in their accidental distress, they were relieved by the gentleness and

hospitality of the same Barbarians, so terrible and so merciless in war. the ambassadors had encamped on the edge of a large morass. A violent tempest of wind and rain, of thunder and lightning, overturned their tents, immersed their baggage and furniture in the water, and scattered their retinue, who wandered in the darkness of the night, uncertain of their road, and apprehensive of some unknown danger, till they awakened by their cries the inhabitants of a neighboring village, the property

of the widow of Bleda. A bright illumination, and, in a few moments, a comfortable fire of reeds, was kindled by their officious benevolence; the wants, and even the desires, of the Romans were liberally satisfied; and they seem to have been embarrassed by the singular politeness of bleda's widow, who added to her other favors the gift, or at least the

loan, of a sufficient number of beautiful and obsequious damsels. The

sunshine of the succeeding day was dedicated to repose, to collect and dry the baggage, and to the refreshment of the men and horses: but,

in the evening, before they pursued their journey, the ambassadors expressed their gratitude to the bounteous lady of the village, by a

very acceptable present of silver cups, red fleeces, dried fruits, and

Indian pepper. Soon after this adventure, they rejoined the march of attila, from whom they had been separated about six days, and slowly

proceeded to the capital of an empire, which did not contain, in the

space of several thousand miles, a single city.

[Footnote 4111: 70 stadia. Priscus, 173.--M.]

[Footnote 4112: He was forbidden to pitch his tents on an eminence because Attila's were below on the plain. Ibid.--M.]

[Footnote 42: The Huns themselves still continued to despise the labors

of agriculture: they abused the privilege of a victorious nation; and the Goths, their industrious subjects, who cultivated the earth, dreaded their neighborhood, like that of so many ravenous wolves, (Priscus,

p. 45.) In the same manner the Sarts and Tadgics provide for their own

subsistence, and for that of the Usbec Tartars, their lazy and rapacious

sovereigns. See Genealogical History of the Tartars, p. 423 455, &c.]

as far as we may ascertain the vague and obscure geography of Priscus, this capital appears to have been seated between the Danube, the Teyss, and the Carpathian hills, in the plains of Upper Hungary, and most

probably in the neighborhood of Jezberin, Agria, or Tokay. [43] In its

origin it could be no more than an accidental camp, which, by the long and frequent residence of Attila, had insensibly swelled into a huge

village, for the reception of his court, of the troops who followed his

person, and of the various multitude of idle or industrious slaves and retainers. [44] The baths, constructed by Onegesius, were the only edifice of stone; the materials had been transported from Pannonia; and

since the adjacent country was destitute even of large timber, it may be

presumed, that the meaner habitations of the royal village consisted of

straw, or mud, or of canvass. The wooden houses of the more illustrious

Huns were built and adorned with rude magnificence, according to the

rank, the fortune, or the taste of the proprietors. They seem to have been distributed with some degree of order and symmetry; and each spot became more honorable as it approached the person of the sovereign. The

palace of Attila, which surpassed all other houses in his dominions, was built entirely of wood, and covered an ample space of ground. the outward enclosure was a lofty wall, or palisade, of smooth square timber, intersected with high towers, but intended rather for ornament than defence. This wall, which seems to have encircled the declivity of a hill, comprehended a great variety of wooden edifices, adapted to the

uses of royalty.

a separate house was assigned to each of the numerous wives of Attila; and, instead of the rigid and illiberal confinement imposed by Asiatic

jealousy they politely admitted the Roman ambassadors to their presence, their table, and even to the freedom of an innocent embrace. When

Maximin offered his presents to Cerca, [4411] the principal queen, he admired the singular architecture on her mansion, the height of the

round columns, the size and beauty of the wood, which was curiously

shaped or turned or polished or carved; and his attentive eye was able to discover some taste in the ornaments and some regularity in the

proportions. After passing through the guards, who watched before the

gate, the ambassadors were introduced into the private apartment of cerca. The wife of Attila received their visit sitting, or rather lying,

on a soft couch; the floor was covered with a carpet; the domestics formed a circle round the queen; and her damsels, seated on the ground, were employed in working the variegated embroidery which adorned the dress of the Barbaric warriors. The Huns were ambitious of displaying those riches which were the fruit and evidence of their victories: the trappings of their horses, their swords, and even their shoes, were

studded with gold and precious stones; and their tables were profusely

spread with plates, and goblets, and vases of gold and silver, which had been fashioned by the labor of Grecian artists.

the monarch alone assumed the superior pride of still adhering to the

simplicity of his Scythian ancestors. [45] The dress of Attila, his arms, and the furniture of his horse, were plain, without ornament, and of a single color. The royal table was served in wooden cups and

platters; flesh was his only food; and the conqueror of the North never tasted the luxury of bread.

[Footnote 43: It is evident that Priscus passed the Danube and the teyss, and that he did not reach the foot of the Carpathian hills. agria, Tokay, and Jazberin, are situated in the plains circumscribed by this definition. M. de Buat (Histoire des Peuples, &c., tom. vii.

p. 461) has chosen Tokay; Otrokosci, (p. 180, apud Mascou, ix. 23,) a learned Hungarian, has preferred Jazberin, a place about thirty-six

miles westward of Buda and the Danube. \* Note: M. St. Martin considers the narrative of Priscus, the only authority of M. de Buat and of

Gibbon, too vague to fix the position of Attila's camp. "It is worthy of

remark, that in the Hungarian traditions collected by Thwrocz, l. 2, c.

17, precisely on the left branch of the Danube, where Attila's residence was situated, in the same parallel stands the present city of Buda, in

Hungarian Buduvur. It is for this reason that this city has retained for a long time among the Germans of Hungary the name of Etzelnburgh or etzela-burgh, i. e., the city of Attila. The distance of Buda from the

place where Priscus crossed the Danube, on his way from Naissus, is equal to that which he traversed to reach the residence of the king of the Huns. I see no good reason for not acceding to the relations of the

Hungarian historians." St. Martin, vi. 191.--M]

[Footnote 44: The royal village of Attila may be compared to the city of

Karacorum, the residence of the successors of Zingis; which, though it appears to have been a more stable habitation, did not equal the size or

splendor of the town and abbey of St. Denys, in the 13th century. (See

Rubruquis, in the Histoire Generale des Voyages, tom. vii p. 286.) The camp of Aurengzebe, as it is so agreeably described by Bernier, (tom.

ii. p. 217-235,) blended the manners of Scythia with the magnificence and luxury of Hindostan.]

[Footnote 4411: The name of this queen occurs three times in

Priscus, and always in a different form--Cerca, Creca, and Rheca. The

Scandinavian poets have preserved her memory under the name of Herkia.

St. Martin, vi. 192.--M.]

[Footnote 45: When the Moguls displayed the spoils of Asia, in the diet

of Toncat, the throne of Zingis was still covered with the original black felt carpet, on which he had been seated, when he was raised to the command of his warlike countrymen. See Vie de Gengiscan, v. c. 9.]

when Attila first gave audience to the Roman ambassadors on the banks

of the Danube, his tent was encompassed with a formidable guard. The

monarch himself was seated in a wooden chair. His stern countenance, angry gestures, and impatient tone, astonished the firmness of Maximin; but Vigilius had more reason to tremble, since he distinctly understood the menace, that if Attila did not respect the law of nations, he would

nail the deceitful interpreter to the cross. and leave his body to the

vultures. The Barbarian condescended, by producing an accurate list, to expose the bold falsehood of Vigilius, who had affirmed that no more than seventeen deserters could be found. But he arrogantly declared, that he apprehended only the disgrace of contending with his fugitive

slaves; since he despised their impotent efforts to defend the provinces which Theodosius had intrusted to their arms: "For what fortress,"

(added Attila,) "what city, in the wide extent of the Roman empire, can

hope to exist, secure and impregnable, if it is our pleasure that

it should be erased from the earth?" He dismissed, however, the

interpreter, who returned to Constantinople with his peremptory demand

of more complete restitution, and a more splendid embassy.

His anger gradually subsided, and his domestic satisfaction in a

marriage which he celebrated on the road with the daughter of Eslam,

[4511] might perhaps contribute to mollify the native fierceness of his temper. The entrance of Attila into the royal village was marked by a

very singular ceremony. A numerous troop of women came out to meet their

hero and their king. They marched before him, distributed into long and regular files; the intervals between the files were filled by white

veils of thin linen, which the women on either side bore aloft in their

hands, and which formed a canopy for a chorus of young virgins, who chanted hymns and songs in the Scythian language. The wife of his favorite Onegesius, with a train of female attendants, saluted Attila at the door of her own house, on his way to the palace; and offered, according to the custom of the country, her respectful homage, by entreating him to taste the wine and meat which she had prepared for his

reception. As soon as the monarch had graciously accepted her hospitable

gift, his domestics lifted a small silver table to a convenient height, as he sat on horseback; and Attila, when he had touched the goblet with

his lips, again saluted the wife of Onegesius, and continued his march. during his residence at the seat of empire, his hours were not wasted

in the recluse idleness of a seraglio; and the king of the Huns could

maintain his superior dignity, without concealing his person from the

public view. He frequently assembled his council, and gave audience to the ambassadors of the nations; and his people might appeal to the

supreme tribunal, which he held at stated times, and, according to the eastern custom, before the principal gate of his wooden palace. The

Romans, both of the East and of the West, were twice invited to the banquets, where Attila feasted with the princes and nobles of Scythia.

Maximin and his colleagues were stopped on the threshold, till they had

made a devout libation to the health and prosperity of the king of the

Huns; and were conducted, after this ceremony, to their respective seats

in a spacious hall. The royal table and couch, covered with carpets and fine linen, was raised by several steps in the midst of the hall; and a son, an uncle, or perhaps a favorite king, were admitted to share the

simple and homely repast of Attila. Two lines of small tables, each of which contained three or four guests, were ranged in order on either

hand; the right was esteemed the most honorable, but the Romans

ingenuously confess, that they were placed on the left; and that Beric, an unknown chieftain, most probably of the Gothic race, preceded the

representatives of Theodosius and Valentinian. The Barbarian monarch

received from his cup-bearer a goblet filled with wine, and courteously drank to the health of the most distinguished guest; who rose from his

seat, and expressed, in the same manner, his loyal and respectful vows. this ceremony was successively performed for all, or at least for the

illustrious persons of the assembly; and a considerable time must have been consumed, since it was thrice repeated as each course or service was placed on the table. But the wine still remained after the meat had been removed; and the Huns continued to indulge their intemperance long after the sober and decent ambassadors of the two empires had withdrawn themselves from the nocturnal banquet. Yet before they retired, they enjoyed a singular opportunity of observing the manners of the nation

in their convivial amusements. Two Scythians stood before the couch of attila, and recited the verses which they had composed, to celebrate

his valor and his victories. [4512] A profound silence prevailed in the hall; and the attention of the guests was captivated by the vocal

harmony, which revived and perpetuated the memory of their own exploits; a martial ardor flashed from the eyes of the warriors, who were

impatient for battle; and the tears of the old men expressed their

generous despair, that they could no longer partake the danger and glory

of the field. [46] This entertainment, which might be considered as a

school of military virtue, was succeeded by a farce, that debased the dignity of human nature. A Moorish and a Scythian buffcon [4611]

successively excited the mirth of the rude spectators, by their deformed figure, ridiculous dress, antic gestures, absurd speeches, and the

strange, unintelligible confusion of the Latin, the Gothic, and the

Hunnic languages; and the hall resounded with loud and licentious

peals of laughter. In the midst of this intemperate riot, Attila alone, without a change of countenance, maintained his steadfast and inflexible

gravity; which was never relaxed, except on the entrance of Irnac, the youngest of his sons: he embraced the boy with a smile of paternal tenderness, gently pinched him by the cheek, and betrayed a partial affection, which was justified by the assurance of his prophets, that

Irnac would be the future support of his family and empire. Two days afterwards, the ambassadors received a second invitation; and they had

reason to praise the politeness, as well as the hospitality, of Attila. the king of the Huns held a long and familiar conversation with Maximin; but his civility was interrupted by rude expressions and haughty

reproaches; and he was provoked, by a motive of interest, to support, with unbecoming zeal, the private claims of his secretary Constantius.

"The emperor" (said Attila) "has long promised him a rich wife: constantius must not be disappointed; nor should a Roman emperor deserve the name of liar." On the third day, the ambassadors were dismissed; the freedom of several captives was granted, for a moderate ransom, to their pressing entreaties; and, besides the royal presents, they were

permitted to accept from each of the Scythian nobles the honorable and useful gift of a horse. Maximin returned, by the same road, to constantinople; and though he was involved in an accidental dispute with beric, the new ambassador of Attila, he flattered himself that he had contributed, by the laborious journey, to confirm the peace and alliance

of the two nations. [47]

[Footnote 4511: Was this his own daughter, or the daughter of a person

named Escam? (Gibbon has written incorrectly Eslam, an unknown name. the officer of Attila, called Eslas.) In either case the construction

is imperfect: a good Greek writer would have introduced an article to determine the sense. Nor is it quite clear, whether Scythian usage is adduced to excuse the polygamy, or a marriage, which would be considered

incestuous in other countries. The Latin version has carefully preserved the ambiguity, filiam Escam uxorem. I am not inclined to construe it

'his own daughter' though I have too little confidence in the uniformity

of the grammatical idioms of the Byzantines (though Priscus is one of the best) to express myself without hesitation.-M.]

[Footnote 4512: This passage is remarkable from the connection of the

name of Attila with that extraordinary cycle of poetry, which is found

in different forms in almost all the Teutonic languages.]

a Latin poem, de prima expeditione Attilae, Regis Hunnorum, in Gallias, was published in the year 1780, by Fischer at Leipsic. It contains, with the continuation, 1452 lines. It abounds in metrical faults, but is

occasionally not without some rude spirit and some copiousness of fancy

in the variation of the circumstances in the different combats of the

hero Walther, prince of Aquitania. It contains little which can be

supposed historical, and still less which is characteristic concerning attila. It relates to a first expedition of Attila into Europe which cannot be traced in history, during which the kings of the Franks, of the Burgundians, and of Aquitaine, submit themselves, and give hostages to Attila: the king of the Franks, a personage who seems the same with the Hagen of Teutonic romance; the king of Burgundy, his daughter

Heldgund; the king of Aquitaine, his son Walther. The main subject of the poem is the escape of Walther and Heldgund from the camp of Attila, and the combat between Walther and Gunthar, king of the Franks. with his twelve peers, among whom is Hagen. Walther had been betrayed while he

passed through Worms, the city of the Frankish king. by paying for his ferry over the Rhine with some strange fish, which he had caught during

his flight, and which were unknown in the waters of the Rhine. Gunthar was desirous of plundering him of the treasure, which Walther had carried off from the camp of Attila. The author of this poem is unknown,

nor can I, on the vague and rather doubtful allusion to Thule, as

Iceland, venture to assign its date. It was, evidently, recited in a

monastery, as appears by the first line; and no doubt composed there. the faults of metre would point out a late date; and it may have been formed upon some local tradition, as Walther, the hero, seems to have turned monk.

this poem, however, in its character and its incidents, bears no

relation to the Teutonic cycle, of which the Nibelungen Lied is the most complete form. In this, in the Heldenbuch, in some of the Danish Sagas.

in countess lays and ballads in all the dialects of Scandinavia, appears

King Etzel (Attila) in strife with the Burgundians and the Franks. With these appears, by a poetic anachronism, Dietrich of Berne. (Theodoric of

Verona,) the celebrated Ostrogothic king; and many other very singular coincidences of historic names, which appear in the poems. (See Lachman

Kritik der Sage in his volume of various readings to the Nibelungen; berlin, 1836, p. 336.)

chapter XXXIV: Attila.--Part III.

I must acknowledge myself unable to form any satisfactory theory as to the connection of these poems with the history of the time, or the

period, from which they may date their origin; notwithstanding the

laborious investigations and critical sagacity of the Schlegels, the

Grimms, of P. E. Muller and Lachman, and a whole host of German critics and antiquaries; not to omit our own countryman, Mr. Herbert, whose theory concerning Attila is certainly neither deficient in boldness nor

originality. I conceive the only way to obtain any thing like a clear conception on this point would be what Lachman has begun, (see above,)

patiently to collect and compare the various forms which the traditions

have assumed, without any preconceived, either mythical or poetical, theory, and, if possible, to discover the original basis of the whole

rich and fantastic legend. One point, which to me is strongly in favor

of the antiquity of this poetic cycle, is, that the manners are so clearly anterior to chivalry, and to the influence exercised on the

poetic literature of Europe by the chivalrous poems and romances. I think I find some traces of that influence in the Latin poem, though

strained through the imagination of a monk. The English reader will find an amusing account of the German Nibelungen and Heldenbuch, and of

some of the Scandinavian Sagas, in the volume of Northern Antiquities

published by Weber, the friend of Sir Walter Scott. Scott himself contributed a considerable, no doubt far the most valuable, part to the work. [46] [4611] [47]

See also the various German editions of the Nibelungen, to which

Lachman, with true German perseverance, has compiled a thick volume of

various readings; the Heldenbuch, the old Danish poems by Grimm, the eddas, &c. Herbert's Attila, p. 510, et seq.--M.]

[Footnote 46: If we may believe Plutarch, (in Demetrio, tom. v. p. 24,)

it was the custom of the Scythians, when they indulged in the pleasures

of the table, to awaken their languid courage by the martial harmony of twanging their bow-strings.]

[Footnote 4611: The Scythian was an idiot or lunatic; the Moor a regular buffcon--M.]

[Footnote 47: The curious narrative of this embassy, which required few

observations, and was not susceptible of any collateral evidence, may be found in Priscus, p. 49-70. But I have not confined myself to the same

order; and I had previously extracted the historical circumstances, which were less intimately connected with the journey, and business, of the Roman ambassadors.]

but the Roman ambassador was ignorant of the treacherous design, which

had been concealed under the mask of the public faith. The surprise and satisfaction of Edecon, when he contemplated the splendor of constantinople, had encouraged the interpreter Vigilius to procure for

him a secret interview with the eunuch Chrysaphius, [48] who governed the emperor and the empire. After some previous conversation, and a

mutual oath of secrecy, the eunuch, who had not, from his own feelings

or experience, imbibed any exalted notions of ministerial virtue,

ventured to propose the death of Attila, as an important service, by which Edecon might deserve a liberal share of the wealth and luxury which he admired. The ambassador of the Huns listened to the tempting

offer; and professed, with apparent zeal, his ability, as well as

readiness, to execute the bloody deed; the design was communicated to the master of the offices, and the devout Theodosius consented to the assassination of his invincible enemy. But this perfidious conspiracy was defeated by the dissimulation, or the repentance, of Edecon; and though he might exaggerate his inward abhorrence for the treason, which

he seemed to approve, he dexterously assumed the merit of an early and

voluntary confession. If we now review the embassy of Maximin, and the behavior of Attila, we must applaud the Barbarian, who respected the

laws of hospitality, and generously entertained and dismissed the

minister of a prince who had conspired against his life. But the

rashness of Vigilius will appear still more extraordinary, since

he returned, conscious of his guilt and danger, to the royal camp, accompanied by his son, and carrying with him a weighty purse of gold, which the favorite eunuch had furnished, to satisfy the demands of edecon, and to corrupt the fidelity of the guards. The interpreter was

instantly seized, and dragged before the tribunal of Attila, where

he asserted his innocence with specious firmness, till the threat

of inflicting instant death on his son extorted from him a sincere discovery of the criminal transaction. Under the name of ransom, or confiscation, the rapacious king of the Huns accepted two hundred pounds

of gold for the life of a traitor, whom he disdained to punish. He

pointed his just indignation against a nobler object. His ambassadors, eslaw and Orestes, were immediately despatched to Constantinople, with a

peremptory instruction, which it was much safer for them to execute than to disobey. They boldly entered the Imperial presence, with the fatal

purse hanging down from the neck of Orestes; who interrogated the eunuch chrysaphius, as he stood beside the throne, whether he recognized the evidence of his guilt. But the office of reproof was reserved for the

superior dignity of his colleague Eslaw, who gravely addressed the emperor of the East in the following words: "Theodosius is the son of an

illustrious and respectable parent: Attila likewise is descended from a

noble race; and he has supported, by his actions, the dignity which

he inherited from his father Mundzuk. But Theodosius has forfeited his

paternal honors, and, by consenting to pay tribute has degraded himself to the condition of a slave. It is therefore just, that he should

reverence the man whom fortune and merit have placed above him; instead

of attempting, like a wicked slave, clandestinely to conspire against

his master." The son of Arcadius, who was accustomed only to the voice

of flattery, heard with astonishment the severe language of truth: he blushed and trembled; nor did he presume directly to refuse the head of chrysaphius, which Eslaw and Orestes were instructed to demand. A solemn embassy, armed with full powers and magnificent gifts, was hastily sent to deprecate the wrath of Attila; and his pride was gratified by the choice of Nomius and Anatolius, two ministers of consular or

patrician rank, of whom the one was great treasurer, and the other was

master-general of the armies of the East. He condescended to meet these ambassadors on the banks of the River Drenco; and though he at first affected a stern and haughty demeanor, his anger was insensibly

mollified by their eloquence and liberality. He condescended to pardon the emperor, the eunuch, and the interpreter; bound himself by an oath to observe the conditions of peace; released a great number of captives; abandoned the fugitives and deserters to their fate; and resigned a large territory, to the south of the Danube, which he had already exhausted of its wealth and inhabitants. But this treaty was purchased at an expense which might have supported a vigorous and successful war; and the subjects of Theodosius were compelled to redeem the safety of a worthless favorite by oppressive taxes, which they would more cheerfully

have paid for his destruction. [49]

[Footnote 48: M. de Tillemont has very properly given the succession of chamberlains, who reigned in the name of Theodosius. Chrysaphius was the

last, and, according to the unanimous evidence of history, the worst

of these favorites, (see Hist. des Empereurs, tom. vi. p. 117-119.

Mem. Eccles. tom. xv. p. 438.) His partiality for his godfather the

heresiarch Eutyches, engaged him to persecute the orthodox party]

[Footnote 49: This secret conspiracy and its important consequences, may be traced in the fragments of Priscus, p. 37, 38, 39, 54, 70, 71, 72. the chronology of that historian is not fixed by any precise date; but the series of negotiations between Attila and the Eastern empire must be

included within the three or four years which are terminated, A.D. 450. by the death of Theodosius.]

the emperor Theodosius did not long survive the most humiliating circumstance of an inglorious life. As he was riding, or hunting, in the

neighborhood of Constantinople, he was thrown from his horse into the

River Lycus: the spine of the back was injured by the fall; and he expired some days afterwards, in the fiftieth year of his age, and the forty-third of his reign. [50] His sister Pulcheria, whose authority

had been controlled both in civil and ecclesiastical affairs by the

pernicious influence of the eunuchs, was unanimously proclaimed Empress

of the East; and the Romans, for the first time, submitted to a female

reign. No sooner had Pulcheria ascended the throne, than she indulged

her own and the public resentment, by an act of popular justice. Without any legal trial, the eunuch Chrysaphius was executed before the gates

of the city; and the immense riches which had been accumulated by the

rapacious favorite, served only to hasten and to justify his punishment.

[51] Amidst the general acclamations of the clergy and people, the empress did not forget the prejudice and disadvantage to which her sex was exposed; and she wisely resolved to prevent their murmurs by the choice of a colleague, who would always respect the superior rank and

virgin chastity of his wife. She gave her hand to Marcian, a senator, about sixty years of age; and the nominal husband of Pulcheria was

solemnly invested with the Imperial purple. The zeal which he displayed for the orthodox creed, as it was established by the council of chalcedon, would alone have inspired the grateful eloquence of the catholics. But the behavior of Marcian in a private life, and afterwards

on the throne, may support a more rational belief, that he was qualified to restore and invigorate an empire, which had been almost dissolved by the successive weakness of two hereditary monarchs. He was born in thrace, and educated to the profession of arms; but Marcian's youth

had been severely exercised by poverty and misfortune, since his only

resource, when he first arrived at Constantinople, consisted in two

hundred pieces of gold, which he had borrowed of a friend. He passed

nineteen years in the domestic and military service of Aspar, and his

son Ardaburius; followed those powerful generals to the Persian and african wars; and obtained, by their influence, the honorable rank of tribune and senator. His mild disposition, and useful talents, without alarming the jealousy, recommended Marcian to the esteem and favor of

his patrons; he had seen, perhaps he had felt, the abuses of a venal and

oppressive administration; and his own example gave weight and energy to the laws, which he promulgated for the reformation of manners. [52]

[Footnote 50: Theodorus the Reader, (see Vales. Hist. Eccles. tom. iii.

p. 563,) and the Paschal Chronicle, mention the fall, without specifying the injury: but the consequence was so likely to happen, and so unlikely to be invented, that we may safely give credit to Nicephorus Callistus, a Greek of the fourteenth century.]

[Footnote 51: Pulcheriae nutu (says Count Marcellinus) sua cum avaritia

interemptus est. She abandoned the eunuch to the pious revenge of a

son, whose father had suffered at his instigation. Note: Might not the execution of Chrysaphius have been a sacrifice to avert the anger of attila, whose assassination the eunuch had attempted to contrive?--M.]

[Footnote 52: de Bell. Vandal. l. i. c. 4. Evagrius, l. ii. c. 1. theophanes, p. 90, 91. Novell. ad Calcem. Cod. Theod. tom. vi. p. 30. the praises which St. Leo and the Catholics have bestowed on Marcian, are diligently transcribed by Baronius, as an encouragement for future

princes.]

chapter XXXV: Invasion By Attila.--Part I.

Invasion Of Gaul By Attila.--He Is Repulsed By Aetius And

The Visigoths.--Attila Invades And Evacuates Italy.--The

Deaths Of Attila, Aetius, And Valentinian The Third.

It was the opinion of Marcian, that war should be avoided, as long as

it is possible to preserve a secure and honorable peace; but it was

likewise his opinion, that peace cannot be honorable or secure, if the sovereign betrays a pusillanimous aversion to war. This temperate courage dictated his reply to the demands of Attila, who insolently

pressed the payment of the annual tribute. The emperor signified to the barbarians, that they must no longer insult the majesty of Rome by the

mention of a tribute; that he was disposed to reward, with becoming

liberality, the faithful friendship of his allies; but that, if they

presumed to violate the public peace, they should feel that he possessed troops, and arms, and resolution, to repel their attacks. The same

language, even in the camp of the Huns, was used by his ambassador apollonius, whose bold refusal to deliver the presents, till he had been admitted to a personal interview, displayed a sense of dignity, and a contempt of danger, which Attila was not prepared to expect from the degenerate Romans. [1] He threatened to chastise the rash successor

of Theodosius; but he hesitated whether he should first direct his

invincible arms against the Eastern or the Western empire. While mankind awaited his decision with awful suspense, he sent an equal defiance to the courts of Ravenna and Constantinople; and his ministers saluted the two emperors with the same haughty declaration. "Attila, my lord, and thy lord, commands thee to provide a palace for his immediate

reception." [2] But as the Barbarian despised, or affected to despise, the Romans of the East, whom he had so often vanquished, he soon declared his resolution of suspending the easy conquest, till he had achieved a more glorious and important enterprise. In the memorable

invasions of Gaul and Italy, the Huns were naturally attracted by the wealth and fertility of those provinces; but the particular motives and

provocations of Attila can only be explained by the state of the Western empire under the reign of Valentinian, or, to speak more correctly,

under the administration of Aetius. [3]

[Footnote 1: See Priscus, p. 39, 72.]

[Footnote 2: The Alexandrian or Paschal Chronicle, which introduces this

haughty message, during the lifetime of Theodosius, may have anticipated the date; but the dull annalist was incapable of inventing the original and genuine style of Attila.]

[Footnote 3: The second book of the Histoire Critique de l'Etablissement de la Monarchie Francoise tom. i. p. 189-424, throws great light on the

state of Gaul, when it was invaded by Attila; but the ingenious author, the Abbe Dubos, too often bewilders himself in system and conjecture.]

after the death of his rival Boniface, Aetius had prudently retired to the tents of the Huns; and he was indebted to their alliance for his

safety and his restoration. Instead of the suppliant language of a

guilty exile, he solicited his pardon at the head of sixty thousand barbarians; and the empress Placidia confessed, by a feeble resistance, that the condescension, which might have been ascribed to clemency, was the effect of weakness or fear. She delivered herself, her son

Valentinian, and the Western empire, into the hands of an insolent

subject; nor could Placidia protect the son-in-law of Boniface, the

virtuous and faithful Sebastian, [4] from the implacable persecution which urged him from one kingdom to another, till he miserably perished

in the service of the Vandals. The fortunate Aetius, who was immediately

promoted to the rank of patrician, and thrice invested with the honors

of the consulship, assumed, with the title of master of the cavalry and

infantry, the whole military power of the state; and he is sometimes

styled, by contemporary writers, the duke, or general, of the Romans of the West. His prudence, rather than his virtue, engaged him to leave the

grandson of Theodosius in the possession of the purple; and Valentinian was permitted to enjoy the peace and luxury of Italy, while the

patrician appeared in the glorious light of a hero and a patriot, who

supported near twenty years the ruins of the Western empire. The Gothic

historian ingenuously confesses, that Aetius was born for the salvation

of the Roman republic; [5] and the following portrait, though it is drawn in the fairest colors, must be allowed to contain a much larger

proportion of truth than of flattery. [411] "His mother was a wealthy and noble Italian, and his father Gaudentius, who held a distinguished

rank in the province of Scythia, gradually rose from the station of a

military domestic, to the dignity of master of the cavalry. Their son, who was enrolled almost in his infancy in the guards, was given as a hostage, first to Alaric, and afterwards to the Huns; [412] and he

successively obtained the civil and military honors of the palace, for which he was equally qualified by superior merit. The graceful figure

of Aetius was not above the middle stature; but his manly limbs were admirably formed for strength, beauty, and agility; and he excelled in the martial exercises of managing a horse, drawing the bow, and darting the javelin. He could patiently endure the want of food, or of sleep; and his mind and body were alike capable of the most laborious efforts.

He possessed the genuine courage that can despise not only dangers, but injuries: and it was impossible either to corrupt, or deceive, or

intimidate the firm integrity of his soul." [6] The Barbarians, who had

seated themselves in the Western provinces, were insensibly taught to

respect the faith and valor of the patrician Aetius. He soothed their

passions, consulted their prejudices, balanced their interests, and checked their ambition. [611] A seasonable treaty, which he concluded with Genseric, protected Italy from the depredations of the Vandals; the independent Britons implored and acknowledged his salutary aid; the

Imperial authority was restored and maintained in Gaul and Spain; and he compelled the Franks and the Suevi, whom he had vanquished in the field, to become the useful confederates of the republic.

[Footnote 4: Victor Vitensis (de Persecut. Vandal. l. i. 6, p. 8, edit.

Ruinart) calls him, acer consilio et strenuus in bello: but his courage, when he became unfortunate, was censured as desperate rashness; and

Sebastian deserved, or obtained, the epithet of proeceps, (Sidon. apollinar Carmen ix. 181.) His adventures in Constantinople, in Sicily,

Gaul, Spain, and Africa, are faintly marked in the Chronicles of

Marcellinus and Idatius. In his distress he was always followed by a

numerous train; since he could ravage the Hellespont and Propontis, and

seize the city of Barcelona.]

[Footnote 5: Reipublicae Romanae singulariter natus, qui superbiam

Suevorum, Francorumque barbariem immensis caedibus servire Imperio

Romano coegisset. Jornandes de Rebus Geticis, c. 34, p. 660.]

[Footnote 411: Some valuable fragments of a poetical panegyric on Aetius by Merobaudes, a Spaniard, have been recovered from a palimpsest MS. by the sagacity and industry of Niebuhr. They have been reprinted in the

new edition of the Byzantine Historians. The poet speaks in glowing terms of the long (annosa) peace enjoyed under the administration of aetius. The verses are very spirited. The poet was rewarded by a statue

publicly dedicated to his honor in Rome.

Danuvii cum pace redit, Tanaimque furore

Exuit, et nigro candentes aethere terras

Marte suo caruisse jubet. Dedit otia ferro

Caucasus, et saevi condemnant praelia reges.

Addidit hiberni famulantia foedera Rhenus

Orbis......

Lustrat Aremoricos jam mitior incola saltus;

Perdidit et mores tellus, adsuetaque saevo

Crimine quaesitas silvis celare rapinas,

Discit inexpertis Cererem committere campis;

Caesareoque diu manus obluctata labori

Sustinet acceptas nostro sub consule leges;

Et quamvis Geticis sulcum confundat aratris,

Barbara vicinae refugit consortia gentis.

--Merobaudes, p. 1]

[Footnote 412:--cum Scythicis succumberet ensibus orbis,

Telaque Tarpeias premerent Arctoa secures,

Hostilem fregit rabiem, pignus quesuperbi

Foederis et mundi pretium fuit. Hinc modo voti

Rata fides, validis quod dux premat impiger armis

Edomuit quos pace puer; bellumque repressit

Ignarus quid bella forent. Stupuere feroces

In tenero jam membra Getae. Rex ipse, verendum

Miratus pueri decus et prodentia fatum

Lumina, primaevas dederat gestare faretras,

Laudabatque manus librantem et tela gerentem

Oblitus quod noster erat Pro nescia regis

Corda, feris quanto populis discrimine constet

Quod Latium docet arma ducem.

--Merobaudes, Panegyr. p. 15.--M.]

[Footnote 6: This portrait is drawn by Renetus Profuturus Frigeridus, a contemporary historian, known only by some extracts, which are preserved by Gregory of Tours, (l. ii. c. 8, in tom. ii. p. 163.) It was probably the duty, or at least the interest, of Renatus, to magnify the virtues

of Aetius; but he would have shown more dexterity if he had not insisted

on his patient, forgiving disposition.]

[Footnote 611:

Insessor Libyes, quamvis, fatalibus armis

Ausus Elisaei solium rescindere regni,

Milibus Arctois Tyrias compleverat arces,

Nunc hostem exutus pactis proprioribus arsit

Romanam vincire fidem, Latiosque parentes

Adnumerare sib, sociamque intexere prolem.

---Merobaudes, p. 12.--M.]

from a principle of interest, as well as gratitude, Aetius assiduously cultivated the alliance of the Huns. While he resided in their tents as a hostage, or an exile, he had familiarly conversed with Attila himself, the nephew of his benefactor; and the two famous antagonists appeared to have been connected by a personal and military friendship, which they afterwards confirmed by mutual gifts, frequent embassies, and the education of Carpilio, the son of Aetius, in the camp of Attila. By the specious professions of gratitude and voluntary attachment, the

patrician might disguise his apprehensions of the Scythian conqueror, who pressed the two empires with his innumerable armies. His demands were obeyed or eluded. When he claimed the spoils of a vanquished city,

some vases of gold, which had been fraudulently embezzled, the civil and

military governors of Noricum were immediately despatched to satisfy his complaints: [7] and it is evident, from their conversation with Maximin and Priscus, in the royal village, that the valor and prudence of Aetius

had not saved the Western Romans from the common ignominy of tribute.

Yet his dexterous policy prolonged the advantages of a salutary peace; and a numerous army of Huns and Alani, whom he had attached to his

person, was employed in the defence of Gaul. Two colonies of these barbarians were judiciously fixed in the territories of Valens and

Orleans; [8] and their active cavalry secured the important passages

of the Rhone and of the Loire. These savage allies were not indeed less formidable to the subjects than to the enemies of Rome. Their original

settlement was enforced with the licentious violence of conquest; and the province through which they marched was exposed to all the calamities of a hostile invasion. [9] Strangers to the emperor or the

republic, the Alani of Gaul was devoted to the ambition of Aetius, and though he might suspect, that, in a contest with Attila himself, they would revolt to the standard of their national king, the patrician

labored to restrain, rather than to excite, their zeal and resentment against the Goths, the Burgundians, and the Franks.

[Footnote 7: The embassy consisted of Count Romulus; of Promotus,

president of Noricum; and of Romanus, the military duke. They were accompanied by Tatullus, an illustrious citizen of Petovio, in the same

province, and father of Orestes, who had married the daughter of Count

Romulus. See Priscus, p. 57, 65. Cassiodorus (Variar. i. 4) mentions another embassy, which was executed by his father and Carpilio, the son

of Aetius; and, as Attila was no more, he could safely boast of their

manly, intrepid behavior in his presence.]

[Footnote 8: Deserta Valentinae urbis rura Alanis partienda traduntur.

Prosper. Tyronis Chron. in Historiens de France, tom. i. p. 639. A few

lines afterwards, Prosper observes, that lands in the ulterior Gaul were assigned to the Alani. Without admitting the correction of Dubos, (tom.

i. p. 300,) the reasonable supposition of two colonies or garrisons of alani will confirm his arguments, and remove his objections.]

[Footnote 9: See Prosper. Tyro, p. 639. Sidonius (Panegyr. Avit. 246) complains, in the name of Auvergne, his native country,

Litorius Scythicos equites tunc forte subacto

Celsus Aremorico, Geticum rapiebat in agmen

Per terras, Averne, tuas, qui proxima quaedue

Discursu, flammis, ferro, feritate, rapinis,

Delebant; pacis fallentes nomen inane.

another poet, Paulinus of Perigord, confirms the complaint:--

Nam socium vix ferre queas, qui durior hoste.

---See Dubos, tom. i. p. 330.]

the kingdom established by the Visigoths in the southern provinces of

Gaul, had gradually acquired strength and maturity; and the conduct

of those ambitious Barbarians, either in peace or war, engaged the

perpetual vigilance of Aetius. After the death of Wallia, the Gothic

sceptre devolved to Theodoric, the son of the great Alaric; [10] and his

prosperous reign of more than thirty years, over a turbulent people, may be allowed to prove, that his prudence was supported by uncommon vigor, both of mind and body. Impatient of his narrow limits, Theodoric aspired to the possession of Arles, the wealthy seat of government and commerce; but the city was saved by the timely approach of Aetius; and the

Gothic king, who had raised the siege with some loss and disgrace, was

persuaded, for an adequate subsidy, to divert the martial valor of his

subjects in a Spanish war. Yet Theodoric still watched, and eagerly

seized, the favorable moment of renewing his hostile attempts. The

Goths besieged Narbonne, while the Belgic provinces were invaded by the burgundians; and the public safety was threatened on every side by the apparent union of the enemies of Rome. On every side, the activity

of Aetius, and his Scythian cavalry, opposed a firm and successful

resistance. Twenty thousand Burgundians were slain in battle; and the

remains of the nation humbly accepted a dependent seat in the mountains

of Savoy. [11] The walls of Narbonne had been shaken by the battering engines, and the inhabitants had endured the last extremities of famine, when Count Litorius, approaching in silence, and directing each

horseman to carry behind him two sacks of flour, cut his way through the

intrenchments of the besiegers. The siege was immediately raised; and the more decisive victory, which is ascribed to the personal conduct of aetius himself, was marked with the blood of eight thousand Goths. But

in the absence of the patrician, who was hastily summoned to Italy by some public or private interest, Count Litorius succeeded to the command; and his presumption soon discovered that far different talents are required to lead a wing of cavalry, or to direct the operations of an important war. At the head of an army of Huns, he rashly advanced to the gates of Thoulouse, full of careless contempt for an enemy whom his

misfortunes had rendered prudent, and his situation made desperate. the predictions of the augurs had inspired Litorius with the profane confidence that he should enter the Gothic capital in triumph; and the trust which he reposed in his Pagan allies, encouraged him to reject the fair conditions of peace, which were repeatedly proposed by the bishops

in the name of Theodoric. The king of the Goths exhibited in his distress the edifying contrast of Christian piety and moderation; nor did he lay aside his sackcloth and ashes till he was prepared to arm for the combat. His soldiers, animated with martial and religious enthusiasm, assaulted the camp of Litorius. The conflict was obstinate; the slaughter was mutual. The Roman general, after a total defeat, which could be imputed only to his unskilful rashness, was actually

led through the streets of Thoulouse, not in his own, but in a hostile triumph; and the misery which he experienced, in a long and ignominious captivity, excited the compassion of the Barbarians themselves. [12]

Such a loss, in a country whose spirit and finances were long since exhausted, could not easily be repaired; and the Goths, assuming, in their turn, the sentiments of ambition and revenge, would have planted their victorious standards on the banks of the Rhone, if the presence of aetius had not restored strength and discipline to the Romans. [13] The two armies expected the signal of a decisive action; but the generals, who were conscious of each other's force, and doubtful of their own

superiority, prudently sheathed their swords in the field of battle; and their reconciliation was permanent and sincere. Theodoric, king of the Visigoths, appears to have deserved the love of his subjects, the confidence of his allies, and the esteem of mankind. His throne was

surrounded by six valiant sons, who were educated with equal care in the exercises of the Barbarian camp, and in those of the Gallic schools: from the study of the Roman jurisprudence, they acquired the theory, at least, of law and justice; and the harmonious sense of Virgil contributed to soften the asperity of their native manners. [14] The two daughters of the Gothic king were given in marriage to the eldest sons

of the kings of the Suevi and of the Vandals, who reigned in Spain and africa: but these illustrious alliances were pregnant with guilt and discord. The queen of the Suevi bewailed the death of a husband

inhumanly massacred by her brother. The princess of the Vandals was the victim of a jealous tyrant, whom she called her father. The cruel

Genseric suspected that his son's wife had conspired to poison him; the

supposed crime was punished by the amputation of her nose and ears; and the unhappy daughter of Theodoric was ignominiously returned to the court of Thoulouse in that deformed and mutilated condition. This horrid act, which must seem incredible to a civilized age drew tears from every

spectator; but Theodoric was urged, by the feelings of a parent and a

king, to revenge such irreparable injuries. The Imperial ministers, who always cherished the discord of the Barbarians, would have supplied the

Goths with arms, and ships, and treasures, for the African war; and the cruelty of Genseric might have been fatal to himself, if the artful

Vandal had not armed, in his cause, the formidable power of the Huns.

His rich gifts and pressing solicitations inflamed the ambition of attila; and the designs of Aetius and Theodoric were prevented by the

invasion of Gaul. [15]

[Footnote 10: Theodoric II., the son of Theodoric I., declares to avitus his resolution of repairing, or expiating, the faults which his

grandfather had committed,--

Quae noster peccavit avus, quem fuscat id unum, Quod te, Roma, capit.

Sidon. Panegyric. Avit. 505.

this character, applicable only to the great Alaric, establishes the

genealogy of the Gothic kings, which has hitherto been unnoticed.]

[Footnote 11: The name of Sapaudia, the origin of Savoy, is first

mentioned by Ammianus Marcellinus; and two military posts are ascertained by the Notitia, within the limits of that province; a cohort was stationed at Grenoble in Dauphine; and Ebredunum, or

Iverdun, sheltered a fleet of small vessels, which commanded the Lake of

Neufchatel. See Valesius, Notit. Galliarum, p. 503. D'Anville, Notice de

l'Ancienne Gaule, p. 284, 579.]

[Footnote 12: Salvian has attempted to explain the moral government of the Deity; a task which may be readily performed by supposing that the calamities of the wicked are judgments, and those of the righteous, trials.]

[Footnote 13:

--Capto terrarum damna patebant

Litorio, in Rhodanum proprios producere fines,

Thendoridae fixum; nec erat pugnare necesse,

Sed migrare Getis; rabidam trux asperat iram

Victor; quod sensit Scythicum sub moenibus hostem

Imputat, et nihil estgravius, si forsitan unquam

Vincerecontingat, trepido.

--Panegyr. Avit. 300, &c.

Sitionius then proceeds, according to the duty of a panegyrist, to transfer the whole merit from Aetius to his minister Avitus.]

[Footnote 14: Theodoric II. revered, in the person of Avitus, the character of his preceptor.

Mihi Romula dudum

Per te jura placent; parvumque ediscere jussit

Ad tua verba pater, docili quo prisca Maronis

Carmine molliret Scythicos mihi pagina mores.

---Sidon. Panegyr. Avit. 495 &c.]

[Footnote 15: Our authorities for the reign of Theodoric I. are,

Jornandes de Rebus Geticis, c. 34, 36, and the Chronicles of Idatius, and the two Prospers, inserted in the historians of France, tom. i. p.

612-640. To these we may add Salvian de Gubernatione Dei, l. vii. p.

243, 244, 245, and the panegyric of Avitus, by Sidonius.]

the Franks, whose monarchy was still confined to the neighborhood of the

Lower Rhine, had wisely established the right of hereditary succession

in the noble family of the Merovingians. [16] These princes were elevated on a buckler, the symbol of military command; [17] and the

royal fashion of long hair was the ensign of their birth and dignity. their flaxen locks, which they combed and dressed with singular care,

hung down in flowing ringlets on their back and shoulders; while the

rest of the nation were obliged, either by law or custom, to shave the

hinder part of their head, to comb their hair over the forehead, and to content themselves with the ornament of two small whiskers. [18] The

lofty stature of the Franks, and their blue eyes, denoted a Germanic

origin; their close apparel accurately expressed the figure of their

limbs; a weighty sword was suspended from a broad belt; their bodies were protected by a large shield; and these warlike Barbarians were trained, from their earliest youth, to run, to leap, to swim; to dart the javelin, or battle-axe, with unerring aim; to advance, without

hesitation, against a superior enemy; and to maintain, either in life or death, the invincible reputation of their ancestors. [19] Clodion, the first of their long-haired kings, whose name and actions are mentioned

in authentic history, held his residence at Dispargum, [20] a village or fortress, whose place may be assigned between Louvain and Brussels. From the report of his spies, the king of the Franks was informed, that the defenceless state of the second Belgic must yield, on the slightest attack, to the valor of his subjects. He boldly penetrated through the thickets and morasses of the Carbonarian forest; [21] occupied Tournay and Cambray, the only cities which existed in the fifth century, and extended his conquests as far as the River Somme, over a desolate country, whose cultivation and populousness are the effects of more

recent industry. [22] While Clodion lay encamped in the plains of artois, [23] and celebrated, with vain and ostentatious security, the

marriage, perhaps, of his son, the nuptial feast was interrupted by the

unexpected and unwelcome presence of Aetius, who had passed the Somme at the head of his light cavalry. The tables, which had been spread under the shelter of a hill, along the banks of a pleasant stream, were rudely

overturned; the Franks were oppressed before they could recover their arms, or their ranks; and their unavailing valor was fatal only to themselves. The loaded wagons, which had followed their march, afforded a rich booty; and the virgin-bride, with her female attendants,

submitted to the new lovers, who were imposed on them by the chance of war. This advance, which had been obtained by the skill and activity of aetius, might reflect some disgrace on the military prudence of Clodion; but the king of the Franks soon regained his strength and reputation, and still maintained the possession of his Gallic kingdom from the Rhine to the Somme. [24] Under his reign, and most probably from the thee enterprising spirit of his subjects, his three capitals, Mentz, Treves, and Cologne, experienced the effects of hostile cruelty and avarice. The distress of Cologne was prolonged by the perpetual dominion of the same barbarians, who evacuated the ruins of Treves; and Treves, which in the space of forty years had been four times besieged and pillaged, was disposed to lose the memory of her afflictions in the vain amusements

of the Circus. [25] The death of Clodion, after a reign of twenty

years, exposed his kingdom to the discord and ambition of his two sons.

Meroveus, the younger, [26] was persuaded to implore the protection of

Rome; he was received at the Imperial court, as the ally of Valentinian, and the adopted son of the patrician Aetius; and dismissed to his native country, with splendid gifts, and the strongest assurances of friendship and support. During his absence, his elder brother had solicited, with equal ardor, the formidable aid of Attila; and the king of the Huns embraced an alliance, which facilitated the passage of the Rhine, and

justified, by a specious and honorable pretence, the invasion of Gaul.

[27]

[Footnote 16: Reges Crinitos se creavisse de prima, et ut ita dicam

nobiliori suorum familia, (Greg. Turon. l. ii. c. 9, p. 166, of the

second volume of the Historians of France.) Gregory himself does not

mention the Merovingian name, which may be traced, however, to the beginning of the seventh century, as the distinctive appellation of the

royal family, and even of the French monarchy. An ingenious critic has deduced the Merovingians from the great Maroboduus; and he has clearly

proved, that the prince, who gave his name to the first race, was more ancient than the father of Childeric. See Memoires de l'Academie des

Inscriptions, tom. xx. p. 52-90, tom. xxx. p. 557-587.]

[Footnote 17: This German custom, which may be traced from Tacitus to Gregory of Tours, was at length adopted by the emperors of constantinople. From a MS. of the tenth century, Montfaucon has delineated the representation of a similar ceremony, which the ignorance

of the age had applied to King David. See Monumens de la Monarchie francoise, tom. i. Discours Preliminaire.]

[Footnote 18: Caesaries prolixa... crinium flagellis per terga dimissis,

&c. See the Preface to the third volume of the Historians of France, and the Abbe Le Boeuf, (Dissertat. tom. iii. p. 47-79.) This peculiar fashion of the Merovingians has been remarked by natives and strangers; by Priscus, (tom. i. p. 608,) by Agathias, (tom. ii. p. 49,) and by

Gregory of Tours, (l. viii. 18, vi. 24, viii. 10, tom. ii. p. 196, 278,

316.)]

[Footnote 19: See an original picture of the figure, dress, arms, and temper of the ancient Franks, in Sidonius Apollinaris, (Panegyr.

Majorian. 238-254;) and such pictures, though coarsely drawn, have a

real and intrinsic value. Father Daniel (History de la Milice Francoise, tom. i. p. 2-7) has illustrated the description.]

[Footnote 20: Dubos, Hist. Critique, &c., tom. i. p. 271, 272. Some

geographers have placed Dispargum on the German side of the Rhine. See a

note of the Benedictine Editors, to the Historians of France, tom. ii p.

166.]

[Footnote 21: The Carbonarian wood was that part of the great forest of the Ardennes which lay between the Escaut, or Scheldt, and the Meuse.

Vales. Notit. Gall. p. 126.]

[Footnote 22: Gregor. Turon. l. ii. c. 9, in tom. ii. p. 166, 167. fredegar. Epitom. c. 9, p. 395. Gesta Reg. Francor. c. 5, in tom. ii. p.

544. Vit St. Remig. ab Hincmar, in tom. iii. p. 373.]

[Footnote 23:

--Francus qua Cloio patentes

Atrebatum terras pervaserat.

--Panegyr. Majorian 213

the precise spot was a town or village, called Vicus Helena; and both the name and place are discovered by modern geographers at Lens See

Vales. Notit. Gall. p. 246. Longuerue, Description de la France tom. ii.

p. 88.]

[Footnote 24: See a vague account of the action in Sidonius. Panegyr.

Majorian 212-230. The French critics, impatient to establish their

monarchy in Gaul, have drawn a strong argument from the silence of

Sidonius, who dares not insinuate, that the vanquished Franks were compelled to repass the Rhine. Dubos, tom. i. p. 322.]

[Footnote 25: Salvian (de Gubernat. Dei, l. vi.) has expressed, in vague and declamatory language, the misfortunes of these three cities, which are distinctly ascertained by the learned Mascou, Hist. of the Ancient

Germans, ix. 21.]

[Footnote 26: Priscus, in relating the contest, does not name the two brothers; the second of whom he had seen at Rome, a beardless youth, with long, flowing hair, (Historians of France, tom. i. p. 607, 608.) the Benedictine Editors are inclined to believe, that they were the

sons of some unknown king of the Franks, who reigned on the banks of the

Neckar; but the arguments of M. de Foncemagne (Mem. de l'Academie, tom.

viii. p. 464) seem to prove that the succession of Clodion was disputed by his two sons, and that the younger was Meroveus, the father of childeric. \* Note: The relationship of Meroveus to Clodion is extremely doubtful.--By some he is called an illegitimate son; by others merely

of his race. Tur ii. c. 9, in Sismondi, Hist. des Francais, i. 177. See

Mezeray.]

[Footnote 27: Under the Merovingian race, the throne was hereditary; but all the sons of the deceased monarch were equally entitled to their

share of his treasures and territories. See the Dissertations of M. de Foncemagne, in the sixth and eighth volumes of the Memoires de

l'Academie.]

chapter XXXV: Invasion By Attila.--Part II.

when Attila declared his resolution of supporting the cause of his allies, the Vandals and the Franks, at the same time, and almost in the

spirit of romantic chivalry, the savage monarch professed himself the lover and the champion of the princess Honoria. The sister of

Valentinian was educated in the palace of Ravenna; and as her marriage

might be productive of some danger to the state, she was raised, by the title of Augusta, [28] above the hopes of the most presumptuous subject. but the fair Honoria had no sooner attained the sixteenth year of her age, than she detested the importunate greatness which must forever exclude her from the comforts of honorable love; in the midst of vain and unsatisfactory pomp, Honoria sighed, yielded to the impulse of

nature, and threw herself into the arms of her chamberlain Eugenius. Her

guilt and shame (such is the absurd language of imperious man) were soon betrayed by the appearances of pregnancy; but the disgrace of the royal family was published to the world by the imprudence of the empress

Placidia who dismissed her daughter, after a strict and shameful confinement, to a remote exile at Constantinople. The unhappy princess

passed twelve or fourteen years in the irksome society of the sisters

of Theodosius, and their chosen virgins; to whose crown Honoria could

no longer aspire, and whose monastic assiduity of prayer, fasting, and

vigils, she reluctantly imitated. Her impatience of long and hopeless celibacy urged her to embrace a strange and desperate resolution. The

name of Attila was familiar and formidable at Constantinople; and his frequent embassies entertained a perpetual intercourse between his camp and the Imperial palace. In the pursuit of love, or rather of revenge, the daughter of Placidia sacrificed every duty and every prejudice; and

offered to deliver her person into the arms of a Barbarian, of whose

language she was ignorant, whose figure was scarcely human, and whose

religion and manners she abhorred. By the ministry of a faithful eunuch,

she transmitted to Attila a ring, the pledge of her affection; and earnestly conjured him to claim her as a lawful spouse, to whom he had been secretly betrothed. These indecent advances were received, however, with coldness and disdain; and the king of the Huns continued to

multiply the number of his wives, till his love was awakened by the

more forcible passions of ambition and avarice. The invasion of Gaul was preceded, and justified, by a formal demand of the princess Honoria, with a just and equal share of the Imperial patrimony. His predecessors, the ancient Tanjous, had often addressed, in the same hostile and

peremptory manner, the daughters of China; and the pretensions of Attila were not less offensive to the majesty of Rome. A firm, but temperate,

refusal was communicated to his ambassadors. The right of female

succession, though it might derive a specious argument from the recent examples of Placidia and Pulcheria, was strenuously denied; and the

indissoluble engagements of Honoria were opposed to the claims of her

Scythian lover. [29] On the discovery of her connection with the king

of the Huns, the guilty princess had been sent away, as an object of

horror, from Constantinople to Italy: her life was spared; but the ceremony of her marriage was performed with some obscure and nominal

husband, before she was immured in a perpetual prison, to bewail those crimes and misfortunes, which Honoria might have escaped, had she not been born the daughter of an emperor. [30]

[Footnote 28: A medal is still extant, which exhibits the pleasing countenance of Honoria, with the title of Augusta; and on the reverse, the improper legend of Salus Reipublicoe round the monogram of Christ.

See Ducange, Famil. Byzantin. p. 67, 73.]

[Footnote 29: See Priscus, p, 39, 40. It might be fairly alleged, that

if females could succeed to the throne, Valentinian himself, who had

married the daughter and heiress of the younger Theodosius, would have asserted her right to the Eastern empire.]

[Footnote 30: The adventures of Honoria are imperfectly related by

Jornandes, de Successione Regn. c. 97, and de Reb. Get. c. 42, p. 674; and in the Chronicles of Prosper and Marcellinus; but they cannot be

made consistent, or probable, unless we separate, by an interval of time and place, her intrigue with Eugenius, and her invitation of Attila.]

a native of Gaul, and a contemporary, the learned and eloquent Sidonius, who was afterwards bishop of Clermont, had made a promise to one of his friends, that he would compose a regular history of the war of Attila.

If the modesty of Sidonius had not discouraged him from the prosecution

of this interesting work, [31] the historian would have related, with the simplicity of truth, those memorable events, to which the poet, in

vague and doubtful metaphors, has concisely alluded. [32] The kings and

nations of Germany and Scythia, from the Volga perhaps to the Danube,

obeyed the warlike summons of Attila. From the royal village, in the

plains of Hungary his standard moved towards the West; and after a march

of seven or eight hundred miles, he reached the conflux of the Rhine and the Neckar, where he was joined by the Franks, who adhered to his ally, the elder of the sons of Clodion. A troop of light Barbarians, who

roamed in quest of plunder, might choose the winter for the convenience

of passing the river on the ice; but the innumerable cavalry of the Huns

required such plenty of forage and provisions, as could be procured only

in a milder season; the Hercynian forest supplied materials for a bridge

of boats; and the hostile myriads were poured, with resistless violence,

into the Belgic provinces. [33] The consternation of Gaul was universal; and the various fortunes of its cities have been adorned by tradition with martyrdoms and miracles. [34] Troyes was saved by the merits of

St. Lupus; St. Servatius was removed from the world, that he might not behold the ruin of Tongres; and the prayers of St. Genevieve diverted the march of Attila from the neighborhood of Paris. But as the greatest

part of the Gallic cities were alike destitute of saints and soldiers, they were besieged and stormed by the Huns; who practised, in the example of Metz, [35] their customary maxims of war. They involved, in a promiscuous massacre, the priests who served at the altar, and the

infants, who, in the hour of danger, had been providently baptized by the bishop; the flourishing city was delivered to the flames, and a

solitary chapel of St. Stephen marked the place where it formerly stood. from the Rhine and the Moselle, Attila advanced into the heart of Gaul; crossed the Seine at Auxerre; and, after a long and laborious march, fixed his camp under the walls of Orleans. He was desirous of securing

his conquests by the possession of an advantageous post, which commanded the passage of the Loire; and he depended on the secret invitation of

Sangiban, king of the Alani, who had promised to betray the city, and to

revolt from the service of the empire. But this treacherous conspiracy was detected and disappointed: Orleans had been strengthened with recent fortifications; and the assaults of the Huns were vigorously repelled by the faithful valor of the soldiers, or citizens, who defended the place. the pastoral diligence of Anianus, a bishop of primitive sanctity and consummate prudence, exhausted every art of religious policy to support their courage, till the arrival of the expected succors. After an

obstinate siege, the walls were shaken by the battering rams; the Huns

had already occupied the suburbs; and the people, who were incapable of bearing arms, lay prostrate in prayer. Anianus, who anxiously counted the days and hours, despatched a trusty messenger to observe, from the

rampari, the face of the distant country. He returned twice, without any intelligence that could inspire hope or comfort; but, in his third

report, he mentioned a small cloud, which he had faintly descried at the extremity of the horizon. "It is the aid of God!" exclaimed the bishop,

in a tone of pious confidence; and the whole multitude repeated after

him, "It is the aid of God." The remote object, on which every eye was fixed, became each moment larger, and more distinct; the Roman and

Gothic banners were gradually perceived; and a favorable wind blowing aside the dust, discovered, in deep array, the impatient squadrons of aetius and Theodoric, who pressed forwards to the relief of Orleans.

[Footnote 31: Exegeras mihi, ut promitterem tibi, Attilae bellum stylo

me posteris intimaturum.... coeperam scribere, sed operis arrepti fasce

perspecto, taeduit inchoasse. Sidon. Apoll. l. viii. epist. 15, p. 235]

[Footnote 32:

Subito cum rupta tumultu

Barbaries totas in te transfuderat Arctos,

Gallia. Pugnacem Rugum comitante Gelono,

Gepida trux sequitur; Scyrum Burgundio cogit:

Chunus, Bellonotus, Neurus, Basterna, Toringus,

Bructerus, ulvosa vel quem Nicer abluit unda

Prorumpit Francus. Cecidit cito secta bipenni Hercynia in lintres, et

Rhenum texuit alno. Et jam terrificis diffuderat Attila turmis In campos

se, Belga, tuos. Panegyr. Avit.]

[Footnote 33: The most authentic and circumstantial account of this war

is contained in Jornandes, (de Reb. Geticis, c. 36-41, p. 662-672,) who

has sometimes abridged, and sometimes transcribed, the larger history

of Cassiodorus. Jornandes, a quotation which it would be superfluous to

repeat, may be corrected and illustrated by Gregory of Tours, l. ii. c.

5, 6, 7, and the Chronicles of Idatius, Isidore, and the two Prospers. all the ancient testimonies are collected and inserted in the Historians

of France; but the reader should be cautioned against a supposed extract from the Chronicle of Idatius, (among the fragments of Fredegarius, tom.

ii. p. 462,) which often contradicts the genuine text of the Gallician bishop.]

[Footnote 34: The ancient legendaries deserve some regard, as they are obliged to connect their fables with the real history of their own times. See the lives of St. Lupus, St. Anianus, the bishops of Metz,

Ste. Genevieve, &c., in the Historians of France, tom. i. p. 644, 645,

649, tom. iii. p. 369.]

[Footnote 35: The scepticism of the count de Buat (Hist. des Peuples, tom. vii. p. 539, 540) cannot be reconciled with any principles of

reason or criticism. Is not Gregory of Tours precise and positive in his account of the destruction of Metz? At the distance of no more than a

hundred years, could he be ignorant, could the people be ignorant of the fate of a city, the actual residence of his sovereigns, the kings of austrasia? The learned count, who seems to have undertaken the apology

of Attila and the Barbarians, appeals to the false Idatius, parcens

Germaniae et Galliae, and forgets that the true Idatius had explicitly affirmed, plurimae civitates effractoe, among which he enumerates Metz.]

the facility with which Attila had penetrated into the heart of Gaul,

may be ascribed to his insidious policy, as well as to the terror of his arms. His public declarations were skilfully mitigated by his private assurances; he alternately soothed and threatened the Romans and the

Goths; and the courts of Ravenna and Thoulouse, mutually suspicious of each other's intentions, beheld, with supine indifference, the approach

of their common enemy. Aetius was the sole guardian of the public

safety; but his wisest measures were embarrassed by a faction, which,

since the death of Placidia, infested the Imperial palace: the youth

of Italy trembled at the sound of the trumpet; and the Barbarians, who, from fear or affection, were inclined to the cause of Attila, awaited with doubtful and venal faith, the event of the war. The patrician

passed the Alps at the head of some troops, whose strength and numbers

scarcely deserved the name of an army. [36] But on his arrival at Arles,

or Lyons, he was confounded by the intelligence, that the Visigoths,

refusing to embrace the defence of Gaul, had determined to expect, within their own territories, the formidable invader, whom they

professed to despise. The senator Avitus, who, after the honorable exercise of the Praetorian praefecture, had retired to his estate

in Auvergne, was persuaded to accept the important embassy, which he executed with ability and success. He represented to Theodoric, that an ambitious conqueror, who aspired to the dominion of the earth, could be

resisted only by the firm and unanimous alliance of the powers whom he

labored to oppress. The lively eloquence of Avitus inflamed the Gothic warriors, by the description of the injuries which their ancestors had

suffered from the Huns; whose implacable fury still pursued them from the Danube to the foot of the Pyrenees. He strenuously urged, that it was the duty of every Christian to save, from sacrilegious violation, the churches of God, and the relics of the saints: that it was the

interest of every Barbarian, who had acquired a settlement in Gaul, to defend the fields and vineyards, which were cultivated for his use, against the desolation of the Scythian shepherds. Theodoric yielded to the evidence of truth; adopted the measure at once the most prudent and the most honorable; and declared, that, as the faithful ally of Aetius and the Romans, he was ready to expose his life and kingdom for the common safety of Gaul. [37] The Visigoths, who, at that time, were

in the mature vigor of their fame and power, obeyed with alacrity the

signal of war; prepared their arms and horses, and assembled under the

standard of their aged king, who was resolved, with his two eldest sons, torismond and Theodoric, to command in person his numerous and valiant

people. The example of the Goths determined several tribes or

nations, that seemed to fluctuate between the Huns and the Romans. The

indefatigable diligence of the patrician gradually collected the troops

of Gaul and Germany, who had formerly acknowledged themselves the

subjects, or soldiers, of the republic, but who now claimed the rewards

of voluntary service, and the rank of independent allies; the Laeti, the armoricans, the Breones the Saxons, the Burgundians, the Sarmatians,

or Alani, the Ripuarians, and the Franks who followed Meroveus as their

lawful prince. Such was the various army, which, under the conduct of aetius and Theodoric, advanced, by rapid marches to relieve Orleans, and to give battle to the innumerable host of Attila. [38]

[Footnote 36:

Vix liquerat Alpes

Aetius, tenue, et rarum sine milite ducens

Robur, in auxiliis Geticum male credulus agmen

Incassum propriis praesumens adfore castris.

---Panegyr. Avit. 328, &c.]

[Footnote 37: The policy of Attila, of Aetius, and of the Visigoths, is

imperfectly described in the Panegyric of Avitus, and the thirty-sixth chapter of Jornandes. The poet and the historian were both biased by personal or national prejudices. The former exalts the merit and

importance of Avitus; orbis, Avite, salus, &c.! The latter is anxious to show the Goths in the most favorable light. Yet their agreement when they are fairly interpreted, is a proof of their veracity.]

[Footnote 38: The review of the army of Aetius is made by Jornandes, c. 36, p. 664, edit. Grot. tom. ii. p. 23, of the Historians of France, with the notes of the Benedictine editor. The Loeti were a promiscuous

race of Barbarians, born or naturalized in Gaul; and the Riparii, or

Ripuarii, derived their name from their post on the three rivers, the Rhine, the Meuse, and the Moselle; the Armoricans possessed the

independent cities between the Seine and the Loire. A colony of Saxons

had been planted in the diocese of Bayeux; the Burgundians were settled

in Savoy; and the Breones were a warlike tribe of Rhaetians, to the east

of the Lake of Constance.]

On their approach the king of the Huns immediately raised the siege, and

sounded a retreat to recall the foremost of his troops from the pillage

of a city which they had already entered. [39] The valor of Attila was always guided by his prudence; and as he foresaw the fatal consequences

of a defeat in the heart of Gaul, he repassed the Seine, and expected the enemy in the plains of Chalons, whose smooth and level surface was adapted to the operations of his Scythian cavalry. But in this tumultuary retreat, the vanguard of the Romans and their allies continually pressed, and sometimes engaged, the troops whom Attila had

posted in the rear; the hostile columns, in the darkness of the night and the perplexity of the roads, might encounter each other without design; and the bloody conflict of the Franks and Gepidae, in which fifteen thousand [40] Barbarians were slain, was a prelude to a

more general and decisive action. The Catalaunian fields [41] spread themselves round Chalons, and extend, according to the vague measurement

of Jornandes, to the length of one hundred and fifty, and the breadth

of one hundred miles, over the whole province, which is entitled to the appellation of a champaign country. [42] This spacious plain was distinguished, however, by some inequalities of ground; and the importance of a height, which commanded the camp of Attila, was

understood and disputed by the two generals. The young and valiant torismond first occupied the summit; the Goths rushed with irresistible weight on the Huns, who labored to ascend from the opposite side: and the possession of this advantageous post inspired both the troops and their leaders with a fair assurance of victory. The anxiety of Attila

prompted him to consult his priests and haruspices. It was reported, that, after scrutinizing the entrails of victims, and scraping their bones, they revealed, in mysterious language, his own defeat, with the death of his principal adversary; and that the Barbarians, by accepting the equivalent, expressed his involuntary esteem for the superior merit

of Aetius. But the unusual despondency, which seemed to prevail among the Huns, engaged Attila to use the expedient, so familiar to the

generals of antiquity, of animating his troops by a military oration; and his language was that of a king, who had often fought and conquered at their head. [43] He pressed them to consider their past glory, their actual danger, and their future hopes. The same fortune, which opened the deserts and morasses of Scythia to their unarmed valor, which had

laid so many warlike nations prostrate at their feet, had reserved the

joys of this memorable field for the consummation of their victories. the cautious steps of their enemies, their strict alliance, and their advantageous posts, he artfully represented as the effects, not of

prudence, but of fear. The Visigoths alone were the strength and

nerves of the opposite army; and the Huns might securely trample on the degenerate Romans, whose close and compact order betrayed their apprehensions, and who were equally incapable of supporting the dangers

or the fatigues of a day of battle. The doctrine of predestination, so favorable to martia virtue, was carefully inculcated by the king of the

Huns; who assured his subjects, that the warriors, protected by Heaven, were safe and invulnerable amidst the darts of the enemy; but that the

unerring Fates would strike their victims in the bosom of inglorious

peace. "I myself," continued Attila, "will throw the first javelin, and the wretch who refuses to imitate the example of his sovereign, is devoted to inevitable death." The spirit of the Barbarians was rekindled by the presence, the voice, and the example of their intrepid leader; and Attila, yielding to their impatience, immediately formed his order

of battle. At the head of his brave and faithful Huns, he occupied in

person the centre of the line. The nations subject to his empire, the

Rugians, the Heruli, the Thuringians, the Franks, the Burgundians, were extended on either hand, over the ample space of the Catalaunian fields; the right wing was commanded by Ardaric, king of the Gepidae; and the three valiant brothers, who reigned over the Ostrogoths, were posted on the left to oppose the kindred tribes of the Visigoths. The disposition

of the allies was regulated by a different principle. Sangiban, the faithless king of the Alani, was placed in the centre, where his motions

might be strictly watched, and that the treachery might be instantly

punished. Aetius assumed the command of the left, and Theodoric of the

right wing; while Torismond still continued to occupy the heights which appear to have stretched on the flank, and perhaps the rear, of the

Scythian army. The nations from the Volga to the Atlantic were assembled

on the plain of Chalons; but many of these nations had been divided by faction, or conquest, or emigration; and the appearance of similar arms and ensigns, which threatened each other, presented the image of a civil war.

[Footnote 39: Aurelianensis urbis obsidio, oppugnatio, irruptio,

nec direptio, l. v. Sidon. Apollin. l. viii. Epist. 15, p. 246. The

preservation of Orleans might easily be turned into a miracle, obtained and foretold by the holy bishop.]

[Footnote 40: The common editions read xcm but there is some authority

of manuscripts (and almost any authority is sufficient) for the more

reasonable number of xvm.]

[Footnote 41: Chalons, or Duro-Catalaunum, afterwards Catalauni, had formerly made a part of the territory of Rheims from whence it is distant only twenty-seven miles. See Vales, Notit. Gall. p. 136. d'Anville, Notice de l'Ancienne Gaule, p. 212, 279.]

[Footnote 42: The name of Campania, or Champagne, is frequently

mentioned by Gregory of Tours; and that great province, of which

Rheims was the capital, obeyed the command of a duke. Vales. Notit. p.

120-123.]

[Footnote 43: I am sensible that these military orations are usually composed by the historian; yet the old Ostrogoths, who had served under attila, might repeat his discourse to Cassiodorus; the ideas, and even the expressions, have an original Scythian cast; and I doubt, whether an

Italian of the sixth century would have thought of the hujus certaminis

gaudia.]

the discipline and tactics of the Greeks and Romans form an interesting

part of their national manners. The attentive study of the military

operations of Xenophon, or Caesar, or Frederic, when they are described by the same genius which conceived and executed them, may tend to

improve (if such improvement can be wished) the art of destroying the

human species. But the battle of Chalons can only excite our curiosity by the magnitude of the object; since it was decided by the blind

impetuosity of Barbarians, and has been related by partial writers, whose civil or ecclesiastical profession secluded them from the

knowledge of military affairs. Cassiolorus, however, had familiarly conversed with many Gothic warriors, who served in that memorable engagement; "a conflict," as they informed him, "fierce, various,

obstinate, and bloody; such as could not be paralleled either in the

present or in past ages." The number of the slain amounted to one

hundred and sixty-two thousand, or, according to another account, three hundred thousand persons; [44] and these incredible exaggerations

suppose a real and effective loss sufficient to justify the historian's

remark, that whole generations may be swept away by the madness of

kings, in the space of a single hour. After the mutual and repeated discharge of missile weapons, in which the archers of Scythia might

signalize their superior dexterity, the cavalry and infantry of the two armies were furiously mingled in closer combat. The Huns, who fought

under the eyes of their king pierced through the feeble and doubtful centre of the allies, separated their wings from each other, and wheeling, with a rapid effort, to the left, directed their whole force against the Visigoths. As Theodoric rode along the ranks, to animate his troops, he received a mortal stroke from the javelin of Andages, a noble

Ostrogoth, and immediately fell from his horse. The wounded king was

oppressed in the general disorder, and trampled under the feet of his

own cavalry; and this important death served to explain the ambiguous

prophecy of the haruspices. Attila already exulted in the confidence

of victory, when the valiant Torismond descended from the hills, and

verified the remainder of the prediction. The Visigoths, who had been thrown into confusion by the flight or defection of the Alani,

gradually restored their order of battle; and the Huns were undoubtedly

vanquished, since Attila was compelled to retreat. He had exposed his

person with the rashness of a private soldier; but the intrepid troops

of the centre had pushed forwards beyond the rest of the line; their attack was faintly supported; their flanks were unguarded; and the conquerors of Scythia and Germany were saved by the approach of the

night from a total defeat. They retired within the circle of wagons that fortified their camp; and the dismounted squadrons prepared themselves for a defence, to which neither their arms, nor their temper, were adapted. The event was doubtful: but Attila had secured a last and

honorable resource. The saddles and rich furniture of the cavalry were collected, by his order, into a funeral pile; and the magnanimous barbarian had resolved, if his intrenchments should be forced, to rush

headlong into the flames, and to deprive his enemies of the glory which they might have acquired, by the death or captivity of Attila. [45]

[Footnote 44: The expressions of Jornandes, or rather of Cassiodorus, are extremely strong. Bellum atrox, multiplex, immane, pertinax, cui

simile nulla usquam narrat antiquitas: ubi talia gesta referuntur, ut

nihil esset quod in vita sua conspicere potuisset egregius, qui hujus

miraculi privaretur aspectu. Dubos (Hist. Critique, tom. i. p. 392,

393) attempts to reconcile the 162,000 of Jornandes with the 300,000 of

Idatius and Isidore, by supposing that the larger number included the total destruction of the war, the effects of disease, the slaughter of the unarmed people, &c.]

[Footnote 45: The count de Buat, (Hist. des Peuples, &c., tom. vii. p.

554-573,) still depending on the false, and again rejecting the true,

Idatius, has divided the defeat of Attila into two great battles; the former near Orleans, the latter in Champagne: in the one, Theodoric was

slain in the other, he was revenged.]

but his enemies had passed the night in equal disorder and anxiety. The

inconsiderate courage of Torismond was tempted to urge the pursuit, till

he unexpectedly found himself, with a few followers, in the midst of the

Scythian wagons. In the confusion of a nocturnal combat, he was thrown from his horse; and the Gothic prince must have perished like his father, if his youthful strength, and the intrepid zeal of his companions, had not rescued him from this dangerous situation. In the

same manner, but on the left of the line, Aetius himself, separated from his allies, ignorant of their victory, and anxious for their fate, encountered and escaped the hostile troops that were scattered over the

plains of Chalons; and at length reached the camp of the Goths, which

he could only fortify with a slight rampart of shields, till the dawn

of day. The Imperial general was soon satisfied of the defeat of Attila, who still remained inactive within his intrenchments; and when he contemplated the bloody scene, he observed, with secret satisfaction, that the loss had principally fallen on the Barbarians. The body of theodoric, pierced with honorable wounds, was discovered under a heap of the slain: is subjects bewailed the death of their king and father; but their tears were mingled with songs and acclamations, and his funeral

rites were performed in the face of a vanquished enemy. The Goths, clashing their arms, elevated on a buckler his eldest son Torismond, to whom they justly ascribed the glory of their success; and the new king accepted the obligation of revenge as a sacred portion of his paternal

inheritance. Yet the Goths themselves were astonished by the fierce and

undaunted aspect of their formidable antagonist; and their historian has compared Attila to a lion encompassed in his den, and threatening

his hunters with redoubled fury. The kings and nations who might have deserted his standard in the hour of distress, were made sensible that the displeasure of their monarch was the most imminent and inevitable danger. All his instruments of martial music incessantly sounded a loud and animating strain of defiance; and the foremost troops who advanced to the assault were checked or destroyed by showers of arrows from every

side of the intrenchments. It was determined, in a general council

of war, to besiege the king of the Huns in his camp, to intercept his

provisions, and to reduce him to the alternative of a disgraceful treaty or an unequal combat. But the impatience of the Barbarians soon disdained these cautious and dilatory measures; and the mature policy

of Aetius was apprehensive that, after the extirpation of the Huns, the

republic would be oppressed by the pride and power of the Gothic nation. the patrician exerted the superior ascendant of authority and reason to calm the passions, which the son of Theodoric considered as a duty;

represented, with seeming affection and real truth, the dangers of absence and delay and persuaded Torismond to disappoint, by his speedy

return, the ambitious designs of his brothers, who might occupy the throne and treasures of Thoulouse. [46] After the departure of the

Goths, and the separation of the allied army, Attila was surprised at the vast silence that reigned over the plains of Chalons: the suspicion

of some hostile stratagem detained him several days within the circle of

his wagons, and his retreat beyond the Rhine confessed the last victory which was achieved in the name of the Western empire. Meroveus and his franks, observing a prudent distance, and magnifying the opinion of their strength by the numerous fires which they kindled every night, continued to follow the rear of the Huns till they reached the confines

of Thuringia. The Thuringians served in the army of Attila: they traversed, both in their march and in their return, the territories

of the Franks; and it was perhaps in this war that they exercised the cruelties which, about fourscore years afterwards, were revenged by the

son of Clovis. They massacred their hostages, as well as their captives: two hundred young maidens were tortured with exquisite and unrelenting

rage; their bodies were torn asunder by wild horses, or their bones were crushed under the weight of rolling wagons; and their unburied limbs were abandoned on the public roads, as a prey to dogs and vultures.

Such were those savage ancestors, whose imaginary virtues have sometimes excited the praise and envy of civilized ages. [47]

[Footnote 46: Jornandes de Rebus Geticis, c. 41, p. 671. The policy of aetius, and the behavior of Torismond, are extremely natural; and the patrician, according to Gregory of Tours, (l. ii. c. 7, p. 163,) dismissed the prince of the Franks, by suggesting to him a similar apprehension. The false Idatius ridiculously pretends, that Aetius

paid a clandestine nocturnal visit to the kings of the Huns and of the

Visigoths; from each of whom he obtained a bribe of ten thousand pieces

of gold, as the price of an undisturbed retreat.]

[Footnote 47: These cruelties, which are passionately deplored by theodoric, the son of Clovis, (Gregory of Tours, l. iii. c. 10, p. 190,)

suit the time and circumstances of the invasion of Attila. His residence

in Thuringia was long attested by popular tradition; and he is supposed to have assembled a couroultai, or diet, in the territory of Eisenach.

See Mascou, ix. 30, who settles with nice accuracy the extent of ancient thuringia, and derives its name from the Gothic tribe of the Therungi]

chapter XXXV: Invasion By Attila.--Part III.

Neither the spirit, nor the forces, nor the reputation, of Attila, were

impaired by the failure of the Gallic expedition In the ensuing spring

he repeated his demand of the princess Honoria, and her patrimonial treasures. The demand was again rejected, or eluded; and the indignant

lover immediately took the field, passed the Alps, invaded Italy, and besieged Aquileia with an innumerable host of Barbarians. Those barbarians were unskilled in the methods of conducting a regular siege, which, even among the ancients, required some knowledge, or at least

some practice, of the mechanic arts. But the labor of many thousand

provincials and captives, whose lives were sacrificed without pity,

might execute the most painful and dangerous work. The skill of the

Roman artists might be corrupted to the destruction of their country. the walls of Aquileia were assaulted by a formidable train of battering

rams, movable turrets, and engines, that threw stones, darts, and fire;

[48] and the monarch of the Huns employed the forcible impulse of hope, fear, emulation, and interest, to subvert the only barrier which delayed the conquest of Italy. Aquileia was at that period one of the richest, the most populous, and the strongest of the maritime cities of the adriatic coast. The Gothic auxiliaries, who appeared to have served

under their native princes, Alaric and Antala, communicated their

intrepid spirit; and the citizens still remembered the glorious and

successful resistance which their ancestors had opposed to a fierce,

inexorable Barbarian, who disgraced the majesty of the Roman purple. three months were consumed without effect in the siege of the Aquileia; till the want of provisions, and the clamors of his army, compelled attila to relinquish the enterprise; and reluctantly to issue his

orders, that the troops should strike their tents the next morning, and begin their retreat. But as he rode round the walls, pensive, angry, and disappointed, he observed a stork preparing to leave her nest, in one

of the towers, and to fly with her infant family towards the country.

He seized, with the ready penetration of a statesman, this trifling

incident, which chance had offered to superstition; and exclaimed, in a loud and cheerful tone, that such a domestic bird, so constantly attached to human society, would never have abandoned her ancient seats,

unless those towers had been devoted to impending ruin and solitude.

[49] The favorable omen inspired an assurance of victory; the siege was

renewed and prosecuted with fresh vigor; a large breach was made in the

part of the wall from whence the stork had taken her flight; the Huns

mounted to the assault with irresistible fury; and the succeeding

generation could scarcely discover the ruins of Aquileia. [50] After this dreadful chastisement, Attila pursued his march; and as he passed, the cities of Altinum, Concordia, and Padua, were reduced into heaps of

stones and ashes. The inland towns, Vicenza, Verona, and Bergamo, were exposed to the rapacious cruelty of the Huns. Milan and Pavia submitted, without resistance, to the loss of their wealth; and applauded the

unusual clemency which preserved from the flames the public, as well as

private, buildings, and spared the lives of the captive multitude. The

popular traditions of Comum, Turin, or Modena, may justly be suspected;

yet they concur with more authentic evidence to prove, that Attila

spread his ravages over the rich plains of modern Lombardy; which are divided by the Po, and bounded by the Alps and Apennine. [51] When

he took possession of the royal palace of Milan, he was surprised and

offended at the sight of a picture which represented the Caesars seated

on their throne, and the princes of Scythia prostrate at their feet. the revenge which Attila inflicted on this monument of Roman vanity, was

harmless and ingenious. He commanded a painter to reverse the figures and the attitudes; and the emperors were delineated on the same canvas, approaching in a suppliant posture to empty their bags of tributary gold before the throne of the Scythian monarch. [52] The spectators must have confessed the truth and propriety of the alteration; and were perhaps tempted to apply, on this singular occasion, the well-known fable of the dispute between the lion and the man. [53]

[Footnote 48: Machinis constructis, omnibusque tormentorum generibus adhibitis. Jornandes, c. 42, p. 673. In the thirteenth century, the

Moguls battered the cities of China with large engines, constructed by the Mahometans or Christians in their service, which threw stones from

150 to 300 pounds weight. In the defence of their country, the Chinese

used gunpowder, and even bombs, above a hundred years before they were known in Europe; yet even those celestial, or infernal, arms were

insufficient to protect a pusillanimous nation. See Gaubil. Hist. des

Mongous, p. 70, 71, 155, 157, &c.]

[Footnote 49: The same story is told by Jornandes, and by Procopius, (de bell Vandal. l. i. c. 4, p. 187, 188:) nor is it easy to decide which

is the original. But the Greek historian is guilty of an inexcusable

mistake, in placing the siege of Aquileia after the death of Aetius.]

[Footnote 50: Jornandes, about a hundred years afterwards, affirms, that Aquileia was so completely ruined, ita ut vix ejus vestigia, ut appareant, reliquerint. See Jornandes de Reb. Geticis, c. 42, p. 673.

Paul. Diacon. l. ii. c. 14, p. 785. Liutprand, Hist. l. iii. c. 2. The

name of Aquileia was sometimes applied to Forum Julii, (Cividad del friuli,) the more recent capital of the Venetian province. \* Note: compare the curious Latin poems on the destruction of Aquileia,

published by M. Endlicher in his valuable catalogue of Latin Mss. in the

library of Vienna, p. 298, &c.

Repleta quondam domibus sublimibus, ornatis mire, niveis, marmorels,

Nune ferax frugum metiris funiculo ruricolarum.

the monkish poet has his consolation in Attila's sufferings in soul and body.

Vindictam tamen non evasit impius destructor tuus Attila sevissimus,

Nunc igni simul gehennae et vermibus excruciatur--P. 290.--M.]

[Footnote 51: In describing this war of Attila, a war so famous, but so

imperfectly known, I have taken for my guides two learned Italians, who considered the subject with some peculiar advantages; Sigonius, de Imperio Occidentali, l. xiii. in his works, tom. i. p. 495-502; and

Muratori, Annali d'Italia, tom. iv. p. 229-236, 8vo. edition.]

[Footnote 52: This anecdote may be found under two different articles of the miscellaneous compilation of Suidas.]

[Footnote 53:

Leo respondit, humana, hoc pictum manu:

Videres hominem dejectum, si pingere

Leones scirent.

--Appendix ad Phaedrum, Fab. xxv.

the lion in Phaedrus very foolishly appeals from pictures to the amphitheatre; and I am glad to observe, that the native taste of La fontaine (l. iii. fable x.) has omitted this most lame and impotent conclusion.]

It is a saying worthy of the ferocious pride of Attila, that the

grass never grew on the spot where his horse had trod. Yet the savage destroyer undesignedly laid the foundation of a republic, which

revived, in the feudal state of Europe, the art and spirit of commercial

industry. The celebrated name of Venice, or Venetia, [54] was formerly diffused over a large and fertile province of Italy, from the confines

of Pannonia to the River Addua, and from the Po to the Rhaetian and

Julian Alps. Before the irruption of the Barbarians, fifty Venetian cities flourished in peace and prosperity: Aquileia was placed in the

most conspicuous station: but the ancient dignity of Padua was supported by agriculture and manufactures; and the property of five hundred citizens, who were entitled to the equestrian rank, must have amounted, at the strictest computation, to one million seven hundred thousand

pounds. Many families of Aquileia, Padua, and the adjacent towns, who fled from the sword of the Huns, found a safe, though obscure, refuge

in the neighboring islands. [55] At the extremity of the Gulf, where the adriatic feebly imitates the tides of the ocean, near a hundred small

islands are separated by shallow water from the continent, and protected from the waves by several long slips of land, which admit the entrance

of vessels through some secret and narrow channels. [56] Till the

middle of the fifth century, these remote and sequestered spots remained without cultivation, with few inhabitants, and almost without a

name. But the manners of the Venetian fugitives, their arts and their

government, were gradually formed by their new situation; and one of the epistles of Cassiodorus, [57] which describes their condition about

seventy years afterwards, may be considered as the primitive monument

of the republic. [571] The minister of Theodoric compares them, in his

quaint declamatory style, to water-fowl, who had fixed their nests

on the bosom of the waves; and though he allows, that the Venetian

provinces had formerly contained many noble families, he insinuates, that they were now reduced by misfortune to the same level of humble

poverty. Fish was the common, and almost the universal, food of every

rank: their only treasure consisted in the plenty of salt, which they extracted from the sea: and the exchange of that commodity, so essential to human life, was substituted in the neighboring markets to the currency of gold and silver. A people, whose habitations might be doubtfully assigned to the earth or water, soon became alike familiar with the two elements; and the demands of avarice succeeded to those of

necessity. The islanders, who, from Grado to Chiozza, were intimately connected with each other, penetrated into the heart of Italy, by the

secure, though laborious, navigation of the rivers and inland canals. their vessels, which were continually increasing in size and number,

visited all the harbors of the Gulf; and the marriage which Venice annually celebrates with the Adriatic, was contracted in her early

infancy. The epistle of Cassiodorus, the Praetorian praefect, is addressed to the maritime tribunes; and he exhorts them, in a mild tone

of authority, to animate the zeal of their countrymen for the public

service, which required their assistance to transport the magazines of wine and oil from the province of Istria to the royal city of Ravenna. the ambiguous office of these magistrates is explained by the tradition, that, in the twelve principal islands, twelve tribunes, or judges, were created by an annual and popular election. The existence of the Venetian

republic under the Gothic kingdom of Italy, is attested by the same authentic record, which annihilates their lofty claim of original and

perpetual independence. [58]

[Footnote 54: Paul the Deacon (de Gestis Langobard. l. ii. c. 14,

p. 784) describes the provinces of Italy about the end of the eighth century Venetia non solum in paucis insulis quas nunc Venetias dicimus, constat; sed ejus terminus a Pannoniae finibus usque Adduam fluvium

protelatur. The history of that province till the age of Charlemagne forms the first and most interesting part of the Verona (Illustrata, p.

1-388,) in which the marquis Scipio Maffei has shown himself equally capable of enlarged views and minute disquisitions.]

[Footnote 55: This emigration is not attested by any contemporary evidence; but the fact is proved by the event, and the circumstances

might be preserved by tradition. The citizens of Aquileia retired to the

Isle of Gradus, those of Padua to Rivus Altus, or Rialto, where the city

of Venice was afterwards built, &c.]

[Footnote 56: The topography and antiquities of the Venetian islands, from Gradus to Clodia, or Chioggia, are accurately stated in the dissertatio Chorographica de Italia Medii Aevi. p. 151-155.]

[Footnote 57: Cassiodor. Variar. l. xii. epist. 24. Maffei (Verona

Illustrata, part i. p. 240-254) has translated and explained this curious letter, in the spirit of a learned antiquarian and a faithful

subject, who considered Venice as the only legitimate offspring of the

Roman republic. He fixes the date of the epistle, and consequently the

praefecture, of Cassiodorus, A.D. 523; and the marquis's authority has the more weight, as he prepared an edition of his works, and actually

published a dissertation on the true orthography of his name. See

Osservazioni Letterarie, tom. ii. p. 290-339.]

[Footnote 571: The learned count Figliasi has proved, in his memoirs

upon the Veneti (Memorie de' Veneti primi e secondi del conte Figliasi, t. vi. Veneziai, 796,) that from the most remote period, this nation, which occupied the country which has since been called the Venetian

States or Terra Firma, likewise inhabited the islands scattered upon the coast, and that from thence arose the names of Venetia prima and

secunda, of which the first applied to the main land and the second to the islands and lagunes. From the time of the Pelasgi and of the etrurians, the first Veneti, inhabiting a fertile and pleasant country, devoted themselves to agriculture: the second, placed in the midst

of canals, at the mouth of several rivers, conveniently situated with

regard to the islands of Greece, as well as the fertile plains of Italy, applied themselves to navigation and commerce. Both submitted to the

Romans a short time before the second Punic war; yet it was not till after the victory of Marius over the Cimbri, that their country was

reduced to a Roman province. Under the emperors, Venetia Prima obtained

more than once, by its calamities, a place in history. \* \* But the

maritime province was occupied in salt works, fisheries, and commerce. the Romans have considered the inhabitants of this part as beneath the dignity of history, and have left them in obscurity. \* \* \* They dwelt there until the period when their islands afforded a retreat to their

ruined and fugitive compatriots. Sismondi. Hist. des Rep. Italiens,

v. i. p. 313.--G. ----Compare, on the origin of Venice, Daru, Hist. de

Venise, vol. i. c. l.--M.]

[Footnote 58: See, in the second volume of Amelot de la Houssaie,

Histoire du Gouvernement de Venise, a translation of the famous

Squittinio. This book, which has been exalted far above its merits, is

stained, in every line, with the disingenuous malevolence of party: but the principal evidence, genuine and apocryphal, is brought together and the reader will easily choose the fair medium.]

the Italians, who had long since renounced the exercise of arms, were

surprised, after forty years' peace, by the approach of a formidable barbarian, whom they abhorred, as the enemy of their religion, as well as of their republic. Amidst the general consternation, Aetius alone was

incapable of fear; but it was impossible that he should achieve, alone and unassisted, any military exploits worthy of his former renown. The barbarians who had defended Gaul, refused to march to the relief of

Italy; and the succors promised by the Eastern emperor were distant and doubtful. Since Aetius, at the head of his domestic troops, still

maintained the field, and harassed or retarded the march of Attila, he

never showed himself more truly great, than at the time when his conduct was blamed by an ignorant and ungrateful people. [59] If the mind of

Valentinian had been susceptible of any generous sentiments, he would

have chosen such a general for his example and his guide. But the timid

grandson of Theodosius, instead of sharing the dangers, escaped from the sound of war; and his hasty retreat from Ravenna to Rome, from an

impregnable fortress to an open capital, betrayed his secret intention

of abandoning Italy, as soon as the danger should approach his Imperial

person. This shameful abdication was suspended, however, by the spirit

of doubt and delay, which commonly adheres to pusillanimous counsels, and sometimes corrects their pernicious tendency. The Western emperor, with the senate and people of Rome, embraced the more salutary

resolution of deprecating, by a solemn and suppliant embassy, the wrath

of Attila. This important commission was accepted by Avienus, who, from

his birth and riches, his consular dignity, the numerous train of his clients, and his personal abilities, held the first rank in the Roman

senate. The specious and artful character of Avienus [60] was admirably

qualified to conduct a negotiation either of public or private interest:

his colleague Trigetius had exercised the Praetorian praefecture of

Italy; and Leo, bishop of Rome, consented to expose his life for the

safety of his flock. The genius of Leo [61] was exercised and displayed

in the public misfortunes; and he has deserved the appellation of Great, by the successful zeal with which he labored to establish his opinions and his authority, under the venerable names of orthodox faith and ecclesiastical discipline. The Roman ambassadors were introduced to the tent of Attila, as he lay encamped at the place where the slow-winding

Mincius is lost in the foaming waves of the Lake Benacus, [62] and trampled, with his Scythian cavalry, the farms of Catullus and Virgil.

[63] The Barbarian monarch listened with favorable, and even respectful, attention; and the deliverance of Italy was purchased by the immense

ransom, or dowry, of the princess Honoria. The state of his army might facilitate the treaty, and hasten his retreat. Their martial spirit was

relaxed by the wealth and idolence of a warm climate. The shepherds of the North, whose ordinary food consisted of milk and raw flesh, indulged themselves too freely in the use of bread, of wine, and of meat,

prepared and seasoned by the arts of cookery; and the progress of disease revenged in some measure the injuries of the Italians. [64] When attila declared his resolution of carrying his victorious arms to the

gates of Rome, he was admonished by his friends, as well as by his enemies, that Alaric had not long survived the conquest of the eternal city. His mind, superior to real danger, was assaulted by imaginary terrors; nor could he escape the influence of superstition, which had

so often been subservient to his designs. [65] The pressing eloquence of

Leo, his majestic aspect and sacerdotal robes, excited the veneration of attila for the spiritual father of the Christians. The apparition of the two apostles, St. Peter and St. Paul, who menaced the Barbarian with

instant death, if he rejected the prayer of their successor, is one

of the noblest legends of ecclesiastical tradition. The safety of Rome

might deserve the interposition of celestial beings; and some indulgence

is due to a fable, which has been represented by the pencil of Raphael, and the chisel of Algardi. [66]

[Footnote 59: Sirmond (Not. ad Sidon. Apollin. p. 19) has published a curious passage from the Chronicle of Prosper. Attila, redintegratis

viribus, quas in Gallia amiserat, Italiam ingredi per Pannonias

intendit; nihil duce nostro Aetio secundum prioris belli opera

prospiciente, &c. He reproaches Aetius with neglecting to guard the alps, and with a design to abandon Italy; but this rash censure may at

least be counterbalanced by the favorable testimonies of Idatius and

Isidore.]

[Footnote 60: See the original portraits of Avienus and his rival basilius, delineated and contrasted in the epistles (i. 9. p. 22) of

Sidonius. He had studied the characters of the two chiefs of the senate; but he attached himself to Basilius, as the more solid and disinterested friend.]

[Footnote 61: The character and principles of Leo may be traced in

one hundred and forty-one original epistles, which illustrate the ecclesiastical history of his long and busy pontificate, from A.D. 440 to 461. See Dupin, Bibliotheque Ecclesiastique, tom. iii. part ii p.

120-165.]

[Footnote 62:

Tardis ingens ubi flexibus errat

Mincius, et tenera praetexit arundine ripas

-------

Anne lacus tantos, te Lari maxime, teque

Fluctibus, et fremitu assurgens Benace marino.]

[Footnote 63: The marquis Maffei (Verona Illustrata, part i. p. 95,

129, 221, part ii. p. 2, 6) has illustrated with taste and learning this

interesting topography. He places the interview of Attila and St. Leo

near Ariolica, or Ardelica, now Peschiera, at the conflux of the lake and river; ascertains the villa of Catullus, in the delightful peninsula

of Sirmio, and discovers the Andes of Virgil, in the village of Bandes,

precisely situate, qua se subducere colles incipiunt, where the Veronese

hills imperceptibly slope down into the plain of Mantua. \* Note: Gibbon

has made a singular mistake: the Mincius flows out of the Bonacus at Peschiera, not into it. The interview is likewise placed at Ponte

Molino. and at Governolo, at the conflux of the Mincio and the Gonzaga. bishop of Mantua, erected a tablet in the year 1616, in the church of the latter place, commemorative of the event. Descrizione di Verona a de

la sua provincia. C. 11, p. 126.--M.]

[Footnote 64: Si statim infesto agmine urbem petiissent, grande discrimen esset: sed in Venetia quo fere tractu Italia mollissima est,

ipsa soli coelique clementia robur elanquit. Ad hoc panis usu carnisque coctae, et dulcedine vini mitigatos, &c. This passage of Florus (iii.

3) is still more applicable to the Huns than to the Cimbri, and it may

serve as a commentary on the celestial plague, with which Idatius and

Isidore have afflicted the troops of Attila.]

[Footnote 65: The historian Priscus had positively mentioned the effect which this example produced on the mind of Attila. Jornandes, c. 42, p.

673]

[Footnote 66: The picture of Raphael is in the Vatican; the basso (or

perhaps the alto) relievo of Algardi, on one of the altars of St. Peter,

(see Dubos, Reflexions sur la Poesie et sur la Peinture, tom. i. p. 519,

520.) Baronius (Annal. Eccles. A.D. 452, No. 57, 58) bravely sustains the truth of the apparition; which is rejected, however, by the most

learned and pious Catholics.]

before the king of the Huns evacuated Italy, he threatened to return

more dreadful, and more implacable, if his bride, the princess Honoria, were not delivered to his ambassadors within the term stipulated by the treaty. Yet, in the mean while, Attila relieved his tender anxiety, by adding a beautiful maid, whose name was Ildico, to the list of his

innumerable wives. [67] Their marriage was celebrated with barbaric pomp and festivity, at his wooden palace beyond the Danube; and the monarch,

oppressed with wine and sleep, retired at a late hour from the banquet to the nuptial bed. His attendants continued to respect his pleasures,

or his repose, the greatest part of the ensuing day, till the unusual

silence alarmed their fears and suspicions; and, after attempting to awaken Attila by loud and repeated cries, they at length broke into the

royal apartment. They found the trembling bride sitting by the bedside,

hiding her face with her veil, and lamenting her own danger, as well as the death of the king, who had expired during the night. [68] An artery

had suddenly burst: and as Attila lay in a supine posture, he was

suffocated by a torrent of blood, which, instead of finding a passage through the nostrils, regurgitated into the lungs and stomach. His body was solemnly exposed in the midst of the plain, under a silken pavilion; and the chosen squadrons of the Huns, wheeling round in measured evolutions, chanted a funeral song to the memory of a hero, glorious in

his life, invincible in his death, the father of his people, the scourge

of his enemies, and the terror of the world. According to their national custom, the Barbarians cut off a part of their hair, gashed their faces with unseemly wounds, and bewailed their valiant leader as he deserved,

not with the tears of women, but with the blood of warriors. The remains

of Attila were enclosed within three coffins, of gold, of silver, and

of iron, and privately buried in the night: the spoils of nations were thrown into his grave; the captives who had opened the ground were

inhumanly massacred; and the same Huns, who had indulged such excessive

grief, feasted, with dissolute and intemperate mirth, about the recent

sepulchre of their king. It was reported at Constantinople, that on the fortunate night on which he expired, Marcian beheld in a dream the bow

of Attila broken asunder: and the report may be allowed to prove, how

seldom the image of that formidable Barbarian was absent from the mind

of a Roman emperor. [69]

[Footnote 67: Attila, ut Priscus historicus refert, extinctionis suae tempore, puellam Ildico nomine, decoram, valde, sibi matrimonium post

innumerabiles uxores... socians. Jornandes, c. 49, p. 683, 684.

He afterwards adds, (c. 50, p. 686,) Filii Attilae, quorum per licentiam

libidinis poene populus fuit. Polygamy has been established among the tartars of every age. The rank of plebeian wives is regulated only by their personal charms; and the faded matron prepares, without a murmur, the bed which is destined for her blooming rival. But in royal families, the daughters of Khans communicate to their sons a prior right. See

Genealogical History, p. 406, 407, 408.]

[Footnote 68: The report of her guilt reached Constantinople, where

it obtained a very different name; and Marcellinus observes, that the tyrant of Europe was slain in the night by the hand, and the knife, of a woman Corneille, who has adapted the genuine account to his tragedy, describes the irruption of blood in forty bombast lines, and Attila exclaims, with ridiculous fury,

S'il ne veut s'arreter, (his blood.)

(Dit-il) on me payera ce qui m'en va couter.]

[Footnote 69: The curious circumstances of the death and funeral of attila are related by Jornandes, (c. 49, p. 683, 684, 685,) and were

probably transcribed from Priscus.]

the revolution which subverted the empire of the Huns, established the fame of Attila, whose genius alone had sustained the huge and disjointed fabric. After his death, the boldest chieftains aspired to the rank of

kings; the most powerful kings refused to acknowledge a superior; and the numerous sons, whom so many various mothers bore to the deceased

monarch, divided and disputed, like a private inheritance, the sovereign command of the nations of Germany and Scythia. The bold Ardaric felt and

represented the disgrace of this servile partition; and his subjects, the warlike Gepidae, with the Ostrogoths, under the conduct of three

valiant brothers, encouraged their allies to vindicate the rights of freedom and royalty. In a bloody and decisive conflict on the banks of the River Netad, in Pannonia, the lance of the Gepidae, the sword of the

Goths, the arrows of the Huns, the Suevic infantry, the light arms of the Heruli, and the heavy weapons of the Alani, encountered or supported each other; and the victory of the Ardaric was accompanied with the

slaughter of thirty thousand of his enemies. Ellac, the eldest son of attila, lost his life and crown in the memorable battle of Netad: his early valor had raised him to the throne of the Acatzires, a Scythian

people, whom he subdued; and his father, who loved the superior merit, would have envied the death of Ellac. [70] His brother, Dengisich, with an army of Huns, still formidable in their flight and ruin, maintained

his ground above fifteen years on the banks of the Danube. The palace of attila, with the old country of Dacia, from the Carpathian hills to the euxine, became the seat of a new power, which was erected by Ardaric,

king of the Gepidae. The Pannonian conquests from Vienna to Sirmium, were occupied by the Ostrogoths; and the settlements of the tribes, who had so bravely asserted their native freedom, were irregularly distributed, according to the measure of their respective strength.

Surrounded and oppressed by the multitude of his father's slaves, the

kingdom of Dengisich was confined to the circle of his wagons; his desperate courage urged him to invade the Eastern empire: he fell in battle; and his head ignominiously exposed in the Hippodrome, exhibited a grateful spectacle to the people of Constantinople. Attila had fondly

or superstitiously believed, that Irnac, the youngest of his sons, was destined to perpetuate the glories of his race. The character of that

prince, who attempted to moderate the rashness of his brother Dengisich, was more suitable to the declining condition of the Huns; and Irnac, with his subject hordes, retired into the heart of the Lesser Scythia. they were soon overwhelmed by a torrent of new Barbarians, who followed the same road which their own ancestors had formerly discovered. The

Geougen, or Avares, whose residence is assigned by the Greek writers to the shores of the ocean, impelled the adjacent tribes; till at length the Igours of the North, issuing from the cold Siberian regions, which

produce the most valuable furs, spread themselves over the desert, as far as the Borysthenes and the Caspian gates; and finally extinguished the empire of the Huns. [71]

[Footnote 70: See Jornandes, de Rebus Geticis, c. 50, p. 685, 686, 687,

688. His distinction of the national arms is curious and important.

Nan ibi admirandum reor fuisse spectaculum, ubi cernere erat cunctis,

pugnantem Gothum ense furentem, Gepidam in vulnere suorum cuncta tela frangentem, Suevum pede, Hunnum sagitta praesumere, Alanum gravi Herulum

levi, armatura, aciem instruere. I am not precisely informed of the

situation of the River Netad.]

[Footnote 71: Two modern historians have thrown much new light on the

ruin and division of the empire of Attila; M. de Buat, by his laborious and minute diligence, (tom. viii. p. 3-31, 68-94,) and M. de Guignes, by his extraordinary knowledge of the Chinese language and writers. See

Hist. des Huns, tom. ii. p. 315-319.]

Such an event might contribute to the safety of the Eastern empire,

under the reign of a prince who conciliated the friendship, without forfeiting the esteem, of the Barbarians. But the emperor of the West, the feeble and dissolute Valentinian, who had reached his thirty-fifth

year without attaining the age of reason or courage, abused this apparent security, to undermine the foundations of his own throne, by the murder of the patrician Aetius. From the instinct of a base and

jealous mind, he hated the man who was universally celebrated as the terror of the Barbarians, and the support of the republic; [711] and his

new favorite, the eunuch Heraclius, awakened the emperor from the supine

lethargy, which might be disguised, during the life of Placidia, [72] by the excuse of filial piety. The fame of Aetius, his wealth and dignity, the numerous and martial train of Barbarian followers, his powerful dependants, who filled the civil offices of the state, and the hopes of

his son Gaudentius, who was already contracted to Eudoxia, the emperor's daughter, had raised him above the rank of a subject. The ambitious designs, of which he was secretly accused, excited the fears, as well as the resentment, of Valentinian. Aetius himself, supported by the consciousness of his merit, his services, and perhaps his innocence,

seems to have maintained a haughty and indiscreet behavior. The

patrician offended his sovereign by a hostile declaration; he aggravated the offence, by compelling him to ratify, with a solemn oath, a treaty

of reconciliation and alliance; he proclaimed his suspicions, he

neglected his safety; and from a vain confidence that the enemy, whom

he despised, was incapable even of a manly crime, he rashly ventured his

person in the palace of Rome. Whilst he urged, perhaps with intemperate

vehemence, the marriage of his son; Valentinian, drawing his sword, the first sword he had ever drawn, plunged it in the breast of a general who

had saved his empire: his courtiers and eunuchs ambitiously struggled to imitate their master; and Aetius, pierced with a hundred wounds, fell dead in the royal presence. Boethius, the Praetorian praefect, was

killed at the same moment, and before the event could be divulged, the

principal friends of the patrician were summoned to the palace, and

separately murdered. The horrid deed, palliated by the specious names

of justice and necessity, was immediately communicated by the emperor to his soldiers, his subjects, and his allies. The nations, who were

strangers or enemies to Aetius, generously deplored the unworthy fate of a hero: the Barbarians, who had been attached to his service, dissembled their grief and resentment: and the public contempt, which had been so

long entertained for Valentinian, was at once converted into deep and

universal abhorrence. Such sentiments seldom pervade the walls of a

palace; yet the emperor was confounded by the honest reply of a Roman, whose approbation he had not disdained to solicit. "I am ignorant, sir,

of your motives or provocations; I only know, that you have acted like a

man who cuts off his right hand with his left." [73]

[Footnote 711: The praises awarded by Gibbon to the character of Aetius

have been animadverted upon with great severity. (See Mr. Herbert's attila. p. 321.) I am not aware that Gibbon has dissembled or palliated any of the crimes or treasons of Aetius: but his position at the time

of his murder was certainly that of the preserver of the empire, the conqueror of the most dangerous of the barbarians: it is by no means clear that he was not "innocent" of any treasonable designs against

Valentinian. If the early acts of his life, the introduction of the Huns

into Italy, and of the Vandals into Africa, were among the proximate causes of the ruin of the empire, his murder was the signal for its almost immediate downfall.--M.]

[Footnote 72: Placidia died at Rome, November 27, A.D. 450. She was buried at Ravenna, where her sepulchre, and even her corpse, seated in a chair of cypress wood, were preserved for ages. The empress received

many compliments from the orthodox clergy; and St. Peter Chrysologus assured her, that her zeal for the Trinity had been recompensed by an august trinity of children. See Tillemont, Uist. Jer Emp. tom. vi. p.

240.]

[Footnote 73: Aetium Placidus mactavit semivir amens, is the expression

of Sidonius, (Panegyr. Avit. 359.) The poet knew the world, and was not

inclined to flatter a minister who had injured or disgraced Avitus and

Majorian, the successive heroes of his song.]

the luxury of Rome seems to have attracted the long and frequent visits

of Valentinian; who was consequently more despised at Rome than in any

other part of his dominions. A republican spirit was insensibly revived

in the senate, as their authority, and even their supplies, became

necessary for the support of his feeble government. The stately demeano

of an hereditary monarch offended their pride; and the pleasures of

Valentinian were injurious to the peace and honor of noble families. The birth of the empress Eudoxia was equal to his own, and her charms and tender affection deserved those testimonies of love which her inconstant

husband dissipated in vague and unlawful amours. Petronius Maximus, a wealthy senator of the Anician family, who had been twice consul, was

possessed of a chaste and beautiful wife: her obstinate resistance

served only to irritate the desires of Valentinian; and he resolved to accomplish them, either by stratagem or force. Deep gaming was one of the vices of the court: the emperor, who, by chance or contrivance, had

gained from Maximus a considerable sum, uncourteously exacted his ring as a security for the debt; and sent it by a trusty messenger to his wife, with an order, in her husband's name, that she should immediately attend the empress Eudoxia. The unsuspecting wife of Maximus was conveyed in her litter to the Imperial palace; the emissaries of her

impatient lover conducted her to a remote and silent bed-chamber; and

Valentinian violated, without remorse, the laws of hospitality. Her tears, when she returned home, her deep affliction, and her bitter

reproaches against a husband whom she considered as the accomplice of

his own shame, excited Maximus to a just revenge; the desire of revenge was stimulated by ambition; and he might reasonably aspire, by the free

suffrage of the Roman senate, to the throne of a detested and despicable

rival. Valentinian, who supposed that every human breast was devoid,

like his own, of friendship and gratitude, had imprudently admitted among his guards several domestics and followers of Aetius. Two

of these, of Barbarian race were persuaded to execute a sacred and

honorable duty, by punishing with death the assassin of their patron; and their intrepid courage did not long expect a favorable moment. whilst Valentinian amused himself, in the field of Mars, with the

spectacle of some military sports, they suddenly rushed upon him with drawn weapons, despatched the guilty Heraclius, and stabbed the emperor to the heart, without the least opposition from his numerous train, who seemed to rejoice in the tyrant's death. Such was the fate of

Valentinian the Third, [74] the last Roman emperor of the family of theodosius. He faithfully imitated the hereditary weakness of his cousin and his two uncles, without inheriting the gentleness, the purity, the

innocence, which alleviate, in their characters, the want of spirit and ability. Valentinian was less excusable, since he had passions, without

virtues: even his religion was questionable; and though he never deviated into the paths of heresy, he scandalized the pious Christians by his attachment to the profane arts of magic and divination.

[Footnote 74: With regard to the cause and circumstances of the deaths

of Aetius and Valentinian, our information is dark and imperfect.

Procopius (de Bell. Vandal. l. i. c. 4, p. 186, 187, 188) is a fabulous writer for the events which precede his own memory. His narrative must therefore be supplied and corrected by five or six Chronicles, none of which were composed in Rome or Italy; and which can only express, in broken sentences, the popular rumors, as they were conveyed to Gaul,

Spain, Africa, Constantinople, or Alexandria.]

as early as the time of Cicero and Varro, it was the opinion of the Roman augurs, that the twelve vultures which Romulus had seen,

represented the twelve centuries, assigned for the fatal period of his city. [75] This prophecy, disregarded perhaps in the season of health and prosperity, inspired the people with gloomy apprehensions, when the twelfth century, clouded with disgrace and misfortune, was almost elapsed; [76] and even posterity must acknowledge with some surprise, that the arbitrary interpretation of an accidental or fabulous circumstance has been seriously verified in the downfall of the Western empire. But its fall was announced by a clearer omen than the flight of

vultures: the Roman government appeared every day less formidable to its enemies, more odious and oppressive to its subjects. [77] The taxes were

multiplied with the public distress; economy was neglected in proportion as it became necessary; and the injustice of the rich shifted the

unequal burden from themselves to the people, whom they defrauded of the indulgences that might sometimes have alleviated their misery. The

severe inquisition which confiscated their goods, and tortured their

persons, compelled the subjects of Valentinian to prefer the more simple tyranny of the Barbarians, to fly to the woods and mountains, or to embrace the vile and abject condition of mercenary servants. They abjured and abhorred the name of Roman citizens, which had formerly excited the ambition of mankind. The Armorican provinces of Gaul, and the greatest part of Spain, were-thrown into a state of disorderly

independence, by the confederations of the Bagaudae; and the Imperial

ministers pursued with proscriptive laws, and ineffectual arms, the

rebels whom they had made. [78] If all the Barbarian conquerors had been annihilated in the same hour, their total destruction would not have

restored the empire of the West: and if Rome still survived, she

survived the loss of freedom, of virtue, and of honor.

[Footnote 75: This interpretation of Vettius, a celebrated augur, was

quoted by Varro, in the xviiith book of his Antiquities. Censorinus, de die Natali, c. 17, p. 90, 91, edit. Havercamp.]

[Footnote 76: According to Varro, the twelfth century would expire a.D. 447, but the uncertainty of the true aera of Rome might allow some

latitude of anticipation or delay. The poets of the age, Claudian (de bell Getico, 265) and Sidonius, (in Panegyr. Avit. 357,) may be admitted as fair witnesses of the popular opinion.

Jam reputant annos, interceptoque volatu

Vulturis, incidunt properatis saecula metis.

.......

Jam prope fata tui bissenas Vulturis alas

Implebant; seis namque tuos, scis, Roma, labores.

--See Dubos, Hist. Critique, tom. i. p. 340-346.]

[Footnote 77: The fifth book of Salvian is filled with pathetic

lamentations and vehement invectives. His immoderate freedom serves to

prove the weakness, as well as the corruption, of the Roman government.

His book was published after the loss of Africa, (A.D. 439,) and before attila's war, (A.D. 451.)]

[Footnote 78: The Bagaudae of Spain, who fought pitched battles with the Roman troops, are repeatedly mentioned in the Chronicle of Idatius.

Salvian has described their distress and rebellion in very forcible

language. Itaque nomen civium Romanorum... nunc ultro repudiatur ac fugitur, nec vile tamen sed etiam abominabile poene habetur... Et hinc est ut etiam hi quid ad Barbaros non confugiunt, Barbari tamen esse coguntur, scilicet ut est pars magna Hispanorum, et non minima

Gallorum.... De Bagaudis nunc mihi sermo est, qui per malos judices et cruentos spoliati, afflicti, necati postquam jus Romanae libertatis amiserant, etiam honorem Romani nominis perdiderunt.... Vocamus

rabelles, vocamus perditos quos esse compulimua criminosos. De Gubernat. dei, l. v. p. 158, 159.]

chapter XXXVI: Total Extinction Of The Western Empire.--Part I.

Sack Of Rome By Genseric, King Of The Vandals.--His Naval

Depredations.--Succession Of The Last Emperors Of The West,

Maximus, Avitus, Majorian, Severus, Anthemius, Olybrius,

Glycerius, Nepos, Augustulus.--Total Extinction Of The

Western Empire.--Reign Of Odoacer, The First Barbarian King

Of Italy.

the loss or desolation of the provinces, from the Ocean to the Alps,

impaired the glory and greatness of Rome: her internal prosperity was

irretrievably destroyed by the separation of Africa. The rapacious

Vandals confiscated the patrimonial estates of the senators, and

intercepted the regular subsidies, which relieved the poverty and encouraged the idleness of the plebeians. The distress of the Romans was soon aggravated by an unexpected attack; and the province, so long cultivated for their use by industrious and obedient subjects, was armed against them by an ambitious Barbarian. The Vandals and Alani, who followed the successful standard of Genseric, had acquired a rich and fertile territory, which stretched along the coast above ninety days'

journey from Tangier to Tripoli; but their narrow limits were pressed and confined, on either side, by the sandy desert and the Mediterranean. the discovery and conquest of the Black nations, that might dwell beneath the torrid zone, could not tempt the rational ambition of

Genseric; but he cast his eyes towards the sea; he resolved to create a

naval power, and his bold resolution was executed with steady and active

perseverance.

the woods of Mount Atlas afforded an inexhaustible nursery of timber: his new subjects were skilled in the arts of navigation and

ship-building; he animated his daring Vandals to embrace a mode of warfare which would render every maritime country accessible to their arms; the Moors and Africans were allured by the hopes of plunder; and, after an interval of six centuries, the fleets that issued from the port

of Carthage again claimed the empire of the Mediterranean. The success

of the Vandals, the conquest of Sicily, the sack of Palermo, and the frequent descents on the coast of Lucania, awakened and alarmed the

mother of Valentinian, and the sister of Theodosius. Alliances were formed; and armaments, expensive and ineffectual, were prepared, for the destruction of the common enemy; who reserved his courage to encounter those dangers which his policy could not prevent or elude. The designs

of the Roman government were repeatedly baffled by his artful delays, ambiguous promises, and apparent concessions; and the interposition of

his formidable confederate, the king of the Huns, recalled the emperors from the conquest of Africa to the care of their domestic safety. The

revolutions of the palace, which left the Western empire without a defender, and without a lawful prince, dispelled the apprehensions, and

stimulated the avarice, of Genseric. He immediately equipped a numerous fleet of Vandals and Moors, and cast anchor at the mouth of the Tyber, about three months after the death of Valentinian, and the elevation of

Maximus to the Imperial throne.

the private life of the senator Petronius Maximus [1] was often alleged as a rare example of human felicity. His birth was noble and

illustrious, since he descended from the Anician family; his dignity was supported by an adequate patrimony in land and money; and these advantages of fortune were accompanied with liberal arts and decent

manners, which adorn or imitate the inestimable gifts of genius and

virtue. The luxury of his palace and table was hospitable and elegant. whenever Maximus appeared in public, he was surrounded by a train of

grateful and obsequious clients; [2] and it is possible that among these clients, he might deserve and possess some real friends. His merit was

rewarded by the favor of the prince and senate: he thrice exercised the

office of Praetorian praefect of Italy; he was twice invested with the consulship, and he obtained the rank of patrician. These civil honors were not incompatible with the enjoyment of leisure and tranquillity;

his hours, according to the demands of pleasure or reason, were accurately distributed by a water-clock; and this avarice of time may be allowed to prove the sense which Maximus entertained of his own

happiness. The injury which he received from the emperor Valentinian appears to excuse the most bloody revenge. Yet a philosopher might have

reflected, that, if the resistance of his wife had been sincere, her chastity was still inviolate, and that it could never be restored if

she had consented to the will of the adulterer. A patriot would

have hesitated before he plunged himself and his country into those

inevitable calamities which must follow the extinction of the royal

house of Theodosius. The imprudent Maximus disregarded these salutary considerations; he gratified his resentment and ambition; he saw the bleeding corpse of Valentinian at his feet; and he heard himself saluted emperor by the unanimous voice of the senate and people. But the day of

his inauguration was the last day of his happiness. He was imprisoned

(such is the lively expression of Sidonius) in the palace; and after

passing a sleepless night, he sighed that he had attained the summit of

his wishes, and aspired only to descend from the dangerous elevation.

Oppressed by the weight of the diadem, he communicated his anxious thoughts to his friend and quaestor Fulgentius; and when he looked back with unavailing regret on the secure pleasures of his former life, the emperor exclaimed, "O fortunate Damocles, [3] thy reign began and ended with the same dinner;" a well-known allusion, which Fulgentius afterwards repeated as an instructive lesson for princes and subjects.

[Footnote 1: Sidonius Apollinaris composed the thirteenth epistle of the second book, to refute the paradox of his friend Serranus, who entertained a singular, though generous, enthusiasm for the deceased emperor. This epistle, with some indulgence, may claim the praise of an elegant composition; and it throws much light on the character of

Maximus.]

[Footnote 2: Clientum, praevia, pedisequa, circumfusa, populositas, is the train which Sidonius himself (l. i. epist. 9) assigns to another

senator of rank]

[Footnote 3:

Districtus ensis cui super impia

Cervice pendet, non Siculoe dapes

Dulcem elaborabunt saporem:

Non avium citharaeque cantus

Somnum reducent.

--Horat. Carm. iii. 1.

Sidonius concludes his letter with the story of Damocles, which Cicero

(Tusculan. v. 20, 21) had so inimitably told.]

the reign of Maximus continued about three months. His hours, of which

he had lost the command, were disturbed by remorse, or guilt, or terror, and his throne was shaken by the seditions of the soldiers, the people, and the confederate Barbarians. The marriage of his son Paladius with the eldest daughter of the late emperor, might tend to establish the

hereditary succession of his family; but the violence which he offered to the empress Eudoxia, could proceed only from the blind impulse of

lust or revenge. His own wife, the cause of these tragic events, had been seasonably removed by death; and the widow of Valentinian was compelled to violate her decent mourning, perhaps her real grief, and to

submit to the embraces of a presumptuous usurper, whom she suspected as the assassin of her deceased husband. These suspicions were soon

justified by the indiscreet confession of Maximus himself; and he wantonly provoked the hatred of his reluctant bride, who was still conscious that she was descended from a line of emperors. From the East,

however, Eudoxia could not hope to obtain any effectual assistance;

her father and her aunt Pulcheria were dead; her mother languished at

Jerusalem in disgrace and exile; and the sceptre of Constantinople was

in the hands of a stranger. She directed her eyes towards Carthage;

secretly implored the aid of the king of the Vandals; and persuaded

Genseric to improve the fair opportunity of disguising his rapacious designs by the specious names of honor, justice, and compassion. [4] whatever abilities Maximus might have shown in a subordinate station,

he was found incapable of administering an empire; and though he might easily have been informed of the naval preparations which were made on the opposite shores of Africa, he expected with supine indifference the approach of the enemy, without adopting any measures of defence, of

negotiation, or of a timely retreat. When the Vandals disembarked at the

mouth of the Tyber, the emperor was suddenly roused from his lethargy by the clamors of a trembling and exasperated multitude. The only hope which presented itself to his astonished mind was that of a precipitate flight, and he exhorted the senators to imitate the example of their

prince. But no sooner did Maximus appear in the streets, than he was assaulted by a shower of stones; a Roman, or a Burgundian soldier, claimed the honor of the first wound; his mangled body was ignominiously cast into the Tyber; the Roman people rejoiced in the punishment which they had inflicted on the author of the public calamities; and the domestics of Eudoxia signalized their zeal in the service of their

mistress. [5]

[Footnote 4: Notwithstanding the evidence of Procopius, Evagrius,

Idatius Marcellinus, &c., the learned Muratori (Annali d'Italia, tom.

iv. p. 249) doubts the reality of this invitation, and observes, with

great truth, "Non si puo dir quanto sia facile il popolo a sognare e

spacciar voci false." But his argument, from the interval of time and

place, is extremely feeble. The figs which grew near Carthage were

produced to the senate of Rome on the third day.]

[Footnote 5:

Infidoque tibi Burgundio ductu

Extorquet trepidas mactandi principis iras.

---Sidon. in Panegyr. Avit. 442.

a remarkable line, which insinuates that Rome and Maximus were betrayed by their Burgundian mercenaries.]

On the third day after the tumult, Genseric boldly advanced from the

port of Ostia to the gates of the defenceless city. Instead of a sally

of the Roman youth, there issued from the gates an unarmed and venerable

procession of the bishop at the head of his clergy. [6] The fearless

spirit of Leo, his authority and eloquence, again mitigated the fierceness of a Barbarian conqueror; the king of the Vandals promised to

spare the unresisting multitude, to protect the buildings from fire, and to exempt the captives from torture; and although such orders were

neither seriously given, nor strictly obeyed, the mediation of Leo was

glorious to himself, and in some degree beneficial to his country. But

Rome and its inhabitants were delivered to the licentiousness of the Vandals and Moors, whose blind passions revenged the injuries of carthage. The pillage lasted fourteen days and nights; and all that yet

remained of public or private wealth, of sacred or profane treasure, was diligently transported to the vessels of Genseric. Among the spoils, the

splendid relics of two temples, or rather of two religions, exhibited a

memorable example of the vicissitudes of human and divine things.

Since the abolition of Paganism, the Capitol had been violated and abandoned; yet the statues of the gods and heroes were still respected, and the curious roof of gilt bronze was reserved for the rapacious hands

of Genseric. [7] The holy instruments of the Jewish worship, [8] the

gold table, and the gold candlestick with seven branches, originally framed according to the particular instructions of God himself, and which were placed in the sanctuary of his temple, had been

ostentatiously displayed to the Roman people in the triumph of Titus. they were afterwards deposited in the temple of Peace; and at the end of four hundred years, the spoils of Jerusalem were transferred from Rome to Carthage, by a Barbarian who derived his origin from the shores

of the Baltic. These ancient monuments might attract the notice of curiosity, as well as of avarice. But the Christian churches, enriched and adorned by the prevailing superstition of the times, afforded more

plentiful materials for sacrilege; and the pious liberality of Pope Leo, who melted six silver vases, the gift of Constantine, each of a hundred

pounds weight, is an evidence of the damage which he attempted to

repair. In the forty-five years that had elapsed since the Gothic

invasion, the pomp and luxury of Rome were in some measure restored; and it was difficult either to escape, or to satisfy, the avarice of a conqueror, who possessed leisure to collect, and ships to transport, the wealth of the capital. The Imperial ornaments of the palace, the

magnificent furniture and wardrobe, the sideboards of massy plate, were accumulated with disorderly rapine; the gold and silver amounted to

several thousand talents; yet even the brass and copper were laboriously

removed. Eudoxia herself, who advanced to meet her friend and deliverer,

soon bewailed the imprudence of her own conduct. She was rudely stripped

of her jewels; and the unfortunate empress, with her two daughters, the only surviving remains of the great Theodosius, was compelled, as a captive, to follow the haughty Vandal; who immediately hoisted sail, and

returned with a prosperous navigation to the port of Carthage. [9]

Many thousand Romans of both sexes, chosen for some useful or agreeable

qualifications, reluctantly embarked on board the fleet of Genseric; and their distress was aggravated by the unfeeling Barbarians, who, in the division of the booty, separated the wives from their husbands, and the children from their parents. The charity of Deogratias, bishop of carthage, [10] was their only consolation and support. He generously

sold the gold and silver plate of the church to purchase the freedom of

some, to alleviate the slavery of others, and to assist the wants and

infirmities of a captive multitude, whose health was impaired by the

hardships which they had suffered in their passage from Italy to Africa. by his order, two spacious churches were converted into hospitals; the

sick were distributed into convenient beds, and liberally supplied with food and medicines; and the aged prelate repeated his visits both in the day and night, with an assiduity that surpassed his strength, and a tender sympathy which enhanced the value of his services. Compare this

scene with the field of Cannae; and judge between Hannibal and the

successor of St. Cyprian. [11]

\* [Footnote 6: The apparant success of Pope Leo may be justified by

Prosper, and the Historia Miscellan.; but the improbable notion of baronius A.D. 455, (No. 13) that Genseric spared the three apostolical churches, is not countenanced even by the doubtful testimony of the

Liber Pontificalis.]

[Footnote 7: The profusion of Catulus, the first who gilt the roof of the Capitol, was not universally approved, (Plin. Hist. Natur. xxxiii.

18;) but it was far exceeded by the emperor's, and the external

gilding of the temple cost Domitian 12,000 talents, (2,400,000 L.) The expressions of Claudian and Rutilius (luce metalli oemula.... fastigia astris, and confunduntque vagos delubra micantia visus) manifestly

prove, that this splendid covering was not removed either by the christians or the Goths, (see Donatus, Roma Antiqua, l. ii. c. 6, p.

125.) It should seem that the roof of the Capitol was decorated with

gilt statues, and chariots drawn by four horses.]

[Footnote 8: The curious reader may consult the learned and accurate treatise of Hadrian Reland, de Spoliis Templi Hierosolymitani in Arcu titiano Romae conspicuis, in 12mo. Trajecti ad Rhenum, 1716.]

[Footnote 9: The vessel which transported the relics of the Capitol was the only one of the whole fleet that suffered shipwreck. If a bigoted

sophist, a Pagan bigot, had mentioned the accident, he might have

rejoiced that this cargo of sacrilege was lost in the sea.]

[Footnote 10: See Victor Vitensis, de Persecut. Vandal. l. i. c. 8, p.

11, 12, edit. Ruinart. Deogratius governed the church of Carthage only three years. If he had not been privately buried, his corpse would have been torn piecemeal by the mad devotion of the people.]

[Footnote 11: The general evidence for the death of Maximus, and the

sack of Rome by the Vandals, is comprised in Sidonius, (Panegyr. Avit.

441-450,) Procopius, (de Bell. Vandal. l. i. c. 4, 5, p. 188, 189, and l. ii. c. 9, p. 255,) Evagrius, (l. ii. c. 7,) Jornandes, (de

Reb. Geticis, c. 45, p. 677,) and the Chronicles of Idatius, Prosper,

Marcellinus, and Theophanes, under the proper year.]

the deaths of Aetius and Valentinian had relaxed the ties which held the Barbarians of Gaul in peace and subordination. The sea-coast was

infested by the Saxons; the Alemanni and the Franks advanced from the

Rhine to the Seine; and the ambition of the Goths seemed to meditate

more extensive and permanent conquests. The emperor Maximus relieved

himself, by a judicious choice, from the weight of these distant cares;

he silenced the solicitations of his friends, listened to the voice of fame, and promoted a stranger to the general command of the forces of

Gaul.

avitus, [12] the stranger, whose merit was so nobly rewarded, descended from a wealthy and honorable family in the diocese of Auvergne. The convulsions of the times urged him to embrace, with the same ardor, the civil and military professions: and the indefatigable youth blended the

studies of literature and jurisprudence with the exercise of arms and

hunting. Thirty years of his life were laudably spent in the public

service; he alternately displayed his talents in war and negotiation; and the soldier of Aetius, after executing the most important embassies, was raised to the station of Praetorian praefect of Gaul. Either the

merit of Avitus excited envy, or his moderation was desirous of

repose, since he calmly retired to an estate, which he possessed in the

neighborhood of Clermont. A copious stream, issuing from the mountain, and falling headlong in many a loud and foaming cascade, discharged

its waters into a lake about two miles in length, and the villa was

pleasantly seated on the margin of the lake. The baths, the porticos, the summer and winter apartments, were adapted to the purposes of luxury and use; and the adjacent country afforded the various prospects of woods, pastures, and meodows. [13] In this retreat, where Avitus amused

his leisure with books, rural sports, the practice of husbandry, and the society of his friends, [14] he received the Imperial diploma, which constituted him master-general of the cavalry and infantry of Gaul. He assumed the military command; the Barbarians suspended their fury; and whatever means he might employ, whatever concessions he might be forced to make, the people enjoyed the benefits of actual tranquillity. But the fate of Gaul depended on the Visigoths; and the Roman general, less attentive to his dignity than to the public interest, did not disdain to

visit Thoulouse in the character of an ambassador. He was received with courteous hospitality by Theodoric, the king of the Goths; but while avitus laid the foundations of a solid alliance with that powerful

nation, he was astonished by the intelligence, that the emperor Maximus was slain, and that Rome had been pillaged by the Vandals. A vacant throne, which he might ascend without guilt or danger, tempted his ambition; [15] and the Visigoths were easily persuaded to support his claim by their irresistible suffrage. They loved the person of Avitus; they respected his virtues; and they were not insensible of the advantage, as well as honor, of giving an emperor to the West. The

season was now approaching, in which the annual assembly of the seven

provinces was held at Arles; their deliberations might perhaps be

influenced by the presence of Theodoric and his martial brothers; but their choice would naturally incline to the most illustrious of their countrymen. Avitus, after a decent resistance, accepted the Imperial diadem from the representatives of Gaul; and his election was ratified by the acclamations of the Barbarians and provincials. The formal consent of Marcian, emperor of the East, was solicited and obtained; but the senate, Rome, and Italy, though humbled by their recent calamities,

submitted with a secret murmur to the presumption of the Gallic usurper.

[Footnote 12: The private life and elevation of Avitus must be deduced, with becoming suspicion, from the panegyric pronounced by Sidonius apollinaris, his subject, and his son-in-law.]

[Footnote 13: After the example of the younger Pliny, Sidonius (l. ii. c. 2) has labored the florid, prolix, and obscure description of his

villa, which bore the name, (Avitacum,) and had been the property of avitus. The precise situation is not ascertained. Consult, however, the

notes of Savaron and Sirmond.]

[Footnote 14: Sidonius (l. ii. epist. 9) has described the country life

of the Gallic nobles, in a visit which he made to his friends, whose estates were in the neighborhood of Nismes. The morning hours were spent

in the sphoeristerium, or tennis-court; or in the library, which was furnished with Latin authors, profane and religious; the former for the

men, the latter for the ladies. The table was twice served, at dinner and supper, with hot meat (boiled and roast) and wine. During the

intermediate time, the company slept, took the air on horseback, and

need the warm bath.]

[Footnote 15: Seventy lines of panegyric (505-575) which describe the

importunity of Theodoric and of Gaul, struggling to overcome the

modest reluctance of Avitus, are blown away by three words of an honest

historian. Romanum ambisset Imperium, (Greg. Turon. l. ii. c. 1l, in tom. ii. p. 168.)]

theodoric, to whom Avitus was indebted for the purple, had acquired the Gothic sceptre by the murder of his elder brother Torismond; and he

justified this atrocious deed by the design which his predecessor had formed of violating his alliance with the empire. [16] Such a crime

might not be incompatible with the virtues of a Barbarian; but the manners of Theodoric were gentle and humane; and posterity may contemplate without terror the original picture of a Gothic king, whom

Sidonius had intimately observed, in the hours of peace and of social

intercourse. In an epistle, dated from the court of Thoulouse, the

orator satisfies the curiosity of one of his friends, in the following description: [17] "By the majesty of his appearance, Theodoric would command the respect of those who are ignorant of his merit; and although

he is born a prince, his merit would dignify a private station. He is

of a middle stature, his body appears rather plump than fat, and in his well-proportioned limbs agility is united with muscular strength. [18]

If you examine his countenance, you will distinguish a high forehead,

large shaggy eyebrows, an aquiline nose, thin lips, a regular set of white teeth, and a fair complexion, that blushes more frequently from

modesty than from anger. The ordinary distribution of his time, as far as it is exposed to the public view, may be concisely represented. before daybreak, he repairs, with a small train, to his domestic chapel, where the service is performed by the Arian clergy; but those who

presume to interpret his secret sentiments, consider this assiduous devotion as the effect of habit and policy. The rest of the morning is employed in the administration of his kingdom. His chair is surrounded by some military officers of decent aspect and behavior: the noisy crowd

of his Barbarian guards occupies the hall of audience; but they are

not permitted to stand within the veils or curtains that conceal the council-chamber from vulgar eyes. The ambassadors of the nations are

successively introduced: Theodoric listens with attention, answers them with discreet brevity, and either announces or delays, according to the

nature of their business, his final resolution. About eight (the second

hour) he rises from his throne, and visits either his treasury or his

stables. If he chooses to hunt, or at least to exercise himself on

horseback, his bow is carried by a favorite youth; but when the game is

marked, he bends it with his own hand, and seldom misses the object of

his aim: as a king, he disdains to bear arms in such ignoble warfare; but as a soldier, he would blush to accept any military service which he could perform himself. On common days, his dinner is not different from the repast of a private citizen, but every Saturday, many honorable

guests are invited to the royal table, which, on these occasions, is

served with the elegance of Greece, the plenty of Gaul, and the order and diligence of Italy. [19] The gold or silver plate is less remarkable for its weight than for the brightness and curious workmanship: the taste is gratified without the help of foreign and costly luxury; the

size and number of the cups of wine are regulated with a strict regard to the laws of temperance; and the respectful silence that prevails, is

interrupted only by grave and instructive conversation. After dinner, theodoric sometimes indulges himself in a short slumber; and as soon as

he wakes, he calls for the dice and tables, encourages his friends to forget the royal majesty, and is delighted when they freely express the

passions which are excited by the incidents of play. At this game, which

he loves as the image of war, he alternately displays his eagerness, his

skill, his patience, and his cheerful temper. If he loses, he laughs;

he is modest and silent if he wins. Yet, notwithstanding this seeming

indifference, his courtiers choose to solicit any favor in the moments

of victory; and I myself, in my applications to the king, have derived

some benefit from my losses. [20] About the ninth hour (three o'clock) the tide of business again returns, and flows incessantly till after

sunset, when the signal of the royal supper dismisses the weary crowd of

suppliants and pleaders. At the supper, a more familiar repast, buffoons and pantomimes are sometimes introduced, to divert, not to offend, the company, by their ridiculous wit: but female singers, and the soft, effeminate modes of music, are severely banished, and such martial tunes as animate the soul to deeds of valor are alone grateful to the ear

of Theodoric. He retires from table; and the nocturnal guards are

immediately posted at the entrance of the treasury, the palace, and the

private apartments."

[Footnote 16: Isidore, archbishop of Seville, who was himself of the blood royal of the Goths, acknowledges, and almost justifies, (Hist.

Goth. p. 718,) the crime which their slave Jornandes had basely dissembled, (c 43, p. 673.)]

[Footnote 17: This elaborate description (l. i. ep. ii. p. 2-7) was dictated by some political motive. It was designed for the public eye, and had been shown by the friends of Sidonius, before it was inserted in the collection of his epistles. The first book was published separately.

See Tillemont, Memoires Eccles. tom. xvi. p. 264.]

[Footnote 18: I have suppressed, in this portrait of Theodoric, several

minute circumstances, and technical phrases, which could be tolerable,

or indeed intelligible, to those only who, like the contemporaries of

Sidonius, had frequented the markets where naked slaves were exposed to

male, (Dubos, Hist. Critique, tom. i. p. 404.)]

[Footnote 19: Videas ibi elegantiam Graecam, abundantiam Gallicanam; celeritatem Italam; publicam pompam, privatam diligentiam, regiam disciplinam.]

[Footnote 20: Tunc etiam ego aliquid obsecraturus feliciter vincor, et mihi tabula perit ut causa salvetur. Sidonius of Auvergne was not a subject of Theodoric; but he might be compelled to solicit either

justice or favor at the court of Thoulouse.]

when the king of the Visigoths encouraged Avitus to assume the purple,

he offered his person and his forces, as a faithful soldier of the

republic. [21] The exploits of Theodoric soon convinced the world that

he had not degenerated from the warlike virtues of his ancestors. After the establishment of the Goths in Aquitain, and the passage of the

Vandals into Africa, the Suevi, who had fixed their kingdom in Gallicia, aspired to the conquest of Spain, and threatened to extinguish the feeble remains of the Roman dominion. The provincials of Carthagena and tarragona, afflicted by a hostile invasion, represented their injuries and their apprehensions. Count Fronto was despatched, in the name of the emperor Avitus, with advantageous offers of peace and alliance; and theodoric interposed his weighty mediation, to declare, that, unless his brother-in-law, the king of the Suevi, immediately retired, he should be

obliged to arm in the cause of justice and of Rome. "Tell him," replied the haughty Rechiarius, "that I despise his friendship and his arms; but that I shall soon try whether he will dare to expect my arrival under the walls of Thoulouse." Such a challenge urged Theodoric to prevent the bold designs of his enemy; he passed the Pyrenees at the head of the Visigoths: the Franks and Burgundians served under his standard; and though he professed himself the dutiful servant of Avitus, he privately

stipulated, for himself and his successors, the absolute possession

of his Spanish conquests. The two armies, or rather the two nations, encountered each other on the banks of the River Urbicus, about twelve

miles from Astorga; and the decisive victory of the Goths appeared for a while to have extirpated the name and kingdom of the Suevi. From the field of battle Theodoric advanced to Braga, their metropolis, which

still retained the splendid vestiges of its ancient commerce and dignity. [22] His entrance was not polluted with blood; and the Goths

respected the chastity of their female captives, more especially of the consecrated virgins: but the greatest part of the clergy and people were

made slaves, and even the churches and altars were confounded in the

universal pillage. The unfortunate king of the Suevi had escaped to one

of the ports of the ocean; but the obstinacy of the winds opposed his flight: he was delivered to his implacable rival; and Rechiarius, who

neither desired nor expected mercy, received, with manly constancy, the death which he would probably have inflicted. After this bloody

sacrifice to policy or resentment, Theodoric carried his victorious arms as far as Merida, the principal town of Lusitania, without meeting any

resistance, except from the miraculous powers of St. Eulalia; but he was

stopped in the full career of success, and recalled from Spain before he could provide for the security of his conquests. In his retreat towards the Pyrenees, he revenged his disappointment on the country through which he passed; and, in the sack of Pollentia and Astorga, he showed

himself a faithless ally, as well as a cruel enemy. Whilst the king of the Visigoths fought and vanquished in the name of Avitus, the reign

of Avitus had expired; and both the honor and the interest of Theodoric were deeply wounded by the disgrace of a friend, whom he had seated on the throne of the Western empire. [23]

[Footnote 21: Theodoric himself had given a solemn and voluntary promise

of fidelity, which was understood both in Gaul and Spain.

Romae sum, te duce, Amicus,

Principe te, Miles.

Sidon. Panegyr. Avit. 511.]

[Footnote 22: Quaeque sinu pelagi jactat se Bracara dives. Auson. de claris Urbibus, p. 245. ----From the design of the king of the Suevi,

it is evident that the navigation from the ports of Gallicia to the

Mediterranean was known and practised. The ships of Bracara, or Braga, cautiously steered along the coast, without daring to lose themselves in the Atlantic.]

[Footnote 23: This Suevic war is the most authentic part of the chronicle of Idatius, who, as bishop of Iria Flavia, was himself a

spectator and a sufferer. Jornandes (c. 44, p. 675, 676, 677) has expatiated, with pleasure, on the Gothic victory.]

chapter XXXVI: Total Extinction Of The Western Empire.--Part II.

the pressing solicitations of the senate and people persuaded the emperor Avitus to fix his residence at Rome, and to accept the consulship for the ensuing year. On the first day of January, his

son-in-law, Sidonius Apollinaris, celebrated his praises in a panegyric

of six hundred verses; but this composition, though it was rewarded with a brass statue, [24] seems to contain a very moderate proportion, either

of genius or of truth. The poet, if we may degrade that sacred name, exaggerates the merit of a sovereign and a father; and his prophecy of a

long and glorious reign was soon contradicted by the event. Avitus, at a time when the Imperial dignity was reduced to a preeminence of toil and danger, indulged himself in the pleasures of Italian luxury: age had not extinguished his amorous inclinations; and he is accused of insulting, with indiscreet and ungenerous raillery, the husbands whose wives he

had seduced or violated. [25] But the Romans were not inclined either to excuse his faults or to acknowledge his virtues. The several parts

of the empire became every day more alienated from each other; and the

stranger of Gaul was the object of popular hatred and contempt. The

senate asserted their legitimate claim in the election of an emperor; and their authority, which had been originally derived from the old constitution, was again fortified by the actual weakness of a declining

monarchy. Yet even such a monarchy might have resisted the votes of an

unarmed senate, if their discontent had not been supported, or perhaps

inflamed, by the Count Ricimer, one of the principal commanders of the barbarian troops, who formed the military defence of Italy. The daughter

of Wallia, king of the Visigoths, was the mother of Ricimer; but he was descended, on the father's side, from the nation of the Suevi; [26]

his pride or patriotism might be exasperated by the misfortunes of

his countrymen; and he obeyed, with reluctance, an emperor in whose elevation he had not been consulted. His faithful and important services against the common enemy rendered him still more formidable; [27] and, after destroying on the coast of Corsica a fleet of Vandals, which consisted of sixty galleys, Ricimer returned in triumph with the appellation of the Deliverer of Italy. He chose that moment to signify to Avitus, that his reign was at an end; and the feeble emperor, at a distance from his Gothic allies, was compelled, after a short and

unavailing struggle to abdicate the purple. By the clemency, however,

or the contempt, of Ricimer, [28] he was permitted to descend from the throne to the more desirable station of bishop of Placentia: but the

resentment of the senate was still unsatisfied; and their inflexible

severity pronounced the sentence of his death He fled towards the Alps, with the humble hope, not of arming the Visigoths in his cause, but of

securing his person and treasures in the sanctuary of Julian, one of the tutelar saints of Auvergne. [29] Disease, or the hand of the executioner, arrested him on the road; yet his remains were decently transported to Brivas, or Brioude, in his native province, and he

reposed at the feet of his holy patron. [30] Avitus left only one daughter, the wife of Sidonius Apollinaris, who inherited the patrimony

of his father-in-law; lamenting, at the same time, the disappointment

of his public and private expectations. His resentment prompted him to

join, or at least to countenance, the measures of a rebellious faction

in Gaul; and the poet had contracted some guilt, which it was incumbent

on him to expiate, by a new tribute of flattery to the succeeding emperor. [31]

[Footnote 24: In one of the porticos or galleries belonging to Trajan's

library, among the statues of famous writers and orators. Sidon. Apoll.

l. ix. epist, 16, p. 284. Carm. viii. p. 350.]

[Footnote 25: Luxuriose agere volens a senatoribus projectus est, is the concise expression of Gregory of Tours, (l. ii. c. xi. in tom. ii. p.

168.) An old Chronicle (in tom. ii. p. 649) mentions an indecent jest of avitus, which seems more applicable to Rome than to Treves.]

[Footnote 26: Sidonius (Panegyr. Anthem. 302, &c.) praises the royal birth of Ricimer, the lawful heir, as he chooses to insinuate, both of the Gothic and Suevic kingdoms.]

[Footnote 27: See the Chronicle of Idatius. Jornandes (c. xliv. p. 676)

styles him, with some truth, virum egregium, et pene tune in Italia ad ex ercitum singularem.]

[Footnote 28: Parcens innocentiae Aviti, is the compassionate, but contemptuous, language of Victor Tunnunensis, (in Chron. apud Scaliger euseb.) In another place, he calls him, vir totius simplicitatis. This commendation is more humble, but it is more solid and sincere, than the

praises of Sidonius]

[Footnote 29: He suffered, as it is supposed, in the persecution of diocletian, (Tillemont, Mem. Eccles. tom. v. p. 279, 696.) Gregory of tours, his peculiar votary, has dedicated to the glory of Julian the

Martyr an entire book, (de Gloria Martyrum, l. ii. in Max. Bibliot.

Patrum, tom. xi. p. 861-871,) in which he relates about fifty foolish

miracles performed by his relics.]

[Footnote 30: Gregory of Tours (l. ii. c. xi. p. 168) is concise, but correct, in the reign of his countryman. The words of Idatius, "cadet

imperio, caret et vita," seem to imply, that the death of Avitus was

violent; but it must have been secret, since Evagrius (l. ii. c. 7) could suppose, that he died of the plaque.]

[Footnote 31: After a modest appeal to the examples of his brethren,

Virgil and Horace, Sidonius honestly confesses the debt, and promises

payment.

Sic mihi diverso nuper sub Marte cadenti

Jussisti placido Victor ut essem animo.

Serviat ergo tibi servati lingua poetae,

Atque meae vitae laus tua sit pretium.

--Sidon. Apoll. Carm. iv. p. 308

See Dubos, Hist. Critique, tom. i. p. 448, &c.]

the successor of Avitus presents the welcome discovery of a great and

heroic character, such as sometimes arise, in a degenerate age, to

vindicate the honor of the human species. The emperor Majorian has deserved the praises of his contemporaries, and of posterity; and these praises may be strongly expressed in the words of a judicious and disinterested historian: "That he was gentle to his subjects; that he was terrible to his enemies; and that he excelled, in every virtue, all

his predecessors who had reigned over the Romans." [32] Such a testimony

may justify at least the panegyric of S donius; and we may acquiesce

in the assurance, that, although the obsequious orator would have flattered, with equal zeal, the most worthless of princes, the extraordinary merit of his object confined him, on this occasion, within the bounds of truth. [33] Majorian derived his name from his maternal

grandfather, who, in the reign of the great Theodosius, had commanded the troops of the Illyrian frontier. He gave his daughter in marriage to the father of Majorian, a respectable officer, who administered the

revenues of Gaul with skill and integrity; and generously preferred the friendship of Aetius to the tempting offer of an insidious court. His

son, the future emperor, who was educated in the profession of arms, displayed, from his early youth, intrepid courage, premature wisdom, and

unbounded liberality in a scanty fortune. He followed the standard of aetius, contributed to his success, shared, and sometimes eclipsed, his

glory, and at last excited the jealousy of the patrician, or rather

of his wife, who forced him to retire from the service. [34] Majorian, after the death of Aetius, was recalled and promoted; and his intimate connection with Count Ricimer was the immediate step by which he ascended the throne of the Western empire. During the vacancy that

succeeded the abdication of Avitus, the ambitious Barbarian, whose birth excluded him from the Imperial dignity, governed Italy with the title

of Patrician; resigned to his friend the conspicuous station of

master-general of the cavalry and infantry; and, after an interval of

some months, consented to the unanimous wish of the Romans, whose favor

Majorian had solicited by a recent victory over the Alemanni. [35]

He was invested with the purple at Ravenna: and the epistle which

he addressed to the senate, will best describe his situation and his

sentiments. "Your election, Conscript Fathers! and the ordinance of the

most valiant army, have made me your emperor. [36] May the propitious deity direct and prosper the counsels and events of my administration, to your advantage and to the public welfare! For my own part, I did

not aspire, I have submitted to reign; nor should I have discharged the obligations of a citizen if I had refused, with base and selfish

ingratitude, to support the weight of those labors, which were imposed by the republic. Assist, therefore, the prince whom you have made;

partake the duties which you have enjoined; and may our common endeavors

promote the happiness of an empire, which I have accepted from your

hands. Be assured, that, in our times, justice shall resume her ancient

vigor, and that virtue shall become, not only innocent, but meritorious.

Let none, except the authors themselves, be apprehensive of delations,

[37] which, as a subject, I have always condemned, and, as a prince, will severely punish. Our own vigilance, and that of our father, the

patrician Ricimer, shall regulate all military affairs, and provide for the safety of the Roman world, which we have saved from foreign and domestic enemies. [38] You now understand the maxims of my government;

you may confide in the faithful love and sincere assurances of a prince who has formerly been the companion of your life and dangers; who still

glories in the name of senator, and who is anxious that you should

never repent the judgment which you have pronounced in his favor." The emperor, who, amidst the ruins of the Roman world, revived the ancient

language of law and liberty, which Trajan would not have disclaimed,

must have derived those generous sentiments from his own heart; since they were not suggested to his imitation by the customs of his age, or the example of his predecessors. [39]

[Footnote 32: The words of Procopius deserve to be transcribed (de Bell.

Vandal. l. i. c. 7, p. 194;) a concise but comprehensive definition of

royal virtue.]

[Footnote 33: The Panegyric was pronounced at Lyons before the end of the year 458, while the emperor was still consul. It has more art than

genius, and more labor than art. The ornaments are false and trivial; the expression is feeble and prolix; and Sidonius wants the skill to exhibit the principal figure in a strong and distinct light. The private

life of Majorian occupies about two hundred lines, 107-305.]

[Footnote 34: She pressed his immediate death, and was scarcely

satisfied with his disgrace. It should seem that Aetius, like Belisarius and Marlborough, was governed by his wife; whose fervent piety, though

it might work miracles, (Gregor. Turon. l. ii. c. 7, p. 162,) was not

incompatible with base and sanguinary counsels.]

[Footnote 35: The Alemanni had passed the Rhaetian Alps, and were defeated in the Campi Canini, or Valley of Bellinzone, through which the Tesin flows, in its descent from Mount Adula to the Lago Maggiore,

(Cluver Italia Antiq. tom. i. p. 100, 101.) This boasted victory over

nine hundred Barbarians (Panegyr. Majorian. 373, &c.) betrays the extreme weakness of Italy.]

[Footnote 36: Imperatorem me factum, P.C. electionis vestrae arbitrio, et fortissimi exercitus ordinatione agnoscite, (Novell. Majorian. tit.

iii. p. 34, ad Calcem. Cod. Theodos.) Sidonius proclaims the unanimous

voice of the empire:--

Postquam ordine vobis

Ordo omnis regnum dederat; plebs, curia, nules,

---Et collega simul. 386.

this language is ancient and constitutional; and we may observe, that the clergy were not yet considered as a distinct order of the state.]

[Footnote 37: Either dilationes, or delationes would afford a tolerable

reading, but there is much more sense and spirit in the latter, to which

I have therefore given the preference.]

[Footnote 38: Ab externo hoste et a domestica clade liberavimus: by the

latter, Majorian must understand the tyranny of Avitus; whose death he consequently avowed as a meritorious act. On this occasion, Sidonius

is fearful and obscure; he describes the twelve Caesars, the nations of africa, &c., that he may escape the dangerous name of Avitus (805-369.)]

[Footnote 39: See the whole edict or epistle of Majorian to the senate,

(Novell. tit. iv. p. 34.) Yet the expression, regnum nostrum, bears

some taint of the age, and does not mix kindly with the word respublica, which he frequently repeats.]

the private and public actions of Majorian are very imperfectly known: but his laws, remarkable for an original cast of thought and expression, faithfully represent the character of a sovereign who loved his people, who sympathized in their distress, who had studied the causes of the decline of the empire, and who was capable of applying (as far as such

reformation was practicable) judicious and effectual remedies to the public disorders. [40] His regulations concerning the finances

manifestly tended to remove, or at least to mitigate, the most

intolerable grievances. I. From the first hour of his reign, he was

solicitous (I translate his own words) to relieve the weary fortunes of the provincials, oppressed by the accumulated weight of indictions and

superindictions. [41] With this view he granted a universal amnesty, a final and absolute discharge of all arrears of tribute, of all debts, which, under any pretence, the fiscal officers might demand from the

people. This wise dereliction of obsolete, vexatious, and unprofitable claims, improved and purified the sources of the public revenue; and the

subject who could now look back without despair, might labor with hope and gratitude for himself and for his country. II. In the assessment and collection of taxes, Majorian restored the ordinary jurisdiction of the

provincial magistrates; and suppressed the extraordinary commissions which had been introduced, in the name of the emperor himself, or of the

Praetorian praefects. The favorite servants, who obtained such irregular

powers, were insolent in their behavior, and arbitrary in their demands: they affected to despise the subordinate tribunals, and they were discontented, if their fees and profits did not twice exceed the sum which they condescended to pay into the treasury. One instance of their extortion would appear incredible, were it not authenticated by the

legislator himself. They exacted the whole payment in gold: but they

refused the current coin of the empire, and would accept only such ancient pieces as were stamped with the names of Faustina or the antonines. The subject, who was unprovided with these curious medals,

had recourse to the expedient of compounding with their rapacious demands; or if he succeeded in the research, his imposition was doubled, according to the weight and value of the money of former times. [42]

III. "The municipal corporations, (says the emperor,) the lesser

senates, (so antiquity has justly styled them,) deserve to be considered as the heart of the cities, and the sinews of the republic. And yet

so low are they now reduced, by the injustice of magistrates and the

venality of collectors, that many of their members, renouncing their dignity and their country, have taken refuge in distant and obscure exile." He urges, and even compels, their return to their respective cities; but he removes the grievance which had forced them to desert the exercise of their municipal functions. They are directed, under the authority of the provincial magistrates, to resume their office

of levying the tribute; but, instead of being made responsible for the whole sum assessed on their district, they are only required to produce a regular account of the payments which they have actually received, and

of the defaulters who are still indebted to the public. IV. But Majorian was not ignorant that these corporate bodies were too much inclined to

retaliate the injustice and oppression which they had suffered; and

he therefore revives the useful office of the defenders of cities. He exhorts the people to elect, in a full and free assembly, some man of discretion and integrity, who would dare to assert their privileges, to

represent their grievances, to protect the poor from the tyranny of the

rich, and to inform the emperor of the abuses that were committed under the sanction of his name and authority.

[Footnote 40: See the laws of Majorian (they are only nine in number, but very long, and various) at the end of the Theodosian Code, Novell.

l. iv. p. 32-37. Godefroy has not given any commentary on these additional pieces.]

[Footnote 41: Fessas provincialium varia atque multiplici tributorum exactione fortunas, et extraordinariis fiscalium solutionum oneribus attritas, &c. Novell. Majorian. tit. iv. p. 34.]

[Footnote 42: The learned Greaves (vol. i. p. 329, 330, 331) has found, by a diligent inquiry, that aurei of the Antonines weighed one hundred and eighteen, and those of the fifth century only sixty-eight, English

grains. Majorian gives currency to all gold coin, excepting only the

Gallic solidus, from its deficiency, not in the weight, but in the

standard.] The spectator who casts a mournful view over the ruins of ancient Rome, is tempted to accuse the memory of the Goths and Vandals, for the mischief which they had neither leisure, nor power, nor perhaps

inclination, to perpetrate. The tempest of war might strike some

lofty turrets to the ground; but the destruction which undermined the foundations of those massy fabrics was prosecuted, slowly and silently, during a period of ten centuries; and the motives of interest, that afterwards operated without shame or control, were severely checked by the taste and spirit of the emperor Majorian. The decay of the city

had gradually impaired the value of the public works. The circus and theatres might still excite, but they seldom gratified, the desires of the people: the temples, which had escaped the zeal of the Christians, were no longer inhabited, either by gods or men; the diminished crowds of the Romans were lost in the immense space of their baths and

porticos; and the stately libraries and halls of justice became useless to an indolent generation, whose repose was seldom disturbed, either by study or business. The monuments of consular, or Imperial, greatness were no longer revered, as the immortal glory of the capital: they were

only esteemed as an inexhaustible mine of materials, cheaper, and more convenient than the distant quarry. Specious petitions were continually addressed to the easy magistrates of Rome, which stated the want of

stones or bricks, for some necessary service: the fairest forms of architecture were rudely defaced, for the sake of some paltry, or

pretended, repairs; and the degenerate Romans, who converted the spoil to their own emolument, demolished, with sacrilegious hands, the labors

of their ancestors. Majorian, who had often sighed over the desolation

of the city, applied a severe remedy to the growing evil. [43] He

reserved to the prince and senate the sole cognizance of the extreme cases which might justify the destruction of an ancient edifice; imposed a fine of fifty pounds of gold (two thousand pounds sterling) on every

magistrate who should presume to grant such illegal and scandalous

license, and threatened to chastise the criminal obedience of their

subordinate officers, by a severe whipping, and the amputation of both their hands. In the last instance, the legislator might seem to forget the proportion of guilt and punishment; but his zeal arose from a

generous principle, and Majorian was anxious to protect the monuments

of those ages, in which he would have desired and deserved to live. The emperor conceived, that it was his interest to increase the number

of his subjects; and that it was his duty to guard the purity of the

marriage-bed: but the means which he employed to accomplish these

salutary purposes are of an ambiguous, and perhaps exceptionable,

kind. The pious maids, who consecrated their virginity to Christ, were

restrained from taking the veil till they had reached their fortieth

year. Widows under that age were compelled to form a second alliance within the term of five years, by the forfeiture of half their wealth to their nearest relations, or to the state. Unequal marriages were condemned or annulled. The punishment of confiscation and exile was deemed so inadequate to the guilt of adultery, that, if the criminal

returned to Italy, he might, by the express declaration of Majorian, be

slain with impunity. [44]

[Footnote 43: The whole edict (Novell. Majorian. tit. vi. p. 35) is curious. "Antiquarum aedium dissipatur speciosa constructio; et ut aliquid reparetur, magna diruuntur. Hinc jam occasio nascitur, ut etiam

unusquisque privatum aedificium construens, per gratiam judicum.....

praesumere de publicis locis necessaria, et transferre non dubitet"

&c. With equal zeal, but with less power, Petrarch, in the fourteenth century, repeated the same complaints. (Vie de Petrarque, tom. i. p.

326, 327.) If I prosecute this history, I shall not be unmindful of the decline and fall of the city of Rome; an interesting object to which any

plan was originally confined.]

[Footnote 44: The emperor chides the lenity of Rogatian, consular of tuscany in a style of acrimonious reproof, which sounds almost like

personal resentment, (Novell. tit. ix. p. 47.) The law of Majorian, which punished obstinate widows, was soon afterwards repealed by his

successor Severus, (Novell. Sever. tit. i. p. 37.)]

while the emperor Majorian assiduously labored to restore the happiness and virtue of the Romans, he encountered the arms of Genseric, from his character and situation their most formidable enemy. A fleet of Vandals and Moors landed at the mouth of the Liris, or Garigliano; but the

Imperial troops surprised and attacked the disorderly Barbarians, who were encumbered with the spoils of Campania; they were chased with

slaughter to their ships, and their leader, the king's brother-in-law, was found in the number of the slain. [45] Such vigilance might announce the character of the new reign; but the strictest vigilance, and the

most numerous forces, were insufficient to protect the long-extended coast of Italy from the depredations of a naval war. The public opinion

had imposed a nobler and more arduous task on the genius of Majorian.

Rome expected from him alone the restitution of Africa; and the design, which he formed, of attacking the Vandals in their new settlements, was the result of bold and judicious policy. If the intrepid emperor could

have infused his own spirit into the youth of Italy; if he could have

revived in the field of Mars, the manly exercises in which he had always

surpassed his equals; he might have marched against Genseric at the

head of a Roman army. Such a reformation of national manners might be embraced by the rising generation; but it is the misfortune of those

princes who laboriously sustain a declining monarchy, that, to obtain

some immediate advantage, or to avert some impending danger, they are forced to countenance, and even to multiply, the most pernicious abuses.

Majorian, like the weakest of his predecessors, was reduced to the disgraceful expedient of substituting Barbarian auxiliaries in the place

of his unwarlike subjects: and his superior abilities could only be displayed in the vigor and dexterity with which he wielded a dangerous

instrument, so apt to recoil on the hand that used it. Besides the confederates, who were already engaged in the service of the empire, the fame of his liberality and valor attracted the nations of the Danube, the Borysthenes, and perhaps of the Tanais. Many thousands of the bravest subjects of Attila, the Gepidae, the Ostrogoths, the Rugians, the Burgundians, the Suevi, the Alani, assembled in the plains of

Liguria; and their formidable strength was balanced by their mutual animosities. [46] They passed the Alps in a severe winter. The emperor

led the way, on foot, and in complete armor; sounding, with his long

staff, the depth of the ice, or snow, and encouraging the Scythians, who complained of the extreme cold, by the cheerful assurance, that they

should be satisfied with the heat of Africa. The citizens of Lyons had

presumed to shut their gates; they soon implored, and experienced, the clemency of Majorian. He vanquished Theodoric in the field; and admitted to his friendship and alliance a king whom he had found not unworthy of

his arms. The beneficial, though precarious, reunion of the greater part

of Gaul and Spain, was the effect of persuasion, as well as of force;

[47] and the independent Bagaudae, who had escaped, or resisted, the

oppression, of former reigns, were disposed to confide in the virtues

of Majorian. His camp was filled with Barbarian allies; his throne was

supported by the zeal of an affectionate people; but the emperor had foreseen, that it was impossible, without a maritime power, to achieve the conquest of Africa. In the first Punic war, the republic had exerted

such incredible diligence, that, within sixty days after the first

stroke of the axe had been given in the forest, a fleet of one hundred and sixty galleys proudly rode at anchor in the sea. [48] Under circumstances much less favorable, Majorian equalled the spirit and

perseverance of the ancient Romans. The woods of the Apennine were felled; the arsenals and manufactures of Ravenna and Misenum were

restored; Italy and Gaul vied with each other in liberal contributions to the public service; and the Imperial navy of three hundred large

galleys, with an adequate proportion of transports and smaller vessels, was collected in the secure and capacious harbor of Carthagena in Spain.

[49] The intrepid countenance of Majorian animated his troops with a confidence of victory; and, if we might credit the historian Procopius,

his courage sometimes hurried him beyond the bounds of prudence. Anxious to explore, with his own eyes, the state of the Vandals, he ventured, after disguising the color of his hair, to visit Carthage, in the character of his own ambassador: and Genseric was afterwards mortified by the discovery, that he had entertained and dismissed the emperor of the Romans. Such an anecdote may be rejected as an improbable fiction; but it is a fiction which would not have been imagined, unless in the

life of a hero. [50]

[Footnote 45: Sidon. Panegyr. Majorian, 385-440.]

[Footnote 46: The review of the army, and passage of the Alps, contain the most tolerable passages of the Panegyric, (470-552.) M. de Buat

(Hist. des Peuples, &c., tom. viii. p. 49-55) is a more satisfactory commentator, than either Savaron or Sirmond.]

[Footnote 47: It is the just and forcible distinction of Priscus,

(Excerpt. Legat. p. 42,) in a short fragment, which throws much light

on the history of Majorian. Jornandes has suppressed the defeat and alliance of the Visigoths, which were solemnly proclaimed in Gallicia; and are marked in the Chronicle of Idatius.]

[Footnote 48: Florus, l. ii. c. 2. He amuses himself with the poetical fancy, that the trees had been transformed into ships; and indeed the whole transaction, as it is related in the first book of Polybius, deviates too much from the probable course of human events.]

[Footnote 49:

Iterea duplici texis dum littore classem

Inferno superoque mari, cadit omnis in aequor

Sylva tibi, &c.

---Sidon. Panegyr. Majorian, 441-461.

the number of ships, which Priscus fixed at 300, is magnified, by an indefinite comparison with the fleets of Agamemnon, Xerxes, and augustus.]

[Footnote 50: Procopius de Bell. Vandal. l. i. c. 8, p. 194. When

Genseric conducted his unknown guest into the arsenal of Carthage, the arms clashed of their own accord. Majorian had tinged his yellow locks with a black color.]

chapter XXXVI: Total Extinction Of The Western Empire.--Part III.

without the help of a personal interview, Genseric was sufficiently acquainted with the genius and designs of his adversary. He practiced

his customary arts of fraud and delay, but he practiced them without

success. His applications for peace became each hour more submissive, and perhaps more sincere; but the inflexible Majorian had adopted the ancient maxim, that Rome could not be safe, as long as Carthage existed

in a hostile state. The king of the Vandals distrusted the valor of his

native subjects, who were enervated by the luxury of the South; [51] he

suspected the fidelity of the vanquished people, who abhorred him as an arian tyrant; and the desperate measure, which he executed, of reducing

Mauritania into a desert, [52] could not defeat the operations of the

Roman emperor, who was at liberty to land his troops on any part of the african coast. But Genseric was saved from impending and inevitable ruin by the treachery of some powerful subjects, envious, or apprehensive,

of their master's success. Guided by their secret intelligence, he

surprised the unguarded fleet in the Bay of Carthagena: many of the

ships were sunk, or taken, or burnt; and the preparations of three years were destroyed in a single day. [53] After this event, the behavior of the two antagonists showed them superior to their fortune. The Vandal,

instead of being elated by this accidental victory, immediately renewed

his solicitations for peace. The emperor of the West, who was capable

of forming great designs, and of supporting heavy disappointments, consented to a treaty, or rather to a suspension of arms; in the full assurance that, before he could restore his navy, he should be supplied with provocations to justify a second war. Majorian returned to Italy, to prosecute his labors for the public happiness; and, as he was conscious of his own integrity, he might long remain ignorant of the dark conspiracy which threatened his throne and his life. The recent

misfortune of Carthagena sullied the glory which had dazzled the eyes of the multitude; almost every description of civil and military officers were exasperated against the Reformer, since they all derived some advantage from the abuses which he endeavored to suppress; and the

patrician Ricimer impelled the inconstant passions of the Barbarians against a prince whom he esteemed and hated. The virtues of Majorian could not protect him from the impetuous sedition, which broke out in the camp near Tortona, at the foot of the Alps. He was compelled to abdicate the Imperial purple: five days after his abdication, it was

reported that he died of a dysentery; [54] and the humble tomb, which covered his remains, was consecrated by the respect and gratitude of

succeeding generations. [55] The private character of Majorian inspired

love and respect. Malicious calumny and satire excited his indignation,

or, if he himself were the object, his contempt; but he protected the freedom of wit, and, in the hours which the emperor gave to the familiar

society of his friends, he could indulge his taste for pleasantry, without degrading the majesty of his rank. [56]

[Footnote 51:

Spoliisque potitus

Immensis, robux luxu jam perdidit omne,

Quo valuit dum pauper erat.

--Panegyr. Majorian, 330.

He afterwards applies to Genseric, unjustly, as it should seem, the

vices of his subjects.]

[Footnote 52: He burnt the villages, and poisoned the springs, (Priscus,

p. 42.) Dubos (Hist. Critique, tom. i. p. 475) observes, that the

magazines which the Moors buried in the earth might escape his destructive search. Two or three hundred pits are sometimes dug in the

same place; and each pit contains at least four hundred bushels of corn

Shaw's Travels, p. 139.]

[Footnote 53: Idatius, who was safe in Gallicia from the power of

Recimer boldly and honestly declares, Vandali per proditeres admoniti,

&c: i. e. dissembles, however, the name of the traitor.]

[Footnote 54: Procop. de Bell. Vandal. l. i. i. c. 8, p. 194. The testimony of Idatius is fair and impartial: "Majorianum de Galliis Romam

redeuntem, et Romano imperio vel nomini res necessarias ordinantem;

Richimer livore percitus, et invidorum consilio fultus, fraude

interficit circumventum." Some read Suevorum, and I am unwilling to efface either of the words, as they express the different accomplices who united in the conspiracy against Majorian.]

[Footnote 55: See the Epigrams of Ennodius, No. cxxxv. inter Sirmond.

Opera, tom. i. p. 1903. It is flat and obscure; but Ennodius was made bishop of Pavia fifty years after the death of Majorian, and his praise deserves credit and regard.]

[Footnote 56: Sidonius gives a tedious account (l. i. epist. xi. p.

25-31) of a supper at Arles, to which he was invited by Majorian, a

short time before his death. He had no intention of praising a deceased emperor: but a casual disinterested remark, "Subrisit Augustus; ut erat, auctoritate servata, cum se communioni dedisset, joci plenus," outweighs the six hundred lines of his venal panegyric.]

It was not, perhaps, without some regret, that Ricimer sacrificed his friend to the interest of his ambition: but he resolved, in a second choice, to avoid the imprudent preference of superior virtue and merit. at his command, the obsequious senate of Rome bestowed the Imperial title on Libius Severus, who ascended the throne of the West without emerging from the obscurity of a private condition. History has scarcely deigned to notice his birth, his elevation, his character, or his death.

Severus expired, as soon as his life became inconvenient to his patron;

[57] and it would be useless to discriminate his nominal reign in the

vacant interval of six years, between the death of Majorian and the elevation of Anthemius. During that period, the government was in the

hands of Ricimer alone; and, although the modest Barbarian disclaimed the name of king, he accumulated treasures, formed a separate army,

negotiated private alliances, and ruled Italy with the same independent and despotic authority, which was afterwards exercised by Odoacer and theodoric. But his dominions were bounded by the Alps; and two Roman

generals, Marcellinus and Aegidius, maintained their allegiance to the

republic, by rejecting, with disdain, the phantom which he styled an emperor. Marcellinus still adhered to the old religion; and the devout

Pagans, who secretly disobeyed the laws of the church and state, applauded his profound skill in the science of divination. But he

possessed the more valuable qualifications of learning, virtue, and courage; [58] the study of the Latin literature had improved his taste; and his military talents had recommended him to the esteem and confidence of the great Aetius, in whose ruin he was involved. By a timely flight, Marcellinus escaped the rage of Valentinian, and boldly asserted his liberty amidst the convulsions of the Western empire. His

voluntary, or reluctant, submission to the authority of Majorian, was rewarded by the government of Sicily, and the command of an army,

stationed in that island to oppose, or to attack, the Vandals; but his barbarian mercenaries, after the emperor's death, were tempted to revolt by the artful liberality of Ricimer. At the head of a band of faithful followers, the intrepid Marcellinus occupied the province of Dalmatia, assumed the title of patrician of the West, secured the love of his

subjects by a mild and equitable reign, built a fleet which claimed the dominion of the Adriatic, and alternately alarmed the coasts of Italy and of Africa. [59] Aegidius, the master-general of Gaul, who equalled,

or at least who imitated, the heroes of ancient Rome, [60] proclaimed

his immortal resentment against the assassins of his beloved master. A brave and numerous army was attached to his standard: and, though he was

prevented by the arts of Ricimer, and the arms of the Visigoths, from

marching to the gates of Rome, he maintained his independent sovereignty beyond the Alps, and rendered the name of Aegidius, respectable both

in peace and war. The Franks, who had punished with exile the youthful follies of Childeric, elected the Roman general for their king: his

vanity, rather than his ambition, was gratified by that singular honor; and when the nation, at the end of four years, repented of the

injury which they had offered to the Merovingian family, he patiently acquiesced in the restoration of the lawful prince. The authority of aegidius ended only with his life, and the suspicions of poison and

secret violence, which derived some countenance from the character of

Ricimer, were eagerly entertained by the passionate credulity of the

Gauls. [61]

[Footnote 57: Sidonius (Panegyr. Anthem. 317) dismisses him to

heaven:--Auxerat Augustus naturae lege Severus--Divorum numerum. And an

old list of the emperors, composed about the time of Justinian, praises

his piety, and fixes his residence at Rome, (Sirmond. Not. ad Sidon. p.

111, 112.)]

[Footnote 58: Tillemont, who is always scandalized by the virtues of

infidels, attributes this advantageous portrait of Marcellinus (which

Suidas has preserved) to the partial zeal of some Pagan historian,

(Hist. des Empereurs. tom. vi. p. 330.)]

[Footnote 59: Procopius de Bell. Vandal. l. i. c. 6, p. 191. In various circumstances of the life of Marcellinus, it is not easy to reconcile the Greek historian with the Latin Chronicles of the times.]

[Footnote 60: I must apply to Aegidius the praises which Sidonius

(Panegyr Majorian, 553) bestows on a nameless master-general, who commanded the rear-guard of Majorian. Idatius, from public report, commends his Christian piety; and Priscus mentions (p. 42) his military

virtues.]

[Footnote 61: Greg. Turon. l. ii. c. 12, in tom. ii. p. 168. The Pere daniel, whose ideas were superficial and modern, has started some

objections against the story of Childeric, (Hist. de France, tom.

i. Preface Historique, p. lxxvii., &c.:) but they have been fairly

satisfied by Dubos, (Hist. Critique, tom. i. p. 460-510,) and by two authors who disputed the prize of the Academy of Soissons, (p. 131-177,

310-339.) With regard to the term of Childeric's exile, it is necessary either to prolong the life of Aegidius beyond the date assigned by the Chronicle of Idatius or to correct the text of Gregory, by reading

quarto anno, instead of octavo.]

the kingdom of Italy, a name to which the Western empire was gradually

reduced, was afflicted, under the reign of Ricimer, by the incessant depredations of the Vandal pirates. [62] In the spring of each year, they equipped a formidable navy in the port of Carthage; and Genseric

himself, though in a very advanced age, still commanded in person the

most important expeditions. His designs were concealed with impenetrable

secrecy, till the moment that he hoisted sail. When he was asked, by

his pilot, what course he should steer, "Leave the determination to the winds, (replied the Barbarian, with pious arrogance;) they will transport us to the guilty coast, whose inhabitants have provoked the divine justice;" but if Genseric himself deigned to issue more precise

orders, he judged the most wealthy to be the most criminal. The Vandals

repeatedly visited the coasts of Spain, Liguria, Tuscany, Campania,

Lucania, Bruttium, Apulia, Calabria, Venetia, Dalmatia, Epirus, Greece, and Sicily: they were tempted to subdue the Island of Sardinia, so advantageously placed in the centre of the Mediterranean; and their arms

spread desolation, or terror, from the columns of Hercules to the mouth

of the Nile. As they were more ambitious of spoil than of glory, they

seldom attacked any fortified cities, or engaged any regular troops in the open field. But the celerity of their motions enabled them, almost at the same time, to threaten and to attack the most distant objects, which attracted their desires; and as they always embarked a sufficient

number of horses, they had no sooner landed, than they swept the dismayed country with a body of light cavalry. Yet, notwithstanding the example of their king, the native Vandals and Alani insensibly declined this toilsome and perilous warfare; the hardy generation of the first conquerors was almost extinguished, and their sons, who were born in africa, enjoyed the delicious baths and gardens which had been acquired by the valor of their fathers. Their place was readily supplied by a

various multitude of Moors and Romans, of captives and outlaws; and those desperate wretches, who had already violated the laws of their country, were the most eager to promote the atrocious acts which disgrace the victories of Genseric. In the treatment of his unhappy

prisoners, he sometimes consulted his avarice, and sometimes indulged

his cruelty; and the massacre of five hundred noble citizens of Zant

or Zacynthus, whose mangled bodies he cast into the Ionian Sea, was

imputed, by the public indignation, to his latest posterity.

[Footnote 62: The naval war of Genseric is described by Priscus,

(Excerpta Legation. p. 42,) Procopius, (de Bell. Vandal. l. i. c. 5, p.

189, 190, and c. 22, p. 228,) Victor Vitensis, (de Persecut. Vandal. l.

i. c. 17, and Ruinart, p. 467-481,) and in three panegyrics of Sidonius, whose chronological order is absurdly transposed in the editions both

of Savaron and Sirmond. (Avit. Carm. vii. 441-451. Majorian. Carm. v.

327-350, 385-440. Anthem. Carm. ii. 348-386) In one passage the poet

seems inspired by his subject, and expresses a strong idea by a lively

image:--

Hinc Vandalus hostis

Urget; et in nostrum numerosa classe quotannis

Militat excidium; conversoque ordine Fati

Torrida Caucaseos infert mihi Byrsa furoree]

Such crimes could not be excused by any provocations; but the war, which the king of the Vandals prosecuted against the Roman empire was

justified by a specious and reasonable motive. The widow of Valentinian, eudoxia, whom he had led captive from Rome to Carthage, was the sole

heiress of the Theodosian house; her elder daughter, Eudocia, became the reluctant wife of Hunneric, his eldest son; and the stern father, asserting a legal claim, which could not easily be refuted or satisfied, demanded a just proportion of the Imperial patrimony. An adequate, or at

least a valuable, compensation, was offered by the Eastern emperor, to

purchase a necessary peace. Eudoxia and her younger daughter, Placidia, were honorably restored, and the fury of the Vandals was confined to the

limits of the Western empire. The Italians, destitute of a naval force, which alone was capable of protecting their coasts, implored the aid of the more fortunate nations of the East; who had formerly acknowledged,

in peace and war, the supremacy of Rome. But the perpetual divisions of the two empires had alienated their interest and their inclinations; the faith of a recent treaty was alleged; and the Western Romans, instead

of arms and ships, could only obtain the assistance of a cold and

ineffectual mediation. The haughty Ricimer, who had long struggled with the difficulties of his situation, was at length reduced to address the throne of Constantinople, in the humble language of a subject; and Italy

submitted, as the price and security to accept a master from the choice

of the emperor of the East. [63] It is not the purpose of the present chapter, or even of the present volume, to continue the distinct series

of the Byzantine history; but a concise view of the reign and character

of the emperor Leo, may explain the last efforts that were attempted to

save the falling empire of the West. [64]

[Footnote 63: The poet himself is compelled to acknowledge the distress

of Ricimer:--

Praeterea invictus Ricimer, quem publica fata

Respiciunt, proprio solas vix Marte repellit

Piratam per rura vagum.

Italy addresses her complaint to the Tyber, and Rome, at the

solicitation of the river god, transports herself to Constantinople,

renounces her ancient claims, and implores the friendship of Aurora, the goddess of the East. This fabulous machinery, which the genius of claudian had used and abused, is the constant and miserable resource of the muse of Sidonius.]

[Footnote 64: The original authors of the reigns of Marcian, Leo, and

Zeno, are reduced to some imperfect fragments, whose deficiencies must be supplied from the more recent compilations of Theophanes, Zonaras, and Cedrenus.]

Since the death of the younger Theodosius, the domestic

repose of Constantinople had never been interrupted by war or faction.

Pulcheria had bestowed her hand, and the sceptre of the East, on the

modest virtue of Marcian: he gratefully reverenced her august rank and

virgin chastity; and, after her death, he gave his people the example of the religious worship that was due to the memory of the Imperial saint.

[65] Attentive to the prosperity of his own dominions, Marcian seemed to behold, with indifference, the misfortunes of Rome; and the obstinate

refusal of a brave and active prince, to draw his sword against the

Vandals, was ascribed to a secret promise, which had formerly been exacted from him when he was a captive in the power of Genseric. [66] the death of Marcian, after a reign of seven years, would have exposed the East to the danger of a popular election; if the superior weight of a single family had not been able to incline the balance in favor of the candidate whose interest they supported. The patrician Aspar might

have placed the diadem on his own head, if he would have subscribed the

Nicene creed. [67] During three generations, the armies of the East were successively commanded by his father, by himself, and by his son ardaburius; his Barbarian guards formed a military force that overawed the palace and the capital; and the liberal distribution of his immense treasures rendered Aspar as popular as he was powerful. He recommended the obscure name of Leo of Thrace, a military tribune, and the principal

steward of his household. His nomination was unanimously ratified by the

senate; and the servant of Aspar received the Imperial crown from the

hands of the patriarch or bishop, who was permitted to express, by this

unusual ceremony, the suffrage of the Deity. [68] This emperor, the first of the name of Leo, has been distinguished by the title of the

Great; from a succession of princes, who gradually fixed in the opinion

of the Greeks a very humble standard of heroic, or at least of royal,

perfection. Yet the temperate firmness with which Leo resisted the

oppression of his benefactor, showed that he was conscious of his duty and of his prerogative. Aspar was astonished to find that his influence could no longer appoint a praefect of Constantinople: he presumed to

reproach his sovereign with a breach of promise, and insolently shaking

his purple, "It is not proper, (said he,) that the man who is invested with this garment, should be guilty of lying." "Nor is it proper,

(replied Leo,) that a prince should be compelled to resign his own

judgment, and the public interest, to the will of a subject."[69] After this extraordinary scene, it was impossible that the reconciliation of the emperor and the patrician could be sincere; or, at least, that it could be solid and permanent. An army of Isaurians [70] was secretly

levied, and introduced into Constantinople; and while Leo undermined the authority, and prepared the disgrace, of the family of Aspar, his

mild and cautious behavior restrained them from any rash and desperate attempts, which might have been fatal to themselves, or their enemies. the measures of peace and war were affected by this internal revolution. as long as Aspar degraded the majesty of the throne, the secret correspondence of religion and interest engaged him to favor the cause

of Genseric. When Leo had delivered himself from that ignominious

servitude, he listened to the complaints of the Italians; resolved to extirpate the tyranny of the Vandals; and declared his alliance with

his colleague, Anthemius, whom he solemnly invested with the diadem and

purple of the West.

[Footnote 65: St. Pulcheria died A.D. 453, four years before her nominal

husband; and her festival is celebrated on the 10th of September by the modern Greeks: she bequeathed an immense patrimony to pious, or, at

least, to ecclesiastical, uses. See Tillemont, Memoires Eccles. tom. xv

p. 181-184.]

[Footnote 66: See Procopius, de Bell. Vandal. l. i. c. 4, p. 185.]

[Footnote 67: From this disability of Aspar to ascend the throne, it may be inferred that the stain of Heresy was perpetual and indelible, while that of Barbarism disappeared in the second generation.]

[Footnote 68: Theophanes, p. 95. This appears to be the first origin

of a ceremony, which all the Christian princes of the world have since adopted and from which the clergy have deduced the most formidable consequences.]

[Footnote 69: Cedrenus, (p. 345, 346,) who was conversant with the writers of better days, has preserved the remarkable words of Aspar.]

[Footnote 70: The power of the Isaurians agitated the Eastern empire in the two succeeding reigns of Zeno and Anastasius; but it ended in the destruction of those Barbarians, who maintained their fierce

independences about two hundred and thirty years.]

the virtues of Anthemius have perhaps been magnified, since the Imperial descent, which he could only deduce from the usurper Procopius, has been

swelled into a line of emperors. [71] But the merit of his immediate

parents, their honors, and their riches, rendered Anthemius one of the

most illustrious subjects of the East. His father, Procopius, obtained, after his Persian embassy, the rank of general and patrician; and the name of Anthemius was derived from his maternal grandfather, the celebrated praefect, who protected, with so much ability and success, the infant reign of Theodosius. The grandson of the praefect was raised above the condition of a private subject, by his marriage with Euphemia, the daughter of the emperor Marcian. This splendid alliance, which might

supersede the necessity of merit, hastened the promotion of Anthemius to the successive dignities of count, of master-general, of consul, and

of patrician; and his merit or fortune claimed the honors of a victory, which was obtained on the banks of the Danube, over the Huns. Without

indulging an extravagant ambition, the son-in-law of Marcian might hope to be his successor; but Anthemius supported the disappointment with courage and patience; and his subsequent elevation was universally approved by the public, who esteemed him worthy to reign, till

he ascended the throne. [72] The emperor of the West marched from constantinople, attended by several counts of high distinction, and a body of guards almost equal to the strength and numbers of a regular army: he entered Rome in triumph, and the choice of Leo was confirmed by the senate, the people, and the Barbarian confederates of Italy. [73] the solemn inauguration of Anthemius was followed by the nuptials of

his daughter and the patrician Ricimer; a fortunate event, which was considered as the firmest security of the union and happiness of the

state. The wealth of two empires was ostentatiously displayed; and many

senators completed their ruin, by an expensive effort to disguise their

poverty. All serious business was suspended during this festival; the courts of justice were shut; the streets of Rome, the theatres, the

places of public and private resort, resounded with hymeneal songs and dances: and the royal bride, clothed in silken robes, with a crown on

her head, was conducted to the palace of Ricimer, who had changed

his military dress for the habit of a consul and a senator. On this

memorable occasion, Sidonius, whose early ambition had been so fatally blasted, appeared as the orator of Auvergne, among the provincial deputies who addressed the throne with congratulations or complaints.

[74] The calends of January were now approaching, and the venal poet, who had loved Avitus, and esteemed Majorian, was persuaded by his friends to celebrate, in heroic verse, the merit, the felicity, the

second consulship, and the future triumphs, of the emperor Anthemius.

Sidonius pronounced, with assurance and success, a panegyric which is

still extant; and whatever might be the imperfections, either of the

subject or of the composition, the welcome flatterer was immediately

rewarded with the praefecture of Rome; a dignity which placed him among the illustrious personages of the empire, till he wisely preferred the

more respectable character of a bishop and a saint. [75]

[Footnote 71:

Tali tu civis ab urbe

Procopio genitore micas; cui prisca propago

Augustis venit a proavis.

the poet (Sidon. Panegyr. Anthem. 67-306) then proceeds to relate the

private life and fortunes of the future emperor, with which he must have been imperfectly acquainted.]

[Footnote 72: Sidonius discovers, with tolerable ingenuity, that this disappointment added new lustre to the virtues of Anthemius, (210, &c.,) who declined one sceptre, and reluctantly accepted another, (22, &c.)]

[Footnote 73: The poet again celebrates the unanimity of all orders of the state, (15-22;) and the Chronicle of Idatius mentions the forces which attended his march.]

[Footnote 74: Interveni autem nuptiis Patricii Ricimeris, cui filia

perennis Augusti in spem publicae securitatis copulabator. The journey

of Sidonius from Lyons, and the festival of Rome, are described with

some spirit. L. i. epist. 5, p. 9-13, epist. 9, p. 21.]

[Footnote 75: Sidonius (l. i. epist. 9, p. 23, 24) very fairly states

his motive, his labor, and his reward. "Hic ipse Panegyricus, si non

judicium, certa eventum, boni operis, accepit." He was made bishop of clermont, A.D. 471. Tillemont, Mem. Eccles. tom. xvi. p. 750.]

the Greeks ambitiously commend the piety and catholic faith of the emperor whom they gave to the West; nor do they forget to observe, that when he left Constantinople, he converted his palace into the pious foundation of a public bath, a church, and a hospital for old men. [76]

Yet some suspicious appearances are found to sully the theological fame

of Anthemius. From the conversation of Philotheus, a Macedonian sectary,

he had imbibed the spirit of religious toleration; and the Heretics

of Rome would have assembled with impunity, if the bold and vehement censure which Pope Hilary pronounced in the church of St. Peter, had not

obliged him to abjure the unpopular indulgence. [77] Even the Pagans, a feeble and obscure remnant, conceived some vain hopes, from the

indifference, or partiality, of Anthemius; and his singular friendship for the philosopher Severus, whom he promoted to the consulship, was ascribed to a secret project, of reviving the ancient worship of the

gods. [78] These idols were crumbled into dust: and the mythology which

had once been the creed of nations, was so universally disbelieved, that

it might be employed without scandal, or at least without suspicion, by Christian poets. [79] Yet the vestiges of superstition were not absolutely obliterated, and the festival of the Lupercalia, whose origin

had preceded the foundation of Rome, was still celebrated under the

reign of Anthemius. The savage and simple rites were expressive of an early state of society before the invention of arts and agriculture. The

rustic deities who presided over the toils and pleasures of the pastoral

life, Pan, Faunus, and their train of satyrs, were such as the fancy of

shepherds might create, sportive, petulant, and lascivious; whose power was limited, and whose malice was inoffensive. A goat was the offering the best adapted to their character and attributes; the flesh of the

victim was roasted on willow spits; and the riotous youths, who crowded to the feast, ran naked about the fields, with leather thongs in their

hands, communicating, as it was supposed, the blessing of fecundity to the women whom they touched. [80] The altar of Pan was erected, perhaps by Evander the Arcadian, in a dark recess in the side of the Palantine

hill, watered by a perpetual fountain, and shaded by a hanging grove. a tradition, that, in the same place, Romulus and Remus were suckled by the wolf, rendered it still more sacred and venerable in the eyes of the Romans; and this sylvan spot was gradually surrounded by the stately edifices of the Forum. [81] After the conversion of the Imperial city, the Christians still continued, in the month of February, the annual celebration of the Lupercalia; to which they ascribed a secret and

mysterious influence on the genial powers of the animal and vegetable world.

the bishops of Rome were solicitous to abolish a profane custom,

so repugnant to the spirit of Christianity; but their zeal was not

supported by the authority of the civil magistrate: the inveterate abuse

subsisted till the end of the fifth century, and Pope Gelasius, who

purified the capital from the last stain of idolatry, appeased by a formal apology, the murmurs of the senate and people. [82]

[Footnote 76: The palace of Anthemius stood on the banks of the

Propontis. In the ninth century, Alexius, the son-in-law of the emperor theophilus, obtained permission to purchase the ground; and ended his days in a monastery which he founded on that delightful spot. Ducange constantinopolis Christiana, p. 117, 152.]

[Footnote 77: Papa Hilarius... apud beatum Petrum Apostolum, palam ne

id fieret, clara voce constrinxit, in tantum ut non ea facienda cum

interpositione juramenti idem promitteret Imperator. Gelasius Epistol ad andronicum, apud Baron. A.D. 467, No. 3. The cardinal observes, with

some complacency, that it was much easier to plant heresies at constantinople, than at Rome.]

[Footnote 78: Damascius, in the life of the philosopher Isidore, apud

Photium, p. 1049. Damascius, who lived under Justinian, composed another work, consisting of 570 praeternatural stories of souls, daemons, apparitions, the dotage of Platonic Paganism.]

[Footnote 79: In the poetical works of Sidonius, which he afterwards condemned, (l. ix. epist. 16, p. 285,) the fabulous deities are the

principal actors. If Jerom was scourged by the angels for only reading

Virgil, the bishop of Clermont, for such a vile imitation, deserved an additional whipping from the Muses.]

[Footnote 80: Ovid (Fast. l. ii. 267-452) has given an amusing description of the follies of antiquity, which still inspired so much

respect, that a grave magistrate, running naked through the streets, was

not an object of astonishment or laughter.]

[Footnote 81: See Dionys. Halicarn. l. i. p. 25, 65, edit. Hudson. The

Roman antiquaries Donatus (l. ii. c. 18, p. 173, 174) and Nardini (p.

386, 387) have labored to ascertain the true situation of the Lupercal.]

[Footnote 82: Baronius published, from the MSS. of the Vatican, this epistle of Pope Gelasius, (A.D. 496, No. 28-45,) which is entitled adversus Andromachum Senatorem, caeterosque Romanos, qui Lupercalia

secundum morem pristinum colenda constituebant. Gelasius always supposes that his adversaries are nominal Christians, and, that he may not yield to them in absurd prejudice, he imputes to this harmless festival all the calamities of the age.]

chapter XXXVI: Total Extinction Of The Western Empire.--Part IV.

In all his public declarations, the emperor Leo assumes the authority, and professes the affection, of a father, for his son Anthemius, with whom he had divided the administration of the universe. [83] the situation, and perhaps the character, of Leo, dissuaded him from exposing his person to the toils and dangers of an African war. But the

powers of the Eastern empire were strenuously exerted to deliver Italy and the Mediterranean from the Vandals; and Genseric, who had so long

oppressed both the land and sea, was threatened from every side with a formidable invasion. The campaign was opened by a bold and successful enterprise of the praefect Heraclius. [84] The troops of Egypt, Thebais, and Libya, were embarked, under his command; and the Arabs, with a train

of horses and camels, opened the roads of the desert. Heraclius landed

on the coast of Tripoli, surprised and subdued the cities of that

province, and prepared, by a laborious march, which Cato had formerly executed, [85] to join the Imperial army under the walls of Carthage. the intelligence of this loss extorted from Genseric some insidious and ineffectual propositions of peace; but he was still more seriously alarmed by the reconciliation of Marcellinus with the two empires. The

independent patrician had been persuaded to acknowledge the legitimate title of Anthemius, whom he accompanied in his journey to Rome; the dalmatian fleet was received into the harbors of Italy; the active valor

of Marcellinus expelled the Vandals from the Island of Sardinia; and the languid efforts of the West added some weight to the immense

preparations of the Eastern Romans. The expense of the naval armament, which Leo sent against the Vandals, has been distinctly ascertained; and the curious and instructive account displays the wealth of the declining empire. The Royal demesnes, or private patrimony of the prince, supplied

seventeen thousand pounds of gold; forty-seven thousand pounds of gold, and seven hundred thousand of silver, were levied and paid into the treasury by the Praetorian praefects. But the cities were reduced to extreme poverty; and the diligent calculation of fines and forfeitures, as a valuable object of the revenue, does not suggest the idea of a just

or merciful administration. The whole expense, by whatsoever means

it was defrayed, of the African campaign, amounted to the sum of one

hundred and thirty thousand pounds of gold, about five millions two

hundred thousand pounds sterling, at a time when the value of money appears, from the comparative price of corn, to have been somewhat

higher than in the present age. [86] The fleet that sailed from constantinople to Carthage, consisted of eleven hundred and thirteen

ships, and the number of soldiers and mariners exceeded one hundred thousand men. Basiliscus, the brother of the empress Vorina, was

intrusted with this important command. His sister, the wife of Leo, had exaggerated the merit of his former exploits against the Scythians. But the discovery of his guilt, or incapacity, was reserved for the african war; and his friends could only save his military reputation by asserting, that he had conspired with Aspar to spare Genseric, and to betray the last hope of the Western empire.

[Footnote 83: Itaque nos quibus totius mundi regimen commisit superna

provisio.... Pius et triumphator semper Augustus filius noster anthemius, licet Divina Majestas et nostra creatio pietati ejus plenam

Imperii commiserit potestatem, &c..... Such is the dignified style of

Leo, whom Anthemius respectfully names, Dominus et Pater meus Princeps

sacratissimus Leo. See Novell. Anthem. tit. ii. iii. p. 38, ad calcem cod. Theod.]

[Footnote 84: The expedition of Heraclius is clouded with difficulties,

(Tillemont, Hist. des Empereurs, tom. vi. p. 640,) and it requires

some dexterity to use the circumstances afforded by Theophanes, without

injury to the more respectable evidence of Procopius.]

[Footnote 85: The march of Cato from Berenice, in the province of cyrene, was much longer than that of Heraclius from Tripoli. He passed the deep sandy desert in thirty days, and it was found necessary to

provide, besides the ordinary supplies, a great number of skins filled with water, and several Psylli, who were supposed to possess the art of

sucking the wounds which had been made by the serpents of their native country. See Plutarch in Caton. Uticens. tom. iv. p. 275. Straben

Geograph. l. xxii. p. 1193.]

[Footnote 86: The principal sum is clearly expressed by Procopius, (de bell. Vandal. l. i. c. 6, p. 191;) the smaller constituent parts, which Tillemont, (Hist. des Empereurs, tom. vi. p. 396) has laboriously collected from the Byzantine writers, are less certain, and less

important. The historian Malchus laments the public misery, (Excerpt. ex Suida in Corp. Hist. Byzant. p. 58;) but he is surely unjust, when

he charges Leo with hoarding the treasures which he extorted from the

people. \* Note: Compare likewise the newly-discovered work of Lydus, de

Magistratibus, ed. Hase, Paris, 1812, (and in the new collection of the byzantines,) l. iii. c. 43. Lydus states the expenditure at 65,000

lbs. of gold, 700,000 of silver. But Lydus exaggerates the fleet to the

incredible number of 10,000 long ships, (Liburnae,) and the troops to

400,000 men. Lydus describes this fatal measure, of which he charges the blame on Basiliscus, as the shipwreck of the state. From that time all the revenues of the empire were anticipated; and the finances fell into

inextricable confusion.--M.] Experience has shown, that the success

of an invader most commonly depends on the vigor and celerity of his

operations. The strength and sharpness of the first impression are blunted by delay; the health and spirit of the troops insensibly

languish in a distant climate; the naval and military force, a mighty effort which perhaps can never be repeated, is silently consumed; and every hour that is wasted in negotiation, accustoms the enemy to contemplate and examine those hostile terrors, which, on their first appearance, he deemed irresistible. The formidable navy of Basiliscus

pursued its prosperous navigation from the Thracian Bosphorus to the coast of Africa. He landed his troops at Cape Bona, or the promontory

of Mercury, about forty miles from Carthage. [87] The army of Heraclius, and the fleet of Marcellinus, either joined or seconded the Imperial

lieutenant; and the Vandals who opposed his progress by sea or land, were successively vanquished. [88] If Basiliscus had seized the moment

of consternation, and boldly advanced to the capital, Carthage must have

surrendered, and the kingdom of the Vandals was extinguished. Genseric beheld the danger with firmness, and eluded it with his veteran dexterity. He protested, in the most respectful language, that he was ready to submit his person, and his dominions, to the will of the emperor; but he requested a truce of five days to regulate the terms

of his submission; and it was universally believed, that his secret

liberality contributed to the success of this public negotiation.

Instead of obstinately refusing whatever indulgence his enemy so earnestly solicited, the guilty, or the credulous, Basiliscus consented to the fatal truce; and his imprudent security seemed to proclaim, that

he already considered himself as the conqueror of Africa. During this

short interval, the wind became favorable to the designs of Genseric.

He manned his largest ships of war with the bravest of the Moors and Vandals; and they towed after them many large barks, filled with combustible materials. In the obscurity of the night, these destructive

vessels were impelled against the unguarded and unsuspecting fleet of the Romans, who were awakened by the sense of their instant danger. their close and crowded order assisted the progress of the fire, which was communicated with rapid and irresistible violence; and the noise

of the wind, the crackling of the flames, the dissonant cries of the

soldiers and mariners, who could neither command nor obey, increased the horror of the nocturnal tumult. Whilst they labored to extricate themselves from the fire-ships, and to save at least a part of the navy, the galleys of Genseric assaulted them with temperate and disciplined

valor; and many of the Romans, who escaped the fury of the flames, were destroyed or taken by the victorious Vandals. Among the events of that disastrous night, the heroic, or rather desperate, courage of John,

one of the principal officers of Basiliscus, has rescued his name from

oblivion. When the ship, which he had bravely defended, was almost consumed, he threw himself in his armor into the sea, disdainfully

rejected the esteem and pity of Genso, the son of Genseric, who pressed

him to accept honorable quarter, and sunk under the waves; exclaiming, with his last breath, that he would never fall alive into the hands

of those impious dogs. Actuated by a far different spirit, Basiliscus, whose station was the most remote from danger, disgracefully fled in the beginning of the engagement, returned to Constantinople with the loss of

more than half of his fleet and army, and sheltered his guilty head

in the sanctuary of St. Sophia, till his sister, by her tears and entreaties, could obtain his pardon from the indignant emperor.

Heraclius effected his retreat through the desert; Marcellinus retired to Sicily, where he was assassinated, perhaps at the instigation

of Ricimer, by one of his own captains; and the king of the Vandals expressed his surprise and satisfaction, that the Romans themselves

should remove from the world his most formidable antagonists. [89] After the failure of this great expedition, [891] Genseric again became the tyrant of the sea: the coasts of Italy, Greece, and Asia, were again exposed to his revenge and avarice; Tripoli and Sardinia returned to his

obedience; he added Sicily to the number of his provinces; and before

he died, in the fulness of years and of glory, he beheld the final extinction of the empire of the West. [90]

[Footnote 87: This promontory is forty miles from Carthage, (Procop. l.

i. c. 6, p. 192,) and twenty leagues from Sicily, (Shaw's Travels, p.

89.) Scipio landed farther in the bay, at the fair promontory; see the animated description of Livy, xxix. 26, 27.]

[Footnote 88: Theophanes (p. 100) affirms that many ships of the Vandals were sunk. The assertion of Jornandes, (de Successione Regn.,) that basiliscus attacked Carthage, must be understood in a very qualified

sense]

[Footnote 89: Damascius in Vit. Isidor. apud Phot. p. 1048. It will appear, by comparing the three short chronicles of the times, that

Marcellinus had fought near Carthage, and was killed in Sicily.]

[Footnote 891: According to Lydus, Leo, distracted by this and the other calamities of his reign, particularly a dreadful fire at constantinople, abandoned the palace, like another Orestes, and was

preparing to quit Constantinople forever l iii. c. 44, p. 230.--M.]

[Footnote 90: For the African war, see Procopius, de Bell. (Vandal. l.

i. c. 6, p. 191, 192, 193,) Theophanes, (p. 99, 100, 101,) Cedrenus,

(p. 349, 350,) and Zonaras, (tom. ii. l. xiv. p. 50, 51.) Montesquieu

(Considerations sur la Grandeur, &c., c. xx. tom. iii. p. 497) has made a judicious observation on the failure of these great naval armaments.]

during his long and active reign, the African monarch had studiously cultivated the friendship of the Barbarians of Europe, whose arms he

might employ in a seasonable and effectual diversion against the two empires. After the death of Attila, he renewed his alliance with the

Visigoths of Gaul; and the sons of the elder Theodoric, who successively

reigned over that warlike nation, were easily persuaded, by the sense

of interest, to forget the cruel affront which Genseric had inflicted on their sister. [91] The death of the emperor Majorian delivered Theodoric the Second from the restraint of fear, and perhaps of honor; he violated

his recent treaty with the Romans; and the ample territory of Narbonne, which he firmly united to his dominions, became the immediate reward of

his perfidy. The selfish policy of Ricimer encouraged him to invade the

provinces which were in the possession of Aegidius, his rival; but the active count, by the defence of Arles, and the victory of Orleans, saved

Gaul, and checked, during his lifetime, the progress of the Visigoths. their ambition was soon rekindled; and the design of extinguishing the

Roman empire in Spain and Gaul was conceived, and almost completed,

in the reign of Euric, who assassinated his brother Theodoric, and displayed, with a more savage temper, superior abilities, both in peace and war. He passed the Pyrenees at the head of a numerous army, subdued the cities of Saragossa and Pampeluna, vanquished in battle the martial

nobles of the Tarragonese province, carried his victorious arms into the heart of Lusitania, and permitted the Suevi to hold the kingdom of

Gallicia under the Gothic monarchy of Spain. [92] The efforts of Euric were not less vigorous, or less successful, in Gaul; and throughout the country that extends from the Pyrenees to the Rhone and the Loire, berry and Auvergne were the only cities, or dioceses, which refused to acknowledge him as their master. [93] In the defence of Clermont, their

principal town, the inhabitants of Auvergne sustained, with inflexible

resolution, the miseries of war, pestilence, and famine; and the

Visigoths, relinquishing the fruitless siege, suspended the hopes of that important conquest. The youth of the province were animated by the

heroic, and almost incredible, valor of Ecdicius, the son of the emperor avitus, [94] who made a desperate sally with only eighteen horsemen, boldly attacked the Gothic army, and, after maintaining a flying

skirmish, retired safe and victorious within the walls of Clermont. His charity was equal to his courage: in a time of extreme scarcity, four thousand poor were fed at his expense; and his private influence levied an army of Burgundians for the deliverance of Auvergne. From his virtues alone the faithful citizens of Gaul derived any hopes of safety or freedom; and even such virtues were insufficient to avert the impending

ruin of their country, since they were anxious to learn, from his authority and example, whether they should prefer the alternative of exile or servitude. [95] The public confidence was lost; the resources

of the state were exhausted; and the Gauls had too much reason to believe, that Anthemius, who reigned in Italy, was incapable of

protecting his distressed subjects beyond the Alps. The feeble emperor could only procure for their defence the service of twelve thousand british auxiliaries. Riothamus, one of the independent kings, or chieftains, of the island, was persuaded to transport his troops to the continent of Gaul: he sailed up the Loire, and established his quarters

in Berry, where the people complained of these oppressive allies, till they were destroyed or dispersed by the arms of the Visigoths. [96]

[Footnote 91: Jornandes is our best guide through the reigns of theodoric II. and Euric, (de Rebus Geticis, c. 44, 45, 46, 47, p.

675-681.) Idatius ends too soon, and Isidore is too sparing of the

information which he might have given on the affairs of Spain. The events that relate to Gaul are laboriously illustrated in the third book

of the Abbe Dubos, Hist. Critique, tom. i. p. 424-620.]

[Footnote 92: See Mariana, Hist. Hispan. tom. i. l. v. c. 5. p. 162.]

[Footnote 93: An imperfect, but original, picture of Gaul, more especially of Auvergne, is shown by Sidonius; who, as a senator, and afterwards as a bishop, was deeply interested in the fate of his country. See l. v. epist. 1, 5, 9, &c.]

[Footnote 94: Sidonius, l. iii. epist. 3, p. 65-68. Greg. Turon. l. ii. c. 24, in tom. ii. p. 174. Jornandes, c. 45, p. 675. Perhaps Ecdicius was only the son-in-law of Avitus, his wife's son by another husband.]

[Footnote 95: Si nullae a republica vires, nulla praesidia; si nullae,

quantum rumor est, Anthemii principis opes; statuit, te auctore,

nobilitas, seu patriaca dimittere seu capillos, (Sidon. l. ii. epist.

1, p. 33.) The last words Sirmond, (Not. p. 25) may likewise denote the clerical tonsure, which was indeed the choice of Sidonius himself.]

[Footnote 96: The history of these Britons may be traced in Jornandes,

(c. 45, p. 678,) Sidonius, (l. iii. epistol. 9, p. 73, 74,) and Gregory

of Tours, (l. ii. c. 18, in tom. ii. p. 170.) Sidonius (who styles these

mercenary troops argutos, armatos, tumultuosos, virtute numero, contul ernio, contumaces) addresses their general in a tone of friendship and familiarity.] One of the last acts of jurisdiction, which the Roman

senate exercised over their subjects of Gaul, was the trial and condemnation of Arvandus, the Praetorian praefect. Sidonius, who

rejoices that he lived under a reign in which he might pity and assist a state criminal, has expressed, with tenderness and freedom, the faults

of his indiscreet and unfortunate friend. [97] From the perils which he

had escaped, Arvandus imbibed confidence rather than wisdom; and such was the various, though uniform, imprudence of his behavior, that his

prosperity must appear much more surprising than his downfall. The

second praefecture, which he obtained within the term of five years, abolished the merit and popularity of his preceding administration. His easy temper was corrupted by flattery, and exasperated by opposition; he was forced to satisfy his importunate creditors with the spoils of the

province; his capricious insolence offended the nobles of Gaul, and he

sunk under the weight of the public hatred. The mandate of his disgrace

summoned him to justify his conduct before the senate; and he passed the Sea of Tuscany with a favorable wind, the presage, as he vainly

imagined, of his future fortunes. A decent respect was still observed for the Proefectorian rank; and on his arrival at Rome, Arvandus was committed to the hospitality, rather than to the custody, of Flavius asellus, the count of the sacred largesses, who resided in the Capitol.

[98] He was eagerly pursued by his accusers, the four deputies of Gaul, who were all distinguished by their birth, their dignities, or their eloquence. In the name of a great province, and according to the forms

of Roman jurisprudence, they instituted a civil and criminal action, requiring such restitution as might compensate the losses of

individuals, and such punishment as might satisfy the justice of the

state. Their charges of corrupt oppression were numerous and weighty; but they placed their secret dependence on a letter which they had

intercepted, and which they could prove, by the evidence of his

secretary, to have been dictated by Arvandus himself. The author of this

letter seemed to dissuade the king of the Goths from a peace with the

Greek emperor: he suggested the attack of the Britons on the Loire; and he recommended a division of Gaul, according to the law of nations, between the Visigoths and the Burgundians. [99] These pernicious

schemes, which a friend could only palliate by the reproaches of vanity and indiscretion, were susceptible of a treasonable interpretation; and the deputies had artfully resolved not to produce their most formidable weapons till the decisive moment of the contest. But their intentions were discovered by the zeal of Sidonius. He immediately apprised the

unsuspecting criminal of his danger; and sincerely lamented, without any

mixture of anger, the haughty presumption of Arvandus, who rejected, and even resented, the salutary advice of his friends. Ignorant of his real

situation, Arvandus showed himself in the Capitol in the white robe of a candidate, accepted indiscriminate salutations and offers of service, examined the shops of the merchants, the silks and gems, sometimes with the indifference of a spectator, and sometimes with the attention of a

purchaser; and complained of the times, of the senate, of the prince, and of the delays of justice. His complaints were soon removed. An early day was fixed for his trial; and Arvandus appeared, with his accusers, before a numerous assembly of the Roman senate. The mournful garb which they affected, excited the compassion of the judges, who were

scandalized by the gay and splendid dress of their adversary: and when the praefect Arvandus, with the first of the Gallic deputies, were directed to take their places on the senatorial benches, the same contrast of pride and modesty was observed in their behavior. In this

memorable judgment, which presented a lively image of the old republic, the Gauls exposed, with force and freedom, the grievances of the

province; and as soon as the minds of the audience were sufficiently

inflamed, they recited the fatal epistle. The obstinacy of Arvandus was founded on the strange supposition, that a subject could not be convicted of treason, unless he had actually conspired to assume the

purple. As the paper was read, he repeatedly, and with a loud voice, acknowledged it for his genuine composition; and his astonishment was equal to his dismay, when the unanimous voice of the senate declared him

guilty of a capital offence. By their decree, he was degraded from the rank of a praefect to the obscure condition of a plebeian, and

ignominiously dragged by servile hands to the public prison. After a fortnight's adjournment, the senate was again convened to pronounce the sentence of his death; but while he expected, in the Island of aesculapius, the expiration of the thirty days allowed by an ancient

law to the vilest malefactors, [100] his friends interposed, the emperor Anthemius relented, and the praefect of Gaul obtained the milder

punishment of exile and confiscation. The faults of Arvandus might deserve compassion; but the impunity of Seronatus accused the justice

of the republic, till he was condemned and executed, on the complaint

of the people of Auvergne. That flagitious minister, the Catiline of

his age and country, held a secret correspondence with the Visigoths, to betray the province which he oppressed: his industry was continually exercised in the discovery of new taxes and obsolete offences; and his extravagant vices would have inspired contempt, if they had not excited fear and abhorrence. [101]

[Footnote 97: See Sidonius, l. i. epist. 7, p. 15-20, with Sirmond's

notes. This letter does honor to his heart, as well as to his

understanding. The prose of Sidonius, however vitiated by a false and affected taste, is much superior to his insipid verses.]

[Footnote 98: When the Capitol ceased to be a temple, it was appropriated to the use of the civil magistrate; and it is still the

residence of the Roman senator. The jewellers, &c., might be allowed to expose then precious wares in the porticos.]

[Footnote 99: Haec ad regem Gothorum, charta videbatur emitti, pacem cum

Graeco Imperatore dissuadens, Britannos super Ligerim sitos impugnari

oportere, demonstrans, cum Burgundionibus jure gentium Gallias dividi debere confirmans.]

[Footnote 100: Senatusconsultum Tiberianum, (Sirmond Not. p. 17;) but that law allowed only ten days between the sentence and execution; the

remaining twenty were added in the reign of Theodosius.]

[Footnote 101: Catilina seculi nostri. Sidonius, l. ii. epist. 1, p.

33; l. v. epist 13, p. 143; l. vii. epist. vii. p. 185. He execrates the crimes, and applauds the punishment, of Seronatus, perhaps with the indignation of a virtuous citizen, perhaps with the resentment of a

personal enemy.]

Such criminals were not beyond the reach of justice; but whatever might be the guilt of Ricimer, that powerful Barbarian was able to contend

or to negotiate with the prince, whose alliance he had condescended to accept. The peaceful and prosperous reign which Anthemius had promised to the West, was soon clouded by misfortune and discord. Ricimer, apprehensive, or impatient, of a superior, retired from Rome, and fixed

his residence at Milan; an advantageous situation either to invite or to repel the warlike tribes that were seated between the Alps and the danube. [102] Italy was gradually divided into two independent and

hostile kingdoms; and the nobles of Liguria, who trembled at the near approach of a civil war, fell prostrate at the feet of the patrician, and conjured him to spare their unhappy country. "For my own part,"

replied Ricimer, in a tone of insolent moderation, "I am still inclined to embrace the friendship of the Galatian; [103] but who will undertake to appease his anger, or to mitigate the pride, which always rises

in proportion to our submission?" They informed him, that Epiphanius, bishop of Pavia, [104] united the wisdom of the serpent with the

innocence of the dove; and appeared confident, that the eloquence of

such an ambassador must prevail against the strongest opposition, either of interest or passion. Their recommendation was approved; and epiphanius, assuming the benevolent office of mediation, proceeded without delay to Rome, where he was received with the honors due to his

merit and reputation. The oration of a bishop in favor of peace may be easily supposed; he argued, that, in all possible circumstances, the forgiveness of injuries must be an act of mercy, or magnanimity, or

prudence; and he seriously admonished the emperor to avoid a contest with a fierce Barbarian, which might be fatal to himself, and must be ruinous to his dominions. Anthemius acknowledged the truth of his

maxims; but he deeply felt, with grief and indignation, the behavior

of Ricimer, and his passion gave eloquence and energy to his discourse.

"What favors," he warmly exclaimed, "have we refused to this ungrateful

man? What provocations have we not endured! Regardless of the majesty of the purple, I gave my daughter to a Goth; I sacrificed my own blood to the safety of the republic. The liberality which ought to have secured the eternal attachment of Ricimer has exasperated him against his benefactor. What wars has he not excited against the empire! How often

has he instigated and assisted the fury of hostile nations! Shall I now accept his perfidious friendship? Can I hope that he will respect the engagements of a treaty, who has already violated the duties of a son?" but the anger of Anthemius evaporated in these passionate exclamations:

he insensibly yielded to the proposals of Epiphanius; and the bishop

returned to his diocese with the satisfaction of restoring the peace of

Italy, by a reconciliation, [105] of which the sincerity and continuance

might be reasonably suspected. The clemency of the emperor was extorted from his weakness; and Ricimer suspended his ambitious designs till he

had secretly prepared the engines with which he resolved to subvert the throne of Anthemius. The mask of peace and moderation was then thrown aside. The army of Ricimer was fortified by a numerous reenforcement of burgundians and Oriental Suevi: he disclaimed all allegiance to the

Greek emperor, marched from Milan to the Gates of Rome, and fixing his camp on the banks of the Anio, impatiently expected the arrival of

Olybrius, his Imperial candidate.

[Footnote 102: Ricimer, under the reign of Anthemius, defeated and slew

in battle Beorgor, king of the Alani, (Jornandes, c. 45, p. 678.) His

sister had married the king of the Burgundians, and he maintained an

intimate connection with the Suevic colony established in Pannonia and

Noricum.]

[Footnote 103: Galatam concitatum. Sirmond (in his notes to Ennodius) applies this appellation to Anthemius himself. The emperor was probably born in the province of Galatia, whose inhabitants, the Gallo-Grecians, were supposed to unite the vices of a savage and a corrupted people.]

[Footnote 104: Epiphanius was thirty years bishop of Pavia, (A.D.

467-497;) see Tillemont, Mem. Eccles. tom. xvi. p. 788. His name and actions would have been unknown to posterity, if Ennodius, one of

his successors, had not written his life; (Sirmond, Opera tom. i. p.

1647-1692;) in which he represents him as one of the greatest characters

of the age]

[Footnote 105: Ennodius (p. 1659-1664) has related this embassy of epiphanius; and his narrative, verbose and turgid as it must appear,

illustrates some curious passages in the fall of the Western empire.]

the senator Olybrius, of the Anician family, might esteem himself the

lawful heir of the Western empire. He had married Placidia, the younger daughter of Valentinian, after she was restored by Genseric; who still detained her sister Eudoxia, as the wife, or rather as the captive,

of his son. The king of the Vandals supported, by threats and

solicitations, the fair pretensions of his Roman ally; and assigned, as

one of the motives of the war, the refusal of the senate and people to acknowledge their lawful prince, and the unworthy preference which they

had given to a stranger. [106] The friendship of the public enemy might

render Olybrius still more unpopular to the Italians; but when Ricimer

meditated the ruin of the emperor Anthemius, he tempted, with the

offer of a diadem, the candidate who could justify his rebellion by an

illustrious name and a royal alliance. The husband of Placidia, who,

like most of his ancestors, had been invested with the consular dignity,

might have continued to enjoy a secure and splendid fortune in the

peaceful residence of Constantinople; nor does he appear to have been tormented by such a genius as cannot be amused or occupied, unless by the administration of an empire. Yet Olybrius yielded to the

importunities of his friends, perhaps of his wife; rashly plunged

into the dangers and calamities of a civil war; and, with the secret connivance of the emperor Leo, accepted the Italian purple, which was bestowed, and resumed, at the capricious will of a Barbarian. He landed without obstacle (for Genseric was master of the sea) either at Ravenna,

or the port of Ostia, and immediately proceeded to the camp of Ricimer, where he was received as the sovereign of the Western world. [107]

[Footnote 106: Priscus, Excerpt. Legation p. 74. Procopius de Bell.

Vandel l. i. c. 6, p. 191. Eudoxia and her daughter were restored after the death of Majorian. Perhaps the consulship of Olybrius (A.D. 464) was bestowed as a nuptial present.]

[Footnote 107: The hostile appearance of Olybrius is fixed

(notwithstanding the opinion of Pagi) by the duration of his reign. The

secret connivance of Leo is acknowledged by Theophanes and the Paschal chronicle. We are ignorant of his motives; but in this obscure period,

our ignorance extends to the most public and important facts.]

the patrician, who had extended his posts from the Anio to the Melvian bridge, already possessed two quarters of Rome, the Vatican and the

Janiculum, which are separated by the Tyber from the rest of the city;

[108] and it may be conjectured, that an assembly of seceding senators

imitated, in the choice of Olybrius, the forms of a legal election. but the body of the senate and people firmly adhered to the cause of anthemius; and the more effectual support of a Gothic army enabled him to prolong his reign, and the public distress, by a resistance of three

months, which produced the concomitant evils of famine and pestilence. at length Ricimer made a furious assault on the bridge of Hadrian, or

St. Angelo; and the narrow pass was defended with equal valor by the

Goths, till the death of Gilimer, their leader. The victorious troops, breaking down every barrier, rushed with irresistible violence into the heart of the city, and Rome (if we may use the language of a contemporary pope) was subverted by the civil fury of Anthemius and Ricimer. [109] The unfortunate Anthemius was dragged from his concealment, and inhumanly massacred by the command of his son-in-law; who thus added a third, or perhaps a fourth, emperor to the number of

his victims. The soldiers, who united the rage of factious citizens with the savage manners of Barbarians, were indulged, without control, in the license of rapine and murder: the crowd of slaves and plebeians, who were unconcerned in the event, could only gain by the indiscriminate

pillage; and the face of the city exhibited the strange contrast of

stern cruelty and dissolute intemperance. [110] Forty days after this calamitous event, the subject, not of glory, but of guilt, Italy was delivered, by a painful disease, from the tyrant Ricimer, who bequeathed the command of his army to his nephew Gundobald, one of the princes of the Burgundians. In the same year all the principal actors in this great

revolution were removed from the stage; and the whole reign of Olybrius, whose death does not betray any symptoms of violence, is included within the term of seven months. He left one daughter, the offspring of

his marriage with Placidia; and the family of the great Theodosius, transplanted from Spain to Constantinople, was propagated in the female

line as far as the eighth generation. [111]

[Footnote 108: Of the fourteen regions, or quarters, into which Rome was divided by Augustus, only one, the Janiculum, lay on the Tuscan side

of the Tyber. But, in the fifth century, the Vatican suburb formed a considerable city; and in the ecclesiastical distribution, which had been recently made by Simplicius, the reigning pope, two of the seven

regions, or parishes of Rome, depended on the church of St. Peter. See

Nardini Roma Antica, p. 67. It would require a tedious dissertation to mark the circumstances, in which I am inclined to depart from the topography of that learned Roman.]

[Footnote 109: Nuper Anthemii et Ricimeris civili furore subversa est.

Gelasius in Epist. ad Andromach. apud Baron. A.D. 496, No. 42, Sigonius

(tom. i. l. xiv. de Occidentali Imperio, p. 542, 543,) and Muratori

(Annali d'Italia, tom. iv. p. 308, 309,) with the aid of a less

imperfect Ms. of the Historia Miscella., have illustrated this dark and bloody transaction.]

[Footnote 110: Such had been the saeva ac deformis urbe tota facies, when Rome was assaulted and stormed by the troops of Vespasian, (see tacit. Hist. iii. 82, 83;) and every cause of mischief had since acquired much additional energy. The revolution of ages may bring round the same calamities; but ages may revolve without producing a Tacitus to describe them.]

[Footnote 111: See Ducange, Familiae Byzantin. p. 74, 75. Areobindus, who appears to have married the niece of the emperor Justinian, was the eighth descendant of the elder Theodosius.]

chapter XXXVI: Total Extinction Of The Western Empire.--Part V.

whilst the vacant throne of Italy was abandoned to lawless Barbarians,

[112] the election of a new colleague was seriously agitated in the council of Leo. The empress Verina, studious to promote the greatness

of her own family, had married one of her nieces to Julius Nepos, who

succeeded his uncle Marcellinus in the sovereignty of Dalmatia, a more

solid possession than the title which he was persuaded to accept, of emperor of the West. But the measures of the Byzantine court were so

languid and irresolute, that many months elapsed after the death of anthemius, and even of Olybrius, before their destined successor could

show himself, with a respectable force, to his Italian subjects. During that interval, Glycerius, an obscure soldier, was invested with the

purple by his patron Gundobald; but the Burgundian prince was unable,

or unwilling, to support his nomination by a civil war: the pursuits of domestic ambition recalled him beyond the Alps, [113] and his client was permitted to exchange the Roman sceptre for the bishopric of

Salona. After extinguishing such a competitor, the emperor Nepos was acknowledged by the senate, by the Italians, and by the provincials of

Gaul; his moral virtues, and military talents, were loudly celebrated; and those who derived any private benefit from his government, announced, in prophetic strains, the restoration of the public felicity.

[114] Their hopes (if such hopes had been entertained) were confounded within the term of a single year, and the treaty of peace, which ceded auvergue to the Visigoths, is the only event of his short and inglorious

reign. The most faithful subjects of Gaul were sacrificed, by the

Italian emperor, to the hope of domestic security; [115] but his repose was soon invaded by a furious sedition of the Barbarian confederates, who, under the command of Orestes, their general, were in full march from Rome to Ravenna. Nepos trembled at their approach; and, instead of

placing a just confidence in the strength of Ravenna, he hastily escaped to his ships, and retired to his Dalmatian principality, on the opposite coast of the Adriatic. By this shameful abdication, he protracted his

life about five years, in a very ambiguous state, between an emperor and an exile, till he was assassinated at Salona by the ungrateful

Glycerius, who was translated, perhaps as the reward of his crime, to the archbishopric of Milan. [116]

[Footnote 112: The last revolutions of the Western empire are faintly

marked in Theophanes, (p. 102,) Jornandes, (c. 45, p. 679,) the chronicle of Marcellinus, and the Fragments of an anonymous writer,

published by Valesius at the end of Ammianus, (p. 716, 717.) If Photius

had not been so wretchedly concise, we should derive much information from the contemporary histories of Malchus and Candidus. See his extracts, p. 172-179.]

[Footnote 113: See Greg. Turon. l. ii. c. 28, in tom. ii. p. 175. dubos, Hist. Critique, tom. i. p. 613. By the murder or death of his two brothers, Gundobald acquired the sole possession of the kingdom of burgundy, whose ruin was hastened by their discord.]

[Footnote 114: Julius Nepos armis pariter summus Augustus ac moribus.

Sidonius, l. v. ep. 16, p. 146. Nepos had given to Ecdicius the title

of Patrician, which Anthemius had promised, decessoris Anthemii fidem absolvit. See l. viii. ep. 7, p. 224.]

[Footnote 115: Epiphanius was sent ambassador from Nepos to the

Visigoths, for the purpose of ascertaining the fines Imperii Italici,

(Ennodius in Sirmond, tom. i. p. 1665-1669.) His pathetic discourse concealed the disgraceful secret which soon excited the just and bitter complaints of the bishop of Clermont.]

[Footnote 116: Malchus, apud Phot. p. 172. Ennod. Epigram. lxxxii. in

Sirmond. Oper. tom. i. p. 1879. Some doubt may, however, be raised on the identity of the emperor and the archbishop.]

the nations who had asserted their independence after the death of attila, were established, by the right of possession or conquest, in the boundless countries to the north of the Danube; or in the Roman

provinces between the river and the Alps. But the bravest of their youth enlisted in the army of confederates, who formed the defence and the terror of Italy; [117] and in this promiscuous multitude, the names

of the Heruli, the Scyrri, the Alani, the Turcilingi, and the Rugians, appear to have predominated. The example of these warriors was imitated by Orestes, [118] the son of Tatullus, and the father of the last Roman emperor of the West. Orestes, who has been already mentioned in this

History, had never deserted his country. His birth and fortunes rendered

him one of the most illustrious subjects of Pannonia. When that province was ceded to the Huns, he entered into the service of Attila, his lawful

sovereign, obtained the office of his secretary, and was repeatedly sent ambassador to Constantinople, to represent the person, and signify the commands, of the imperious monarch. The death of that conqueror restored

him to his freedom; and Orestes might honorably refuse either to follow the sons of Attila into the Scythian desert, or to obey the Ostrogoths, who had usurped the dominion of Pannonia. He preferred the service of the Italian princes, the successors of Valentinian; and as he possessed the qualifications of courage, industry, and experience, he advanced with rapid steps in the military profession, till he was elevated, by the favor of Nepos himself, to the dignities of patrician, and

master-general of the troops. These troops had been long accustomed to

reverence the character and authority of Orestes, who affected their

manners, conversed with them in their own language, and was intimately connected with their national chieftains, by long habits of familiarity and friendship. At his solicitation they rose in arms against the

obscure Greek, who presumed to claim their obedience; and when Orestes, from some secret motive, declined the purple, they consented, with the

same facility, to acknowledge his son Augustulus as the emperor of the west. By the abdication of Nepos, Orestes had now attained the summit of

his ambitious hopes; but he soon discovered, before the end of the first

year, that the lessons of perjury and ingratitude, which a rebel must

inculcate, will be resorted to against himself; and that the precarious

sovereign of Italy was only permitted to choose, whether he would be the slave, or the victim, of his Barbarian mercenaries. The dangerous alliance of these strangers had oppressed and insulted the last

remains of Roman freedom and dignity. At each revolution, their pay and

privileges were augmented; but their insolence increased in a still more extravagant degree; they envied the fortune of their brethren in Gaul,

Spain, and Africa, whose victorious arms had acquired an independent and perpetual inheritance; and they insisted on their peremptory demand, that a third part of the lands of Italy should be immediately divided among them. Orestes, with a spirit, which, in another situation, might be entitled to our esteem, chose rather to encounter the rage of an armed multitude, than to subscribe the ruin of an innocent people. He

rejected the audacious demand; and his refusal was favorable to the ambition of Odoacer; a bold Barbarian, who assured his fellow-soldiers, that, if they dared to associate under his command, they might soon extort the justice which had been denied to their dutiful petitions. from all the camps and garrisons of Italy, the confederates, actuated by the same resentment and the same hopes, impatiently flocked to the standard of this popular leader; and the unfortunate patrician,

overwhelmed by the torrent, hastily retreated to the strong city of

Pavia, the episcopal seat of the holy Epiphanites. Pavia was immediately besieged, the fortifications were stormed, the town was pillaged; and although the bishop might labor, with much zeal and some success, to

save the property of the church, and the chastity of female captives, the tumult could only be appeased by the execution of Orestes. [119]

His brother Paul was slain in an action near Ravenna; and the helpless augustulus, who could no longer command the respect, was reduced to

implore the clemency, of Odoacer.

[Footnote 117: Our knowledge of these mercenaries, who subverted the western empire, is derived from Procopius, (de Bell. Gothico, l. i. c.

i. p. 308.) The popular opinion, and the recent historians, represent

Odoacer in the false light of a stranger, and a king, who invaded Italy with an army of foreigners, his native subjects.]

[Footnote 118: Orestes, qui eo tempore quando Attila ad Italiam venit,

se illi unxit, ejus notarius factus fuerat. Anonym. Vales. p. 716. He

is mistaken in the date; but we may credit his assertion, that the

secretary of Attila was the father of Augustulus]

[Footnote 119: See Ennodius, (in Vit. Epiphan. Sirmond, tom. i. p. 1669,

1670.) He adds weight to the narrative of Procopius, though we may doubt whether the devil actually contrived the siege of Pavia, to distress the bishop and his flock.]

that successful Barbarian was the son of Edecon; who, in some remarkable transactions, particularly described in a preceding chapter, had been the colleague of Orestes himself. [1191] The honor of an ambassador

should be exempt from suspicion; and Edecon had listened to a conspiracy against the life of his sovereign. But this apparent guilt was expiated by his merit or repentance; his rank was eminent and conspicuous; he enjoyed the favor of Attila; and the troops under his command, who

guarded, in their turn, the royal village, consisted of a tribe of

Scyrri, his immediate and hereditary subjects. In the revolt of the

nations, they still adhered to the Huns; and more than twelve years afterwards, the name of Edecon is honorably mentioned, in their unequal contests with the Ostrogoths; which was terminated, after two bloody battles, by the defeat and dispersion of the Scyrri. [120] Their gallant

leader, who did not survive this national calamity, left two sons, Onulf and Odoacer, to struggle with adversity, and to maintain as they might, by rapine or service, the faithful followers of their exile. Onulf directed his steps towards Constantinople, where he sullied, by the assassination of a generous benefactor, the fame which he had acquired

in arms. His brother Odoacer led a wandering life among the Barbarians

of Noricum, with a mind and a fortune suited to the most desperate adventures; and when he had fixed his choice, he piously visited the cell of Severinus, the popular saint of the country, to solicit his approbation and blessing. The lowness of the door would not admit the

lofty stature of Odoacer: he was obliged to stoop; but in that humble attitude the saint could discern the symptoms of his future greatness; and addressing him in a prophetic tone, "Pursue" (said he) "your design;

proceed to Italy; you will soon cast away this coarse garment of skins; and your wealth will be adequate to the liberality of your mind." [121] the Barbarian, whose daring spirit accepted and ratified the prediction, was admitted into the service of the Western empire, and soon obtained an honorable rank in the guards. His manners were gradually polished,

his military skill was improved, and the confederates of Italy would not

have elected him for their general, unless the exploits of Odoacer had established a high opinion of his courage and capacity. [122] Their

military acclamations saluted him with the title of king; but he abstained, during his whole reign, from the use of the purple and diadem, [123] lest he should offend those princes, whose subjects, by their accidental mixture, had formed the victorious army, which time and

policy might insensibly unite into a great nation.

[Footnote 1191: Manso observes that the evidence which identifies edecon, the father of Odoacer, with the colleague of Orestes, is not conclusive. Geschichte des Ost-Gothischen Reiches, p. 32. But St. Martin

inclines to agree with Gibbon, note, vi. 75.--M.]

[Footnote 120: Jornandes, c. 53, 54, p. 692-695. M. de Buat (Hist. des

Peuples de l'Europe, tom. viii. p. 221-228) has clearly explained the

origin and adventures of Odoacer. I am almost inclined to believe that

he was the same who pillaged Angers, and commanded a fleet of Saxon

pirates on the ocean. Greg. Turon. l. ii. c. 18, in tom. ii. p. 170.

8 Note: According to St. Martin there is no foundation for this conjecture, vii 5--M.]

[Footnote 121: Vade ad Italiam, vade vilissimis nunc pellibus coopertis:

sed multis cito plurima largiturus. Anonym. Vales. p. 717. He quotes the

life of St. Severinus, which is extant, and contains much unknown and

valuable history; it was composed by his disciple Eugippius (A.D. 511) thirty years after his death. See Tillemont, Mem. Eccles. tom. xvi. p.

168-181.]

[Footnote 122: Theophanes, who calls him a Goth, affirms, that he was educated, aursed in Italy, (p. 102;) and as this strong expression will

not bear a literal interpretation, it must be explained by long service

in the Imperial guards.]

[Footnote 123: Nomen regis Odoacer assumpsit, cum tamen neque purpura

nee regalibus uteretur insignibus. Cassiodor. in Chron. A.D. 476. He

seems to have assumed the abstract title of a king, without applying it to any particular nation or country. 8 Note: Manso observes that Odoacer

never called himself king of Italy, assume the purple, and no coins are extant with his name. Gescnichte Osi Goth. Reiches, p. 36--M.]

Royalty was familiar to the Barbarians, and the submissive people of

Italy was prepared to obey, without a murmur, the authority which he

should condescend to exercise as the vicegerent of the emperor of the west. But Odoacer had resolved to abolish that useless and expensive

office; and such is the weight of antique prejudice, that it required

some boldness and penetration to discover the extreme facility of the enterprise. The unfortunate Augustulus was made the instrument of his

own disgrace: he signified his resignation to the senate; and that assembly, in their last act of obedience to a Roman prince, still affected the spirit of freedom, and the forms of the constitution. An epistle was addressed, by their unanimous decree, to the emperor Zeno, the son-in-law and successor of Leo; who had lately been restored, after a short rebellion, to the Byzantine throne. They solemnly "disclaim the necessity, or even the wish, of continuing any longer the Imperial

succession in Italy; since, in their opinion, the majesty of a sole

monarch is sufficient to pervade and protect, at the same time, both the East and the West. In their own name, and in the name of the people, they consent that the seat of universal empire shall be transferred from

Rome to Constantinople; and they basely renounce the right of choosing their master, the only vestige that yet remained of the authority which

had given laws to the world. The republic (they repeat that name without a blush) might safely confide in the civil and military virtues of

Odoacer; and they humbly request, that the emperor would invest him with the title of Patrician, and the administration of the diocese of Italy." the deputies of the senate were received at Constantinople with some

marks of displeasure and indignation: and when they were admitted to the audience of Zeno, he sternly reproached them with their treatment of the two emperors, Anthemius and Nepos, whom the East had successively

granted to the prayers of Italy. "The first" (continued he) "you have

murdered; the second you have expelled; but the second is still alive, and whilst he lives he is your lawful sovereign." But the prudent Zeno

soon deserted the hopeless cause of his abdicated colleague. His vanity was gratified by the title of sole emperor, and by the statues erected to his honor in the several quarters of Rome; he entertained a friendly, though ambiguous, correspondence with the patrician Odoacer; and he

gratefully accepted the Imperial ensigns, the sacred ornaments of the throne and palace, which the Barbarian was not unwilling to remove from the sight of the people. [124]

[Footnote 124: Malchus, whose loss excites our regret, has preserved

(in Excerpt. Legat. p. 93) this extraordinary embassy from the senate to

Zeno. The anonymous fragment, (p. 717,) and the extract from Candidus,

(apud Phot. p. 176,) are likewise of some use.]

In the space of twenty years since the death of Valentinian, nine emperors had successively disappeared; and the son of Orestes, a youth

recommended only by his beauty, would be the least entitled to the

notice of posterity, if his reign, which was marked by the extinction

of the Roman empire in the West, did not leave a memorable era in the

history of mankind. [125] The patrician Orestes had married the daughter of Count Romulus, of Petovio in Noricum: the name of Augustus,

notwithstanding the jealousy of power, was known at Aquileia as a familiar surname; and the appellations of the two great founders, of the city and of the monarchy, were thus strangely united in the last

of their successors. [126] The son of Orestes assumed and disgraced the

names of Romulus Augustus; but the first was corrupted into Momyllus, by the Greeks, and the second has been changed by the Latins into the contemptible diminutive Augustulus. The life of this inoffensive youth was spared by the generous clemency of Odoacer; who dismissed him, with

his whole family, from the Imperial palace, fixed his annual allowance at six thousand pieces of gold, and assigned the castle of Lucullus, in campania, for the place of his exile or retirement. [127] As soon as the

Romans breathed from the toils of the Punic war, they were attracted by the beauties and the pleasures of Campania; and the country-house of the elder Scipio at Liternum exhibited a lasting model of their rustic

simplicity. [128] The delicious shores of the Bay of Naples were crowded with villas; and Sylla applauded the masterly skill of his rival, who

had seated himself on the lofty promontory of Misenum, that commands, on every side, the sea and land, as far as the boundaries of the horizon.

[129] The villa of Marius was purchased, within a few years, by

Lucullus, and the price had increased from two thousand five hundred, to

more than fourscore thousand, pounds sterling. [130] It was adorned by the new proprietor with Grecian arts and Asiatic treasures; and the

houses and gardens of Lucullus obtained a distinguished rank in the list

of Imperial palaces. [131] When the Vandals became formidable to the

sea-coast, the Lucullan villa, on the promontory of Misenum, gradually assumed the strength and appellation of a strong castle, the obscure

retreat of the last emperor of the West. About twenty years after that

great revolution, it was converted into a church and monastery, to

receive the bones of St. Severinus. They securely reposed, amidst the the broken trophies of Cimbric and Armenian victories,till the beginning

of the tenth century; when the fortifications, which might afford a dangerous shelter to the Saracens, were demolished by the people of

Naples. [132]

[Footnote 125: The precise year in which the Western empire was extinguished, is not positively ascertained. The vulgar era of A.D. 476 appears to have the sanction of authentic chronicles. But the two dates assigned by Jornandes (c. 46, p. 680) would delay that great event to the year 479; and though M. de Buat has overlooked his evidence, he

produces (tom. viii. p. 261-288) many collateral circumstances in

support of the same opinion.]

[Footnote 126: See his medals in Ducange, (Fam. Byzantin. p. 81,)

Priscus, (Excerpt. Legat. p. 56,) Maffei, (Osservazioni Letterarie, tom. ii p. 314.) We may allege a famous and similar case. The meanest

subjects of the Roman empire assumed the illustrious name of Patricius, which, by the conversion of Ireland has been communicated to a whole

nation.]

[Footnote 127: Ingrediens autem Ravennam deposuit Augustulum de regno, cujus infantiam misertus concessit ei sanguinem; et quia pulcher erat, tamen donavit ei reditum sex millia solidos, et misit eum intra campaniam cum parentibus suis libere vivere. Anonym. Vales. p. 716.

Jornandes says, (c 46, p. 680,) in Lucullano Campaniae castello exilii

poena damnavit.]

[Footnote 128: See the eloquent Declamation of Seneca, (Epist. lxxxvi.) the philosopher might have recollected, that all luxury is relative; and that the elder Scipio, whose manners were polished by study and conversation, was himself accused of that vice by his ruder contemporaries, (Livy, xxix. 19.)]

[Footnote 129: Sylla, in the language of a soldier, praised his peritia castrametandi, (Plin. Hist. Natur. xviii. 7.) Phaedrus, who makes its

shady walks (loeta viridia) the scene of an insipid fable, (ii. 5,) has thus described the situation:--

Caesar Tiberius quum petens Neapolim,

In Misenensem villam venissit suam;

Quae monte summo posita Luculli manu

Prospectat Siculum et prospicit Tuscum mare.]

[Footnote 130: From seven myriads and a half to two hundred and fifty

myriads of drachmae. Yet even in the possession of Marius, it was a luxurious retirement. The Romans derided his indolence; they soon bewailed his activity. See Plutarch, in Mario, tom. ii. p. 524.]

[Footnote 131: Lucullus had other villa of equal, though various,

magnificence, at Baiae, Naples, Tusculum, &c., He boasted that he changed his climate with the storks and cranes. Plutarch, in Lucull. tom. iii. p. 193.]

[Footnote 132: Severinus died in Noricum, A.D. 482. Six years afterwards, his body, which scattered miracles as it passed, was transported by his disciples into Italy. The devotion of a Neapolitan

lady invited the saint to the Lucullan villa, in the place of augustulus, who was probably no more. See Baronius (Annal. Eccles. A.D.

496, No. 50, 51) and Tillemont, (Mem. Eccles. tom. xvi. p. 178-181,) from the original life by Eugippius. The narrative of the last migration

of Severinus to Naples is likewise an authentic piece.]

Odoacer was the first Barbarian who reigned in Italy, over a people who

had once asserted their just superiority above the rest of mankind. The disgrace of the Romans still excites our respectful compassion, and we fondly sympathize with the imaginary grief and indignation of their degenerate posterity. But the calamities of Italy had gradually subdued the proud consciousness of freedom and glory. In the age of Roman virtue the provinces were subject to the arms, and the citizens to the laws, of the republic; till those laws were subverted by civil discord, and both the city and the province became the servile property of a tyrant. The forms of the constitution, which alleviated or disguised their abject

slavery, were abolished by time and violence; the Italians alternately

lamented the presence or the absence of the sovereign, whom they detested or despised; and the succession of five centuries inflicted the

various evils of military license, capricious despotism, and elaborate

oppression. During the same period, the Barbarians had emerged from

obscurity and contempt, and the warriors of Germany and Scythia were

introduced into the provinces, as the servants, the allies, and at

length the masters, of the Romans, whom they insulted or protected. The

hatred of the people was suppressed by fear; they respected the spirit and splendor of the martial chiefs who were invested with the honors of the empire; and the fate of Rome had long depended on the sword of those formidable strangers. The stern Ricimer, who trampled on the ruins of

Italy, had exercised the power, without assuming the title, of a king; and the patient Romans were insensibly prepared to acknowledge the

royalty of Odoacer and his Barbaric successors. The king of Italy was

not unworthy of the high station to which his valor and fortune

had exalted him: his savage manners were polished by the habits of conversation; and he respected, though a conqueror and a Barbarian, the institutions, and even the prejudices, of his subjects. After an

interval of seven years, Odoacer restored the consulship of the West. for himself, he modestly, or proudly, declined an honor which was

still accepted by the emperors of the East; but the curule chair was

successively filled by eleven of the most illustrious senators; [133] and the list is adorned by the respectable name of Basilius, whose

virtues claimed the friendship and grateful applause of Sidonius, his client. [134] The laws of the emperors were strictly enforced, and the civil administration of Italy was still exercised by the Praetorian

praefect and his subordinate officers. Odoacer devolved on the Roman

magistrates the odious and oppressive task of collecting the public

revenue; but he reserved for himself the merit of seasonable and

popular indulgence. [135] Like the rest of the Barbarians, he had been instructed in the Arian heresy; but he revered the monastic and episcopal characters; and the silence of the Catholics attest the toleration which they enjoyed. The peace of the city required the

interposition of his praefect Basilius in the choice of a Roman pontiff: the decree which restrained the clergy from alienating their lands was

ultimately designed for the benefit of the people, whose devotions would

have been taxed to repair the dilapidations of the church. [136] Italy was protected by the arms of its conqueror; and its frontiers were

respected by the Barbarians of Gaul and Germany, who had so long

insulted the feeble race of Theodosius. Odoacer passed the Adriatic, to chastise the assassins of the emperor Nepos, and to acquire the maritime

province of Dalmatia. He passed the Alps, to rescue the remains of

Noricum from Fava, or Feletheus, king of the Rugians, who held his

residence beyond the Danube. The king was vanquished in battle, and

led away prisoner; a numerous colony of captives and subjects was transplanted into Italy; and Rome, after a long period of defeat and disgrace, might claim the triumph of her Barbarian master. [137]

[Footnote 133: The consular Fasti may be found in Pagi or Muratori. The consuls named by Odoacer, or perhaps by the Roman senate, appear to have been acknowledged in the Eastern empire.]

[Footnote 134: Sidonius Apollinaris (l. i. epist. 9, p. 22, edit.

Sirmond) has compared the two leading senators of his time, (A.D. 468,)

Gennadius Avienus and Caecina Basilius. To the former he assigns the

specious, to the latter the solid, virtues of public and private life. A basilius junior, possibly his son, was consul in the year 480.]

[Footnote 135: Epiphanius interceded for the people of Pavia; and the

king first granted an indulgence of five years, and afterwards relieved them from the oppression of Pelagius, the Praetorian praefect, (Ennodius

in Vit St. Epiphan., in Sirmond, Oper. tom. i. p. 1670-1672.)]

[Footnote 136: See Baronius, Annal. Eccles. A.D. 483, No. 10-15. Sixteen

years afterwards the irregular proceedings of Basilius were condemned by

Pope Symmachus in a Roman synod.]

[Footnote 137: The wars of Odoacer are concisely mentioned by Paul the deacon, (de Gest. Langobard. l. i. c. 19, p. 757, edit. Grot.,) and

in the two Chronicles of Cassiodorus and Cuspinian. The life of St.

Severinus by Eugippius, which the count de Buat (Hist. des Peuples, &c., tom. viii. c. 1, 4, 8, 9) has diligently studied, illustrates the ruin

of Noricum and the Bavarian antiquities]

Notwithstanding the prudence and success of Odoacer, his kingdom exhibited the sad prospect of misery and desolation. Since the age of tiberius, the decay of agriculture had been felt in Italy; and it was a

just subject of complaint, that the life of the Roman people depended

on the accidents of the winds and waves. [138] In the division and the decline of the empire, the tributary harvests of Egypt and Africa were withdrawn; the numbers of the inhabitants continually diminished with the means of subsistence; and the country was exhausted by the

irretrievable losses of war, famine, [139] and pestilence. St. Ambrose

has deplored the ruin of a populous district, which had been once adorned with the flourishing cities of Bologna, Modena, Regium, and

Placentia. [140] Pope Gelasius was a subject of Odoacer; and he affirms, with strong exaggeration, that in Aemilia, Tuscany, and the adjacent

provinces, the human species was almost extirpated. [141] The plebeians

of Rome, who were fed by the hand of their master, perished or disappeared, as soon as his liberality was suppressed; the decline of the arts reduced the industrious mechanic to idleness and want; and the

senators, who might support with patience the ruin of their country, bewailed their private loss of wealth and luxury. [1411] One third of those ample estates, to which the ruin of Italy is originally imputed,

[142] was extorted for the use of the conquerors. Injuries were aggravated by insults; the sense of actual sufferings was imbittered by the fear of more dreadful evils; and as new lands were allotted to the new swarms of Barbarians, each senator was apprehensive lest the arbitrary surveyors should approach his favorite villa, or his most

profitable farm. The least unfortunate were those who submitted without a murmur to the power which it was impossible to resist. Since they desired to live, they owed some gratitude to the tyrant who had spared their lives; and since he was the absolute master of their fortunes, the

portion which he left must be accepted as his pure and voluntary gift.

[143] The distress of Italy [1431] was mitigated by the prudence and humanity of Odoacer, who had bound himself, as the price of

his elevation, to satisfy the demands of a licentious and turbulent

multitude. The kings of the Barbarians were frequently resisted, deposed, or murdered, by their native subjects, and the various bands

of Italian mercenaries, who associated under the standard of an elective

general, claimed a larger privilege of freedom and rapine. A monarchy destitute of national union, and hereditary right, hastened to its dissolution. After a reign of fourteen years, Odoacer was oppressed by the superior genius of Theodoric, king of the Ostrogoths; a hero alike excellent in the arts of war and of government, who restored an age

of peace and prosperity, and whose name still excites and deserves the attention of mankind.

[Footnote 138: Tacit. Annal. iii. 53. The Recherches sur

l'Administration des Terres chez les Romains (p. 351-361) clearly state the progress of internal decay.]

[Footnote 139: A famine, which afflicted Italy at the time of the

irruption of Odoacer, king of the Heruli, is eloquently described, in

prose and verse, by a French poet, (Les Mois, tom. ii. p. 174, 205, edit. in 12 mo.) I am ignorant from whence he derives his information; but I am well assured that he relates some facts incompatible with the truth of history]

[Footnote 140: See the xxxixth epistle of St. Ambrose, as it is quoted by Muratori, sopra le Antichita Italiane, tom. i. Dissert. xxi. p. 354.]

[Footnote 141: Aemilia, Tuscia, ceteraeque provinciae in quibus hominum

propenullus exsistit. Gelasius, Epist. ad Andromachum, ap. Baronium, annal. Eccles. A.D. 496, No. 36.]

[Footnote 1411: Denina supposes that the Barbarians were compelled by necessity to turn their attention to agriculture. Italy, either

imperfectly cultivated, or not at all, by the indolent or ruined

proprietors, not only could not furnish the imposts, on which the pay of the soldiery depended, but not even a certain supply of the necessaries

of life. The neighboring countries were now occupied by warlike nations; the supplies of corn from Africa were cut off; foreign commerce nearly destroyed; they could not look for supplies beyond the limits of Italy, throughout which the agriculture had been long in a state of progressive but rapid depression. (Denina, Rev. d'Italia t. v. c. i.)--M.]

[Footnote 142: Verumque confitentibus, latifundia perdidere Italiam.

Plin. Hist. Natur. xviii. 7.]

[Footnote 143: Such are the topics of consolation, or rather of

patience, which Cicero (ad Familiares, lib. ix. Epist. 17) suggests to

his friend Papirius Paetus, under the military despotism of Caesar. the argument, however, of "vivere pulcherrimum duxi," is more forcibly addressed to a Roman philosopher, who possessed the free alternative of

life or death]

[Footnote 1431: Compare, on the desolation and change of property in

Italy, Manno des Ost-Gothischen Reiches, Part ii. p. 73, et seq.--M.]

chapter XXXVII: Conversion Of The Barbarians To Christianity.--Part I.

Origin Progress, And Effects Of The Monastic Life.--

Conversion Of The Barbarians To Christianity And Arianism.--

Persecution Of The Vandals In Africa.--Extinction Of

Arianism Among The Barbarians.

the indissoluble connection of civil and ecclesiastical affairs has compelled, and encouraged, me to relate the progress, the persecutions, the establishment, the divisions, the final triumph, and the gradual corruption, of Christianity. I have purposely delayed the consideration

of two religious events, interesting in the study of human nature, and important in the decline and fall of the Roman empire. I. The

institution of the monastic life; [1] and, II. The conversion of the

northern Barbarians.

[Footnote 1: The origin of the monastic institution has been laboriously discussed by Thomassin (Discipline de l'Eglise, tom. i. p. 1119-1426) and Helyot, (Hist. des Ordres Monastiques, tom. i. p. 1-66.) These authors are very learned, and tolerably honest, and their difference

of opinion shows the subject in its full extent. Yet the cautious

Protestant, who distrusts any popish guides, may consult the seventh book of Bingham's Christian Antiquities.]

I. Prosperity and peace introduced the distinction of the vulgar and the Ascetic Christians. [2] The loose and imperfect practice of religion

satisfied the conscience of the multitude. The prince or magistrate, the

soldier or merchant, reconciled their fervent zeal, and implicit faith, with the exercise of their profession, the pursuit of their interest, and the indulgence of their passions: but the Ascetics, who obeyed and abused the rigid precepts of the gospel, were inspired by the savage enthusiasm which represents man as a criminal, and God as a tyrant. They

seriously renounced the business, and the pleasures, of the age; abjured the use of wine, of flesh, and of marriage; chastised their body,

mortified their affections, and embraced a life of misery, as the price

of eternal happiness. In the reign of Constantine, the Ascetics fled from a profane and degenerate world, to perpetual solitude, or religious

society. Like the first Christians of Jerusalem, [3] [311] they resigned the use, or the property of their temporal possessions; established

regular communities of the same sex, and a similar disposition; and assumed the names of Hermits, Monks, and Anachorets, expressive of their

lonely retreat in a natural or artificial desert. They soon acquired the

respect of the world, which they despised; and the loudest applause was bestowed on this Divine Philosophy, [4] which surpassed, without the aid

of science or reason, the laborious virtues of the Grecian schools. The

monks might indeed contend with the Stoics, in the contempt of fortune,

of pain, and of death: the Pythagorean silence and submission were

revived in their servile discipline; and they disdained, as firmly as the Cynics themselves, all the forms and decencies of civil society. But the votaries of this Divine Philosophy aspired to imitate a purer and

more perfect model. They trod in the footsteps of the prophets, who

had retired to the desert; [5] and they restored the devout and contemplative life, which had been instituted by the Essenians, in

Palestine and Egypt. The philosophic eye of Pliny had surveyed with astonishment a solitary people, who dwelt among the palm-trees near the Dead Sea; who subsisted without money, who were propagated without women; and who derived from the disgust and repentance of mankind a

perpetual supply of voluntary associates. [6]

[Footnote 2: See Euseb. Demonstrat. Evangel., (l. i. p. 20, 21, edit.

Graec. Rob. Stephani, Paris, 1545.) In his Ecclesiastical History,

published twelve years after the Demonstration, Eusebius (l. ii. c. 17) asserts the Christianity of the Therapeutae; but he appears ignorant that a similar institution was actually revived in Egypt.]

[Footnote 3: Cassian (Collat. xviii. 5.) claims this origin for the

institution of the Coenobites, which gradually decayed till it was

restored by Antony and his disciples.]

[Footnote 311: It has before been shown that the first Christian community was not strictly coenobitic. See vol. ii.--M.]

[Footnote 4: These are the expressive words of Sozomen, who copiously and agreeably describes (l. i. c. 12, 13, 14) the origin and progress

of this monkish philosophy, (see Suicer. Thesau, Eccles., tom. ii.

p. 1441.) Some modern writers, Lipsius (tom. iv. p. 448. Manuduct. ad

Philosoph. Stoic. iii. 13) and La Mothe le Vayer, (tom. ix. de la

Vertu des Payens, p. 228-262,) have compared the Carmelites to the

Pythagoreans, and the Cynics to the Capucins.]

[Footnote 5: The Carmelites derive their pedigree, in regular

succession, from the prophet Elijah, (see the Theses of Beziers, A.D.

1682, in Bayle's Nouvelles de la Republique des Lettres, Oeuvres, tom. i. p. 82, &c., and the prolix irony of the Ordres Monastiques, an anonymous work, tom. i. p. 1-433, Berlin, 1751.) Rome, and the

inquisition of Spain, silenced the profane criticism of the Jesuits of flanders, (Helyot, Hist. des Ordres Monastiques, tom. i. p. 282-300,) and the statue of Elijah, the Carmelite, has been erected in the church

of St. Peter, (Voyages du P. Labat tom. iii. p. 87.)]

[Footnote 6: Plin. Hist. Natur. v. 15. Gens sola, et in toto orbe

praeter ceteras mira, sine ulla femina, omni venere abdicata, sine

pecunia, socia palmarum. Ita per seculorum millia (incredibile dictu)

gens aeterna est in qua nemo nascitur. Tam foecunda illis aliorum vitae

poenitentia est. He places them just beyond the noxious influence of the

lake, and names Engaddi and Massada as the nearest towns. The Laura, and

monastery of St. Sabas, could not be far distant from this place. See

Reland. Palestin., tom. i. p. 295; tom. ii. p. 763, 874, 880, 890.]

egypt, the fruitful parent of superstition, afforded the first example

of the monastic life. Antony, [7] an illiterate [8] youth of the lower

parts of Thebais, distributed his patrimony, [9] deserted his family and native home, and executed his monastic penance with original and

intrepid fanaticism. After a long and painful novitiate, among the tombs, and in a ruined tower, he boldly advanced into the desert three days' journey to the eastward of the Nile; discovered a lonely spot, which possessed the advantages of shade and water, and fixed his last

residence on Mount Colzim, near the Red Sea; where an ancient monastery

still preserves the name and memory of the saint. [10] The curious devotion of the Christians pursued him to the desert; and when he was

obliged to appear at Alexandria, in the face of mankind, he supported

his fame with discretion and dignity. He enjoyed the friendship of athanasius, whose doctrine he approved; and the Egyptian peasant

respectfully declined a respectful invitation from the emperor constantine. The venerable patriarch (for Antony attained the age of

one hundred and five years) beheld the numerous progeny which had been formed by his example and his lessons. The prolific colonies of monks

multiplied with rapid increase on the sands of Libya, upon the rocks of thebais, and in the cities of the Nile. To the south of Alexandria, the

mountain, and adjacent desert, of Nitria, were peopled by five thousand anachorets; and the traveller may still investigate the ruins of fifty

monasteries, which were planted in that barren soil by the disciples of antony. [11] In the Upper Thebais, the vacant island of Tabenne, [12] was occupied by Pachomius and fourteen hundred of his brethren. That

holy abbot successively founded nine monasteries of men, and one of women; and the festival of Easter sometimes collected fifty thousand

religious persons, who followed his angelic rule of discipline. [13] the stately and populous city of Oxyrinchus, the seat of Christian

orthodoxy, had devoted the temples, the public edifices, and even the

ramparts, to pious and charitable uses; and the bishop, who might preach

in twelve churches, computed ten thousand females and twenty thousand

males, of the monastic profession. [14] The Egyptians, who gloried in this marvellous revolution, were disposed to hope, and to believe, that the number of the monks was equal to the remainder of the people; [15] and posterity might repeat the saying, which had formerly been applied to the sacred animals of the same country, That in Egypt it was less difficult to find a god than a man.

[Footnote 7: See Athanas. Op. tom. ii. p. 450-505, and the Vit. Patrum,

p. 26-74, with Rosweyde's Annotations. The former is the Greek original the latter, a very ancient Latin version by Evagrius, the friend of St.

Jerom.]

[Footnote 8: Athanas. tom. ii. in Vit. St. Anton. p. 452; and the assertion of his total ignorance has been received by many of the ancients and moderns. But Tillemont (Mem. Eccles. tom. vii. p. 666)

shows, by some probable arguments, that Antony could read and write in the Coptic, his native tongue; and that he was only a stranger to the

Greek letters. The philosopher Synesius (p. 51) acknowledges that the

natural genius of Antony did not require the aid of learning.]

[Footnote 9: Aruroe autem erant ei trecentae uberes, et valde optimae,

(Vit. Patr. l. v. p. 36.) If the Arura be a square measure, of a hundred egyptian cubits, (Rosweyde, Onomasticon ad Vit. Patrum, p. 1014, 1015,) and the Egyptian cubit of all ages be equal to twenty-two English

inches, (Greaves, vol. i. p. 233,) the arura will consist of about three

quarters of an English acre.]

[Footnote 10: The description of the monastery is given by Jerom (tom.

i. p. 248, 249, in Vit. Hilarion) and the P. Sicard, (Missions du Levant tom. v. p. 122-200.) Their accounts cannot always be reconciled the father painted from his fancy, and the Jesuit from his experience.]

[Footnote 11: Jerom, tom. i. p. 146, ad Eustochium. Hist. Lausiac. c. 7,

in Vit. Patrum, p. 712. The P. Sicard (Missions du Levant, tom. ii. p.

29-79) visited and has described this desert, which now contains four

monasteries, and twenty or thirty monks. See D'Anville, Description de

l'Egypte, p. 74.]

[Footnote 12: Tabenne is a small island in the Nile, in the diocese of tentyra or Dendera, between the modern town of Girge and the ruins of ancient Thebes, (D'Anville, p. 194.) M. de Tillemont doubts whether it was an isle; but I may conclude, from his own facts, that the primitive

name was afterwards transferred to the great monastery of Bau or Pabau,

(Mem. Eccles. tom. vii. p. 678, 688.)]

[Footnote 13: See in the Codex Regularum (published by Lucas Holstenius,

Rome, 1661) a preface of St. Jerom to his Latin version of the Rule of

Pachomius, tom. i. p. 61.]

[Footnote 14: Rufin. c. 5, in Vit. Patrum, p. 459. He calls it civitas ampla ralde et populosa, and reckons twelve churches. Strabo (l.

xvii. p. 1166) and Ammianus (xxii. 16) have made honorable mention

of Oxyrinchus, whose inhabitants adored a small fish in a magnificent temple.]

[Footnote 15: Quanti populi habentur in urbibus, tantae paene habentur

in desertis multitudines monachorum. Rufin. c. 7, in Vit. Patrum, p.

461. He congratulates the fortunate change.]

athanasius introduced into Rome the knowledge and practice of the

monastic life; and a school of this new philosophy was opened by the disciples of Antony, who accompanied their primate to the holy threshold

of the Vatican. The strange and savage appearance of these Egyptians excited, at first, horror and contempt, and, at length, applause and

zealous imitation. The senators, and more especially the matrons, transformed their palaces and villas into religious houses; and the narrow institution of six vestals was eclipsed by the frequent

monasteries, which were seated on the ruins of ancient temples, and in the midst of the Roman forum. [16] Inflamed by the example of Antony, a

Syrian youth, whose name was Hilarion, [17] fixed his dreary abode on a

sandy beach, between the sea and a morass, about seven miles from Gaza. the austere penance, in which he persisted forty-eight years, diffused a similar enthusiasm; and the holy man was followed by a train of two

or three thousand anachorets, whenever he visited the innumerable

monasteries of Palestine. The fame of Basil [18] is immortal in the

monastic history of the East. With a mind that had tasted the learning and eloquence of Athens; with an ambition scarcely to be satisfied with the archbishopric of Caesarea, Basil retired to a savage solitude in

Pontus; and deigned, for a while, to give laws to the spiritual colonies which he profusely scattered along the coast of the Black Sea. In the west, Martin of Tours, [19] a soldier, a hermit, a bishop, and a saint, established the monasteries of Gaul; two thousand of his disciples followed him to the grave; and his eloquent historian challenges the deserts of Thebais to produce, in a more favorable climate, a champion

of equal virtue. The progress of the monks was not less rapid, or

universal, than that of Christianity itself. Every province, and, at last, every city, of the empire, was filled with their increasing

multitudes; and the bleak and barren isles, from Lerins to Lipari, that arose out of the Tuscan Sea, were chosen by the anachorets for the place

of their voluntary exile. An easy and perpetual intercourse by sea and land connected the provinces of the Roman world; and the life

of Hilarion displays the facility with which an indigent hermit of

Palestine might traverse Egypt, embark for Sicily, escape to Epirus, and finally settle in the Island of Cyprus. [20] The Latin Christians embraced the religious institutions of Rome. The pilgrims, who visited

Jerusalem, eagerly copied, in the most distant climates of the earth, the faithful model of the monastic life. The disciples of Antony spread themselves beyond the tropic, over the Christian empire of Aethiopia.

[21] The monastery of Banchor, [22] in Flintshire, which contained above two thousand brethren, dispersed a numerous colony among the Barbarians

of Ireland; [23] and Iona, one of the Hebrides, which was planted by the Irish monks, diffused over the northern regions a doubtful ray of

science and superstition. [24]

[Footnote 16: The introduction of the monastic life into Rome and Italy

is occasionally mentioned by Jerom, tom. i. p. 119, 120, 199.]

[Footnote 17: See the Life of Hilarion, by St. Jerom, (tom. i. p. 241,

252.) The stories of Paul, Hilarion, and Malchus, by the same author, are admirably told: and the only defect of these pleasing compositions

is the want of truth and common sense.]

[Footnote 18: His original retreat was in a small village on the banks

of the Iris, not far from Neo-Caesarea. The ten or twelve years of

his monastic life were disturbed by long and frequent avocations. Some critics have disputed the authenticity of his Ascetic rules; but the external evidence is weighty, and they can only prove that it is the work of a real or affected enthusiast. See Tillemont, Mem. Eccles tom.

ix. p. 636-644. Helyot, Hist. des Ordres Monastiques tom. i. p. 175-181]

[Footnote 19: See his Life, and the three Dialogues by Sulpicius

Severus, who asserts (Dialog. i. 16) that the booksellers of Rome were delighted with the quick and ready sale of his popular work.]

[Footnote 20: When Hilarion sailed from Paraetonium to Cape Pachynus,

he offered to pay his passage with a book of the Gospels. Posthumian, a Gallic monk, who had visited Egypt, found a merchant ship bound from alexandria to Marseilles, and performed the voyage in thirty days,

(Sulp. Sever. Dialog. i. 1.) Athanasius, who addressed his Life of St. antony to the foreign monks, was obliged to hasten the composition, that

it might be ready for the sailing of the fleets, (tom. ii. p. 451.)]

[Footnote 21: See Jerom, (tom. i. p. 126,) Assemanni, Bibliot. Orient. tom. iv. p. 92, p. 857-919, and Geddes, Church History of Aethiopia,

p. 29-31. The Abyssinian monks adhere very strictly to the primitive

institution.]

[Footnote 22: Camden's Britannia, vol. i. p. 666, 667.]

[Footnote 23: All that learning can extract from the rubbish of the dark ages is copiously stated by Archbishop Usher in his Britannicarum ecclesiarum Antiquitates, cap. xvi. p. 425-503.]

[Footnote 24: This small, though not barren, spot, Iona, Hy, or columbkill, only two miles in length, aud one mile in breadth, has been distinguished, 1. By the monastery of St. Columba, founded A.D. 566; whose abbot exercised an extraordinary jurisdiction over the bishops

of Caledonia; 2. By a classic library, which afforded some hopes of an entire Livy; and, 3. By the tombs of sixty kings, Scots, Irish, and

Norwegians, who reposed in holy ground. See Usher (p. 311, 360-370) and buchanan, (Rer. Scot. l. ii. p. 15, edit. Ruddiman.)]

these unhappy exiles from social life were impelled by the dark and

implacable genius of superstition. Their mutual resolution was supported by the example of millions, of either sex, of every age, and of every

rank; and each proselyte who entered the gates of a monastery, was

persuaded that he trod the steep and thorny path of eternal happiness.

[25] But the operation of these religious motives was variously determined by the temper and situation of mankind. Reason might subdue,

or passion might suspend, their influence: but they acted most forcibly

on the infirm minds of children and females; they were strengthened by

secret remorse, or accidental misfortune; and they might derive some aid from the temporal considerations of vanity or interest. It was naturally

supposed, that the pious and humble monks, who had renounced the world to accomplish the work of their salvation, were the best qualified for the spiritual government of the Christians. The reluctant hermit was torn from his cell, and seated, amidst the acclamations of the people,

on the episcopal throne: the monasteries of Egypt, of Gaul, and of the east, supplied a regular succession of saints and bishops; and ambition

soon discovered the secret road which led to the possession of wealth and honors. [26] The popular monks, whose reputation was connected with the fame and success of the order, assiduously labored to multiply the

number of their fellow-captives. They insinuated themselves into noble and opulent families; and the specious arts of flattery and seduction were employed to secure those proselytes who might bestow wealth or dignity on the monastic profession. The indignant father bewailed the

loss, perhaps, of an only son; [27] the credulous maid was betrayed by vanity to violate the laws of nature; and the matron aspired to

imaginary perfection, by renouncing the virtues of domestic life. Paula

yielded to the persuasive eloquence of Jerom; [28] and the profane title of mother-in-law of God [29] tempted that illustrious widow to consecrate the virginity of her daughter Eustochium. By the advice, and

in the company, of her spiritual guide, Paula abandoned Rome and her

infant son; retired to the holy village of Bethlem; founded a hospital and four monasteries; and acquired, by her alms and penance, an eminent and conspicuous station in the Catholic church. Such rare and

illustrious penitents were celebrated as the glory and example of their age; but the monasteries were filled by a crowd of obscure and abject

plebeians, [30] who gained in the cloister much more than they had

sacrificed in the world. Peasants, slaves, and mechanics, might escape from poverty and contempt to a safe and honorable profession; whose apparent hardships are mitigated by custom, by popular applause, and by the secret relaxation of discipline. [31] The subjects of Rome, whose

persons and fortunes were made responsible for unequal and exorbitant tributes, retired from the oppression of the Imperial government; and the pusillanimous youth preferred the penance of a monastic, to the dangers of a military, life. The affrighted provincials of every rank, who fled before the Barbarians, found shelter and subsistence: whole

legions were buried in these religious sanctuaries; and the same cause, which relieved the distress of individuals, impaired the strength and fortitude of the empire. [32]

[Footnote 25: Chrysostom (in the first tome of the Benedictine edition)

has consecrated three books to the praise and defence of the monastic

life. He is encouraged, by the example of the ark, to presume that

none but the elect (the monks) can possibly be saved (l. i. p. 55, 56.) elsewhere, indeed, he becomes more merciful, (l. iii. p. 83, 84,) and allows different degrees of glory, like the sun, moon, and stars. In

his lively comparison of a king and a monk, (l. iii. p. 116-121,) he

supposes (what is hardly fair) that the king will be more sparingly

rewarded, and more rigorously punished.]

[Footnote 26: Thomassin (Discipline de l'Eglise tom. i. p. 1426-1469) and Mabillon, (Oeuvres Posthumes, tom. ii. p. 115-158.) The monks were

gradually adopted as a part of the ecclesiastical hierarchy.]

[Footnote 27: Dr. Middleton (vol. i. p. 110) liberally censures the conduct and writings of Chrysostom, one of the most eloquent and

successful advocates for the monastic life.]

[Footnote 28: Jerom's devout ladies form a very considerable portion

of his works: the particular treatise, which he styles the Epitaph of

Paula, (tom. i. p. 169-192,) is an elaborate and extravagant panegyric. the exordium is ridiculously turgid: "If all the members of my body were changed into tongues, and if all my limbs resounded with a human voice,

yet should I be incapable," &c.]

[Footnote 29: Socrus Dei esse coepisti, (Jerom, tom. i. p. 140, ad eustochium.) Rufinus, (in Hieronym. Op. tom. iv. p. 223,) who was justly

scandalized, asks his adversary, from what Pagan poet he had stolen an expression so impious and absurd.]

[Footnote 30: Nunc autem veniunt plerumque ad hanc professionem

servitutis Dei, et ex conditione servili, vel etiam liberati, vel

propter hoc a Dominis liberati sive liberandi; et ex vita rusticana et ex opificum exercitatione, et plebeio labore. Augustin, de Oper. Monach. c. 22, ap. Thomassin, Discipline de l'Eglise, tom. iii. p. 1094. The egyptian, who blamed Arsenius, owned that he led a more comfortable life as a monk than as a shepherd. See Tillemont, Mem. Eccles. tom. xiv. p.

679.]

[Footnote 31: A Dominican friar, (Voyages du P. Labat, tom. i. p. 10,) who lodged at Cadiz in a convent of his brethren, soon understood that their repose was never interrupted by nocturnal devotion; "quoiqu'on ne

laisse pas de sonner pour l'edification du peuple."]

[Footnote 32: See a very sensible preface of Lucas Holstenius to the codex Regularum. The emperors attempted to support the obligation of

public and private duties; but the feeble dikes were swept away by the torrent of superstition; and Justinian surpassed the most sanguine wishes of the monks, (Thomassin, tom. i. p. 1782-1799, and Bingham,

l. vii. c. iii. p. 253.) Note: The emperor Valens, in particular,

promulgates a law contra ignavise quosdam sectatores, qui desertis civitatum muneribus, captant solitudines secreta, et specie religionis cum coetibus monachorum congregantur. Cad. Theod l. xii. tit. i. leg.

63.--G.]

the monastic profession of the ancients [33] was an act of voluntary devotion. The inconstant fanatic was threatened with the eternal

vengeance of the God whom he deserted; but the doors of the monastery were still open for repentance. Those monks, whose conscience was fortified by reason or passion, were at liberty to resume the character

of men and citizens; and even the spouses of Christ might accept the

legal embraces of an earthly lover. [34] The examples of scandal, and the progress of superstition, suggested the propriety of more forcible

restraints. After a sufficient trial, the fidelity of the novice was

secured by a solemn and perpetual vow; and his irrevocable engagement was ratified by the laws of the church and state. A guilty fugitive was pursued, arrested, and restored to his perpetual prison; and the

interposition of the magistrate oppressed the freedom and the merit, which had alleviated, in some degree, the abject slavery of the

monastic discipline. [35] The actions of a monk, his words, and even his thoughts, were determined by an inflexible rule, [36] or a capricious

superior: the slightest offences were corrected by disgrace or confinement, extraordinary fasts, or bloody flagellation; and disobedience, murmur, or delay, were ranked in the catalogue of the

most heinous sins. [37] A blind submission to the commands of the abbot, however absurd, or even criminal, they might seem, was the ruling

principle, the first virtue of the Egyptian monks; and their patience was frequently exercised by the most extravagant trials. They were directed to remove an enormous rock; assiduously to water a barren

staff, that was planted in the ground, till, at the end of three

years, it should vegetate and blossom like a tree; to walk into a fiery furnace; or to cast their infant into a deep pond: and several

saints, or madmen, have been immortalized in monastic story, by their thoughtless and fearless obedience. [38] The freedom of the mind, the

source of every generous and rational sentiment, was destroyed by the

habits of credulity and submission; and the monk, contracting the

vices of a slave, devoutly followed the faith and passions of his ecclesiastical tyrant. The peace of the Eastern church was invaded by a swarm of fanatics, incapable of fear, or reason, or humanity; and the

Imperial troops acknowledged, without shame, that they were much less apprehensive of an encounter with the fiercest Barbarians. [39]

[Footnote 33: The monastic institutions, particularly those of Egypt, about the year 400, are described by four curious and devout travellers;

Rufinus, (Vit. Patrum, l. ii. iii. p. 424-536,) Posthumian, (Sulp.

Sever. Dialog. i.) Palladius, (Hist. Lausiac. in Vit. Patrum, p.

709-863,) and Cassian, (see in tom. vii. Bibliothec. Max. Patrum,

his four first books of Institutes, and the twenty-four Collations or conferences.)]

[Footnote 34: The example of Malchus, (Jerom, tom. i. p. 256,) and the design of Cassian and his friend, (Collation. xxiv. 1,) are

incontestable proofs of their freedom; which is elegantly described by erasmus in his Life of St. Jerom. See Chardon, Hist. des Sacremens, tom.

vi. p. 279-300.]

[Footnote 35: See the Laws of Justinian, (Novel. cxxiii. No. 42,) and of

Lewis the Pious, (in the Historians of France, tom vi. p. 427,) and the actual jurisprudence of France, in Denissart, (Decisions, &c., tom. iv.

p. 855,) &c.]

[Footnote 36: The ancient Codex Regularum, collected by Benedict anianinus, the reformer of the monks in the beginning of the ninth century, and published in the seventeenth, by Lucas Holstenius, contains thirty different rules for men and women. Of these, seven were composed

in Egypt, one in the East, one in Cappadocia, one in Italy, one in africa, four in Spain, eight in Gaul, or France, and one in England.]

[Footnote 37: The rule of Columbanus, so prevalent in the West, inflicts

one hundred lashes for very slight offences, (Cod. Reg. part ii. p.

174.) Before the time of Charlemagne, the abbots indulged themselves

in mutilating their monks, or putting out their eyes; a punishment much

less cruel than the tremendous vade in pace (the subterraneous dungeon

or sepulchre) which was afterwards invented. See an admirable discourse

of the learned Mabillon, (Oeuvres Posthumes, tom. ii. p. 321-336,) who,

on this occasion, seems to be inspired by the genius of humanity. For

such an effort, I can forgive his defence of the holy tear of Vendeme

(p. 361-399.)]

[Footnote 38: Sulp. Sever. Dialog. i. 12, 13, p. 532, &c. Cassian.

Institut. l. iv. c. 26, 27. "Praecipua ibi virtus et prima est

obedientia." Among the Verba seniorum, (in Vit. Patrum, l. v. p. 617,) the fourteenth libel or discourse is on the subject of obedience; and the Jesuit Rosweyde, who published that huge volume for the use of convents, has collected all the scattered passages in his two copious

indexes.]

[Footnote 39: Dr. Jortin (Remarks on Ecclesiastical History, vol. iv. p.

161) has observed the scandalous valor of the Cappadocian monks, which was exemplified in the banishment of Chrysostom.] Superstition has often framed and consecrated the fantastic garments of the monks: [40] but their apparent singularity sometimes proceeds from their uniform attachment to a simple and primitive model, which the revolutions of fashion have made ridiculous in the eyes of mankind. The father of the Benedictines expressly disclaims all idea of choice of merit; and

soberly exhorts his disciples to adopt the coarse and convenient dress

of the countries which they may inhabit. [41] The monastic habits of the ancients varied with the climate, and their mode of life; and they assumed, with the same indifference, the sheep-skin of the Egyptian

peasants, or the cloak of the Grecian philosophers. They allowed themselves the use of linen in Egypt, where it was a cheap and domestic

manufacture; but in the West they rejected such an expensive article of foreign luxury. [42] It was the practice of the monks either to cut or

shave their hair; they wrapped their heads in a cowl to escape the

sight of profane objects; their legs and feet were naked, except in the extreme cold of winter; and their slow and feeble steps were supported by a long staff. The aspect of a genuine anachoret was horrid and disgusting: every sensation that is offensive to man was thought acceptable to God; and the angelic rule of Tabenne condemned the

salutary custom of bathing the limbs in water, and of anointing them with oil. [43] [431] The austere monks slept on the ground, on a hard

mat, or a rough blanket; and the same bundle of palm-leaves served them as a seat in the lay, and a pillow in the night. Their original cells were low, narrow huts, built of the slightest materials; which formed, by the regular distribution of the streets, a large and populous

village, enclosing, within the common wall, a church, a hospital,

perhaps a library, some necessary offices, a garden, and a fountain or

reservoir of fresh water. Thirty or forty brethren composed a family

of separate discipline and diet; and the great monasteries of Egypt consisted of thirty or forty families.

[Footnote 40: Cassian has simply, though copiously, described the

monastic habit of Egypt, (Institut. l. i.,) to which Sozomen (l. iii. c.

14) attributes such allegorical meaning and virtue.]

[Footnote 41: Regul. Benedict. No. 55, in Cod. Regul. part ii. p. 51.]

[Footnote 42: See the rule of Ferreolus, bishop of Usez, (No. 31, in cod. Regul part ii. p. 136,) and of Isidore, bishop of Seville, (No. 13,

in Cod. Regul part ii. p. 214.)]

[Footnote 43: Some partial indulgences were granted for the hands and feet "Totum autem corpus nemo unguet nisi causa infirmitatis, nec

lavabitur aqua nudo corpore, nisi languor perspicuus sit," (Regul.

Pachom xcii. part i. p. 78.)]

[Footnote 431: Athanasius (Vit. Ant. c. 47) boasts of Antony's holy

horror of clear water, by which his feet were uncontaminated except

under dire necessity--M.]

chapter XXXVII: Conversion Of The Barbarians To Christianity.--Part II.

Pleasure and guilt are synonymous terms in the language of the monks, and they discovered, by experience, that rigid fasts, and abstemious diet, are the most effectual preservatives against the impure desires

of the flesh. [44] The rules of abstinence which they imposed, or

practised, were not uniform or perpetual: the cheerful festival of the

Pentecost was balanced by the extraordinary mortification of Lent; the fervor of new monasteries was insensibly relaxed; and the voracious appetite of the Gauls could not imitate the patient and temperate

virtue of the Egyptians. [45] The disciples of Antony and Pachomius were

satisfied with their daily pittance, [46] of twelve ounces of bread, or

rather biscuit, [47] which they divided into two frugal repasts, of the afternoon and of the evening. It was esteemed a merit, and almost a duty, to abstain from the boiled vegetables which were provided for the

refectory; but the extraordinary bounty of the abbot sometimes indulged them with the luxury of cheese, fruit, salad, and the small dried fish of the Nile. [48] A more ample latitude of sea and river fish was

gradually allowed or assumed; but the use of flesh was long confined to the sick or travellers; and when it gradually prevailed in the less

rigid monasteries of Europe, a singular distinction was introduced; as if birds, whether wild or domestic, had been less profane than the

grosser animals of the field. Water was the pure and innocent beverage

of the primitive monks; and the founder of the Benedictines regrets the daily portion of half a pint of wine, which had been extorted from him by the intemperance of the age. [49] Such an allowance might be easily

supplied by the vineyards of Italy; and his victorious disciples, who

passed the Alps, the Rhine, and the Baltic, required, in the place of wine, an adequate compensation of strong beer or cider.

[Footnote 44: St. Jerom, in strong, but indiscreet, language, expresses the most important use of fasting and abstinence: "Non quod Deus

universitatis Creator et Dominus, intestinorum nostrorum rugitu, et

inanitate ventris, pulmonisque ardore delectetur, sed quod aliter

pudicitia tuta esse non possit." (Op. tom. i. p. 32, ad Eustochium.) See the twelfth and twenty-second Collations of Cassian, de Castitate and de

Illusionibus Nocturnis.]

[Footnote 45: Edacitas in Graecis gula est, in Gallis natura, (Dialog.

i. c. 4 p. 521.) Cassian fairly owns, that the perfect model of abstinence cannot be imitated in Gaul, on account of the aerum temperies, and the qualitas nostrae fragilitatis, (Institut. iv. 11.) among the Western rules, that of Columbanus is the most austere; he

had been educated amidst the poverty of Ireland, as rigid, perhaps, and

inflexible as the abstemious virtue of Egypt. The rule of Isidore of

Seville is the mildest; on holidays he allows the use of flesh.]

[Footnote 46: "Those who drink only water, and have no nutritious

liquor, ought, at least, to have a pound and a half (twenty-four ounces)

of bread every day." State of Prisons, p. 40, by Mr. Howard.]

[Footnote 47: See Cassian. Collat. l. ii. 19-21. The small loaves,

or biscuit, of six ounces each, had obtained the name of Paximacia,

(Rosweyde, Onomasticon, p. 1045.) Pachomius, however, allowed his monks

some latitude in the quantity of their food; but he made them work in

proportion as they ate, (Pallad. in Hist. Lausiac. c. 38, 39, in Vit.

Patrum, l. viii. p. 736, 737.)]

[Footnote 48: See the banquet to which Cassian (Collation viii. 1) was

invited by Serenus, an Egyptian abbot.]

[Footnote 49: See the Rule of St. Benedict, No. 39, 40, (in Cod. Reg.

part ii. p. 41, 42.) Licet legamus vinum omnino monachorum non esse,

sed quia nostris temporibus id monachis persuaderi non potest; he allows them a Roman hemina, a measure which may be ascertained from Arbuthnot's tables.] The candidate who aspired to the virtue of evangelical poverty, abjured, at his first entrance into a regular community, the idea, and even the name, of all separate or exclusive possessions. [50] The brethren were supported by their manual labor; and the duty of labor was

strenuously recommended as a penance, as an exercise, and as the most

laudable means of securing their daily subsistence. [51] The garden and fields, which the industry of the monks had often rescued from the forest or the morass, were diligently cultivated by their hands. they performed, without reluctance, the menial offices of slaves and domestics; and the several trades that were necessary to provide their

habits, their utensils, and their lodging, were exercised within the

precincts of the great monasteries. The monastic studies have tended, for the most part, to darken, rather than to dispel, the cloud of

superstition. Yet the curiosity or zeal of some learned solitaries

has cultivated the ecclesiastical, and even the profane, sciences; and

posterity must gratefully acknowledge, that the monuments of Greek and Roman literature have been preserved and multiplied by their

indefatigable pens. [52] But the more humble industry of the monks, especially in Egypt, was contented with the silent, sedentary occupation

of making wooden sandals, or of twisting the leaves of the palm-tree

into mats and baskets. The superfluous stock, which was not consumed in domestic use, supplied, by trade, the wants of the community: the boats

of Tabenne, and the other monasteries of Thebais, descended the Nile as far as Alexandria; and, in a Christian market, the sanctity of the workmen might enhance the intrinsic value of the work.

[Footnote 50: Such expressions as my book, my cloak, my shoes, (Cassian

Institut. l. iv. c. 13,) were not less severely prohibited among the western monks, (Cod. Regul. part ii. p. 174, 235, 288;) and the rule

of Columbanus punished them with six lashes. The ironical author of the

Ordres Monastiques, who laughs at the foolish nicety of modern convents,

seems ignorant that the ancients were equally absurd.]

[Footnote 51: Two great masters of ecclesiastical science, the P. thomassin, (Discipline de l'Eglise, tom. iii. p. 1090-1139,) and the

P. Mabillon, (Etudes Monastiques, tom. i. p. 116-155,) have seriously examined the manual labor of the monks, which the former considers as a

merit and the latter as a duty.]

[Footnote 52: Mabillon (Etudes Monastiques, tom. i. p. 47-55) has collected many curious facts to justify the literary labors of his

predecessors, both in the East and West. Books were copied in the ancient monasteries of Egypt, (Cassian. Institut. l. iv. c. 12,) and by the disciples of St. Martin, (Sulp. Sever. in Vit. Martin. c. 7,

p. 473.) Cassiodorus has allowed an ample scope for the studies of the

monks; and we shall not be scandalized, if their pens sometimes wandered from Chrysostom and Augustin to Homer and Virgil.] But the necessity of

manual labor was insensibly superseded.

the novice was tempted to bestow his fortune on the saints, in whose

society he was resolved to spend the remainder of his life; and the

pernicious indulgence of the laws permitted him to receive, for their

use, any future accessions of legacy or inheritance. [53] Melania contributed her plate, three hundred pounds weight of silver; and Paula contracted an immense debt, for the relief of their favorite monks; who

kindly imparted the merits of their prayers and penance to a rich and

liberal sinner. [54] Time continually increased, and accidents could

seldom diminish, the estates of the popular monasteries, which spread

over the adjacent country and cities: and, in the first century of their

institution, the infidel Zosimus has maliciously observed, that, for the benefit of the poor, the Christian monks had reduced a great part

of mankind to a state of beggary. [55] As long as they maintained their

original fervor, they approved themselves, however, the faithful and benevolent stewards of the charity, which was entrusted to their care. but their discipline was corrupted by prosperity: they gradually assumed the pride of wealth, and at last indulged the luxury of expense. Their

public luxury might be excused by the magnificence of religious worship, and the decent motive of erecting durable habitations for an immortal

society. But every age of the church has accused the licentiousness

of the degenerate monks; who no longer remembered the object of their

institution, embraced the vain and sensual pleasures of the world, which they had renounced, [56] and scandalously abused the riches which had been acquired by the austere virtues of their founders. [57] Their

natural descent, from such painful and dangerous virtue, to the common

vices of humanity, will not, perhaps, excite much grief or indignation

in the mind of a philosopher.

[Footnote 53: Thomassin (Discipline de l'Eglise, tom. iii. p. 118,

145, 146, 171-179) has examined the revolution of the civil, canon, and common law. Modern France confirms the death which monks have inflicted

on themselves, and justly deprives them of all right of inheritance.]

[Footnote 54: See Jerom, (tom. i. p. 176, 183.) The monk Pambo made a

sublime answer to Melania, who wished to specify the value of her

gift: "Do you offer it to me, or to God? If to God, He who suspends the mountain in a balance, need not be informed of the weight of your

plate." (Pallad. Hist. Lausiac. c. 10, in the Vit. Patrum, l. viii. p.

715.)]

[Footnote 55: Zosim. l. v. p. 325. Yet the wealth of the Eastern monks was far surpassed by the princely greatness of the Benedictines.]

[Footnote 56: The sixth general council (the Quinisext in Trullo, Canon

xlvii in Beveridge, tom. i. p. 213) restrains women from passing the

night in a male, or men in a female, monastery. The seventh general council (the second Nicene, Canon xx. in Beveridge, tom. i. p. 325)

prohibits the erection of double or promiscuous monasteries of both

sexes; but it appears from Balsamon, that the prohibition was not effectual. On the irregular pleasures and expenses of the clergy and

monks, see Thomassin, tom. iii. p. 1334-1368.]

[Footnote 57: I have somewhere heard or read the frank confession of a benedictine abbot: "My vow of poverty has given me a hundred thousand crowns a year; my vow of obedience has raised me to the rank of a

sovereign prince."--I forget the consequences of his vow of chastity.]

the lives of the primitive monks were consumed in penance and solitude;

undisturbed by the various occupations which fill the time, and exercise the faculties, of reasonable, active, and social beings. Whenever they were permitted to step beyond the precincts of the monastery, two

jealous companions were the mutual guards and spies of each other's actions; and, after their return, they were condemned to forget, or, at least, to suppress, whatever they had seen or heard in the world.

Strangers, who professed the orthodox faith, were hospitably entertained

in a separate apartment; but their dangerous conversation was restricted to some chosen elders of approved discretion and fidelity. Except in their presence, the monastic slave might not receive the visits of

his friends or kindred; and it was deemed highly meritorious, if he afflicted a tender sister, or an aged parent, by the obstinate refusal

of a word or look. [58] The monks themselves passed their lives, without

personal attachments, among a crowd which had been formed by accident, and was detained, in the same prison, by force or prejudice. Recluse fanatics have few ideas or sentiments to communicate: a special license

of the abbot regulated the time and duration of their familiar visits; and, at their silent meals, they were enveloped in their cowls,

inaccessible, and almost invisible, to each other. [59] Study is the

resource of solitude: but education had not prepared and qualified for any liberal studies the mechanics and peasants who filled the monastic communities. They might work: but the vanity of spiritual perfection was tempted to disdain the exercise of manual labor; and the industry must be faint and languid, which is not excited by the sense of personal

interest.

[Footnote 58: Pior, an Egyptian monk, allowed his sister to see him; but he shut his eyes during the whole visit. See Vit. Patrum, l. iii. p.

504. Many such examples might be added.]

[Footnote 59: The 7th, 8th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 34th, 57th, 60th, 86th, and 95th articles of the Rule of Pachomius, impose most intolerable laws

of silence and mortification.]

according to their faith and zeal, they might employ the day, which they

passed in their cells, either in vocal or mental prayer: they assembled

in the evening, and they were awakened in the night, for the public worship of the monastery. The precise moment was determined by the

stars, which are seldom clouded in the serene sky of Egypt; and a rustic

horn, or trumpet, the signal of devotion, twice interrupted the vast

silence of the desert. [60] Even sleep, the last refuge of the unhappy, was rigorously measured: the vacant hours of the monk heavily rolled along, without business or pleasure; and, before the close of each day,

he had repeatedly accused the tedious progress of the sun. [61] In this comfortless state, superstition still pursued and tormented her wretched

votaries. [62] The repose which they had sought in the cloister was disturbed by a tardy repentance, profane doubts, and guilty desires; and, while they considered each natural impulse as an unpardonable sin, they perpetually trembled on the edge of a flaming and bottomless abyss. from the painful struggles of disease and despair, these unhappy victims were sometimes relieved by madness or death; and, in the sixth century, a hospital was founded at Jerusalem for a small portion of the austere

penitents, who were deprived of their senses. [63] Their visions, before they attained this extreme and acknowledged term of frenzy, have afforded ample materials of supernatural history. It was their firm

persuasion, that the air, which they breathed, was peopled with

invisible enemies; with innumerable demons, who watched every occasion, and assumed every form, to terrify, and above all to tempt, their

unguarded virtue. The imagination, and even the senses, were deceived by the illusions of distempered fanaticism; and the hermit, whose midnight

prayer was oppressed by involuntary slumber, might easily confound the

phantoms of horror or delight, which had occupied his sleeping and his waking dreams. [64]

[Footnote 60: The diurnal and nocturnal prayers of the monks are copiously discussed by Cassian, in the third and fourth books of his

Institutions; and he constantly prefers the liturgy, which an angel had dictated to the monasteries of Tebennoe.]

[Footnote 61: Cassian, from his own experience, describes the acedia,

or listlessness of mind and body, to which a monk was exposed, when he

sighed to find himself alone. Saepiusque egreditur et ingreditur cellam, et Solem velut ad occasum tardius properantem crebrius intuetur,

(Institut. x. l.)]

[Footnote 62: The temptations and sufferings of Stagirius were communicated by that unfortunate youth to his friend St. Chrysostom. See

Middleton's Works, vol. i. p. 107-110. Something similar introduces the

life of every saint; and the famous Inigo, or Ignatius, the founder of the Jesuits, (vide d'Inigo de Guiposcoa, tom. i. p. 29-38,) may serve as a memorable example.]

[Footnote 63: Fleury, Hist. Ecclesiastique, tom. vii. p. 46. I have

read somewhere, in the Vitae Patrum, but I cannot recover the place that several, I believe many, of the monks, who did not reveal their temptations to the abbot, became guilty of suicide.]

[Footnote 64: See the seventh and eighth Collations of Cassian, who

gravely examines, why the demons were grown less active and numerous

since the time of St. Antony. Rosweyde's copious index to the Vitae

Patrum will point out a variety of infernal scenes. The devils were most formidable in a female shape.]

the monks were divided into two classes: the Coenobites, who lived under a common and regular discipline; and the Anachorets, who indulged their

unsocial, independent fanaticism. [65] The most devout, or the most ambitious, of the spiritual brethren, renounced the convent, as they had

renounced the world. The fervent monasteries of Egypt, Palestine, and

Syria, were surrounded by a Laura, [66] a distant circle of solitary cells; and the extravagant penance of Hermits was stimulated by applause and emulation. [67] They sunk under the painful weight of crosses and chains; and their emaciated limbs were confined by collars, bracelets,

gauntlets, and greaves of massy and rigid iron. All superfluous encumbrance of dress they contemptuously cast away; and some savage

saints of both sexes have been admired, whose naked bodies were only covered by their long hair. They aspired to reduce themselves to the rude and miserable state in which the human brute is scarcely distinguishable above his kindred animals; and the numerous sect of anachorets derived their name from their humble practice of grazing in the fields of Mesopotamia with the common herd. [68] They often usurped the den of some wild beast whom they affected to resemble; they buried themselves in some gloomy cavern, which art or nature had scooped out

of the rock; and the marble quarries of Thebais are still inscribed with the monuments of their penance. [69] The most perfect Hermits are

supposed to have passed many days without food, many nights without

sleep, and many years without speaking; and glorious was the man (

I abuse that name) who contrived any cell, or seat, of a peculiar construction, which might expose him, in the most inconvenient posture, to the inclemency of the seasons.

[Footnote 65: For the distinction of the Coenobites and the Hermits, especially in Egypt, see Jerom, (tom. i. p. 45, ad Rusticum,) the first dialogue of Sulpicius Severus, Rufinus, (c. 22, in Vit. Patrum, l. ii.

p. 478,) Palladius, (c. 7, 69, in Vit. Patrum, l. viii. p. 712, 758,) and, above all, the eighteenth and nineteenth Collations of Cassian. these writers, who compare the common and solitary life, reveal the abuse and danger of the latter.]

[Footnote 66: Suicer. Thesaur. Ecclesiast. tom. ii. p. 205, 218. thomassin (Discipline de l'Eglise, tom. i. p. 1501, 1502) gives a good account of these cells. When Gerasimus founded his monastery in the wilderness of Jordan, it was accompanied by a Laura of seventy cells.]

[Footnote 67: Theodoret, in a large volume, (the Philotheus in Vit.

Patrum, l. ix. p. 793-863,) has collected the lives and miracles of thirty Anachorets. Evagrius (l. i. c. 12) more briefly celebrates the

monks and hermits of Palestine.]

[Footnote 68: Sozomen, l. vi. c. 33. The great St. Ephrem composed a

panegyric on these or grazing monks, (Tillemont, Mem. Eccles. tom. viii.

p. 292.)]

[Footnote 69: The P. Sicard (Missions du Levant, tom. ii. p. 217-233) examined the caverns of the Lower Thebais with wonder and devotion. the inscriptions are in the old Syriac character, which was used by the christians of Abyssinia.]

among these heroes of the monastic life, the name and genius of Simeon

Stylites [70] have been immortalized by the singular invention of an aerial penance. At the age of thirteen, the young Syrian deserted the

profession of a shepherd, and threw himself into an austere monastery. after a long and painful novitiate, in which Simeon was repeatedly saved from pious suicide, he established his residence on a mountain, about thirty or forty miles to the east of Antioch. Within the space of a

mandra, or circle of stones, to which he had attached himself by a

ponderous chain, he ascended a column, which was successively raised from the height of nine, to that of sixty, feet from the ground. [71] In this last and lofty station, the Syrian Anachoret resisted the heat

of thirty summers, and the cold of as many winters. Habit and exercise

instructed him to maintain his dangerous situation without fear

or giddiness, and successively to assume the different postures

of devotion. He sometimes prayed in an erect attitude, with his

outstretched arms in the figure of a cross, but his most familiar

practice was that of bending his meagre skeleton from the forehead to the feet; and a curious spectator, after numbering twelve hundred and forty-four repetitions, at length desisted from the endless account. The

progress of an ulcer in his thigh [72] might shorten, but it could not disturb, this celestial life; and the patient Hermit expired, without descending from his column. A prince, who should capriciously inflict

such tortures, would be deemed a tyrant; but it would surpass the power

of a tyrant to impose a long and miserable existence on the reluctant

victims of his cruelty. This voluntary martyrdom must have gradually destroyed the sensibility both of the mind and body; nor can it be

presumed that the fanatics, who torment themselves, are susceptible of any lively affection for the rest of mankind. A cruel, unfeeling temper

has distinguiseed the monks of every age and country: their stern

indifference, which is seldom mollified by personal friendship, is

inflamed by religious hatred; and their merciless zeal has strenuously administered the holy office of the Inquisition.

[Footnote 70: See Theodoret (in Vit. Patrum, l. ix. p. 848-854,) Antony,

(in Vit. Patrum, l. i. p. 170-177,) Cosmas, (in Asseman. Bibliot.

Oriental tom. i. p. 239-253,) Evagrius, (l. i. c. 13, 14,) and tillemont, (Mem. Eccles. tom. xv. p. 347-392.)]

[Footnote 71: The narrow circumference of two cubits, or three feet, which Evagrius assigns for the summit of the column is inconsistent with

reason, with facts, and with the rules of architecture. The people who

saw it from below might be easily deceived.]

[Footnote 72: I must not conceal a piece of ancient scandal concerning the origin of this ulcer. It has been reported that the Devil, assuming an angelic form, invited him to ascend, like Elijah, into a fiery chariot. The saint too hastily raised his foot, and Satan seized the

moment of inflicting this chastisement on his vanity.]

the monastic saints, who excite only the contempt and pity of a

philosopher, were respected, and almost adored, by the prince and

people. Successive crowds of pilgrims from Gaul and India saluted the divine pillar of Simeon: the tribes of Saracens disputed in arms the

honor of his benediction; the queens of Arabia and Persia gratefully confessed his supernatural virtue; and the angelic Hermit was consulted by the younger Theodosius, in the most important concerns of the church and state. His remains were transported from the mountain of Telenissa, by a solemn procession of the patriarch, the master-general of the East,

six bishops, twenty-one counts or tribunes, and six thousand soldiers; and Antioch revered his bones, as her glorious ornament and impregnable defence. The fame of the apostles and martyrs was gradually eclipsed by these recent and popular Anachorets; the Christian world fell prostrate before their shrines; and the miracles ascribed to their relics exceeded, at least in number and duration, the spiritual exploits of their lives. But the golden legend of their lives [73] was embellished by the artful credulity of their interested brethren; and a believing age was easily persuaded, that the slightest caprice of an Egyptian or a Syrian monk had been sufficient to interrupt the eternal laws of the

universe. The favorites of Heaven were accustomed to cure inveterate diseases with a touch, a word, or a distant message; and to expel the

most obstinate demons from the souls or bodies which they possessed. they familiarly accosted, or imperiously commanded, the lions and

serpents of the desert; infused vegetation into a sapless trunk;

suspended iron on the surface of the water; passed the Nile on the back of a crocodile, and refreshed themselves in a fiery furnace. These extravagant tales, which display the fiction without the genius, of

poetry, have seriously affected the reason, the faith, and the morals,

of the Christians. Their credulity debased and vitiated the faculties

of the mind: they corrupted the evidence of history; and superstition

gradually extinguished the hostile light of philosophy and science. every mode of religious worship which had been practised by the saints, every mysterious doctrine which they believed, was fortified by the

sanction of divine revelation, and all the manly virtues were oppressed by the servile and pusillanimous reign of the monks. If it be possible to measure the interval between the philosophic writings of Cicero and the sacred legend of Theodoret, between the character of Cato and that of Simeon, we may appreciate the memorable revolution which was accomplished in the Roman empire within a period of five hundred years.

[Footnote 73: I know not how to select or specify the miracles contained

in the Vitae Patrum of Rosweyde, as the number very much exceeds the thousand pages of that voluminous work. An elegant specimen may be found

in the dialogues of Sulpicius Severus, and his Life of St. Martin. He

reveres the monks of Egypt; yet he insults them with the remark, that they never raised the dead; whereas the bishop of Tours had restored three dead men to life.] II. The progress of Christianity has been

marked by two glorious and decisive victories: over the learned and

luxurious citizens of the Roman empire; and over the warlike Barbarians

of Scythia and Germany, who subverted the empire, and embraced the

religion, of the Romans. The Goths were the foremost of these savage

proselytes; and the nation was indebted for its conversion to a countryman, or, at least, to a subject, worthy to be ranked among the inventors of useful arts, who have deserved the remembrance and

gratitude of posterity. A great number of Roman provincials had been led away into captivity by the Gothic bands, who ravaged Asia in the time

of Gallienus; and of these captives, many were Christians, and several belonged to the ecclesiastical order. Those involuntary missionaries, dispersed as slaves in the villages of Dacia, successively labored for the salvation of their masters. The seeds which they planted, of the evangelic doctrine, were gradually propagated; and before the end of a century, the pious work was achieved by the labors of Ulphilas, whose ancestors had been transported beyond the Danube from a small town of cappadocia.

Ulphilas, the bishop and apostle of the Goths, [74] acquired their love and reverence by his blameless life and indefatigable zeal; and they

received, with implicit confidence, the doctrines of truth and virtue which he preached and practised. He executed the arduous task of translating the Scriptures into their native tongue, a dialect of the

German or Teutonic language; but he prudently suppressed the four books

of Kings, as they might tend to irritate the fierce and sanguinary

spirit of the Barbarians. The rude, imperfect idiom of soldiers and

shepherds, so ill qualified to communicate any spiritual ideas, was

improved and modulated by his genius: and Ulphilas, before he could frame his version, was obliged to compose a new alphabet of twenty-four

letters; [741] four of which he invented, to express the peculiar sounds that were unknown to the Greek and Latin pronunciation. [75] But the

prosperous state of the Gothic church was soon afflicted by war and

intestine discord, and the chieftains were divided by religion as well as by interest. Fritigern, the friend of the Romans, became the

proselyte of Ulphilas; while the haughty soul of Athanaric disdained the

yoke of the empire and of the gospel The faith of the new converts was tried by the persecution which he excited. A wagon, bearing aloft the

shapeless image of Thor, perhaps, or of Woden, was conducted in solemn

procession through the streets of the camp; and the rebels, who refused to worship the god of their fathers, were immediately burnt, with their tents and families. The character of Ulphilas recommended him to the esteem of the Eastern court, where he twice appeared as the minister of

peace; he pleaded the cause of the distressed Goths, who implored the protection of Valens; and the name of Moses was applied to this

spiritual guide, who conducted his people through the deep waters of the Danube to the Land of Promise. [76] The devout shepherds, who were attached to his person, and tractable to his voice, acquiesced in their settlement, at the foot of the Maesian mountains, in a country

of woodlands and pastures, which supported their flocks and herds, and enabled them to purchase the corn and wine of the more plentiful

provinces. These harmless Barbarians multiplied in obscure peace and the

profession of Christianity. [77]

[Footnote 74: On the subject of Ulphilas, and the conversion of the

Goths, see Sozomen, l. vi. c. 37. Socrates, l. iv. c. 33. Theodoret, l.

iv. c. 37. Philostorg. l. ii. c. 5. The heresy of Philostorgius appears to have given him superior means of information.]

[Footnote 741: This is the Moeso-Gothic alphabet of which many of the

letters are evidently formed from the Greek and Roman. M. St. Martin,

however contends, that it is impossible but that some written alphabet

must have been known long before among the Goths. He supposes that their former letters were those inscribed on the runes, which, being

inseparably connected with the old idolatrous superstitions, were

proscribed by the Christian missionaries. Everywhere the runes, so common among all the German tribes, disappear after the propagation of christianity. S. Martin iv. p. 97, 98.--M.]

[Footnote 75: A mutilated copy of the four Gospels, in the Gothic

version, was published A.D. 1665, and is esteemed the most ancient

monument of the Teutonic language, though Wetstein attempts, by some frivolous conjectures, to deprive Ulphilas of the honor of the work. Two

of the four additional letters express the W, and our own Th. See Simon,

Hist. Critique du Nouveau Testament, tom ii. p. 219-223. Mill. Prolegom

p. 151, edit. Kuster. Wetstein, Prolegom. tom. i. p. 114. \* Note: The codex Argenteus, found in the sixteenth century at Wenden, near Cologne, and now preserved at Upsal, contains almost the entire four Gospels. the best edition is that of J. Christ. Zahn, Weissenfels, 1805. In 1762

Knettel discovered and published from a Palimpsest MS. four chapters of the Epistle to the Romans: they were reprinted at Upsal, 1763. M. Mai

has since that time discovered further fragments, and other remains

of Moeso-Gothic literature, from a Palimpsest at Milan. See Ulphilae

partium inedi arum in Ambrosianis Palimpsestis ab Ang. Maio repertarum

specimen Milan. Ito. 1819.--M.]

[Footnote 76: Philostorgius erroneously places this passage under the

reign of Constantine; but I am much inclined to believe that it preceded the great emigration.]

[Footnote 77: We are obliged to Jornandes (de Reb. Get. c. 51, p. 688) for a short and lively picture of these lesser Goths. Gothi minores,

populus immensus, cum suo Pontifice ipsoque primate Wulfila. The

last words, if they are not mere tautology, imply some temporal

jurisdiction.]

their fiercer brethren, the formidable Visigoths, universally adopted the religion of the Romans, with whom they maintained a perpetual

intercourse, of war, of friendship, or of conquest. In their long and

victorious march from the Danube to the Atlantic Ocean, they converted their allies; they educated the rising generation; and the devotion which reigned in the camp of Alaric, or the court of Thoulouse, might edify or disgrace the palaces of Rome and Constantinople. [78] During the same period, Christianity was embraced by almost all the Barbarians, who established their kingdoms on the ruins of the Western empire; the burgundians in Gaul, the Suevi in Spain, the Vandals in Africa, the

Ostrogoths in Pannonia, and the various bands of mercenaries, that

raised Odoacer to the throne of Italy. The Franks and the Saxons still

persevered in the errors of Paganism; but the Franks obtained the

monarchy of Gaul by their submission to the example of Clovis; and the Saxon conquerors of Britain were reclaimed from their savage

superstition by the missionaries of Rome. These Barbarian proselytes displayed an ardent and successful zeal in the propagation of the faith. the Merovingian kings, and their successors, Charlemagne and the Othos, extended, by their laws and victories, the dominion of the cross. england produced the apostle of Germany; and the evangelic light was

gradually diffused from the neighborhood of the Rhine, to the nations of the Elbe, the Vistula, and the Baltic. [79]

[Footnote 78: At non ita Gothi non ita Vandali; malis licet doctoribus

instituti meliores tamen etiam in hac parte quam nostri. Salvian, de

Gubern, Dei, l. vii. p. 243.]

[Footnote 79: Mosheim has slightly sketched the progress of Christianity

in the North, from the fourth to the fourteenth century. The subject would afford materials for an ecclesiastical and even philosophical,

history]

chapter XXXVII: Conversion Of The Barbarians To Christianity.--Part III.

the different motives which influenced the reason, or the passions, of the Barbarian converts, cannot easily be ascertained. They were often capricious and accidental; a dream, an omen, the report of a miracle, the example of some priest, or hero, the charms of a believing wife, and, above all, the fortunate event of a prayer, or vow, which, in a

moment of danger, they had addressed to the God of the Christians. [80] the early prejudices of education were insensibly erased by the habits

of frequent and familiar society, the moral precepts of the gospel were protected by the extravagant virtues of the monks; and a spiritual theology was supported by the visible power of relics, and the pomp of

religious worship. But the rational and ingenious mode of persuasion, which a Saxon bishop [81] suggested to a popular saint, might sometimes be employed by the missionaries, who labored for the conversion of

infidels. "Admit," says the sagacious disputant, "whatever they are

pleased to assert of the fabulous, and carnal, genealogy of their gods and goddesses, who are propagated from each other. From this principle deduce their imperfect nature, and human infirmities, the assurance they were born, and the probability that they will die. At what time, by what means, from what cause, were the eldest of the gods or goddesses

produced? Do they still continue, or have they ceased, to propagate? If they have ceased, summon your antagonists to declare the reason of this

strange alteration. If they still continue, the number of the gods must become infinite; and shall we not risk, by the indiscreet worship of

some impotent deity, to excite the resentment of his jealous superior? the visible heavens and earth, the whole system of the universe, which

may be conceived by the mind, is it created or eternal? If created, how,

or where, could the gods themselves exist before creation? If eternal,

how could they assume the empire of an independent and preexisting world? Urge these arguments with temper and moderation; insinuate, at

seasonable intervals, the truth and beauty of the Christian revelation; and endeavor to make the unbelievers ashamed, without making them angry." This metaphysical reasoning, too refined, perhaps, for the barbarians of Germany, was fortified by the grosser weight of authority and popular consent. The advantage of temporal prosperity had deserted the Pagan cause, and passed over to the service of Christianity. The

Romans themselves, the most powerful and enlightened nation of the

globe, had renounced their ancient superstition; and, if the ruin

of their empire seemed to accuse the efficacy of the new faith, the disgrace was already retrieved by the conversion of the victorious

Goths. The valiant and fortunate Barbarians, who subdued the provinces

of the West, successively received, and reflected, the same edifying example. Before the age of Charlemagne, the Christian nations of Europe

might exult in the exclusive possession of the temperate climates, of the fertile lands, which produced corn, wine, and oil; while the savage

idolaters, and their helpless idols, were confined to the extremities of the earth, the dark and frozen regions of the North. [82]

[Footnote 80: To such a cause has Socrates (l. vii. c. 30) ascribed the conversion of the Burgundians, whose Christian piety is celebrated by

Orosius, (l. vii. c. 19.)]

[Footnote 81: See an original and curious epistle from Daniel, the first bishop of Winchester, (Beda, Hist. Eccles. Anglorum, l. v. c. 18, p.

203, edit Smith,) to St. Boniface, who preached the gospel among the

savages of Hesse and Thuringia. Epistol. Bonifacii, lxvii., in the

Maxima Bibliotheca Patrum, tom. xiii. p. 93]

[Footnote 82: The sword of Charlemagne added weight to the argument; but when Daniel wrote this epistle, (A.D. 723,) the Mahometans, who reigned from India to Spain, might have retorted it against the Christians.]

christianity, which opened the gates of Heaven to the Barbarians,

introduced an important change in their moral and political condition. they received, at the same time, the use of letters, so essential to a

religion whose doctrines are contained in a sacred book; and while they

studied the divine truth, their minds were insensibly enlarged by the distant view of history, of nature, of the arts, and of society. the version of the Scriptures into their native tongue, which had facilitated their conversion, must excite among their clergy some curiosity to read the original text, to understand the sacred liturgy of the church, and to examine, in the writings of the fathers, the chain

of ecclesiastical tradition. These spiritual gifts were preserved in the

Greek and Latin languages, which concealed the inestimable monuments of ancient learning. The immortal productions of Virgil, Cicero, and Livy, which were accessible to the Christian Barbarians, maintained a silent

intercourse between the reign of Augustus and the times of Clovis and charlemagne. The emulation of mankind was encouraged by the remembrance

of a more perfect state; and the flame of science was secretly kept alive, to warm and enlighten the mature age of the Western world.

In the most corrupt state of Christianity, the Barbarians might learn

justice from the law, and mercy from the gospel; and if the knowledge of their duty was insufficient to guide their actions, or to regulate their

passions, they were sometimes restrained by conscience, and frequently

punished by remorse. But the direct authority of religion was less effectual than the holy communion, which united them with their christian brethren in spiritual friendship. The influence of these

sentiments contributed to secure their fidelity in the service, or the alliance, of the Romans, to alleviate the horrors of war, to moderate the insolence of conquest, and to preserve, in the downfall of the empire, a permanent respect for the name and institutions of Rome. In the days of Paganism, the priests of Gaul and Germany reigned over the

people, and controlled the jurisdiction of the magistrates; and the

zealous proselytes transferred an equal, or more ample, measure of devout obedience, to the pontiffs of the Christian faith. The sacred character of the bishops was supported by their temporal possessions; they obtained an honorable seat in the legislative assemblies of

soldiers and freemen; and it was their interest, as well as their duty, to mollify, by peaceful counsels, the fierce spirit of the Barbarians. the perpetual correspondence of the Latin clergy, the frequent

pilgrimages to Rome and Jerusalem, and the growing authority of the

popes, cemented the union of the Christian republic, and gradually

produced the similar manners, and common jurisprudence, which have distinguished, from the rest of mankind, the independent, and even

hostile, nations of modern Europe.

but the operation of these causes was checked and retarded by the

unfortunate accident, which infused a deadly poison into the cup of

Salvation. Whatever might be the early sentiments of Ulphilas, his connections with the empire and the church were formed during the reign

of Arianism. The apostle of the Goths subscribed the creed of Rimini;

professed with freedom, and perhaps with sincerity, that the Son was not equal, or consubstantial to the Father; [83] communicated these errors to the clergy and people; and infected the Barbaric world with a heresy,

[84] which the great Theodosius proscribed and extinguished among the

Romans. The temper and understanding of the new proselytes were not adapted to metaphysical subtilties; but they strenuously maintained, what they had piously received, as the pure and genuine doctrines of christianity. The advantage of preaching and expounding the Scriptures

in the Teutonic language promoted the apostolic labors of Ulphilas and

his successors; and they ordained a competent number of bishops and

presbyters for the instruction of the kindred tribes. The Ostrogoths, the Burgundians, the Suevi, and the Vandals, who had listened to the eloquence of the Latin clergy, [85] preferred the more intelligible

lessons of their domestic teachers; and Arianism was adopted as the

national faith of the warlike converts, who were seated on the ruins

of the Western empire. This irreconcilable difference of religion was a

perpetual source of jealousy and hatred; and the reproach of Barbarian was imbittered by the more odious epithet of Heretic. The heroes of the North, who had submitted, with some reluctance, to believe that all their ancestors were in hell, [86] were astonished and exasperated to

learn, that they themselves had only changed the mode of their eternal condemnation. Instead of the smooth applause, which Christian kings are accustomed to expect from their royal prelates, the orthodox bishops and their clergy were in a state of opposition to the Arian courts; and their indiscreet opposition frequently became criminal, and might

sometimes be dangerous. [87] The pulpit, that safe and sacred organ of

sedition, resounded with the names of Pharaoh and Holofernes; [88] the

public discontent was inflamed by the hope or promise of a glorious deliverance; and the seditious saints were tempted to promote the accomplishment of their own predictions. Notwithstanding these

provocations, the Catholics of Gaul, Spain, and Italy, enjoyed, under the reign of the Arians, the free and peaceful exercise of their

religion. Their haughty masters respected the zeal of a numerous people,

resolved to die at the foot of their altars; and the example of their devout constancy was admired and imitated by the Barbarians themselves. the conquerors evaded, however, the disgraceful reproach, or confession,

of fear, by attributing their toleration to the liberal motives

of reason and humanity; and while they affected the language, they

imperceptiby imbibed the spirit, of genuine Christianity.

[Footnote 83: The opinions of Ulphilas and the Goths inclined to

semi-Arianism, since they would not say that the Son was a creature, though they held communion with those who maintained that heresy. Their apostle represented the whole controversy as a question of trifling

moment, which had been raised by the passions of the clergy. Theodoret

l. iv. c. 37.]

[Footnote 84: The Arianism of the Goths has been imputed to the emperor

Valens: "Itaque justo Dei judicio ipsi eum vivum incenderunt, qui

propter eum etiam mortui, vitio erroris arsuri sunt." Orosius, l. vii. c. 33, p. 554. This cruel sentence is confirmed by Tillemont, (Mem. eccles. tom. vi. p. 604-610,) who coolly observes, "un seul homme entraina dans l'enfer un nombre infini de Septentrionaux, &c." Salvian

(de Gubern. Dei, l. v p. 150, 151) pities and excuses their involuntary error.]

[Footnote 85: Orosius affirms, in the year 416, (l. vii. c. 41, p. 580,) that the Churches of Christ (of the Catholics) were filled with Huns,

Suevi, Vandals, Burgundians.]

[Footnote 86: Radbod, king of the Frisons, was so much scandalized by this rash declaration of a missionary, that he drew back his foot after

he had entered the baptismal font. See Fleury, Hist. Eccles. tom. ix p.

167.]

[Footnote 87: The epistles of Sidonius, bishop of Clermont, under the

Visigotha, and of Avitus, bishop of Vienna, under the Burgundians, explain sometimes in dark hints, the general dispositions of the catholics. The history of Clovis and Theodoric will suggest some

particular facts]

[Footnote 88: Genseric confessed the resemblance, by the severity with which he punished such indiscreet allusions. Victor Vitensis, l. 7, p.

10.]

the peace of the church was sometimes interrupted. The Catholics were

indiscreet, the Barbarians were impatient; and the partial acts of

severity or injustice, which had been recommended by the Arian clergy, were exaggerated by the orthodox writers. The guilt of persecution may be imputed to Euric, king of the Visigoths; who suspended the exercise

of ecclesiastical, or, at least, of episcopal functions; and punished the popular bishops of Aquitain with imprisonment, exile, and confiscation. [89] But the cruel and absurd enterprise of subduing the

minds of a whole people was undertaken by the Vandals alone. Genseric

himself, in his early youth, had renounced the orthodox communion; and the apostate could neither grant, nor expect, a sincere forgiveness. He was exasperated to find that the Africans, who had fled before him in the field, still presumed to dispute his will in synods and churches; and his ferocious mind was incapable of fear or of compassion. His catholic subjects were oppressed by intolerant laws and arbitrary

punishments. The language of Genseric was furious and formidable; the knowledge of his intentions might justify the most unfavorable

interpretation of his actions; and the Arians were reproached with the frequent executions which stained the palace and the dominions of the tyrant. Arms and ambition were, however, the ruling passions of the

monarch of the sea. But Hunneric, his inglorious son, who seemed to inherit only his vices, tormented the Catholics with the same

unrelenting fury which had been fatal to his brother, his nephews, and the friends and favorites of his father; and even to the Arian

patriarch, who was inhumanly burnt alive in the midst of Carthage. the religious war was preceded and prepared by an insidious truce;

persecution was made the serious and important business of the Vandal court; and the loathsome disease which hastened the death of Hunneric,

revenged the injuries, without contributing to the deliverance, of the church. The throne of Africa was successively filled by the two nephews

of Hunneric; by Gundamund, who reigned about twelve, and by Thrasimund, who governed the nation about twenty-seven, years. Their administration was hostile and oppressive to the orthodox party. Gundamund appeared to emulate, or even to surpass, the cruelty of his uncle; and, if at length

he relented, if he recalled the bishops, and restored the freedom of athanasian worship, a premature death intercepted the benefits of his tardy clemency. His brother, Thrasimund, was the greatest and most accomplished of the Vandal kings, whom he excelled in beauty, prudence, and magnanimity of soul. But this magnanimous character was degraded by his intolerant zeal and deceitful clemency. Instead of threats and tortures, he employed the gentle, but efficacious, powers of seduction. wealth, dignity, and the royal favor, were the liberal rewards of apostasy; the Catholics, who had violated the laws, might purchase their pardon by the renunciation of their faith; and whenever thrasimund meditated any rigorous measure, he patiently waited till the indiscretion of his adversaries furnished him with a specious

opportunity. Bigotry was his last sentiment in the hour of death; and he exacted from his successor a solemn oath, that he would never tolerate the sectaries of Athanasius. But his successor, Hilderic, the gentle son

of the savage Hunneric, preferred the duties of humanity and justice to the vain obligation of an impious oath; and his accession was gloriously

marked by the restoration of peace and universal freedom. The throne of that virtuous, though feeble monarch, was usurped by his cousin Gelimer, a zealous Arian: but the Vandal kingdom, before he could enjoy or abuse

his power, was subverted by the arms of Belisarius; and the orthodox

party retaliated the injuries which they had endured. [90]

[Footnote 89: Such are the contemporary complaints of Sidonius, bishop

of Clermont (l. vii. c. 6, p. 182, &c., edit. Sirmond.) Gregory of Tours who quotes this Epistle, (l. ii. c. 25, in tom. ii. p. 174,) extorts an

unwarrantable assertion, that of the nine vacancies in Aquitain, some

had been produced by episcopal martyrdoms]

[Footnote 90: The original monuments of the Vandal persecution are

preserved in the five books of the history of Victor Vitensis, (de

Persecutione Vandalica,) a bishop who was exiled by Hunneric; in the

life of St. Fulgentius, who was distinguished in the persecution of thrasimund (in Biblioth. Max. Patrum, tom. ix. p. 4-16;) and in the first book of the Vandalic War, by the impartial Procopius, (c. 7, 8,

p. 196, 197, 198, 199.) Dom Ruinart, the last editor of Victor, has

illustrated the whole subject with a copious and learned apparatus of

notes and supplement (Paris, 1694.)] The passionate declamations of the catholics, the sole historians of this persecution, cannot afford any distinct series of causes and events; any impartial view of the characters, or counsels; but the most remarkable circumstances that deserve either credit or notice, may be referred to the following heads;

I. In the original law, which is still extant, [91] Hunneric expressly declares, (and the declaration appears to be correct,) that he had faithfully transcribed the regulations and penalties of the Imperial edicts, against the heretical congregations, the clergy, and the people, who dissented from the established religion. If the rights of conscience

had been understood, the Catholics must have condemned their past conduct or acquiesced in their actual suffering. But they still

persisted to refuse the indulgence which they claimed. While they trembled under the lash of persecution, they praised the laudable

severity of Hunneric himself, who burnt or banished great numbers

of Manichaeans; [92] and they rejected, with horror, the ignominious compromise, that the disciples of Arius and of Athanasius should enjoy a

reciprocal and similar toleration in the territories of the Romans, and

in those of the Vandals. [93] II. The practice of a conference, which the Catholics had so frequently used to insult and punish their

obstinate antagonists, was retorted against themselves. [94] At the command of Hunneric, four hundred and sixty-six orthodox bishops assembled at Carthage; but when they were admitted into the hall of audience, they had the mortification of beholding the Arian Cyrila exalted on the patriarchal throne. The disputants were separated, after the mutual and ordinary reproaches of noise and silence, of delay and

precipitation, of military force and of popular clamor. One martyr and

one confessor were selected among the Catholic bishops; twenty-eight escaped by flight, and eighty-eight by conformity; forty-six were sent

into Corsica to cut timber for the royal navy; and three hundred and two were banished to the different parts of Africa, exposed to the insults

of their enemies, and carefully deprived of all the temporal and

spiritual comforts of life. [95] The hardships of ten years' exile must

have reduced their numbers; and if they had complied with the law of thrasimund, which prohibited any episcopal consecrations, the orthodox church of Africa must have expired with the lives of its actual members. they disobeyed, and their disobedience was punished by a second exile

of two hundred and twenty bishops into Sardinia; where they languished fifteen years, till the accession of the gracious Hilderic. [96] The two

islands were judiciously chosen by the malice of their Arian tyrants.

Seneca, from his own experience, has deplored and exaggerated the

miserable state of Corsica, [97] and the plenty of Sardinia was

overbalanced by the unwholesome quality of the air. [98] III. The zeal

of Generic and his successors, for the conversion of the Catholics, must

have rendered them still more jealous to guard the purity of the Vandal faith. Before the churches were finally shut, it was a crime to appear

in a Barbarian dress; and those who presumed to neglect the royal

mandate were rudely dragged backwards by their long hair. [99] The

palatine officers, who refused to profess the religion of their prince, were ignominiously stripped of their honors and employments; banished to Sardinia and Sicily; or condemned to the servile labors of slaves and peasants in the fields of Utica. In the districts which had been

peculiarly allotted to the Vandals, the exercise of the Catholic worship was more strictly prohibited; and severe penalties were denounced against the guilt both of the missionary and the proselyte. By these arts, the faith of the Barbarians was preserved, and their zeal was

inflamed: they discharged, with devout fury, the office of spies,

informers, or executioners; and whenever their cavalry took the field,

it was the favorite amusement of the march to defile the churches, and to insult the clergy of the adverse faction. [100] IV. The citizens who

had been educated in the luxury of the Roman province, were delivered, with exquisite cruelty, to the Moors of the desert. A venerable train of bishops, presbyters, and deacons, with a faithful crowd of four thousand and ninety-six persons, whose guilt is not precisely ascertained, were torn from their native homes, by the command of Hunneric. During the

night they were confined, like a herd of cattle, amidst their own

ordure: during the day they pursued their march over the burning sands; and if they fainted under the heat and fatigue, they were goaded, or dragged along, till they expired in the hands of their tormentors. [101] these unhappy exiles, when they reached the Moorish huts, might excite the compassion of a people, whose native humanity was neither improved by reason, nor corrupted by fanaticism: but if they escaped the dangers, they were condemned to share the distress of a savage life. V. It is

incumbent on the authors of persecution previously to reflect, whether they are determined to support it in the last extreme. They excite the flame which they strive to extinguish; and it soon becomes necessary to chastise the contumacy, as well as the crime, of the offender. The fine, which he is unable or unwilling to discharge, exposes his person to the

severity of the law; and his contempt of lighter penalties suggests the

use and propriety of capital punishment. Through the veil of fiction and declamation we may clearly perceive, that the Catholics more especially

under the reign of Hunneric, endured the most cruel and ignominious treatment. [102] Respectable citizens, noble matrons, and consecrated

virgins, were stripped naked, and raised in the air by pulleys, with a weight suspended at their feet. In this painful attitude their naked bodies were torn with scourges, or burnt in the most tender parts with

red-hot plates of iron. The amputation of the ears the nose, the tongue, and the right hand, was inflicted by the Arians; and although the

precise number cannot be defined, it is evident that many persons, among whom a bishop [103] and a proconsul [104] may be named, were entitled to the crown of martyrdom. The same honor has been ascribed to the memory

of Count Sebastian, who professed the Nicene creed with unshaken constancy; and Genseric might detest, as a heretic, the brave and ambitious fugitive whom he dreaded as a rival. [105] VI. A new mode of conversion, which might subdue the feeble, and alarm the timorous, was employed by the Arian ministers. They imposed, by fraud or violence, the

rites of baptism; and punished the apostasy of the Catholics, if they disclaimed this odious and profane ceremony, which scandalously violated the freedom of the will, and the unity of the sacrament. [106] The

hostile sects had formerly allowed the validity of each other's baptism; and the innovation, so fiercely maintained by the Vandals, can be

imputed only to the example and advice of the Donatists. VII. The Arian clergy surpassed in religious cruelty the king and his Vandals; but they were incapable of cultivating the spiritual vineyard, which they were so desirous to possess. A patriarch [107] might seat himself on the throne

of Carthage; some bishops, in the principal cities, might usurp the

place of their rivals; but the smallness of their numbers, and their

ignorance of the Latin language, [108] disqualified the Barbarians for the ecclesiastical ministry of a great church; and the Africans, after the loss of their orthodox pastors, were deprived of the public exercise

of Christianity. VIII. The emperors were the natural protectors of the

Homoousian doctrine; and the faithful people of Africa, both as Romans and as Catholics, preferred their lawful sovereignty to the usurpation

of the Barbarous heretics. During an interval of peace and friendship,

Hunneric restored the cathedral of Carthage; at the intercession of

Zeno, who reigned in the East, and of Placidia, the daughter and relict

of emperors, and the sister of the queen of the Vandals. [109] But this decent regard was of short duration; and the haughty tyrant displayed

his contempt for the religion of the empire, by studiously arranging the bloody images of persecution, in all the principal streets through which the Roman ambassador must pass in his way to the palace. [110] An oath was required from the bishops, who were assembled at Carthage, that they would support the succession of his son Hilderic, and that they would

renounce all foreign or transmarine correspondence. This engagement, consistent, as it should seem, with their moral and religious duties, was refused by the more sagacious members [111] of the assembly. Their

refusal, faintly colored by the pretence that it is unlawful for a christian to swear, must provoke the suspicions of a jealous tyrant.

[Footnote 91: Victor, iv. 2, p. 65. Hunneric refuses the name of catholics to the Homoousians. He describes, as the veri Divinae

Majestatis cultores, his own party, who professed the faith, confirmed by more than a thousand bishops, in the synods of Rimini and Seleucia.]

[Footnote 92: Victor, ii, 1, p. 21, 22: Laudabilior... videbatur. In the Mss which omit this word, the passage is unintelligible. See Ruinart

Not. p. 164.]

[Footnote 93: Victor, ii. p. 22, 23. The clergy of Carthage called these conditions periculosoe; and they seem, indeed, to have been proposed as a snare to entrap the Catholic bishops.]

[Footnote 94: See the narrative of this conference, and the treatment of the bishops, in Victor, ii. 13-18, p. 35-42 and the whole fourth book p.

63-171. The third book, p. 42-62, is entirely filled by their apology or confession of faith.]

[Footnote 95: See the list of the African bishops, in Victor, p.

117-140, and Ruinart's notes, p. 215-397. The schismatic name of Donatus frequently occurs, and they appear to have adopted (like our fanatics

of the last age) the pious appellations of Deodatus, Deogratias,

Quidvultdeus, Habetdeum, &c. Note: These names appear to have been

introduced by the Donatists.--M.]

[Footnote 96: Fulgent. Vit. c. 16-29. Thrasimund affected the praise

of moderation and learning; and Fulgentius addressed three books of controversy to the Arian tyrant, whom he styles piissime Rex. Biblioth.

Maxim. Patrum, tom. ix. p. 41. Only sixty bishops are mentioned as exiles in the life of Fulgentius; they are increased to one hundred and twenty by Victor Tunnunensis and Isidore; but the number of two hundred and twenty is specified in the Historia Miscella, and a short authentic chronicle of the times. See Ruinart, p. 570, 571.]

[Footnote 97: See the base and insipid epigrams of the Stoic, who could

not support exile with more fortitude than Ovid. Corsica might not

produce corn, wine, or oil; but it could not be destitute of grass, water, and even fire.]

[Footnote 98: Si ob gravitatem coeli interissent vile damnum. Tacit. annal. ii. 85. In this application, Thrasimund would have adopted the

reading of some critics, utile damnum.]

[Footnote 99: See these preludes of a general persecution, in Victor,

ii. 3, 4, 7 and the two edicts of Hunneric, l. ii. p. 35, l. iv. p. 64.]

[Footnote 100: See Procopius de Bell. Vandal. l. i. c. 7, p. 197, 198. a Moorish prince endeavored to propitiate the God of the Christians, by

his diligence to erase the marks of the Vandal sacrilege.]

[Footnote 101: See this story in Victor. ii. 8-12, p. 30-34. Victor describes the distress of these confessors as an eye-witness.]

[Footnote 102: See the fifth book of Victor. His passionate complaints are confirmed by the sober testimony of Procopius, and the public declaration of the emperor Justinian. Cod. l. i. tit. xxvii.]

[Footnote 103: Victor, ii. 18, p. 41.]

[Footnote 104: Victor, v. 4, p. 74, 75. His name was Victorianus, and

he was a wealthy citizen of Adrumetum, who enjoyed the confidence of the

king; by whose favor he had obtained the office, or at least the title,

of proconsul of Africa.]

[Footnote 105: Victor, i. 6, p. 8, 9. After relating the firm resistance and dexterous reply of Count Sebastian, he adds, quare alio generis argumento postea bellicosum virum eccidit.]

[Footnote 106: Victor, v. 12, 13. Tillemont, Mem. Eccles. tom. vi. p.

609.]

[Footnote 107: Primate was more properly the title of the bishop of carthage; but the name of patriarch was given by the sects and nations to their principal ecclesiastic. See Thomassin, Discipline de l'Eglise, tom. i. p. 155, 158.]

[Footnote 108: The patriarch Cyrila himself publicly declared, that he did not understand Latin (Victor, ii. 18, p. 42:) Nescio Latine; and he

might converse with tolerable ease, without being capable of disputing

or preaching in that language. His Vandal clergy were still more

ignorant; and small confidence could be placed in the Africans who had conformed.]

[Footnote 109: Victor, ii. 1, 2, p. 22.]

[Footnote 110: Victor, v. 7, p. 77. He appeals to the ambassador

himself, whose name was Uranius.]

[Footnote 111: Astutiores, Victor, iv. 4, p. 70. He plainly intimates that their quotation of the gospel "Non jurabitis in toto," was only

meant to elude the obligation of an inconvenient oath. The forty-six bishops who refused were banished to Corsica; the three hundred and two who swore were distributed through the provinces of Africa.]

chapter XXXVII: Conversion Of The Barbarians To Christianity.--Part V.

the Catholics, oppressed by royal and military force, were far superior to their adversaries in numbers and learning. With the same weapons which the Greek [112] and Latin fathers had already provided for the arian controversy, they repeatedly silenced, or vanquished, the fierce and illiterate successors of Ulphilas. The consciousness of their

own superiority might have raised them above the arts and passions of

religious warfare. Yet, instead of assuming such honorable pride, the

orthodox theologians were tempted, by the assurance of impunity, to compose fictions, which must be stigmatized with the epithets of fraud and forgery. They ascribed their own polemical works to the most

venerable names of Christian antiquity; the characters of Athanasius and augustin were awkwardly personated by Vigilius and his disciples; [113] and the famous creed, which so clearly expounds the mysteries of the trinity and the Incarnation, is deduced, with strong probability, from this African school. [114] Even the Scriptures themselves were profaned by their rash and sacrilegious hands. The memorable text, which asserts the unity of the three who bear witness in heaven, [115] is condemned by the universal silence of the orthodox fathers, ancient versions, and authentic manuscripts. [116] It was first alleged by the Catholic bishops whom Hunneric summoned to the conference of Carthage. [117] An allegorical interpretation, in the form, perhaps, of a marginal note,

invaded the text of the Latin Bibles, which were renewed and corrected

in a dark period of ten centuries. [118] After the invention of

printing, [119] the editors of the Greek Testament yielded to their own

prejudices, or those of the times; [120] and the pious fraud, which was embraced with equal zeal at Rome and at Geneva, has been infinitely

multiplied in every country and every language of modern Europe.

[Footnote 112: Fulgentius, bishop of Ruspae, in the Byzacene province, was of a senatorial family, and had received a liberal education. He could repeat all Homer and Menander before he was allowed to study Latin

his native tongue, (Vit. Fulgent. c. l.) Many African bishops might

understand Greek, and many Greek theologians were translated into

Latin.]

[Footnote 113: Compare the two prefaces to the Dialogue of Vigilius of thapsus, (p. 118, 119, edit. Chiflet.) He might amuse his learned

reader with an innocent fiction; but the subject was too grave, and the africans were too ignorant.]

[Footnote 114: The P. Quesnel started this opinion, which has been favorably received. But the three following truths, however surprising they may seem, are now universally acknowledged, (Gerard Vossius, tom.

vi. p. 516-522. Tillemont, Mem. Eccles. tom. viii. p. 667-671.) 1. St. athanasius is not the author of the creed which is so frequently read in

our churches. 2. It does not appear to have existed within a century after his death. 3. It was originally composed in the Latin tongue, and, consequently in the Western provinces. Gennadius patriarch of constantinople, was so much amazed by this extraordinary composition, that he frankly pronounced it to be the work of a drunken man. Petav. dogmat. Theologica, tom. ii. l. vii. c. 8, p. 687.]

[Footnote 115: 1 John, v. 7. See Simon, Hist. Critique du Nouveau testament, part i. c. xviii. p. 203-218; and part ii. c. ix. p. 99-121; and the elaborate Prolegomena and Annotations of Dr. Mill and Wetstein to their editions of the Greek Testament. In 1689, the papist Simon

strove to be free; in 1707, the Protestant Mill wished to be a slave;

in 1751, the Armenian Wetstein used the liberty of his times, and of his

sect. \* Note: This controversy has continued to be agitated, but with declining interest even in the more religious part of the community; and

may now be considered to have terminated in an almost general acquiescence of the learned to the conclusions of Porson in his Letters to Travis. See the pamphlets of the late Bishop of Salisbury and of crito Cantabrigiensis, Dr. Turton of Cambridge.--M.]

[Footnote 116: Of all the Mss. now extant, above fourscore in number,

some of which are more than 1200 years old, (Wetstein ad loc.) The

orthodox copies of the Vatican, of the Complutensian editors, of Robert

Stephens, are become invisible; and the two Mss. of Dublin and Berlin are unworthy to form an exception. See Emlyn's Works, vol. ii. p

227-255, 269-299; and M. de Missy's four ingenious letters, in tom.

viii. and ix. of the Journal Britannique.]

[Footnote 117: Or, more properly, by the four bishops who composed and

published the profession of faith in the name of their brethren. They

styled this text, luce clarius, (Victor Vitensis de Persecut. Vandal.

l. iii. c. 11, p. 54.) It is quoted soon afterwards by the African

polemics, Vigilius and Fulgentius.]

[Footnote 118: In the eleventh and twelfth centuries, the Bibles were corrected by Lanfranc, archbishop of Canterbury, and by Nicholas, cardinal and librarian of the Roman church, secundum orthodoxam fidem,

(Wetstein, Prolegom. p. 84, 85.) Notwithstanding these corrections, the

passage is still wanting in twenty-five Latin Mss., (Wetstein ad loc.,) the oldest and the fairest; two qualities seldom united, except in

manuscripts.]

[Footnote 119: The art which the Germans had invented was applied in

Italy to the profane writers of Rome and Greece. The original Greek of the New Testament was published about the same time (A.D. 1514, 1516,

1520,) by the industry of Erasmus, and the munificence of Cardinal

Ximenes. The Complutensian Polyglot cost the cardinal 50,000 ducats.

See Mattaire, Annal. Typograph. tom. ii. p. 2-8, 125-133; and Wetstein,

Prolegomena, p. 116-127.]

[Footnote 120: The three witnesses have been established in our Greek testaments by the prudence of Erasmus; the honest bigotry of the complutensian editors; the typographical fraud, or error, of Robert

Stephens, in the placing a crotchet; and the deliberate falsehood, or

strange misapprehension, of Theodore Beza.]

the example of fraud must excite suspicion: and the specious miracles by which the African Catholics have defended the truth and justice of their cause, may be ascribed, with more reason, to their own industry, than to the visible protection of Heaven. Yet the historian, who views this

religious conflict with an impartial eye, may condescend to mention

one preternatural event, which will edify the devout, and surprise the

incredulous. Tipasa, [121] a maritime colony of Mauritania, sixteen

miles to the east of Caesarea, had been distinguished, in every age, by the orthodox zeal of its inhabitants. They had braved the fury of the donatists; [122] they resisted, or eluded, the tyranny of the Arians. the town was deserted on the approach of an heretical bishop: most of the inhabitants who could procure ships passed over to the coast of

Spain; and the unhappy remnant, refusing all communion with the usurper,

still presumed to hold their pious, but illegal, assemblies. Their disobedience exasperated the cruelty of Hunneric. A military count was despatched from Carthage to Tipasa: he collected the Catholics in the forum, and, in the presence of the whole province, deprived the

guilty of their right hands and their tongues. But the holy confessors continued to speak without tongues; and this miracle is attested by

Victor, an African bishop, who published a history of the persecution within two years after the event. [123] "If any one," says Victor,

"should doubt of the truth, let him repair to Constantinople, and listen to the clear and perfect language of Restitutus, the sub-deacon, one of these glorious sufferers, who is now lodged in the palace of the emperor

Zeno, and is respected by the devout empress." At Constantinople we are astonished to find a cool, a learned, and unexceptionable witness, without interest, and without passion. Aeneas of Gaza, a Platonic

philosopher, has accurately described his own observations on these african sufferers. "I saw them myself: I heard them speak: I diligently

inquired by what means such an articulate voice could be formed without any organ of speech: I used my eyes to examine the report of my ears;

I opened their mouth, and saw that the whole tongue had been completely torn away by the roots; an operation which the physicians generally

suppose to be mortal." [124] The testimony of Aeneas of Gaza might be confirmed by the superfluous evidence of the emperor Justinian, in a

perpetual edict; of Count Marcellinus, in his Chronicle of the times; and of Pope Gregory the First, who had resided at Constantinople, as the

minister of the Roman pontiff. [125] They all lived within the compass

of a century; and they all appeal to their personal knowledge, or the

public notoriety, for the truth of a miracle, which was repeated in

several instances, displayed on the greatest theatre of the world, and

submitted, during a series of years, to the calm examination of the

senses. This supernatural gift of the African confessors, who spoke without tongues, will command the assent of those, and of those only, who already believe, that their language was pure and orthodox. But the

stubborn mind of an infidel, is guarded by secret, incurable suspicion; and the Arian, or Socinian, who has seriously rejected the doctrine of a Trinity, will not be shaken by the most plausible evidence of an athanasian miracle.

[Footnote 121: Plin. Hist. Natural. v. 1. Itinerar. Wesseling, p. 15. cellanius, Geograph. Antiq. tom. ii. part ii. p. 127. This Tipasa (which

must not be confounded with another in Numidia) was a town of some note

since Vespasian endowed it with the right of Latium.]

[Footnote 122: Optatus Milevitanus de Schism. Donatist. l. ii. p. 38.]

[Footnote 123: Victor Vitensis, v. 6, p. 76. Ruinart, p. 483-487.]

[Footnote 124: Aeneas Gazaeus in Theophrasto, in Biblioth. Patrum, tom.

viii. p. 664, 665. He was a Christian, and composed this Dialogue (the theophrastus) on the immortality of the soul, and the resurrection of the body; besides twenty-five Epistles, still extant. See Cave, (Hist.

Litteraria, p. 297,) and Fabricius, (Biblioth. Graec. tom. i. p. 422.)]

[Footnote 125: Justinian. Codex. l. i. tit. xxvii. Marcellin. in Chron.

p. 45, in Thesaur. Temporum Scaliger. Procopius, de Bell. Vandal. l. i. c. 7. p. 196. Gregor. Magnus, Dialog. iii. 32. None of these witnesses

have specified the number of the confessors, which is fixed at sixty in an old menology, (apud Ruinart. p. 486.) Two of them lost their speech by fornication; but the miracle is enhanced by the singular instance of a boy who had never spoken before his tongue was cut out. ]

the Vandals and the Ostrogoths persevered in the profession of Arianism till the final ruin of the kingdoms which they had founded in Africa and

Italy. The Barbarians of Gaul submitted to the orthodox dominion of the franks; and Spain was restored to the Catholic church by the voluntary conversion of the Visigoths.

this salutary revolution [126] was hastened by the example of a royal

martyr, whom our calmer reason may style an ungrateful rebel. Leovigild, the Gothic monarch of Spain, deserved the respect of his enemies, and the love of his subjects; the Catholics enjoyed a free toleration, and

his Arian synods attempted, without much success, to reconcile their

scruples by abolishing the unpopular rite of a second baptism. His eldest son Hermenegild, who was invested by his father with the royal diadem, and the fair principality of Boetica, contracted an honorable and orthodox alliance with a Merovingian princess, the daughter of

Sigebert, king of Austrasia, and of the famous Brunechild. The beauteous

Ingundis, who was no more than thirteen years of age, was received, beloved, and persecuted, in the Arian court of Toledo; and her religious constancy was alternately assaulted with blandishments and violence by

Goisvintha, the Gothic queen, who abused the double claim of maternal authority. [127] Incensed by her resistance, Goisvintha seized the catholic princess by her long hair, inhumanly dashed her against the

ground, kicked her till she was covered with blood, and at last

gave orders that she should be stripped, and thrown into a basin, or fish-pond. [128] Love and honor might excite Hermenegild to resent this

injurious treatment of his bride; and he was gradually persuaded that

Ingundis suffered for the cause of divine truth. Her tender complaints, and the weighty arguments of Le ander, archbishop of Seville, accomplished his conversion and the heir of the Gothic monarchy was

initiated in the Nicene faith by the solemn rites of confirmation. [129] the rash youth, inflamed by zeal, and perhaps by ambition, was tempted to violate the duties of a son and a subject; and the Catholics of

Spain, although they could not complain of persecution, applauded

his pious rebellion against an heretical father. The civil war was

protracted by the long and obstinate sieges of Merida, Cordova, and

Seville, which had strenuously espoused the party of Hermenegild He

invited the orthodox Barbarians, the Seuvi, and the Franks, to the destruction of his native land; he solicited the dangerous aid of the

Romans, who possessed Africa, and a part of the Spanish coast; and

his holy ambassador, the archbishop Leander, effectually negotiated in

person with the Byzantine court. But the hopes of the Catholics were crushed by the active diligence of the monarch who commanded the troops and treasures of Spain; and the guilty Hermenegild, after his vain attempts to resist or to escape, was compelled to surrender himself into the hands of an incensed father. Leovigild was still mindful of that

sacred character; and the rebel, despoiled of the regal ornaments, was

still permitted, in a decent exile, to profess the Catholic religion.

His repeated and unsuccessful treasons at length provoked the

indignation of the Gothic king; and the sentence of death, which he

pronounced with apparent reluctance, was privately executed in the tower

of Seville. The inflexible constancy with which he refused to accept the arian communion, as the price of his safety, may excuse the honors that

have been paid to the memory of St. Hermenegild. His wife and infant son were detained by the Romans in ignominious captivity; and this domestic

misfortune tarnished the glories of Leovigild, and imbittered the last

moments of his life.

[Footnote 126: See the two general historians of Spain, Mariana (Hist. de Rebus Hispaniae, tom. i. l. v. c. 12-15, p. 182-194) and Ferreras,

(French translation, tom. ii. p. 206-247.) Mariana almost forgets that

he is a Jesuit, to assume the style and spirit of a Roman classic. ferreras, an industrious compiler, reviews his facts, and rectifies his chronology.]

[Footnote 127: Goisvintha successively married two kings of the

Visigoths: Athanigild, to whom she bore Brunechild, the mother of

Ingundis; and Leovigild, whose two sons, Hermenegild and Recared, were the issue of a former marriage.]

[Footnote 128: Iracundiae furore succensa, adprehensam per comam capitis

puellam in terram conlidit, et diu calcibus verberatam, ac sanguins cruentatam, jussit exspoliari, et piscinae immergi. Greg. Turon. l. v. c. 39. in tom. ii. p. 255. Gregory is one of our best originals for this

portion of history.]

[Footnote 129: The Catholics who admitted the baptism of heretics

repeated the rite, or, as it was afterwards styled, the sacrament,

of confirmation, to which they ascribed many mystic and marvellous

prerogatives both visible and invisible. See Chardon. Hist. des

Sacremens, tom. 1. p. 405-552.] His son and successor, Recared, the first Catholic king of Spain, had imbibed the faith of his unfortunate brother, which he supported with more prudence and success. Instead of

revolting against his father, Recared patiently expected the hour of his death. Instead of condemning his memory, he piously supposed, that the dying monarch had abjured the errors of Arianism, and recommended to

his son the conversion of the Gothic nation. To accomplish that salutary end, Recared convened an assembly of the Arian clergy and nobles, declared himself a Catholic, and exhorted them to imitate the example

of their prince. The laborious interpretation of doubtful texts, or the curious pursuit of metaphysical arguments, would have excited an endless controversy; and the monarch discreetly proposed to his illiterate audience two substantial and visible arguments,--the testimony of Earth, and of Heaven. The Earth had submitted to the Nicene synod: the Romans, the Barbarians, and the inhabitants of Spain, unanimously professed the same orthodox creed; and the Visigoths resisted, almost alone, the consent of the Christian world. A superstitious age was prepared to

reverence, as the testimony of Heaven, the preternatural cures, which were performed by the skill or virtue of the Catholic clergy; the baptismal fonts of Osset in Boetica, [130] which were spontaneously

replenished every year, on the vigil of Easter; [131] and the miraculous

shrine of St. Martin of Tours, which had already converted the Suevic

prince and people of Gallicia. [132] The Catholic king encountered

some difficulties on this important change of the national religion. A conspiracy, secretly fomented by the queen-dowager, was formed against

his life; and two counts excited a dangerous revolt in the Narbonnese

Gaul. But Recared disarmed the conspirators, defeated the rebels, and executed severe justice; which the Arians, in their turn, might brand with the reproach of persecution. Eight bishops, whose names betray their Barbaric origin, abjured their errors; and all the books of Arian theology were reduced to ashes, with the house in which they had been

purposely collected. The whole body of the Visigoths and Suevi were allured or driven into the pale of the Catholic communion; the faith, at

least of the rising generation, was fervent and sincere: and the devout

liberality of the Barbarians enriched the churches and monasteries of

Spain. Seventy bishops, assembled in the council of Toledo, received the

submission of their conquerors; and the zeal of the Spaniards improved the Nicene creed, by declaring the procession of the Holy Ghost from the Son, as well as from the Father; a weighty point of doctrine, which

produced, long afterwards, the schism of the Greek and Latin churches.

[133] The royal proselyte immediately saluted and consulted Pope

Gregory, surnamed the Great, a learned and holy prelate, whose reign was distinguished by the conversion of heretics and infidels. The ambassadors of Recared respectfully offered on the threshold of the Vatican his rich presents of gold and gems; they accepted, as a

lucrative exchange, the hairs of St. John the Baptist; a cross, which enclosed a small piece of the true wood; and a key, that contained some

particles of iron which had been scraped from the chains of St. Peter.

[134]

[Footnote 130: Osset, or Julia Constantia, was opposite to Seville, on the northern side of the Boetis, (Plin. Hist. Natur. iii. 3:) and the authentic reference of Gregory of Tours (Hist. Francor. l. vi. c. 43, p.

288) deserves more credit than the name of Lusitania, (de Gloria Martyr. c. 24,) which has been eagerly embraced by the vain and superstitious

Portuguese, (Ferreras, Hist. d'Espagne, tom. ii. p. 166.)]

[Footnote 131: This miracle was skilfully performed. An Arian king

sealed the doors, and dug a deep trench round the church, without being able to intercept the Easter supply of baptismal water.]

[Footnote 132: Ferreras (tom. ii. p. 168-175, A.D. 550) has illustrated the difficulties which regard the time and circumstances of the conversion of the Suevi. They had been recently united by Leovigild to the Gothic monarchy of Spain.]

[Footnote 133: This addition to the Nicene, or rather the constantinopolitan creed, was first made in the eighth council of toledo, A.D. 653; but it was expressive of the popular doctrine, (Gerard

Vossius, tom. vi. p. 527, de tribus Symbolis.)]

[Footnote 134: See Gregor. Magn. l. vii. epist. 126, apud Baronium, annal. Eccles. A.D. 559, No. 25, 26.]

the same Gregory, the spiritual conqueror of Britain, encouraged the

pious Theodelinda, queen of the Lombards, to propagate the Nicene faith among the victorious savages, whose recent Christianity was polluted by the Arian heresy. Her devout labors still left room for the industry and success of future missionaries; and many cities of Italy were still disputed by hostile bishops. But the cause of Arianism was gradually

suppressed by the weight of truth, of interest, and of example; and the controversy, which Egypt had derived from the Platonic school, was terminated, after a war of three hundred years, by the final conversion

of the Lombards of Italy. [135]

[Footnote 135: Paul Warnefrid (de Gestis Langobard. l. iv. c. 44, p.

153, edit Grot.) allows that Arianism still prevailed under the reign of

Rotharis, (A.D. 636-652.) The pious deacon does not attempt to mark the

precise era of the national conversion, which was accomplished, however, before the end of the seventh century.]

the first missionaries who preached the gospel to the Barbarians, appealed to the evidence of reason, and claimed the benefit of toleration. [136] But no sooner had they established their spiritual dominion, than they exhorted the Christian kings to extirpate, without

mercy, the remains of Roman or Barbaric superstition. The successors

of Clovis inflicted one hundred lashes on the peasants who refused to destroy their idols; the crime of sacrificing to the demons was punished by the Anglo-Saxon laws with the heavier penalties of imprisonment and confiscation; and even the wise Alfred adopted, as an indispensable duty, the extreme rigor of the Mosaic institutions. [137] But the

punishment and the crime were gradually abolished among a Christian

people; the theological disputes of the schools were suspended by

propitious ignorance; and the intolerant spirit which could find neither

idolaters nor heretics, was reduced to the persecution of the Jews. That exiled nation had founded some synagogues in the cities of Gaul; but Spain, since the time of Hadrian, was filled with their numerous colonies. [138] The wealth which they accumulated by trade, and the

management of the finances, invited the pious avarice of their masters; and they might be oppressed without danger, as they had lost the use, and even the remembrance, of arms. Sisebut, a Gothic king, who reigned

in the beginning of the seventh century, proceeded at once to the last extremes of persecution. [139] Ninety thousand Jews were compelled to

receive the sacrament of baptism; the fortunes of the obstinate infidels were confiscated, their bodies were tortured; and it seems doubtful whether they were permitted to abandon their native country. The excessive zeal of the Catholic king was moderated, even by the clergy

of Spain, who solemnly pronounced an inconsistent sentence: that the

sacraments should not be forcibly imposed; but that the Jews who had been baptized should be constrained, for the honor of the church, to

persevere in the external practice of a religion which they disbelieved and detested. Their frequent relapses provoked one of the successors of

Sisebut to banish the whole nation from his dominions; and a council

of Toledo published a decree, that every Gothic king should swear to

maintain this salutary edict. But the tyrants were unwilling to dismiss the victims, whom they delighted to torture, or to deprive themselves

of the industrious slaves, over whom they might exercise a lucrative

oppression. The Jews still continued in Spain, under the weight of the civil and ecclesiastical laws, which in the same country have been faithfully transcribed in the Code of the Inquisition. The Gothic kings and bishops at length discovered, that injuries will produce hatred, and that hatred will find the opportunity of revenge. A nation, the secret

or professed enemies of Christianity, still multiplied in servitude and distress; and the intrigues of the Jews promoted the rapid success of the Arabian conquerors. [140]

[Footnote 136: Quorum fidei et conversioni ita congratulatus esse rex

perhibetur, ut nullum tamen cogeret ad Christianismum.... Didiceret enim a doctoribus auctoribusque suae salutis, servitium Christi voluntarium

non coactitium esse debere. Bedae Hist. Ecclesiastic. l. i. c. 26, p.

62, edit. Smith.]

[Footnote 137: See the Historians of France, tom. iv. p. 114; and Wilkins, Leges Anglo-Saxonicae, p. 11, 31. Siquis sacrificium

immolaverit praeter Deo soli morte moriatur.]

[Footnote 138: The Jews pretend that they were introduced into Spain by the fleets of Solomon, and the arms of Nebuchadnezzar; that Hadrian transported forty thousand families of the tribe of Judah, and ten thousand of the tribe of Benjamin, &c. Basnage, Hist. des Juifs, tom.

vii. c. 9, p. 240-256.]

[Footnote 139: Isidore, at that time archbishop of Seville, mentions, disapproves and congratulates, the zeal of Sisebut (Chron. Goth. p.

728.) Barosins (A.D. 614, No. 41) assigns the number of the evidence of almoin, (l. iv. c. 22;) but the evidence is weak, and I have not been able to verify the quotation, (Historians of France, tom. iii. p. 127.)]

[Footnote 140: Basnage (tom. viii. c. 13, p. 388-400) faithfully

represents the state of the Jews; but he might have added from the canons of the Spanish councils, and the laws of the Visigoths, many curious circumstances, essential to his subject, though they are foreign to mine. \* Note: Compare Milman, Hist. of Jews iii. 256--M]

as soon as the Barbarians withdrew their powerful support, the unpopular

heresy of Arius sunk into contempt and oblivion. But the Greeks still

retained their subtle and loquacious disposition: the establishment of an obscure doctrine suggested new questions, and new disputes; and it was always in the power of an ambitious prelate, or a fanatic monk, to violate the peace of the church, and, perhaps, of the empire. The

historian of the empire may overlook those disputes which were confined to the obscurity of schools and synods. The Manichaeans, who labored to reconcile the religions of Christ and of Zoroaster, had secretly

introduced themselves into the provinces: but these foreign sectaries were involved in the common disgrace of the Gnostics, and the Imperial

laws were executed by the public hatred. The rational opinions of the

Pelagians were propagated from Britain to Rome, Africa, and Palestine, and silently expired in a superstitious age. But the East was distracted by the Nestorian and Eutychian controversies; which attempted to explain the mystery of the incarnation, and hastened the ruin of Christianity in

her native land. These controversies were first agitated under the reign

of the younger Theodosius: but their important consequences extend far beyond the limits of the present volume. The metaphysical chain of argument, the contests of ecclesiastical ambition, and their political

influence on the decline of the Byzantine empire, may afford an

interesting and instructive series of history, from the general councils

of Ephesus and Chalcedon, to the conquest of the East by the successors

of Mahomet.

chapter XXXVIII: Reign Of Clovis.--Part I.

Reign And Conversion Of Clovis.--His Victories Over The

Alemanni, Burgundians, And Visigoths.--Establishment Of The

French Monarchy In Gaul.--Laws Of The Barbarians.--State Of

The Romans.--The Visigoths Of Spain.--Conquest Of Britain By

The Saxons.

the Gauls, [1] who impatiently supported the Roman yoke, received a

memorable lesson from one of the lieutenants of Vespasian, whose weighty

sense has been refined and expressed by the genius of Tacitus. [2] "The

protection of the republic has delivered Gaul from internal discord and foreign invasions. By the loss of national independence, you have acquired the name and privileges of Roman citizens. You enjoy, in common with yourselves, the permanent benefits of civil government; and your

remote situation is less exposed to the accidental mischiefs of tyranny.

Instead of exercising the rights of conquest, we have been contented to

impose such tributes as are requisite for your own preservation. Peace cannot be secured without armies; and armies must be supported at the expense of the people. It is for your sake, not for our own, that we

guard the barrier of the Rhine against the ferocious Germans, who have

so often attempted, and who will always desire, to exchange the solitude

of their woods and morasses for the wealth and fertility of Gaul. The fall of Rome would be fatal to the provinces; and you would be buried in the ruins of that mighty fabric, which has been raised by the valor and wisdom of eight hundred years. Your imaginary freedom would be insulted and oppressed by a savage master; and the expulsion of the Romans would be succeeded by the eternal hostilities of the Barbarian conquerors."

[3] This salutary advice was accepted, and this strange prediction was accomplished. In the space of four hundred years, the hardy Gauls, who

had encountered the arms of Caesar, were imperceptibly melted into the

general mass of citizens and subjects: the Western empire was dissolved; and the Germans, who had passed the Rhine, fiercely contended for the

possession of Gaul, and excited the contempt, or abhorrence, of its

peaceful and polished inhabitants. With that conscious pride which the preeminence of knowledge and luxury seldom fails to inspire, they derided the hairy and gigantic savages of the North; their rustic

manners, dissonant joy, voracious appetite, and their horrid appearance, equally disgusting to the sight and to the smell. The liberal studies were still cultivated in the schools of Autun and Bordeaux; and the

language of Cicero and Virgil was familiar to the Gallic youth. Their ears were astonished by the harsh and unknown sounds of the Germanic dialect, and they ingeniously lamented that the trembling muses fled from the harmony of a Burgundian lyre. The Gauls were endowed with all the advantages of art and nature; but as they wanted courage to defend them, they were justly condemned to obey, and even to flatter, the

victorious Barbarians, by whose clemency they held their precarious fortunes and their lives. [4]

[Footnote 1: In this chapter I shall draw my quotations from the Recueil des Historiens des Gaules et de la France, Paris, 1738-1767, in eleven volumes in folio. By the labor of Dom Bouquet, and the other benedictines, all the original testimonies, as far as A.D. 1060, are disposed in chronological order, and illustrated with learned notes.

Such a national work, which will be continued to the year 1500, might

provoke our emulation.]

[Footnote 2: Tacit. Hist. iv. 73, 74, in tom. i. p. 445. To abridge tacitus would indeed be presumptuous; but I may select the general ideas which he applies to the present state and future revelations of Gaul.]

[Footnote 3: Eadem semper causa Germanis transcendendi in Gallias

libido atque avaritiae et mutandae sedis amor; ut relictis paludibus et solitudinibus, suis, fecundissimum hoc solum vosque ipsos

possiderent.... Nam pulsis Romanis quid aliud quam bella omnium inter se

gentium exsistent?]

[Footnote 4: Sidonius Apollinaris ridicules, with affected wit and

pleasantry, the hardships of his situation, (Carm. xii. in tom. i. p.

811.)]

as soon as Odoacer had extinguished the Western empire, he sought the friendship of the most powerful of the Barbarians. The new sovereign of

Italy resigned to Euric, king of the Visigoths, all the Roman conquests beyond the Alps, as far as the Rhine and the Ocean: [5] and the senate

might confirm this liberal gift with some ostentation of power, and without any real loss of revenue and dominion. The lawful pretensions

of Euric were justified by ambition and success; and the Gothic nation

might aspire, under his command, to the monarchy of Spain and Gaul. arles and Marseilles surrendered to his arms: he oppressed the freedom

of Auvergne; and the bishop condescended to purchase his recall from exile by a tribute of just, but reluctant praise. Sidonius waited before the gates of the palace among a crowd of ambassadors and suppliants; and their various business at the court of Bordeaux attested the power, and the renown, of the king of the Visigoths. The Heruli of the distant

ocean, who painted their naked bodies with its coerulean color, implored

his protection; and the Saxons respected the maritime provinces of a prince, who was destitute of any naval force. The tall Burgundians

submitted to his authority; nor did he restore the captive Franks, till

he had imposed on that fierce nation the terms of an unequal peace. The

Vandals of Africa cultivated his useful friendship; and the Ostrogoths

of Pannonia were supported by his powerful aid against the oppression of the neighboring Huns. The North (such are the lofty strains of the poet) was agitated or appeased by the nod of Euric; the great king of Persia consulted the oracle of the West; and the aged god of the Tyber was

protected by the swelling genius of the Garonne. [6] The fortune of

nations has often depended on accidents; and France may ascribe her

greatness to the premature death of the Gothic king, at a time when

his son Alaric was a helpless infant, and his adversary Clovis [7] an ambitious and valiant youth.

[Footnote 5: See Procopius de Bell. Gothico, l. i. c. 12, in tom. ii.

p. 81. The character of Grotius inclines me to believe, that he has not

substituted the Rhine for the Rhone (Hist. Gothorum, p. 175) without the authority of some Ms.]

[Footnote 6: Sidonius, l. viii. epist. 3, 9, in tom. i. p. 800.

Jornandes (de Rebus Geticis, c. 47 p. 680) justifies, in some measure, this portrait of the Gothic hero.]

[Footnote 7: I use the familiar appellation of Clovis, from the Latin chlodovechus, or Chlodovoeus. But the Ch expresses only the German aspiration, and the true name is not different from Lewis, (Mem. de

'Academie des Inscriptions, tom. xx. p. 68.)]

while Childeric, the father of Clovis, lived an exile in Germany, he was hospitably entertained by the queen, as well as by the king, of the thuringians. After his restoration, Basina escaped from her husband's bed to the arms of her lover; freely declaring, that if she had known a

man wiser, stronger, or more beautiful, than Childeric, that man should

have been the object of her preference. [8] Clovis was the offspring

of this voluntary union; and, when he was no more than fifteen years of age, he succeeded, by his father's death, to the command of the Salian tribe. The narrow limits of his kingdom were confined to the island of the Batavians, with the ancient dioceses of Tournay and Arras; [10] and at the baptism of Clovis the number of his warriors could not exceed five thousand. The kindred tribes of the Franks, who had seated themselves along the Belgic rivers, the Scheld, the Meuse, the Moselle, and the Rhine, were governed by their independent kings, of the

Merovingian race; the equals, the allies, and sometimes the enemies of the Salic prince. But the Germans, who obeyed, in peace, the hereditary

jurisdiction of their chiefs, were free to follow the standard of a popular and victorious general; and the superior merit of Clovis attracted the respect and allegiance of the national confederacy. When

he first took the field, he had neither gold and silver in his coffers,

nor wine and corn in his magazine; [11] but he imitated the example of caesar, who, in the same country, had acquired wealth by the sword, and

purchased soldiers with the fruits of conquest. After each successful battle or expedition, the spoils were accumulated in one common

mass; every warrior received his proportionable share; and the royal

prerogative submitted to the equal regulations of military law. the untamed spirit of the Barbarians was taught to acknowledge the advantages of regular discipline. [12] At the annual review of the month

of March, their arms were diligently inspected; and when they traversed a peaceful territory, they were prohibited from touching a blade

of grass. The justice of Clovis was inexorable; and his careless or disobedient soldiers were punished with instant death. It would be

superfluous to praise the valor of a Frank; but the valor of Clovis was directed by cool and consummate prudence. [13] In all his transactions with mankind, he calculated the weight of interest, of passion, and

of opinion; and his measures were sometimes adapted to the sanguinary

manners of the Germans, and sometimes moderated by the milder genius

of Rome, and Christianity. He was intercepted in the career of victory,

since he died in the forty-fifth year of his age: but he had already accomplished, in a reign of thirty years, the establishment of the french monarchy in Gaul.

[Footnote 8: Greg. l. ii. c. 12, in tom. i. p. 168. Basina speaks the

language of nature; the Franks, who had seen her in their youth, might converse with Gregory in their old age; and the bishop of Tours could

not wish to defame the mother of the first Christian king.]

[Footnote 9: The Abbe Dubos (Hist. Critique de l'Etablissement de la

Monarchie Francoise dans les Gaules, tom. i. p. 630-650) has the merit

of defining the primitive kingdom of Clovis, and of ascertaining the

genuine number of his subjects.]

[Footnote 10: Ecclesiam incultam ac negligentia civium Paganorum

praetermis sam, veprium densitate oppletam, &c. Vit. St. Vedasti, in tom. iii. p. 372. This description supposes that Arras was possessed by the Pagans many years before the baptism of Clovis.]

[Footnote 11: Gregory of Tours (l v. c. i. tom. ii. p. 232) contrasts the poverty of Clovis with the wealth of his grandsons. Yet Remigius

(in tom. iv. p. 52) mentions his paternas opes, as sufficient for the

redemption of captives.]

[Footnote 12: See Gregory, (l. ii. c. 27, 37, in tom. ii. p. 175, 181,

182.) The famous story of the vase of Soissons explains both the power and the character of Clovis. As a point of controversy, it has been

strangely tortured by Boulainvilliers Dubos, and the other political antiquarians.]

[Footnote 13: The duke of Nivernois, a noble statesman, who has managed weighty and delicate negotiations, ingeniously illustrates (Mem. de

l'Acad. des Inscriptions, tom. xx. p. 147-184) the political system of clovis.]

the first exploit of Clovis was the defeat of Syagrius, the son of aegidius; and the public quarrel might, on this occasion, be inflamed by private resentment. The glory of the father still insulted the

Merovingian race; the power of the son might excite the jealous ambition

of the king of the Franks. Syagrius inherited, as a patrimonial estate, the city and diocese of Soissons: the desolate remnant of the second belgic, Rheims and Troyes, Beauvais and Amiens, would naturally submit to the count or patrician: [14] and after the dissolution of the Western empire, he might reign with the title, or at least with the authority,

of king of the Romans. [15] As a Roman, he had been educated in the

liberal studies of rhetoric and jurisprudence; but he was engaged by accident and policy in the familiar use of the Germanic idiom. The

independent Barbarians resorted to the tribunal of a stranger, who

possessed the singular talent of explaining, in their native tongue, the dictates of reason and equity. The diligence and affability of their

judge rendered him popular, the impartial wisdom of his decrees obtained their voluntary obedience, and the reign of Syagrius over the Franks and burgundians seemed to revive the original institution of civil society.

[16] In the midst of these peaceful occupations, Syagrius received, and boldly accepted, the hostile defiance of Clovis; who challenged his

rival in the spirit, and almost in the language, of chivalry, to appoint the day and the field [17] of battle. In the time of Caesar Soissons would have poured forth a body of fifty thousand horse and such an army might have been plentifully supplied with shields, cuirasses, and

military engines, from the three arsenals or manufactures of the city.

[18] But the courage and numbers of the Gallic youth were long since exhausted; and the loose bands of volunteers, or mercenaries, who

marched under the standard of Syagrius, were incapable of contending with the national valor of the Franks. It would be ungenerous without

some more accurate knowledge of his strength and resources, to condemn the rapid flight of Syagrius, who escaped, after the loss of a battle, to the distant court of Thoulouse. The feeble minority of Alaric could

not assist or protect an unfortunate fugitive; the pusillanimous [19]

Goths were intimidated by the menaces of Clovis; and the Roman

king, after a short confinement, was delivered into the hands of the executioner. The Belgic cities surrendered to the king of the Franks; and his dominions were enlarged towards the East by the ample diocese of tongres [20] which Clovis subdued in the tenth year of his reign.

[Footnote 14: M. Biet (in a Dissertation which deserved the prize of the academy of Soissons, p. 178-226,) has accurately defined the nature and extent of the kingdom of Syagrius and his father; but he too readily allows the slight evidence of Dubos (tom. ii. p. 54-57) to deprive him

of Beauvais and Amiens.]

[Footnote 15: I may observe that Fredegarius, in his epitome of Gregory

of Tours, (tom. ii. p. 398,) has prudently substituted the name of

Patricius for the incredible title of Rex Romanorum.]

[Footnote 16: Sidonius, (l. v. Epist. 5, in tom. i. p. 794,) who styles

him the Solon, the Amphion, of the Barbarians, addresses this imaginary

king in the tone of friendship and equality. From such offices of arbitration, the crafty Dejoces had raised himself to the throne of the

Medes, (Herodot. l. i. c. 96-100.)]

[Footnote 17: Campum sibi praeparari jussit. M. Biet (p. 226-251) has diligently ascertained this field of battle, at Nogent, a Benedictine abbey, about ten miles to the north of Soissons. The ground was marked by a circle of Pagan sepulchres; and Clovis bestowed the adjacent lands

of Leully and Coucy on the church of Rheims.]

[Footnote 18: See Caesar. Comment. de Bell. Gallic. ii. 4, in tom. i.

p. 220, and the Notitiae, tom. i. p. 126. The three Fabricae of Soissons were, Seutaria, Balistaria, and Clinabaria. The last supplied the complete armor of the heavy cuirassiers.]

[Footnote 19: The epithet must be confined to the circumstances; and

history cannot justify the French prejudice of Gregory, (l. ii. c. 27,

in tom. ii. p. 175,) ut Gothorum pavere mos est.]

[Footnote 20: Dubos has satisfied me (tom. i. p. 277-286) that Gregory

of Tours, his transcribers, or his readers, have repeatedly confounded the German kingdom of Thuringia, beyond the Rhine, and the Gallic city

of Tongria, on the Meuse, which was more anciently the country of the eburones, and more recently the diocese of Liege.]

the name of the Alemanni has been absurdly derived from their imaginary

settlement on the banks of the Leman Lake. [21] That fortunate district, from the lake to the Avenche, and Mount Jura, was occupied by the burgundians. [22] The northern parts of Helvetia had indeed been subdued by the ferocious Alemanni, who destroyed with their own hands the fruits

of their conquest. A province, improved and adorned by the arts of

Rome, was again reduced to a savage wilderness; and some vestige of the

stately Vindonissa may still be discovered in the fertile and populous

valley of the Aar. [23] From the source of the Rhine to its conflux with the Mein and the Moselle, the formidable swarms of the Alemanni commanded either side of the river, by the right of ancient possession,

or recent victory. They had spread themselves into Gaul, over the modern

provinces of Alsace and Lorraine; and their bold invasion of the kingdom

of Cologne summoned the Salic prince to the defence of his Ripuarian allies.

clovis encountered the invaders of Gaul in the plain of Tolbiac, about twenty-four miles from Cologne; and the two fiercest nations of Germany were mutually animated by the memory of past exploits, and the prospect

of future greatness. The Franks, after an obstinate struggle, gave way; and the Alemanni, raising a shout of victory, impetuously pressed their

retreat. But the battle was restored by the valor, and the conduct, and

perhaps by the piety, of Clovis; and the event of the bloody day decided forever the alternative of empire or servitude. The last king of the alemanni was slain in the field, and his people were slaughtered or

pursued, till they threw down their arms, and yielded to the mercy of the conqueror. Without discipline it was impossible for them to rally: they had contemptuously demolished the walls and fortifications which

might have protected their distress; and they were followed into the

heart of their forests by an enemy not less active, or intrepid, than themselves. The great Theodoric congratulated the victory of Clovis, whose sister Albofleda the king of Italy had lately married; but he

mildly interceded with his brother in favor of the suppliants and fugitives, who had implored his protection. The Gallic territories, which were possessed by the Alemanni, became the prize of their conqueror; and the haughty nation, invincible, or rebellious, to the arms of Rome, acknowledged the sovereignty of the Merovingian kings, who graciously permitted them to enjoy their peculiar manners and

institutions, under the government of official, and, at length, of

hereditary, dukes. After the conquest of the Western provinces, the franks alone maintained their ancient habitations beyond the Rhine. They

gradually subdued, and civilized, the exhausted countries, as far as the elbe, and the mountains of Bohemia; and the peace of Europe was secured by the obedience of Germany. [24]

[Footnote 21: Populi habitantes juxta Lemannum lacum, Alemanni dicuntur.

Servius, ad Virgil. Georgic. iv. 278. Don Bouquet (tom. i. p. 817) has

only alleged the more recent and corrupt text of Isidore of Seville.]

[Footnote 22: Gregory of Tours sends St. Lupicinus inter illa Jurensis deserti secreta, quae, inter Burgundiam Alamanniamque sita, Aventicae adja cent civitati, in tom. i. p. 648. M. de Watteville (Hist. de la confederation Helvetique, tom. i. p. 9, 10) has accurately defined the Helvetian limits of the Duchy of Alemannia, and the Transjurane burgundy. They were commensurate with the dioceses of Constance and Avenche, or Lausanne, and are still discriminated, in modern

Switzerland, by the use of the German, or French, language.]

[Footnote 23: See Guilliman de Rebus Helveticis, l i. c. 3, p. 11, 12. within the ancient walls of Vindonissa, the castle of Hapsburgh, the abbey of Konigsfield, and the town of Bruck, have successively risen. the philosophic traveller may compare the monuments of Roman conquest of feudal or Austrian tyranny, of monkish superstition, and of industrious freedom. If he be truly a philosopher, he will applaud the merit and

happiness of his own times.]

[Footnote 24: Gregory of Tours, (l. ii. 30, 37, in tom. ii. p. 176,

177, 182,) the Gesta Francorum, (in tom. ii. p. 551,) and the epistle

of Theodoric, (Cassiodor. Variar. l. ii. c. 41, in tom. iv. p. 4,)

represent the defeat of the Alemanni. Some of their tribes settled in

Rhaetia, under the protection of Theodoric; whose successors ceded the colony and their country to the grandson of Clovis. The state of the alemanni under the Merovingian kings may be seen in Mascou (Hist. of the ancient Germans, xi. 8, &c. Annotation xxxvi.) and Guilliman, (de Reb.

Helvet. l. ii. c. 10-12, p. 72-80.)]

till the thirtieth year of his age, Clovis continued to worship the

gods of his ancestors. [25] His disbelief, or rather disregard, of christianity, might encourage him to pillage with less remorse the churches of a hostile territory: but his subjects of Gaul enjoyed the free exercise of religious worship; and the bishops entertained a more favorable hope of the idolater, than of the heretics. The Merovingian

prince had contracted a fortunate alliance with the fair Clotilda, the

niece of the king of Burgundy, who, in the midst of an Arian court, was educated in the profession of the Catholic faith. It was her interest, as well as her duty, to achieve the conversion [26] of a Pagan husband; and Clovis insensibly listened to the voice of love and religion. He consented (perhaps such terms had been previously stipulated) to the baptism of his eldest son; and though the sudden death of the infant excited some superstitious fears, he was persuaded, a second time, to repeat the dangerous experiment. In the distress of the battle of tolbiac, Clovis loudly invoked the God of Clotilda and the Christians; and victory disposed him to hear, with respectful gratitude, the eloquent [27] Remigius, [28] bishop of Rheims, who forcibly displayed the temporal and spiritual advantages of his conversion. The king declared himself satisfied of the truth of the Catholic faith; and the

political reasons which might have suspended his public profession, were

removed by the devout or loyal acclamations of the Franks, who showed themselves alike prepared to follow their heroic leader to the field of battle, or to the baptismal font. The important ceremony was performed

in the cathedral of Rheims, with every circumstance of magnificence and

solemnity that could impress an awful sense of religion on the minds of

its rude proselytes. [29] The new Constantine was immediately baptized, with three thousand of his warlike subjects; and their example was

imitated by the remainder of the gentle Barbarians, who, in obedience to the victorious prelate, adored the cross which they had burnt, and burnt the idols which they had formerly adored. [30] The mind of Clovis was

susceptible of transient fervor: he was exasperated by the pathetic tale of the passion and death of Christ; and, instead of weighing the

salutary consequences of that mysterious sacrifice, he exclaimed, with

indiscreet fury, "Had I been present at the head of my valiant Franks, I would have revenged his injuries." [31] But the savage conqueror of Gaul was incapable of examining the proofs of a religion, which depends

on the laborious investigation of historic evidence and speculative theology. He was still more incapable of feeling the mild influence of the gospel, which persuades and purifies the heart of a genuine convert.

His ambitious reign was a perpetual violation of moral and Christian duties: his hands were stained with blood in peace as well as in war; and, as soon as Clovis had dismissed a synod of the Gallican church, he calmly assassinated all the princes of the Merovingian race. [32] Yet the king of the Franks might sincerely worship the Christian God, as a Being more excellent and powerful than his national deities; and the

signal deliverance and victory of Tolbiac encouraged Clovis to confide

in the future protection of the Lord of Hosts. Martin, the most popular

of the saints, had filled the Western world with the fame of those

miracles which were incessantly performed at his holy sepulchre of tours. His visible or invisible aid promoted the cause of a liberal and orthodox prince; and the profane remark of Clovis himself, that

St.Martin was an expensive friend, [33] need not be interpreted as the

symptom of any permanent or rational scepticism. But earth, as well as

heaven, rejoiced in the conversion of the Franks. On the memorable day when Clovis ascended from the baptismal font, he alone, in the Christian world, deserved the name and prerogatives of a Catholic king. The emperor Anastasius entertained some dangerous errors concerning the

nature of the divine incarnation; and the Barbarians of Italy, Africa,

Spain, and Gaul, were involved in the Arian heresy. The eldest, or

rather the only, son of the church, was acknowledged by the clergy as their lawful sovereign, or glorious deliverer; and the armies of Clovis were strenuously supported by the zeal and fervor of the Catholic faction. [34]

[Footnote 25: Clotilda, or rather Gregory, supposes that Clovis worshipped the gods of Greece and Rome. The fact is incredible, and the

mistake only shows how completely, in less than a century, the national

religion of the Franks had been abolished and even forgotten]

[Footnote 26: Gregory of Tours relates the marriage and conversion of clovis, (l. ii. c. 28-31, in tom. ii. p. 175-178.) Even Fredegarius,

or the nameless Epitomizer, (in tom. ii. p. 398-400,) the author of the

Gesta Francorum, (in tom. ii. p. 548-552,) and Aimoin himself, (l. i. c. 13, in tom. iii. p. 37-40,) may be heard without disdain. Tradition

might long preserve some curious circumstances of these important transactions.]

[Footnote 27: A traveller, who returned from Rheims to Auvergne, had

stolen a copy of his declamations from the secretary or bookseller

of the modest archbishop, (Sidonius Apollinar. l. ix. epist. 7.) Four epistles of Remigius, which are still extant, (in tom. iv. p. 51, 52,

53,) do not correspond with the splendid praise of Sidonius.]

[Footnote 28: Hincmar, one of the successors of Remigius, (A.D. 845-882,)

had composed his life, (in tom. iii. p. 373-380.) The authority of ancient MSS. of the church of Rheims might inspire some confidence, which is destroyed, however, by the selfish and audacious fictions of

Hincmar. It is remarkable enough, that Remigius, who was consecrated at the age of twenty-two, (A.D. 457,) filled the episcopal chair

seventy-four years, (Pagi Critica, in Baron tom. ii. p. 384, 572.)]

[Footnote 29: A phial (the Sainte Ampoulle of holy, or rather celestial,

oil,) was brought down by a white dove, for the baptism of Clovis; and

it is still used and renewed, in the coronation of the kings of France.

Hincmar (he aspired to the primacy of Gaul) is the first author of this fable, (in tom. iii. p. 377,) whose slight foundations the Abbe de

Vertot (Memoires de l'Academie des Inscriptions, tom. ii. p. 619-633)

has undermined, with profound respect and consummate dexterity.]

[Footnote 30: Mitis depone colla, Sicamber: adora quod incendisti,

incende quod adorasti. Greg. Turon. l. ii. c. 31, in tom. ii. p. 177.]

[Footnote 31: Si ego ibidem cum Francis meis fuissem, injurias ejus vindicassem. This rash expression, which Gregory has prudently concealed, is celebrated by Fredegarius, (Epitom. c. 21, in tom. ii. p.

400,) Ai moin, (l. i. c. 16, in tom. iii. p. 40,) and the Chroniques de

St. Denys, (l. i. c. 20, in tom. iii. p. 171,) as an admirable effusion

of Christian zeal.]

[Footnote 32: Gregory, (l. ii. c. 40-43, in tom. ii. p. 183-185,) after coolly relating the repeated crimes, and affected remorse, of Clovis, concludes, perhaps undesignedly, with a lesson, which ambition will never

hear. "His ita transactis obiit."]

[Footnote 33: After the Gothic victory, Clovis made rich offerings to

St. Martin of Tours. He wished to redeem his war-horse by the gift of

one hundred pieces of gold, but the enchanted steed could not remove from the stable till the price of his redemption had been doubled. This

miracle provoked the king to exclaim, Vere B. Martinus est bonus in auxilio, sed carus in negotio. (Gesta Francorum, in tom. ii. p. 554,

555.)]

[Footnote 34: See the epistle from Pope Anastasius to the royal convert,

(in Com. iv. p. 50, 51.) Avitus, bishop of Vienna, addressed Clovis on the same subject, (p. 49;) and many of the Latin bishops would assure

him of their joy and attachment.]

Under the Roman empire, the wealth and jurisdiction of the bishops, their sacred character, and perpetual office, their numerous dependants,

popular eloquence, and provincial assemblies, had rendered them always

respectable, and sometimes dangerous. Their influence was augmented with the progress of superstition; and the establishment of the French

monarchy may, in some degree, be ascribed to the firm alliance of a

hundred prelates, who reigned in the discontented, or independent, cities of Gaul. The slight foundations of the Armorican republic had been repeatedly shaken, or overthrown; but the same people still guarded their domestic freedom; asserted the dignity of the Roman name; and bravely resisted the predatory inroads, and regular attacks, of Clovis, who labored to extend his conquests from the Seine to the Loire. Their

successful opposition introduced an equal and honorable union. The franks esteemed the valor of the Armoricans [35] and the Armoricans were

reconciled by the religion of the Franks. The military force which

had been stationed for the defence of Gaul, consisted of one hundred different bands of cavalry or infantry; and these troops, while they assumed the title and privileges of Roman soldiers, were renewed by an

incessant supply of the Barbarian youth. The extreme fortifications, and

scattered fragments of the empire, were still defended by their hopeless courage. But their retreat was intercepted, and their communication was impracticable: they were abandoned by the Greek princes of constantinople, and they piously disclaimed all connection with the arian usurpers of Gaul. They accepted, without shame or reluctance, the

generous capitulation, which was proposed by a Catholic hero; and this

spurious, or legitimate, progeny of the Roman legions, was distinguished

in the succeeding age by their arms, their ensigns, and their peculiar dress and institutions. But the national strength was increased by these

powerful and voluntary accessions; and the neighboring kingdoms dreaded the numbers, as well as the spirit, of the Franks. The reduction of the

Northern provinces of Gaul, instead of being decided by the chance of a single battle, appears to have been slowly effected by the gradual

operation of war and treaty and Clovis acquired each object of his ambition, by such efforts, or such concessions, as were adequate to its

real value. His savage character, and the virtues of Henry IV., suggest the most opposite ideas of human nature; yet some resemblance may be found in the situation of two princes, who conquered France by their

valor, their policy, and the merits of a seasonable conversion. [36]

[Footnote 35: Instead of an unknown people, who now appear on the text

of Procopious, Hadrian de Valois has restored the proper name of the easy correction has been almost universally approved. Yet an

unprejudiced reader would naturally suppose, that Procopius means to describe a tribe of Germans in the alliance of Rome; and not a confederacy of Gallic cities, which had revolted from the empire. \*

Note: Compare Hallam's Europe during the Middle Ages, vol i. p. 2, Daru,

Hist. de Bretagne vol. i. p. 129--M.]

[Footnote 36: This important digression of Procopius (de Bell. Gothic.

l. i. c. 12, in tom. ii. p. 29-36) illustrates the origin of the French

monarchy. Yet I must observe, 1. That the Greek historian betrays an inexcusable ignorance of the geography of the West. 2. That these treaties and privileges, which should leave some lasting traces, are totally invisible in Gregory of Tours, the Salic laws, &c.]

the kingdom of the Burgundians, which was defined by the course of two

Gallic rivers, the Saone and the Rhone, extended from the forest of

Vosges to the Alps and the sea of Marscilles. [37] The sceptre was in the hands of Gundobald. That valiant and ambitious prince had reduced the number of royal candidates by the death of two brothers, one of whom was the father of Clotilda; [38] but his imperfect prudence still

permitted Godegesil, the youngest of his brothers, to possess the dependent principality of Geneva. The Arian monarch was justly alarmed by the satisfaction, and the hopes, which seemed to animate his clergy and people after the conversion of Clovis; and Gundobald convened at

Lyons an assembly of his bishops, to reconcile, if it were possible, their religious and political discontents. A vain conference was agitated between the two factions. The Arians upbraided the Catholics with the worship of three Gods: the Catholics defended their cause by theological distinctions; and the usual arguments, objections, and

replies were reverberated with obstinate clamor; till the king revealed

his secret apprehensions, by an abrupt but decisive question, which he addressed to the orthodox bishops. "If you truly profess the Christian

religion, why do you not restrain the king of the Franks? He has declared war against me, and forms alliances with my enemies for my destruction. A sanguinary and covetous mind is not the symptom of a

sincere conversion: let him show his faith by his works." The answer

of Avitus, bishop of Vienna, who spoke in the name of his brethren, was delivered with the voice and countenance of an angel. "We are ignorant

of the motives and intentions of the king of the Franks: but we are taught by Scripture, that the kingdoms which abandon the divine law are frequently subverted; and that enemies will arise on every side against those who have made God their enemy. Return, with thy people, to the law

of God, and he will give peace and security to thy dominions." The king

of Burgundy, who was not prepared to accept the condition which the catholics considered as essential to the treaty, delayed and dismissed the ecclesiastical conference; after reproaching his bishops, that clovis, their friend and proselyte, had privately tempted the allegiance

of his brother. [39]

[Footnote 37: Regnum circa Rhodanum aut Ararim cum provincia Massiliensi

retinebant. Greg. Turon. l. ii. c. 32, in tom. ii. p. 178. The province

of Marseilles, as far as the Durance, was afterwards ceded to the

Ostrogoths; and the signatures of twenty-five bishops are supposed to

represent the kingdom of Burgundy, A.D. 519. (Concil. Epaon, in tom. iv.

p. 104, 105.) Yet I would except Vindonissa. The bishop, who lived under the Pagan Alemanni, would naturally resort to the synods of the next christian kingdom. Mascou (in his four first annotations) has explained

many circumstances relative to the Burgundian monarchy.]

[Footnote 38: Mascou, (Hist. of the Germans, xi. 10,) who very

reasonably distracts the testimony of Gregory of Tours, has produced a passage from Avitus (epist. v.) to prove that Gundobald affected to deplore the tragic event, which his subjects affected to applaud.]

[Footnote 39: See the original conference, (in tom. iv. p. 99-102.) avitus, the principal actor, and probably the secretary of the meeting, was bishop of Vienna. A short account of his person and works may be fouud in Dupin, (Bibliotheque Ecclesiastique, tom. v. p. 5-10.)]

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the allegiance of his brother was already seduced; and the obedience of

Godegesil, who joined the royal standard with the troops of Geneva, more effectually promoted the success of the conspiracy. While the Franks and burgundians contended with equal valor, his seasonable desertion decided the event of the battle; and as Gundobald was faintly supported by the disaffected Gauls, he yielded to the arms of Clovis, and hastily

retreated from the field, which appears to have been situate between

Langres and Dijon. He distrusted the strength of Dijon, a quadrangular fortress, encompassed by two rivers, and by a wall thirty feet high, and fifteen thick, with four gates, and thirty-three towers: [40] he abandoned to the pursuit of Clovis the important cities of Lyons and

Vienna; and Gundobald still fled with precipitation, till he had reached avignon, at the distance of two hundred and fifty miles from the field

of battle.

a long siege and an artful negotiation, admonished the king of the franks of the danger and difficulty of his enterprise. He imposed a tribute on the Burgundian prince, compelled him to pardon and reward his brother's treachery, and proudly returned to his own dominions, with the

spoils and captives of the southern provinces. This splendid triumph was

soon clouded by the intelligence, that Gundobald had violated his recent

obligations, and that the unfortunate Godegesil, who was left at

Vienna with a garrison of five thousand Franks, [41] had been besieged,

surprised, and massacred by his inhuman brother. Such an outrage might

have exasperated the patience of the most peaceful sovereign; yet the conqueror of Gaul dissembled the injury, released the tribute, and accepted the alliance, and military service, of the king of Burgundy. clovis no longer possessed those advantages which had assured the

success of the preceding war; and his rival, instructed by adversity,

had found new resources in the affections of his people. The Gauls or

Romans applauded the mild and impartial laws of Gundobald, which almost

raised them to the same level with their conquerors. The bishops were

reconciled, and flattered, by the hopes, which he artfully suggested, of

his approaching conversion; and though he eluded their accomplishment to the last moment of his life, his moderation secured the peace, and

suspended the ruin, of the kingdom of Burgundy. [42]

[Footnote 40: Gregory of Tours (l. iii. c. 19, in tom. ii. p. 197)

indulges his genius, or rather describes some more eloquent writer, in the description of Dijon; a castle, which already deserved the title of a city. It depended on the bishops of Langres till the twelfth century, and afterwards became the capital of the dukes of Burgundy Longuerue description de la France, part i. p. 280.]

[Footnote 41: The Epitomizer of Gregory of Tours (in tom. ii. p. 401)

has supplied this number of Franks; but he rashly supposes that they were cut in pieces by Gundobald. The prudent Burgundian spared the soldiers of Clovis, and sent these captives to the king of the

Visigoths, who settled them in the territory of Thoulouse.]

[Footnote 42: In this Burgundian war I have followed Gregory of Tours,

(l. ii. c. 32, 33, in tom. ii. p. 178, 179,) whose narrative appears

so incompatible with that of Procopius, (de Bell. Goth. l. i. c. 12, in tom. ii. p. 31, 32,) that some critics have supposed two different wars. the Abbe Dubos (Hist. Critique, &c., tom. ii. p. 126-162) has distinctly

represented the causes and the events.]

I am impatient to pursue the final ruin of that kingdom, which was accomplished under the reign of Sigismond, the son of Gundobald. The catholic Sigismond has acquired the honors of a saint and martyr; [43] but the hands of the royal saint were stained with the blood of his

innocent son, whom he inhumanly sacrificed to the pride and resentment

of a step-mother. He soon discovered his error, and bewailed the

irreparable loss. While Sigismond embraced the corpse of the unfortunate

youth, he received a severe admonition from one of his attendants:

"It is not his situation, O king! it is thine which deserves pity and

lamentation." The reproaches of a guilty conscience were alleviated,

however, by his liberal donations to the monastery of Agaunum, or

St. Maurice, in Vallais; which he himself had founded in honor of the imaginary martyrs of the Thebaean legion. [44] A full chorus of

perpetual psalmody was instituted by the pious king; he assiduously

practised the austere devotion of the monks; and it was his humble

prayer, that Heaven would inflict in this world the punishment of his

sins. His prayer was heard: the avengers were at hand: and the provinces

of Burgundy were overwhelmed by an army of victorious Franks. After the event of an unsuccessful battle, Sigismond, who wished to protract his

life that he might prolong his penance, concealed himself in the desert in a religious habit, till he was discovered and betrayed by

his subjects, who solicited the favor of their new masters. The captive

monarch, with his wife and two children, was transported to Orleans, and buried alive in a deep well, by the stern command of the sons of Clovis; whose cruelty might derive some excuse from the maxims and examples of their barbarous age. Their ambition, which urged them to achieve the conquest of Burgundy, was inflamed, or disguised, by filial piety: and clotilda, whose sanctity did not consist in the forgiveness of injuries,

pressed them to revenge her father's death on the family of his assassin. The rebellious Burgundians (for they attempted to break their chains) were still permitted to enjoy their national laws under the

obligation of tribute and military service; and the Merovingian princes

peaceably reigned over a kingdom, whose glory and greatness had been first overthrown by the arms of Clovis. [45]

[Footnote 43: See his life or legend, (in tom. iii. p. 402.) A martyr!

how strangely has that word been distorted from its original sense of a common witness. St. Sigismond was remarkable for the cure of fevers]

[Footnote 44: Before the end of the fifth century, the church of St.

Maurice, and his Thebaean legion, had rendered Agaunum a place of devout

pilgrimage. A promiscuous community of both sexes had introduced some deeds of darkness, which were abolished (A.D. 515) by the regular

monastery of Sigismond. Within fifty years, his angels of light made a nocturnal sally to murder their bishop, and his clergy. See in the bibliotheque Raisonnee (tom. xxxvi. p. 435-438) the curious remarks of a

learned librarian of Geneva.]

[Footnote 45: Marius, bishop of Avenche, (Chron. in tom. ii. p. 15,) has

marked the authentic dates, and Gregory of Tours (l. iii. c. 5, 6, in tom. ii. p. 188, 189) has expressed the principal facts, of the life of

Sigismond, and the conquest of Burgundy. Procopius (in tom. ii. p.

34) and Agathias (in tom. ii. p. 49) show their remote and imperfect

knowledge.]

the first victory of Clovis had insulted the honor of the Goths. They

viewed his rapid progress with jealousy and terror; and the youthful fame of Alaric was oppressed by the more potent genius of his rival.

Some disputes inevitably arose on the edge of their contiguous dominions; and after the delays of fruitless negotiation, a personal

interview of the two kings was proposed and accepted. The conference of clovis and Alaric was held in a small island of the Loire, near Amboise. they embraced, familiarly conversed, and feasted together; and separated with the warmest professions of peace and brotherly love. But their apparent confidence concealed a dark suspicion of hostile and treacherous designs; and their mutual complaints solicited, eluded, and disclaimed, a final arbitration. At Paris, which he already considered as his royal seat, Clovis declared to an assembly of the princes and warriors, the pretence, and the motive, of a Gothic war. "It grieves me to see that the Arians still possess the fairest portion of Gaul. Let

us march against them with the aid of God; and, having vanquished the

heretics, we will possess and divide their fertile provinces." [46] The franks, who were inspired by hereditary valor and recent zeal, applauded the generous design of their monarch; expressed their resolution to conquer or die, since death and conquest would be equally profitable; and solemnly protested that they would never shave their beards till

victory should absolve them from that inconvenient vow. The enterprise was promoted by the public or private exhortations of Clotilda. She

reminded her husband how effectually some pious foundation would

propitiate the Deity, and his servants: and the Christian hero, darting

his battle-axe with a skilful and nervous band, "There, (said he,) on that spot where my Francisca, [47] shall fall, will I erect a church

in honor of the holy apostles." This ostentatious piety confirmed and justified the attachment of the Catholics, with whom he secretly corresponded; and their devout wishes were gradually ripened into a formidable conspiracy. The people of Aquitain were alarmed by the

indiscreet reproaches of their Gothic tyrants, who justly accused them

of preferring the dominion of the Franks: and their zealous adherent

Quintianus, bishop of Rodez, [48] preached more forcibly in his exile than in his diocese. To resist these foreign and domestic enemies, who were fortified by the alliance of the Burgundians, Alaric collected

his troops, far more numerous than the military powers of Clovis. The

Visigoths resumed the exercise of arms, which they had neglected in a long and luxurious peace; [49] a select band of valiant and robust

slaves attended their masters to the field; [50] and the cities of Gaul were compelled to furnish their doubtful and reluctant aid. Theodoric,

king of the Ostrogoths, who reigned in Italy, had labored to maintain the tranquillity of Gaul; and he assumed, or affected, for that purpose, the impartial character of a mediator. But the sagacious monarch dreaded the rising empire of Clovis, and he was firmly engaged to support the

national and religious cause of the Goths.

[Footnote 46: Gregory of Tours (l. ii. c. 37, in tom. ii. p. 181)

inserts the short but persuasive speech of Clovis. Valde moleste fero,

quod hi Ariani partem teneant Galliarum, (the author of the Gesta francorum, in tom. ii. p. 553, adds the precious epithet of optimam,) camus cum Dei adjutorio, et, superatis eis, redigamus terram in ditionem

nostram.]

[Footnote 47: Tunc rex projecit a se in directum Bipennem suam quod est francisca, &c. (Gesta Franc. in tom. ii. p. 554.) The form and use of this weapon are clearly described by Procopius, (in tom. ii. p. 37.) examples of its national appellation in Latin and French may be found in the Glossary of Ducange, and the large Dictionnaire de Trevoux.]

[Footnote 48: It is singular enough that some important and authentic facts should be found in a Life of Quintianus, composed in rhyme in the

old Patois of Rouergue, (Dubos, Hist. Critique, &c., tom. ii. p. 179.)]

[Footnote 49: Quamvis fortitudini vestrae confidentiam tribuat

parentum ves trorum innumerabilis multitudo; quamvis Attilam potentem

reminiscamini Visigotharum viribus inclinatum; tamen quia populorum ferocia corda longa pace mollescunt, cavete subito in alean aleam

mittere, quos constat tantis temporibus exercitia non habere. Such was the salutary, but fruitless, advice of peace of reason, and of theodoric, (Cassiodor. l. iii. ep. 2.)]

[Footnote 50: Montesquieu (Esprit des Loix, l. xv. c. 14) mentions and approves the law of the Visigoths, (l. ix. tit. 2, in tom. iv. p. 425,) which obliged all masters to arm, and send, or lead, into the field a tenth of their slaves.]

the accidental, or artificial, prodigies which adorned the expedition

of Clovis, were accepted by a superstitious age, as the manifest declaration of the divine favor. He marched from Paris; and as he

proceeded with decent reverence through the holy diocese of Tours, his anxiety tempted him to consult the shrine of St. Martin, the sanctuary and the oracle of Gaul. His messengers were instructed to remark the words of the Psalm which should happen to be chanted at the precise

moment when they entered the church. Those words most fortunately expressed the valor and victory of the champions of Heaven, and the application was easily transferred to the new Joshua, the new Gideon, who went forth to battle against the enemies of the Lord. [51] Orleans

secured to the Franks a bridge on the Loire; but, at the distance

of forty miles from Poitiers, their progress was intercepted by an extraordinary swell of the River Vigenna or Vienne; and the opposite banks were covered by the encampment of the Visigoths. Delay must be always dangerous to Barbarians, who consume the country through which they march; and had Clovis possessed leisure and materials, it might

have been impracticable to construct a bridge, or to force a passage,

in the face of a superior enemy. But the affectionate peasants who were

impatient to welcome their deliverer, could easily betray some unknown

or unguarded ford: the merit of the discovery was enhanced by the useful

interposition of fraud or fiction; and a white hart, of singular size and beauty, appeared to guide and animate the march of the Catholic army. The counsels of the Visigoths were irresolute and distracted. a crowd of impatient warriors, presumptuous in their strength, and disdaining to fly before the robbers of Germany, excited Alaric to assert in arms the name and blood of the conquerors of Rome. The advice

of the graver chieftains pressed him to elude the first ardor of the franks; and to expect, in the southern provinces of Gaul, the veteran and victorious Ostrogoths, whom the king of Italy had already sent to

his assistance. The decisive moments were wasted in idle deliberation the Goths too hastily abandoned, perhaps, an advantageous post; and the

opportunity of a secure retreat was lost by their slow and disorderly

motions. After Clovis had passed the ford, as it is still named, of the

Hart, he advanced with bold and hasty steps to prevent the escape of the enemy. His nocturnal march was directed by a flaming meteor, suspended

in the air above the cathedral of Poitiers; and this signal, which might be previously concerted with the orthodox successor of St. Hilary, was compared to the column of fire that guided the Israelites in the desert. at the third hour of the day, about ten miles beyond Poitiers, Clovis

overtook, and instantly attacked, the Gothic army; whose defeat was already prepared by terror and confusion. Yet they rallied in their extreme distress, and the martial youths, who had clamorously demanded the battle, refused to survive the ignominy of flight. The two kings encountered each other in single combat. Alaric fell by the hand of

his rival; and the victorious Frank was saved by the goodness of his cuirass, and the vigor of his horse, from the spears of two desperate

Goths, who furiously rode against him to revenge the death of their

sovereign. The vague expression of a mountain of the slain, serves to

indicate a cruel though indefinite slaughter; but Gregory has carefully

observed, that his valiant countryman Apollinaris, the son of Sidonius,

lost his life at the head of the nobles of Auvergne. Perhaps these

suspected Catholics had been maliciously exposed to the blind assault

of the enemy; and perhaps the influence of religion was superseded by

personal attachment or military honor. [52]

[Footnote 51: This mode of divination, by accepting as an omen the first

sacred words, which in particular circumstances should be presented to the eye or ear, was derived from the Pagans; and the Psalter, or Bible, was substituted to the poems of Homer and Virgil. From the fourth to the fourteenth century, these sortes sanctorum, as they are styled, were repeatedly condemned by the decrees of councils, and repeatedly

practised by kings, bishops, and saints. See a curious dissertation of the Abbe du Resnel, in the Memoires de l'Academie, tom. xix. p. 287-310]

[Footnote 52: After correcting the text, or excusing the mistake, of

Procopius, who places the defeat of Alaric near Carcassone, we may conclude, from the evidence of Gregory, Fortunatus, and the author of the Gesta Francorum, that the battle was fought in campo Vocladensi, on the banks of the Clain, about ten miles to the south of Poitiers. Clovis

overtook and attacked the Visigoths near Vivonne, and the victory was decided near a village still named Champagne St. Hilaire. See the dissertations of the Abbe le Boeuf, tom. i. p. 304-331.]

Such is the empire of Fortune, (if we may still disguise our ignorance

under that popular name,) that it is almost equally difficult to foresee the events of war, or to explain their various consequences. A bloody and complete victory has sometimes yielded no more than the possession

of the field and the loss of ten thousand men has sometimes been

sufficient to destroy, in a single day, the work of ages. The decisive battle of Poitiers was followed by the conquest of Aquitain. Alaric had

left behind him an infant son, a bastard competitor, factious nobles, and a disloyal people; and the remaining forces of the Goths were

oppressed by the general consternation, or opposed to each other in civil discord. The victorious king of the Franks proceeded without delay to the siege of Angouleme. At the sound of his trumpets the walls of the city imitated the example of Jericho, and instantly fell to the ground; a splendid miracle, which may be reduced to the supposition, that

some clerical engineers had secretly undermined the foundations of the rampart. [53] At Bordeaux, which had submitted without resistance, clovis established his winter quarters; and his prudent economy transported from Thoulouse the royal treasures, which were deposited

in the capital of the monarchy. The conqueror penetrated as far as the confines of Spain; [54] restored the honors of the Catholic church; fixed in Aquitain a colony of Franks; [55] and delegated to his

lieutenants the easy task of subduing, or extirpating, the nation of the Visigoths. But the Visigoths were protected by the wise and powerful

monarch of Italy. While the balance was still equal, Theodoric had

perhaps delayed the march of the Ostrogoths; but their strenuous efforts

successfully resisted the ambition of Clovis; and the army of the franks, and their Burgundian allies, was compelled to raise the siege

of Arles, with the loss, as it is said, of thirty thousand men. These

vicissitudes inclined the fierce spirit of Clovis to acquiesce in an advantageous treaty of peace. The Visigoths were suffered to retain the

possession of Septimania, a narrow tract of sea-coast, from the Rhone to the Pyrenees; but the ample province of Aquitain, from those mountains to the Loire, was indissolubly united to the kingdom of France. [56]

[Footnote 53: Angouleme is in the road from Poitiers to Bordeaux; and although Gregory delays the siege, I can more readily believe that he confounded the order of history, than that Clovis neglected the rules of war.]

[Footnote 54: Pyrenaeos montes usque Perpinianum subjecit, is the expression of Rorico, which betrays his recent date; since Perpignan did not exist before the tenth century, (Marca Hispanica, p. 458.) This florid and fabulous writer (perhaps a monk of Amiens--see the Abbe

le Boeuf, Mem. de l'Academie, tom. xvii. p. 228-245) relates, in the allegorical character of a shepherd, the general history of his countrymen the Franks; but his narrative ends with the death of Clovis.]

[Footnote 55: The author of the Gesta Francorum positively affirms, that clovis fixed a body of Franks in the Saintonge and Bourdelois: and he

is not injudiciously followed by Rorico, electos milites, atque fortissimos, cum parvulis, atque mulieribus. Yet it should seem that they soon mingled with the Romans of Aquitain, till Charlemagne

introduced a more numerous and powerful colony, (Dubos, Hist. Critique, tom. ii. p. 215.)]

[Footnote 56: In the composition of the Gothic war, I have used the following materials, with due regard to their unequal value. Four epistles from Theodoric, king of Italy, (Cassiodor l. iii. epist. 1-4.

in tom. iv p. 3-5;) Procopius, (de Bell. Goth. l. i. c 12, in tom. ii.

p. 32, 33;) Gregory of Tours, (l. ii. c. 35, 36, 37, in tom. ii. p.

181-183;) Jornandes, (de Reb. Geticis, c. 58, in tom. ii. p. 28;) fortunatas, (in Vit. St. Hilarii, in tom. iii. p. 380;) Isidore, (in chron. Goth. in tom. ii. p. 702;) the Epitome of Gregory of Tours, (in tom. ii. p. 401;) the author of the Gesta Francorum, (in tom. ii. p.

553-555;) the Fragments of Fredegarius, (in tom. ii. p. 463;) Aimoin,

(l. i. c. 20, in tom. iii. p. 41, 42,) and Rorico, (l. iv. in tom. iii.

p. 14-19.)]

after the success of the Gothic war, Clovis accepted the honors of the

Roman consulship. The emperor Anastasius ambitiously bestowed on the

most powerful rival of Theodoric the title and ensigns of that eminent dignity; yet, from some unknown cause, the name of Clovis has not been

inscribed in the Fasti either of the East or West. [57] On the solemn day, the monarch of Gaul, placing a diadem on his head, was invested, in the church of St. Martin, with a purple tunic and mantle. From thence

he proceeded on horseback to the cathedral of Tours; and, as he passed through the streets, profusely scattered, with his own hand, a donative

of gold and silver to the joyful multitude, who incessantly repeated their acclamations of Consul and Augustus. The actual or legal authority

of Clovis could not receive any new accessions from the consular dignity. It was a name, a shadow, an empty pageant; and if the conqueror

had been instructed to claim the ancient prerogatives of that high

office, they must have expired with the period of its annual duration. but the Romans were disposed to revere, in the person of their master, that antique title which the emperors condescended to assume: the barbarian himself seemed to contract a sacred obligation to respect the

majesty of the republic; and the successors of Theodosius, by soliciting

his friendship, tacitly forgave, and almost ratified, the usurpation of

Gaul.

[Footnote 57: The Fasti of Italy would naturally reject a consul, the enemy of their sovereign; but any ingenious hypothesis that might explain the silence of Constantinople and Egypt, (the Chronicle of

Marcellinus, and the Paschal,) is overturned by the similar silence

of Marius, bishop of Avenche, who composed his Fasti in the kingdom

of Burgundy. If the evidence of Gregory of Tours were less weighty and positive, (l. ii. c. 38, in tom. ii. p. 183,) I could believe that Clovis, like Odoacer, received the lasting title and honors of

Patrician, (Pagi Critica, tom. ii. p. 474, 492.)]

twenty-five years after the death of Clovis this important concession was more formally declared, in a treaty between his sons and the emperor

Justinian. The Ostrogoths of Italy, unable to defend their distant acquisitions, had resigned to the Franks the cities of Arles and

Marseilles; of Arles, still adorned with the seat of a Praetorian

praefect, and of Marseilles, enriched by the advantages of trade and navigation. [58] This transaction was confirmed by the Imperial authority; and Justinian, generously yielding to the Franks the

sovereignty of the countries beyond the Alps, which they already

possessed, absolved the provincials from their allegiance; and established on a more lawful, though not more solid, foundation, the throne of the Merovingians. [59] From that era they enjoyed the right

of celebrating at Arles the games of the circus; and by a singular

privilege, which was denied even to the Persian monarch, the gold coin,

impressed with their name and image, obtained a legal currency in the empire. [60] A Greek historian of that age has praised the private and

public virtues of the Franks, with a partial enthusiasm, which cannot be sufficiently justified by their domestic annals. [61] He celebrates their politeness and urbanity, their regular government, and

orthodox religion; and boldly asserts, that these Barbarians could be distinguished only by their dress and language from the subjects of

Rome. Perhaps the Franks already displayed the social disposition, and

lively graces, which, in every age, have disguised their vices, and

sometimes concealed their intrinsic merit. Perhaps Agathias, and the

Greeks, were dazzled by the rapid progress of their arms, and the

splendor of their empire. Since the conquest of Burgundy, Gaul, except the Gothic province of Septimania, was subject, in its whole extent, to the sons of Clovis. They had extinguished the German kingdom of thuringia, and their vague dominion penetrated beyond the Rhine, into the heart of their native forests. The Alemanni, and Bavarians, who had

occupied the Roman provinces of Rhaetia and Noricum, to the south of the danube, confessed themselves the humble vassals of the Franks; and the feeble barrier of the Alps was incapable of resisting their ambition. when the last survivor of the sons of Clovis united the inheritance and conquests of the Merovingians, his kingdom extended far beyond the

limits of modern France. Yet modern France, such has been the progress

of arts and policy, far surpasses, in wealth, populousness, and power, the spacious but savage realms of Clotaire or Dagobert. [62]

[Footnote 58: Under the Merovingian kings, Marseilles still imported from the East paper, wine, oil, linen, silk, precious stones, spices,

&c. The Gauls, or Franks, traded to Syria, and the Syrians were established in Gaul. See M. de Guignes, Mem. de l'Academie, tom. xxxvii.

p. 471-475.]

[Footnote 59: This strong declaration of Procopius (de Bell. Gothic.

l. iii. cap. 33, in tom. ii. p. 41) would almost suffice to justify the abbe Dubos.]

[Footnote 60: The Franks, who probably used the mints of Treves, Lyons, and Arles, imitated the coinage of the Roman emperors of seventy-two

solidi, or pieces, to the pound of gold. But as the Franks established

only a decuple proportion of gold and silver, ten shillings will be a sufficient valuation of their solidus of gold. It was the common

standard of the Barbaric fines, and contained forty denarii, or silver three pences. Twelve of these denarii made a solidus, or shilling, the twentieth part of the ponderal and numeral livre, or pound of silver, which has been so strangely reduced in modern France. See La Blanc, traite Historique des Monnoyes de France, p. 36-43, &c.]

[Footnote 61: Agathias, in tom. ii. p. 47. Gregory of Tours exhibits a

very different picture. Perhaps it would not be easy, within the same

historical space, to find more vice and less virtue. We are continually

shocked by the union of savage and corrupt manners.]

[Footnote 62: M. de Foncemagne has traced, in a correct and elegant dissertation, (Mem. de l'Academie, tom. viii. p. 505-528,) the extent and limits of the French monarchy.]

the Franks, or French, are the only people of Europe who can deduce a perpetual succession from the conquerors of the Western empire. But their conquest of Gaul was followed by ten centuries of anarchy and

ignorance. On the revival of learning, the students, who had been formed

in the schools of Athens and Rome, disdained their Barbarian ancestors; and a long period elapsed before patient labor could provide the

requisite materials to satisfy, or rather to excite, the curiosity

of more enlightened times. [63] At length the eye of criticism and philosophy was directed to the antiquities of France; but even

philosophers have been tainted by the contagion of prejudice and

passion. The most extreme and exclusive systems, of the personal

servitude of the Gauls, or of their voluntary and equal alliance with the Franks, have been rashly conceived, and obstinately defended; and the intemperate disputants have accused each other of conspiring against the prerogative of the crown, the dignity of the nobles, or the freedom

of the people. Yet the sharp conflict has usefully exercised the adverse powers of learning and genius; and each antagonist, alternately

vanquished and victorious has extirpated some ancient errors, and established some interesting truths. An impartial stranger, instructed by their discoveries, their disputes, and even their faults, may describe, from the same original materials, the state of the Roman

provincials, after Gaul had submitted to the arms and laws of the

Merovingian kings. [64]

[Footnote 63: The Abbe Dubos (Histoire Critique, tom. i. p. 29-36) has truly and agreeably represented the slow progress of these studies; and

he observes, that Gregory of Tours was only once printed before the

year 1560. According to the complaint of Heineccius, (Opera, tom. iii.

Sylloge, iii. p. 248, &c.,) Germany received with indifference and contempt the codes of Barbaric laws, which were published by Heroldus,

Lindenbrogius, &c. At present those laws, (as far as they relate to

Gaul,) the history of Gregory of Tours, and all the monuments of the

Merovingian race, appear in a pure and perfect state, in the first four

volumes of the Historians of France.]

[Footnote 64: In the space of [about] thirty years (1728-1765) this

interesting subject has been agitated by the free spirit of the count de Boulainvilliers, (Memoires Historiques sur l'Etat de la France,

particularly tom. i. p. 15-49;) the learned ingenuity of the Abbe Dubos,

(Histoire Critique de l'Etablissement de la Monarchie Francoise dans les

Gaules, 2 vols. in 4to;) the comprehensive genius of the president de

Montesquieu, (Esprit des Loix, particularly l. xxviii. xxx. xxxi.;) and the good sense and diligence of the Abbe de Mably, (Observations sur

l'Histoire de France, 2 vols. 12mo.)] The rudest, or the most servile, condition of human society, is regulated, however, by some fixed and

general rules. When Tacitus surveyed the primitive simplicity of the

Germans, he discovered some permanent maxims, or customs, of public and private life, which were preserved by faithful tradition till the

introduction of the art of writing, and of the Latin tongue. [65] Before the election of the Merovingian kings, the most powerful tribe, or

nation, of the Franks, appointed four venerable chieftains to compose the Salic laws; [66] and their labors were examined and approved in three successive assemblies of the people. After the baptism of clovis, he reformed several articles that appeared incompatible with christianity: the Salic law was again amended by his sons; and at length, under the reign of Dagobert, the code was revised and promulgated in its actual form, one hundred years after the establishment of the French monarchy. Within the same period, the customs of the Ripuarians were transcribed and published; and charlemagne himself, the legislator of his age and country, had accurately studied the two national laws, which still prevailed among the Franks. [67] The same care was extended to their vassals; and the

rude institutions of the Alemanni and Bavarians were diligently compiled and ratified by the supreme authority of the Merovingian kings. The

Visigoths and Burgundians, whose conquests in Gaul preceded those of the franks, showed less impatience to attain one of the principal benefits

of civilized society. Euric was the first of the Gothic princes who expressed, in writing, the manners and customs of his people; and the composition of the Burgundian laws was a measure of policy rather than

of justice; to alleviate the yoke, and regain the affections, of their

Gallic subjects. [68] Thus, by a singular coincidence, the Germans framed their artless institutions, at a time when the elaborate system

of Roman jurisprudence was finally consummated. In the Salic laws, and the Pandects of Justinian, we may compare the first rudiments, and the full maturity, of civil wisdom; and whatever prejudices may be suggested

in favor of Barbarism, our calmer reflections will ascribe to the Romans the superior advantages, not only of science and reason, but of humanity and justice. Yet the laws [681] of the Barbarians were adapted to their wants and desires, their occupations and their capacity; and they all contributed to preserve the peace, and promote the improvement, of the society for whose use they were originally established. The

Merovingians, instead of imposing a uniform rule of conduct on their

various subjects, permitted each people, and each family, of their empire, freely to enjoy their domestic institutions; [69] nor were the

Romans excluded from the common benefits of this legal toleration. [70] the children embraced the law of their parents, the wife that of her

husband, the freedman that of his patron; and in all causes where the

parties were of different nations, the plaintiff or accuser was obliged to follow the tribunal of the defendant, who may always plead a judicial

presumption of right, or innocence. A more ample latitude was allowed,

if every citizen, in the presence of the judge, might declare the law

under which he desired to live, and the national society to which

he chose to belong. Such an indulgence would abolish the partial distinctions of victory: and the Roman provincials might patiently acquiesce in the hardships of their condition; since it depended

on themselves to assume the privilege, if they dared to assert the character, of free and warlike Barbarians. [71]

[Footnote 65: I have derived much instruction from two learned works

of Heineccius, the History, and the Elements, of the Germanic law. In a

judicious preface to the Elements, he considers, and tries to excuse the defects of that barbarous jurisprudence.]

[Footnote 66: Latin appears to have been the original language of the Salic law. It was probably composed in the beginning of the fifth century, before the era (A.D. 421) of the real or fabulous Pharamond. the preface mentions the four cantons which produced the four

legislators; and many provinces, Franconia, Saxony, Hanover, Brabant,

&c., have claimed them as their own. See an excellent Dissertation of

Heinecties de Lege Salica, tom. iii. Sylloge iii. p. 247-267. \* Note: the relative antiquity of the two copies of the Salic law has been contested with great learning and ingenuity. The work of M. Wiarda,

History and Explanation of the Salic Law, Bremen, 1808, asserts that what is called the Lex Antiqua, or Vetustior in which many German words are mingled with the Latin, has no claim to superior antiquity, and may be suspected to be more modern. M. Wiarda has been opposed by M. Fuer bach, who maintains the higher age of the "ancient" Code, which has been

greatly corrupted by the transcribers. See Guizot, Cours de l'Histoire

Moderne, vol. i. sect. 9: and the preface to the useful republication of five of the different texts of the Salic law, with that of the Ripuarian

in parallel columns. By E. A. I. Laspeyres, Halle, 1833.--M.]

[Footnote 67: Eginhard, in Vit. Caroli Magni, c. 29, in tom. v. p. 100. by these two laws, most critics understand the Salic and the Ripuarian. the former extended from the Carbonarian forest to the Loire, (tom.

iv. p. 151,) and the latter might be obeyed from the same forest to the

Rhine, (tom. iv. p. 222.)]

[Footnote 68: Consult the ancient and modern prefaces of the several codes, in the fourth volume of the Historians of France. The original

prologue to the Salic law expresses (though in a foreign dialect) the

genuine spirit of the Franks more forcibly than the ten books of Gregory

of Tours.]

[Footnote 69: The Ripuarian law declares, and defines, this indulgence

in favor of the plaintiff, (tit. xxxi. in tom. iv. p. 240;) and the same toleration is understood, or expressed, in all the codes, except that

of the Visigoths of Spain. Tanta diversitas legum (says Agobard in the

ninth century) quanta non solum in regionibus, aut civitatibus, sed etiam in multis domibus habetur. Nam plerumque contingit ut simul eant aut sedeant quinque homines, et nullus eorum communem legem cum altero

habeat, (in tom. vi. p. 356.) He foolishly proposes to introduce a

uniformity of law, as well as of faith. \* Note: It is the object of the important work of M. Savigny, Geschichte des Romisches Rechts in

Mittelalter, to show the perpetuity of the Roman law from the 5th to the

12th century.--M.]

[Footnote 681: The most complete collection of these codes is in the

"Barbarorum leges antiquae," by P. Canciani, 5 vols. folio, Venice,

1781-9.--M.]

[Footnote 70: Inter Romanos negotia causarum Romanis legibus praecipimus terminari. Such are the words of a general constitution promulgated by clotaire, the son of Clovis, the sole monarch of the Franks (in tom. iv.

p. 116) about the year 560.]

[Footnote 71: This liberty of choice has been aptly deduced (Esprit des Loix, l. xxviii. 2) from the constitution of Lothaire I. (Leg.

Langobard. l. ii. tit. lvii. in Codex Lindenbrog. p. 664;) though the example is too recent and partial. From a various reading in the Salic

law, (tit. xliv. not. xlv.) the Abbe de Mably (tom. i. p. 290-293) has conjectured, that, at first, a Barbarian only, and afterwards any man,

(consequently a Roman,) might live according to the law of the Franks.

I am sorry to offend this ingenious conjecture by observing, that the stricter sense (Barbarum) is expressed in the reformed copy of charlemagne; which is confirmed by the Royal and Wolfenbuttle MSS. The

looser interpretation (hominem) is authorized only by the MS. of Fulda, from from whence Heroldus published his edition. See the four original texts of the Salic law in tom. iv. p. 147, 173, 196, 220. \* Note: Gibbon appears to have doubted the evidence on which this "liberty of choice"

rested. His doubts have been confirmed by the researches of M. Savigny, who has not only confuted but traced with convincing sagacity the origin and progress of this error. As a general principle, though liable to

some exceptions, each lived according to his native law. Romische Recht.

vol. i. p. 123-138--M. \* Note: This constitution of Lothaire at first

related only to the duchy of Rome; it afterwards found its way into the

Lombard code. Savigny. p. 138.--M.]

chapter XXXVIII: Reign Of Clovis.--Part III.

when justice inexorably requires the death of a murderer, each private citizen is fortified by the assurance, that the laws, the magistrate, and the whole community, are the guardians of his personal safety. But

in the loose society of the Germans, revenge was always honorable, and

often meritorious: the independent warrior chastised, or vindicated, with his own hand, the injuries which he had offered or received; and he

had only to dread the resentment of the sons and kinsmen of the enemy, whom he had sacrificed to his selfish or angry passions. The magistrate, conscious of his weakness, interposed, not to punish, but to reconcile; and he was satisfied if he could persuade or compel the contending

parties to pay and to accept the moderate fine which had been ascertained as the price of blood. [72] The fierce spirit of the franks would have opposed a more rigorous sentence; the same fierceness despised these ineffectual restraints; and, when their simple manners

had been corrupted by the wealth of Gaul, the public peace was continually violated by acts of hasty or deliberate guilt. In every just

government the same penalty is inflicted, or at least is imposed, for the murder of a peasant or a prince. But the national inequality established by the Franks, in their criminal proceedings, was the last

insult and abuse of conquest. [73] In the calm moments of legislation, they solemnly pronounced, that the life of a Roman was of smaller value than that of a Barbarian. The Antrustion, [74] a name expressive of the

most illustrious birth or dignity among the Franks, was appreciated at the sum of six hundred pieces of gold; while the noble provincial, who was admitted to the king's table, might be legally murdered at the expense of three hundred pieces.

two hundred were deemed sufficient for a Frank of ordinary condition; but the meaner Romans were exposed to disgrace and danger by a trifling compensation of one hundred, or even fifty, pieces of gold. Had these

laws been regulated by any principle of equity or reason, the public

protection should have supplied, in just proportion, the want of

personal strength. But the legislator had weighed in the scale, not of

justice, but of policy, the loss of a soldier against that of a slave: the head of an insolent and rapacious Barbarian was guarded by a

heavy fine; and the slightest aid was afforded to the most defenceless

subjects. Time insensibly abated the pride of the conquerors and the

patience of the vanquished; and the boldest citizen was taught, by experience, that he might suffer more injuries than he could inflict. as the manners of the Franks became less ferocious, their laws were

rendered more severe; and the Merovingian kings attempted to imitate the

impartial rigor of the Visigoths and Burgundians. [75] Under the empire

of Charlemagne, murder was universally punished with death; and the

use of capital punishments has been liberally multiplied in the

jurisprudence of modern Europe. [76]

[Footnote 72: In the heroic times of Greece, the guilt of murder was expiated by a pecuniary satisfaction to the family of the deceased,

(Feithius Antiquitat. Homeric. l. ii. c. 8.) Heineccius, in his preface to the Elements of Germanic Law, favorably suggests, that at Rome and athens homicide was only punished with exile. It is true: but exile was a capital punishment for a citizen of Rome or Athens.]

[Footnote 73: This proportion is fixed by the Salic (tit. xliv. in tom.

iv. p. 147) and the Ripuarian (tit. vii. xi. xxxvi. in tom. iv. p. 237,

241) laws: but the latter does not distinguish any difference of Romans.

Yet the orders of the clergy are placed above the Franks themselves, and the Burgundians and Alemanni between the Franks and the Romans.]

[Footnote 74: The Antrustiones, qui in truste Dominica sunt, leudi, fideles, undoubtedly represent the first order of Franks; but it is a question whether their rank was personal or hereditary. The Abbe de

Mably (tom. i. p. 334-347) is not displeased to mortify the pride

of birth (Esprit, l. xxx. c. 25) by dating the origin of the French

nobility from the reign Clotaire II. (A.D. 615.)]

[Footnote 75: See the Burgundian laws, (tit. ii. in tom. iv. p. 257,) the code of the Visigoths, (l. vi. tit. v. in tom. p. 384,) and the constitution of Childebert, not of Paris, but most evidently of austrasia, (in tom. iv. p. 112.) Their premature severity was sometimes

rash, and excessive. Childebert condemned not only murderers but

robbers; quomodo sine lege involavit, sine lege moriatur; and even the negligent judge was involved in the same sentence. The Visigoths abandoned an unsuccessful surgeon to the family of his deceased patient,

ut quod de eo facere voluerint habeant potestatem, (l. xi. tit. i. in tom. iv. p. 435.)]

[Footnote 76: See, in the sixth volume of the works of Heineccius, the elementa Juris Germanici, l. ii. p. 2, No. 261, 262, 280-283. Yet some

vestiges of these pecuniary compositions for murder have been traced in

Germany as late as the sixteenth century.]

the civil and military professions, which had been separated by constantine, were again united by the Barbarians. The harsh sound of the teutonic appellations was mollified into the Latin titles of Duke,

of Count, or of Praefect; and the same officer assumed, within his district, the command of the troops, and the administration of justice.

[77] But the fierce and illiterate chieftain was seldom qualified to discharge the duties of a judge, which required all the faculties of a

philosophic mind, laboriously cultivated by experience and study; and

his rude ignorance was compelled to embrace some simple, and visible,

methods of ascertaining the cause of justice. In every religion, the deity has been invoked to confirm the truth, or to punish the falsehood

of human testimony; but this powerful instrument was misapplied and abused by the simplicity of the German legislators. The party accused

might justify his innocence, by producing before their tribunal a number

of friendly witnesses, who solemnly declared their belief, or assurance, that he was not guilty. According to the weight of the charge, this

legal number of compurgators was multiplied; seventy-two voices were

required to absolve an incendiary or assassin: and when the chastity

of a queen of France was suspected, three hundred gallant nobles swore, without hesitation, that the infant prince had been actually begotten by

her deceased husband. [78] The sin and scandal of manifest and frequent

perjuries engaged the magistrates to remove these dangerous temptations; and to supply the defects of human testimony by the famous experiments

of fire and water. These extraordinary trials were so capriciously contrived, that, in some cases, guilt, and innocence in others, could

not be proved without the interposition of a miracle. Such miracles were

really provided by fraud and credulity; the most intricate causes were determined by this easy and infallible method, and the turbulent barbarians, who might have disdained the sentence of the magistrate,

submissively acquiesced in the judgment of God. [79]

[Footnote 77: The whole subject of the Germanic judges, and their

jurisdiction, is copiously treated by Heineccius, (Element. Jur. Germ.

l. iii. No. 1-72.) I cannot find any proof that, under the Merovingian

race, the scabini, or assessors, were chosen by the people. \* Note: The

question of the scabini is treated at considerable length by Savigny. He

questions the existence of the scabini anterior to Charlemagne. Before this time the decision was by an open court of the freemen, the boni

Romische Recht, vol. i. p. 195. et seq.--M.]

[Footnote 78: Gregor. Turon. l. viii. c. 9, in tom. ii. p. 316.

Montesquieu observes, (Esprit des Loix. l. xxviii. c. 13,) that the

Salic law did not admit these negative proofs so universally established

in the Barbaric codes. Yet this obscure concubine (Fredegundis,) who became the wife of the grandson of Clovis, must have followed the Salic

law.]

[Footnote 79: Muratori, in the Antiquities of Italy, has given two dissertations (xxxvii. xxxix.) on the judgments of God. It was expected that fire would not burn the innocent; and that the pure element of water would not allow the guilty to sink into its bosom.]

but the trials by single combat gradually obtained superior credit and authority, among a warlike people, who could not believe that a brave

man deserved to suffer, or that a coward deserved to live. [80] Both

in civil and criminal proceedings, the plaintiff, or accuser, the defendant, or even the witness, were exposed to mortal challenge from the antagonist who was destitute of legal proofs; and it was incumbent

on them either to desert their cause, or publicly to maintain their

honor, in the lists of battle. They fought either on foot, or on

horseback, according to the custom of their nation; [81] and the decision of the sword, or lance, was ratified by the sanction of Heaven,

of the judge, and of the people. This sanguinary law was introduced

into Gaul by the Burgundians; and their legislator Gundobald [82] condescended to answer the complaints and objections of his subject avitus. "Is it not true," said the king of Burgundy to the bishop, "that the event of national wars, and private combats, is directed by the

judgment of God; and that his providence awards the victory to the

juster cause?" By such prevailing arguments, the absurd and cruel

practice of judicial duels, which had been peculiar to some tribes of

Germany, was propagated and established in all the monarchies of Europe, from Sicily to the Baltic. At the end of ten centuries, the reign

of legal violence was not totally extinguished; and the ineffectual censures of saints, of popes, and of synods, may seem to prove, that the influence of superstition is weakened by its unnatural alliance with

reason and humanity. The tribunals were stained with the blood, perhaps,

of innocent and respectable citizens; the law, which now favors the

rich, then yielded to the strong; and the old, the feeble, and the

infirm, were condemned, either to renounce their fairest claims and

possessions, to sustain the dangers of an unequal conflict, [83] or to trust the doubtful aid of a mercenary champion. This oppressive

jurisprudence was imposed on the provincials of Gaul, who complained

of any injuries in their persons and property. Whatever might be the

strength, or courage, of individuals, the victorious Barbarians excelled

in the love and exercise of arms; and the vanquished Roman was unjustly

summoned to repeat, in his own person, the bloody contest which had been already decided against his country. [84]

[Footnote 80: Montesquieu (Esprit des Loix, l. xxviii. c. 17) has condescended to explain and excuse "la maniere de penser de nos peres,"

on the subject of judicial combats. He follows this strange institution from the age of Gundobald to that of St. Lewis; and the philosopher is

some times lost in the legal antiquarian.]

[Footnote 81: In a memorable duel at Aix-la-Chapelle, (A.D. 820,) before the emperor Lewis the Pious, his biographer observes, secundum legem

propriam, utpote quia uterque Gothus erat, equestri pugna est, (Vit.

Lud. Pii, c. 33, in tom. vi. p. 103.) Ermoldus Nigellus, (l. iii.

543-628, in tom. vi. p. 48-50,) who describes the duel, admires the ars

nova of fighting on horseback, which was unknown to the Franks.]

[Footnote 82: In his original edict, published at Lyons, (A.D. 501,) establishes and justifies the use of judicial combat, (Les Burgund. tit.

xlv. in tom. ii. p. 267, 268.) Three hundred years afterwards, Agobard, bishop of Lyons, solicited Lewis the Pious to abolish the law of an arian tyrant, (in tom. vi. p. 356-358.) He relates the conversation of

Gundobald and Avitus.]

[Footnote 83: "Accidit, (says Agobard,) ut non solum valentes viribus,

sed etiam infirmi et senes lacessantur ad pugnam, etiam pro vilissimis

rebus. Quibus foralibus certaminibus contingunt homicidia injusta; et crudeles ac perversi eventus judiciorum." Like a prudent rhetorician, he

suppresses the legal privilege of hiring champions.]

[Footnote 84: Montesquieu, (Esprit des Loix, xxviii. c. 14,) who

understands why the judicial combat was admitted by the Burgundians,

Ripuarians, Alemanni, Bavarians, Lombards, Thuringians, Frisons, and

Saxons, is satisfied (and Agobard seems to countenance the assertion) that it was not allowed by the Salic law. Yet the same custom, at least

in case of treason, is mentioned by Ermoldus, Nigellus (l. iii. 543, in tom. vi. p. 48,) and the anonymous biographer of Lewis the Pious, (c.

46, in tom. vi. p. 112,) as the "mos antiquus Francorum, more Francis

solito," &c., expressions too general to exclude the noblest of their tribes.]

a devouring host of one hundred and twenty thousand Germans had formerly

passed the Rhine under the command of Ariovistus. One third part of the fertile lands of the Sequani was appropriated to their use; and the conqueror soon repeated his oppressive demand of another third, for the accommodation of a new colony of twenty-four thousand Barbarians, whom

he had invited to share the rich harvest of Gaul. [85] At the distance

of five hundred years, the Visigoths and Burgundians, who revenged the defeat of Ariovistus, usurped the same unequal proportion of two thirds

of the subject lands. But this distribution, instead of spreading over the province, may be reasonably confined to the peculiar districts where the victorious people had been planted by their own choice, or by the

policy of their leader. In these districts, each Barbarian was connected by the ties of hospitality with some Roman provincial. To this unwelcome

guest, the proprietor was compelled to abandon two thirds of his

patrimony, but the German, a shepherd and a hunter, might sometimes content himself with a spacious range of wood and pasture, and resign the smallest, though most valuable, portion, to the toil of the

industrious husbandman. [86] The silence of ancient and authentic testimony has encouraged an opinion, that the rapine of the Franks was

not moderated, or disguised, by the forms of a legal division; that they dispersed themselves over the provinces of Gaul, without order or control; and that each victorious robber, according to his wants, his avarice, and his strength, measured with his sword the extent of his new

inheritance. At a distance from their sovereign, the Barbarians might

indeed be tempted to exercise such arbitrary depredation; but the firm and artful policy of Clovis must curb a licentious spirit, which would aggravate the misery of the vanquished, whilst it corrupted the union and discipline of the conquerors. [861] The memorable vase of Soissons

is a monument and a pledge of the regular distribution of the Gallic

spoils. It was the duty and the interest of Clovis to provide rewards for a successful army, settlements for a numerous people; without

inflicting any wanton or superfluous injuries on the loyal Catholics of

Gaul. The ample fund, which he might lawfully acquire, of the Imperial

patrimony, vacant lands, and Gothic usurpations, would diminish the cruel necessity of seizure and confiscation, and the humble provincials would more patiently acquiesce in the equal and regular distribution of their loss. [87]

[Footnote 85: Caesar de Bell. Gall. l. i. c. 31, in tom. i. p. 213.]

[Footnote 86: The obscure hints of a division of lands occasionally

scattered in the laws of the Burgundians, (tit. liv. No. 1, 2, in tom.

iv. p. 271, 272,) and Visigoths, (l. x. tit. i. No. 8, 9, 16, in tom. iv. p. 428, 429, 430,) are skillfully explained by the president

Montesquieu, (Esprit des Loix, l. xxx. c. 7, 8, 9.) I shall only add, that among the Goths, the division seems to have been ascertained by the

judgment of the neighborhood, that the Barbarians frequently usurped the

remaining third; and that the Romans might recover their right, unless they were barred by a prescription of fifty years.]

[Footnote 861: Sismondi (Hist des Francais, vol. i. p. 197) observes, they were not a conquering people, who had emigrated with their families, like the Goths or Burgundians. The women, the children, the

old, had not followed Clovis: they remained in their ancient possessions

on the Waal and the Rhine. The adventurers alone had formed the invading force, and they always considered themselves as an army, not as a colony. Hence their laws retained no traces of the partition of the

Roman properties. It is curious to observe the recoil from the national

vanity of the French historians of the last century. M. Sismondi compares the position of the Franks with regard to the conquered people with that of the Dey of Algiers and his corsair troops to the peaceful

inhabitants of that province: M. Thierry (Lettres sur l'Histoire de france, p. 117) with that of the Turks towards the Raias or Phanariotes, the mass of the Greeks.--M.]

[Footnote 87: It is singular enough that the president de Montesquieu

(Esprit des Loix, l. xxx. c. 7) and the Abbe de Mably (Observations, tom

i. p. 21, 22) agree in this strange supposition of arbitrary and private

rapine. The Count de Boulainvilliers (Etat de la France, tom. i. p.

22, 23) shows a strong understanding through a cloud of ignorance and

prejudice. Note: Sismondi supposes that the Barbarians, if a farm were conveniently situated, would show no great respect for the laws of

property; but in general there would have been vacant land enough for the lots assigned to old or worn-out warriors, (Hist. des Francais, vol.

i. p. 196.)--M.]

the wealth of the Merovingian princes consisted in their extensive domain. After the conquest of Gaul, they still delighted in the rustic

simplicity of their ancestors; the cities were abandoned to solitude and decay; and their coins, their charters, and their synods, are still

inscribed with the names of the villas, or rural palaces, in which they

successively resided.

One hundred and sixty of these palaces, a title which need not excite any unseasonable ideas of art or luxury, were scattered through the

provinces of their kingdom; and if some might claim the honors of a fortress, the far greater part could be esteemed only in the light of

profitable farms. The mansion of the long-haired kings was surrounded with convenient yards and stables, for the cattle and the poultry; the garden was planted with useful vegetables; the various trades, the

labors of agriculture, and even the arts of hunting and fishing, were exercised by servile hands for the emolument of the sovereign;

his magazines were filled with corn and wine, either for sale or consumption; and the whole administration was conducted by the strictest

maxims of private economy. [88] This ample patrimony was appropriated to

supply the hospitable plenty of Clovis and his successors; and to reward the fidelity of their brave companions who, both in peace and war, were devoted to their persona service. Instead of a horse, or a suit of armor, each companion, according to his rank, or merit, or favor, was

invested with a benefice, the primitive name, and most simple form, of the feudal possessions. These gifts might be resumed at the pleasure of the sovereign; and his feeble prerogative derived some support from the influence of his liberality. [881] But this dependent tenure was

gradually abolished [89] by the independent and rapacious nobles

of France, who established the perpetual property, and hereditary

succession, of their benefices; a revolution salutary to the earth, which had been injured, or neglected, by its precarious masters. [90] besides these royal and beneficiary estates, a large proportion had been assigned, in the division of Gaul, of allodial and Salic lands: they were exempt from tribute, and the Salic lands were equally shared among the male descendants of the Franks. [91]

[Footnote 88: See the rustic edict, or rather code, of Charlemagne, which contains seventy distinct and minute regulations of that great

monarch (in tom. v. p. 652-657.) He requires an account of the horns and

skins of the goats, allows his fish to be sold, and carefully directs, that the larger villas (Capitaneoe) shall maintain one hundred hens and thirty geese; and the smaller (Mansionales) fifty hens and twelve geese.

Mabillon (de Re Diplomatica) has investigated the names, the number, and the situation of the Merovingian villas.]

[Footnote 881: The resumption of benefices at the pleasure of the

sovereign, (the general theory down to his time,) is ably contested by

Mr. Hallam; "for this resumption some delinquency must be imputed to the

vassal." Middle Ages, vol. i. p. 162. The reader will be interested by the singular analogies with the beneficial and feudal system of Europe

in a remote part of the world, indicated by Col. Tod in his splendid work on Raja'sthan, vol. ii p. 129, &c.--M.]

[Footnote 89: From a passage of the Burgundian law (tit. i. No. 4, in tom. iv. p. 257) it is evident, that a deserving son might expect to

hold the lands which his father had received from the royal bounty of

Gundobald. The Burgundians would firmly maintain their privilege, and their example might encourage the Beneficiaries of France.]

[Footnote 90: The revolutions of the benefices and fiefs are clearly fixed by the Abbe de Mably. His accurate distinction of times gives him a merit to which even Montesquieu is a stranger.]

[Footnote 91: See the Salic law, (tit. lxii. in tom. iv. p. 156.) The

origin and nature of these Salic lands, which, in times of ignorance, were perfectly understood, now perplex our most learned and sagacious critics. \* Note: No solution seems more probable, than that the ancient

lawgivers of the Salic Franks prohibited females from inheriting the lands assigned to the nation, upon its conquest of Gaul, both

in compliance with their ancient usages, and in order to secure the

military service of every proprietor. But lands subsequently acquired by purchase or other means, though equally bound to the public defence, were relieved from the severity of this rule, and presumed not to belong to the class of Sallic. Hallam's Middle Ages, vol. i. p. 145. Compare

Sismondi, vol. i. p. 196.--M.]

In the bloody discord and silent decay of the Merovingian line, a new

order of tyrants arose in the provinces, who, under the appellation of

Seniors, or Lords, usurped a right to govern, and a license to oppress, the subjects of their peculiar territory. Their ambition might be checked by the hostile resistance of an equal: but the laws were extinguished; and the sacrilegious Barbarians, who dared to provoke the

vengeance of a saint or bishop, [92] would seldom respect the landmarks

of a profane and defenceless neighbor. The common or public rights of

nature, such as they had always been deemed by the Roman jurisprudence,

[93] were severely restrained by the German conquerors, whose amusement,

or rather passion, was the exercise of hunting. The vague dominion which

Man has assumed over the wild inhabitants of the earth, the air, and the waters, was confined to some fortunate individuals of the human species.

Gaul was again overspread with woods; and the animals, who were reserved for the use or pleasure of the lord, might ravage with impunity the fields of his industrious vassals. The chase was the sacred privilege

of the nobles and their domestic servants. Plebeian transgressors were

legally chastised with stripes and imprisonment; [94] but in an age which admitted a slight composition for the life of a citizen, it was a capital crime to destroy a stag or a wild bull within the precincts of the royal forests. [95]

[Footnote 92: Many of the two hundred and six miracles of St. Martin

(Greg Turon. in Maxima Bibliotheca Patrum, tom. xi. p. 896-932) were

repeatedly performed to punish sacrilege. Audite haec omnes (exclaims the bishop of Tours) protestatem habentes, after relating, how some

horses ran mad, that had been turned into a sacred meadow.]

[Footnote 93: Heinec. Element. Jur. German. l. ii. p. 1, No. 8.]

[Footnote 94: Jonas, bishop of Orleans, (A.D. 821-826. Cave, Hist.

Litteraria, p. 443,) censures the legal tyranny of the nobles. Pro feris, quas cura hominum non aluit, sed Deus in commune mortalibus ad

utendum concessit, pauperes a potentioribus spoliantur, flagellantur, ergastulis detruduntur, et multa alia patiuntur. Hoc enim qui faciunt,

lege mundi se facere juste posse contendant. De Institutione Laicorum,

l. ii. c. 23, apud Thomassin, Discipline de l'Eglise, tom. iii. p.

1348.]

[Footnote 95: On a mere suspicion, Chundo, a chamberlain of Gontram,

king of Burgundy, was stoned to death, (Greg. Turon. l. x. c. 10, in tom. ii. p. 369.) John of Salisbury (Policrat. l. i. c. 4) asserts the

rights of nature, and exposes the cruel practice of the twelfth century.

See Heineccius, Elem. Jur. Germ. l. ii. p. 1, No. 51-57.]

according to the maxims of ancient war, the conqueror became the

lawful master of the enemy whom he had subdued and spared: [96] and the fruitful cause of personal slavery, which had been almost suppressed by the peaceful sovereignty of Rome, was again revived and multiplied by the perpetual hostilities of the independent Barbarians. The Goth, the burgundian, or the Frank, who returned from a successful expedition, dragged after him a long train of sheep, of oxen, and of human captives, whom he treated with the same brutal contempt. The youths of an elegant form and an ingenuous aspect were set apart for the domestic service; a doubtful situation, which alternately exposed them to the favorable or cruel impulse of passion. The useful mechanics and servants (smiths, carpenters, tailors, shoemakers, cooks, gardeners, dyers, and workmen

in gold and silver, &c.) employed their skill for the use, or profit,

of their master. But the Roman captives, who were destitute of art, but capable of labor, were condemned, without regard to their former rank, to tend the cattle and cultivate the lands of the Barbarians. The number

of the hereditary bondsmen, who were attached to the Gallic estates, was continually increased by new supplies; and the servile people, according to the situation and temper of their lords, was sometimes raised by

precarious indulgence, and more frequently depressed by capricious despotism. [97] An absolute power of life and death was exercised by these lords; and when they married their daughters, a train of useful

servants, chained on the wagons to prevent their escape, was sent as a

nuptial present into a distant country. [98] The majesty of the Roman

laws protected the liberty of each citizen, against the rash effects of

his own distress or despair. But the subjects of the Merovingian kings

might alienate their personal freedom; and this act of legal suicide, which was familiarly practised, is expressed in terms most disgraceful and afflicting to the dignity of human nature. [99] The example of the

poor, who purchased life by the sacrifice of all that can render life desirable, was gradually imitated by the feeble and the devout, who, in times of public disorder, pusillanimously crowded to shelter themselves

under the battlements of a powerful chief, and around the shrine of a popular saint. Their submission was accepted by these temporal or

spiritual patrons; and the hasty transaction irrecoverably fixed their

own condition, and that of their latest posterity. From the reign of clovis, during five successive centuries, the laws and manners of Gaul

uniformly tended to promote the increase, and to confirm the duration,

of personal servitude. Time and violence almost obliterated the

intermediate ranks of society; and left an obscure and narrow interval between the noble and the slave. This arbitrary and recent division has been transformed by pride and prejudice into a national distinction,

universally established by the arms and the laws of the Merovingians. the nobles, who claimed their genuine or fabulous descent from the

independent and victorious Franks, have asserted and abused the

indefeasible right of conquest over a prostrate crowd of slaves and

plebeians, to whom they imputed the imaginary disgrace of Gallic or

Roman extraction.

[Footnote 96: The custom of enslaving prisoners of war was totally extinguished in the thirteenth century, by the prevailing influence of christianity; but it might be proved, from frequent passages of Gregory

of Tours, &c., that it was practised, without censure, under the

Merovingian race; and even Grotius himself, (de Jure Belli et Pacis

l. iii. c. 7,) as well as his commentator Barbeyrac, have labored to

reconcile it with the laws of nature and reason.]

[Footnote 97: The state, professions, &c., of the German, Italian, and

Gallic slaves, during the middle ages, are explained by Heineccius,

(Element Jur. Germ. l. i. No. 28-47,) Muratori, (Dissertat. xiv. xv.,) ducange, (Gloss. sub voce Servi,) and the Abbe de Mably, (Observations, tom. ii. p. 3, &c., p. 237, &c.) Note: Compare Hallam, vol. i. p.

216.--M.]

[Footnote 98: Gregory of Tours (l. vi. c. 45, in tom. ii. p. 289)

relates a memorable example, in which Chilperic only abused the private

rights of a master. Many families which belonged to his domus fiscales

in the neighborhood of Paris, were forcibly sent away into Spain.]

[Footnote 99: Licentiam habeatis mihi qualemcunque volueritis disciplinam ponere; vel venumdare, aut quod vobis placuerit de me facere Marculf. Formul. l. ii. 28, in tom. iv. p. 497. The Formula of

Lindenbrogius, (p. 559,) and that of Anjou, (p. 565,) are to the same effect Gregory of Tours (l. vii. c. 45, in tom. ii. p. 311) speak of

many person who sold themselves for bread, in a great famine.]

the general state and revolutions of France, a name which was imposed by the conquerors, may be illustrated by the particular example of a province, a diocese, or a senatorial family. Auvergne had formerly

maintained a just preeminence among the independent states and cities

of Gaul. The brave and numerous inhabitants displayed a singular trophy; the sword of Caesar himself, which he had lost when he was repulsed before the walls of Gergovia. [100] As the common offspring of Troy, they claimed a fraternal alliance with the Romans; [101] and if each

province had imitated the courage and loyalty of Auvergne, the fall of the Western empire might have been prevented or delayed. They firmly

maintained the fidelity which they had reluctantly sworn to the

Visigoths, out when their bravest nobles had fallen in the battle of

Poitiers, they accepted, without resistance, a victorious and Catholic

sovereign. This easy and valuable conquest was achieved and possessed by Theodoric, the eldest son of Clovis: but the remote province was

separated from his Austrasian dominions, by the intermediate kingdoms of

Soissons, Paris, and Orleans, which formed, after their father's death, the inheritance of his three brothers. The king of Paris, Childebert, was tempted by the neighborhood and beauty of Auvergne. [102] The

Upper country, which rises towards the south into the mountains of the cevennes, presented a rich and various prospect of woods and pastures; the sides of the hills were clothed with vines; and each eminence was crowned with a villa or castle. In the Lower Auvergne, the River allier flows through the fair and spacious plain of Limagne; and the

inexhaustible fertility of the soil supplied, and still supplies, without any interval of repose, the constant repetition of the same

harvests. [103] On the false report, that their lawful sovereign had been slain in Germany, the city and diocese of Auvergne were betrayed by the grandson of Sidonius Apollinaris. Childebert enjoyed this clandestine victory; and the free subjects of Theodoric threatened to desert his standard, if he indulged his private resentment, while the

nation was engaged in the Burgundian war. But the Franks of Austrasia

soon yielded to the persuasive eloquence of their king. "Follow me,"

said Theodoric, "into Auvergne; I will lead you into a province, where

you may acquire gold, silver, slaves, cattle, and precious apparel, to the full extent of your wishes. I repeat my promise; I give you the

people and their wealth as your prey; and you may transport them at

pleasure into your own country." By the execution of this promise, theodoric justly forfeited the allegiance of a people whom he devoted to destruction. His troops, reenforced by the fiercest Barbarians of

Germany, [104] spread desolation over the fruitful face of Auvergne; and two places only, a strong castle and a holy shrine, were saved or

redeemed from their licentious fury. The castle of Meroliac [105] was

seated on a lofty rock, which rose a hundred feet above the surface of the plain; and a large reservoir of fresh water was enclosed, with some arable lands, within the circle of its fortifications. The Franks beheld with envy and despair this impregnable fortress; but they surprised a

party of fifty stragglers; and, as they were oppressed by the number

of their captives, they fixed, at a trifling ransom, the alternative of

life or death for these wretched victims, whom the cruel Baroarians were

prepared to massacre on the refusal of the garrison. Another detachment

penetrated as far as Brivas, or Brioude, where the inhabitants, with their valuable effects, had taken refuge in the sanctuary of St. Julian. the doors of the church resisted the assault; but a daring soldier entered through a window of the choir, and opened a passage to his companions. The clergy and people, the sacred and the profane spoils, were rudely torn from the altar; and the sacrilegious division was made at a small distance from the town of Brioude. But this act of impiety was severely chastised by the devout son of Clovis. He punished with death the most atrocious offenders; left their secret accomplices to the

vengeance of St. Julian; released the captives; restored the plunder; and extended the rights of sanctuary five miles round the sepulchre of the holy martyr. [106]

[Footnote 100: When Caesar saw it, he laughed, (Plutarch. in Caesar. in tom. i. p. 409:) yet he relates his unsuccessful siege of Gergovia with

less frankness than we might expect from a great man to whom victory was familiar. He acknowledges, however, that in one attack he lost forty-six centurions and seven hundred men, (de Bell. Gallico, l. vi. c. 44-53, in tom. i. p. 270-272.)]

[Footnote 101: Audebant se quondam fatres Latio dicere, et sanguine ab

Iliaco populos computare, (Sidon. Apollinar. l. vii. epist. 7, in tom

i. p. 799.) I am not informed of the degrees and circumstances of this fabulous pedigree.]

[Footnote 102: Either the first, or second, partition among the sons of clovis, had given Berry to Childebert, (Greg. Turon. l. iii. c. 12,

in tom. ii. p. 192.) Velim (said he) Arvernam Lemanem, quae tanta

jocunditatis gratia refulgere dicitur, oculis cernere, (l. iii. c. p.

191.) The face of the country was concealed by a thick fog, when the

king of Paris made his entry into Clermen.]

[Footnote 103: For the description of Auvergne, see Sidonius, (l. iv. epist. 21, in tom. i. p. 703,) with the notes of Savaron and Sirmond,

(p. 279, and 51, of their respective editions.) Boulainvilliers, (Etat de la France, tom. ii. p. 242-268,) and the Abbe de la Longuerue,

(Description de la France, part i. p. 132-139.)]

[Footnote 104; Furorem gentium, quae de ulteriore Rheni amnis parte

venerant, superare non poterat, (Greg. Turon. l. iv. c. 50, in tom. ii.

229.) was the excuse of another king of Austrasia (A.D. 574) for the

ravages which his troops committed in the neighborhood of Paris.]

[Footnote 105: From the name and situation, the Benedictine editors

of Gregory of Tours (in tom. ii. p. 192) have fixed this fortress at a place named Castel Merliac, two miles from Mauriac, in the Upper auvergne. In this description, I translate infra as if I read intra; the two are perpetually confounded by Gregory, or his transcribed and the

sense must always decide.]

[Footnote 106: See these revolutions, and wars, of Auvergne, in Gregory

of Tours, (l. ii. c. 37, in tom. ii. p. 183, and l. iii. c. 9, 12, 13,

p. 191, 192, de Miraculis St. Julian. c. 13, in tom. ii. p. 466.) He frequently betrays his extraordinary attention to his native country.]

chapter XXXVIII: Reign Of Clovis.--Part IV.

before the Austrasian army retreated from Auvergne, Theodoric exacted

some pledges of the future loyalty of a people, whose just hatred could be restrained only by their fear. A select band of noble youths, the

sons of the principal senators, was delivered to the conqueror, as the

hostages of the faith of Childebert, and of their countrymen. On the first rumor of war, or conspiracy, these guiltless youths were

reduced to a state of servitude; and one of them, Attalus, [107] whose adventures are more particularly related, kept his master's horses in the diocese of Treves. After a painful search, he was discovered, in this unworthy occupation, by the emissaries of his grandfather, Gregory bishop of Langres; but his offers of ransom were sternly rejected by the avarice of the Barbarian, who required an exorbitant sum of ten pounds

of gold for the freedom of his noble captive. His deliverance was effected by the hardy stratagem of Leo, an item belonging to the

kitchens of the bishop of Langres. [108] An unknown agent easily

introduced him into the same family. The Barbarian purchased Leo for the price of twelve pieces of gold; and was pleased to learn that he was deeply skilled in the luxury of an episcopal table: "Next Sunday," said the Frank, "I shall invite my neighbors and kinsmen. Exert thy art, and force them to confess, that they have never seen, or tasted, such an entertainment, even in the king's house." Leo assured him, that if he would provide a sufficient quantity of poultry, his wishes should be satisfied. The master who already aspired to the merit of elegant

hospitality, assumed, as his own, the praise which the voracious guests

unanimously bestowed on his cook; and the dexterous Leo insensibly acquired the trust and management of his household. After the patient expectation of a whole year, he cautiously whispered his design to attalus, and exhorted him to prepare for flight in the ensuing night. At the hour of midnight, the intemperate guests retired from the table; and the Frank's son-in-law, whom Leo attended to his apartment with a

nocturnal potation, condescended to jest on the facility with which

he might betray his trust. The intrepid slave, after sustaining this dangerous raillery, entered his master's bedchamber; removed his spear and shield; silently drew the fleetest horses from the stable; unbarred the ponderous gates; and excited Attalus to save his life and liberty by incessant diligence. Their apprehensions urged them to leave their

horses on the banks of the Meuse; [109] they swam the river, wandered three days in the adjacent forest, and subsisted only by the accidental discovery of a wild plum-tree. As they lay concealed in a dark thicket, they heard the noise of horses; they were terrified by the angry countenance of their master, and they anxiously listened to his declaration, that, if he could seize the guilty fugitives, one of them

he would cut in pieces with his sword, and would expose the other on a gibbet. A length, Attalus and his faithful Leo reached the friendly

habitation of a presbyter of Rheims, who recruited their fainting

strength with bread and wine, concealed them from the search of their enemy, and safely conducted them beyond the limits of the Austrasian

kingdom, to the episcopal palace of Langres. Gregory embraced his

grandson with tears of joy, gratefully delivered Leo, with his whole family, from the yoke of servitude, and bestowed on him the property of a farm, where he might end his days in happiness and freedom. Perhaps this singular adventure, which is marked with so many circumstances

of truth and nature, was related by Attalus himself, to his cousin or

nephew, the first historian of the Franks. Gregory of Tours [110] was born about sixty years after the death of Sidonius Apollinaris; and their situation was almost similar, since each of them was a native of auvergne, a senator, and a bishop. The difference of their style and

sentiments may, therefore, express the decay of Gaul; and clearly ascertain how much, in so short a space, the human mind had lost of its energy and refinement. [111]

[Footnote 107: The story of Attalus is related by Gregory of Tours, (l.

iii. c. 16, tom. ii. p. 193-195.) His editor, the P. Ruinart, confounds this Attalus, who was a youth (puer) in the year 532, with a friend of

Silonius of the same name, who was count of Autun, fifty or sixty years before. Such an error, which cannot be imputed to ignorance, is excused,

in some degree, by its own magnitude.]

[Footnote 108: This Gregory, the great grandfather of Gregory of Tours,

(in tom. ii. p. 197, 490,) lived ninety-two years; of which he passed forty as count of Autun, and thirty-two as bishop of Langres. According to the poet Fortunatus, he displayed equal merit in these different

stations. Nobilis antiqua decurrens prole parentum, Nobilior gestis,

nunc super astra manet. Arbiter ante ferox, dein pius ipse sacerdos,

Quos domuit judex, fovit amore patris.]

[Footnote 109: As M. de Valois, and the P. Ruinart, are determined to change the Mosella of the text into Mosa, it becomes me to acquiesce in the alteration. Yet, after some examination of the topography. I could defend the common reading.]

[Footnote 110: The parents of Gregory (Gregorius Florentius Georgius) were of noble extraction, (natalibus... illustres,) and they possessed

large estates (latifundia) both in Auvergne and Burgundy. He was born in the year 539, was consecrated bishop of Tours in 573, and died in 593

or 595, soon after he had terminated his history. See his life by

Odo, abbot of Clugny, (in tom. ii. p. 129-135,) and a new Life in the

Memoires de l'Academie, &c., tom. xxvi. p. 598-637.]

[Footnote 111: Decedente atque immo potius pereunte ab urbibus

Gallicanis liberalium cultura literarum, &c., (in praefat. in tom. ii.

p. 137,) is the complaint of Gregory himself, which he fully verifies by

his own work. His style is equally devoid of elegance and simplicity. In a conspicuous station, he still remained a stranger to his own age and country; and in a prolific work (the five last books contain ten years)

he has omitted almost every thing that posterity desires to learn. I

have tediously acquired, by a painful perusal, the right of pronouncing this unfavorable sentence] We are now qualified to despise the opposite, and, perhaps, artful, misrepresentations, which have softened, or exaggerated, the oppression of the Romans of Gaul under the reign of the

Merovingians. The conquerors never promulgated any universal edict of

servitude, or confiscation; but a degenerate people, who excused their weakness by the specious names of politeness and peace, was exposed to the arms and laws of the ferocious Barbarians, who contemptuously

insulted their possessions, their freedom, and their safety. Their

personal injuries were partial and irregular; but the great body of the

Romans survived the revolution, and still preserved the property, and

privileges, of citizens. A large portion of their lands was exacted for the use of the Franks: but they enjoyed the remainder, exempt from tribute; [112] and the same irresistible violence which swept away the arts and manufactures of Gaul, destroyed the elaborate and expensive

system of Imperial despotism. The Provincials must frequently deplore the savage jurisprudence of the Salic or Ripuarian laws; but their

private life, in the important concerns of marriage, testaments,

or inheritance, was still regulated by the Theodosian Code; and a discontented Roman might freely aspire, or descend, to the title and character of a Barbarian. The honors of the state were accessible to

his ambition: the education and temper of the Romans more peculiarly

qualified them for the offices of civil government; and, as soon as emulation had rekindled their military ardor, they were permitted to

march in the ranks, or even at the head, of the victorious Germans. I

shall not attempt to enumerate the generals and magistrates, whose names

[113] attest the liberal policy of the Merovingians. The supreme command

of Burgundy, with the title of Patrician, was successively intrusted to three Romans; and the last, and most powerful, Mummolus, [114] who alternately saved and disturbed the monarchy, had supplanted his father

in the station of count of Autun, and left a treasury of thirty talents

of gold, and two hundred and fifty talents of silver. The fierce and

illiterate Barbarians were excluded, during several generations, from the dignities, and even from the orders, of the church. [115] The clergy

of Gaul consisted almost entirely of native provincials; the haughty franks fell at the feet of their subjects, who were dignified with the episcopal character: and the power and riches which had been lost in war, were insensibly recovered by superstition. [116] In all temporal affairs, the Theodosian Code was the universal law of the clergy; but the Barbaric jurisprudence had liberally provided for their personal

safety; a sub-deacon was equivalent to two Franks; the antrustion, and

priest, were held in similar estimation: and the life of a bishop was appreciated far above the common standard, at the price of nine hundred

pieces of gold. [117] The Romans communicated to their conquerors the use of the Christian religion and Latin language; [118] but their

language and their religion had alike degenerated from the simple purity

of the Augustan, and Apostolic age. The progress of superstition and barbarism was rapid and universal: the worship of the saints concealed from vulgar eyes the God of the Christians; and the rustic dialect

of peasants and soldiers was corrupted by a Teutonic idiom and

pronunciation. Yet such intercourse of sacred and social communion eradicated the distinctions of birth and victory; and the nations of

Gaul were gradually confounded under the name and government of the franks.

[Footnote 112: The Abbe de Mably (tom. p. i. 247-267) has diligently confirmed this opinion of the President de Montesquieu, (Esprit des

Loix, l. xxx. c. 13.)]

[Footnote 113: See Dubos, Hist. Critique de la Monarchie Francoise, tom.

ii. l. vi. c. 9, 10. The French antiquarians establish as a principle, that the Romans and Barbarians may be distinguished by their names. their names undoubtedly form a reasonable presumption; yet in reading

Gregory of Tours, I have observed Gondulphus, of Senatorian, or

Roman, extraction, (l. vi. c. 11, in tom. ii. p. 273,) and Claudius, a barbarian, (l. vii. c. 29, p. 303.)]

[Footnote 114: Eunius Mummolus is repeatedly mentioned by Gregory of tours, from the fourth (c. 42, p. 224) to the seventh (c. 40, p. 310) book. The computation by talents is singular enough; but if Gregory attached any meaning to that obsolete word, the treasures of Mummolus

must have exceeded 100,000 L. sterling.]

[Footnote 115: See Fleury, Discours iii. sur l'Histoire Ecclesiastique.]

[Footnote 116: The bishop of Tours himself has recorded the complaint of chilperic, the grandson of Clovis. Ecce pauper remansit Fiscus noster; ecce divitiae nostrae ad ecclesias sunt translatae; nulli penitus nisi

soli Episcopi regnant, (l. vi. c. 46, in tom. ii. p. 291.)]

[Footnote 117: See the Ripuarian Code, (tit. xxxvi in tom. iv. p. 241.) the Salic law does not provide for the safety of the clergy; and we

might suppose, on the behalf of the more civilized tribe, that they

had not foreseen such an impious act as the murder of a priest. Yet

Praetextatus, archbishop of Rouen, was assassinated by the order of

Queen Fredegundis before the altar, (Greg. Turon. l. viii. c. 31, in tom. ii. p. 326.)]

[Footnote 118: M. Bonamy (Mem. de l'Academie des Inscriptions, tom.

xxiv. p. 582-670) has ascertained the Lingua Romana Rustica, which, through the medium of the Romance, has gradually been polished into the actual form of the French language. Under the Carlovingian race, the

kings and nobles of France still understood the dialect of their German ancestors.]

the Franks, after they mingled with their Gallic subjects, might have

imparted the most valuable of human gifts, a spirit and system of constitutional liberty. Under a king, hereditary, but limited, the chiefs and counsellors might have debated at Paris, in the palace of the caesars: the adjacent field, where the emperors reviewed their mercenary

legions. would have admitted the legislative assembly of freemen and warriors; and the rude model, which had been sketched in the woods of

Germany, [119] might have been polished and improved by the civil wisdom

of the Romans. But the careless Barbarians, secure of their personal

independence, disdained the labor of government: the annual assemblies

of the month of March were silently abolished; and the nation was

separated, and almost dissolved, by the conquest of Gaul. [120] The

monarchy was left without any regular establishment of justice, of arms,

or of revenue. The successors of Clovis wanted resolution to assume, or

strength to exercise, the legislative and executive powers, which the

people had abdicated: the royal prerogative was distinguished only by a

more ample privilege of rapine and murder; and the love of freedom, so

often invigorated and disgraced by private ambition, was reduced, among the licentious Franks, to the contempt of order, and the desire of

impunity. Seventy-five years after the death of Clovis, his grandson,

Gontran, king of Burgundy, sent an army to invade the Gothic possessions

of Septimania, or Languedoc. The troops of Burgundy, Berry, Auvergne, and the adjacent territories, were excited by the hopes of spoil. They

marched, without discipline, under the banners of German, or Gallic, counts: their attack was feeble and unsuccessful; but the friendly and hostile provinces were desolated with indiscriminate rage. The cornfields, the villages, the churches themselves, were consumed by fire: the inhabitants were massacred, or dragged into captivity; and,

in the disorderly retreat, five thousand of these inhuman savages were destroyed by hunger or intestine discord. When the pious Gontran

reproached the guilt or neglect of their leaders, and threatened to

inflict, not a legal sentence, but instant and arbitrary execution, they accused the universal and incurable corruption of the people. "No one," they said, "any longer fears or respects his king, his duke, or his count. Each man loves to do evil, and freely indulges his criminal

inclinations. The most gentle correction provokes an immediate tumult, and the rash magistrate, who presumes to censure or restrain his

seditious subjects, seldom escapes alive from their revenge." [121] It

has been reserved for the same nation to expose, by their intemperate

vices, the most odious abuse of freedom; and to supply its loss by the

spirit of honor and humanity, which now alleviates and dignifies their

obedience to an absolute sovereign. [1211]

[Footnote 119: Ce beau systeme a ete trouve dans les bois. Montesquieu, esprit des Loix, l. xi. c. 6.]

[Footnote 120: See the Abbe de Mably. Observations, &c., tom. i. p.

34-56. It should seem that the institution of national assemblies, which are with the French nation, has never been congenial to its temper.]

[Footnote 121: Gregory of Tours (l. viii. c. 30, in tom. ii. p. 325,

326) relates, with much indifference, the crimes, the reproof, and the apology. Nullus Regem metuit, nullus Ducem, nullus Comitem reveretur; et si fortassis alicui ista displicent, et ea, pro longaevitate vitae

vestrae, emendare conatur, statim seditio in populo, statim tumultus exoritur, et in tantum unusquisque contra seniorem saeva intentione

grassatur, ut vix se credat evadere, si tandem silere nequiverit.]

[Footnote 1211: This remarkable passage was published in 1779--M.]

the Visigoths had resigned to Clovis the greatest part of their Gallic

possessions; but their loss was amply compensated by the easy conquest, and secure enjoyment, of the provinces of Spain. From the monarchy

of the Goths, which soon involved the Suevic kingdom of Gallicia, the

modern Spaniards still derive some national vanity; but the historian

of the Roman empire is neither invited, nor compelled, to pursue the

obscure and barren series of their annals. [122] The Goths of Spain were

separated from the rest of mankind by the lofty ridge of the Pyrenaean

mountains: their manners and institutions, as far as they were common to the Germanic tribes, have been already explained. I have anticipated,

in the preceding chapter, the most important of their ecclesiastical events, the fall of Arianism, and the persecution of the Jews; and it

only remains to observe some interesting circumstances which relate to the civil and ecclesiastical constitution of the Spanish kingdom.

[Footnote 122: Spain, in these dark ages, has been peculiarly

unfortunate. The Franks had a Gregory of Tours; the Saxons, or Angles, a Bede; the Lombards, a Paul Warnefrid, &c. But the history of the

Visigoths is contained in the short and imperfect Chronicles of Isidore

of Seville and John of Biclar] After their conversion from idolatry or

heresy, the Frank and the Visigoths were disposed to embrace, with equal submission, the inherent evils and the accidental benefits, of

superstition. But the prelates of France, long before the extinction

of the Merovingian race, had degenerated into fighting and hunting barbarians. They disdained the use of synods; forgot the laws of temperance and chastity; and preferred the indulgence of private ambition and luxury to the general interest of the sacerdotal

profession. [123] The bishops of Spain respected themselves, and were

respected by the public: their indissoluble union disguised their vices, and confirmed their authority; and the regular discipline of the church

introduced peace, order, and stability, into the government of the

state. From the reign of Recared, the first Catholic king, to that of witiza, the immediate predecessor of the unfortunate Roderic, sixteen

national councils were successively convened. The six metropolitans, toledo, Seville, Merida, Braga, Tarragona, and Narbonne, presided according to their respective seniority; the assembly was composed of their suffragan bishops, who appeared in person, or by their proxies; and a place was assigned to the most holy, or opulent, of the Spanish abbots. During the first three days of the convocation, as long as they agitated the ecclesiastical question of doctrine and discipline, the

profane laity was excluded from their debates; which were conducted,

however, with decent solemnity. But, on the morning of the fourth day, the doors were thrown open for the entrance of the great officers of the

palace, the dukes and counts of the provinces, the judges of the cities, and the Gothic nobles, and the decrees of Heaven were ratified by the consent of the people.

the same rules were observed in the provincial assemblies, the annual

synods, which were empowered to hear complaints, and to redress

grievances; and a legal government was supported by the prevailing

influence of the Spanish clergy. The bishops, who, in each revolution, were prepared to flatter the victorious, and to insult the prostrate

labored, with diligence and success, to kindle the flames of

persecution, and to exalt the mitre above the crown. Yet the national councils of Toledo, in which the free spirit of the Barbarians was tempered and guided by episcopal policy, have established some prudent

laws for the common benefit of the king and people. The vacancy of the throne was supplied by the choice of the bishops and palatines; and after the failure of the line of Alaric, the regal dignity was still

limited to the pure and noble blood of the Goths. The clergy, who anointed their lawful prince, always recommended, and sometimes

practised, the duty of allegiance; and the spiritual censures were denounced on the heads of the impious subjects, who should resist his authority, conspire against his life, or violate, by an indecent

union, the chastity even of his widow. But the monarch himself, when

he ascended the throne, was bound by a reciprocal oath to God and his

people, that he would faithfully execute this important trust. The real

or imaginary faults of his administration were subject to the control of a powerful aristocracy; and the bishops and palatines were guarded by a fundamental privilege, that they should not be degraded, imprisoned, tortured, nor punished with death, exile, or confiscation, unless by the free and public judgment of their peers. [124]

[Footnote 123: Such are the complaints of St. Boniface, the apostle of

Germany, and the reformer of Gaul, (in tom. iv. p. 94.) The fourscore

years, which he deplores, of license and corruption, would seem to

insinuate that the Barbarians were admitted into the clergy about the

year 660.]

[Footnote 124: The acts of the councils of Toledo are still the most authentic records of the church and constitution of Spain. The following

passages are particularly important, (iii. 17, 18; iv. 75; v. 2, 3, 4,

5, 8; vi. 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18; vii. 1; xiii. 2 3 6.) I have found

Mascou (Hist. of the Ancient Germans, xv. 29, and Annotations, xxvi. and xxxiii.) and Ferreras (Hist. Generale de l'Espagne, tom. ii.) very

useful and accurate guides.]

One of these legislative councils of Toledo examined and ratified the code of laws which had been compiled by a succession of Gothic kings, from the fierce Euric, to the devout Egica. As long as the Visigoths themselves were satisfied with the rude customs of their ancestors, they

indulged their subjects of Aquitain and Spain in the enjoyment of the

Roman law. Their gradual improvement in arts, in policy, and at length

in religion, encouraged them to imitate, and to supersede, these foreign

institutions; and to compose a code of civil and criminal jurisprudence, for the use of a great and united people. The same obligations, and the same privileges, were communicated to the nations of the Spanish

monarchy; and the conquerors, insensibly renouncing the Teutonic idiom,

submitted to the restraints of equity, and exalted the Romans to the participation of freedom. The merit of this impartial policy was enhanced by the situation of Spain under the reign of the Visigoths. the provincials were long separated from their Arian masters by the

irreconcilable difference of religion. After the conversion of Recared

had removed the prejudices of the Catholics, the coasts, both of the

Ocean and Mediterranean, were still possessed by the Eastern emperors; who secretly excited a discontented people to reject the yoke of the barbarians, and to assert the name and dignity of Roman citizens. The allegiance of doubtful subjects is indeed most effectually secured by their own persuasion, that they hazard more in a revolt, than they can hope to obtain by a revolution; but it has appeared so natural to oppress those whom we hate and fear, that the contrary system well deserves the praise of wisdom and moderation. [125]

[Footnote 125: The Code of the Visigoths, regularly divided into twelve books, has been correctly published by Dom Bouquet, (in tom. iv. p.

273-460.) It has been treated by the President de Montesquieu (Esprit des Loix, l. xxviii. c. 1) with excessive severity. I dislike the style;

I detest the superstition; but I shall presume to think, that the civil jurisprudence displays a more civilized and enlightened state of

society, than that of the Burgundians, or even of the Lombards.]

while the kingdom of the Franks and Visigoths were established in Gaul and Spain, the Saxons achieved the conquest of Britain, the third

great diocese of the Praefecture of the West. Since Britain was already

separated from the Roman empire, I might, without reproach, decline a

story familiar to the most illiterate, and obscure to the most learned,

of my readers. The Saxons, who excelled in the use of the oar, or the battle-axe, were ignorant of the art which could alone perpetuate the fame of their exploits; the Provincials, relapsing into barbarism,

neglected to describe the ruin of their country; and the doubtful tradition was almost extinguished, before the missionaries of Rome

restored the light of science and Christianity. The declamations of

Gildas, the fragments, or fables, of Nennius, the obscure hints of the

Saxon laws and chronicles, and the ecclesiastical tales of the venerable bede, [126] have been illustrated by the diligence, and sometimes embellished by the fancy, of succeeding writers, whose works I am not ambitious either to censure or to transcribe. [127] Yet the historian of the empire may be tempted to pursue the revolutions of a Roman province, till it vanishes from his sight; and an Englishman may curiously trace the establishment of the Barbarians, from whom he derives his name, his

laws, and perhaps his origin.

[Footnote 126: See Gildas de Excidio Britanniae, c. 11-25, p. 4-9, edit.

Gale. Nennius, Hist. Britonum, c. 28, 35-65, p. 105-115, edit. Gale. bede, Hist. Ecclesiast. Gentis Angloruml. i. c. 12-16, p. 49-53. c. 22,

p. 58, edit. Smith. Chron. Saxonicum, p. 11-23, &c., edit. Gibson. The anglo-Saxon laws were published by Wilkins, London, 1731, in folio; and the Leges Wallicae, by Wotton and Clarke, London, 1730, in folio.]

[Footnote 127: The laborious Mr. Carte, and the ingenious Mr. Whitaker, are the two modern writers to whom I am principally indebted. The

particular historian of Manchester embraces, under that obscure title, a subject almost as extensive as the general history of England. \* Note: add the Anglo-Saxon History of Mr. S. Turner; and Sir F. Palgrave Sketch

of the "Early History of England."--M.]

about forty years after the dissolution of the Roman government,

Vortigern appears to have obtained the supreme, though precarious command of the princes and cities of Britain. That unfortunate monarch

has been almost unanimously condemned for the weak and mischievous

policy of inviting [128] a formidable stranger, to repel the vexatious

inroads of a domestic foe. His ambassadors are despatched, by the

gravest historians, to the coast of Germany: they address a pathetic

oration to the general assembly of the Saxons, and those warlike barbarians resolve to assist with a fleet and army the suppliants of a distant and unknown island. If Britain had indeed been unknown to the

Saxons, the measure of its calamities would have been less complete. But the strength of the Roman government could not always guard the maritime

province against the pirates of Germany; the independent and divided

states were exposed to their attacks; and the Saxons might sometimes

join the Scots and the Picts, in a tacit, or express, confederacy of

rapine and destruction. Vortigern could only balance the various perils, which assaulted on every side his throne and his people; and his policy

may deserve either praise or excuse, if he preferred the alliance of those Barbarians, whose naval power rendered them the most dangerous enemies and the most serviceable allies. Hengist and Horsa, as they

ranged along the Eastern coast with three ships, were engaged, by the

promise of an ample stipend, to embrace the defence of Britain; and their intrepid valor soon delivered the country from the Caledonian

invaders. The Isle of Thanet, a secure and fertile district, was allotted for the residence of these German auxiliaries, and they were supplied, according to the treaty, with a plentiful allowance

of clothing and provisions. This favorable reception encouraged five thousand warriors to embark with their families in seventeen vessels, and the infant power of Hengist was fortified by this strong and

seasonable reenforcement. The crafty Barbarian suggested to Vortigern the obvious advantage of fixing, in the neighborhood of the Picts, a colony of faithful allies: a third fleet of forty ships, under the command of his son and nephew, sailed from Germany, ravaged the Orkneys, and disembarked a new army on the coast of Northumberland, or Lothian, at the opposite extremity of the devoted land. It was easy to foresee, but it was impossible to prevent, the impending evils. The two nations were soon divided and exasperated by mutual jealousies. The Saxons

magnified all that they had done and suffered in the cause of an

ungrateful people; while the Britons regretted the liberal rewards which could not satisfy the avarice of those haughty mercenaries. The causes

of fear and hatred were inflamed into an irreconcilable quarrel. The

Saxons flew to arms; and if they perpetrated a treacherous massacre during the security of a feast, they destroyed the reciprocal confidence which sustains the intercourse of peace and war. [129]

[Footnote 128: This invitation, which may derive some countenance from the loose expressions of Gildas and Bede, is framed into a regular story by Witikind, a Saxon monk of the tenth century, (see Cousin, Hist. de

l'Empire d'Occident, tom. ii. p. 356.) Rapin, and even Hume, have too freely used this suspicious evidence, without regarding the precise and

probable testimony of Tennius: Iterea venerunt tres Chinlae a exilio

pulsoe, in quibus erant Hors et Hengist.]

[Footnote 129: Nennius imputes to the Saxons the murder of three hundred british chiefs; a crime not unsuitable to their savage manners. But we are not obliged to believe (see Jeffrey of Monmouth, l. viii. c.

9-12) that Stonehenge is their monument, which the giants had formerly transported from Africa to Ireland, and which was removed to Britain by the order of Ambrosius, and the art of Merlin. \* Note: Sir f. Palgrave

(Hist. of England, p. 36) is inclined to resolve the whole of these

stories, as Niebuhr the older Roman history, into poetry. To the editor they appeared, in early youth, so essentially poetic, as to justify the

rash attempt to embody them in an Epic Poem, called Samor, commenced at Eton, and finished before he had arrived at the maturer taste of

manhood.--M.]

Hengist, who boldly aspired to the conquest of Britain, exhorted his countrymen to embrace the glorious opportunity: he painted in lively colors the fertility of the soil, the wealth of the cities, the

pusillanimous temper of the natives, and the convenient situation of a

spacious solitary island, accessible on all sides to the Saxon fleets. the successive colonies which issued, in the period of a century, from the mouths of the Elbe, the Weser, and the Rhine, were principally composed of three valiant tribes or nations of Germany; the Jutes, the

old Saxons, and the Angles. The Jutes, who fought under the peculiar banner of Hengist, assumed the merit of leading their countrymen in the

paths of glory, and of erecting, in Kent, the first independent kingdom. the fame of the enterprise was attributed to the primitive Saxons; and the common laws and language of the conquerors are described by the

national appellation of a people, which, at the end of four hundred

years, produced the first monarchs of South Britain. The Angles were distinguished by their numbers and their success; and they claimed the

honor of fixing a perpetual name on the country, of which they occupied the most ample portion. The Barbarians, who followed the hopes of rapine either on the land or sea, were insensibly blended with this triple confederacy; the Frisians, who had been tempted by their vicinity to the british shores, might balance, during a short space, the strength and

reputation of the native Saxons; the Danes, the Prussians, the Rugians, are faintly described; and some adventurous Huns, who had wandered as far as the Baltic, might embark on board the German vessels, for the conquest of a new world. [130] But this arduous achievement was not

prepared or executed by the union of national powers. Each intrepid chieftain, according to the measure of his fame and fortunes, assembled

his followers; equipped a fleet of three, or perhaps of sixty, vessels; chose the place of the attack; and conducted his subsequent operations according to the events of the war, and the dictates of his private

interest. In the invasion of Britain many heroes vanquished and fell; but only seven victorious leaders assumed, or at least maintained, the title of kings. Seven independent thrones, the Saxon Heptarchy, [1301] were founded by the conquerors, and seven families, one of which has been continued, by female succession, to our present sovereign, derived their equal and sacred lineage from Woden, the god of war. It has been pretended, that this republic of kings was moderated by a general council and a supreme magistrate. But such an artificial scheme of

policy is repugnant to the rude and turbulent spirit of the Saxons: their laws are silent; and their imperfect annals afford only a dark and bloody prospect of intestine discord. [131]

[Footnote 130: All these tribes are expressly enumerated by Bede, (l.

i. c. 15, p. 52, l. v. c. 9, p. 190;) and though I have considered Mr. whitaker's remarks, (Hist. of Manchester, vol. ii. p. 538-543,) I do not

perceive the absurdity of supposing that the Frisians, &c., were mingled with the Anglo-Saxons.]

[Footnote 1301: This term (the Heptarchy) must be rejected because an

idea is conveyed thereby which is substantially wrong. At no one period were there ever seven kingdoms independent of each other. Palgrave, vol.

i. p. 46. Mr. Sharon Turner has the merit of having first confuted the popular notion on this subject. Anglo-Saxon History, vol. i. p.

302.--M.]

[Footnote 131: Bede has enumerated seven kings, two Saxons, a Jute, and four Angles, who successively acquired in the heptarchy an indefinite

supremacy of power and renown. But their reign was the effect, not of

law, but of conquest; and he observes, in similar terms, that one of them subdued the Isles of Man and Anglesey; and that another imposed a tribute on the Scots and Picts. (Hist. Eccles. l. ii. c. 5, p. 83.)]

a monk, who, in the profound ignorance of human life, has presumed to exercise the office of historian, strangely disfigures the state of britain at the time of its separation from the Western empire. Gildas

[132] describes in florid language the improvements of agriculture, the foreign trade which flowed with every tide into the Thames and the

Severn the solid and lofty construction of public and private edifices;

he accuses the sinful luxury of the British people; of a people, according to the same writer, ignorant of the most simple arts, and

incapable, without the aid of the Romans, of providing walls of stone,

or weapons of iron, for the defence of their native land. [133] Under the long dominion of the emperors, Britain had been insensibly moulded

into the elegant and servile form of a Roman province, whose safety was intrusted to a foreign power. The subjects of Honorius contemplated their new freedom with surprise and terror; they were left destitute of any civil or military constitution; and their uncertain rulers wanted either skill, or courage, or authority, to direct the public force against the common enemy. The introduction of the Saxons betrayed their

internal weakness, and degraded the character both of the prince and

people. Their consternation magnified the danger; the want of union diminished their resources; and the madness of civil factions was more

solicitous to accuse, than to remedy, the evils, which they imputed to the misconduct of their adversaries.

Yet the Britons were not ignorant, they could not be ignorant, of the

manufacture or the use of arms; the successive and disorderly attacks

of the Saxons allowed them to recover from their amazement, and the

prosperous or adverse events of the war added discipline and experience to their native valor.

[Footnote 132: See Gildas de Excidio Britanniae, c. i. p. l. edit.

Gale.]

[Footnote 133: Mr. Whitaker (Hist. of Manchester, vol. ii. p. 503, 516)

has smartly exposed this glaring absurdity, which had passed unnoticed by the general historians, as they were hastening to more interesting and important events]

while the continent of Europe and Africa yielded, without resistance, to the Barbarians, the British island, alone and unaided, maintained a long, a vigorous, though an unsuccessful, struggle, against the formidable pirates, who, almost at the same instant, assaulted the

Northern, the Eastern, and the Southern coasts. The cities which had been fortified with skill, were defended with resolution; the advantages

of ground, hills, forests, and morasses, were diligently improved by the

inhabitants; the conquest of each district was purchased with blood; and the defeats of the Saxons are strongly attested by the discreet silence

of their annalist. Hengist might hope to achieve the conquest of britain; but his ambition, in an active reign of thirty-five years, was confined to the possession of Kent; and the numerous colony which he had

planted in the North, was extirpated by the sword of the Britons. The

monarchy of the West Saxons was laboriously founded by the persevering efforts of three martial generations. The life of Cerdic, one of the bravest of the children of Woden, was consumed in the conquest of

Hampshire, and the Isle of Wight; and the loss which he sustained in the battle of Mount Badon, reduced him to a state of inglorious repose.

Kenric, his valiant son, advanced into Wiltshire; besieged Salisbury, at that time seated on a commanding eminence; and vanquished an army which advanced to the relief of the city. In the subsequent battle of

Marlborough, [134] his British enemies displayed their military science. their troops were formed in three lines; each line consisted of three distinct bodies, and the cavalry, the archers, and the pikemen, were distributed according to the principles of Roman tactics. The Saxons charged in one weighty column, boldly encountered with their shord

swords the long lances of the Britons, and maintained an equal conflict till the approach of night. Two decisive victories, the death of three british kings, and the reduction of Cirencester, Bath, and Gloucester, established the fame and power of Ceaulin, the grandson of Cerdic, who carried his victorious arms to the banks of the Severn.

[Footnote 134: At Beran-birig, or Barbury-castle, near Marlborough. The

Saxon chronicle assigns the name and date. Camden (Britannia, vol. i.

p. 128) ascertains the place; and Henry of Huntingdon (Scriptores

pest Bedam, p. 314) relates the circumstances of this battle. They are

probable and characteristic; and the historians of the twelfth century

might consult some materials that no longer exist.] After a war of a

hundred years, the independent Britons still occupied the whole extent of the Western coast, from the wall of Antoninus to the extreme

promontory of Cornwall; and the principal cities of the inland country

still opposed the arms of the Barbarians. Resistance became more

languid, as the number and boldness of the assailants continually

increased. Winning their way by slow and painful efforts, the Saxons, the Angles, and their various confederates, advanced from the North, from the East, and from the South, till their victorious banners were

united in the centre of the island. Beyond the Severn the Britons still asserted their national freedom, which survived the heptarchy, and even the monarchy, of the Saxons. The bravest warriors, who preferred exile to slavery, found a secure refuge in the mountains of Wales: the

reluctant submission of Cornwall was delayed for some ages; [135] and a band of fugitives acquired a settlement in Gaul, by their own valor,

or the liberality of the Merovingian kings. [136] The Western angle

of Armorica acquired the new appellations of Cornwall, and the Lesser britain; and the vacant lands of the Osismii were filled by a strange

people, who, under the authority of their counts and bishops, preserved the laws and language of their ancestors. To the feeble descendants of clovis and Charlemagne, the Britons of Armorica refused the customary tribute, subdued the neighboring dioceses of Vannes, Rennes, and Nantes, and formed a powerful, though vassal, state, which has been united to the crown of France. [137]

[Footnote 135: Cornwall was finally subdued by Athelstan, (A.D.

927-941,) who planted an English colony at Exeter, and confined the britons beyond the River Tamar. See William of Malmsbury, l. ii., in the Scriptores post Bedam, p. 50. The spirit of the Cornish knights was degraded by servitude: and it should seem, from the Romance of Sir tristram, that their cowardice was almost proverbial.]

[Footnote 136: The establishment of the Britons in Gaul is proved in the sixth century, by Procopius, Gregory of Tours, the second council

of Tours, (A.D. 567,) and the least suspicious of their chronicles and

lives of saints. The subscription of a bishop of the Britons to the first council of Tours, (A.D. 461, or rather 481,) the army of

Riothamus, and the loose declamation of Gildas, (alii transmarinas

petebant regiones, c. 25, p. 8,) may countenance an emigration as early as the middle of the fifth century. Beyond that era, the Britons of armorica can be found only in romance; and I am surprised that Mr. whitaker (Genuine History of the Britons, p. 214-221) should so faithfully transcribe the gross ignorance of Carte, whose venial errors

he has so rigorously chastised.]

[Footnote 137: The antiquities of Bretagne, which have been the subject even of political controversy, are illustrated by Hadrian Valesius,

(Notitia Galliarum, sub voce Britannia Cismarina, p. 98-100.) M. d'Anville, (Notice de l'Ancienne Gaule, Corisopiti, Curiosolites,

Osismii, Vorganium, p. 248, 258, 508, 720, and Etats de l'Europe, p.

76-80,) Longuerue, (Description de la France, tom. i. p. 84-94,) and the abbe de Vertot, (Hist. Critique de l'Etablissement des Bretons dans

les Gaules, 2 vols. in 12 mo., Paris, 1720.) I may assume the merit

of examining the original evidence which they have produced. \* Note: compare Gallet, Memoires sur la Bretagne, and Daru, Histoire de bretagne. These authors appear to me to establish the point of the

independence of Bretagne at the time that the insular Britons took

refuge in their country, and that the greater part landed as fugitives

rather than as conquerors. I observe that M. Lappenberg (Geschichte von england, vol. i. p. 56) supposes the settlement of a military colony formed of British soldiers, (Milites limitanei, laeti,) during the

usurpation of Maximus, (381, 388,) who gave their name and peculiar civilization to Bretagne. M. Lappenberg expresses his surprise that

Gibbon here rejects the authority which he follows elsewhere.--M.]

chapter XXXVIII: Reign Of Clovis.--Part V.

In a century of perpetual, or at least implacable, war, much courage, and some skill, must have been exerted for the defence of Britain. Yet

if the memory of its champions is almost buried in oblivion, we need

not repine; since every age, however destitute of science or virtue,

sufficiently abounds with acts of blood and military renown. The tomb

of Vortimer, the son of Vortigern, was erected on the margin of the

sea-shore, as a landmark formidable to the Saxons, whom he had thrice

vanquished in the fields of Kent. Ambrosius Aurelian was descended from a noble family of Romans; [138] his modesty was equal to his valor, and

his valor, till the last fatal action, [139] was crowned with splendid

success. But every British name is effaced by the illustrious name of arthur, [140] the hereditary prince of the Silures, in South Wales, and the elective king or general of the nation. According to the most

rational account, he defeated, in twelve successive battles, the Angles

of the North, and the Saxons of the West; but the declining age of the

hero was imbittered by popular ingratitude and domestic misfortunes. The events of his life are less interesting than the singular revolutions

of his fame. During a period of five hundred years the tradition of his exploits was preserved, and rudely embellished, by the obscure bards of wales and Armorica, who were odious to the Saxons, and unknown to the rest of mankind. The pride and curiosity of the Norman conquerors

prompted them to inquire into the ancient history of Britain: they

listened with fond credulity to the tale of Arthur, and eagerly applauded the merit of a prince who had triumphed over the Saxons, their common enemies. His romance, transcribed in the Latin of Jeffrey of

Monmouth, and afterwards translated into the fashionable idiom of the times, was enriched with the various, though incoherent, ornaments which were familiar to the experience, the learning, or the fancy, of the twelfth century. The progress of a Phrygian colony, from the Tyber to the Thames, was easily ingrafted on the fable of the Aeneid; and the

royal ancestors of Arthur derived their origin from Troy, and claimed their alliance with the Caesars. His trophies were decorated with captive provinces and Imperial titles; and his Danish victories avenged the recent injuries of his country. The gallantry and superstition

of the British hero, his feasts and tournaments, and the memorable

institution of his Knights of the Round Table, were faithfully copied from the reigning manners of chivalry; and the fabulous exploits of

Uther's son appear less incredible than the adventures which were achieved by the enterprising valor of the Normans. Pilgrimage, and the holy wars, introduced into Europe the specious miracles of Arabian

magic. Fairies and giants, flying dragons, and enchanted palaces, were blended with the more simple fictions of the West; and the fate of britain depended on the art, or the predictions, of Merlin. Every nation embraced and adorned the popular romance of Arthur, and the Knights of the Round Table: their names were celebrated in Greece and Italy; and the voluminous tales of Sir Lancelot and Sir Tristram were devoutly

studied by the princes and nobles, who disregarded the genuine heroes and historians of antiquity. At length the light of science and reason was rekindled; the talisman was broken; the visionary fabric melted into air; and by a natural, though unjust, reverse of the public opinion, the severity of the present age is inclined to question the existence of arthur. [141]

[Footnote 138: Bede, who in his chronicle (p. 28) places Ambrosius under the reign of Zeno, (A.D. 474-491,) observes, that his parents had been

"purpura induti;" which he explains, in his ecclesiastical history, by "regium nomen et insigne ferentibus," (l. i. c. 16, p. 53.) The expression of Nennius (c. 44, p. 110, edit. Gale) is still more

singular, "Unus de consulibus gentis Romanicae est pater meus."]

[Footnote 139: By the unanimous, though doubtful, conjecture of our antiquarians, Ambrosius is confounded with Natanleod, who (A.D. 508)

lost his own life, and five thousand of his subjects, in a battle against Cerdic, the West Saxon, (Chron. Saxon. p. 17, 18.)]

[Footnote 140: As I am a stranger to the Welsh bards, Myrdhin, Llomarch, and Taliessin, my faith in the existence and exploits of Arthur

principally rests on the simple and circumstantial testimony of Nennius.

(Hist. Brit. c. 62, 63, p. 114.) Mr. Whitaker, (Hist. of Manchester,

vol. ii. p. 31-71) had framed an interesting, and even probable,

narrative of the wars of Arthur: though it is impossible to allow the

reality of the round table. \* Note: I presume that Gibbon means Llywarch

Hen, or the Aged.--The Elegies of this Welsh prince and bard have been

published by Mr. Owen; to whose works and in the Myvyrian Archaeology,

slumbers much curious information on the subject of Welsh tradition and

poetry. But the Welsh antiquarians have never obtained a hearing from the public; they have had no Macpherson to compensate for his corruption

of their poetic legends by forcing them into popularity.--See also Mr.

Sharon Turner's Essay on the Welsh Bards.--M.]

[Footnote 141: The progress of romance, and the state of learning, in the middle ages, are illustrated by Mr. Thomas Warton, with the taste of a poet, and the minute diligence of an antiquarian. I have derived much

instruction from the two learned dissertations prefixed to the first

volume of his History of English Poetry. \* Note: These valuable dissertations should not now be read without the notes and preliminary essay of the late editor, Mr. Price, which, in point of taste and fulness of information, are worthy of accompanying and completing those of Warton.--M.] Resistance, if it cannot avert, must increase the

miseries of conquest; and conquest has never appeared more dreadful and destructive than in the hands of the Saxons; who hated the valor of their enemies, disdained the faith of treaties, and violated, without

remorse, the most sacred objects of the Christian worship. The fields of battle might be traced, almost in every district, by monuments of bones; the fragments of falling towers were stained with blood; the last of the britons, without distinction of age or sex, was massacred, [142] in the ruins of Anderida; [143] and the repetition of such calamities was frequent and familiar under the Saxon heptarchy. The arts and religion, the laws and language, which the Romans had so carefully planted in britain, were extirpated by their barbarous successors. After the destruction of the principal churches, the bishops, who had declined the crown of martyrdom, retired with the holy relics into Wales and armorica; the remains of their flocks were left destitute of any

spiritual food; the practice, and even the remembrance, of Christianity were abolished; and the British clergy might obtain some comfort from the damnation of the idolatrous strangers. The kings of France

maintained the privileges of their Roman subjects; but the ferocious

Saxons trampled on the laws of Rome, and of the emperors. The

proceedings of civil and criminal jurisdiction, the titles of honor, the forms of office, the ranks of society, and even the domestic rights of

marriage, testament, and inheritance, were finally suppressed; and the

indiscriminate crowd of noble and plebeian slaves was governed by the traditionary customs, which had been coarsely framed for the shepherds and pirates of Germany. The language of science, of business, and of conversation, which had been introduced by the Romans, was lost in the

general desolation. A sufficient number of Latin or Celtic words might be assumed by the Germans, to express their new wants and ideas; [144] but those illiterate Pagans preserved and established the use of their

national dialect. [145] Almost every name, conspicuous either in the church or state, reveals its Teutonic origin; [146] and the geography

of England was universally inscribed with foreign characters and appellations. The example of a revolution, so rapid and so complete, may

not easily be found; but it will excite a probable suspicion, that the arts of Rome were less deeply rooted in Britain than in Gaul or Spain; and that the native rudeness of the country and its inhabitants was covered by a thin varnish of Italian manners.

[Footnote 142: Hoc anno (490) Aella et Cissa obsederunt andredes-Ceaster; et interfecerunt omnes qui id incoluerunt; adeo ut ne

unus Brito ibi superstes fuerit, (Chron. Saxon. p. 15;) an expression

more dreadful in its simplicity, than all the vague and tedious

lamentations of the British Jeremiah.]

[Footnote 143: Andredes-Ceaster, or Anderida, is placed by Camden

(Britannia, vol. i. p. 258) at Newenden, in the marshy grounds of Kent, which might be formerly covered by the sea, and on the edge of the great forest (Anderida) which overspread so large a portion of Hampshire and

Sussex.]

[Footnote 144: Dr. Johnson affirms, that few English words are of british extraction. Mr. Whitaker, who understands the British language,

has discovered more than three thousand, and actually produces a long and various catalogue, (vol. ii. p. 235-329.) It is possible, indeed, that many of these words may have been imported from the Latin or Saxon

into the native idiom of Britain. \* Note: Dr. Prichard's very curious

researches, which connect the Celtic, as well as the Teutonic languages with the Indo-European class, make it still more difficult to decide between the Celtic or Teutonic origin of English words.--See Prichard on the Eastern Origin of the Celtic Nations Oxford, 1831.--M.]

[Footnote 145: In the beginning of the seventh century, the Franks and the Anglo-Saxons mutually understood each other's language, which was derived from the same Teutonic root, (Bede, l. i. c. 25, p. 60.)]

[Footnote 146: After the first generation of Italian, or Scottish,

missionaries, the dignities of the church were filled with Saxon

proselytes.]

this strange alteration has persuaded historians, and even philosophers, that the provincials of Britain were totally exterminated; and that the vacant land was again peopled by the perpetual influx, and rapid

increase, of the German colonies. Three hundred thousand Saxons are said to have obeyed the summons of Hengist; [147] the entire emigation of the angles was attested, in the age of Bede, by the solitude of their native country; [148] and our experience has shown the free propagation of the

human race, if they are cast on a fruitful wilderness, where their steps are unconfined, and their subsistence is plentiful. The Saxon kingdoms displayed the face of recent discovery and cultivation; the towns were small, the villages were distant; the husbandry was languid and

unskilful; four sheep were equivalent to an acre of the best land; [149] an ample space of wood and morass was resigned to the vague dominion of

nature; and the modern bishopric of Durham, the whole territory from the tyne to the Tees, had returned to its primitive state of a savage and solitary forest. [150] Such imperfect population might have been

supplied, in some generations, by the English colonies; but neither

reason nor facts can justify the unnatural supposition, that the Saxons

of Britain remained alone in the desert which they had subdued. After the sanguinary Barbarians had secured their dominion, and gratified their revenge, it was their interest to preserve the peasants as well as the cattle, of the unresisting country. In each successive revolution, the patient herd becomes the property of its new masters; and the

salutary compact of food and labor is silently ratified by their mutual

necessities. Wilfrid, the apostle of Sussex, [151] accepted from his

royal convert the gift of the Vpeninsula of Selsey, near Chichester, with the persons and property of its inhabitants, who then amounted to eighty-seven families. He released them at once from spiritual and temporal bondage; and two hundred and fifty slaves of both sexes were baptized by their indulgent master. The kingdom of Sussex, which spread from the sea to the Thames, contained seven thousand families; twelve

hundred were ascribed to the Isle of Wight; and, if we multiply this

vague computation, it may seem probable, that England was cultivated by a million of servants, or villains, who were attached to the estates of their arbitrary landlords. The indigent Barbarians were often tempted to sell their children, or themselves into perpetual, and even foreign, bondage; [152] yet the special exemptions which were granted to national

slaves, [153] sufficiently declare that they were much less numerous than the strangers and captives, who had lost their liberty, or changed their masters, by the accidents of war. When time and religion had

mitigated the fierce spirit of the Anglo-Saxons, the laws encouraged the frequent practice of manumission; and their subjects, of Welsh

or Cambrian extraction, assumed the respectable station of inferior freemen, possessed of lands, and entitled to the rights of civil

society. [154] Such gentle treatment might secure the allegiance of a fierce people, who had been recently subdued on the confines of Wales and Cornwall. The sage Ina, the legislator of Wessex, united the two

nations in the bands of domestic alliance; and four British lords of

Somersetshire may be honorably distinguished in the court of a Saxon

monarch. [155]

[Footnote 147: Carte's History of England, vol. i. p. 195. He quotes the british historians; but I much fear, that Jeffrey of Monmouth (l. vi. c.

15) is his only witness.]

[Footnote 148: Bede, Hist. Ecclesiast. l. i. c. 15, p. 52. The fact is

probable, and well attested: yet such was the loose intermixture of the German tribes, that we find, in a subsequent period, the law of the angli and Warini of Germany, (Lindenbrog. Codex, p. 479-486.)]

[Footnote 149: See Dr. Henry's useful and laborious History of Great britain, vol. ii. p. 388.]

[Footnote 150: Quicquid (says John of Tinemouth) inter Tynam et Tesam fluvios extitit, sola eremi vastitudo tunc temporis fuit, et idcirco

nullius ditioni servivit, eo quod sola indomitorum et sylvestrium animalium spelunca et habitatio fuit, (apud Carte, vol. i. p. 195.) From bishop Nicholson (English Historical Library, p. 65, 98) I understand that fair copies of John of Tinemouth's ample collections are preserved

in the libraries of Oxford, Lambeth, &c.]

[Footnote 151: See the mission of Wilfrid, &c., in Bede, Hist. Eccles.

l. iv. c. 13, 16, p. 155, 156, 159.]

[Footnote 152: From the concurrent testimony of Bede (l. ii. c. 1, p.

78) and William of Malmsbury, (l. iii. p. 102,) it appears, that the Anglo-Saxons, from the first to the last age, persisted in this

unnatural practice. Their youths were publicly sold in the market of

Rome.]

[Footnote 153: According to the laws of Ina, they could not be lawfully

sold beyond the seas.]

[Footnote 154: The life of a Wallus, or Cambricus, homo, who possessed a

hyde of land, is fixed at 120 shillings, by the same laws (of Ina, tit.

xxxii. in Leg. Anglo-Saxon. p. 20) which allowed 200 shillings for a free Saxon, 1200 for a Thane, (see likewise Leg. Anglo-Saxon. p. 71.) we may observe, that these legislators, the West Saxons and Mercians, continued their British conquests after they became Christians. The laws

of the four kings of Kent do not condescend to notice the existence of any subject Britons.]

[Footnote 155: See Carte's Hist. of England, vol. i. p. 278.]

the independent Britons appear to have relapsed into the state of

original barbarism, from whence they had been imperfectly reclaimed.

Separated by their enemies from the rest of mankind, they soon became an object of scandal and abhorrence to the Catholic world. [156] christianity was still professed in the mountains of Wales; but the rude

schismatics, in the form of the clerical tonsure, and in the day of the celebration of Easter, obstinately resisted the imperious mandates

of the Roman pontiffs. The use of the Latin language was insensibly abolished, and the Britons were deprived of the art and learning which

Italy communicated to her Saxon proselytes. In Wales and Armorica, the Celtic tongue, the native idiom of the West, was preserved and

propagated; and the Bards, who had been the companions of the Druids, were still protected, in the sixteenth century, by the laws of elizabeth. Their chief, a respectable officer of the courts of Pengwern,

or Aberfraw, or Caermarthen, accompanied the king's servants to war: the

monarchy of the Britons, which he sung in the front of battle, excited their courage, and justified their depredations; and the songster claimed for his legitimate prize the fairest heifer of the spoil.

His subordinate ministers, the masters and disciples of vocal and

instrumental music, visited, in their respective circuits, the royal, the noble, and the plebeian houses; and the public poverty, almost exhausted by the clergy, was oppressed by the importunate demands of the bards. Their rank and merit were ascertained by solemn trials, and the

strong belief of supernatural inspiration exalted the fancy of the poet, and of his audience. [157] The last retreats of Celtic freedom, the extreme territories of Gaul and Britain, were less adapted to agriculture than to pasturage: the wealth of the Britons consisted in their flocks and herds; milk and flesh were their ordinary food; and bread was sometimes esteemed, or rejected, as a foreign luxury. Liberty

had peopled the mountains of Wales and the morasses of Armorica; but their populousness has been maliciously ascribed to the loose practice

of polygamy; and the houses of these licentious barbarians have been

supposed to contain ten wives, and perhaps fifty children. [158] Their disposition was rash and choleric; they were bold in action and in

speech; [159] and as they were ignorant of the arts of peace, they alternately indulged their passions in foreign and domestic war. the cavalry of Armorica, the spearmen of Gwent, and the archers of

Merioneth, were equally formidable; but their poverty could seldom

procure either shields or helmets; and the inconvenient weight would

have retarded the speed and agility of their desultory operations. One

of the greatest of the English monarchs was requested to satisfy the curiosity of a Greek emperor concerning the state of Britain; and Henry

II. could assert, from his personal experience, that Wales was inhabited by a race of naked warriors, who encountered, without fear, the defensive armor of their enemies. [160]

[Footnote 156: At the conclusion of his history, (A.D. 731,) Bede describes the ecclesiastical state of the island, and censures the

implacable, though impotent, hatred of the Britons against the English

nation, and the Catholic church, (l. v. c. 23, p. 219.)]

[Footnote 157: Mr. Pennant's Tour in Wales (p. 426-449) has furnished me with a curious and interesting account of the Welsh bards. In the year

1568, a session was held at Caerwys by the special command of Queen elizabeth, and regular degrees in vocal and instrumental music were conferred on fifty-five minstrels. The prize (a silver harp) was adjudged by the Mostyn family.]

[Footnote 158: Regio longe lateque diffusa, milite, magis quam credibile

sit, referta. Partibus equidem in illis miles unus quinquaginta generat,

sortitus more barbaro denas aut amplius uxores. This reproach of William

of Poitiers (in the Historians of France, tom. xi. p. 88) is disclaimed by the Benedictine editors.]

[Footnote 159: Giraldus Cambrensis confines this gift of bold and ready eloquence to the Romans, the French, and the Britons. The malicious welshman insinuates that the English taciturnity might possibly be the effect of their servitude under the Normans.]

[Footnote 160: The picture of Welsh and Armorican manners is drawn from Giraldus, (Descript. Cambriae, c. 6-15, inter Script. Camden. p.

886-891,) and the authors quoted by the Abbe de Vertot, (Hist. Critique tom. ii. p. 259-266.)]

by the revolution of Britain, the limits of science, as well as of empire, were contracted. The dark cloud, which had been cleared by the

Phoenician discoveries, and finally dispelled by the arms of Caesar, again settled on the shores of the Atlantic, and a Roman province was again lost among the fabulous Islands of the Ocean. One hundred and fifty years after the reign of Honorius, the gravest historian of the times [161] describes the wonders of a remote isle, whose eastern and western parts are divided by an antique wall, the boundary of life and death, or, more properly, of truth and fiction. The east is a fair country, inhabited by a civilized people: the air is healthy, the waters are pure and plentiful, and the earth yields her regular and fruitful

increase. In the west, beyond the wall, the air is infectious and

mortal; the ground is covered with serpents; and this dreary solitude

is the region of departed spirits, who are transported from the opposite

shores in substantial boats, and by living rowers. Some families of fishermen, the subjects of the Franks, are excused from tribute, in consideration of the mysterious office which is performed by these charons of the ocean. Each in his turn is summoned, at the hour of

midnight, to hear the voices, and even the names, of the ghosts: he is

sensible of their weight, and he feels himself impelled by an unknown, but irresistible power. After this dream of fancy, we read with astonishment, that the name of this island is Brittia; that it lies in the ocean, against the mouth of the Rhine, and less than thirty miles from the continent; that it is possessed by three nations, the Frisians, the Angles, and the Britons; and that some Angles had appeared at constantinople, in the train of the French ambassadors. From these ambassadors Procopius might be informed of a singular, though not

improbable, adventure, which announces the spirit, rather than the delicacy, of an English heroine. She had been betrothed to Radiger, king

of the Varni, a tribe of Germans who touched the ocean and the Rhine; but the perfidious lover was tempted, by motives of policy, to prefer

his father's widow, the sister of Theodebert, king of the Franks. [162] the forsaken princess of the Angles, instead of bewailing, revenged her disgrace. Her warlike subjects are said to have been ignorant of the

use, and even of the form, of a horse; but she boldly sailed from britain to the mouth of the Rhine, with a fleet of four hundred ships, and an army of one hundred thousand men. After the loss of a battle, the captive Radiger implored the mercy of his victorious bride, who

generously pardoned his offence, dismissed her rival, and compelled the

king of the Varni to discharge with honor and fidelity the duties of a husband. [163] This gallant exploit appears to be the last naval enterprise of the Anglo-Saxons. The arts of navigation, by which they acquired the empire of Britain and of the sea, were soon neglected by the indolent Barbarians, who supinely renounced all the commercial advantages of their insular situation. Seven independent kingdoms were agitated by perpetual discord; and the British world was seldom connected, either in peace or war, with the nations of the Continent.

[164]

[Footnote 161: See Procopius de Bell. Gothic. l. iv. c. 20, p. 620-625. the Greek historian is himself so confounded by the wonders which he

relates, that he weakly attempts to distinguish the islands of britia and Britain, which he has identified by so many inseparable circumstances.]

[Footnote 162: Theodebert, grandson of Clovis, and king of Austrasia, was the most powerful and warlike prince of the age; and this remarkable adventure may be placed between the years 534 and 547, the extreme terms of his reign. His sister Theudechildis retired to Sens, where

she founded monasteries, and distributed alms, (see the notes of the benedictine editors, in tom. ii. p. 216.) If we may credit the praises

of Fortunatus, (l. vi. carm. 5, in tom. ii. p. 507,) Radiger was deprived of a most valuable wife.]

[Footnote 163: Perhaps she was the sister of one of the princes or chiefs of the Angles, who landed in 527, and the following years, between the Humber and the Thames, and gradually founded the kingdoms of east Anglia and Mercia. The English writers are ignorant of her name and existence: but Procopius may have suggested to Mr. Rowe the character and situation of Rodogune in the tragedy of the Royal Convert.]

[Footnote 164: In the copious history of Gregory of Tours, we cannot find any traces of hostile or friendly intercourse between France and england except in the marriage of the daughter of Caribert, king of

Paris, quam regis cujusdam in Cantia filius matrimonio copulavit, (l.

ix. c. 28, in tom. ii. p. 348.) The bishop of Tours ended his history and his life almost immediately before the conversion of Kent.]

I have now accomplished the laborious narrative of the decline and fall

of the Roman empire, from the fortunate age of Trajan and the Antonines, to its total extinction in the West, about five centuries after the christian era. At that unhappy period, the Saxons fiercely struggled with the natives for the possession of Britain: Gaul and Spain were divided between the powerful monarchies of the Franks and Visigoths, and the dependent kingdoms of the Suevi and Burgundians: Africa was exposed to the cruel persecution of the Vandals, and the savage insults of the

Moors: Rome and Italy, as far as the banks of the Danube, were afflicted by an army of Barbarian mercenaries, whose lawless tyranny was succeeded by the reign of Theodoric the Ostrogoth. All the subjects of the empire, who, by the use of the Latin language, more particularly deserved the name and privileges of Romans, were oppressed by the disgrace and calamities of foreign conquest; and the victorious nations of Germany established a new system of manners and government in the western countries of Europe. The majesty of Rome was faintly represented by the princes of Constantinople, the feeble and imaginary successors of augustus. Yet they continued to reign over the East, from the Danube to the Nile and Tigris; the Gothic and Vandal kingdoms of Italy and Africa were subverted by the arms of Justinian; and the history of the Greek emperors may still afford a long series of instructive lessons, and

interesting revolutions.

chapter XXXVIII: Reign Of Clovis.--Part VI.

General Observations On The Fall Of The Roman Empire In The West.

the Greeks, after their country had been reduced into a province,

imputed the triumphs of Rome, not to the merit, but to the fortune, of the republic. The inconstant goddess, who so blindly distributes and

resumes her favors, had now consented (such was the language of envious flattery) to resign her wings, to descend from her globe, and to fix her firm and immutable throne on the banks of the Tyber. [1000] A wiser Greek, who has composed, with a philosophic spirit, the memorable history

of his own times, deprived his countrymen of this vain and delusive comfort, by opening to their view the deep foundations of the greatness

of Rome. [2000] The fidelity of the citizens to each other, and to the

state, was confirmed by the habits of education, and the prejudices of

religion. Honor, as well as virtue, was the principle of the republic; the ambitious citizens labored to deserve the solemn glories of a triumph; and the ardor of the Roman youth was kindled into active emulation, as often as they beheld the domestic images of their ancestors. [3000] The temperate struggles of the patricians and plebeians

had finally established the firm and equal balance of the constitution; which united the freedom of popular assemblies, with the authority and wisdom of a senate, and the executive powers of a regal magistrate. When the consul displayed the standard of the republic, each citizen bound

himself, by the obligation of an oath, to draw his sword in the cause

of his country, till he had discharged the sacred duty by a military

service of ten years. This wise institution continually poured into the field the rising generations of freemen and soldiers; and their numbers were reenforced by the warlike and populous states of Italy, who, after a brave resistance, had yielded to the valor and embraced the alliance,

of the Romans. The sage historian, who excited the virtue of the younger

Scipio, and beheld the ruin of Carthage, [4000] has accurately described their military system; their levies, arms, exercises, subordination,

marches, encampments; and the invincible legion, superior in active

strength to the Macedonian phalanx of Philip and Alexander. From these

institutions of peace and war Polybius has deduced the spirit and

success of a people, incapable of fear, and impatient of repose. The ambitious design of conquest, which might have been defeated by the

seasonable conspiracy of mankind, was attempted and achieved; and the

perpetual violation of justice was maintained by the political virtues

of prudence and courage. The arms of the republic, sometimes vanquished

in battle, always victorious in war, advanced with rapid steps to the euphrates, the Danube, the Rhine, and the Ocean; and the images of gold,

or silver, or brass, that might serve to represent the nations and their

kings, were successively broken by the iron monarchy of Rome. [5000]

[Footnote 1000: Such are the figurative expressions of Plutarch, (Opera, tom. ii. p. 318, edit. Wechel,) to whom, on the faith of his son

Lamprias, (Fabricius, Bibliot. Graec. tom. iii. p. 341,) I shall boldly

impute the malicious declamation. The same opinions had prevailed among the Greeks two hundred and fifty years before Plutarch; and to confute them is the professed intention of Polybius, (Hist. l. i. p. 90, edit.

Gronov. Amstel. 1670.)]

[Footnote 2000: See the inestimable remains of the sixth book of Polybius, and many other parts of his general history, particularly a digression

in the seventeenth book, in which he compares the phalanx and the

legion.]

[Footnote 3000: Sallust, de Bell. Jugurthin. c. 4. Such were the generous

professions of P. Scipio and Q. Maximus. The Latin historian had read and most probably transcribes, Polybius, their contemporary and friend.]

[Footnote 4000: While Carthage was in flames, Scipio repeated two lines

of the Iliad, which express the destruction of Troy, acknowledging to

Polybius, his friend and preceptor, (Polyb. in Excerpt. de Virtut. et

Vit. tom. ii. p. 1455-1465,) that while he recollected the vicissitudes

of human affairs, he inwardly applied them to the future calamities of

Rome, (Appian. in Libycis, p. 136, edit. Toll.)]

[Footnote 5000: See Daniel, ii. 31-40. "And the fourth kingdom shall be

strong as iron; forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things." The remainder of the prophecy (the mixture of iron and clay) was accomplished, according to St. Jerom, in his own time. Sicut enim

in principio nihil Romano Imperio fortius et durius, ita in fine rerum

nihil imbecillius; quum et in bellis civilibus et adversus diversas

nationes, aliarum gentium barbararum auxilio indigemus, (Opera, tom. v.

p. 572.)]

the rise of a city, which swelled into an empire, may deserve, as a

singular prodigy, the reflection of a philosophic mind. But the decline

of Rome was the natural and inevitable effect of immoderate greatness.

Prosperity ripened the principle of decay; the causes of destruction

multiplied with the extent of conquest; and as soon as time or accident

had removed the artificial supports, the stupendous fabric yielded to the pressure of its own weight. The story of its ruin is simple and

obvious; and instead of inquiring why the Roman empire was destroyed, we

should rather be surprised that it had subsisted so long. The victorious

legions, who, in distant wars, acquired the vices of strangers and

mercenaries, first oppressed the freedom of the republic, and afterwards

violated the majesty of the purple. The emperors, anxious for their

personal safety and the public peace, were reduced to the base expedient

of corrupting the discipline which rendered them alike formidable to their sovereign and to the enemy; the vigor of the military government was relaxed, and finally dissolved, by the partial institutions

of Constantine; and the Roman world was overwhelmed by a deluge of barbarians.

the decay of Rome has been frequently ascribed to the translation of the

seat of empire; but this History has already shown, that the powers

of government were divided, rather than removed. The throne of constantinople was erected in the East; while the West was still

possessed by a series of emperors who held their residence in Italy, and claimed their equal inheritance of the legions and provinces. This dangerous novelty impaired the strength, and fomented the vices, of a double reign: the instruments of an oppressive and arbitrary system were

multiplied; and a vain emulation of luxury, not of merit, was introduced and supported between the degenerate successors of Theodosius. Extreme distress, which unites the virtue of a free people, imbitters the factions of a declining monarchy. The hostile favorites of Arcadius and

Honorius betrayed the republic to its common enemies; and the Byzantine court beheld with indifference, perhaps with pleasure, the disgrace

of Rome, the misfortunes of Italy, and the loss of the West. Under the

succeeding reigns, the alliance of the two empires was restored; but the aid of the Oriental Romans was tardy, doubtful, and ineffectual; and the

national schism of the Greeks and Latins was enlarged by the perpetual difference of language and manners, of interests, and even of religion.

Yet the salutary event approved in some measure the judgment of constantine. During a long period of decay, his impregnable city

repelled the victorious armies of Barbarians, protected the wealth of asia, and commanded, both in peace and war, the important straits which connect the Euxine and Mediterranean Seas. The foundation of constantinople more essentially contributed to the preservation of the east, than to the ruin of the West.

as the happiness of a future life is the great object of religion, we

may hear without surprise or scandal, that the introduction or at least the abuse, of Christianity had some influence on the decline and fall

of the Roman empire. The clergy successfully preached the doctrines

of patience and pusillanimity: the active virtues of society were discouraged; and the last remains of military spirit were buried in the cloister: a large portion of public and private wealth was consecrated to the specious demands of charity and devotion; and the soldiers' pay was lavished on the useless multitudes of both sexes, who could

only plead the merits of abstinence and chastity. [511] Faith, zeal, curiosity, and the more earthly passions of malice and ambition, kindled the flame of theological discord; the church, and even the state, were distracted by religious factions, whose conflicts were sometimes bloody, and always implacable; the attention of the emperors was diverted from camps to synods; the Roman world was oppressed by a new species of tyranny; and the persecuted sects became the secret enemies of their country. Yet party spirit, however pernicious or absurd, is a principle

of union as well as of dissension. The bishops, from eighteen hundred

pulpits, inculcated the duty of passive obedience to a lawful and orthodox sovereign; their frequent assemblies, and perpetual correspondence, maintained the communion of distant churches; and the benevolent temper of the gospel was strengthened, though confined, by the spiritual alliance of the Catholics. The sacred indolence of the

monks was devoutly embraced by a servile and effeminate age; but if

superstition had not afforded a decent retreat, the same vices would

have tempted the unworthy Romans to desert, from baser motives, the

standard of the republic. Religious precepts are easily obeyed, which

indulge and sanctify the natural inclinations of their votaries; but the pure and genuine influence of Christianity may be traced in its beneficial, though imperfect, effects on the Barbarian proselytes of the

North. If the decline of the Roman empire was hastened by the conversion

of Constantine, his victorious religion broke the violence of the fall, and mollified the ferocious temper of the conquerors.

[Footnote 511: It might be a curious speculation, how far the purer

morals of the genuine and more active Christians may have compensated,

in the population of the Roman empire, for the secession of such numbers

into inactive and unproductive celibacy.--M.]

this awful revolution may be usefully applied to the instruction of the present age. It is the duty of a patriot to prefer and promote the exclusive interest and glory of his native country: but a philosmay be permitted to enlarge his views, and to consider Europe as one great

republic whose various inhabitants have obtained almost the same level

of politeness and cultivation. The balance of power will continue to fluctuate, and the prosperity of our own, or the neighboring kingdoms,

may be alternately exalted or depressed; but these partial events cannot essentially injure our general state of happiness, the system of arts, and laws, and manners, which so advantageously distinguish, above the

rest of mankind, the Europeans and their colonies. The savage nations

of the globe are the common enemies of civilized society; and we may

inquire, with anxious curiosity, whether Europe is still threatened with a repetition of those calamities, which formerly oppressed the arms and

institutions of Rome. Perhaps the same reflections will illustrate the fall of that mighty empire, and explain the probable causes of our actual security.

I. The Romans were ignorant of the extent of their danger, and the

number of their enemies. Beyond the Rhine and Danube, the Northern countries of Europe and Asia were filled with innumerable tribes of

hunters and shepherds, poor, voracious, and turbulent; bold in arms, and impatient to ravish the fruits of industry. The Barbarian world was agitated by the rapid impulse of war; and the peace of Gaul or Italy was

shaken by the distant revolutions of China. The Huns, who fled before a

victorious enemy, directed their march towards the West; and the torrent was swelled by the gradual accession of captives and allies. The flying tribes who yielded to the Huns assumed in their turn the spirit of conquest; the endless column of Barbarians pressed on the Roman empire with accumulated weight; and, if the foremost were destroyed, the vacant

space was instantly replenished by new assailants. Such formidable emigrations can no longer issue from the North; and the long repose, which has been imputed to the decrease of population, is the happy consequence of the progress of arts and agriculture. Instead of some

rude villages, thinly scattered among its woods and morasses, Germany

now produces a list of two thousand three hundred walled towns: the Christian kingdoms of Denmark, Sweden, and Poland, have been

successively established; and the Hanse merchants, with the Teutonic

knights, have extended their colonies along the coast of the Baltic, as far as the Gulf of Finland. From the Gulf of Finland to the Eastern

Ocean, Russia now assumes the form of a powerful and civilized empire. the plough, the loom, and the forge, are introduced on the banks of the

Volga, the Oby, and the Lena; and the fiercest of the Tartar hordes have been taught to tremble and obey. The reign of independent Barbarism is

now contracted to a narrow span; and the remnant of Calmucks or Uzbecks, whose forces may be almost numbered, cannot seriously excite the apprehensions of the great republic of Europe. [6000] Yet this apparent

security should not tempt us to forget, that new enemies, and unknown dangers, may possibly arise from some obscure people, scarcely visible

in the map of the world, The Arabs or Saracens, who spread their conquests from India to Spain, had languished in poverty and contempt, till Mahomet breathed into those savage bodies the soul of enthusiasm.

[Footnote 6000: The French and English editors of the Genealogical History

of the Tartars have subjoined a curious, though imperfect, description,

of their present state. We might question the independence of the calmucks, or Eluths, since they have been recently vanquished by the Chinese, who, in the year 1759, subdued the Lesser Bucharia, and advanced into the country of Badakshan, near the source of the Oxus,

(Memoires sur les Chinois, tom. i. p. 325-400.) But these conquests are precarious, nor will I venture to insure the safety of the Chinese empire.]

II. The empire of Rome was firmly established by the singular and

perfect coalition of its members. The subject nations, resigning the

hope, and even the wish, of independence, embraced the character of

Roman citizens; and the provinces of the West were reluctantly torn by the Barbarians from the bosom of their mother country. [7000] But this

union was purchased by the loss of national freedom and military spirit; and the servile provinces, destitute of life and motion, expected their

safety from the mercenary troops and governors, who were directed by the

orders of a distant court. The happiness of a hundred millions depended

on the personal merit of one or two men, perhaps children, whose minds were corrupted by education, luxury, and despotic power. The deepest wounds were inflicted on the empire during the minorities of the sons and grandsons of Theodosius; and, after those incapable princes seemed to attain the age of manhood, they abandoned the church to the bishops, the state to the eunuchs, and the provinces to the Barbarians. Europe

is now divided into twelve powerful, though unequal kingdoms, three

respectable commonwealths, and a variety of smaller, though independent,

states: the chances of royal and ministerial talents are multiplied, at

least, with the number of its rulers; and a Julian, or Semiramis, may

reign in the North, while Arcadius and Honorius again slumber on the thrones of the South. The abuses of tyranny are restrained by the

mutual influence of fear and shame; republics have acquired order and

stability; monarchies have imbibed the principles of freedom, or, at

least, of moderation; and some sense of honor and justice is introduced

into the most defective constitutions by the general manners of the times. In peace, the progress of knowledge and industry is accelerated by the emulation of so many active rivals: in war, the European forces are exercised by temperate and undecisive contests. If a savage conqueror should issue from the deserts of Tartary, he must repeatedly

vanquish the robust peasants of Russia, the numerous armies of Germany, the gallant nobles of France, and the intrepid freemen of Britain; who, perhaps, might confederate for their common defence. Should the victorious Barbarians carry slavery and desolation as far as the atlantic Ocean, ten thousand vessels would transport beyond their

pursuit the remains of civilized society; and Europe would revive and flourish in the American world, which is already filled with her colonies and institutions. [8000]

[Footnote 7000: The prudent reader will determine how far this general

proposition is weakened by the revolt of the Isaurians, the independence

of Britain and Armorica, the Moorish tribes, or the Bagaudae of Gaul and

Spain, (vol. i. p. 328, vol. iii. p. 315, vol. iii. p. 372, 480.)]

[Footnote 8000: America now contains about six millions of European blood and descent; and their numbers, at least in the North, are continually

increasing. Whatever may be the changes of their political situation, they must preserve the manners of Europe; and we may reflect with some

pleasure, that the English language will probably be diffused ever an

immense and populous continent.]

III. Cold, poverty, and a life of danger and fatigue, fortify the

strength and courage of Barbarians. In every age they have oppressed the

polite and peaceful nations of China, India, and Persia, who neglected, and still neglect, to counterbalance these natural powers by the

resources of military art. The warlike states of antiquity, Greece,

Macedonia, and Rome, educated a race of soldiers; exercised their bodies, disciplined their courage, multiplied their forces by regular evolutions, and converted the iron, which they possessed, into strong and serviceable weapons. But this superiority insensibly declined with their laws and manners; and the feeble policy of Constantine and his

successors armed and instructed, for the ruin of the empire, the rude

valor of the Barbarian mercenaries. The military art has been changed by the invention of gunpowder; which enables man to command the two

most powerful agents of nature, air and fire. Mathematics, chemistry,

mechanics, architecture, have been applied to the service of war; and the adverse parties oppose to each other the most elaborate modes of attack and of defence. Historians may indignantly observe, that the

preparations of a siege would found and maintain a flourishing colony;

[9000] yet we cannot be displeased, that the subversion of a city should be a work of cost and difficulty; or that an industrious people should be

protected by those arts, which survive and supply the decay of military

virtue. Cannon and fortifications now form an impregnable barrier against the Tartar horse; and Europe is secure from any future

irruptions of Barbarians; since, before they can conquer, they must cease to be barbarous. Their gradual advances in the science of war would always be accompanied, as we may learn from the example of Russia, with a proportionable improvement in the arts of peace and civil policy; and they themselves must deserve a place among the polished nations whom they subdue.

[Footnote 9000: On avoit fait venir (for the siege of Turin) 140 pieces de canon; et il est a remarquer que chaque gros canon monte revient a environ ecus: il y avoit 100,000 boulets; 106,000 cartouches d'une facon, et 300,000 d'une autre; 21,000 bombes; 27,700 grenades, 15,000

sacs a terre, 30,000 instruments pour la pionnage; 1,200,000 livres de

poudre. Ajoutez a ces munitions, le plomb, le fer, et le fer-blanc, les cordages, tout ce qui sert aux mineurs, le souphre, le salpetre, les

outils de toute espece. Il est certain que les frais de tous ces

preparatifs de destruction suffiroient pour fonder et pour faire fleurir

la plus aombreuse colonie. Voltaire, Siecle de Louis XIV. c. xx. in his works. tom. xi. p. 391.]

Should these speculations be found doubtful or fallacious, there still

remains a more humble source of comfort and hope. The discoveries of ancient and modern navigators, and the domestic history, or tradition,

of the most enlightened nations, represent the human savage, naked both

in body and mind and destitute of laws, of arts, of ideas, and almost

of language. [1001] From this abject condition, perhaps the primitive and

universal state of man, he has gradually arisen to command the animals, to fertilize the earth, to traverse the ocean and to measure the

heavens. His progress in the improvement and exercise of his mental and corporeal faculties [1101] has been irregular and various; infinitely slow

in the beginning, and increasing by degrees with redoubled velocity: ages of laborious ascent have been followed by a moment of rapid downfall; and the several climates of the globe have felt the

vicissitudes of light and darkness. Yet the experience of four thousand

years should enlarge our hopes, and diminish our apprehensions: we cannot determine to what height the human species may aspire in their advances towards perfection; but it may safely be presumed, that no

people, unless the face of nature is changed, will relapse into their

original barbarism. The improvements of society may be viewed under a threefold aspect. 1. The poet or philosopher illustrates his age and country by the efforts of a single mind; but those superior powers of

reason or fancy are rare and spontaneous productions; and the genius of

Homer, or Cicero, or Newton, would excite less admiration, if they could be created by the will of a prince, or the lessons of a preceptor. 2. the benefits of law and policy, of trade and manufactures, of arts and

sciences, are more solid and permanent: and many individuals may be

qualified, by education and discipline, to promote, in their respective

stations, the interest of the community. But this general order is the effect of skill and labor; and the complex machinery may be decayed by time, or injured by violence.

3. Fortunately for mankind, the more useful, or, at least, more

necessary arts, can be performed without superior talents, or national

subordination: without the powers of one, or the union of many. Each

village, each family, each individual, must always possess both ability and inclination to perpetuate the use of fire [1201] and of metals; the

propagation and service of domestic animals; the methods of hunting and fishing; the rudiments of navigation; the imperfect cultivation of corn, or other nutritive grain; and the simple practice of the mechanic trades. Private genius and public industry may be extirpated; but these

hardy plants survive the tempest, and strike an everlasting root into the most unfavorable soil. The splendid days of Augustus and Trajan were eclipsed by a cloud of ignorance; and the Barbarians subverted the laws and palaces of Rome. But the scythe, the invention or emblem of Saturn,

[1301] still continued annually to mow the harvests of Italy; and the

human feasts of the Laestrigons [1401] have never been renewed on the coast of Campania.

[Footnote 1001: It would be an easy, though tedious, task, to produce the authorities of poets, philosophers, and historians. I shall therefore content myself with appealing to the decisive and authentic testimony of diodorus Siculus, (tom. i. l. i. p. 11, 12, l. iii. p. 184, &c., edit. wesseling.) The Icthyophagi, who in his time wandered along the shores

of the Red Sea, can only be compared to the natives of New Holland,

(Dampier's Voyages, vol. i. p. 464-469.) Fancy, or perhaps reason, may

still suppose an extreme and absolute state of nature far below the

level of these savages, who had acquired some arts and instruments.]

[Footnote 1101: See the learned and rational work of the president Goguet, de l'Origine des Loix, des Arts, et des Sciences. He traces from facts,

or conjectures, (tom. i. p. 147-337, edit. 12mo.,) the first and most difficult steps of human invention.]

[Footnote 1201: It is certain, however strange, that many nations

have been ignorant of the use of fire. Even the ingenious natives of

Otaheite, who are destitute of metals, have not invented any earthen

vessels capable of sustaining the action of fire, and of communicating the heat to the liquids which they contain.]

[Footnote 1301: Plutarch. Quaest. Rom. in tom. ii. p. 275. Macrob.

Saturnal. l. i. c. 8, p. 152, edit. London. The arrival of Saturn (of

his religious worship) in a ship, may indicate, that the savage coast of

Latium was first discovered and civilized by the Phoenicians.]

[Footnote 1401: In the ninth and tenth books of the Odyssey, Homer has embellished the tales of fearful and credulous sailors, who transformed the cannibals of Italy and Sicily into monstrous giants.]

Since the first discovery of the arts, war, commerce, and religious

zeal have diffused, among the savages of the Old and New World, these

inestimable gifts: they have been successively propagated; they can

never be lost. We may therefore acquiesce in the pleasing conclusion, that every age of the world has increased, and still increases, the real wealth, the happiness, the knowledge, and perhaps the virtue, of the

human race. [1501]

[Footnote 1501: The merit of discovery has too often been stained with avarice, cruelty, and fanaticism; and the intercourse of nations

has produced the communication of disease and prejudice. A singular exception is due to the virtue of our own times and country. The five

great voyages, successively undertaken by the command of his present

Majesty, were inspired by the pure and generous love of science and of

mankind. The same prince, adapting his benefactions to the different

stages of society, has founded his school of painting in his capital; and has introduced into the islands of the South Sea the vegetables and animals most useful to human life.]

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HISTORY OF THE DECLINE AND FALL OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE

edward Gibbon

with notes by the Rev. H. H. Milman

Vol. 4

1782 (Written), 1845 (Revised)

chapter XXXIX: Gothic Kingdom Of Italy.--Part I.

Zeno And Anastasius, Emperors Of The East.--Birth,

Education, And First Exploits Of Theodoric The Ostrogoth.--

His Invasion And Conquest Of Italy.--The Gothic Kingdom Of

Italy.--State Of The West.--Military And Civil Government.--

The Senator Boethius.--Last Acts And Death Of Theodoric.

after the fall of the Roman empire in the West, an interval of fifty

years, till the memorable reign of Justinian, is faintly marked by the

obscure names and imperfect annals of Zeno, Anastasius, and Justin, who

successively ascended to the throne of Constantinople. During the same

period, Italy revived and flourished under the government of a Gothic

king, who might have deserved a statue among the best and bravest of the ancient Romans.

theodoric the Ostrogoth, the fourteenth in lineal descent of the royal

line of the Amali, was born in the neighborhood of Vienna two

years after the death of Attila. A recent victory had restored the

independence of the Ostrogoths; and the three brothers, Walamir, theodemir, and Widimir, who ruled that warlike nation with united counsels, had separately pitched their habitations in the fertile though desolate province of Pannonia. The Huns still threatened their revolted

subjects, but their hasty attack was repelled by the single forces of walamir, and the news of his victory reached the distant camp of his brother in the same auspicious moment that the favorite concubine of theodemir was delivered of a son and heir. In the eighth year of his age, Theodoric was reluctantly yielded by his father to the public

interest, as the pledge of an alliance which Leo, emperor of the East,

had consented to purchase by an annual subsidy of three hundred pounds

of gold. The royal hostage was educated at Constantinople with care and tenderness. His body was formed to all the exercises of war, his mind was expanded by the habits of liberal conversation; he frequented the

schools of the most skilful masters; but he disdained or neglected the arts of Greece, and so ignorant did he always remain of the first elements of science, that a rude mark was contrived to represent the

signature of the illiterate king of Italy. As soon as he had attained the age of eighteen, he was restored to the wishes of the Ostrogoths, whom the emperor aspired to gain by liberality and confidence. Walamir

had fallen in battle; the youngest of the brothers, Widimir, had led away into Italy and Gaul an army of Barbarians, and the whole nation acknowledged for their king the father of Theodoric. His ferocious

subjects admired the strength and stature of their young prince; and he

soon convinced them that he had not degenerated from the valor of his ancestors. At the head of six thousand volunteers, he secretly left the camp in quest of adventures, descended the Danube as far as Singidunum,

or Belgrade, and soon returned to his father with the spoils of a

Sarmatian king whom he had vanquished and slain. Such triumphs, however, were productive only of fame, and the invincible Ostrogoths were reduced to extreme distress by the want of clothing and food. They unanimously

resolved to desert their Pannonian encampments, and boldly to advance

into the warm and wealthy neighborhood of the Byzantine court, which already maintained in pride and luxury so many bands of confederate

Goths. After proving, by some acts of hostility, that they could be dangerous, or at least troublesome, enemies, the Ostrogoths sold at a

high price their reconciliation and fidelity, accepted a donative

of lands and money, and were intrusted with the defence of the Lower danube, under the command of Theodoric, who succeeded after his father's death to the hereditary throne of the Amali.

a hero, descended from a race of kings, must have despised the base

Isaurian who was invested with the Roman purple, without any endowment

of mind or body, without any advantages of royal birth, or superior

qualifications. After the failure of the Theodosian life, the choice of

Pulcheria and of the senate might be justified in some measure by the characters of Martin and Leo, but the latter of these princes confirmed and dishonored his reign by the perfidious murder of Aspar and his sons, who too rigorously exacted the debt of gratitude and obedience. The

inheritance of Leo and of the East was peaceably devolved on his infant

grandson, the son of his daughter Ariadne; and her Isaurian husband, the fortunate Trascalisseus, exchanged that barbarous sound for the Grecian appellation of Zeno. After the decease of the elder Leo, he approached with unnatural respect the throne of his son, humbly received, as a gift, the second rank in the empire, and soon excited the public

suspicion on the sudden and premature death of his young colleague, whose life could no longer promote the success of his ambition. But the

palace of Constantinople was ruled by female influence, and agitated by female passions: and Verina, the widow of Leo, claiming his empire as

her own, pronounced a sentence of deposition against the worthless and

ungrateful servant on whom she alone had bestowed the sceptre of the east. As soon as she sounded a revolt in the ears of Zeno, he fled with

precipitation into the mountains of Isauria, and her brother Basiliscus, already infamous by his African expedition, was unanimously proclaimed by the servile senate. But the reign of the usurper was short and turbulent. Basiliscus presumed to assassinate the lover of his sister;

he dared to offend the lover of his wife, the vain and insolent

Harmatius, who, in the midst of Asiatic luxury, affected the dress, the demeanor, and the surname of Achilles. By the conspiracy of the

malecontents, Zeno was recalled from exile; the armies, the capital, the

person, of Basiliscus, were betrayed; and his whole family was condemned to the long agony of cold and hunger by the inhuman conqueror, who wanted courage to encounter or to forgive his enemies. The haughty

spirit of Verina was still incapable of submission or repose. She

provoked the enmity of a favorite general, embraced his cause as soon as

he was disgraced, created a new emperor in Syria and Egypt, raised an army of seventy thousand men, and persisted to the last moment of her

life in a fruitless rebellion, which, according to the fashion of the age, had been predicted by Christian hermits and Pagan magicians. While the East was afflicted by the passions of Verina, her daughter Ariadne was distinguished by the female virtues of mildness and fidelity;

she followed her husband in his exile, and after his restoration, she

implored his clemency in favor of her mother. On the decease of Zeno, ariadne, the daughter, the mother, and the widow of an emperor, gave

her hand and the Imperial title to Anastasius, an aged domestic of the

palace, who survived his elevation above twenty-seven years, and whose character is attested by the acclamation of the people, "Reign as you

have lived!"

whatever fear of affection could bestow, was profusely lavished by Zeno

on the king of the Ostrogoths; the rank of patrician and consul, the command of the Palatine troops, an equestrian statue, a treasure in gold and silver of many thousand pounds, the name of son, and the promise of a rich and honorable wife. As long as Theodoric condescended to serve,

he supported with courage and fidelity the cause of his benefactor; his

rapid march contributed to the restoration of Zeno; and in the second

revolt, the \_Walamirs\_, as they were called, pursued and pressed the asiatic rebels, till they left an easy victory to the Imperial troops. but the faithful servant was suddenly converted into a formidable enemy, who spread the flames of war from Constantinople to the Adriatic; many flourishing cities were reduced to ashes, and the agriculture of Thrace was almost extirpated by the wanton cruelty of the Goths, who deprived their captive peasants of the right hand that guided the plough. On

such occasions, Theodoric sustained the loud and specious reproach of disloyalty, of ingratitude, and of insatiate avarice, which could be

only excused by the hard necessity of his situation. He reigned, not as the monarch, but as the minister of a ferocious people, whose spirit was

unbroken by slavery, and impatient of real or imaginary insults. Their

poverty was incurable; since the most liberal donatives were soon dissipated in wasteful luxury, and the most fertile estates became barren in their hands; they despised, but they envied, the laborious

provincials; and when their subsistence had failed, the Ostrogoths embraced the familiar resources of war and rapine. It had been the wish

of Theodoric (such at least was his declaration) to lead a peaceful,

obscure, obedient life on the confines of Scythia, till the Byzantine court, by splendid and fallacious promises, seduced him to attack a confederate tribe of Goths, who had been engaged in the party

of Basiliscus. He marched from his station in Mæsia, on the solemn assurance that before he reached Adrianople, he should meet a plentiful convoy of provisions, and a reënforcement of eight thousand horse and thirty thousand foot, while the legions of Asia were encamped at

Heraclea to second his operations. These measures were disappointed by

mutual jealousy. As he advanced into Thrace, the son of Theodemir found an inhospitable solitude, and his Gothic followers, with a heavy train

of horses, of mules, and of wagons, were betrayed by their guides among the rocks and precipices of Mount Sondis, where he was assaulted by the arms and invectives of Theodoric the son of Triarius. From a neighboring

height, his artful rival harangued the camp of the \_Walamirs\_, and branded their leader with the opprobrious names of child, of madman, of

perjured traitor, the enemy of his blood and nation. "Are you ignorant," exclaimed the son of Triarius, "that it is the constant policy of the

Romans to destroy the Goths by each other's swords? Are you insensible that the victor in this unnatural contest will be exposed, and justly exposed, to their implacable revenge? Where are those warriors, my

kinsmen and thy own, whose widows now lament that their lives were

sacrificed to thy rash ambition? Where is the wealth which thy soldiers

possessed when they were first allured from their native homes to enlist under thy standard? Each of them was then master of three or four

horses; they now follow thee on foot, like slaves, through the deserts

of Thrace; those men who were tempted by the hope of measuring gold with a bushel, those brave men who are as free and as noble as thyself." A

language so well suited to the temper of the Goths excited clamor and discontent; and the son of Theodemir, apprehensive of being left alone, was compelled to embrace his brethren, and to imitate the example of

Roman perfidy.

In every state of his fortune, the prudence and firmness of Theodoric were equally conspicuous; whether he threatened Constantinople at the

head of the confederate Goths, or retreated with a faithful band to the

mountains and sea-coast of Epirus. At length the accidental death of the son of Triarius destroyed the balance which the Romans had been so anxious to preserve, the whole nation acknowledged the supremacy of the amali, and the Byzantine court subscribed an ignominious and oppressive treaty. The senate had already declared, that it was necessary to choose a party among the Goths, since the public was unequal to the support of their united forces; a subsidy of two thousand pounds of gold, with the ample pay of thirteen thousand men, were required for the least considerable of their armies; and the Isaurians, who guarded not the empire but the emperor, enjoyed, besides the privilege of rapine, an annual pension of five thousand pounds. The sagacious mind of Theodoric

soon perceived that he was odious to the Romans, and suspected by the barbarians: he understood the popular murmur, that his subjects were exposed in their frozen huts to intolerable hardships, while their king was dissolved in the luxury of Greece, and he prevented the painful alternative of encountering the Goths, as the champion, or of leading them to the field, as the enemy, of Zeno. Embracing an enterprise worthy

of his courage and ambition, Theodoric addressed the emperor in the following words: "Although your servant is maintained in affluence by

your liberality, graciously listen to the wishes of my heart! Italy, the

inheritance of your predecessors, and Rome itself, the head and mistress

of the world, now fluctuate under the violence and oppression of Odoacer the mercenary. Direct me, with my national troops, to march against the tyrant. If I fall, you will be relieved from an expensive and troublesome friend: if, with the divine permission, I succeed, I shall

govern in your name, and to your glory, the Roman senate, and the part

of the republic delivered from slavery by my victorious arms." The

proposal of Theodoric was accepted, and perhaps had been suggested, by the Byzantine court. But the forms of the commission, or grant, appear to have been expressed with a prudent ambiguity, which might be explained by the event; and it was left doubtful, whether the conqueror

of Italy should reign as the lieutenant, the vassal, or the ally, of the emperor of the East.

the reputation both of the leader and of the war diffused a universal ardor; the \_Walamirs\_ were multiplied by the Gothic swarms already engaged in the service, or seated in the provinces, of the empire; and each bold Barbarian, who had heard of the wealth and beauty of Italy, was impatient to seek, through the most perilous adventures, the

possession of such enchanting objects. The march of Theodoric must be considered as the emigration of an entire people; the wives and children

of the Goths, their aged parents, and most precious effects, were carefully transported; and some idea may be formed of the heavy baggage that now followed the camp, by the loss of two thousand wagons, which

had been sustained in a single action in the war of Epirus. For their

subsistence, the Goths depended on the magazines of corn which was

ground in portable mills by the hands of their women; on the milk and flesh of their flocks and herds; on the casual produce of the chase, and

upon the contributions which they might impose on all who should

presume to dispute the passage, or to refuse their friendly assistance.

Notwithstanding these precautions, they were exposed to the danger, and almost to the distress, of famine, in a march of seven hundred miles, which had been undertaken in the depth of a rigorous winter. Since the fall of the Roman power, Dacia and Pannonia no longer exhibited the

rich prospect of populous cities, well-cultivated fields, and convenient

highways: the reign of barbarism and desolation was restored, and the tribes of Bulgarians, Gepidæ, and Sarmatians, who had occupied the

vacant province, were prompted by their native fierceness, or the

solicitations of Odoacer, to resist the progress of his enemy. In many

obscure though bloody battles, Theodoric fought and vanquished; till at

length, surmounting every obstacle by skilful conduct and persevering courage, he descended from the Julian Alps, and displayed his invincible banners on the confines of Italy.

Odoacer, a rival not unworthy of his arms, had already occupied the advantageous and well-known post of the River Sontius, near the ruins of aquileia, at the head of a powerful host, whose independent \_kings\_

or leaders disdained the duties of subordination and the prudence of delays. No sooner had Theodoric gained a short repose and refreshment to

his wearied cavalry, than he boldly attacked the fortifications of the enemy; the Ostrogoths showed more ardor to acquire, than the mercenaries to defend, the lands of Italy; and the reward of the first victory was the possession of the Venetian province as far as the walls of Verona.

In the neighborhood of that city, on the steep banks of the rapid adige, he was opposed by a new army, reënforced in its numbers, and not

impaired in its courage: the contest was more obstinate, but the event was still more decisive; Odoacer fled to Ravenna, Theodoric advanced to Milan, and the vanquished troops saluted their conqueror with loud acclamations of respect and fidelity. But their want either of constancy

or of faith soon exposed him to the most imminent danger; his vanguard, with several Gothic counts, which had been rashly intrusted to a deserter, was betrayed and destroyed near Faenza by his double treachery; Odoacer again appeared master of the field, and the invader,

strongly intrenched in his camp of Pavia, was reduced to solicit the aid of a kindred nation, the Visigoths of Gaul. In the course of this History, the most voracious appetite for war will be abundantly

satiated; nor can I much lament that our dark and imperfect materials do

not afford a more ample narrative of the distress of Italy, and of the fierce conflict, which was finally decided by the abilities, experience, and valor of the Gothic king. Immediately before the battle of Verona,

he visited the tent of his mother and sister, and requested, that on a day, the most illustrious festival of his life, they would adorn him with the rich garments which they had worked with their own hands. "Our

glory," said he, "is mutual and inseparable. You are known to the world as the mother of Theodoric; and it becomes me to prove, that I am the

genuine offspring of those heroes from whom I claim my descent." The wife or concubine of Theodemir was inspired with the spirit of the

German matrons, who esteemed their sons' honor far above their safety; and it is reported, that in a desperate action, when Theodoric himself was hurried along by the torrent of a flying crowd, she boldly met them at the entrance of the camp, and, by her generous reproaches, drove them back on the swords of the enemy.

from the Alps to the extremity of Calabria, Theodoric reigned by the

right of conquest; the Vandal ambassadors surrendered the Island of

Sicily, as a lawful appendage of his kingdom; and he was accepted as the deliverer of Rome by the senate and people, who had shut their gates against the flying usurper. Ravenna alone, secure in the fortifications

of art and nature, still sustained a siege of almost three years; and the daring sallies of Odoacer carried slaughter and dismay into the

Gothic camp. At length, destitute of provisions and hopeless of relief, that unfortunate monarch yielded to the groans of his subjects and the clamors of his soldiers. A treaty of peace was negotiated by the bishop

of Ravenna; the Ostrogoths were admitted into the city, and the hostile

kings consented, under the sanction of an oath, to rule with equal and undivided authority the provinces of Italy. The event of such an agreement may be easily foreseen. After some days had been devoted to the semblance of joy and friendship, Odoacer, in the midst of a solemn banquet, was stabbed by the hand, or at least by the command, of his

rival. Secret and effectual orders had been previously despatched; the faithless and rapacious mercenaries, at the same moment, and without

resistance, were universally massacred; and the royalty of Theodoric was

proclaimed by the Goths, with the tardy, reluctant, ambiguous consent

of the emperor of the East. The design of a conspiracy was imputed, according to the usual forms, to the prostrate tyrant; but his

innocence, and the guilt of his conqueror, are sufficiently proved by the advantageous treaty which \_force\_ would not sincerely have granted,

nor \_weakness\_ have rashly infringed. The jealousy of power, and the

mischiefs of discord, may suggest a more decent apology, and a sentence

less rigorous may be pronounced against a crime which was necessary to

introduce into Italy a generation of public felicity. The living author

of this felicity was audaciously praised in his own presence by

sacred and profane orators; but history (in his time she was mute and

inglorious) has not left any just representation of the events which displayed, or of the defects which clouded, the virtues of Theodoric.

One record of his fame, the volume of public epistles composed by cassiodorus in the royal name, is still extant, and has obtained more

implicit credit than it seems to deserve. They exhibit the forms, rather than the substance, of his government; and we should vainly search for the pure and spontaneous sentiments of the Barbarian amidst the declamation and learning of a sophist, the wishes of a Roman senator, the precedents of office, and the vague professions, which, in every court, and on every occasion, compose the language of discreet

ministers. The reputation of Theodoric may repose with more confidence

on the visible peace and prosperity of a reign of thirty-three years; the unanimous esteem of his own times, and the memory of his wisdom and courage, his justice and humanity, which was deeply impressed on the

minds of the Goths and Italians.

the partition of the lands of Italy, of which Theodoric assigned the third part to his soldiers, is \_honorably\_ arraigned as the sole

injustice of his life. And even this act may be fairly justified by the example of Odoacer, the rights of conquest, the true interest of the

Italians, and the sacred duty of subsisting a whole people, who, on the faith of his promises, had transported themselves into a distant land.

Under the reign of Theodoric, and in the happy climate of Italy, the

Goths soon multiplied to a formidable host of two hundred thousand men, and the whole amount of their families may be computed by the ordinary addition of women and children. Their invasion of property, a part of which must have been already vacant, was disguised by the generous but

improper name of \_hospitality\_; these unwelcome guests were irregularly dispersed over the face of Italy, and the lot of each Barbarian was adequate to his birth and office, the number of his followers, and the

rustic wealth which he possessed in slaves and cattle. The distinction

of noble and plebeian were acknowledged; but the lands of every freeman were exempt from taxes, and he enjoyed the inestimable privilege

of being subject only to the laws of his country. Fashion, and even convenience, soon persuaded the conquerors to assume the more elegant dress of the natives, but they still persisted in the use of their

mother-tongue; and their contempt for the Latin schools was applauded by Theodoric himself, who gratified their prejudices, or his own, by declaring, that the child who had trembled at a rod, would never dare to

look upon a sword. Distress might sometimes provoke the indigent Roman to assume the ferocious manners which were insensibly relinquished by the rich and luxurious Barbarian; but these mutual conversions were not encouraged by the policy of a monarch who perpetuated the separation of the Italians and Goths; reserving the former for the arts of peace, and the latter for the service of war. To accomplish this design, he studied to protect his industrious subjects, and to moderate the violence, without enervating the valor, of his soldiers, who were maintained for the public defence. They held their lands and benefices as a military

stipend: at the sound of the trumpet, they were prepared to march under the conduct of their provincial officers; and the whole extent of Italy was distributed into the several quarters of a well-regulated camp. The

service of the palace and of the frontiers was performed by choice or by

rotation; and each extraordinary fatigue was recompensed by an increase

of pay and occasional donatives. Theodoric had convinced his brave companions, that empire must be acquired and defended by the same arts. after his example, they strove to excel in the use, not only of the

lance and sword, the instruments of their victories, but of the missile weapons, which they were too much inclined to neglect; and the lively

image of war was displayed in the daily exercise and annual reviews of the Gothic cavalry. A firm though gentle discipline imposed the habits

of modesty, obedience, and temperance; and the Goths were instructed to spare the people, to reverence the laws, to understand the duties of civil society, and to disclaim the barbarous license of judicial combat and private revenge.

chapter XXXIX: Gothic Kingdom Of Italy.--Part II.

among the Barbarians of the West, the victory of Theodoric had spread a general alarm. But as soon as it appeared that he was satisfied with conquest and desirous of peace, terror was changed into respect, and they submitted to a powerful mediation, which was uniformly employed for the best purposes of reconciling their quarrels and civilizing their

manners. The ambassadors who resorted to Ravenna from the most distant countries of Europe, admired his wisdom, magnificence, and courtesy; and

if he sometimes accepted either slaves or arms, white horses or

strange animals, the gift of a sun-dial, a water-clock, or a musician, admonished even the princes of Gaul of the superior art and industry of

his Italian subjects. His domestic alliances, a wife, two daughters, a

sister, and a niece, united the family of Theodoric with the kings

of the Franks, the Burgundians, the Visigoths, the Vandals, and the thuringians, and contributed to maintain the harmony, or at least the balance, of the great republic of the West. It is difficult in the dark forests of Germany and Poland to pursue the emigrations of the Heruli, a fierce people who disdained the use of armor, and who condemned their widows and aged parents not to survive the loss of their husbands, or the decay of their strength. The king of these savage warriors solicited the friendship of Theodoric, and was elevated to the rank of his son, according to the barbaric rites of a military adoption. From the shores

of the Baltic, the Æstians or Livonians laid their offerings of native amber at the feet of a prince, whose fame had excited them to undertake an unknown and dangerous journey of fifteen hundred miles. With the country from whence the Gothic nation derived their origin, he

maintained a frequent and friendly correspondence: the Italians were clothed in the rich sables of Sweden; and one of its sovereigns, after a voluntary or reluctant abdication, found a hospitable retreat in the

palace of Ravenna. He had reigned over one of the thirteen populous tribes who cultivated a small portion of the great island or peninsula

of Scandinavia, to which the vague appellation of Thule has been

sometimes applied. That northern region was peopled, or had been explored, as high as the sixty-eighth degree of latitude, where the

natives of the polar circle enjoy and lose the presence of the sun at each summer and winter solstice during an equal period of forty days. the long night of his absence or death was the mournful season of distress and anxiety, till the messengers, who had been sent to the mountain tops, descried the first rays of returning light, and

proclaimed to the plain below the festival of his resurrection.

the life of Theodoric represents the rare and meritorious example of a barbarian, who sheathed his sword in the pride of victory and the vigor

of his age. A reign of three and thirty years was consecrated to the duties of civil government, and the hostilities, in which he was

sometimes involved, were speedily terminated by the conduct of his

lieutenants, the discipline of his troops, the arms of his allies, and even by the terror of his name. He reduced, under a strong and regular

government, the unprofitable countries of Rhætia, Noricum, Dalmatia, and Pannonia, from the source of the Danube and the territory of the bavarians, to the petty kingdom erected by the Gepidæ on the ruins of

Sirmium. His prudence could not safely intrust the bulwark of Italy to

such feeble and turbulent neighbors; and his justice might claim the

lands which they oppressed, either as a part of his kingdom, or as the

inheritance of his father. The greatness of a servant, who was named

perfidious because he was successful, awakened the jealousy of the emperor Anastasius; and a war was kindled on the Dacian frontier, by the

protection which the Gothic king, in the vicissitude of human affairs,

had granted to one of the descendants of Attila. Sabinian, a general

illustrious by his own and father's merit, advanced at the head of ten thousand Romans; and the provisions and arms, which filled a long train

of wagons, were distributed to the fiercest of the Bulgarian tribes. but in the fields of Margus, the eastern powers were defeated by the

inferior forces of the Goths and Huns; the flower and even the hope

of the Roman armies was irretrievably destroyed; and such was the temperance with which Theodoric had inspired his victorious troops, that, as their leader had not given the signal of pillage, the rich

spoils of the enemy lay untouched at their feet. Exasperated by this disgrace, the Byzantine court despatched two hundred ships and eight thousand men to plunder the sea-coast of Calabria and Apulia: they assaulted the ancient city of Tarentum, interrupted the trade and agriculture of a happy country, and sailed back to the Hellespont, proud

of their piratical victory over a people whom they still presumed to consider as their \_Roman\_ brethren. Their retreat was possibly hastened by the activity of Theodoric; Italy was covered by a fleet of a thousand

light vessels, which he constructed with incredible despatch; and his firm moderation was soon rewarded by a solid and honorable peace. He

maintained, with a powerful hand, the balance of the West, till it was at length overthrown by the ambition of Clovis; and although unable to assist his rash and unfortunate kinsman, the king of the Visigoths, he

saved the remains of his family and people, and checked the Franks in the midst of their victorious career. I am not desirous to prolong or

repeat this narrative of military events, the least interesting of the

reign of Theodoric; and shall be content to add, that the Alemanni were

protected, that an inroad of the Burgundians was severely chastised, and that the conquest of Arles and Marseilles opened a free communication with the Visigoths, who revered him as their national protector, and as the guardian of his grandchild, the infant son of Alaric. Under this respectable character, the king of Italy restored the prætorian

præfecture of the Gauls, reformed some abuses in the civil government

of Spain, and accepted the annual tribute and apparent submission of its

military governor, who wisely refused to trust his person in the palace

of Ravenna. The Gothic sovereignty was established from Sicily to the danube, from Sirmium or Belgrade to the Atlantic Ocean; and the Greeks themselves have acknowledged that Theodoric reigned over the fairest

portion of the Western empire.

the union of the Goths and Romans might have fixed for ages the transient happiness of Italy; and the first of nations, a new people of free subjects and enlightened soldiers, might have gradually arisen from the mutual emulation of their respective virtues. But the sublime merit

of guiding or seconding such a revolution was not reserved for the reign

of Theodoric: he wanted either the genius or the opportunities of a

legislator; and while he indulged the Goths in the enjoyment of rude

liberty, he servilely copied the institutions, and even the abuses,

of the political system which had been framed by Constantine and his

successors. From a tender regard to the expiring prejudices of Rome, the Barbarian declined the name, the purple, and the diadem, of the emperors; but he assumed, under the hereditary title of king, the whole

substance and plenitude of Imperial prerogative. His addresses to the eastern throne were respectful and ambiguous: he celebrated, in pompous

style, the harmony of the two republics, applauded his own government as the perfect similitude of a sole and undivided empire, and claimed above the kings of the earth the same preeminence which he modestly allowed to the person or rank of Anastasius. The alliance of the East and West was annually declared by the unanimous choice of two consuls; but it should

seem that the Italian candidate who was named by Theodoric accepted a formal confirmation from the sovereign of Constantinople. The Gothic

palace of Ravenna reflected the image of the court of Theodosius or

Valentinian. The Prætorian præfect, the præfect of Rome, the quæstor, the master of the offices, with the public and patrimonial treasurers,

\* whose functions are painted in gaudy colors by the rhetoric of cassiodorus, still continued to act as the ministers of state. And the subordinate care of justice and the revenue was delegated to seven consulars, three correctors, and five presidents, who governed the fifteen \_regions\_ of Italy according to the principles, and even the forms, of Roman jurisprudence. The violence of the conquerors was abated or eluded by the slow artifice of judicial proceedings; the civil administration, with its honors and emoluments, was confined to the

Italians; and the people still preserved their dress and language, their

laws and customs, their personal freedom, and two thirds of their landed

property. It had been the object of Augustus to conceal the introduction

of monarchy; it was the policy of Theodoric to disguise the reign of a barbarian. If his subjects were sometimes awakened from this pleasing

vision of a Roman government, they derived more substantial comfort from the character of a Gothic prince, who had penetration to discern, and firmness to pursue, his own and the public interest. Theodoric loved the

virtues which he possessed, and the talents of which he was destitute.

Liberius was promoted to the office of Prætorian præfect for his

unshaken fidelity to the unfortunate cause of Odoacer. The ministers of theodoric, Cassiodorus, and Boethius, have reflected on his reign the

lustre of their genius and learning. More prudent or more fortunate than

his colleague, Cassiodorus preserved his own esteem without forfeiting the royal favor; and after passing thirty years in the honors of the world, he was blessed with an equal term of repose in the devout and

studious solitude of Squillace.

as the patron of the republic, it was the interest and duty of the

Gothic king to cultivate the affections of the senate and people. the nobles of Rome were flattered by sonorous epithets and formal

professions of respect, which had been more justly applied to the merit and authority of their ancestors. The people enjoyed, without fear or danger, the three blessings of a capital, order, plenty, and public amusements. A visible diminution of their numbers may be found even

in the measure of liberality; yet Apulia, Calabria, and Sicily, poured their tribute of corn into the granaries of Rome an allowance of bread and meat was distributed to the indigent citizens; and every office was deemed honorable which was consecrated to the care of their health and

happiness. The public games, such as the Greek ambassador might politely applaud, exhibited a faint and feeble copy of the magnificence of the cæsars: yet the musical, the gymnastic, and the pantomime arts, had not totally sunk in oblivion; the wild beasts of Africa still exercised

in the amphitheatre the courage and dexterity of the hunters; and the

indulgent Goth either patiently tolerated or gently restrained the blue and green factions, whose contests so often filled the circus with clamor and even with blood. In the seventh year of his peaceful reign, theodoric visited the old capital of the world; the senate and

people advanced in solemn procession to salute a second Trajan, a new

Valentinian; and he nobly supported that character by the assurance of a just and legal government, in a discourse which he was not afraid to

pronounce in public, and to inscribe on a tablet of brass. Rome, in this august ceremony, shot a last ray of declining glory; and a saint, the

spectator of this pompous scene, could only hope, in his pious fancy, that it was excelled by the celestial splendor of the new Jerusalem. during a residence of six months, the fame, the person, and the courteous demeanor of the Gothic king, excited the admiration of the

Romans, and he contemplated, with equal curiosity and surprise, the

monuments that remained of their ancient greatness. He imprinted the footsteps of a conqueror on the Capitoline hill, and frankly confessed that each day he viewed with fresh wonder the forum of Trajan and his

lofty column. The theatre of Pompey appeared, even in its decay, as a

huge mountain artificially hollowed, and polished, and adorned by human

industry; and he vaguely computed, that a river of gold must have been drained to erect the colossal amphitheatre of Titus. From the mouths of fourteen aqueducts, a pure and copious stream was diffused into every

part of the city; among these the Claudian water, which arose at the distance of thirty-eight miles in the Sabine mountains, was conveyed along a gentle though constant declivity of solid arches, till it descended on the summit of the Aventine hill. The long and spacious

vaults which had been constructed for the purpose of common sewers,

subsisted, after twelve centuries, in their pristine strength; and these

subterraneous channels have been preferred to all the visible wonders of

Rome. The Gothic kings, so injuriously accused of the ruin of antiquity, were anxious to preserve the monuments of the nation whom they had

subdued. The royal edicts were framed to prevent the abuses, the

neglect, or the depredations of the citizens themselves; and a professed architect, the annual sum of two hundred pounds of gold, twenty-five thousand tiles, and the receipt of customs from the Lucrine port, were assigned for the ordinary repairs of the walls and public edifices. A

similar care was extended to the statues of metal or marble of men or animals. The spirit of the horses, which have given a modern name to the

Quirinal, was applauded by the Barbarians; the brazen elephants of the \_Via sacra\_ were diligently restored; the famous heifer of Myron deceived the cattle, as they were driven through the forum of peace; and an officer was created to protect those works of rat, which Theodoric considered as the noblest ornament of his kingdom.

chapter XXXIX: Gothic Kingdom Of Italy.--Part III.

after the example of the last emperors, Theodoric preferred the

residence of Ravenna, where he cultivated an orchard with his own hands. as often as the peace of his kingdom was threatened (for it was never

invaded) by the Barbarians, he removed his court to Verona on the

northern frontier, and the image of his palace, still extant on a coin,

represents the oldest and most authentic model of Gothic architecture. these two capitals, as well as Pavia, Spoleto, Naples, and the rest

of the Italian cities, acquired under his reign the useful or splendid decorations of churches, aqueducts, baths, porticos, and palaces. But the happiness of the subject was more truly conspicuous in the busy

scene of labor and luxury, in the rapid increase and bold enjoyment

of national wealth. From the shades of Tibur and Præneste, the Roman

senators still retired in the winter season to the warm sun, and

salubrious springs of Baiæ; and their villas, which advanced on solid

moles into the Bay of Naples, commanded the various prospect of the sky, the earth, and the water. On the eastern side of the Adriatic, a new campania was formed in the fair and fruitful province of Istria, which communicated with the palace of Ravenna by an easy navigation of

one hundred miles. The rich productions of Lucania and the adjacent

provinces were exchanged at the Marcilian fountain, in a populous fair annually dedicated to trade, intemperance, and superstition. In the

solitude of Comum, which had once been animated by the mild genius of

Pliny, a transparent basin above sixty miles in length still reflected the rural seats which encompassed the margin of the Larian lake; and the gradual ascent of the hills was covered by a triple plantation of

olives, of vines, and of chestnut trees. Agriculture revived under the

shadow of peace, and the number of husbandmen was multiplied by the

redemption of captives. The iron mines of Dalmatia, a gold mine in bruttium, were carefully explored, and the Pomptine marshes, as well as those of Spoleto, were drained and cultivated by private undertakers, whose distant reward must depend on the continuance of the public

prosperity. Whenever the seasons were less propitious, the doubtful

precautions of forming magazines of corn, fixing the price, and

prohibiting the exportation, attested at least the benevolence of the

state; but such was the extraordinary plenty which an industrious people

produced from a grateful soil, that a gallon of wine was sometimes sold

in Italy for less than three farthings, and a quarter of wheat at about five shillings and sixpence. A country possessed of so many valuable

objects of exchange soon attracted the merchants of the world, whose beneficial traffic was encouraged and protected by the liberal spirit of theodoric. The free intercourse of the provinces by land and water was

restored and extended; the city gates were never shut either by day or by night; and the common saying, that a purse of gold might be safely

left in the fields, was expressive of the conscious security of the

inhabitants.

a difference of religion is always pernicious, and often fatal, to the

harmony of the prince and people: the Gothic conqueror had been educated

in the profession of Arianism, and Italy was devoutly attached to the

Nicene faith. But the persuasion of Theodoric was not infected by

zeal; and he piously adhered to the heresy of his fathers, without condescending to balance the subtile arguments of theological

metaphysics. Satisfied with the private toleration of his Arian

sectaries, he justly conceived himself to be the guardian of the

public worship, and his external reverence for a superstition which he despised, may have nourished in his mind the salutary indifference of a

statesman or philosopher. The Catholics of his dominions acknowledged,

perhaps with reluctance, the peace of the church; their clergy, according to the degrees of rank or merit, were honorably entertained in the palace of Theodoric; he esteemed the living sanctity of Cæsarius and Epiphanius, the orthodox bishops of Arles and Pavia; and presented a decent offering on the tomb of St. Peter, without any scrupulous inquiry

into the creed of the apostle. His favorite Goths, and even his mother, were permitted to retain or embrace the Athanasian faith, and his long

reign could not afford the example of an Italian Catholic, who, either from choice or compulsion, had deviated into the religion of the conqueror. The people, and the Barbarians themselves, were edified by the pomp and order of religious worship; the magistrates were instructed to defend the just immunities of ecclesiastical persons and possessions; the bishops held their synods, the metropolitans exercised their

jurisdiction, and the privileges of sanctuary were maintained or

moderated according to the spirit of the Roman jurisprudence. With the

protection, Theodoric assumed the legal supremacy, of the church; and

his firm administration restored or extended some useful prerogatives which had been neglected by the feeble emperors of the West. He was not

ignorant of the dignity and importance of the Roman pontiff, to whom the

venerable name of Pope was now appropriated. The peace or the revolt of

Italy might depend on the character of a wealthy and popular bishop, who claimed such ample dominion both in heaven and earth; who had been declared in a numerous synod to be pure from all sin, and exempt from all judgment. When the chair of St. Peter was disputed by Symmachus and

Laurence, they appeared at his summons before the tribunal of an Arian

monarch, and he confirmed the election of the most worthy or the most

obsequious candidate. At the end of his life, in a moment of jealousy and resentment, he prevented the choice of the Romans, by nominating a pope in the palace of Ravenna. The danger and furious contests of a

schism were mildly restrained, and the last decree of the senate was enacted to extinguish, if it were possible, the scandalous venality of the papal elections.

I have descanted with pleasure on the fortunate condition of Italy; but

our fancy must not hastily conceive that the golden age of the poets, a race of men without vice or misery, was realized under the Gothic conquest. The fair prospect was sometimes overcast with clouds; the wisdom of Theodoric might be deceived, his power might be resisted and the declining age of the monarch was sullied with popular hatred and

patrician blood. In the first insolence of victory, he had been tempted to deprive the whole party of Odoacer of the civil and even the natural

rights of society; a tax unseasonably imposed after the calamities

of war, would have crushed the rising agriculture of Liguria; a rigid

preemption of corn, which was intended for the public relief, must

have aggravated the distress of Campania. These dangerous projects were defeated by the virtue and eloquence of Epiphanius and Boethius, who, in the presence of Theodoric himself, successfully pleaded the cause of the

people: but if the royal ear was open to the voice of truth, a saint and a philosopher are not always to be found at the ear of kings. The

privileges of rank, or office, or favor, were too frequently abused by

Italian fraud and Gothic violence, and the avarice of the king's nephew was publicly exposed, at first by the usurpation, and afterwards by the restitution of the estates which he had unjustly extorted from his tuscan neighbors. Two hundred thousand Barbarians, formidable even to their master, were seated in the heart of Italy; they indignantly

supported the restraints of peace and discipline; the disorders of their march were always felt and sometimes compensated; and where it was dangerous to punish, it might be prudent to dissemble, the sallies of their native fierceness. When the indulgence of Theodoric had remitted two thirds of the Ligurian tribute, he condescended to explain the difficulties of his situation, and to lament the heavy though inevitable burdens which he imposed on his subjects for their own defence. These

ungrateful subjects could never be cordially reconciled to the origin, the religion, or even the virtues of the Gothic conqueror; past calamities were forgotten, and the sense or suspicion of injuries was

rendered still more exquisite by the present felicity of the times.

even the religious toleration which Theodoric had the glory of

introducing into the Christian world, was painful and offensive to the

orthodox zeal of the Italians. They respected the armed heresy of the

Goths; but their pious rage was safely pointed against the rich and defenceless Jews, who had formed their establishments at Naples, Rome,

Ravenna, Milan, and Genoa, for the benefit of trade, and under the

sanction of the laws. Their persons were insulted, their effects were

pillaged, and their synagogues were burned by the mad populace of

Ravenna and Rome, inflamed, as it should seem, by the most frivolous or extravagant pretences. The government which could neglect, would have deserved such an outrage. A legal inquiry was instantly directed; and as the authors of the tumult had escaped in the crowd, the whole community was condemned to repair the damage; and the obstinate bigots, who

refused their contributions, were whipped through the streets by the

hand of the executioner. This simple act of justice exasperated the discontent of the Catholics, who applauded the merit and patience of these holy confessors. Three hundred pulpits deplored the persecution of the church; and if the chapel of St. Stephen at Verona was demolished by the command of Theodoric, it is probable that some miracle hostile to

his name and dignity had been performed on that sacred theatre. At the close of a glorious life, the king of Italy discovered that he had excited the hatred of a people whose happiness he had so assiduously

labored to promote; and his mind was soured by indignation, jealousy, and the bitterness of unrequited love. The Gothic conqueror condescended to disarm the unwarlike natives of Italy, interdicting all weapons

of offence, and excepting only a small knife for domestic use. The deliverer of Rome was accused of conspiring with the vilest informers against the lives of senators whom he suspected of a secret and treasonable correspondence with the Byzantine court. After the death of anastasius, the diadem had been placed on the head of a feeble old man; but the powers of government were assumed by his nephew Justinian, who already meditated the extirpation of heresy, and the conquest of Italy and Africa. A rigorous law, which was published at Constantinople, to

reduce the Arians by the dread of punishment within the pale of the church, awakened the just resentment of Theodoric, who claimed for his distressed brethren of the East the same indulgence which he had so long

granted to the Catholics of his dominions. At his stern command, the

Roman pontiff, with four \_illustrious\_ senators, embarked on an embassy,

of which he must have alike dreaded the failure or the success. the singular veneration shown to the first pope who had visited constantinople was punished as a crime by his jealous monarch; the artful or peremptory refusal of the Byzantine court might excuse an equal, and would provoke a larger, measure of retaliation; and a mandate was prepared in Italy, to prohibit, after a stated day, the exercise of the Catholic worship. By the bigotry of his subjects and enemies, the

most tolerant of princes was driven to the brink of persecution; and the

life of Theodoric was too long, since he lived to condemn the virtue of boethius and Symmachus.

the senator Boethius is the last of the Romans whom Cato or Tully could have acknowledged for their countryman. As a wealthy orphan,

he inherited the patrimony and honors of the Anician family, a name ambitiously assumed by the kings and emperors of the age; and the appellation of Manlius asserted his genuine or fabulous descent from a race of consuls and dictators, who had repulsed the Gauls from the capitol, and sacrificed their sons to the discipline of the republic. In the youth of Boethius the studies of Rome were not totally abandoned; a Virgil is now extant, corrected by the hand of a consul; and the

professors of grammar, rhetoric, and jurisprudence, were maintained in their privileges and pensions by the liberality of the Goths. But the erudition of the Latin language was insufficient to satiate his ardent curiosity: and Boethius is said to have employed eighteen laborious

years in the schools of Athens, which were supported by the zeal, the

learning, and the diligence of Proclus and his disciples. The reason and

piety of their Roman pupil were fortunately saved from the contagion

of mystery and magic, which polluted the groves of the academy; but

he imbibed the spirit, and imitated the method, of his dead and living

masters, who attempted to reconcile the strong and subtile sense of aristotle with the devout contemplation and sublime fancy of Plato. after his return to Rome, and his marriage with the daughter of his friend, the patrician Symmachus, Boethius still continued, in a palace

of ivory and marble, to prosecute the same studies. The church was edified by his profound defence of the orthodox creed against the Arian, the Eutychian, and the Nestorian heresies; and the Catholic unity was explained or exposed in a formal treatise by the \_indifference\_ of three distinct though consubstantial persons. For the benefit of his Latin

readers, his genius submitted to teach the first elements of the arts and sciences of Greece. The geometry of Euclid, the music of Pythagoras, the arithmetic of Nicomachus, the mechanics of Archimedes, the astronomy

of Ptolemy, the theology of Plato, and the logic of Aristotle, with the commentary of Porphyry, were translated and illustrated by the

indefatigable pen of the Roman senator. And he alone was esteemed capable of describing the wonders of art, a sun-dial, a water-clock,

or a sphere which represented the motions of the planets. From these abstruse speculations, Boethius stooped, or, to speak more truly, he

rose to the social duties of public and private life: the indigent were

relieved by his liberality; and his eloquence, which flattery might compare to the voice of Demosthenes or Cicero, was uniformly exerted in the cause of innocence and humanity. Such conspicuous merit was felt and rewarded by a discerning prince: the dignity of Boethius was adorned with the titles of consul and patrician, and his talents were

usefully employed in the important station of master of the offices.

Notwithstanding the equal claims of the East and West, his two sons were created, in their tender youth, the consuls of the same year. On the

memorable day of their inauguration, they proceeded in solemn pomp from their palace to the forum amidst the applause of the senate and people; and their joyful father, the true consul of Rome, after pronouncing an

oration in the praise of his royal benefactor, distributed a triumphal

largess in the games of the circus. Prosperous in his fame and fortunes,

in his public honors and private alliances, in the cultivation of

science and the consciousness of virtue, Boethius might have been styled

happy, if that precarious epithet could be safely applied before the

last term of the life of man.

a philosopher, liberal of his wealth and parsimonious of his time, might be insensible to the common allurements of ambition, the thirst of

gold and employment. And some credit may be due to the asseveration of boethius, that he had reluctantly obeyed the divine Plato, who enjoins every virtuous citizen to rescue the state from the usurpation of vice and ignorance. For the integrity of his public conduct he appeals to the memory of his country. His authority had restrained the pride and oppression of the royal officers, and his eloquence had delivered

Paulianus from the dogs of the palace. He had always pitied, and often

relieved, the distress of the provincials, whose fortunes were exhausted by public and private rapine; and Boethius alone had courage to oppose the tyranny of the Barbarians, elated by conquest, excited by avarice, and, as he complains, encouraged by impunity. In these honorable contests his spirit soared above the consideration of danger, and

perhaps of prudence; and we may learn from the example of Cato, that a character of pure and inflexible virtue is the most apt to be misled by

prejudice, to be heated by enthusiasm, and to confound private enmities with public justice. The disciple of Plato might exaggerate the

infirmities of nature, and the imperfections of society; and the mildest form of a Gothic kingdom, even the weight of allegiance and gratitude,

must be insupportable to the free spirit of a Roman patriot. But the favor and fidelity of Boethius declined in just proportion with the

public happiness; and an unworthy colleague was imposed to divide and control the power of the master of the offices. In the last gloomy

season of Theodoric, he indignantly felt that he was a slave; but as his

master had only power over his life, he stood without arms and without fear against the face of an angry Barbarian, who had been provoked to believe that the safety of the senate was incompatible with his own. The

senator Albinus was accused and already convicted on the presumption of

\_hoping\_, as it was said, the liberty of Rome. "If Albinus be criminal," exclaimed the orator, "the senate and myself are all guilty of the same crime. If we are innocent, Albinus is equally entitled to the protection

of the laws." These laws might not have punished the simple and barren wish of an unattainable blessing; but they would have shown less

indulgence to the rash confession of Boethius, that, had he known of a conspiracy, the tyrant never should. The advocate of Albinus was soon

involved in the danger and perhaps the guilt of his client; their

signature (which they denied as a forgery) was affixed to the original address, inviting the emperor to deliver Italy from the Goths; and three witnesses of honorable rank, perhaps of infamous reputation, attested the treasonable designs of the Roman patrician. Yet his innocence

must be presumed, since he was deprived by Theodoric of the means of

justification, and rigorously confined in the tower of Pavia, while the

senate, at the distance of five hundred miles, pronounced a sentence of confiscation and death against the most illustrious of its members. At the command of the Barbarians, the occult science of a philosopher was

stigmatized with the names of sacrilege and magic. A devout and dutiful attachment to the senate was condemned as criminal by the trembling

voices of the senators themselves; and their ingratitude deserved the wish or prediction of Boethius, that, after him, none should be found

guilty of the same offence.

while Boethius, oppressed with fetters, expected each moment the

sentence or the stroke of death, he composed, in the tower of Pavia, the

\_Consolation of Philosophy\_; a golden volume not unworthy of the

leisure of Plato or Tully, but which claims incomparable merit from the barbarism of the times and the situation of the author. The celestial

guide, whom he had so long invoked at Rome and Athens, now condescended to illumine his dungeon, to revive his courage, and to pour into his wounds her salutary balm. She taught him to compare his long prosperity and his recent distress, and to conceive new hopes from the inconstancy

of fortune. Reason had informed him of the precarious condition of her

gifts; experience had satisfied him of their real value; he had enjoyed them without guilt; he might resign them without a sigh, and calmly disdain the impotent malice of his enemies, who had left him happiness,

since they had left him virtue. From the earth, Boethius ascended to heaven in search of the Supreme Good; explored the metaphysical

labyrinth of chance and destiny, of prescience and free will, of time and eternity; and generously attempted to reconcile the perfect attributes of the Deity with the apparent disorders of his moral and

physical government. Such topics of consolation so obvious, so vague, or

so abstruse, are ineffectual to subdue the feelings of human nature. Yet the sense of misfortune may be diverted by the labor of thought; and the

sage who could artfully combine in the same work the various riches

of philosophy, poetry, and eloquence, must already have possessed the

intrepid calmness which he affected to seek. Suspense, the worst of evils, was at length determined by the ministers of death, who executed, and perhaps exceeded, the inhuman mandate of Theodoric. A strong cord was fastened round the head of Boethius, and forcibly tightened, till

his eyes almost started from their sockets; and some mercy may be discovered in the milder torture of beating him with clubs till he expired. But his genius survived to diffuse a ray of knowledge over the darkest ages of the Latin world; the writings of the philosopher were translated by the most glorious of the English kings, and the third emperor of the name of Otho removed to a more honorable tomb the bones

of a Catholic saint, who, from his Arian persecutors, had acquired the

honors of martyrdom, and the fame of miracles. In the last hours of boethius, he derived some comfort from the safety of his two sons, of

his wife, and of his father-in-law, the venerable Symmachus. But the

grief of Symmachus was indiscreet, and perhaps disrespectful: he had

presumed to lament, he might dare to revenge, the death of an injured friend. He was dragged in chains from Rome to the palace of Ravenna; and the suspicions of Theodoric could only be appeased by the blood of an

innocent and aged senator.

Humanity will be disposed to encourage any report which testifies the

jurisdiction of conscience and the remorse of kings; and philosophy is

not ignorant that the most horrid spectres are sometimes created by the

powers of a disordered fancy, and the weakness of a distempered body. after a life of virtue and glory, Theodoric was now descending with

shame and guilt into the grave; his mind was humbled by the contrast of the past, and justly alarmed by the invisible terrors of futurity. One evening, as it is related, when the head of a large fish was served

on the royal table, he suddenly exclaimed, that he beheld the angry countenance of Symmachus, his eyes glaring fury and revenge, and his

mouth armed with long sharp teeth, which threatened to devour him. The

monarch instantly retired to his chamber, and, as he lay, trembling with aguish cold, under a weight of bed-clothes, he expressed, in broken

murmurs to his physician Elpidius, his deep repentance for the murders

of Boethius and Symmachus. His malady increased, and after a dysentery which continued three days, he expired in the palace of Ravenna, in the thirty-third, or, if we compute from the invasion of Italy, in the thirty-seventh year of his reign. Conscious of his approaching end, he divided his treasures and provinces between his two grandsons, and fixed the Rhone as their common boundary. Amalaric was restored to the throne of Spain. Italy, with all the conquests of the Ostrogoths, was bequeathed to Athalaric; whose age did not exceed ten years, but who was cherished as the last male offspring of the line of Amali, by the

short-lived marriage of his mother Amalasuntha with a royal fugitive of the same blood. In the presence of the dying monarch, the Gothic chiefs and Italian magistrates mutually engaged their faith and loyalty to the young prince, and to his guardian mother; and received, in the same awful moment, his last salutary advice, to maintain the laws, to love the senate and people of Rome, and to cultivate with decent reverence the friendship of the emperor. The monument of Theodoric was erected by

his daughter Amalasuntha, in a conspicuous situation, which commanded the city of Ravenna, the harbor, and the adjacent coast. A chapel of a circular form, thirty feet in diameter, is crowned by a dome of one entire piece of granite: from the centre of the dome four columns arose, which supported, in a vase of porphyry, the remains of the Gothic king,

surrounded by the brazen statues of the twelve apostles. His spirit, after some previous expiation, might have been permitted to mingle with the benefactors of mankind, if an Italian hermit had not been witness,

in a vision, to the damnation of Theodoric, whose soul was plunged, by the ministers of divine vengeance, into the volcano of Lipari, one of the flaming mouths of the infernal world.

chapter XL: Reign Of Justinian.--Part I.

Elevation Of Justin The Elder.--Reign Of Justinian.--I. The

Empress Theodora.--II. Factions Of The Circus, And Sedition

Of Constantinople.--III. Trade And Manufacture Of Silk.--IV.

Finances And Taxes.--V. Edifices Of Justinian.--Church Of

St. Sophia.--Fortifications And Frontiers Of The Eastern

Empire.--Abolition Of The Schools Of Athens, And The

Consulship Of Rome.

the emperor Justinian was born near the ruins of Sardica, (the modern

Sophia,) of an obscure race of Barbarians, the inhabitants of a wild and desolate country, to which the names of Dardania, of Dacia, and of bulgaria, have been successively applied. His elevation was prepared by the adventurous spirit of his uncle Justin, who, with two other peasants

of the same village, deserted, for the profession of arms, the more

useful employment of husbandmen or shepherds. On foot, with a scanty

provision of biscuit in their knapsacks, the three youths followed the

high road of Constantinople, and were soon enrolled, for their strength and stature, among the guards of the emperor Leo. Under the two

succeeding reigns, the fortunate peasant emerged to wealth and

honors; and his escape from some dangers which threatened his life was afterwards ascribed to the guardian angel who watches over the fate of

kings. His long and laudable service in the Isaurian and Persian wars would not have preserved from oblivion the name of Justin; yet they

might warrant the military promotion, which in the course of fifty years

he gradually obtained; the rank of tribune, of count, and of general; the dignity of senator, and the command of the guards, who obeyed him as their chief, at the important crisis when the emperor Anastasius was removed from the world. The powerful kinsmen whom he had raised and enriched were excluded from the throne; and the eunuch Amantius, who

reigned in the palace, had secretly resolved to fix the diadem on the

head of the most obsequious of his creatures. A liberal donative, to conciliate the suffrage of the guards, was intrusted for that purpose

in the hands of their commander. But these weighty arguments were treacherously employed by Justin in his own favor; and as no competitor

presumed to appear, the Dacian peasant was invested with the purple by the unanimous consent of the soldiers, who knew him to be brave and

gentle, of the clergy and people, who believed him to be orthodox, and

of the provincials, who yielded a blind and implicit submission to the will of the capital. The elder Justin, as he is distinguished from another emperor of the same family and name, ascended the Byzantine throne at the age of sixty-eight years; and, had he been left to his own

guidance, every moment of a nine years' reign must have exposed to his

subjects the impropriety of their choice. His ignorance was similar to that of Theodoric; and it is remarkable that in an age not destitute

of learning, two contemporary monarchs had never been instructed in the

knowledge of the alphabet. But the genius of Justin was far inferior to that of the Gothic king: the experience of a soldier had not

qualified him for the government of an empire; and though personally brave, the consciousness of his own weakness was naturally attended with doubt, distrust, and political apprehension. But the official business

of the state was diligently and faithfully transacted by the quæstor

Proclus; and the aged emperor adopted the talents and ambition of his

nephew Justinian, an aspiring youth, whom his uncle had drawn from the

rustic solitude of Dacia, and educated at Constantinople, as the heir of

his private fortune, and at length of the Eastern empire.

Since the eunuch Amantius had been defrauded of his money, it became

necessary to deprive him of his life. The task was easily accomplished by the charge of a real or fictitious conspiracy; and the judges were

informed, as an accumulation of guilt, that he was secretly addicted to the Manichæan heresy. Amantius lost his head; three of his companions, the first domestics of the palace, were punished either with death or exile; and their unfortunate candidate for the purple was cast into a deep dungeon, overwhelmed with stones, and ignominiously thrown, without burial, into the sea. The ruin of Vitalian was a work of more difficulty and danger. That Gothic chief had rendered himself popular by the civil war which he boldly waged against Anastasius for the defence of the

orthodox faith, and after the conclusion of an advantageous treaty, he

still remained in the neighborhood of Constantinople at the head of a formidable and victorious army of Barbarians. By the frail security of

oaths, he was tempted to relinquish this advantageous situation, and to trust his person within the walls of a city, whose inhabitants,

particularly the \_blue\_ faction, were artfully incensed against him by the remembrance even of his pious hostilities. The emperor and his

nephew embraced him as the faithful and worthy champion of the church and state; and gratefully adorned their favorite with the titles of consul and general; but in the seventh month of his consulship, Vitalian was stabbed with seventeen wounds at the royal banquet; and Justinian, who inherited the spoil, was accused as the assassin of a spiritual brother, to whom he had recently pledged his faith in the participation

of the Christian mysteries. After the fall of his rival, he was

promoted, without any claim of military service, to the office of

master-general of the Eastern armies, whom it was his duty to lead

into the field against the public enemy. But, in the pursuit of fame,

Justinian might have lost his present dominion over the age and weakness

of his uncle; and instead of acquiring by Scythian or Persian trophies the applause of his countrymen, the prudent warrior solicited their favor in the churches, the circus, and the senate, of Constantinople. the Catholics were attached to the nephew of Justin, who, between the

Nestorian and Eutychian heresies, trod the narrow path of inflexible and

intolerant orthodoxy. In the first days of the new reign, he prompted and gratified the popular enthusiasm against the memory of the deceased emperor. After a schism of thirty-four years, he reconciled the proud and angry spirit of the Roman pontiff, and spread among the Latins a favorable report of his pious respect for the apostolic see. The thrones

of the East were filled with Catholic bishops, devoted to his interest, the clergy and the monks were gained by his liberality, and the people were taught to pray for their future sovereign, the hope and pillar of the true religion. The magnificence of Justinian was displayed in the

superior pomp of his public spectacles, an object not less sacred and important in the eyes of the multitude than the creed of Nice or chalcedon: the expense of his consulship was esteemed at two hundred and twenty-eight thousand pieces of gold; twenty lions, and thirty leopards, were produced at the same time in the amphitheatre, and a numerous train

of horses, with their rich trappings, was bestowed as an extraordinary

gift on the victorious charioteers of the circus. While he indulged the

people of Constantinople, and received the addresses of foreign kings, the nephew of Justin assiduously cultivated the friendship of the

senate. That venerable name seemed to qualify its members to declare the sense of the nation, and to regulate the succession of the Imperial throne: the feeble Anastasius had permitted the vigor of government to degenerate into the form or substance of an aristocracy; and the

military officers who had obtained the senatorial rank were followed by their domestic guards, a band of veterans, whose arms or acclamations

might fix in a tumultuous moment the diadem of the East. The treasures

of the state were lavished to procure the voices of the senators, and their unanimous wish, that he would be pleased to adopt Justinian for

his colleague, was communicated to the emperor. But this request, which too clearly admonished him of his approaching end, was unwelcome to the

jealous temper of an aged monarch, desirous to retain the power which

he was incapable of exercising; and Justin, holding his purple with both

his hands, advised them to prefer, since an election was so profitable,

some older candidate. Not withstanding this reproach, the

senate proceeded to decorate Justinian with the royal epithet of

\_nobilissimus\_; and their decree was ratified by the affection or the fears of his uncle. After some time the languor of mind and body, to which he was reduced by an incurable wound in his thigh, indispensably

required the aid of a guardian. He summoned the patriarch and senators; and in their presence solemnly placed the diadem on the head of his

nephew, who was conducted from the palace to the circus, and saluted by the loud and joyful applause of the people. The life of Justin was

prolonged about four months; but from the instant of this ceremony, he was considered as dead to the empire, which acknowledged Justinian, in the forty-fifth year of his age, for the lawful sovereign of the East.

from his elevation to his death, Justinian governed the Roman empire thirty-eight years, seven months, and thirteen days. The events of his

reign, which excite our curious attention by their number, variety, and

importance, are diligently related by the secretary of Belisarius, a

rhetorician, whom eloquence had promoted to the rank of senator and

præfect of Constantinople. According to the vicissitudes of courage or

servitude, of favor or disgrace, Procopius successively composed the

\_history\_, the \_panegyric\_, and the \_satire\_ of his own times. The eight books of the Persian, Vandalic, and Gothic wars, which are continued

in the five books of Agathias, deserve our esteem as a laborious and

successful imitation of the Attic, or at least of the Asiatic, writers

of ancient Greece. His facts are collected from the personal experience and free conversation of a soldier, a statesman, and a traveller; his

style continually aspires, and often attains, to the merit of strength and elegance; his reflections, more especially in the speeches, which he too frequently inserts, contain a rich fund of political knowledge; and the historian, excited by the generous ambition of pleasing and

instructing posterity, appears to disdain the prejudices of the people, and the flattery of courts. The writings of Procopius were read and applauded by his contemporaries: but, although he respectfully laid them at the foot of the throne, the pride of Justinian must have been wounded by the praise of a hero, who perpetually eclipses the glory of his

inactive sovereign. The conscious dignity of independence was subdued by the hopes and fears of a slave; and the secretary of Belisarius labored for pardon and reward in the six books of the Imperial \_edifices\_. He

had dexterously chosen a subject of apparent splendor, in which he could loudly celebrate the genius, the magnificence, and the piety of a prince, who, both as a conqueror and legislator, had surpassed the

puerile virtues of Themistocles and Cyrus. Disappointment might urge the flatterer to secret revenge; and the first glance of favor might again tempt him to suspend and suppress a libel, in which the Roman Cyrus

is degraded into an odious and contemptible tyrant, in which both the emperor and his consort Theodora are seriously represented as two dæmons, who had assumed a human form for the destruction of mankind.

Such base inconsistency must doubtless sully the reputation, and detract from the credit, of Procopius: yet, after the venom of his malignity has been suffered to exhale, the residue of the \_anecdotes\_, even the most disgraceful facts, some of which had been tenderly hinted in his public

history, are established by their internal evidence, or the authentic

monuments of the times. From these various materials, I shall now

proceed to describe the reign of Justinian, which will deserve and

occupy an ample space. The present chapter will explain the elevation and character of Theodora, the factions of the circus, and the peaceful administration of the sovereign of the East. In the three succeeding chapters, I shall relate the wars of Justinian, which achieved the conquest of Africa and Italy; and I shall follow the victories of belisarius and Narses, without disguising the vanity of their triumphs,

or the hostile virtue of the Persian and Gothic heroes. The series

of this and the following volume will embrace the jurisprudence and theology of the emperor; the controversies and sects which still divide the Oriental church; the reformation of the Roman law which is obeyed or

respected by the nations of modern Europe.

I. In the exercise of supreme power, the first act of Justinian was to divide it with the woman whom he loved, the famous Theodora, whose

strange elevation cannot be applauded as the triumph of female virtue.

Under the reign of Anastasius, the care of the wild beasts maintained by the green faction at Constantinople was intrusted to Acacius, a native

of the Isle of Cyprus, who, from his employment, was surnamed the master

of the bears. This honorable office was given after his death to another candidate, notwithstanding the diligence of his widow, who had already

provided a husband and a successor. Acacius had left three daughters, comito, Theodora, and Anastasia, the eldest of whom did not then exceed the age of seven years. On a solemn festival, these helpless orphans were sent by their distressed and indignant mother, in the garb of

suppliants, into the midst of the theatre: the green faction received them with contempt, the blues with compassion; and this difference, which sunk deep into the mind of Theodora, was felt long afterwards in the administration of the empire. As they improved in age and beauty, the three sisters were successively devoted to the public and private

pleasures of the Byzantine people: and Theodora, after following Comito

on the stage, in the dress of a slave, with a stool on her head, was at length permitted to exercise her independent talents. She neither danced, nor sung, nor played on the flute; her skill was confined to the

pantomime arts; she excelled in buffoon characters, and as often as the comedian swelled her cheeks, and complained with a ridiculous tone and gesture of the blows that were inflicted, the whole theatre of constantinople resounded with laughter and applause. The beauty of theodora was the subject of more flattering praise, and the source of

more exquisite delight. Her features were delicate and regular; her complexion, though somewhat pale, was tinged with a natural color; every

sensation was instantly expressed by the vivacity of her eyes; her easy

motions displayed the graces of a small but elegant figure; and either love or adulation might proclaim, that painting and poetry were

incapable of delineating the matchless excellence of her form. But this form was degraded by the facility with which it was exposed to the

public eye, and prostituted to licentious desire. Her venal charms were abandoned to a promiscuous crowd of citizens and strangers of every

rank, and of every profession: the fortunate lover who had been promised a night of enjoyment, was often driven from her bed by a stronger or

more wealthy favorite; and when she passed through the streets, her

presence was avoided by all who wished to escape either the scandal or the temptation. The satirical historian has not blushed to describe the

naked scenes which Theodora was not ashamed to exhibit in the theatre. after exhausting the arts of sensual pleasure, she most ungratefully

murmured against the parsimony of Nature; but her murmurs, her

pleasures, and her arts, must be veiled in the obscurity of a learned

language. After reigning for some time, the delight and contempt of the capital, she condescended to accompany Ecebolus, a native of Tyre, who

had obtained the government of the African Pentapolis. But this

union was frail and transient; Ecebolus soon rejected an expensive or faithless concubine; she was reduced at Alexandria to extreme distress; and in her laborious return to Constantinople, every city of the East admired and enjoyed the fair Cyprian, whose merit appeared to justify

her descent from the peculiar island of Venus. The vague commerce of theodora, and the most detestable precautions, preserved her from the danger which she feared; yet once, and once only, she became a mother. the infant was saved and educated in Arabia, by his father, who imparted to him on his death-bed, that he was the son of an empress. Filled with ambitious hopes, the unsuspecting youth immediately hastened to the

palace of Constantinople, and was admitted to the presence of his

mother. As he was never more seen, even after the decease of Theodora,

she deserves the foul imputation of extinguishing with his life a secret

so offensive to her Imperial virtue.

In the most abject state of her fortune, and reputation, some vision, either of sleep or of fancy, had whispered to Theodora the pleasing assurance that she was destined to become the spouse of a potent

monarch. Conscious of her approaching greatness, she returned from

Paphlagonia to Constantinople; assumed, like a skilful actress, a more decent character; relieved her poverty by the laudable industry of

spinning wool; and affected a life of chastity and solitude in a small

house, which she afterwards changed into a magnificent temple. Her beauty, assisted by art or accident, soon attracted, captivated, and fixed, the patrician Justinian, who already reigned with absolute sway

under the name of his uncle. Perhaps she contrived to enhance the value

of a gift which she had so often lavished on the meanest of mankind;

perhaps she inflamed, at first by modest delays, and at last by sensual allurements, the desires of a lover, who, from nature or devotion, was addicted to long vigils and abstemious diet. When his first transports

had subsided, she still maintained the same ascendant over his mind, by the more solid merit of temper and understanding. Justinian delighted to ennoble and enrich the object of his affection; the treasures of the east were poured at her feet, and the nephew of Justin was determined,

perhaps by religious scruples, to bestow on his concubine the sacred and

legal character of a wife. But the laws of Rome expressly prohibited the marriage of a senator with any female who had been dishonored by a servile origin or theatrical profession: the empress Lupicina, or euphemia, a Barbarian of rustic manners, but of irreproachable virtue,

refused to accept a prostitute for her niece; and even Vigilantia, the

superstitious mother of Justinian, though she acknowledged the wit and beauty of Theodora, was seriously apprehensive, lest the levity and arrogance of that artful paramour might corrupt the piety and happiness

of her son. These obstacles were removed by the inflexible constancy of

Justinian. He patiently expected the death of the empress; he despised the tears of his mother, who soon sunk under the weight of her affliction; and a law was promulgated in the name of the emperor

Justin, which abolished the rigid jurisprudence of antiquity. A glorious

repentance (the words of the edict) was left open for the unhappy females who had prostituted their persons on the theatre, and they were

permitted to contract a legal union with the most illustrious of the

Romans. This indulgence was speedily followed by the solemn nuptials of

Justinian and Theodora; her dignity was gradually exalted with that

of her lover, and, as soon as Justin had invested his nephew with the

purple, the patriarch of Constantinople placed the diadem on the heads

of the emperor and empress of the East. But the usual honors which the

severity of Roman manners had allowed to the wives of princes, could not

satisfy either the ambition of Theodora or the fondness of Justinian.

He seated her on the throne as an equal and independent colleague in the

sovereignty of the empire, and an oath of allegiance was imposed on the

governors of the provinces in the joint names of Justinian and Theodora. the Eastern world fell prostrate before the genius and fortune of the daughter of Acacius. The prostitute who, in the presence of innumerable

spectators, had polluted the theatre of Constantinople, was adored as a queen in the same city, by grave magistrates, orthodox bishops,

victorious generals, and captive monarchs.

chapter XL: Reign Of Justinian.--Part II.

those who believe that the female mind is totally depraved by the loss

of chastity, will eagerly listen to all the invectives of private envy,

or popular resentment which have dissembled the virtues of Theodora, exaggerated her vices, and condemned with rigor the venal or voluntary

sins of the youthful harlot. From a motive of shame, or contempt, she

often declined the servile homage of the multitude, escaped from the

odious light of the capital, and passed the greatest part of the year in the palaces and gardens which were pleasantly seated on the sea-coast of the Propontis and the Bosphorus. Her private hours were devoted to the

prudent as well as grateful care of her beauty, the luxury of the bath and table, and the long slumber of the evening and the morning. Her

secret apartments were occupied by the favorite women and eunuchs, whose

interests and passions she indulged at the expense of justice; the most

illustrious person ages of the state were crowded into a dark and sultry antechamber, and when at last, after tedious attendance, they were admitted to kiss the feet of Theodora, they experienced, as her humor

might suggest, the silent arrogance of an empress, or the capricious

levity of a comedian. Her rapacious avarice to accumulate an immense treasure, may be excused by the apprehension of her husband's death, which could leave no alternative between ruin and the throne; and fear as well as ambition might exasperate Theodora against two generals, who, during the malady of the emperor, had rashly declared that they were not disposed to acquiesce in the choice of the capital. But the reproach of cruelty, so repugnant even to her softer vices, has left an indelible

stain on the memory of Theodora. Her numerous spies observed, and

zealously reported, every action, or word, or look, injurious to their

royal mistress. Whomsoever they accused were cast into her peculiar

prisons, inaccessible to the inquiries of justice; and it was rumored, that the torture of the rack, or scourge, had been inflicted in the

presence of the female tyrant, insensible to the voice of prayer or

of pity. Some of these unhappy victims perished in deep, unwholesome dungeons, while others were permitted, after the loss of their limbs, their reason, or their fortunes, to appear in the world, the living

monuments of her vengeance, which was commonly extended to the children

of those whom she had suspected or injured. The senator or bishop, whose death or exile Theodora had pronounced, was delivered to a trusty

messenger, and his diligence was quickened by a menace from her own

mouth. "If you fail in the execution of my commands, I swear by Him who

liveth forever, that your skin shall be flayed from your body."

If the creed of Theodora had not been tainted with heresy, her exemplary devotion might have atoned, in the opinion of her contemporaries, for

pride, avarice, and cruelty. But, if she employed her influence to assuage the intolerant fury of the emperor, the present age will allow

some merit to her religion, and much indulgence to her speculative errors. The name of Theodora was introduced, with equal honor, in all the pious and charitable foundations of Justinian; and the most benevolent institution of his reign may be ascribed to the sympathy

of the empress for her less fortunate sisters, who had been seduced or compelled to embrace the trade of prostitution. A palace, on the asiatic side of the Bosphorus, was converted into a stately and spacious

monastery, and a liberal maintenance was assigned to five hundred women, who had been collected from the streets and brothels of Constantinople.

In this safe and holy retreat, they were devoted to perpetual confinement; and the despair of some, who threw themselves headlong

into the sea, was lost in the gratitude of the penitents, who had been delivered from sin and misery by their generous benefactress. The

prudence of Theodora is celebrated by Justinian himself; and his laws are attributed to the sage counsels of his most reverend wife whom he

had received as the gift of the Deity. Her courage was displayed amidst the tumult of the people and the terrors of the court. Her chastity, from the moment of her union with Justinian, is founded on the silence

of her implacable enemies; and although the daughter of Acacius might be

satiated with love, yet some applause is due to the firmness of a mind which could sacrifice pleasure and habit to the stronger sense either of duty or interest. The wishes and prayers of Theodora could never obtain the blessing of a lawful son, and she buried an infant daughter, the

sole offspring of her marriage. Notwithstanding this disappointment, her dominion was permanent and absolute; she preserved, by art or merit, the affections of Justinian; and their seeming dissensions were always fatal to the courtiers who believed them to be sincere. Perhaps her health

had been impaired by the licentiousness of her youth; but it was always delicate, and she was directed by her physicians to use the Pythian warm baths. In this journey, the empress was followed by the Prætorian

præfect, the great treasurer, several counts and patricians, and a

splendid train of four thousand attendants: the highways were repaired at her approach; a palace was erected for her reception; and as she

passed through Bithynia, she distributed liberal alms to the churches, the monasteries, and the hospitals, that they might implore Heaven for the restoration of her health. At length, in the twenty-fourth year of

her marriage, and the twenty-second of her reign, she was consumed by a cancer; and the irreparable loss was deplored by her husband, who, in the room of a theatrical prostitute, might have selected the purest and

most noble virgin of the East.

II. A material difference may be observed in the games of antiquity: the most eminent of the Greeks were actors, the Romans were merely

spectators. The Olympic stadium was open to wealth, merit, and ambition; and if the candidates could depend on their personal skill and activity, they might pursue the footsteps of Diomede and Menelaus, and conduct their own horses in the rapid career. Ten, twenty, forty chariots were allowed to start at the same instant; a crown of leaves was the reward

of the victor; and his fame, with that of his family and country, was chanted in lyric strains more durable than monuments of brass and

marble. But a senator, or even a citizen, conscious of his dignity, would have blushed to expose his person, or his horses, in the circus

of Rome. The games were exhibited at the expense of the republic, the

magistrates, or the emperors: but the reins were abandoned to servile

hands; and if the profits of a favorite charioteer sometimes exceeded those of an advocate, they must be considered as the effects of popular extravagance, and the high wages of a disgraceful profession. The race,

in its first institution, was a simple contest of two chariots, whose drivers were distinguished by \_white\_ and \_red\_ liveries: two additional colors, a light \_green\_, and a cærulean \_blue\_, were afterwards

introduced; and as the races were repeated twenty-five times, one

hundred chariots contributed in the same day to the pomp of the circus. The four \_factions\_ soon acquired a legal establishment, and a mysterious origin, and their fanciful colors were derived from the

various appearances of nature in the four seasons of the year; the red dogstar of summer, the snows of winter, the deep shades of autumn, and the cheerful verdure of the spring. Another interpretation preferred the elements to the seasons, and the struggle of the green and blue was supposed to represent the conflict of the earth and sea. Their

respective victories announced either a plentiful harvest or a

prosperous navigation, and the hostility of the husbandmen and mariners was somewhat less absurd than the blind ardor of the Roman people, who devoted their lives and fortunes to the color which they had espoused.

Such folly was disdained and indulged by the wisest princes; but the

names of Caligula, Nero, Vitellius, Verus, Commodus, Caracalla, and elagabalus, were enrolled in the blue or green factions of the circus; they frequented their stables, applauded their favorites, chastised their antagonists, and deserved the esteem of the populace, by the natural or affected imitation of their manners. The bloody and tumultuous contest continued to disturb the public festivity, till the

last age of the spectacles of Rome; and Theodoric, from a motive of

justice or affection, interposed his authority to protect the greens against the violence of a consul and a patrician, who were passionately addicted to the blue faction of the circus.

constantinople adopted the follies, though not the virtues, of ancient

Rome; and the same factions which had agitated the circus, raged with

redoubled fury in the hippodrome. Under the reign of Anastasius, this

popular frenzy was inflamed by religious zeal; and the greens, who

had treacherously concealed stones and daggers under baskets of fruit, massacred, at a solemn festival, three thousand of their blue adversaries. From this capital, the pestilence was diffused into the

provinces and cities of the East, and the sportive distinction of two colors produced two strong and irreconcilable factions, which shook the foundations of a feeble government. The popular dissensions, founded on the most serious interest, or holy pretence, have scarcely equalled the

obstinacy of this wanton discord, which invaded the peace of families, divided friends and brothers, and tempted the female sex, though seldom

seen in the circus, to espouse the inclinations of their lovers, or to contradict the wishes of their husbands. Every law, either human

or divine, was trampled under foot, and as long as the party was

successful, its deluded followers appeared careless of private distress

or public calamity. The license, without the freedom, of democracy, was revived at Antioch and Constantinople, and the support of a faction became necessary to every candidate for civil or ecclesiastical honors. a secret attachment to the family or sect of Anastasius was imputed to the greens; the blues were zealously devoted to the cause of orthodoxy and Justinian, and their grateful patron protected, above five years, the disorders of a faction, whose seasonable tumults overawed the

palace, the senate, and the capitals of the East. Insolent with royal favor, the blues affected to strike terror by a peculiar and Barbaric dress, the long hair of the Huns, their close sleeves and ample

garments, a lofty step, and a sonorous voice. In the day they concealed their two-edged poniards, but in the night they boldly assembled in arms, and in numerous bands, prepared for every act of violence and

rapine. Their adversaries of the green faction, or even inoffensive citizens, were stripped and often murdered by these nocturnal robbers, and it became dangerous to wear any gold buttons or girdles, or to appear at a late hour in the streets of a peaceful capital. A daring

spirit, rising with impunity, proceeded to violate the safeguard of

private houses; and fire was employed to facilitate the attack, or to conceal the crimes of these factious rioters. No place was safe or

sacred from their depredations; to gratify either avarice or revenge, they profusely spilt the blood of the innocent; churches and altars were

polluted by atrocious murders; and it was the boast of the assassins, that their dexterity could always inflict a mortal wound with a single

stroke of their dagger. The dissolute youth of Constantinople adopted the blue livery of disorder; the laws were silent, and the bonds

of society were relaxed: creditors were compelled to resign their

obligations; judges to reverse their sentence; masters to enfranchise their slaves; fathers to supply the extravagance of their children;

noble matrons were prostituted to the lust of their servants; beautiful boys were torn from the arms of their parents; and wives, unless they

preferred a voluntary death, were ravished in the presence of their

husbands. The despair of the greens, who were persecuted by their enemies, and deserted by the magistrates, assumed the privilege of defence, perhaps of retaliation; but those who survived the combat were dragged to execution, and the unhappy fugitives, escaping to woods and caverns, preyed without mercy on the society from whence they were expelled. Those ministers of justice who had courage to punish the crimes, and to brave the resentment, of the blues, became the victims

of their indiscreet zeal; a præfect of Constantinople fled for refuge to the holy sepulchre, a count of the East was ignominiously whipped, and a

governor of Cilicia was hanged, by the order of Theodora, on the tomb of two assassins whom he had condemned for the murder of his groom, and a daring attack upon his own life. An aspiring candidate may be tempted to build his greatness on the public confusion, but it is the interest as well as duty of a sovereign to maintain the authority of the laws. the first edict of Justinian, which was often repeated, and sometimes executed, announced his firm resolution to support the innocent, and to chastise the guilty, of every denomination and \_color\_. Yet the balance

of justice was still inclined in favor of the blue faction, by the

secret affection, the habits, and the fears of the emperor; his equity, after an apparent struggle, submitted, without reluctance, to the

implacable passions of Theodora, and the empress never forgot, or forgave, the injuries of the comedian. At the accession of the younger

Justin, the proclamation of equal and rigorous justice indirectly condemned the partiality of the former reign. "Ye blues, Justinian is no

more! ye greens, he is still alive!"

a sedition, which almost laid Constantinople in ashes, was excited by the mutual hatred and momentary reconciliation of the two factions. In the fifth year of his reign, Justinian celebrated the festival of the

ides of January; the games were incessantly disturbed by the clamorous discontent of the greens: till the twenty-second race, the emperor

maintained his silent gravity; at length, yielding to his impatience, he condescended to hold, in abrupt sentences, and by the voice of a crier, the most singular dialogue that ever passed between a prince and his

subjects. Their first complaints were respectful and modest; they accused the subordinate ministers of oppression, and proclaimed their wishes for the long life and victory of the emperor. "Be patient and attentive, ye insolent railers!" exclaimed Justinian; "be mute, ye Jews,

Samaritans, and Manichæans!" The greens still attempted to awaken his compassion. "We are poor, we are innocent, we are injured, we dare not

pass through the streets: a general persecution is exercised against our

name and color. Let us die, O emperor! but let us die by your command, and for your service!" But the repetition of partial and passionate

invectives degraded, in their eyes, the majesty of the purple; they

renounced allegiance to the prince who refused justice to his people;

lamented that the father of Justinian had been born; and branded his son with the opprobrious names of a homicide, an ass, and a perjured tyrant.

"Do you despise your lives?" cried the indignant monarch: the blues

rose with fury from their seats; their hostile clamors thundered in the

hippodrome; and their adversaries, deserting the unequal contest spread terror and despair through the streets of Constantinople. At this dangerous moment, seven notorious assassins of both factions, who

had been condemned by the præfect, were carried round the city, and afterwards transported to the place of execution in the suburb of Pera. four were immediately beheaded; a fifth was hanged: but when the same

punishment was inflicted on the remaining two, the rope broke, they fell alive to the ground, the populace applauded their escape, and the monks

of St. Conon, issuing from the neighboring convent, conveyed them in a boat to the sanctuary of the church. As one of these criminals was

of the blue, and the other of the green livery, the two factions were equally provoked by the cruelty of their oppressor, or the ingratitude

of their patron; and a short truce was concluded till they had delivered their prisoners and satisfied their revenge. The palace of the præfect, who withstood the seditious torrent, was instantly burnt, his officers and guards were massacred, the prisons were forced open, and freedom was

restored to those who could only use it for the public destruction. a military force, which had been despatched to the aid of the civil

magistrate, was fiercely encountered by an armed multitude, whose

numbers and boldness continually increased; and the Heruli, the wildest barbarians in the service of the empire, overturned the priests and their relics, which, from a pious motive, had been rashly interposed to separate the bloody conflict. The tumult was exasperated by this

sacrilege, the people fought with enthusiasm in the cause of God; the women, from the roofs and windows, showered stones on the heads of the

soldiers, who darted fire brands against the houses; and the various flames, which had been kindled by the hands of citizens and strangers,

spread without control over the face of the city. The conflagration

involved the cathedral of St. Sophia, the baths of Zeuxippus, a part of the palace, from the first entrance to the altar of Mars, and the long

portico from the palace to the forum of Constantine: a large hospital, with the sick patients, was consumed; many churches and stately edifices were destroyed and an immense treasure of gold and silver was either

melted or lost. From such scenes of horror and distress, the wise and wealthy citizens escaped over the Bosphorus to the Asiatic side; and during five days Constantinople was abandoned to the factions, whose watchword, \_Nika\_, \_vanquish!\_ has given a name to this memorable

sedition.

as long as the factions were divided, the triumphant blues, and desponding greens, appeared to behold with the same indifference the disorders of the state. They agreed to censure the corrupt management of

justice and the finance; and the two responsible ministers, the artful tribonian, and the rapacious John of Cappadocia, were loudly arraigned as the authors of the public misery. The peaceful murmurs of the people would have been disregarded: they were heard with respect when the city was in flames; the quæstor, and the præfect, were instantly removed, and their offices were filled by two senators of blameless integrity. after this popular concession, Justinian proceeded to the hippodrome to confess his own errors, and to accept the repentance of his grateful

subjects; but they distrusted his assurances, though solemnly pronounced

in the presence of the holy Gospels; and the emperor, alarmed by their distrust, retreated with precipitation to the strong fortress of the

palace. The obstinacy of the tumult was now imputed to a secret and ambitious conspiracy, and a suspicion was entertained, that the

insurgents, more especially the green faction, had been supplied with arms and money by Hypatius and Pompey, two patricians, who could neither forget with honor, nor remember with safety, that they were the

nephews of the emperor Anastasius. Capriciously trusted, disgraced, and

pardoned, by the jealous levity of the monarch, they had appeared as

loyal servants before the throne; and, during five days of the tumult, they were detained as important hostages; till at length, the fears of

Justinian prevailing over his prudence, he viewed the two brothers in the light of spies, perhaps of assassins, and sternly commanded them to depart from the palace. After a fruitless representation, that obedience

might lead to involuntary treason, they retired to their houses, and in the morning of the sixth day, Hypatius was surrounded and seized by the

people, who, regardless of his virtuous resistance, and the tears of

his wife, transported their favorite to the forum of Constantine, and

instead of a diadem, placed a rich collar on his head. If the usurper, who afterwards pleaded the merit of his delay, had complied with the advice of his senate, and urged the fury of the multitude, their first

irresistible effort might have oppressed or expelled his trembling competitor. The Byzantine palace enjoyed a free communication with the

sea; vessels lay ready at the garden stairs; and a secret resolution was already formed, to convey the emperor with his family and treasures to a

safe retreat, at some distance from the capital.

Justinian was lost, if the prostitute whom he raised from the theatre

had not renounced the timidity, as well as the virtues, of her sex. In the midst of a council, where Belisarius was present, Theodora alone displayed the spirit of a hero; and she alone, without apprehending his future hatred, could save the emperor from the imminent danger, and his

unworthy fears. "If flight," said the consort of Justinian, "were the only means of safety, yet I should disdain to fly. Death is the condition of our birth; but they who have reigned should never survive the loss of dignity and dominion. I implore Heaven, that I may never be seen, not a day, without my diadem and purple; that I may no longer behold the light, when I cease to be saluted with the name of queen. If

you resolve, O Cæsar! to fly, you have treasures; behold the sea, you

have ships; but tremble lest the desire of life should expose you to wretched exile and ignominious death. For my own part, I adhere to the maxim of antiquity, that the throne is a glorious sepulchre." The firmness of a woman restored the courage to deliberate and act, and courage soon discovers the resources of the most desperate situation.

It was an easy and a decisive measure to revive the animosity of the factions; the blues were astonished at their own guilt and folly, that a trifling injury should provoke them to conspire with their implacable enemies against a gracious and liberal benefactor; they again proclaimed the majesty of Justinian; and the greens, with their upstart emperor, were left alone in the hippodrome. The fidelity of the guards was doubtful; but the military force of Justinian consisted in three thousand veterans, who had been trained to valor and discipline in the

Persian and Illyrian wars. Under the command of Belisarius and Mundus, they silently marched in two divisions from the palace, forced their

obscure way through narrow passages, expiring flames, and falling edifices, and burst open at the same moment the two opposite gates of the hippodrome. In this narrow space, the disorderly and affrighted crowd was incapable of resisting on either side a firm and regular attack; the blues signalized the fury of their repentance; and it is computed, that above thirty thousand persons were slain in the merciless and promiscuous carnage of the day. Hypatius was dragged from his throne, and conducted, with his brother Pompey, to the feet of the emperor: they implored his clemency; but their crime was manifest, their innocence uncertain, and Justinian had been too much terrified to forgive. The next morning the two nephews of Anastasius, with eighteen

\_illustrious\_ accomplices, of patrician or consular rank, were privately executed by the soldiers; their bodies were thrown into the sea, their

palaces razed, and their fortunes confiscated. The hippodrome itself was condemned, during several years, to a mournful silence: with the

restoration of the games, the same disorders revived; and the blue and green factions continued to afflict the reign of Justinian, and to disturb the tranquility of the Eastern empire.

III. That empire, after Rome was barbarous, still embraced the nations whom she had conquered beyond the Adriatic, and as far as the frontiers

of Æthiopia and Persia. Justinian reigned over sixty-four provinces, and nine hundred and thirty-five cities; his dominions were blessed by nature with the advantages of soil, situation, and climate: and the

improvements of human art had been perpetually diffused along the coast

of the Mediterranean and the banks of the Nile from ancient Troy to the egyptian Thebes. Abraham had been relieved by the well-known plenty of egypt; the same country, a small and populous tract, was still capable

of exporting, each year, two hundred and sixty thousand quarters of wheat for the use of Constantinople; and the capital of Justinian was

supplied with the manufactures of Sidon, fifteen centuries after they had been celebrated in the poems of Homer. The annual powers of

vegetation, instead of being exhausted by two thousand harvests, were renewed and invigorated by skilful husbandry, rich manure, and seasonable repose. The breed of domestic animals was infinitely

multiplied. Plantations, buildings, and the instruments of labor and luxury, which are more durable than the term of human life, were accumulated by the care of successive generations. Tradition preserved, and experience simplified, the humble practice of the arts: society was enriched by the division of labor and the facility of exchange; and every Roman was lodged, clothed, and subsisted, by the industry of a thousand hands. The invention of the loom and distaff has been piously ascribed to the gods. In every age, a variety of animal and vegetable

productions, hair, skins, wool, flax, cotton, and at length \_silk\_, have been skilfully manufactured to hide or adorn the human body; they were stained with an infusion of permanent colors; and the pencil was

successfully employed to improve the labors of the loom. In the choice

of those colors which imitate the beauties of nature, the freedom of taste and fashion was indulged; but the deep purple which the Phnicians extracted from a shell-fish, was restrained to the sacred person and

palace of the emperor; and the penalties of treason were denounced against the ambitious subjects who dared to usurp the prerogative of the throne.

chapter XL: Reign Of Justinian.--Part III.

I need not explain that \_silk\_ is originally spun from the bowels of a caterpillar, and that it composes the golden tomb, from whence a worm emerges in the form of a butterfly. Till the reign of Justinian, the silk-worm who feed on the leaves of the white mulberry-tree were confined to China; those of the pine, the oak, and the ash, were common

in the forests both of Asia and Europe; but as their education is

more difficult, and their produce more uncertain, they were generally

neglected, except in the little island of Ceos, near the coast of attica. A thin gauze was procured from their webs, and this Cean

manufacture, the invention of a woman, for female use, was long admired both in the East and at Rome. Whatever suspicions may be raised by the

garments of the Medes and Assyrians, Virgil is the most ancient writer, who expressly mentions the soft wool which was combed from the trees of the Seres or Chinese; and this natural error, less marvellous than the truth, was slowly corrected by the knowledge of a valuable insect, the first artificer of the luxury of nations. That rare and elegant luxury was censured, in the reign of Tiberius, by the gravest of the Romans; and Pliny, in affected though forcible language, has condemned the thirst of gain, which explores the last confines of the earth, for the

pernicious purpose of exposing to the public eye naked draperies and transparent matrons. A dress which showed the turn of the limbs, and color of the skin, might gratify vanity, or provoke desire; the silks which had been closely woven in China were sometimes unravelled by the

Phnician women, and the precious materials were multiplied by a looser texture, and the intermixture of linen threads. Two hundred years after the age of Pliny, the use of pure, or even of mixed silks, was confined to the female sex, till the opulent citizens of Rome and the provinces were insensibly familiarized with the example of Elagabalus, the first who, by this effeminate habit, had sullied the dignity of an emperor and a man. Aurelian complained, that a pound of silk was sold at Rome for twelve ounces of gold; but the supply increased with the demand, and the price diminished with the supply. If accident or monopoly sometimes

raised the value even above the standard of Aurelian, the manufacturers

of Tyre and Berytus were sometimes compelled, by the operation of the

same causes, to content themselves with a ninth part of that extravagant

rate. A law was thought necessary to discriminate the dress of comedians from that of senators; and of the silk exported from its native country the far greater part was consumed by the subjects of Justinian. they were still more intimately acquainted with a shell-fish of the

Mediterranean, surnamed the silk-worm of the sea: the fine wool or

hair by which the mother-of-pearl affixes itself to the rock is now

manufactured for curiosity rather than use; and a robe obtained from the

same singular materials was the gift of the Roman emperor to the satraps

of Armenia.

a valuable merchandise of small bulk is capable of defraying the expense

of land-carriage; and the caravans traversed the whole latitude of asia in two hundred and forty-three days from the Chinese Ocean to the

sea-coast of Syria. Silk was immediately delivered to the Romans by the

Persian merchants, who frequented the fairs of Armenia and Nisibis; but this trade, which in the intervals of truce was oppressed by avarice and jealousy, was totally interrupted by the long wars of the rival

monarchies. The great king might proudly number Sogdiana, and even

\_Serica\_, among the provinces of his empire; but his real dominion was bounded by the Oxus and his useful intercourse with the Sogdoites, beyond the river, depended on the pleasure of their conquerors, the white Huns, and the Turks, who successively reigned over that

industrious people. Yet the most savage dominion has not extirpated the

seeds of agriculture and commerce, in a region which is celebrated as

one of the four gardens of Asia; the cities of Samarcand and Bochara are advantageously seated for the exchange of its various productions; and their merchants purchased from the Chinese, the raw or manufactured silk which they transported into Persia for the use of the Roman empire. In the vain capital of China, the Sogdian caravans were entertained as the suppliant embassies of tributary kingdoms, and if they returned in

safety, the bold adventure was rewarded with exorbitant gain. But the difficult and perilous march from Samarcand to the first town of Shensi, could not be performed in less than sixty, eighty, or one hundred days: as soon as they had passed the Jaxartes they entered the desert; and the wandering hordes, unless they are restrained by armies and garrisons,

have always considered the citizen and the traveller as the objects of

lawful rapine. To escape the Tartar robbers, and the tyrants of Persia, the silk caravans explored a more southern road; they traversed the

mountains of Thibet, descended the streams of the Ganges or the Indus, and patiently expected, in the ports of Guzerat and Malabar, the annual fleets of the West. But the dangers of the desert were found less

intolerable than toil, hunger, and the loss of time; the attempt was

seldom renewed, and the only European who has passed that unfrequented way, applauds his own diligence, that, in nine months after his departure from Pekin, he reached the mouth of the Indus. The ocean,

however, was open to the free communication of mankind. From the great

river to the tropic of Cancer, the provinces of China were subdued and civilized by the emperors of the North; they were filled about the time of the Christian æra with cities and men, mulberry-trees and their

precious inhabitants; and if the Chinese, with the knowledge of the compass, had possessed the genius of the Greeks or Phnicians, they might

have spread their discoveries over the southern hemisphere. I am not

qualified to examine, and I am not disposed to believe, their distant

voyages to the Persian Gulf, or the Cape of Good Hope; but their ancestors might equal the labors and success of the present race, and the sphere of their navigation might extend from the Isles of Japan to the Straits of Malacca, the pillars, if we may apply that name, of an

Oriental Hercules. Without losing sight of land, they might sail along the coast to the extreme promontory of Achin, which is annually visited by ten or twelve ships laden with the productions, the manufactures, and even the artificers of China; the Island of Sumatra and the opposite

peninsula are faintly delineated as the regions of gold and silver; and the trading cities named in the geography of Ptolemy may indicate, that this wealth was not solely derived from the mines. The direct interval between Sumatra and Ceylon is about three hundred leagues: the Chinese and Indian navigators were conducted by the flight of birds and

periodical winds; and the ocean might be securely traversed in

square-built ships, which, instead of iron, were sewed together with the strong thread of the cocoanut. Ceylon, Serendib, or Taprobana, was divided between two hostile princes; one of whom possessed the

mountains, the elephants, and the luminous carbuncle, and the other enjoyed the more solid riches of domestic industry, foreign trade, and the capacious harbor of Trinquemale, which received and dismissed the fleets of the East and West. In this hospitable isle, at an equal distance (as it was computed) from their respective countries, the silk

merchants of China, who had collected in their voyages aloes, cloves,

nutmeg, and sandal wood, maintained a free and beneficial commerce with the inhabitants of the Persian Gulf. The subjects of the great king exalted, without a rival, his power and magnificence: and the Roman, who confounded their vanity by comparing his paltry coin with a gold medal

of the emperor Anastasius, had sailed to Ceylon, in an Æthiopian ship, as a simple passenger.

as silk became of indispensable use, the emperor Justinian saw with concern that the Persians had occupied by land and sea the monopoly

of this important supply, and that the wealth of his subjects was continually drained by a nation of enemies and idolaters. An active

government would have restored the trade of Egypt and the navigation of the Red Sea, which had decayed with the prosperity of the empire; and the Roman vessels might have sailed, for the purchase of silk, to the

ports of Ceylon, of Malacca, or even of China. Justinian embraced a more

humble expedient, and solicited the aid of his Christian allies, the Æthiopians of Abyssinia, who had recently acquired the arts of

navigation, the spirit of trade, and the seaport of Adulis, still decorated with the trophies of a Grecian conqueror. Along the African coast, they penetrated to the equator in search of gold, emeralds, and aromatics; but they wisely declined an unequal competition, in which they must be always prevented by the vicinity of the Persians to the

markets of India; and the emperor submitted to the disappointment, till

his wishes were gratified by an unexpected event. The gospel had been

preached to the Indians: a bishop already governed the Christians of St. thomas on the pepper-coast of Malabar; a church was planted in ceylon, and the missionaries pursued the footsteps of commerce to the extremities of Asia. Two Persian monks had long resided in China,

perhaps in the royal city of Nankin, the seat of a monarch addicted to foreign superstitions, and who actually received an embassy from the

Isle of Ceylon. Amidst their pious occupations, they viewed with a curious eye the common dress of the Chinese, the manufactures of silk, and the myriads of silk-worms, whose education (either on trees or

in houses) had once been considered as the labor of queens. They soon discovered that it was impracticable to transport the short-lived

insect, but that in the eggs a numerous progeny might be preserved and

multiplied in a distant climate. Religion or interest had more power

over the Persian monks than the love of their country: after a long

journey, they arrived at Constantinople, imparted their project to the emperor, and were liberally encouraged by the gifts and promises of

Justinian. To the historians of that prince, a campaign at the foot of

Mount Caucasus has seemed more deserving of a minute relation than the labors of these missionaries of commerce, who again entered China, deceived a jealous people by concealing the eggs of the silk-worm in a

hollow cane, and returned in triumph with the spoils of the East. Under their direction, the eggs were hatched at the proper season by the artificial heat of dung; the worms were fed with mulberry leaves; they lived and labored in a foreign climate; a sufficient number of butterflies was saved to propagate the race, and trees were planted to supply the nourishment of the rising generations. Experience and

reflection corrected the errors of a new attempt, and the Sogdoite ambassadors acknowledged, in the succeeding reign, that the Romans were

not inferior to the natives of China in the education of the insects, and the manufactures of silk, in which both China and Constantinople

have been surpassed by the industry of modern Europe. I am not

insensible of the benefits of elegant luxury; yet I reflect with some

pain, that if the importers of silk had introduced the art of printing, already practised by the Chinese, the comedies of Menander and the entire decads of Livy would have been perpetuated in the editions of the

sixth century. A larger view of the globe might at least have promoted the improvement of speculative science, but the Christian geography was forcibly extracted from texts of Scripture, and the study of nature was the surest symptom of an unbelieving mind. The orthodox faith confined the habitable world to \_one\_ temperate zone, and represented the earth as an oblong surface, four hundred days' journey in length, two hundred

in breadth, encompassed by the ocean, and covered by the solid crystal

of the firmament.

IV. The subjects of Justinian were dissatisfied with the times, and with the government. Europe was overrun by the Barbarians, and Asia by the

monks: the poverty of the West discouraged the trade and manufactures of the East: the produce of labor was consumed by the unprofitable servants

of the church, the state, and the army; and a rapid decrease was felt in the fixed and circulating capitals which constitute the national wealth. the public distress had been alleviated by the economy of Anastasius, and that prudent emperor accumulated an immense treasure, while he delivered his people from the most odious or oppressive taxes. their gratitude universally applauded the abolition of the \_gold of affliction\_, a personal tribute on the industry of the poor, but more

intolerable, as it should seem, in the form than in the substance, since the flourishing city of Edessa paid only one hundred and forty pounds

of gold, which was collected in four years from ten thousand artificers.

Yet such was the parsimony which supported this liberal disposition, that, in a reign of twenty-seven years, Anastasius saved, from his annual revenue, the enormous sum of thirteen millions sterling, or three

hundred and twenty thousand pounds of gold. His example was neglected, and his treasure was abused, by the nephew of Justin. The riches of

Justinian were speedily exhausted by alms and buildings, by ambitious wars, and ignominious treaties. His revenues were found inadequate to

his expenses. Every art was tried to extort from the people the gold and

silver which he scattered with a lavish hand from Persia to France:

his reign was marked by the vicissitudes or rather by the combat, of

rapaciousness and avarice, of splendor and poverty; he lived with the

reputation of hidden treasures, and bequeathed to his successor the

payment of his debts. Such a character has been justly accused by the voice of the people and of posterity: but public discontent is credulous; private malice is bold; and a lover of truth will peruse with a suspicious eye the instructive anecdotes of Procopius. The secret

historian represents only the vices of Justinian, and those vices are darkened by his malevolent pencil. Ambiguous actions are imputed to the worst motives; error is confounded with guilt, accident with design, and laws with abuses; the partial injustice of a moment is dexterously applied as the general maxim of a reign of thirty-two years; the emperor alone is made responsible for the faults of his officers, the disorders

of the times, and the corruption of his subjects; and even the calamities of nature, plagues, earthquakes, and inundations, are imputed to the prince of the dæmons, who had mischievously assumed the form of

Justinian.

after this precaution, I shall briefly relate the anecdotes of avarice and rapine under the following heads: I. Justinian was so profuse that

he could not be liberal. The civil and military officers, when they were admitted into the service of the palace, obtained an humble rank and a

moderate stipend; they ascended by seniority to a station of affluence and repose; the annual pensions, of which the most honorable class was abolished by Justinian, amounted to four hundred thousand pounds; and this domestic economy was deplored by the venal or indigent courtiers as the last outrage on the majesty of the empire. The posts, the salaries

of physicians, and the nocturnal illuminations, were objects of more

general concern; and the cities might justly complain, that he usurped the municipal revenues which had been appropriated to these useful

institutions. Even the soldiers were injured; and such was the decay

of military spirit, that they were injured with impunity. The emperor

refused, at the return of each fifth year, the customary donative

of five pieces of gold, reduced his veterans to beg their bread, and

suffered unpaid armies to melt away in the wars of Italy and Persia. II. the humanity of his predecessors had always remitted, in some auspicious circumstance of their reign, the arrears of the public tribute, and they dexterously assumed the merit of resigning those claims which it was

impracticable to enforce. "Justinian, in the space of thirty-two years,

has never granted a similar indulgence; and many of his subjects have

renounced the possession of those lands whose value is insufficient to

satisfy the demands of the treasury. To the cities which had suffered by

hostile inroads Anastasius promised a general exemption of seven years: the provinces of Justinian have been ravaged by the Persians and Arabs, the Huns and Sclavonians; but his vain and ridiculous dispensation of a

single year has been confined to those places which were actually taken by the enemy." Such is the language of the secret historian, who expressly denies that any indulgence was granted to Palestine after the

revolt of the Samaritans; a false and odious charge, confuted by the authentic record which attests a relief of thirteen centenaries of gold

(fifty-two thousand pounds) obtained for that desolate province by the intercession of St. Sabas. III. Procopius has not condescended to explain the system of taxation, which fell like a hail-storm upon the

land, like a devouring pestilence on its inhabitants: but we should become the accomplices of his malignity, if we imputed to Justinian alone the ancient though rigorous principle, that a whole district

should be condemned to sustain the partial loss of the persons or

property of individuals. The \_Annona\_, or supply of corn for the use

of the army and capital, was a grievous and arbitrary exaction, which exceeded, perhaps in a tenfold proportion, the ability of the farmer; and his distress was aggravated by the partial injustice of weights and

measures, and the expense and labor of distant carriage. In a time

of scarcity, an extraordinary requisition was made to the adjacent

provinces of Thrace, Bithynia, and Phrygia: but the proprietors, after a wearisome journey and perilous navigation, received so inadequate a compensation, that they would have chosen the alternative of delivering both the corn and price at the doors of their granaries. These

precautions might indicate a tender solicitude for the welfare of the capital; yet Constantinople did not escape the rapacious despotism of

Justinian. Till his reign, the Straits of the Bosphorus and Hellespont were open to the freedom of trade, and nothing was prohibited except the exportation of arms for the service of the Barbarians. At each of these

gates of the city, a prætor was stationed, the minister of Imperial avarice; heavy customs were imposed on the vessels and their

merchandise; the oppression was retaliated on the helpless consumer; the

poor were afflicted by the artificial scarcity, and exorbitant price

of the market; and a people, accustomed to depend on the liberality of their prince, might sometimes complain of the deficiency of water and bread. The \_aerial\_ tribute, without a name, a law, or a definite

object, was an annual gift of one hundred and twenty thousand pounds, which the emperor accepted from his Prætorian præfect; and the means of

payment were abandoned to the discretion of that powerful magistrate.

IV. Even such a tax was less intolerable than the privilege of

monopolies, which checked the fair competition of industry, and, for the sake of a small and dishonest gain, imposed an arbitrary burden

on the wants and luxury of the subject. "As soon" (I transcribe the anecdotes) "as the exclusive sale of silk was usurped by the Imperial treasurer, a whole people, the manufacturers of Tyre and Berytus, was

reduced to extreme misery, and either perished with hunger, or fled to the hostile dominions of Persia." A province might suffer by the decay of its manufactures, but in this example of silk, Procopius has

partially overlooked the inestimable and lasting benefit which the empire received from the curiosity of Justinian. His addition of one

seventh to the ordinary price of copper money may be interpreted with the same candor; and the alteration, which might be wise, appears to

have been innocent; since he neither alloyed the purity, nor enhanced the value, of the gold coin, the legal measure of public and private

payments. V. The ample jurisdiction required by the farmers of the

revenue to accomplish their engagements might be placed in an odious

light, as if they had purchased from the emperor the lives and fortunes

of their fellow-citizens. And a more direct sale of honors and offices was transacted in the palace, with the permission, or at least with the connivance, of Justinian and Theodora. The claims of merit, even those

of favor, were disregarded, and it was almost reasonable to expect, that the bold adventurer, who had undertaken the trade of a magistrate,

should find a rich compensation for infamy, labor, danger, the debts which he had contracted, and the heavy interest which he paid. A sense

of the disgrace and mischief of this venal practice, at length awakened the slumbering virtue of Justinian; and he attempted, by the sanction

of oaths and penalties, to guard the integrity of his government: but at the end of a year of perjury, his rigorous edict was suspended, and corruption licentiously abused her triumph over the impotence of the

laws. VI. The testament of Eulalius, count of the domestics, declared the emperor his sole heir, on condition, however, that he should discharge his debts and legacies, allow to his three daughters a decent

maintenance, and bestow each of them in marriage, with a portion of ten

pounds of gold. But the splendid fortune of Eulalius had been consumed by fire, and the inventory of his goods did not exceed the trifling sum

of five hundred and sixty-four pieces of gold. A similar instance, in

Grecian history, admonished the emperor of the honorable part prescribed for his imitation. He checked the selfish murmurs of the treasury, applauded the confidence of his friend, discharged the legacies and debts, educated the three virgins under the eye of the empress Theodora, and doubled the marriage portion which had satisfied the tenderness of their father. The humanity of a prince (for princes cannot be generous)

is entitled to some praise; yet even in this act of virtue we may discover the inveterate custom of supplanting the legal or natural

heirs, which Procopius imputes to the reign of Justinian. His charge is

supported by eminent names and scandalous examples; neither widows

nor orphans were spared; and the art of soliciting, or extorting, or

supposing testaments, was beneficially practised by the agents of the palace. This base and mischievous tyranny invades the security of

private life; and the monarch who has indulged an appetite for gain, will soon be tempted to anticipate the moment of succession, to

interpret wealth as an evidence of guilt, and to proceed, from the claim

of inheritance, to the power of confiscation. VII. Among the forms of

rapine, a philosopher may be permitted to name the conversion of Pagan

or heretical riches to the use of the faithful; but in the time of

Justinian this holy plunder was condemned by the sectaries alone, who became the victims of his orthodox avarice.

chapter XL: Reign Of Justinian.--Part IV.

dishonor might be ultimately reflected on the character of Justinian; but much of the guilt, and still more of the profit, was intercepted by the ministers, who were seldom promoted for their virtues, and not always selected for their talents. The merits of Tribonian the quæstor will hereafter be weighed in the reformation of the Roman law; but the economy of the East was subordinate to the Prætorian præfect, and

Procopius has justified his anecdotes by the portrait which he exposes

in his public history, of the notorious vices of John of Cappadocia.

\* His knowledge was not borrowed from the schools, and his style was

scarcely legible; but he excelled in the powers of native genius, to suggest the wisest counsels, and to find expedients in the most desperate situations. The corruption of his heart was equal to the

vigor of his understanding. Although he was suspected of magic and

Pagan superstition, he appeared insensible to the fear of God or the

reproaches of man; and his aspiring fortune was raised on the death

of thousands, the poverty of millions, the ruins of cities, and the desolation of provinces. From the dawn of light to the moment of dinner,

he assiduously labored to enrich his master and himself at the expense

of the Roman world; the remainder of the day was spent in sensual and

obscene pleasures, and the silent hours of the night were interrupted by the perpetual dread of the justice of an assassin. His abilities,

perhaps his vices, recommended him to the lasting friendship of

Justinian: the emperor yielded with reluctance to the fury of the

people; his victory was displayed by the immediate restoration of their enemy; and they felt above ten years, under his oppressive administration, that he was stimulated by revenge, rather than

instructed by misfortune. Their murmurs served only to fortify the

resolution of Justinian; but the resentment of Theodora, disdained a

power before which every knee was bent, and attempted to sow the seeds

of discord between the emperor and his beloved consort. Even Theodora

herself was constrained to dissemble, to wait a favorable moment, and, by an artful conspiracy, to render John of Cappadocia the accomplice

of his own destruction. At a time when Belisarius, unless he had been a hero, must have shown himself a rebel, his wife Antonina, who enjoyed the secret confidence of the empress, communicated his feigned discontent to Euphemia, the daughter of the præfect; the credulous

virgin imparted to her father the dangerous project, and John, who might

have known the value of oaths and promises, was tempted to accept a nocturnal, and almost treasonable, interview with the wife of belisarius. An ambuscade of guards and eunuchs had been posted by the command of Theodora; they rushed with drawn swords to seize or to punish the guilty minister: he was saved by the fidelity of his attendants; but

instead of appealing to a gracious sovereign, who had privately warned

him of his danger, he pusillanimously fled to the sanctuary of the church. The favorite of Justinian was sacrificed to conjugal tenderness

or domestic tranquility; the conversion of a præfect into a priest extinguished his ambitious hopes: but the friendship of the emperor alleviated his disgrace, and he retained in the mild exile of Cyzicus an ample portion of his riches. Such imperfect revenge could not satisfy the unrelenting hatred of Theodora; the murder of his old enemy, the bishop of Cyzicus, afforded a decent pretence; and John of Cappadocia, whose actions had deserved a thousand deaths, was at last condemned for a crime of which he was innocent. A great minister, who had been

invested with the honors of consul and patrician, was ignominiously

scourged like the vilest of malefactors; a tattered cloak was the sole

remnant of his fortunes; he was transported in a bark to the place of

his banishment at Antinopolis in Upper Egypt, and the præfect of the east begged his bread through the cities which had trembled at his name. during an exile of seven years, his life was protracted and threatened by the ingenious cruelty of Theodora; and when her death permitted the emperor to recall a servant whom he had abandoned with regret, the ambition of John of Cappadocia was reduced to the humble duties of the sacerdotal profession. His successors convinced the subjects of

Justinian, that the arts of oppression might still be improved by experience and industry; the frauds of a Syrian banker were introduced

into the administration of the finances; and the example of the præfect was diligently copied by the quæstor, the public and private treasurer, the governors of provinces, and the principal magistrates of the Eastern empire.

V. The \_edifices\_ of Justinian were cemented with the blood and treasure

of his people; but those stately structures appeared to announce the

prosperity of the empire, and actually displayed the skill of their architects. Both the theory and practice of the arts which depend on

mathematical science and mechanical power, were cultivated under the

patronage of the emperors; the fame of Archimedes was rivalled by

Proclus and Anthemius; and if their \_miracles\_ had been related by

intelligent spectators, they might now enlarge the speculations, instead

of exciting the distrust, of philosophers. A tradition has prevailed, that the Roman fleet was reduced to ashes in the port of Syracuse, by the burning-glasses of Archimedes; and it is asserted, that a similar expedient was employed by Proclus to destroy the Gothic vessels in the harbor of Constantinople, and to protect his benefactor Anastasius against the bold enterprise of Vitalian. A machine was fixed on the walls of the city, consisting of a hexagon mirror of polished brass, with many smaller and movable polygons to receive and reflect the rays

of the meridian sun; and a consuming flame was darted, to the distance,

perhaps of two hundred feet. The truth of these two extraordinary facts

is invalidated by the silence of the most authentic historians; and the

use of burning-glasses was never adopted in the attack or defence of

places. Yet the admirable experiments of a French philosopher have demonstrated the possibility of such a mirror; and, since it is

possible, I am more disposed to attribute the art to the greatest

mathematicians of antiquity, than to give the merit of the fiction to the idle fancy of a monk or a sophist. According to another story,

Proclus applied sulphur to the destruction of the Gothic fleet; in a

modern imagination, the name of sulphur is instantly connected with the

suspicion of gunpowder, and that suspicion is propagated by the secret arts of his disciple Anthemius. A citizen of Tralles in Asia had five

sons, who were all distinguished in their respective professions by

merit and success. Olympius excelled in the knowledge and practice

of the Roman jurisprudence. Dioscorus and Alexander became learned

physicians; but the skill of the former was exercised for the benefit

of his fellow-citizens, while his more ambitious brother acquired wealth and reputation at Rome. The fame of Metrodorus the grammarian, and

of Anthemius the mathematician and architect, reached the ears of the emperor Justinian, who invited them to Constantinople; and while the one

instructed the rising generation in the schools of eloquence, the other filled the capital and provinces with more lasting monuments of his art. In a trifling dispute relative to the walls or windows of their contiguous houses, he had been vanquished by the eloquence of his

neighbor Zeno; but the orator was defeated in his turn by the master

of mechanics, whose malicious, though harmless, stratagems are darkly

represented by the ignorance of Agathias. In a lower room, Anthemius arranged several vessels or caldrons of water, each of them covered by the wide bottom of a leathern tube, which rose to a narrow top, and was artificially conveyed among the joists and rafters of the adjacent building. A fire was kindled beneath the caldron; the steam of the boiling water ascended through the tubes; the house was shaken by the efforts of imprisoned air, and its trembling inhabitants might wonder that the city was unconscious of the earthquake which they had felt. At another time, the friends of Zeno, as they sat at table, were dazzled by the intolerable light which flashed in their eyes from the reflecting

mirrors of Anthemius; they were astonished by the noise which he

produced from the collision of certain minute and sonorous particles; and the orator declared in tragic style to the senate, that a mere

mortal must yield to the power of an antagonist, who shook the earth with the trident of Neptune, and imitated the thunder and lightning of

Jove himself. The genius of Anthemius, and his colleague Isidore the Milesian, was excited and employed by a prince, whose taste for architecture had degenerated into a mischievous and costly passion.

His favorite architects submitted their designs and difficulties to

Justinian, and discreetly confessed how much their laborious meditations were surpassed by the intuitive knowledge of celestial inspiration of an emperor, whose views were always directed to the benefit of his people, the glory of his reign, and the salvation of his soul.

the principal church, which was dedicated by the founder of constantinople to St. Sophia, or the eternal wisdom, had been twice destroyed by fire; after the exile of John Chrysostom, and during the

\_Nika\_ of the blue and green factions. No sooner did the tumult subside, than the Christian populace deplored their sacrilegious rashness; but they might have rejoiced in the calamity, had they foreseen the glory

of the new temple, which at the end of forty days was strenuously

undertaken by the piety of Justinian. The ruins were cleared away, a

more spacious plan was described, and as it required the consent of some

proprietors of ground, they obtained the most exorbitant terms from the eager desires and timorous conscience of the monarch. Anthemius formed the design, and his genius directed the hands of ten thousand workmen, whose payment in pieces of fine silver was never delayed beyond the evening. The emperor himself, clad in a linen tunic, surveyed each day their rapid progress, and encouraged their diligence by his familiarity,

his zeal, and his rewards. The new Cathedral of St. Sophia was consecrated by the patriarch, five years, eleven months, and ten days from the first foundation; and in the midst of the solemn festival

Justinian exclaimed with devout vanity, "Glory be to God, who hath thought me worthy to accomplish so great a work; I have vanquished thee,

O Solomon!" But the pride of the Roman Solomon, before twenty years had elapsed, was humbled by an earthquake, which overthrew the eastern part

of the dome. Its splendor was again restored by the perseverance of the same prince; and in the thirty-sixth year of his reign, Justinian celebrated the second dedication of a temple which remains, after twelve centuries, a stately monument of his fame. The architecture of St.

Sophia, which is now converted into the principal mosch, has been

imitated by the Turkish sultans, and that venerable pile continues to excite the fond admiration of the Greeks, and the more rational curiosity of European travellers. The eye of the spectator is disappointed by an irregular prospect of half-domes and shelving roofs: the western front, the principal approach, is destitute of simplicity and magnificence; and the scale of dimensions has been much surpassed by

several of the Latin cathedrals. But the architect who first erected and

\_aerial\_ cupola, is entitled to the praise of bold design and skilful execution. The dome of St. Sophia, illuminated by four-and-twenty windows, is formed with so small a curve, that the depth is equal

only to one sixth of its diameter; the measure of that diameter is one

hundred and fifteen feet, and the lofty centre, where a crescent has

supplanted the cross, rises to the perpendicular height of one hundred and eighty feet above the pavement. The circle which encompasses the dome, lightly reposes on four strong arches, and their weight is firmly

supported by four massy piles, whose strength is assisted, on the

northern and southern sides, by four columns of Egyptian granite. A

Greek cross, inscribed in a quadrangle, represents the form of the edifice; the exact breadth is two hundred and forty-three feet, and two

hundred and sixty-nine may be assigned for the extreme length from the

sanctuary in the east, to the nine western doors, which open into the

vestibule, and from thence into the \_narthex\_ or exterior portico. That

portico was the humble station of the penitents. The nave or body of the church was filled by the congregation of the faithful; but the two sexes were prudently distinguished, and the upper and lower galleries were allotted for the more private devotion of the women. Beyond the northern and southern piles, a balustrade, terminated on either side by the thrones of the emperor and the patriarch, divided the nave from the choir; and the space, as far as the steps of the altar, was occupied by the clergy and singers. The altar itself, a name which insensibly became familiar to Christian ears, was placed in the eastern recess, artificially built in the form of a demi-cylinder; and this sanctuary communicated by several doors with the sacristy, the vestry, the baptistery, and the contiguous buildings, subservient either to the

pomp of worship, or the private use of the ecclesiastical ministers. the memory of past calamities inspired Justinian with a wise resolution, that no wood, except for the doors, should be admitted into the new edifice; and the choice of the materials was applied to the strength, the lightness, or the splendor of the respective parts. The solid piles which contained the cupola were composed of huge blocks of freestone,

hewn into squares and triangles, fortified by circles of iron, and firmly cemented by the infusion of lead and quicklime: but the weight of the cupola was diminished by the levity of its substance, which consists either of pumice-stone that floats in the water, or of bricks from the

Isle of Rhodes, five times less ponderous than the ordinary sort. The whole frame of the edifice was constructed of brick; but those base

materials were concealed by a crust of marble; and the inside of St.

Sophia, the cupola, the two larger, and the six smaller, semi-domes, the walls, the hundred columns, and the pavement, delight even the eyes of barbarians, with a rich and variegated picture. A poet, who beheld the

primitive lustre of St. Sophia, enumerates the colors, the shades, and the spots of ten or twelve marbles, jaspers, and porphyries, which

nature had profusely diversified, and which were blended and contrasted as it were by a skilful painter. The triumph of Christ was adorned with the last spoils of Paganism, but the greater part of these costly stones was extracted from the quarries of Asia Minor, the isles and continent

of Greece, Egypt, Africa, and Gaul. Eight columns of porphyry, which aurelian had placed in the temple of the sun, were offered by the piety

of a Roman matron; eight others of green marble were presented by the ambitious zeal of the magistrates of Ephesus: both are admirable by their size and beauty, but every order of architecture disclaims their fantastic capital. A variety of ornaments and figures was curiously expressed in mosaic; and the images of Christ, of the Virgin, of saints, and of angels, which have been defaced by Turkish fanaticism, were dangerously exposed to the superstition of the Greeks. According to the

sanctity of each object, the precious metals were distributed in thin

leaves or in solid masses. The balustrade of the choir, the capitals

of the pillars, the ornaments of the doors and galleries, were of

gilt bronze; the spectator was dazzled by the glittering aspect of the cupola; the sanctuary contained forty thousand pounds weight of silver; and the holy vases and vestments of the altar were of the purest gold, enriched with inestimable gems. Before the structure of the church had arisen two cubits above the ground, forty-five thousand two hundred

pounds were already consumed; and the whole expense amounted to three

hundred and twenty thousand: each reader, according to the measure of

his belief, may estimate their value either in gold or silver; but the

sum of one million sterling is the result of the lowest computation. a magnificent temple is a laudable monument of national taste and

religion; and the enthusiast who entered the dome of St. Sophia might be tempted to suppose that it was the residence, or even the workmanship,

of the Deity. Yet how dull is the artifice, how insignificant is the

labor, if it be compared with the formation of the vilest insect that crawls upon the surface of the temple!

So minute a description of an edifice which time has respected, may attest the truth, and excuse the relation, of the innumerable works, both in the capital and provinces, which Justinian constructed on a

smaller scale and less durable foundations. In Constantinople alone and the adjacent suburbs, he dedicated twenty-five churches to the honor

of Christ, the Virgin, and the saints: most of these churches were decorated with marble and gold; and their various situation was

skilfully chosen in a populous square, or a pleasant grove; on the

margin of the sea-shore, or on some lofty eminence which overlooked the continents of Europe and Asia. The church of the Holy Apostles at constantinople, and that of St. John at Ephesus, appear to have been framed on the same model: their domes aspired to imitate the cupolas of

St. Sophia; but the altar was more judiciously placed under the centre

of the dome, at the junction of four stately porticos, which more accurately expressed the figure of the Greek cross. The Virgin of

Jerusalem might exult in the temple erected by her Imperial votary on a

most ungrateful spot, which afforded neither ground nor materials to the architect. A level was formed by raising part of a deep valley to the

height of the mountain. The stones of a neighboring quarry were hewn

into regular forms; each block was fixed on a peculiar carriage, drawn by forty of the strongest oxen, and the roads were widened for the

passage of such enormous weights. Lebanon furnished her loftiest cedars for the timbers of the church; and the seasonable discovery of a vein of

red marble supplied its beautiful columns, two of which, the supporters

of the exterior portico, were esteemed the largest in the world. The

pious munificence of the emperor was diffused over the Holy Land; and if

reason should condemn the monasteries of both sexes which were built or

restored by Justinian, yet charity must applaud the wells which he

sunk, and the hospitals which he founded, for the relief of the weary

pilgrims. The schismatical temper of Egypt was ill entitled to the

royal bounty; but in Syria and Africa, some remedies were applied to the disasters of wars and earthquakes, and both Carthage and Antioch, emerging from their ruins, might revere the name of their gracious benefactor. Almost every saint in the calendar acquired the honors of a temple; almost every city of the empire obtained the solid advantages

of bridges, hospitals, and aqueducts; but the severe liberality of the

monarch disdained to indulge his subjects in the popular luxury of baths and theatres. While Justinian labored for the public service, he was not

unmindful of his own dignity and ease. The Byzantine palace, which had been damaged by the conflagration, was restored with new magnificence; and some notion may be conceived of the whole edifice, by the vestibule

or hall, which, from the doors perhaps, or the roof, was surnamed

\_chalce\_, or the brazen. The dome of a spacious quadrangle was

supported by massy pillars; the pavement and walls were incrusted with

many-colored marbles--the emerald green of Laconia, the fiery red, and the white Phrygian stone, intersected with veins of a sea-green hue: the

mosaic paintings of the dome and sides represented the glories of the african and Italian triumphs. On the Asiatic shore of the Propontis, at a small distance to the east of Chalcedon, the costly palace and gardens

of Heræum were prepared for the summer residence of Justinian, and more especially of Theodora. The poets of the age have celebrated the rare alliance of nature and art, the harmony of the nymphs of the groves, the fountains, and the waves: yet the crowd of attendants who followed the court complained of their inconvenient lodgings, and the nymphs were too

often alarmed by the famous Porphyrio, a whale of ten cubits in breadth, and thirty in length, who was stranded at the mouth of the River

Sangaris, after he had infested more than half a century the seas of constantinople.

the fortifications of Europe and Asia were multiplied by Justinian; but the repetition of those timid and fruitless precautions exposes, to a philosophic eye, the debility of the empire. From Belgrade to the euxine, from the conflux of the Save to the mouth of the Danube, a chain

of above fourscore fortified places was extended along the banks of the

great river. Single watch-towers were changed into spacious citadels;

vacant walls, which the engineers contracted or enlarged according to the nature of the ground, were filled with colonies or garrisons; a

strong fortress defended the ruins of Trajan's bridge, and several

military stations affected to spread beyond the Danube the pride of the

Roman name. But that name was divested of its terrors; the Barbarians,

in their annual inroads, passed, and contemptuously repassed, before these useless bulwarks; and the inhabitants of the frontier, instead

of reposing under the shadow of the general defence, were compelled to guard, with incessant vigilance, their separate habitations. The

solitude of ancient cities, was replenished; the new foundations of

Justinian acquired, perhaps too hastily, the epithets of impregnable and populous; and the auspicious place of his own nativity attracted the grateful reverence of the vainest of princes. Under the name of

\_Justiniana prima\_, the obscure village of Tauresium became the seat

of an archbishop and a præfect, whose jurisdiction extended over

seven warlike provinces of Illyricum; and the corrupt apellation of

\_Giustendil\_ still indicates, about twenty miles to the south of

Sophia, the residence of a Turkish sanjak. For the use of the emperor's countryman, a cathedral, a place, and an aqueduct, were speedily constructed; the public and private edifices were adapted to the

greatness of a royal city; and the strength of the walls resisted, during the lifetime of Justinian, the unskilful assaults of the Huns and

Sclavonians. Their progress was sometimes retarded, and their hopes

of rapine were disappointed, by the innumerable castles which, in the

provinces of Dacia, Epirus, Thessaly, Macedonia, and Thrace, appeared to cover the whole face of the country. Six hundred of these forts were built or repaired by the emperor; but it seems reasonable to believe, that the far greater part consisted only of a stone or brick tower, in the midst of a square or circular area, which was surrounded by a wall and ditch, and afforded in a moment of danger some protection to the

peasants and cattle of the neighboring villages. Yet these military works, which exhausted the public treasure, could not remove the just apprehensions of Justinian and his European subjects. The warm baths of anchialus in Thrace were rendered as safe as they were salutary; but the

rich pastures of Thessalonica were foraged by the Scythian cavalry; the delicious vale of Tempe, three hundred miles from the Danube, was continually alarmed by the sound of war; and no unfortified spot,

however distant or solitary, could securely enjoy the blessings of

peace. The Straits of Thermopylæ, which seemed to protect, but which had

so often betrayed, the safety of Greece, were diligently strengthened by the labors of Justinian. From the edge of the sea-shore, through the forests and valleys, and as far as the summit of the Thessalian

mountains, a strong wall was continued, which occupied every practicable entrance. Instead of a hasty crowd of peasants, a garrison of two thousand soldiers was stationed along the rampart; granaries of corn and reservoirs of water were provided for their use; and by a precaution that inspired the cowardice which it foresaw, convenient fortresses were erected for their retreat. The walls of Corinth, overthrown by an earthquake, and the mouldering bulwarks of Athens and Platæa, were carefully restored; the Barbarians were discouraged by the prospect of

successive and painful sieges: and the naked cities of Peloponnesus were covered by the fortifications of the Isthmus of Corinth. At the extremity of Europe, another peninsula, the Thracian Chersonesus, runs three days' journey into the sea, to form, with the adjacent shores

of Asia, the Straits of the Hellespont. The intervals between eleven

populous towns were filled by lofty woods, fair pastures, and arable

lands; and the isthmus, of thirty seven stadia or furlongs, had been fortified by a Spartan general nine hundred years before the reign of

Justinian. In an age of freedom and valor, the slightest rampart may

prevent a surprise; and Procopius appears insensible of the superiority

of ancient times, while he praises the solid construction and double

parapet of a wall, whose long arms stretched on either side into the sea; but whose strength was deemed insufficient to guard the chersonesus, if each city, and particularly Gallipoli and Sestus, had

not been secured by their peculiar fortifications. The \_long\_ wall, as

it was emphatically styled, was a work as disgraceful in the object, as it was respectable in the execution. The riches of a capital diffuse themselves over the neighboring country, and the territory of constantinople a paradise of nature, was adorned with the luxurious

gardens and villas of the senators and opulent citizens. But their wealth served only to attract the bold and rapacious Barbarians; the

noblest of the Romans, in the bosom of peaceful indolence, were led away

into Scythian captivity, and their sovereign might view from his palace the hostile flames which were insolently spread to the gates of the

Imperial city. At the distance only of forty miles, Anastasius was constrained to establish a last frontier; his long wall, of sixty miles from the Propontis to the Euxine, proclaimed the impotence of his arms; and as the danger became more imminent, new fortifications were added by the indefatigable prudence of Justinian.

asia Minor, after the submission of the Isaurians, remained without enemies and without fortifications. Those bold savages, who had disdained to be the subjects of Gallienus, persisted two hundred and thirty years in a life of independence and rapine. The most successful

princes respected the strength of the mountains and the despair of the natives; their fierce spirit was sometimes soothed with gifts, and sometimes restrained by terror; and a military count, with three

legions, fixed his permanent and ignominious station in the heart of the Roman provinces. But no sooner was the vigilance of power relaxed or diverted, than the light-armed squadrons descended from the hills, and

invaded the peaceful plenty of Asia. Although the Isaurians were

not remarkable for stature or bravery, want rendered them bold, and experience made them skilful in the exercise of predatory war. they advanced with secrecy and speed to the attack of villages and defenceless towns; their flying parties have sometimes touched the

Hellespont, the Euxine, and the gates of Tarsus, Antioch, or Damascus; and the spoil was lodged in their inaccessible mountains, before the

Roman troops had received their orders, or the distant province had computed its loss. The guilt of rebellion and robbery excluded them from the rights of national enemies; and the magistrates were instructed, by an edict, that the trial or punishment of an Isaurian, even on the festival of Easter, was a meritorious act of justice and piety. If the captives were condemned to domestic slavery, they maintained, with their

sword or dagger, the private quarrel of their masters; and it was found expedient for the public tranquillity to prohibit the service of such dangerous retainers. When their countryman Tarcalissæus or Zeno ascended the throne, he invited a faithful and formidable band of Isaurians, who

insulted the court and city, and were rewarded by an annual tribute of five thousand pounds of gold. But the hopes of fortune depopulated the

mountains, luxury enervated the hardiness of their minds and bodies, and

in proportion as they mixed with mankind, they became less qualified for the enjoyment of poor and solitary freedom. After the death of Zeno, his

successor Anastasius suppressed their pensions, exposed their persons to the revenge of the people, banished them from Constantinople, and

prepared to sustain a war, which left only the alternative of victory or

servitude. A brother of the last emperor usurped the title of Augustus;

his cause was powerfully supported by the arms, the treasures, and the

magazines, collected by Zeno; and the native Isaurians must have formed the smallest portion of the hundred and fifty thousand Barbarians under

his standard, which was sanctified, for the first time, by the presence

of a fighting bishop. Their disorderly numbers were vanquished in the

plains of Phrygia by the valor and discipline of the Goths; but a war

of six years almost exhausted the courage of the emperor. The Isaurians

retired to their mountains; their fortresses were successively besieged and ruined; their communication with the sea was intercepted; the bravest of their leaders died in arms; the surviving chiefs, before their execution, were dragged in chains through the hippodrome; a colony

of their youth was transplanted into Thrace, and the remnant of the

people submitted to the Roman government. Yet some generations elapsed before their minds were reduced to the level of slavery. The populous

villages of Mount Taurus were filled with horsemen and archers: they

resisted the imposition of tributes, but they recruited the armies of

Justinian; and his civil magistrates, the proconsul of Cappadocia, the count of Isauria, and the prætors of Lycaonia and Pisidia, were invested with military power to restrain the licentious practice of rapes and assassinations.

chapter XL: Reign Of Justinian.--Part V.

If we extend our view from the tropic to the mouth of the Tanais, we may

observe, on one hand, the precautions of Justinian to curb the savages

of Æthiopia, and on the other, the long walls which he constructed

in Crimæa for the protection of his friendly Goths, a colony of three thousand shepherds and warriors. From that peninsula to Trebizond, the eastern curve of the Euxine was secured by forts, by alliance, or by

religion; and the possession of \_Lazica\_, the Colchos of ancient, the

Mingrelia of modern, geography, soon became the object of an important war. Trebizond, in after-times the seat of a romantic empire, was

indebted to the liberality of Justinian for a church, an aqueduct, and a castle, whose ditches are hewn in the solid rock. From that maritime city, frontier line of five hundred miles may be drawn to the fortress

of Circesium, the last Roman station on the Euphrates. Above Trebizond

immediately, and five days' journey to the south, the country rises into dark forests and craggy mountains, as savage though not so lofty as the alps and the Pyrenees. In this rigorous climate, where the snows seldom

melt, the fruits are tardy and tasteless, even honey is poisonous: the

most industrious tillage would be confined to some pleasant valleys; and the pastoral tribes obtained a scanty sustenance from the flesh and milk

of their cattle. The \_Chalybians\_ derived their name and temper from the iron quality of the soil; and, since the days of Cyrus, they might

produce, under the various appellations of Chadæans and Zanians, an uninterrupted prescription of war and rapine. Under the reign of

Justinian, they acknowledged the god and the emperor of the Romans, and

seven fortresses were built in the most accessible passages, to exclude the ambition of the Persian monarch. The principal source of the euphrates descends from the Chalybian mountains, and seems to flow towards the west and the Euxine: bending to the south-west, the river

passes under the walls of Satala and Melitene, (which were restored by Justinian as the bulwarks of the Lesser Armenia,) and gradually approaches the Mediterranean Sea; till at length, repelled by Mount taurus, the Euphrates inclines its long and flexible course to the

south-east and the Gulf of Persia. Among the Roman cities beyond the euphrates, we distinguish two recent foundations, which were named from theodosius, and the relics of the martyrs; and two capitals, Amida and edessa, which are celebrated in the history of every age. Their strength was proportioned by Justinian to the danger of their situation. A ditch and palisade might be sufficient to resist the artless force of the cavalry of Scythia; but more elaborate works were required to sustain a regular siege against the arms and treasures of the great king. His

skilful engineers understood the methods of conducting deep mines, and

of raising platforms to the level of the rampart: he shook the strongest battlements with his military engines, and sometimes advanced to the assault with a line of movable turrets on the backs of elephants. In the great cities of the East, the disadvantage of space, perhaps of

position, was compensated by the zeal of the people, who seconded the

garrison in the defence of their country and religion; and the fabulous

promise of the Son of God, that Edessa should never be taken, filled the citizens with valiant confidence, and chilled the besiegers with doubt and dismay. The subordinate towns of Armenia and Mesopotamia were diligently strengthened, and the posts which appeared to have any command of ground or water were occupied by numerous forts,

substantially built of stone, or more hastily erected with the obvious

materials of earth and brick. The eye of Justinian investigated every

spot; and his cruel precautions might attract the war into some lonely

vale, whose peaceful natives, connected by trade and marriage, were

ignorant of national discord and the quarrels of princes. Westward of the Euphrates, a sandy desert extends above six hundred miles to the Red

Sea. Nature had interposed a vacant solitude between the ambition of two

rival empires; the Arabians, till Mahomet arose, were formidable only as

robbers; and in the proud security of peace the fortifications of Syria were neglected on the most vulnerable side.

but the national enmity, at least the effects of that enmity, had been suspended by a truce, which continued above fourscore years. An ambassador from the emperor Zeno accompanied the rash and unfortunate

Perozes, in his expedition against the Nepthalites, or white Huns, whose conquests had been stretched from the Caspian to the heart of

India, whose throne was enriched with emeralds, and whose cavalry was

supported by a line of two thousand elephants. The Persians were twice circumvented, in a situation which made valor useless and flight

impossible; and the double victory of the Huns was achieved by military

stratagem. They dismissed their royal captive after he had submitted to adore the majesty of a Barbarian; and the humiliation was poorly evaded by the casuistical subtlety of the Magi, who instructed Perozes to direct his attention to the rising sun. The indignant successor of cyrus forgot his danger and his gratitude; he renewed the attack with

headstrong fury, and lost both his army and his life. The death of

Perozes abandoned Persia to her foreign and domestic enemies; and twelve

years of confusion elapsed before his son Cabades, or Kobad, could embrace any designs of ambition or revenge. The unkind parsimony of anastasius was the motive or pretence of a Roman war; the Huns and Arabs

marched under the Persian standard, and the fortifications of Armenia and Mesopotamia were, at that time, in a ruinous or imperfect condition. The emperor returned his thanks to the governor and people

of Martyropolis for the prompt surrender of a city which could not be

successfully defended, and the conflagration of Theodosiopolis might

justify the conduct of their prudent neighbors. Amida sustained a long and destructive siege: at the end of three months the loss of fifty thousand of the soldiers of Cabades was not balanced by any prospect

of success, and it was in vain that the Magi deduced a flattering

prediction from the indecency of the women on the ramparts, who had

revealed their most secret charms to the eyes of the assailants. At

length, in a silent night, they ascended the most accessible tower, which was guarded only by some monks, oppressed, after the duties of a festival, with sleep and wine. Scaling-ladders were applied at the dawn

of day; the presence of Cabades, his stern command, and his drawn

sword, compelled the Persians to vanquish; and before it was sheathed, fourscore thousand of the inhabitants had expiated the blood of their companions. After the siege of Amida, the war continued three years, and the unhappy frontier tasted the full measure of its calamities. The

gold of Anastasius was offered too late, the number of his troops was defeated by the number of their generals; the country was stripped of

its inhabitants, and both the living and the dead were abandoned to the wild beasts of the desert. The resistance of Edessa, and the deficiency

of spoil, inclined the mind of Cabades to peace: he sold his conquests for an exorbitant price; and the same line, though marked with

slaughter and devastation, still separated the two empires. To avert the

repetition of the same evils, Anastasius resolved to found a new colony,

so strong, that it should defy the power of the Persian, so far advanced towards Assyria, that its stationary troops might defend the province by the menace or operation of offensive war. For this purpose, the town

of Dara, fourteen miles from Nisibis, and four days' journey from the tigris, was peopled and adorned; the hasty works of Anastasius were

improved by the perseverance of Justinian; and, without insisting on

places less important, the fortifications of Dara may represent the

military architecture of the age. The city was surrounded with two walls, and the interval between them, of fifty paces, afforded a retreat to the cattle of the besieged. The inner wall was a monument of strength and beauty: it measured sixty feet from the ground, and the height of the towers was one hundred feet; the loopholes, from whence an enemy

might be annoyed with missile weapons, were small, but numerous; the

soldiers were planted along the rampart, under the shelter of double

galleries, and a third platform, spacious and secure, was raised on the

summit of the towers. The exterior wall appears to have been less lofty, but more solid; and each tower was protected by a quadrangular bulwark. a hard, rocky soil resisted the tools of the miners, and on the

south-east, where the ground was more tractable, their approach was

retarded by a new work, which advanced in the shape of a half-moon. The double and treble ditches were filled with a stream of water; and in the

management of the river, the most skilful labor was employed to supply the inhabitants, to distress the besiegers, and to prevent the mischiefs

of a natural or artificial inundation. Dara continued more than sixty

years to fulfil the wishes of its founders, and to provoke the jealousy

of the Persians, who incessantly complained, that this impregnable fortress had been constructed in manifest violation of the treaty of

peace between the two empires.

between the Euxine and the Caspian, the countries of Colchos, Iberia, and Albania, are intersected in every direction by the branches of Mount caucasus; and the two principal \_gates\_, or passes, from north to south,

have been frequently confounded in the geography both of the ancients and moderns. The name of \_Caspian\_ or \_Albanian\_ gates is properly applied to Derbend, which occupies a short declivity between the

mountains and the sea: the city, if we give credit to local tradition,

had been founded by the Greeks; and this dangerous entrance was fortified by the kings of Persia with a mole, double walls, and doors of

iron. The \_Iberian\_ gates are formed by a narrow passage of six miles

in Mount Caucasus, which opens from the northern side of Iberia, or

Georgia, into the plain that reaches to the Tanais and the Volga. A fortress, designed by Alexander perhaps, or one of his successors, to command that important pass, had descended by right of conquest or

inheritance to a prince of the Huns, who offered it for a moderate

price to the emperor; but while Anastasius paused, while he timorously computed the cost and the distance, a more vigilant rival interposed, and Cabades forcibly occupied the Straits of Caucasus. The Albanian and

Iberian gates excluded the horsemen of Scythia from the shortest and

most practicable roads, and the whole front of the mountains was covered by the rampart of Gog and Magog, the long wall which has excited the curiosity of an Arabian caliph and a Russian conqueror. According to a

recent description, huge stones, seven feet thick, and twenty-one feet

in length or height, are artificially joined without iron or cement, to compose a wall, which runs above three hundred miles from the shores

of Derbend, over the hills, and through the valleys of Daghestan and

Georgia. Without a vision, such a work might be undertaken by the policy

of Cabades; without a miracle, it might be accomplished by his son, so formidable to the Romans, under the name of Chosroes; so dear to the

Orientals, under the appellation of Nushirwan. The Persian monarch held

in his hand the keys both of peace and war; but he stipulated, in every treaty, that Justinian should contribute to the expense of a common barrier, which equally protected the two empires from the inroads of the

Scythians.

VII. Justinian suppressed the schools of Athens and the consulship of

Rome, which had given so many sages and heroes to mankind. Both these

institutions had long since degenerated from their primitive glory; yet

some reproach may be justly inflicted on the avarice and jealousy of a

prince, by whose hand such venerable ruins were destroyed.

athens, after her Persian triumphs, adopted the philosophy of Ionia and the rhetoric of Sicily; and these studies became the patrimony of a city, whose inhabitants, about thirty thousand males, condensed, within the period of a single life, the genius of ages and millions. Our sense

of the dignity of human nature is exalted by the simple recollection, that Isocrates was the companion of Plato and Xenophon; that he assisted, perhaps with the historian Thucydides, at the first

representation of the dipus of Sophocles and the Iphigenia of Euripides; and that his pupils Æschines and Demosthenes contended for the crown of

patriotism in the presence of Aristotle, the master of Theophrastus, who taught at Athens with the founders of the Stoic and Epicurean sects. the ingenuous youth of Attica enjoyed the benefits of their domestic education, which was communicated without envy to the rival cities. Two thousand disciples heard the lessons of Theophrastus; the schools of

rhetoric must have been still more populous than those of philosophy; and a rapid succession of students diffused the fame of their teachers as far as the utmost limits of the Grecian language and name. Those

limits were enlarged by the victories of Alexander; the arts of Athens

survived her freedom and dominion; and the Greek colonies which the

Macedonians planted in Egypt, and scattered over Asia, undertook long and frequent pilgrimages to worship the Muses in their favorite temple

on the banks of the Ilissus. The Latin conquerors respectfully listened to the instructions of their subjects and captives; the names of Cicero and Horace were enrolled in the schools of Athens; and after the perfect

settlement of the Roman empire, the natives of Italy, of Africa, and

of Britain, conversed in the groves of the academy with their fellow-students of the East. The studies of philosophy and eloquence are congenial to a popular state, which encourages the freedom of inquiry, and submits only to the force of persuasion. In the republics of Greece and Rome, the art of speaking was the powerful engine of patriotism or ambition; and the schools of rhetoric poured forth a colony of statesmen and legislators. When the liberty of public debate was suppressed, the

orator, in the honorable profession of an advocate, might plead the cause of innocence and justice; he might abuse his talents in the

more profitable trade of panegyric; and the same precepts continued to dictate the fanciful declamations of the sophist, and the chaster beauties of historical composition. The systems which professed to

unfold the nature of God, of man, and of the universe, entertained the curiosity of the philosophic student; and according to the temper of

his mind, he might doubt with the Sceptics, or decide with the Stoics,

sublimely speculate with Plato, or severely argue with Aristotle. The

pride of the adverse sects had fixed an unattainable term of moral

happiness and perfection; but the race was glorious and salutary; the disciples of Zeno, and even those of Epicurus, were taught both to act and to suffer; and the death of Petronius was not less effectual than that of Seneca, to humble a tyrant by the discovery of his impotence. the light of science could not indeed be confined within the walls of athens. Her incomparable writers address themselves to the human race; the living masters emigrated to Italy and Asia; Berytus, in later times, was devoted to the study of the law; astronomy and physic were cultivated in the musæum of Alexandria; but the Attic schools of

rhetoric and philosophy maintained their superior reputation from the

Peloponnesian war to the reign of Justinian. Athens, though situate in a barren soil, possessed a pure air, a free navigation, and the monuments

of ancient art. That sacred retirement was seldom disturbed by the business of trade or government; and the last of the Athenians were distinguished by their lively wit, the purity of their taste and

language, their social manners, and some traces, at least in discourse,

of the magnanimity of their fathers. In the suburbs of the city, the

\_academy\_ of the Platonists, the \_lycum\_ of the Peripatetics, the

\_portico\_ of the Stoics, and the \_garden\_ of the Epicureans, were

planted with trees and decorated with statues; and the philosophers,

instead of being immured in a cloister, delivered their instructions in

spacious and pleasant walks, which, at different hours, were consecrated to the exercises of the mind and body. The genius of the founders

still lived in those venerable seats; the ambition of succeeding to the

masters of human reason excited a generous emulation; and the merit of the candidates was determined, on each vacancy, by the free voices of an enlightened people. The Athenian professors were paid by their disciples: according to their mutual wants and abilities, the price appears to have varied; and Isocrates himself, who derides the avarice

of the sophists, required, in his school of rhetoric, about thirty

pounds from each of his hundred pupils. The wages of industry are just and honorable, yet the same Isocrates shed tears at the first receipt

of a stipend: the Stoic might blush when he was hired to preach the contempt of money; and I should be sorry to discover that Aristotle or

Plato so far degenerated from the example of Socrates, as to exchange

knowledge for gold. But some property of lands and houses was settled by the permission of the laws, and the legacies of deceased friends, on the

philosophic chairs of Athens. Epicurus bequeathed to his disciples the

gardens which he had purchased for eighty minæ or two hundred and fifty

pounds, with a fund sufficient for their frugal subsistence and monthly festivals; and the patrimony of Plato afforded an annual rent, which,

in eight centuries, was gradually increased from three to one thousand

pieces of gold. The schools of Athens were protected by the wisest and

most virtuous of the Roman princes. The library, which Hadrian founded, was placed in a portico adorned with pictures, statues, and a roof of alabaster, and supported by one hundred columns of Phrygian marble. The

public salaries were assigned by the generous spirit of the Antonines; and each professor of politics, of rhetoric, of the Platonic, the

Peripatetic, the Stoic, and the Epicurean philosophy, received an annual

stipend of ten thousand drachmæ, or more than three hundred pounds

sterling. After the death of Marcus, these liberal donations, and the

privileges attached to the \_thrones\_ of science, were abolished and

revived, diminished and enlarged; but some vestige of royal bounty may be found under the successors of Constantine; and their arbitrary choice

of an unworthy candidate might tempt the philosophers of Athens to

regret the days of independence and poverty. It is remarkable, that the

impartial favor of the Antonines was bestowed on the four adverse sects

of philosophy, which they considered as equally useful, or at least, as equally innocent. Socrates had formerly been the glory and the

reproach of his country; and the first lessons of Epicurus so strangely

scandalized the pious ears of the Athenians, that by his exile, and that of his antagonists, they silenced all vain disputes concerning the nature of the gods. But in the ensuing year they recalled the hasty decree, restored the liberty of the schools, and were convinced by the experience of ages, that the moral character of philosophers is not affected by the diversity of their theological speculations.

the Gothic arms were less fatal to the schools of Athens than the establishment of a new religion, whose ministers superseded the exercise

of reason, resolved every question by an article of faith, and condemned the infidel or sceptic to eternal flames. In many a volume of laborious controversy, they exposed the weakness of the understanding and the corruption of the heart, insulted human nature in the sages of antiquity, and proscribed the spirit of philosophical inquiry, so

repugnant to the doctrine, or at least to the temper, of an humble believer. The surviving sects of the Platonists, whom Plato would have blushed to acknowledge, extravagantly mingled a sublime theory with the

practice of superstition and magic; and as they remained alone in the

midst of a Christian world, they indulged a secret rancor against the

government of the church and state, whose severity was still suspended

over their heads. About a century after the reign of Julian, Proclus was

permitted to teach in the philosophic chair of the academy; and such was his industry, that he frequently, in the same day, pronounced five

lessons, and composed seven hundred lines. His sagacious mind explored the deepest questions of morals and metaphysics, and he ventured to urge eighteen arguments against the Christian doctrine of the creation of the world. But in the intervals of study, he \_personally\_ conversed with Pan, Æsculapius, and Minerva, in whose mysteries he was secretly

initiated, and whose prostrate statues he adored; in the devout

persuasion that the philosopher, who is a citizen of the universe,

should be the priest of its various deities. An eclipse of the sun announced his approaching end; and his life, with that of his scholar

Isidore, compiled by two of their most learned disciples, exhibits a deplorable picture of the second childhood of human reason. Yet the

golden chain, as it was fondly styled, of the Platonic succession, continued forty-four years from the death of Proclus to the edict of

Justinian, which imposed a perpetual silence on the schools of Athens, and excited the grief and indignation of the few remaining votaries

of Grecian science and superstition. Seven friends and philosophers, diogenes and Hermias, Eulalius and Priscian, Damascius, Isidore, and

Simplicius, who dissented from the religion of their sovereign, embraced the resolution of seeking in a foreign land the freedom which was denied

in their native country. They had heard, and they credulously believed, that the republic of Plato was realized in the despotic government

of Persia, and that a patriot king reigned ever the happiest and most

virtuous of nations. They were soon astonished by the natural discovery, that Persia resembled the other countries of the globe; that Chosroes, who affected the name of a philosopher, was vain, cruel, and ambitious; that bigotry, and a spirit of intolerance, prevailed among the Magi; that the nobles were haughty, the courtiers servile, and the magistrates

unjust; that the guilty sometimes escaped, and that the innocent were

often oppressed. The disappointment of the philosophers provoked them to overlook the real virtues of the Persians; and they were scandalized,

more deeply perhaps than became their profession, with the plurality

of wives and concubines, the incestuous marriages, and the custom of exposing dead bodies to the dogs and vultures, instead of hiding them in the earth, or consuming them with fire. Their repentance was expressed by a precipitate return, and they loudly declared that they had rather die on the borders of the empire, than enjoy the wealth and favor of the Barbarian. From this journey, however, they derived a benefit which

reflects the purest lustre on the character of Chosroes. He required, that the seven sages who had visited the court of Persia should be exempted from the penal laws which Justinian enacted against his Pagan

subjects; and this privilege, expressly stipulated in a treaty of peace, was guarded by the vigilance of a powerful mediator. Simplicius and his companions ended their lives in peace and obscurity; and as they left no disciples, they terminate the long list of Grecian philosophers, who may be justly praised, notwithstanding their defects, as the wisest and most

virtuous of their contemporaries. The writings of Simplicius are now extant. His physical and metaphysical commentaries on Aristotle have

passed away with the fashion of the times; but his moral interpretation

of Epictetus is preserved in the library of nations, as a classic book,

most excellently adapted to direct the will, to purify the heart, and to confirm the understanding, by a just confidence in the nature both of

God and man.

about the same time that Pythagoras first invented the appellation of

philosopher, liberty and the consulship were founded at Rome by the elder Brutus. The revolutions of the consular office, which may be

viewed in the successive lights of a substance, a shadow, and a name,

have been occasionally mentioned in the present History. The first

magistrates of the republic had been chosen by the people, to exercise,

in the senate and in the camp, the powers of peace and war, which were afterwards translated to the emperors. But the tradition of ancient dignity was long revered by the Romans and Barbarians. A Gothic

historian applauds the consulship of Theodoric as the height of all temporal glory and greatness; the king of Italy himself congratulated those annual favorites of fortune who, without the cares, enjoyed the

splendor of the throne; and at the end of a thousand years, two consuls were created by the sovereigns of Rome and Constantinople, for the sole

purpose of giving a date to the year, and a festival to the people. But the expenses of this festival, in which the wealthy and the vain aspired to surpass their predecessors, insensibly arose to the enormous sum of fourscore thousand pounds; the wisest senators declined a useless

honor, which involved the certain ruin of their families, and to this

reluctance I should impute the frequent chasms in the last age of the consular Fasti. The predecessors of Justinian had assisted from the

public treasures the dignity of the less opulent candidates; the avarice

of that prince preferred the cheaper and more convenient method of advice and regulation. Seven \_processions\_ or spectacles were the number to which his edict confined the horse and chariot races, the athletic

sports, the music, and pantomimes of the theatre, and the hunting of wild beasts; and small pieces of silver were discreetly substituted to the gold medals, which had always excited tumult and drunkenness, when they were scattered with a profuse hand among the populace.

Notwithstanding these precautions, and his own example, the succession

of consuls finally ceased in the thirteenth year of Justinian, whose despotic temper might be gratified by the silent extinction of a title which admonished the Romans of their ancient freedom. Yet the annual consulship still lived in the minds of the people; they fondly expected

its speedy restoration; they applauded the gracious condescension of

successive princes, by whom it was assumed in the first year of their

reign; and three centuries elapsed, after the death of Justinian, before that obsolete dignity, which had been suppressed by custom, could be abolished by law. The imperfect mode of distinguishing each year by the

name of a magistrate, was usefully supplied by the date of a permanent

æra: the creation of the world, according to the Septuagint version, was adopted by the Greeks; and the Latins, since the age of Charlemagne,

have computed their time from the birth of Christ.

chapter XLI: Conquests Of Justinian, Character Of Balisarius.--Part I.

Conquests Of Justinian In The West.--Character And First

Campaigns Of Belisarius--He Invades And Subdues The Vandal

Kingdom Of Africa--His Triumph.--The Gothic War.--He

Recovers Sicily, Naples, And Rome.--Siege Of Rome By The

Goths.--Their Retreat And Losses.--Surrender Of Ravenna.--

Glory Of Belisarius.--His Domestic Shame And Misfortunes.

when Justinian ascended the throne, about fifty years after the fall of the Western empire, the kingdoms of the Goths and Vandals had obtained a solid, and, as it might seem, a legal establishment both in Europe and africa. The titles, which Roman victory had inscribed, were erased with equal justice by the sword of the Barbarians; and their successful

rapine derived a more venerable sanction from time, from treaties, and from the oaths of fidelity, already repeated by a second or third

generation of obedient subjects. Experience and Christianity had refuted the superstitious hope, that Rome was founded by the gods to reign forever over the nations of the earth. But the proud claim of perpetual and indefeasible dominion, which her soldiers could no longer maintain, was firmly asserted by her statesmen and lawyers, whose opinions

have been sometimes revived and propagated in the modern schools of

jurisprudence. After Rome herself had been stripped of the Imperial

purple, the princes of Constantinople assumed the sole and sacred

sceptre of the monarchy; demanded, as their rightful inheritance, the

provinces which had been subdued by the consuls, or possessed by the cæsars; and feebly aspired to deliver their faithful subjects of the west from the usurpation of heretics and Barbarians. The execution of this splendid design was in some degree reserved for Justinian. During the five first years of his reign, he reluctantly waged a costly and

unprofitable war against the Persians; till his pride submitted to

his ambition, and he purchased at the price of four hundred and forty thousand pounds sterling, the benefit of a precarious truce, which, in the language of both nations, was dignified with the appellation of the

\_endless\_ peace. The safety of the East enabled the emperor to employ

his forces against the Vandals; and the internal state of Africa afforded an honorable motive, and promised a powerful support, to the

Roman arms.

according to the testament of the founder, the African kingdom had

lineally descended to Hilderic, the eldest of the Vandal princes. A mild disposition inclined the son of a tyrant, the grandson of a conqueror, to prefer the counsels of clemency and peace; and his accession was

marked by the salutary edict, which restored two hundred bishops to their churches, and allowed the free profession of the Athanasian creed. but the Catholics accepted, with cold and transient gratitude, a favor

so inadequate to their pretensions, and the virtues of Hilderic offended the prejudices of his countrymen. The Arian clergy presumed to insinuate that he had renounced the faith, and the soldiers more loudly complained that he had degenerated from the courage, of his ancestors. His ambassadors were suspected of a secret and disgraceful negotiation in the Byzantine court; and his general, the Achilles, as he was named, of the Vandals, lost a battle against the naked and disorderly Moors. The

public discontent was exasperated by Gelimer, whose age, descent, and

military fame, gave him an apparent title to the succession: he assumed, with the consent of the nation, the reins of government; and his

unfortunate sovereign sunk without a struggle from the throne to a dungeon, where he was strictly guarded with a faithful counsellor, and

his unpopular nephew the Achilles of the Vandals. But the indulgence which Hilderic had shown to his Catholic subjects had powerfully

recommended him to the favor of Justinian, who, for the benefit of his

own sect, could acknowledge the use and justice of religious toleration: their alliance, while the nephew of Justin remained in a private

station, was cemented by the mutual exchange of gifts and letters; and the emperor Justinian asserted the cause of royalty and friendship. In two successive embassies, he admonished the usurper to repent of his treason, or to abstain, at least, from any further violence which might

provoke the displeasure of God and of the Romans; to reverence the laws

of kindred and succession, and to suffer an infirm old man peaceably to end his days, either on the throne of Carthage or in the palace of constantinople. The passions, or even the prudence, of Gelimer compelled

him to reject these requests, which were urged in the haughty tone of

menace and command; and he justified his ambition in a language rarely

spoken in the Byzantine court, by alleging the right of a free people to

remove or punish their chief magistrate, who had failed in the execution

of the kingly office. After this fruitless expostulation, the captive

monarch was more rigorously treated, his nephew was deprived of his eyes, and the cruel Vandal, confident in his strength and distance, derided the vain threats and slow preparations of the emperor of the east. Justinian resolved to deliver or revenge his friend, Gelimer to

maintain his usurpation; and the war was preceded, according to the

practice of civilized nations, by the most solemn protestations, that each party was sincerely desirous of peace.

the report of an African war was grateful only to the vain and idle

populace of Constantinople, whose poverty exempted them from tribute, and whose cowardice was seldom exposed to military service. But the wiser citizens, who judged of the future by the past, revolved in their

memory the immense loss, both of men and money, which the empire had

sustained in the expedition of Basiliscus. The troops, which, after five laborious campaigns, had been recalled from the Persian frontier, dreaded the sea, the climate, and the arms of an unknown enemy. The

ministers of the finances computed, as far as they might compute, the demands of an African war; the taxes which must be found and levied to

supply those insatiate demands; and the danger, lest their own lives, or at least their lucrative employments, should be made responsible for the deficiency of the supply. Inspired by such selfish motives, (for we may

not suspect him of any zeal for the public good,) John of Cappadocia

ventured to oppose in full council the inclinations of his master. He confessed, that a victory of such importance could not be too dearly

purchased; but he represented in a grave discourse the certain difficulties and the uncertain event. "You undertake," said the præfect,

"to besiege Carthage: by land, the distance is not less than one hundred and forty days' journey; on the sea, a whole year must elapse before

you can receive any intelligence from your fleet. If Africa should be reduced, it cannot be preserved without the additional conquest of

Sicily and Italy. Success will impose the obligations of new labors; a single misfortune will attract the Barbarians into the heart of your exhausted empire." Justinian felt the weight of this salutary advice; he was confounded by the unwonted freedom of an obsequious servant; and the design of the war would perhaps have been relinquished, if his courage

had not been revived by a voice which silenced the doubts of profane

reason. "I have seen a vision," cried an artful or fanatic bishop of the east. "It is the will of Heaven, O emperor! that you should not abandon

your holy enterprise for the deliverance of the African church. The God

of battles will march before your standard, and disperse your enemies, who are the enemies of his Son." The emperor, might be tempted, and

his counsellors were constrained, to give credit to this seasonable

revelation: but they derived more rational hope from the revolt, which the adherents of Hilderic or Athanasius had already excited on the borders of the Vandal monarchy. Pudentius, an African subject, had

privately signified his loyal intentions, and a small military aid

restored the province of Tripoli to the obedience of the Romans. The

government of Sardinia had been intrusted to Godas, a valiant Barbarian

he suspended the payment of tribute, disclaimed his allegiance to the

usurper, and gave audience to the emissaries of Justinian, who found him

master of that fruitful island, at the head of his guards, and proudly

invested with the ensigns of royalty. The forces of the Vandals were diminished by discord and suspicion; the Roman armies were animated by the spirit of Belisarius; one of those heroic names which are familiar to every age and to every nation.

the Africanus of new Rome was born, and perhaps educated, among the thracian peasants, without any of those advantages which had formed the virtues of the elder and younger Scipio; a noble origin, liberal

studies, and the emulation of a free state. The silence of a loquacious

secretary may be admitted, to prove that the youth of Belisarius could

not afford any subject of praise: he served, most assuredly with valor and reputation, among the private guards of Justinian; and when his

patron became emperor, the domestic was promoted to military command. after a bold inroad into Persarmenia, in which his glory was shared by a colleague, and his progress was checked by an enemy, Belisarius repaired to the important station of Dara, where he first accepted the service

of Procopius, the faithful companion, and diligent historian, of his exploits. The Mirranes of Persia advanced, with forty thousand of her best troops, to raze the fortifications of Dara; and signified the day and the hour on which the citizens should prepare a bath for his

refreshment, after the toils of victory. He encountered an adversary equal to himself, by the new title of General of the East; his superior

in the science of war, but much inferior in the number and quality

of his troops, which amounted only to twenty-five thousand Romans and

strangers, relaxed in their discipline, and humbled by recent disasters. as the level plain of Dara refused all shelter to stratagem and ambush, belisarius protected his front with a deep trench, which was prolonged at first in perpendicular, and afterwards in parallel, lines, to cover the wings of cavalry advantageously posted to command the flanks and

rear of the enemy. When the Roman centre was shaken, their well-timed and rapid charge decided the conflict: the standard of Persia fell; the \_immortals\_ fled; the infantry threw away their bucklers, and eight thousand of the vanquished were left on the field of battle. In the next campaign, Syria was invaded on the side of the desert; and Belisarius, with twenty thousand men, hastened from Dara to the relief of the

province. During the whole summer, the designs of the enemy were baffled by his skilful dispositions: he pressed their retreat, occupied each night their camp of the preceding day, and would have secured a bloodless victory, if he could have resisted the impatience of his

own troops. Their valiant promise was faintly supported in the hour

of battle; the right wing was exposed by the treacherous or cowardly desertion of the Christian Arabs; the Huns, a veteran band of eight

hundred warriors, were oppressed by superior numbers; the flight of the Isaurians was intercepted; but the Roman infantry stood firm on the

left; for Belisarius himself, dismounting from his horse, showed them that intrepid despair was their only safety. They turned their backs to the Euphrates, and their faces to the enemy: innumerable arrows

glanced without effect from the compact and shelving order of their bucklers; an impenetrable line of pikes was opposed to the repeated assaults of the Persian cavalry; and after a resistance of many hours, the remaining troops were skilfully embarked under the shadow of the

night. The Persian commander retired with disorder and disgrace, to answer a strict account of the lives of so many soldiers, which he had consumed in a barren victory. But the fame of Belisarius was not sullied by a defeat, in which he alone had saved his army from the consequences

of their own rashness: the approach of peace relieved him from the

guard of the eastern frontier, and his conduct in the sedition of constantinople amply discharged his obligations to the emperor. When the African war became the topic of popular discourse and secret deliberation, each of the Roman generals was apprehensive, rather than ambitious, of the dangerous honor; but as soon as Justinian had declared

his preference of superior merit, their envy was rekindled by the

unanimous applause which was given to the choice of Belisarius. The temper of the Byzantine court may encourage a suspicion, that the hero was darkly assisted by the intrigues of his wife, the fair and subtle antonina, who alternately enjoyed the confidence, and incurred the

hatred, of the empress Theodora. The birth of Antonina was ignoble;

she descended from a family of charioteers; and her chastity has been stained with the foulest reproach. Yet she reigned with long and absolute power over the mind of her illustrious husband; and if antonina disdained the merit of conjugal fidelity, she expressed a manly friendship to Belisarius, whom she accompanied with undaunted resolution

in all the hardships and dangers of a military life.

the preparations for the African war were not unworthy of the last contest between Rome and Carthage. The pride and flower of the army consisted of the guards of Belisarius, who, according to the pernicious

indulgence of the times, devoted themselves, by a particular oath of fidelity, to the service of their patrons. Their strength and stature, for which they had been curiously selected, the goodness of their horses and armor, and the assiduous practice of all the exercises of war, enabled them to act whatever their courage might prompt; and their courage was exalted by the social honor of their rank, and the personal ambition of favor and fortune. Four hundred of the bravest of the

Heruli marched under the banner of the faithful and active Pharas; their

untractable valor was more highly prized than the tame submission of the

Greeks and Syrians; and of such importance was it deemed to procure a

reënforcement of six hundred Massagetæ, or Huns, that they were allured by fraud and deceit to engage in a naval expedition. Five thousand horse and ten thousand foot were embarked at Constantinople, for the conquest

of Africa; but the infantry, for the most part levied in Thrace and

Isauria, yielded to the more prevailing use and reputation of the cavalry; and the Scythian bow was the weapon on which the armies of Rome were now reduced to place their principal dependence. From a laudable desire to assert the dignity of his theme, Procopius defends the

soldiers of his own time against the morose critics, who confined that respectable name to the heavy-armed warriors of antiquity, and

maliciously observed, that the word archer is introduced by Homer as a term of contempt. "Such contempt might perhaps be due to the naked

youths who appeared on foot in the fields of Troy, and lurking behind a tombstone, or the shield of a friend, drew the bow-string to their breast, and dismissed a feeble and lifeless arrow. But our archers

(pursues the historian) are mounted on horses, which they manage with admirable skill; their head and shoulders are protected by a casque or buckler; they wear greaves of iron on their legs, and their bodies are

guarded by a coat of mail. On their right side hangs a quiver, a sword

on their left, and their hand is accustomed to wield a lance or javelin

in closer combat. Their bows are strong and weighty; they shoot in every

possible direction, advancing, retreating, to the front, to the rear,

or to either flank; and as they are taught to draw the bow-string not to the breast, but to the right ear, firm indeed must be the armor that can resist the rapid violence of their shaft." Five hundred transports,

navigated by twenty thousand mariners of Egypt, Cilicia, and Ionia, were collected in the harbor of Constantinople. The smallest of these vessels

may be computed at thirty, the largest at five hundred, tons; and the fair average will supply an allowance, liberal, but not profuse, of about one hundred thousand tons, for the reception of thirty-five thousand soldiers and sailors, of five thousand horses, of arms, engines, and military stores, and of a sufficient stock of water and

provisions for a voyage, perhaps, of three months. The proud galleys, which in former ages swept the Mediterranean with so many hundred oars,

had long since disappeared; and the fleet of Justinian was escorted only by ninety-two light brigantines, covered from the missile weapons of the enemy, and rowed by two thousand of the brave and robust youth

of Constantinople. Twenty-two generals are named, most of whom were afterwards distinguished in the wars of Africa and Italy: but the

supreme command, both by land and sea, was delegated to Belisarius alone, with a boundless power of acting according to his discretion, as if the emperor himself were present. The separation of the naval and

military professions is at once the effect and the cause of the modern

improvements in the science of navigation and maritime war.

In the seventh year of the reign of Justinian, and about the time of the summer solstice, the whole fleet of six hundred ships was ranged in

martial pomp before the gardens of the palace. The patriarch pronounced

his benediction, the emperor signified his last commands, the general's trumpet gave the signal of departure, and every heart, according to

its fears or wishes, explored, with anxious curiosity, the omens

of misfortune and success. The first halt was made at Perinthus or

Heraclea, where Belisarius waited five days to receive some Thracian

horses, a military gift of his sovereign. From thence the fleet pursued their course through the midst of the Propontis; but as they struggled to pass the Straits of the Hellespont, an unfavorable wind detained them four days at Abydus, where the general exhibited a memorable lesson of firmness and severity. Two of the Huns, who in a drunken quarrel had

slain one of their fellow-soldiers, were instantly shown to the army

suspended on a lofty gibbet. The national dignity was resented by their countrymen, who disclaimed the servile laws of the empire, and asserted the free privilege of Scythia, where a small fine was allowed to expiate the hasty sallies of intemperance and anger. Their complaints were

specious, their clamors were loud, and the Romans were not averse to the example of disorder and impunity. But the rising sedition was appeased by the authority and eloquence of the general: and he represented to the assembled troops the obligation of justice, the importance of discipline, the rewards of piety and virtue, and the unpardonable

guilt of murder, which, in his apprehension, was aggravated rather than excused by the vice of intoxication. In the navigation from the

Hellespont to Peloponnesus, which the Greeks, after the siege of Troy,

had performed in four days, the fleet of Belisarius was guided in their course by his master-galley, conspicuous in the day by the redness of the sails, and in the night by the torches blazing from the mast head.

It was the duty of the pilots, as they steered between the islands, and turned the Capes of Malea and Tænarium, to preserve the just order and

regular intervals of such a multitude of ships: as the wind was fair and

moderate, their labors were not unsuccessful, and the troops were safely disembarked at Methone on the Messenian coast, to repose themselves for a while after the fatigues of the sea. In this place they experienced

how avarice, invested with authority, may sport with the lives of thousands which are bravely exposed for the public service. According to

military practice, the bread or biscuit of the Romans was twice prepared

in the oven, and the diminution of one fourth was cheerfully allowed for the loss of weight. To gain this miserable profit, and to save the expense of wood, the præfect John of Cappadocia had given orders that the flour should be slightly baked by the same fire which warmed the baths of Constantinople; and when the sacks were opened, a soft and

mouldy paste was distributed to the army. Such unwholesome food, assisted by the heat of the climate and season, soon produced an epidemical disease, which swept away five hundred soldiers. Their health was restored by the diligence of Belisarius, who provided fresh bread at Methone, and boldly expressed his just and humane indignation the emperor heard his complaint; the general was praised but the minister was not punished. From the port of Methone, the pilots steered along the western coast of Peloponnesus, as far as the Isle of Zacynthus, or

Zante, before they undertook the voyage (in their eyes a most arduous

voyage) of one hundred leagues over the Ionian Sea. As the fleet was

surprised by a calm, sixteen days were consumed in the slow navigation; and even the general would have suffered the intolerable hardship of thirst, if the ingenuity of Antonina had not preserved the water in

glass bottles, which she buried deep in the sand in a part of the ship

impervious to the rays of the sun. At length the harbor of Caucana, on the southern side of Sicily, afforded a secure and hospitable shelter. the Gothic officers who governed the island in the name of the daughter and grandson of Theodoric, obeyed their imprudent orders, to receive the troops of Justinian like friends and allies: provisions were liberally

supplied, the cavalry was remounted, and Procopius soon returned from

Syracuse with correct information of the state and designs of the Vandals. His intelligence determined Belisarius to hasten his

operations, and his wise impatience was seconded by the winds. The fleet

lost sight of Sicily, passed before the Isle of Malta, discovered the capes of Africa, ran along the coast with a strong gale from the

north-east, and finally cast anchor at the promontory of Caput Vada, about five days' journey to the south of Carthage.

If Gelimer had been informed of the approach of the enemy, he must have delayed the conquest of Sardinia for the immediate defence of his person and kingdom. A detachment of five thousand soldiers, and one hundred and twenty galleys, would have joined the remaining forces of the Vandals; and the descendant of Genseric might have surprised and oppressed a fleet of deep laden transports, incapable of action, and of light brigantines that seemed only qualified for flight. Belisarius had

secretly trembled when he overheard his soldiers, in the passage, emboldening each other to confess their apprehensions: if they were once

on shore, they hoped to maintain the honor of their arms; but if they

should be attacked at sea, they did not blush to acknowledge that they wanted courage to contend at the same time with the winds, the waves, and the Barbarians. The knowledge of their sentiments decided Belisarius to seize the first opportunity of landing them on the coast of Africa; and he prudently rejected, in a council of war, the proposal of sailing with the fleet and army into the port of Carthage. Three months after their departure from Constantinople, the men and horses, the arms and

military stores, were safely disembarked, and five soldiers were left as a guard on board each of the ships, which were disposed in the form of a semicircle. The remainder of the troops occupied a camp on the

sea-shore, which they fortified, according to ancient discipline, with a ditch and rampart; and the discovery of a source of fresh water, while

it allayed the thirst, excited the superstitious confidence, of the

Romans. The next morning, some of the neighboring gardens were pillaged; and Belisarius, after chastising the offenders, embraced the slight

occasion, but the decisive moment, of inculcating the maxims of justice,

moderation, and genuine policy. "When I first accepted the commission

of subduing Africa, I depended much less," said the general, "on the numbers, or even the bravery of my troops, than on the friendly disposition of the natives, and their immortal hatred to the Vandals.

You alone can deprive me of this hope; if you continue to extort by

rapine what might be purchased for a little money, such acts of violence will reconcile these implacable enemies, and unite them in a just and

holy league against the invaders of their country." These exhortations were enforced by a rigid discipline, of which the soldiers themselves

soon felt and praised the salutary effects. The inhabitants, instead of deserting their houses, or hiding their corn, supplied the Romans with a fair and liberal market: the civil officers of the province continued to exercise their functions in the name of Justinian: and the clergy, from

motives of conscience and interest, assiduously labored to promote the cause of a Catholic emperor. The small town of Sullecte, one day's

journey from the camp, had the honor of being foremost to open her

gates, and to resume her ancient allegiance: the larger cities of Leptis and Adrumetum imitated the example of loyalty as soon as Belisarius appeared; and he advanced without opposition as far as Grasse, a palace

of the Vandal kings, at the distance of fifty miles from Carthage. The weary Romans indulged themselves in the refreshment of shady groves, cool fountains, and delicious fruits; and the preference which Procopius allows to these gardens over any that he had seen, either in the East

or West, may be ascribed either to the taste, or the fatigue, or the

historian. In three generations, prosperity and a warm climate had dissolved the hardy virtue of the Vandals, who insensibly became the

most luxurious of mankind. In their villas and gardens, which might deserve the Persian name of \_Paradise\_, they enjoyed a cool and elegant

repose; and, after the daily use of the bath, the Barbarians were seated at a table profusely spread with the delicacies of the land and sea. their silken robes loosely flowing, after the fashion of the Medes, were embroidered with gold; love and hunting were the labors of their life, and their vacant hours were amused by pantomimes, chariot-races, and the

music and dances of the theatre.

In a march of ten or twelve days, the vigilance of Belisarius was constantly awake and active against his unseen enemies, by whom, in every place, and at every hour, he might be suddenly attacked. An

officer of confidence and merit, John the Armenian, led the vanguard of three hundred horse; six hundred Massagetæ covered at a certain distance the left flank; and the whole fleet, steering along the coast, seldom

lost sight of the army, which moved each day about twelve miles, and

lodged in the evening in strong camps, or in friendly towns. The near approach of the Romans to Carthage filled the mind of Gelimer with anxiety and terror. He prudently wished to protract the war till his brother, with his veteran troops, should return from the conquest of

Sardinia; and he now lamented the rash policy of his ancestors, who, by destroying the fortifications of Africa, had left him only the dangerous

resource of risking a battle in the neighborhood of his capital. The

Vandal conquerors, from their original number of fifty thousand, were

multiplied, without including their women and children, to one hundred and sixty thousand fighting men: and such forces, animated with valor and union, might have crushed, at their first landing, the feeble and exhausted bands of the Roman general. But the friends of the captive

king were more inclined to accept the invitations, than to resist the progress, of Belisarius; and many a proud Barbarian disguised

his aversion to war under the more specious name of his hatred to the usurper. Yet the authority and promises of Gelimer collected a formidable army, and his plans were concerted with some degree of

military skill. An order was despatched to his brother Ammatas, to collect all the forces of Carthage, and to encounter the van of the

Roman army at the distance of ten miles from the city: his nephew

Gibamund, with two thousand horse, was destined to attack their left, when the monarch himself, who silently followed, should charge their

rear, in a situation which excluded them from the aid or even the view

of their fleet. But the rashness of Ammatas was fatal to himself and his country. He anticipated the hour of the attack, outstripped his tardy followers, and was pierced with a mortal wound, after he had slain with

his own hand twelve of his boldest antagonists. His Vandals fled to carthage; the highway, almost ten miles, was strewed with dead bodies; and it seemed incredible that such multitudes could be slaughtered by the swords of three hundred Romans. The nephew of Gelimer was defeated, after a slight combat, by the six hundred Massagetæ: they did not equal the third part of his numbers; but each Scythian was fired by the example of his chief, who gloriously exercised the privilege of his family, by riding, foremost and alone, to shoot the first arrow against the enemy. In the mean while, Gelimer himself, ignorant of the event, and misguided by the windings of the hills, inadvertently passed the

Roman army, and reached the scene of action where Ammatas had fallen. He wept the fate of his brother and of Carthage, charged with irresistible fury the advancing squadrons, and might have pursued, and perhaps decided, the victory, if he had not wasted those inestimable moments

in the discharge of a vain, though pious, duty to the dead. While his

spirit was broken by this mournful office, he heard the trumpet of belisarius, who, leaving Antonina and his infantry in the camp, pressed forwards with his guards and the remainder of the cavalry to rally his flying troops, and to restore the fortune of the day. Much room could

not be found, in this disorderly battle, for the talents of a general; but the king fled before the hero; and the Vandals, accustomed only to a

Moorish enemy, were incapable of withstanding the arms and discipline

of the Romans. Gelimer retired with hasty steps towards the desert of

Numidia: but he had soon the consolation of learning that his private

orders for the execution of Hilderic and his captive friends had been faithfully obeyed. The tyrant's revenge was useful only to his enemies. the death of a lawful prince excited the compassion of his people; his

life might have perplexed the victorious Romans; and the lieutenant of

Justinian, by a crime of which he was innocent, was relieved from the painful alternative of forfeiting his honor or relinquishing his conquests.

chapter XLI: Conquests Of Justinian, Character Of Balisarius.--Part II.

as soon as the tumult had subsided, the several parts of the army

informed each other of the accidents of the day; and Belisarius pitched

his camp on the field of victory, to which the tenth mile-stone from carthage had applied the Latin appellation of \_Decimus\_. From a wise

suspicion of the stratagems and resources of the Vandals, he marched the

next day in order of battle, halted in the evening before the gates of carthage, and allowed a night of repose, that he might not, in darkness and disorder, expose the city to the license of the soldiers, or the

soldiers themselves to the secret ambush of the city. But as the fears

of Belisarius were the result of calm and intrepid reason, he was soon

satisfied that he might confide, without danger, in the peaceful and friendly aspect of the capital. Carthage blazed with innumerable torches, the signals of the public joy; the chain was removed that

guarded the entrance of the port; the gates were thrown open, and the

people, with acclamations of gratitude, hailed and invited their Roman deliverers. The defeat of the Vandals, and the freedom of Africa, were announced to the city on the eve of St. Cyprian, when the churches were already adorned and illuminated for the festival of the martyr whom three centuries of superstition had almost raised to a local deity. The arians, conscious that their reign had expired, resigned the temple to the Catholics, who rescued their saint from profane hands, performed the

holy rites, and loudly proclaimed the creed of Athanasius and Justinian.

One awful hour reversed the fortunes of the contending parties. The

suppliant Vandals, who had so lately indulged the vices of conquerors,

sought an humble refuge in the sanctuary of the church; while the

merchants of the East were delivered from the deepest dungeon of the

palace by their affrighted keeper, who implored the protection of his captives, and showed them, through an aperture in the wall, the sails

of the Roman fleet. After their separation from the army, the naval commanders had proceeded with slow caution along the coast till they

reached the Hermæan promontory, and obtained the first intelligence of the victory of Belisarius. Faithful to his instructions, they would have cast anchor about twenty miles from Carthage, if the more skilful

seamen had not represented the perils of the shore, and the signs of an impending tempest. Still ignorant of the revolution, they declined,

however, the rash attempt of forcing the chain of the port; and the adjacent harbor and suburb of Mandracium were insulted only by the

rapine of a private officer, who disobeyed and deserted his leaders. but the Imperial fleet, advancing with a fair wind, steered through the

narrow entrance of the Goletta, and occupied, in the deep and capacious

lake of Tunis, a secure station about five miles from the capital. No

sooner was Belisarius informed of their arrival, than he despatched

orders that the greatest part of the mariners should be immediately

landed to join the triumph, and to swell the apparent numbers, of the Romans. Before he allowed them to enter the gates of Carthage, he exhorted them, in a discourse worthy of himself and the occasion, not to disgrace the glory of their arms; and to remember that the Vandals had been the tyrants, but that they were the deliverers, of the Africans, who must now be respected as the voluntary and affectionate subjects of their common sovereign. The Romans marched through the streets in close

ranks prepared for battle if an enemy had appeared: the strict

order maintained by the general imprinted on their minds the duty of

obedience; and in an age in which custom and impunity almost sanctified the abuse of conquest, the genius of one man repressed the passions of a

victorious army. The voice of menace and complaint was silent; the trade

of Carthage was not interrupted; while Africa changed her master and her

government, the shops continued open and busy; and the soldiers, after

sufficient guards had been posted, modestly departed to the houses which were allotted for their reception. Belisarius fixed his residence in the palace; seated himself on the throne of Genseric; accepted and distributed the Barbaric spoil; granted their lives to the suppliant

Vandals; and labored to repair the damage which the suburb of Mandracium

had sustained in the preceding night. At supper he entertained his

principal officers with the form and magnificence of a royal banquet. the victor was respectfully served by the captive officers of the

household; and in the moments of festivity, when the impartial

spectators applauded the fortune and merit of Belisarius, his envious flatterers secretly shed their venom on every word and gesture which

might alarm the suspicions of a jealous monarch. One day was given to these pompous scenes, which may not be despised as useless, if they attracted the popular veneration; but the active mind of Belisarius, which in the pride of victory could suppose a defeat, had already

resolved that the Roman empire in Africa should not depend on the chance

of arms, or the favor of the people. The fortifications of Carthage

had alone been exempted from the general proscription; but in the reign

of ninety-five years they were suffered to decay by the thoughtless and

indolent Vandals. A wiser conqueror restored, with incredible despatch, the walls and ditches of the city. His liberality encouraged the workmen; the soldiers, the mariners, and the citizens, vied with each

other in the salutary labor; and Gelimer, who had feared to trust his

person in an open town, beheld with astonishment and despair, the rising

strength of an impregnable fortress.

that unfortunate monarch, after the loss of his capital, applied himself to collect the remains of an army scattered, rather than destroyed, by the preceding battle; and the hopes of pillage attracted some Moorish bands to the standard of Gelimer. He encamped in the fields of Bulla, four days' journey from Carthage; insulted the capital, which he deprived of the use of an aqueduct; proposed a high reward for the

head of every Roman; affected to spare the persons and property of his african subjects, and secretly negotiated with the Arian sectaries and the confederate Huns. Under these circumstances, the conquest of

Sardinia served only to aggravate his distress: he reflected, with the deepest anguish, that he had wasted, in that useless enterprise, five thousand of his bravest troops; and he read, with grief and shame, the victorious letters of his brother Zano, who expressed a sanguine confidence that the king, after the example of their ancestors, had already chastised the rashness of the Roman invader. "Alas! my brother,"

replied Gelimer, "Heaven has declared against our unhappy nation. While

you have subdued Sardinia, we have lost Africa. No sooner did Belisarius appear with a handful of soldiers, than courage and prosperity deserted the cause of the Vandals. Your nephew Gibamund, your brother Ammatas,

have been betrayed to death by the cowardice of their followers. Our

horses, our ships, Carthage itself, and all Africa, are in the power of the enemy. Yet the Vandals still prefer an ignominious repose, at the expense of their wives and children, their wealth and liberty. Nothing

now remains, except the fields of Bulla, and the hope of your valor. abandon Sardinia; fly to our relief; restore our empire, or perish by

our side." On the receipt of this epistle, Zano imparted his grief to the principal Vandals; but the intelligence was prudently concealed from the natives of the island. The troops embarked in one hundred and twenty galleys at the port of Cagliari, cast anchor the third day on the confines of Mauritania, and hastily pursued their march to join the

royal standard in the camp of Bulla. Mournful was the interview: the two brothers embraced; they wept in silence; no questions were asked of the

Sardinian victory; no inquiries were made of the African misfortunes: they saw before their eyes the whole extent of their calamities; and the absence of their wives and children afforded a melancholy proof that either death or captivity had been their lot. The languid spirit of the

Vandals was at length awakened and united by the entreaties of their

king, the example of Zano, and the instant danger which threatened their

monarchy and religion. The military strength of the nation advanced to battle; and such was the rapid increase, that before their army reached tricameron, about twenty miles from Carthage, they might boast, perhaps with some exaggeration, that they surpassed, in a tenfold proportion, the diminutive powers of the Romans. But these powers were under the command of Belisarius; and, as he was conscious of their superior merit,

he permitted the Barbarians to surprise him at an unseasonable hour. the Romans were instantly under arms; a rivulet covered their front; the cavalry formed the first line, which Belisarius supported in the centre, at the head of five hundred guards; the infantry, at some distance, was

posted in the second line; and the vigilance of the general watched the separate station and ambiguous faith of the Massagetæ, who secretly

reserved their aid for the conquerors. The historian has inserted, and the reader may easily supply, the speeches of the commanders, who, by arguments the most apposite to their situation, inculcated the

importance of victory, and the contempt of life. Zano, with the troops which had followed him to the conquest of Sardinia, was placed in the centre; and the throne of Genseric might have stood, if the multitude

of Vandals had imitated their intrepid resolution. Casting away their

lances and missile weapons, they drew their swords, and expected the charge: the Roman cavalry thrice passed the rivulet; they were thrice

repulsed; and the conflict was firmly maintained, till Zano fell, and the standard of Belisarius was displayed. Gelimer retreated to his camp; the Huns joined the pursuit; and the victors despoiled the bodies of the slain. Yet no more than fifty Romans, and eight hundred Vandals were found on the field of battle; so inconsiderable was the carnage of a day, which extinguished a nation, and transferred the empire of Africa.

In the evening Belisarius led his infantry to the attack of the camp; and the pusillanimous flight of Gelimer exposed the vanity of his recent declarations, that to the vanquished, death was a relief, life a burden, and infamy the only object of terror. His departure was secret; but as

soon as the Vandals discovered that their king had deserted them, they

hastily dispersed, anxious only for their personal safety, and careless

of every object that is dear or valuable to mankind. The Romans entered the camp without resistance; and the wildest scenes of disorder were

veiled in the darkness and confusion of the night. Every Barbarian who

met their swords was inhumanly massacred; their widows and daughters, as rich heirs, or beautiful concubines, were embraced by the licentious

soldiers; and avarice itself was almost satiated with the treasures of

gold and silver, the accumulated fruits of conquest or economy in a long

period of prosperity and peace. In this frantic search, the troops, even

of Belisarius, forgot their caution and respect. Intoxicated with lust and rapine, they explored, in small parties, or alone, the adjacent fields, the woods, the rocks, and the caverns, that might possibly conceal any desirable prize: laden with booty, they deserted their

ranks, and wandered without a guide, on the high road to Carthage; and

if the flying enemies had dared to return, very few of the conquerors would have escaped. Deeply sensible of the disgrace and danger, belisarius passed an apprehensive night on the field of victory: at the dawn of day, he planted his standard on a hill, recalled his guardians and veterans, and gradually restored the modesty and obedience of the camp. It was equally the concern of the Roman general to subdue the

hostile, and to save the prostrate, Barbarian; and the suppliant

Vandals, who could be found only in churches, were protected by his authority, disarmed, and separately confined, that they might neither disturb the public peace, nor become the victims of popular revenge. after despatching a light detachment to tread the footsteps of Gelimer,

he advanced, with his whole army, about ten days' march, as far as

Hippo Regius, which no longer possessed the relics of St. Augustin. the season, and the certain intelligence that the Vandal had fled to an

inaccessible country of the Moors, determined Belisarius to relinquish the vain pursuit, and to fix his winter quarters at Carthage. From thence he despatched his principal lieutenant, to inform the emperor, that in the space of three months he had achieved the conquest of africa.

belisarius spoke the language of truth. The surviving Vandals yielded, without resistance, their arms and their freedom; the neighborhood of carthage submitted to his presence; and the more distant provinces were

successively subdued by the report of his victory. Tripoli was confirmed

in her voluntary allegiance; Sardinia and Corsica surrendered to an

officer, who carried, instead of a sword, the head of the valiant Zano; and the Isles of Majorca, Minorca, and Yvica consented to remain an

humble appendage of the African kingdom. Cæsarea, a royal city, which in

looser geography may be confounded with the modern Algiers, was situate thirty days' march to the westward of Carthage: by land, the road was

infested by the Moors; but the sea was open, and the Romans were now

masters of the sea. An active and discreet tribune sailed as far as the Straits, where he occupied Septem or Ceuta, which rises opposite to

Gibraltar on the African coast; that remote place was afterwards adorned and fortified by Justinian; and he seems to have indulged the vain ambition of extending his empire to the columns of Hercules. He received the messengers of victory at the time when he was preparing to publish the Pandects of the Roman laws; and the devout or jealous emperor celebrated the divine goodness, and confessed, in silence, the merit of

his successful general. Impatient to abolish the temporal and spiritual tyranny of the Vandals, he proceeded, without delay, to the full establishment of the Catholic church. Her jurisdiction, wealth, and

immunities, perhaps the most essential part of episcopal religion, were restored and amplified with a liberal hand; the Arian worship was

suppressed; the Donatist meetings were proscribed; and the synod of carthage, by the voice of two hundred and seventeen bishops, applauded the just measure of pious retaliation. On such an occasion, it may

not be presumed, that many orthodox prelates were absent; but the comparative smallness of their number, which in ancient councils had been twice or even thrice multiplied, most clearly indicates the decay both of the church and state. While Justinian approved himself the defender of the faith, he entertained an ambitious hope, that his

victorious lieutenant would speedily enlarge the narrow limits of his dominion to the space which they occupied before the invasion of the

Moors and Vandals; and Belisarius was instructed to establish \_five\_ dukes or commanders in the convenient stations of Tripoli, Leptis, cirta, Cæsarea, and Sardinia, and to compute the military force of

\_palatines\_ or \_borderers\_ that might be sufficient for the defence of africa. The kingdom of the Vandals was not unworthy of the presence of a

Prætorian præfect; and four consulars, three presidents, were appointed to administer the seven provinces under his civil jurisdiction. The

number of their subordinate officers, clerks, messengers, or assistants, was minutely expressed; three hundred and ninety-six for the præfect

himself, fifty for each of his vicegerents; and the rigid definition of their fees and salaries was more effectual to confirm the right than to

prevent the abuse. These magistrates might be oppressive, but they were not idle; and the subtile questions of justice and revenue were

infinitely propagated under the new government, which professed to

revive the freedom and equity of the Roman republic. The conqueror was

solicitous to extract a prompt and plentiful supply from his African

subjects; and he allowed them to claim, even in the third degree, and from the collateral line, the houses and lands of which their families

had been unjustly despoiled by the Vandals. After the departure of belisarius, who acted by a high and special commission, no ordinary

provision was made for a master-general of the forces; but the office

of Prætorian præfect was intrusted to a soldier; the civil and military

powers were united, according to the practice of Justinian, in the chief

governor; and the representative of the emperor in Africa, as well as in

Italy, was soon distinguished by the appellation of Exarch.

Yet the conquest of Africa was imperfect till her former sovereign was delivered, either alive or dead, into the hands of the Romans. Doubtful

of the event, Gelimer had given secret orders that a part of his treasure should be transported to Spain, where he hoped to find a secure

refuge at the court of the king of the Visigoths. But these intentions were disappointed by accident, treachery, and the indefatigable pursuit

of his enemies, who intercepted his flight from the sea-shore, and chased the unfortunate monarch, with some faithful followers, to the

inaccessible mountain of Papua, in the inland country of Numidia. He was

immediately besieged by Pharas, an officer whose truth and sobriety were the more applauded, as such qualities could seldom be found among the

Heruli, the most corrupt of the Barbarian tribes. To his vigilance belisarius had intrusted this important charge and, after a bold attempt to scale the mountain, in which he lost a hundred and ten soldiers,

Pharas expected, during a winter siege, the operation of distress and famine on the mind of the Vandal king. From the softest habits of

pleasure, from the unbounded command of industry and wealth, he was reduced to share the poverty of the Moors, supportable only to themselves by their ignorance of a happier condition. In their rude

hovels, of mud and hurdles, which confined the smoke and excluded the

light, they promiscuously slept on the ground, perhaps on a sheep-skin, with their wives, their children, and their cattle. Sordid and scanty were their garments; the use of bread and wine was unknown; and their

oaten or barley cakes, imperfectly baked in the ashes, were devoured almost in a crude state, by the hungry savages. The health of Gelimer

must have sunk under these strange and unwonted hardships, from whatsoever cause they had been endured; but his actual misery was

imbittered by the recollection of past greatness, the daily insolence

of his protectors, and the just apprehension, that the light and

venal Moors might be tempted to betray the rights of hospitality. The

knowledge of his situation dictated the humane and friendly epistle

of Pharas. "Like yourself," said the chief of the Heruli, "I am an

illiterate Barbarian, but I speak the language of plain sense and an

honest heart. Why will you persist in hopeless obstinacy? Why will

you ruin yourself, your family, and nation? The love of freedom and abhorrence of slavery? Alas! my dearest Gelimer, are you not already the worst of slaves, the slave of the vile nation of the Moors? Would it

not be preferable to sustain at Constantinople a life of poverty and

servitude, rather than to reign the undoubted monarch of the mountain

of Papua? Do you think it a disgrace to be the subject of Justinian? belisarius is his subject; and we ourselves, whose birth is not inferior to your own, are not ashamed of our obedience to the Roman emperor. That

generous prince will grant you a rich inheritance of lands, a place

in the senate, and the dignity of patrician: such are his gracious

intentions, and you may depend with full assurance on the word of belisarius. So long as Heaven has condemned us to suffer, patience is a

virtue; but if we reject the proffered deliverance, it degenerates into blind and stupid despair." "I am not insensible," replied the king of the

Vandals, "how kind and rational is your advice. But I cannot persuade

myself to become the slave of an unjust enemy, who has deserved my

implacable hatred. \_Him\_ I had never injured either by word or deed: yet

he has sent against me, I know not from whence, a certain Belisarius, who has cast me headlong from the throne into his abyss of misery.

Justinian is a man; he is a prince; does he not dread for himself a

similar reverse of fortune? I can write no more: my grief oppresses me.

Send me, I beseech you, my dear Pharas, send me, a lyre, a sponge, and a loaf of bread." From the Vandal messenger, Pharas was informed of the

motives of this singular request. It was long since the king of Africa

had tasted bread; a defluxion had fallen on his eyes, the effect of fatigue or incessant weeping; and he wished to solace the melancholy

hours, by singing to the lyre the sad story of his own misfortunes. The

humanity of Pharas was moved; he sent the three extraordinary gifts; but even his humanity prompted him to redouble the vigilance of his guard, that he might sooner compel his prisoner to embrace a resolution advantageous to the Romans, but salutary to himself. The obstinacy of

Gelimer at length yielded to reason and necessity; the solemn assurances

of safety and honorable treatment were ratified in the emperor's name, by the ambassador of Belisarius; and the king of the Vandals descended from the mountain. The first public interview was in one of the suburbs

of Carthage; and when the royal captive accosted his conqueror, he burst

into a fit of laughter. The crowd might naturally believe, that extreme

grief had deprived Gelimer of his senses: but in this mournful state,

unseasonable mirth insinuated to more intelligent observers, that the

vain and transitory scenes of human greatness are unworthy of a serious thought.

their contempt was soon justified by a new example of a vulgar truth; that flattery adheres to power, and envy to superior merit. The chiefs

of the Roman army presumed to think themselves the rivals of a hero. their private despatches maliciously affirmed, that the conqueror of africa, strong in his reputation and the public love, conspired to

seat himself on the throne of the Vandals. Justinian listened with too

patient an ear; and his silence was the result of jealousy rather than

of confidence. An honorable alternative, of remaining in the province,

or of returning to the capital, was indeed submitted to the discretion

of Belisarius; but he wisely concluded, from intercepted letters and the knowledge of his sovereign's temper, that he must either resign his

head, erect his standard, or confound his enemies by his presence and submission. Innocence and courage decided his choice; his guards, captives, and treasures, were diligently embarked; and so prosperous was the navigation, that his arrival at Constantinople preceded any certain account of his departure from the port of Carthage. Such unsuspecting

loyalty removed the apprehensions of Justinian; envy was silenced and

inflamed by the public gratitude; and the third Africanus obtained the

honors of a triumph, a ceremony which the city of Constantine had never

seen, and which ancient Rome, since the reign of Tiberius, had reserved for the \_auspicious\_ arms of the Cæsars. From the palace of Belisarius, the procession was conducted through the principal streets to the

hippodrome; and this memorable day seemed to avenge the injuries of

Genseric, and to expiate the shame of the Romans. The wealth of nations was displayed, the trophies of martial or effeminate luxury; rich armor,

golden thrones, and the chariots of state which had been used by the

Vandal queen; the massy furniture of the royal banquet, the splendor

of precious stones, the elegant forms of statues and vases, the more

substantial treasure of gold, and the holy vessels of the Jewish temple, which after their long peregrination were respectfully deposited in the Christian church of Jerusalem. A long train of the noblest Vandals

reluctantly exposed their lofty stature and manly countenance. Gelimer

slowly advanced: he was clad in a purple robe, and still maintained the majesty of a king. Not a tear escaped from his eyes, not a sigh was

heard; but his pride or piety derived some secret consolation from the words of Solomon, which he repeatedly pronounced, Vanity! vanity! all

is vanity! Instead of ascending a triumphal car drawn by four horses or elephants, the modest conqueror marched on foot at the head of his brave companions; his prudence might decline an honor too conspicuous for a

subject; and his magnanimity might justly disdain what had been so often

sullied by the vilest of tyrants. The glorious procession entered the

gate of the hippodrome; was saluted by the acclamations of the senate and people; and halted before the throne where Justinian and Theodora were seated to receive homage of the captive monarch and the victorious

hero. They both performed the customary adoration; and falling prostrate

on the ground, respectfully touched the footstool of a prince who had

not unsheathed his sword, and of a prostitute who had danced on the theatre; some gentle violence was used to bend the stubborn spirit of the grandson of Genseric; and however trained to servitude, the genius

of Belisarius must have secretly rebelled. He was immediately declared consul for the ensuing year, and the day of his inauguration resembled the pomp of a second triumph: his curule chair was borne aloft on the

shoulders of captive Vandals; and the spoils of war, gold cups, and rich

girdles, were profusely scattered among the populace.

chapter XLI: Conquests Of Justinian, Character Of Balisarius.--Part III.

but the purest reward of Belisarius was in the faithful execution of a treaty for which his honor had been pledged to the king of the Vandals. the religious scruples of Gelimer, who adhered to the Arian heresy, were

incompatible with the dignity of senator or patrician: but he received from the emperor an ample estate in the province of Galatia, where the abdicated monarch retired, with his family and friends, to a life of

peace, of affluence, and perhaps of content. The daughters of Hilderic were entertained with the respectful tenderness due to their age and

misfortune; and Justinian and Theodora accepted the honor of educating and enriching the female descendants of the great Theodosius. The bravest of the Vandal youth were distributed into five squadrons of cavalry, which adopted the name of their benefactor, and supported

in the Persian wars the glory of their ancestors. But these rare exceptions, the reward of birth or valor, are insufficient to explain the fate of a nation, whose numbers before a short and bloodless war, amounted to more than six hundred thousand persons. After the exile of their king and nobles, the servile crowd might purchase their safety by abjuring their character, religion, and language; and their degenerate

posterity would be insensibly mingled with the common herd of African

subjects. Yet even in the present age, and in the heart of the Moorish tribes, a curious traveller has discovered the white complexion and long flaxen hair of a northern race; and it was formerly believed, that the boldest of the Vandals fled beyond the power, or even the knowledge,

of the Romans, to enjoy their solitary freedom on the shores of the atlantic Ocean. Africa had been their empire, it became their prison;

nor could they entertain a hope, or even a wish, of returning to the banks of the Elbe, where their brethren, of a spirit less adventurous,

still wandered in their native forests. It was impossible for cowards to surmount the barriers of unknown seas and hostile Barbarians; it was

impossible for brave men to expose their nakedness and defeat before the eyes of their countrymen, to describe the kingdoms which they had lost, and to claim a share of the humble inheritance, which, in a happier

hour, they had almost unanimously renounced. In the country between the elbe and the Oder, several populous villages of Lusatia are inhabited by the Vandals: they still preserve their language, their customs, and the purity of their blood; support, with some impatience, the Saxon

or Prussian yoke; and serve, with secret and voluntary allegiance, the descendant of their ancient kings, who in his garb and present fortune

is confounded with the meanest of his vassals. The name and situation of this unhappy people might indicate their descent from one common stock with the conquerors of Africa. But the use of a Sclavonian dialect more clearly represent them as the last remnant of the new colonies, who

succeeded to the genuine Vandals, already scattered or destroyed in the age of Procopius.

If Belisarius had been tempted to hesitate in his allegiance, he might

have urged, even against the emperor himself, the indispensable duty of

saving Africa from an enemy more barbarous than the Vandals. The origin

of the Moors is involved in darkness; they were ignorant of the use of

letters. Their limits cannot be precisely defined; a boundless continent was open to the Libyan shepherds; the change of seasons and pastures

regulated their motions; and their rude huts and slender furniture were transported with the same case as their arms, their families, and their cattle, which consisted of sheep, oxen, and camels. During the vigor of the Roman power, they observed a respectful distance from Carthage and the sea-shore: under the feeble reign of the Vandals, they invaded the cities of Numidia, occupied the sea-coast from Tangier to Cæsarea, and

pitched their camps, with impunity, in the fertile province of Byzacium. the formidable strength and artful conduct of Belisarius secured the

neutrality of the Moorish princes, whose vanity aspired to receive,

in the emperor's name, the ensigns of their regal dignity. They were astonished by the rapid event, and trembled in the presence of their conqueror. But his approaching departure soon relieved the apprehensions

of a savage and superstitious people; the number of their wives allowed them to disregard the safety of their infant hostages; and when the

Roman general hoisted sail in the port of Carthage, he heard the cries, and almost beheld the flames, of the desolated province. Yet he

persisted in his resolution, and leaving only a part of his guards to

reënforce the feeble garrisons, he intrusted the command of Africa to the eunuch Solomon, who proved himself not unworthy to be the successor

of Belisarius. In the first invasion, some detachments, with two

officers of merit, were surprised and intercepted; but Solomon speedily assembled his troops, marched from Carthage into the heart of the country, and in two great battles destroyed sixty thousand of the barbarians. The Moors depended on their multitude, their swiftness, and their inaccessible mountains; and the aspect and smell of their camels are said to have produced some confusion in the Roman cavalry. But as

soon as they were commanded to dismount, they derided this contemptible

obstacle: as soon as the columns ascended the hills, the naked and disorderly crowd was dazzled by glittering arms and regular evolutions; and the menace of their female prophets was repeatedly fulfilled, that the Moors should be discomfited by a \_beardless\_ antagonist. The

victorious eunuch advanced thirteen days journey from Carthage, to besiege Mount Aurasius, the citadel, and at the same time the garden,

of Numidia. That range of hills, a branch of the great Atlas, contains, within a circumference of one hundred and twenty miles, a rare variety

of soil and climate; the intermediate valleys and elevated plains abound with rich pastures, perpetual streams, and fruits of a delicious taste and uncommon magnitude. This fair solitude is decorated with the ruins

of Lambesa, a Roman city, once the seat of a legion, and the residence

of forty thousand inhabitants. The Ionic temple of Æsculapius is encompassed with Moorish huts; and the cattle now graze in the midst

of an amphitheatre, under the shade of Corinthian columns. A sharp

perpendicular rock rises above the level of the mountain, where the african princes deposited their wives and treasure; and a proverb is familiar to the Arabs, that the man may eat fire who dares to attack the craggy cliffs and inhospitable natives of Mount Aurasius. This hardy enterprise was twice attempted by the eunuch Solomon: from the first,

he retreated with some disgrace; and in the second, his patience and

provisions were almost exhausted; and he must again have retired, if he

had not yielded to the impetuous courage of his troops, who audaciously

scaled, to the astonishment of the Moors, the mountain, the hostile camp, and the summit of the Geminian rock A citadel was erected to

secure this important conquest, and to remind the Barbarians of their defeat; and as Solomon pursued his march to the west, the long-lost

province of Mauritanian Sitifi was again annexed to the Roman empire. the Moorish war continued several years after the departure of belisarius; but the laurels which he resigned to a faithful lieutenant

may be justly ascribed to his own triumph.

the experience of past faults, which may sometimes correct the mature age of an individual, is seldom profitable to the successive generations

of mankind. The nations of antiquity, careless of each other's safety, were separately vanquished and enslaved by the Romans. This awful lesson

might have instructed the Barbarians of the West to oppose, with timely counsels and confederate arms, the unbounded ambition of Justinian. Yet the same error was repeated, the same consequences were felt, and the

Goths, both of Italy and Spain, insensible of their approaching danger, beheld with indifference, and even with joy, the rapid downfall of the

Vandals. After the failure of the royal line, Theudes, a valiant and

powerful chief, ascended the throne of Spain, which he had formerly administered in the name of Theodoric and his infant grandson. Under

his command, the Visigoths besieged the fortress of Ceuta on the African coast: but, while they spent the Sabbath day in peace and devotion, the

pious security of their camp was invaded by a sally from the town; and the king himself, with some difficulty and danger, escaped from the

hands of a sacrilegious enemy. It was not long before his pride and

resentment were gratified by a suppliant embassy from the unfortunate

Gelimer, who implored, in his distress, the aid of the Spanish monarch. but instead of sacrificing these unworthy passions to the dictates of

generosity and prudence, Theudes amused the ambassadors till he was

secretly informed of the loss of Carthage, and then dismissed them with

obscure and contemptuous advice, to seek in their native country a true knowledge of the state of the Vandals. The long continuance of the

Italian war delayed the punishment of the Visigoths; and the eyes

of Theudes were closed before they tasted the fruits of his mistaken

policy. After his death, the sceptre of Spain was disputed by a civil war. The weaker candidate solicited the protection of Justinian, and ambitiously subscribed a treaty of alliance, which deeply wounded the

independence and happiness of his country. Several cities, both on the ocean and the Mediterranean, were ceded to the Roman troops, who afterwards refused to evacuate those pledges, as it should seem, either

of safety or payment; and as they were fortified by perpetual supplies from Africa, they maintained their impregnable stations, for the

mischievous purpose of inflaming the civil and religious factions of the Barbarians. Seventy years elapsed before this painful thorn could be extirpated from the bosom of the monarchy; and as long as the emperors

retained any share of these remote and useless possessions, their vanity

might number Spain in the list of their provinces, and the successors of alaric in the rank of their vassals.

the error of the Goths who reigned in Italy was less excusable than that

of their Spanish brethren, and their punishment was still more immediate and terrible. From a motive of private revenge, they enabled their most dangerous enemy to destroy their most valuable ally. A sister of the

great Theodoric had been given in marriage to Thrasimond, the African

king: on this occasion, the fortress of Lilybæum in Sicily was resigned to the Vandals; and the princess Amalafrida was attended by a martial train of one thousand nobles, and five thousand Gothic soldiers, who

signalized their valor in the Moorish wars. Their merit was overrated by themselves, and perhaps neglected by the Vandals; they viewed the country with envy, and the conquerors with disdain; but their real

or fictitious conspiracy was prevented by a massacre; the Goths were

oppressed, and the captivity of Amalafrida was soon followed by her

secret and suspicious death. The eloquent pen of Cassiodorus was employed to reproach the Vandal court with the cruel violation of every

social and public duty; but the vengeance which he threatened in the

name of his sovereign might be derided with impunity, as long as Africa was protected by the sea, and the Goths were destitute of a navy. In the blind impotence of grief and indignation, they joyfully saluted the approach of the Romans, entertained the fleet of Belisarius in the ports

of Sicily, and were speedily delighted or alarmed by the surprising

intelligence, that their revenge was executed beyond the measure of their hopes, or perhaps of their wishes. To their friendship the emperor was indebted for the kingdom of Africa, and the Goths might reasonably think, that they were entitled to resume the possession of a barren

rock, so recently separated as a nuptial gift from the island of Sicily. they were soon undeceived by the haughty mandate of Belisarius, which excited their tardy and unavailing repentance. "The city and promontory

of Lilybæum," said the Roman general, "belonged to the Vandals, and I claim them by the right of conquest. Your submission may deserve the favor of the emperor; your obstinacy will provoke his displeasure, and

must kindle a war, that can terminate only in your utter ruin. If

you compel us to take up arms, we shall contend, not to regain the

possession of a single city, but to deprive you of all the provinces which you unjustly withhold from their lawful sovereign." A nation of two hundred thousand soldiers might have smiled at the vain menace of

Justinian and his lieutenant: but a spirit of discord and disaffection

prevailed in Italy, and the Goths supported, with reluctance, the

indignity of a female reign.

the birth of Amalasontha, the regent and queen of Italy, united the two

most illustrious families of the Barbarians. Her mother, the sister of clovis, was descended from the long-haired kings of the \_Merovingian\_

race; and the regal succession of the \_Amali\_ was illustrated in the eleventh generation, by her father, the great Theodoric, whose merit

might have ennobled a plebeian origin. The sex of his daughter excluded

her from the Gothic throne; but his vigilant tenderness for his family and his people discovered the last heir of the royal line, whose ancestors had taken refuge in Spain; and the fortunate Eutharic was

suddenly exalted to the rank of a consul and a prince. He enjoyed only a short time the charms of Amalasontha, and the hopes of the succession; and his widow, after the death of her husband and father, was left the

guardian of her son Athalaric, and the kingdom of Italy. At the age

of about twenty-eight years, the endowments of her mind and person had attained their perfect maturity. Her beauty, which, in the apprehension

of Theodora herself, might have disputed the conquest of an emperor, was animated by manly sense, activity, and resolution. Education and experience had cultivated her talents; her philosophic studies were exempt from vanity; and, though she expressed herself with equal elegance and ease in the Greek, the Latin, and the Gothic tongue, the daughter of Theodoric maintained in her counsels a discreet and

impenetrable silence. By a faithful imitation of the virtues, she

revived the prosperity, of his reign; while she strove, with pious care, to expiate the faults, and to obliterate the darker memory of his declining age. The children of Boethius and Symmachus were restored to their paternal inheritance; her extreme lenity never consented to

inflict any corporal or pecuniary penalties on her Roman subjects; and

she generously despised the clamors of the Goths, who, at the end of forty years, still considered the people of Italy as their slaves or their enemies. Her salutary measures were directed by the wisdom, and celebrated by the eloquence, of Cassiodorus; she solicited and deserved the friendship of the emperor; and the kingdoms of Europe respected, both in peace and war, the majesty of the Gothic throne. But the future

happiness of the queen and of Italy depended on the education of her

son; who was destined, by his birth, to support the different and almost

incompatible characters of the chief of a Barbarian camp, and the first

magistrate of a civilized nation. From the age of ten years, Athalaric was diligently instructed in the arts and sciences, either useful or

ornamental for a Roman prince; and three venerable Goths were chosen to

instil the principles of honor and virtue into the mind of their young

king. But the pupil who is insensible of the benefits, must abhor the restraints, of education; and the solicitude of the queen, which affection rendered anxious and severe, offended the untractable nature

of her son and his subjects. On a solemn festival, when the Goths were assembled in the palace of Ravenna, the royal youth escaped from his

mother's apartment, and, with tears of pride and anger, complained of a blow which his stubborn disobedience had provoked her to inflict. The barbarians resented the indignity which had been offered to their

king; accused the regent of conspiring against his life and crown; and

imperiously demanded, that the grandson of Theodoric should be rescued from the dastardly discipline of women and pedants, and educated, like a

valiant Goth, in the society of his equals and the glorious ignorance of

his ancestors. To this rude clamor, importunately urged as the voice

of the nation, Amalasontha was compelled to yield her reason, and the dearest wishes of her heart. The king of Italy was abandoned to wine, to women, and to rustic sports; and the indiscreet contempt of the

ungrateful youth betrayed the mischievous designs of his favorites and

her enemies. Encompassed with domestic foes, she entered into a secret

negotiation with the emperor Justinian; obtained the assurance of a friendly reception, and had actually deposited at Dyrachium, in Epirus, a treasure of forty thousand pounds of gold. Happy would it have been for her fame and safety, if she had calmly retired from barbarous faction to the peace and splendor of Constantinople. But the mind of amalasontha was inflamed by ambition and revenge; and while her ships

lay at anchor in the port, she waited for the success of a crime which

her passions excused or applauded as an act of justice. Three of the

most dangerous malecontents had been separately removed under the

pretence of trust and command, to the frontiers of Italy: they were assassinated by her private emissaries; and the blood of these noble

Goths rendered the queen-mother absolute in the court of Ravenna, and

justly odious to a free people. But if she had lamented the disorders of

her son she soon wept his irreparable loss; and the death of Athalaric, who, at the age of sixteen, was consumed by premature intemperance,

left her destitute of any firm support or legal authority. Instead of

submitting to the laws of her country which held as a fundamental maxim, that the succession could never pass from the lance to the distaff, the daughter of Theodoric conceived the impracticable design of sharing, with one of her cousins, the regal title, and of reserving in her own

hands the substance of supreme power. He received the proposal with

profound respect and affected gratitude; and the eloquent Cassiodorus announced to the senate and the emperor, that Amalasontha and Theodatus

had ascended the throne of Italy. His birth (for his mother was the

sister of Theodoric) might be considered as an imperfect title; and the choice of Amalasontha was more strongly directed by her contempt of

his avarice and pusillanimity which had deprived him of the love of the Italians, and the esteem of the Barbarians. But Theodatus was exasperated by the contempt which he deserved: her justice had repressed and reproached the oppression which he exercised against his Tuscan

neighbors; and the principal Goths, united by common guilt and

resentment, conspired to instigate his slow and timid disposition. The

letters of congratulation were scarcely despatched before the queen of

Italy was imprisoned in a small island of the Lake of Bolsena, where, after a short confinement, she was strangled in the bath, by the order,

or with the connivance of the new king, who instructed his turbulent

subjects to shed the blood of their sovereigns.

Justinian beheld with joy the dissensions of the Goths; and the

mediation of an ally concealed and promoted the ambitious views of the conqueror. His ambassadors, in their public audience, demanded the fortress of Lilybæum, ten Barbarian fugitives, and a just compensation for the pillage of a small town on the Illyrian borders; but they

secretly negotiated with Theodatus to betray the province of Tuscany, and tempted Amalasontha to extricate herself from danger and perplexity, by a free surrender of the kingdom of Italy. A false and servile epistle was subscribed, by the reluctant hand of the captive queen: but the confession of the Roman senators, who were sent to Constantinople,

revealed the truth of her deplorable situation; and Justinian, by the

voice of a new ambassador, most powerfully interceded for her life and

liberty. Yet the secret instructions of the same minister were adapted to serve the cruel jealousy of Theodora, who dreaded the presence and

superior charms of a rival: he prompted, with artful and ambiguous

hints, the execution of a crime so useful to the Romans; received the

intelligence of her death with grief and indignation, and denounced,

in his master's name, immortal war against the perfidious assassin. In

Italy, as well as in Africa, the guilt of a usurper appeared to

justify the arms of Justinian; but the forces which he prepared, were

insufficient for the subversion of a mighty kingdom, if their feeble

numbers had not been multiplied by the name, the spirit, and the conduct, of a hero. A chosen troop of guards, who served on horseback, and were armed with lances and bucklers, attended the person of belisarius; his cavalry was composed of two hundred Huns, three hundred

Moors, and four thousand \_confederates\_, and the infantry consisted of

only three thousand Isaurians. Steering the same course as in his former expedition, the Roman consul cast anchor before Catana in Sicily, to

survey the strength of the island, and to decide whether he should attempt the conquest, or peaceably pursue his voyage for the African coast. He found a fruitful land and a friendly people. Notwithstanding the decay of agriculture, Sicily still supplied the granaries of Rome: the farmers were graciously exempted from the oppression of military

quarters; and the Goths, who trusted the defence of the island to the

inhabitants, had some reason to complain, that their confidence was

ungratefully betrayed. Instead of soliciting and expecting the aid

of the king of Italy, they yielded to the first summons a cheerful

obedience; and this province, the first fruits of the Punic war, was again, after a long separation, united to the Roman empire. The Gothic

garrison of Palermo, which alone attempted to resist, was reduced, after a short siege, by a singular stratagem. Belisarius introduced his ships

into the deepest recess of the harbor; their boats were laboriously

hoisted with ropes and pulleys to the top-mast head, and he filled them with archers, who, from that superior station, commanded the ramparts

of the city. After this easy, though successful campaign, the conqueror entered Syracuse in triumph, at the head of his victorious bands, distributing gold medals to the people, on the day which so gloriously terminated the year of the consulship. He passed the winter season in the palace of ancient kings, amidst the ruins of a Grecian colony, which

once extended to a circumference of two-and-twenty miles: but in the

spring, about the festival of Easter, the prosecution of his designs was

interrupted by a dangerous revolt of the African forces. Carthage was

saved by the presence of Belisarius, who suddenly landed with a thousand

guards. Two thousand soldiers of doubtful faith returned to the

standard of their old commander: and he marched, without hesitation, above fifty miles, to seek an enemy whom he affected to pity and despise. Eight thousand rebels trembled at his approach; they were

routed at the first onset, by the dexterity of their master: and this ignoble victory would have restored the peace of Africa, if the conqueror had not been hastily recalled to Sicily, to appease a sedition which was kindled during his absence in his own camp. Disorder and disobedience were the common malady of the times; the genius to command, and the virtue to obey, resided only in the mind of Belisarius.

chapter XLI: Conquests Of Justinian, Character Of Balisarius.--Part IV.

although Theodatus descended from a race of heroes, he was ignorant of the art, and averse to the dangers, of war. Although he had studied the writings of Plato and Tully, philosophy was incapable of purifying his

mind from the basest passions, avarice and fear. He had purchased a

sceptre by ingratitude and murder: at the first menace of an enemy, he degraded his own majesty and that of a nation, which already disdained their unworthy sovereign. Astonished by the recent example of Gelimer,

he saw himself dragged in chains through the streets of Constantinople: the terrors which Belisarius inspired were heightened by the eloquence

of Peter, the Byzantine ambassador; and that bold and subtle advocate

persuaded him to sign a treaty, too ignominious to become the foundation

of a lasting peace. It was stipulated, that in the acclamations of the

Roman people, the name of the emperor should be always proclaimed before that of the Gothic king; and that as often as the statue of Theodatus was erected in brass on marble, the divine image of Justinian should be

placed on its right hand. Instead of conferring, the king of Italy was

reduced to solicit, the honors of the senate; and the consent of the emperor was made indispensable before he could execute, against a priest

or senator, the sentence either of death or confiscation. The feeble

monarch resigned the possession of Sicily; offered, as the annual

mark of his dependence, a crown of gold of the weight of three hundred

pounds; and promised to supply, at the requisition of his sovereign, three thousand Gothic auxiliaries, for the service of the empire.

Satisfied with these extraordinary concessions, the successful agent of

Justinian hastened his journey to Constantinople; but no sooner had

he reached the Alban villa, than he was recalled by the anxiety of theodatus; and the dialogue which passed between the king and the ambassador deserves to be represented in its original simplicity. "Are

you of opinion that the emperor will ratify this treaty? \_Perhaps\_. If

he refuses, what consequence will ensue? \_War\_. Will such a war, be just

or reasonable? \_Most assuredly: every one should act according to his character\_. What is your meaning? \_You are a philosopher--Justinian is emperor of the Romans: it would ill become the disciple of Plato to shed the blood of thousands in his private quarrel: the successor of Augustus

should vindicate his rights, and recover by arms the ancient provinces

of his empire\_." This reasoning might not convince, but it was

sufficient to alarm and subdue the weakness of Theodatus; and he soon descended to his last offer, that for the poor equivalent of a pension

of forty-eight thousand pounds sterling, he would resign the kingdom

of the Goths and Italians, and spend the remainder of his days in the

innocent pleasures of philosophy and agriculture. Both treaties were

intrusted to the hands of the ambassador, on the frail security of an oath not to produce the second till the first had been positively

rejected. The event may be easily foreseen: Justinian required and accepted the abdication of the Gothic king. His indefatigable agent

returned from Constantinople to Ravenna, with ample instructions; and a fair epistle, which praised the wisdom and generosity of the royal

philosopher, granted his pension, with the assurance of such honors as a subject and a Catholic might enjoy; and wisely referred the final execution of the treaty to the presence and authority of Belisarius. but in the interval of suspense, two Roman generals, who had entered the

province of Dalmatia, were defeated and slain by the Gothic troops. From blind and abject despair, Theodatus capriciously rose to groundless and fatal presumption, and dared to receive, with menace and contempt, the ambassador of Justinian; who claimed his promise, solicited the allegiance of his subjects, and boldly asserted the inviolable privilege

of his own character. The march of Belisarius dispelled this visionary

pride; and as the first campaign was employed in the reduction of

Sicily, the invasion of Italy is applied by Procopius to the second year

of the Gothic war.

after Belisarius had left sufficient garrisons in Palermo and Syracuse,

he embarked his troops at Messina, and landed them, without resistance,

on the opposite shores of Rhegium. A Gothic prince, who had married the daughter of Theodatus, was stationed with an army to guard the entrance

of Italy; but he imitated, without scruple, the example of a sovereign faithless to his public and private duties. The perfidious Ebermor deserted with his followers to the Roman camp, and was dismissed to enjoy the servile honors of the Byzantine court. From Rhegium to Naples, the fleet and army of Belisarius, almost always in view of each other, advanced near three hundred miles along the sea-coast. The people of bruttium, Lucania, and Campania, who abhorred the name and religion of the Goths, embraced the specious excuse, that their ruined walls were incapable of defence: the soldiers paid a just equivalent for a plentiful market; and curiosity alone interrupted the peaceful

occupations of the husbandman or artificer. Naples, which has swelled to a great and populous capital, long cherished the language and manners

of a Grecian colony; and the choice of Virgil had ennobled this elegant

retreat, which attracted the lovers of repose and study, elegant

retreat, which attracted the lovers of repose and study, from the noise, the smoke, and the laborious opulence of Rome. As soon as the place was

invested by sea and land, Belisarius gave audience to the deputies of the people, who exhorted him to disregard a conquest unworthy of his arms, to seek the Gothic king in a field of battle, and, after his

victory, to claim, as the sovereign of Rome, the allegiance of the dependent cities. "When I treat with my enemies," replied the Roman chief, with a haughty smile, "I am more accustomed to give than to

receive counsel; but I hold in one hand inevitable ruin, and in the

other peace and freedom, such as Sicily now enjoys." The impatience of delay urged him to grant the most liberal terms; his honor secured their

performance: but Naples was divided into two factions; and the Greek democracy was inflamed by their orators, who, with much spirit and some truth, represented to the multitude that the Goths would punish their defection, and that Belisarius himself must esteem their loyalty and

valor. Their deliberations, however, were not perfectly free: the city was commanded by eight hundred Barbarians, whose wives and children were detained at Ravenna as the pledge of their fidelity; and even the Jews, who were rich and numerous, resisted, with desperate enthusiasm, the

intolerant laws of Justinian. In a much later period, the circumference

of Naples measured only two thousand three hundred and sixty three

paces: the fortifications were defended by precipices or the sea; when the aqueducts were intercepted, a supply of water might be drawn from wells and fountains; and the stock of provisions was sufficient to consume the patience of the besiegers. At the end of twenty days, that

of Belisarius was almost exhausted, and he had reconciled himself to the disgrace of abandoning the siege, that he might march, before the winter

season, against Rome and the Gothic king. But his anxiety was relieved by the bold curiosity of an Isaurian, who explored the dry channel of an aqueduct, and secretly reported, that a passage might be perforated to

introduce a file of armed soldiers into the heart of the city. When the work had been silently executed, the humane general risked the discovery

of his secret by a last and fruitless admonition of the impending danger. In the darkness of the night, four hundred Romans entered the aqueduct, raised themselves by a rope, which they fastened to an

olive-tree, into the house or garden of a solitary matron, sounded their trumpets, surprised the sentinels, and gave admittance to their companions, who on all sides scaled the walls, and burst open the

gates of the city. Every crime which is punished by social justice was

practised as the rights of war; the Huns were distinguished by cruelty and sacrilege, and Belisarius alone appeared in the streets and churches

of Naples to moderate the calamities which he predicted. "The gold and

silver," he repeatedly exclaimed, "are the just rewards of your valor. but spare the inhabitants; they are Christians, they are suppliants, they are now your fellow-subjects. Restore the children to their

parents, the wives to their husbands; and show them by you, generosity

of what friends they have obstinately deprived themselves." The city was saved by the virtue and authority of its conqueror; and when the

Neapolitans returned to their houses, they found some consolation in the secret enjoyment of their hidden treasures. The Barbarian garrison enlisted in the service of the emperor; Apulia and Calabria, delivered from the odious presence of the Goths, acknowledged his dominion; and the tusks of the Calydonian boar, which were still shown at Beneventum, are curiously described by the historian of Belisarius.

the faithful soldiers and citizens of Naples had expected their deliverance from a prince, who remained the inactive and almost

indifferent spectator of their ruin. Theodatus secured his person within the walls of Rome, whilst his cavalry advanced forty miles on the Appian way, and encamped in the Pomptine marshes; which, by a canal of nineteen

miles in length, had been recently drained and converted into excellent

pastures. But the principal forces of the Goths were dispersed in dalmatia, Venetia, and Gaul; and the feeble mind of their king was confounded by the unsuccessful event of a divination, which seemed to presage the downfall of his empire. The most abject slaves have arraigned the guilt or weakness of an unfortunate master. The character

of Theodatus was rigorously scrutinized by a free and idle camp of barbarians, conscious of their privilege and power: he was declared

unworthy of his race, his nation, and his throne; and their general

Vitiges, whose valor had been signalized in the Illyrian war, was raised with unanimous applause on the bucklers of his companions. On the first

rumor, the abdicated monarch fled from the justice of his country; but

he was pursued by private revenge. A Goth, whom he had injured in his

love, overtook Theodatus on the Flaminian way, and, regardless of his

unmanly cries, slaughtered him, as he lay, prostrate on the ground, like a victim (says the historian) at the foot of the altar. The choice of the people is the best and purest title to reign over them; yet such is the prejudice of every age, that Vitiges impatiently wished to return to

Ravenna, where he might seize, with the reluctant hand of the daughter

of Amalasontha, some faint shadow of hereditary right. A national council was immediately held, and the new monarch reconciled the

impatient spirit of the Barbarians to a measure of disgrace, which the

misconduct of his predecessor rendered wise and indispensable. The Goths consented to retreat in the presence of a victorious enemy; to delay till the next spring the operations of offensive war; to summon their

scattered forces; to relinquish their distant possessions, and to trust even Rome itself to the faith of its inhabitants. Leuderis, an ancient warrior, was left in the capital with four thousand soldiers; a feeble

garrison, which might have seconded the zeal, though it was incapable

of opposing the wishes, of the Romans. But a momentary enthusiasm of

religion and patriotism was kindled in their minds. They furiously exclaimed, that the apostolic throne should no longer be profaned by the triumph or toleration of Arianism; that the tombs of the Cæsars

should no longer be trampled by the savages of the North; and, without

reflecting, that Italy must sink into a province of Constantinople, they fondly hailed the restoration of a Roman emperor as a new æra of freedom and prosperity. The deputies of the pope and clergy, of the senate and

people, invited the lieutenant of Justinian to accept their voluntary allegiance, and to enter the city, whose gates would be thrown open for

his reception. As soon as Belisarius had fortified his new conquests,

Naples and Cumæ, he advanced about twenty miles to the banks of the

Vulturnus, contemplated the decayed grandeur of Capua, and halted at the

separation of the Latin and Appian ways. The work of the censor, after the incessant use of nine centuries, still preserved its primæval beauty, and not a flaw could be discovered in the large polished stones,

of which that solid, though narrow road, was so firmly compacted. belisarius, however, preferred the Latin way, which, at a distance from the sea and the marshes, skirted in a space of one hundred and twenty

miles along the foot of the mountains. His enemies had disappeared: when

he made his entrance through the Asinarian gate, the garrison departed without molestation along the Flaminian way; and the city, after

sixty years' servitude, was delivered from the yoke of the Barbarians.

Leuderis alone, from a motive of pride or discontent, refused to accompany the fugitives; and the Gothic chief, himself a trophy of the

victory, was sent with the keys of Rome to the throne of the emperor

Justinian.

the first days, which coincided with the old Saturnalia, were devoted to

mutual congratulation and the public joy; and the Catholics prepared to celebrate, without a rival, the approaching festival of the nativity of christ. In the familiar conversation of a hero, the Romans acquired some

notion of the virtues which history ascribed to their ancestors; they were edified by the apparent respect of Belisarius for the successor

of St. Peter, and his rigid discipline secured in the midst of war the blessings of tranquillity and justice. They applauded the rapid success

of his arms, which overran the adjacent country, as far as Narni,

Perusia, and Spoleto; but they trembled, the senate, the clergy, and the

unwarlike people, as soon as they understood that he had resolved, and would speedily be reduced, to sustain a siege against the powers of the

Gothic monarchy. The designs of Vitiges were executed, during the winter

season, with diligence and effect. From their rustic habitations, from their distant garrisons, the Goths assembled at Ravenna for the defence

of their country; and such were their numbers, that, after an army had been detached for the relief of Dalmatia, one hundred and fifty thousand fighting men marched under the royal standard. According to the degrees

of rank or merit, the Gothic king distributed arms and horses, rich

gifts, and liberal promises; he moved along the Flaminian way, declined the useless sieges of Perusia and Spoleto, respected he impregnable

rock of Narni, and arrived within two miles of Rome at the foot of the Milvian bridge. The narrow passage was fortified with a tower, and belisarius had computed the value of the twenty days which must be lost

in the construction of another bridge. But the consternation of the

soldiers of the tower, who either fled or deserted, disappointed his

hopes, and betrayed his person into the most imminent danger. At the

head of one thousand horse, the Roman general sallied from the Flaminian

gate to mark the ground of an advantageous position, and to survey the camp of the Barbarians; but while he still believed them on the other

side of the Tyber, he was suddenly encompassed and assaulted by their

numerous squadrons. The fate of Italy depended on his life; and the deserters pointed to the conspicuous horse a bay, with a white face, which he rode on that memorable day. "Aim at the bay horse," was the

universal cry. Every bow was bent, every javelin was directed, against that fatal object, and the command was repeated and obeyed by thousands who were ignorant of its real motive. The bolder Barbarians advanced to the more honorable combat of swords and spears; and the praise of an enemy has graced the fall of Visandus, the standard-bearer, who

maintained his foremost station, till he was pierced with thirteen wounds, perhaps by the hand of Belisarius himself. The Roman general was

strong, active, and dexterous; on every side he discharged his weighty and mortal strokes: his faithful guards imitated his valor, and defended

his person; and the Goths, after the loss of a thousand men, fled before the arms of a hero. They were rashly pursued to their camp; and the

Romans, oppressed by multitudes, made a gradual, and at length a

precipitate retreat to the gates of the city: the gates were shut against the fugitives; and the public terror was increased, by the

report that Belisarius was slain. His countenance was indeed disfigured by sweat, dust, and blood; his voice was hoarse, his strength was almost exhausted; but his unconquerable spirit still remained; he imparted that

spirit to his desponding companions; and their last desperate charge was felt by the flying Barbarians, as if a new army, vigorous and entire,

had been poured from the city. The Flaminian gate was thrown open to a

real triumph; but it was not before Belisarius had visited every post, and provided for the public safety, that he could be persuaded, by his wife and friends, to taste the needful refreshments of food and sleep.

In the more improved state of the art of war, a general is seldom

required, or even permitted to display the personal prowess of a

soldier; and the example of Belisarius may be added to the rare examples

of Henry IV., of Pyrrhus, and of Alexander.

after this first and unsuccessful trial of their enemies, the whole army

of the Goths passed the Tyber, and formed the siege of the city, which continued above a year, till their final departure. Whatever fancy may conceive, the severe compass of the geographer defines the circumference

of Rome within a line of twelve miles and three hundred and forty-five

paces; and that circumference, except in the Vatican, has invariably been the same from the triumph of Aurelian to the peaceful but obscure

reign of the modern popes. But in the day of her greatness, the space within her walls was crowded with habitations and inhabitants; and the

populous suburbs, that stretched along the public roads, were darted

like so many rays from one common centre. Adversity swept away these extraneous ornaments, and left naked and desolate a considerable part even of the seven hills. Yet Rome in its present state could send

into the field about thirty thousand males of a military age; and,

notwithstanding the want of discipline and exercise, the far greater

part, inured to the hardships of poverty, might be capable of bearing arms for the defence of their country and religion. The prudence of belisarius did not neglect this important resource. His soldiers were

relieved by the zeal and diligence of the people, who watched while

\_they\_ slept, and labored while \_they\_ reposed: he accepted the

voluntary service of the bravest and most indigent of the Roman youth; and the companies of townsmen sometimes represented, in a vacant post, the presence of the troops which had been drawn away to more essential duties. But his just confidence was placed in the veterans who had fought under his banner in the Persian and African wars; and although that gallant band was reduced to five thousand men, he undertook, with

such contemptible numbers, to defend a circle of twelve miles, against an army of one hundred and fifty thousand Barbarians. In the walls of

Rome, which Belisarius constructed or restored, the materials of ancient architecture may be discerned; and the whole fortification was completed, except in a chasm still extant between the Pincian and flaminian gates, which the prejudices of the Goths and Romans left under the effectual guard of St. Peter the apostle.

the battlements or bastions were shaped in sharp angles a ditch, broad and deep, protected the foot of the rampart; and the archers on the

rampart were assisted by military engines; the \_balista\_, a powerful cross-bow, which darted short but massy arrows; the \_onagri\_, or wild asses, which, on the principle of a sling, threw stones and bullets of an enormous size. A chain was drawn across the Tyber; the arches of the aqueducts were made impervious, and the mole or sepulchre of Hadrian was converted, for the first time, to the uses of a citadel. That venerable

structure, which contained the ashes of the Antonines, was a circular turret rising from a quadrangular basis; it was covered with the white

marble of Paros, and decorated by the statues of gods and heroes; and the lover of the arts must read with a sigh, that the works of

Praxiteles or Lysippus were torn from their lofty pedestals, and hurled

into the ditch on the heads of the besiegers. To each of his lieutenants belisarius assigned the defence of a gate, with the wise and peremptory

instruction, that, whatever might be the alarm, they should steadily adhere to their respective posts, and trust their general for the safety

of Rome. The formidable host of the Goths was insufficient to embrace the ample measure of the city, of the fourteen gates, seven only were

invested from the Prnestine to the Flaminian way; and Vitiges divided

his troops into six camps, each of which was fortified with a ditch and rampart. On the Tuscan side of the river, a seventh encampment was formed in the field or circus of the Vatican, for the important purpose

of commanding the Milvian bridge and the course of the Tyber; but they approached with devotion the adjacent church of St. Peter; and the threshold of the holy apostles was respected during the siege by a christian enemy. In the ages of victory, as often as the senate decreed

some distant conquest, the consul denounced hostilities, by unbarring,

in solemn pomp, the gates of the temple of Janus. Domestic war now

rendered the admonition superfluous, and the ceremony was superseded by the establishment of a new religion. But the brazen temple of Janus was

left standing in the forum; of a size sufficient only to contain the

statue of the god, five cubits in height, of a human form, but with two faces directed to the east and west. The double gates were likewise

of brass; and a fruitless effort to turn them on their rusty hinges

revealed the scandalous secret that some Romans were still attached to the superstition of their ancestors.

eighteen days were employed by the besiegers, to provide all the

instruments of attack which antiquity had invented. Fascines were

prepared to fill the ditches, scaling-ladders to ascend the walls. The

largest trees of the forest supplied the timbers of four battering-rams: their heads were armed with iron; they were suspended by ropes, and each

of them was worked by the labor of fifty men. The lofty wooden turrets

moved on wheels or rollers, and formed a spacious platform of the level

of the rampart. On the morning of the nineteenth day, a general attack was made from the Prænestine gate to the Vatican: seven Gothic columns, with their military engines, advanced to the assault; and the Romans, who lined the ramparts, listened with doubt and anxiety to the cheerful assurances of their commander. As soon as the enemy approached the ditch, Belisarius himself drew the first arrow; and such was his

strength and dexterity, that he transfixed the foremost of the Barbarian

leaders.

as shout of applause and victory was reëchoed along the wall. He drew a

second arrow, and the stroke was followed with the same success and the

same acclamation. The Roman general then gave the word, that the archers

should aim at the teams of oxen; they were instantly covered with mortal wounds; the towers which they drew remained useless and immovable, and a single moment disconcerted the laborious projects of the king of the

Goths. After this disappointment, Vitiges still continued, or feigned to continue, the assault of the Salarian gate, that he might divert the attention of his adversary, while his principal forces more strenuously attacked the Prænestine gate and the sepulchre of Hadrian, at the distance of three miles from each other. Near the former, the double walls of the Vivarium were low or broken; the fortifications of the

latter were feebly guarded: the vigor of the Goths was excited by the

hope of victory and spoil; and if a single post had given way, the

Romans, and Rome itself, were irrecoverably lost. This perilous day was the most glorious in the life of Belisarius. Amidst tumult and dismay, the whole plan of the attack and defence was distinctly present to his

mind; he observed the changes of each instant, weighed every possible advantage, transported his person to the scenes of danger, and communicated his spirit in calm and decisive orders. The contest was fiercely maintained from the morning to the evening; the Goths were

repulsed on all sides; and each Roman might boast that he had vanquished thirty Barbarians, if the strange disproportion of numbers were

not counterbalanced by the merit of one man. Thirty thousand Goths, according to the confession of their own chiefs, perished in this bloody action; and the multitude of the wounded was equal to that of the slain. when they advanced to the assault, their close disorder suffered not a

javelin to fall without effect; and as they retired, the populace of the city joined the pursuit, and slaughtered, with impunity, the backs of their flying enemies. Belisarius instantly sallied from the gates; and while the soldiers chanted his name and victory, the hostile engines of war were reduced to ashes. Such was the loss and consternation of the

Goths, that, from this day, the siege of Rome degenerated into a tedious and indolent blockade; and they were incessantly harassed by the Roman

general, who, in frequent skirmishes, destroyed above five thousand of their bravest troops. Their cavalry was unpractised in the use of the bow; their archers served on foot; and this divided force was incapable

of contending with their adversaries, whose lances and arrows, at a distance, or at hand, were alike formidable. The consummate skill of belisarius embraced the favorable opportunities; and as he chose the

ground and the moment, as he pressed the charge or sounded the retreat, the squadrons which he detached were seldom unsuccessful. These partial advantages diffused an impatient ardor among the soldiers and people, who began to feel the hardships of a siege, and to disregard the dangers

of a general engagement. Each plebeian conceived himself to be a hero, and the infantry, who, since the decay of discipline, were rejected from the line of battle, aspired to the ancient honors of the Roman

legion. Belisarius praised the spirit of his troops, condemned their

presumption, yielded to their clamors, and prepared the remedies of a defeat, the possibility of which he alone had courage to suspect. In the quarter of the Vatican, the Romans prevailed; and if the irreparable

moments had not been wasted in the pillage of the camp, they might have

occupied the Milvian bridge, and charged in the rear of the Gothic host.

On the other side of the Tyber, Belisarius advanced from the Pincian and

Salarian gates. But his army, four thousand soldiers perhaps, was

lost in a spacious plain; they were encompassed and oppressed by fresh

multitudes, who continually relieved the broken ranks of the Barbarians. the valiant leaders of the infantry were unskilled to conquer; they died: the retreat (a hasty retreat) was covered by the prudence of the

general, and the victors started back with affright from the formidable aspect of an armed rampart. The reputation of Belisarius was unsullied by a defeat; and the vain confidence of the Goths was not less

serviceable to his designs than the repentance and modesty of the Roman troops.

chapter XLI: Conquests Of Justinian, Character Of Balisarius.--Part V.

from the moment that Belisarius had determined to sustain a siege, his assiduous care provided Rome against the danger of famine, more dreadful than the Gothic arms. An extraordinary supply of corn was imported from

Sicily: the harvests of Campania and Tuscany were forcibly swept for the

use of the city; and the rights of private property were infringed by the strong plea of the public safety. It might easily be foreseen that the enemy would intercept the aqueducts; and the cessation of the water-mills was the first inconvenience, which was speedily removed by mooring large vessels, and fixing mill-stones in the current of the river. The stream was soon embarrassed by the trunks of trees, and

polluted with dead bodies; yet so effectual were the precautions of the Roman general, that the waters of the Tyber still continued to

give motion to the mills and drink to the inhabitants: the more distant

quarters were supplied from domestic wells; and a besieged city might

support, without impatience, the privation of her public baths. A large

portion of Rome, from the Prænestine gate to the church of St. Paul, was never invested by the Goths; their excursions were restrained by the activity of the Moorish troops: the navigation of the Tyber, and the

Latin, Appian, and Ostian ways, were left free and unmolested for the

introduction of corn and cattle, or the retreat of the inhabitants, who

sought refuge in Campania or Sicily. Anxious to relieve himself from a

useless and devouring multitude, Belisarius issued his peremptory

orders for the instant departure of the women, the children, and slaves;

required his soldiers to dismiss their male and female attendants, and

regulated their allowance that one moiety should be given in provisions, and the other in money. His foresight was justified by the increase of the public distress, as soon as the Goths had occupied two important

posts in the neighborhood of Rome. By the loss of the port, or, as it

is now called, the city of Porto, he was deprived of the country on the right of the Tyber, and the best communication with the sea; and he

reflected, with grief and anger, that three hundred men, could he have

spared such a feeble band, might have defended its impregnable works.

Seven miles from the capital, between the Appian and the Latin ways, two

principal aqueducts crossing, and again crossing each other: enclosed within their solid and lofty arches a fortified space, where Vitiges established a camp of seven thousand Goths to intercept the convoy of

Sicily and Campania. The granaries of Rome were insensibly exhausted, the adjacent country had been wasted with fire and sword; such scanty

supplies as might yet be obtained by hasty excursions were the reward

of valor, and the purchase of wealth: the forage of the horses, and the bread of the soldiers, never failed: but in the last months of the

siege, the people were exposed to the miseries of scarcity, unwholesome food, and contagious disorders. Belisarius saw and pitied their

sufferings; but he had foreseen, and he watched the decay of their

loyalty, and the progress of their discontent. Adversity had awakened the Romans from the dreams of grandeur and freedom, and taught them the

humiliating lesson, that it was of small moment to their real happiness, whether the name of their master was derived from the Gothic or the

Latin language. The lieutenant of Justinian listened to their just complaints, but he rejected with disdain the idea of flight or capitulation; repressed their clamorous impatience for battle; amused them with the prospect of a sure and speedy relief; and secured himself and the city from the effects of their despair or treachery. Twice in each month he changed the station of the officers to whom the custody

of the gates was committed: the various precautions of patroles, watch words, lights, and music, were repeatedly employed to discover whatever

passed on the ramparts; out-guards were posted beyond the ditch, and the trusty vigilance of dogs supplied the more doubtful fidelity of mankind. a letter was intercepted, which assured the king of the Goths that the asinarian gate, adjoining to the Lateran church, should be secretly

opened to his troops. On the proof or suspicion of treason, several

senators were banished, and the pope Sylverius was summoned to attend the representative of his sovereign, at his head-quarters in the Pincian

palace. The ecclesiastics, who followed their bishop, were detained in the first or second apartment, and he alone was admitted to the presence

of Belisarius. The conqueror of Rome and Carthage was modestly seated at the feet of Antonina, who reclined on a stately couch: the general was

silent, but the voice of reproach and menace issued from the mouth of

his imperious wife. Accused by credible witnesses, and the evidence of

his own subscription, the successor of St. Peter was despoiled of his

pontifical ornaments, clad in the mean habit of a monk, and embarked, without delay, for a distant exile in the East. At the emperor's command, the clergy of Rome proceeded to the choice of a new bishop; and after a solemn invocation of the Holy Ghost, elected the deacon

Vigilius, who had purchased the papal throne by a bribe of two hundred

pounds of gold. The profit, and consequently the guilt, of this simony, was imputed to Belisarius: but the hero obeyed the orders of his wife; antonina served the passions of the empress; and Theodora lavished

her treasures, in the vain hope of obtaining a pontiff hostile or

indifferent to the council of Chalcedon.

the epistle of Belisarius to the emperor announced his victory, his danger, and his resolution. "According to your commands, we have entered the dominions of the Goths, and reduced to your obedience Sicily, campania, and the city of Rome; but the loss of these conquests will be

more disgraceful than their acquisition was glorious. Hitherto we have

successfully fought against the multitudes of the Barbarians, but their

multitudes may finally prevail. Victory is the gift of Providence, but the reputation of kings and generals depends on the success or the failure of their designs. Permit me to speak with freedom: if you wish that we should live, send us subsistence; if you desire that we should conquer, send us arms, horses, and men. The Romans have received us as friends and deliverers: but in our present distress, \_they\_ will be either betrayed by their confidence, or we shall be oppressed by

\_their\_ treachery and hatred. For myself, my life is consecrated to your

service: it is yours to reflect, whether my death in this situation will contribute to the glory and prosperity of your reign." Perhaps that

reign would have been equally prosperous if the peaceful master of the East had abstained from the conquest of Africa and Italy: but as

Justinian was ambitious of fame, he made some efforts (they were feeble and languid) to support and rescue his victorious general. A

reënforcement of sixteen hundred Sclavonians and Huns was led by Martin and Valerian; and as they reposed during the winter season in the

harbors of Greece, the strength of the men and horses was not impaired by the fatigues of a sea-voyage; and they distinguished their valor

in the first sally against the besiegers. About the time of the summer

solstice, Euthalius landed at Terracina with large sums of money for the

payment of the troops: he cautiously proceeded along the Appian way, and this convoy entered Rome through the gate Capena, while Belisarius, on the other side, diverted the attention of the Goths by a vigorous and

successful skirmish. These seasonable aids, the use and reputation

of which were dexterously managed by the Roman general, revived the courage, or at least the hopes, of the soldiers and people. The

historian Procopius was despatched with an important commission to collect the troops and provisions which Campania could furnish, or constantinople had sent; and the secretary of Belisarius was soon followed by Antonina herself, who boldly traversed the posts of the enemy, and returned with the Oriental succors to the relief of her

husband and the besieged city. A fleet of three thousand Isaurians cast anchor in the Bay of Naples and afterwards at Ostia. Above two thousand

horse, of whom a part were Thracians, landed at Tarentum; and, after the junction of five hundred soldiers of Campania, and a train of wagons

laden with wine and flour, they directed their march on the Appian way, from Capua to the neighborhood of Rome. The forces that arrived by

land and sea were united at the mouth of the Tyber. Antonina convened a council of war: it was resolved to surmount, with sails and oars, the adverse stream of the river; and the Goths were apprehensive of disturbing, by any rash hostilities, the negotiation to which Belisarius

had craftily listened. They credulously believed that they saw no more than the vanguard of a fleet and army, which already covered the Ionian

Sea and the plains of Campania; and the illusion was supported by the

haughty language of the Roman general, when he gave audience to the ambassadors of Vitiges. After a specious discourse to vindicate the

justice of his cause, they declared, that, for the sake of peace, they were disposed to renounce the possession of Sicily. "The emperor is not

less generous," replied his lieutenant, with a disdainful smile, "in

return for a gift which you no longer possess: he presents you with an ancient province of the empire; he resigns to the Goths the sovereignty

of the British island." Belisarius rejected with equal firmness and contempt the offer of a tribute; but he allowed the Gothic ambassadors to seek their fate from the mouth of Justinian himself; and consented, with seeming reluctance, to a truce of three months, from the winter

solstice to the equinox of spring. Prudence might not safely trust either the oaths or hostages of the Barbarians, and the conscious

superiority of the Roman chief was expressed in the distribution of his troops. As soon as fear or hunger compelled the Goths to evacuate alba, Porto, and Centumcellæ, their place was instantly supplied; the

garrisons of Narni, Spoleto, and Perusia, were reënforced, and the seven camps of the besiegers were gradually encompassed with the calamities of a siege. The prayers and pilgrimage of Datius, bishop of Milan, were not without effect; and he obtained one thousand Thracians and Isaurians, to assist the revolt of Liguria against her Arian tyrant. At the same time, John the Sanguinary, the nephew of Vitalian, was detached with two thousand chosen horse, first to Alba, on the Fucine Lake, and afterwards to the frontiers of Picenum, on the Hadriatic Sea. "In the province,"

said Belisarius, "the Goths have deposited their families and treasures, without a guard or the suspicion of danger. Doubtless they will violate the truce: let them feel your presence, before they hear of your

motions. Spare the Italians; suffer not any fortified places to remain

hostile in your rear; and faithfully reserve the spoil for an equal and common partition. It would not be reasonable," he added with a laugh,

"that whilst we are toiling to the destruction of the drones, our more fortunate brethren should rifle and enjoy the honey."

the whole nation of the Ostrogoths had been assembled for the attack, and was almost entirely consumed in the siege of Rome. If any credit be due to an intelligent spectator, one third at least of their enormous

host was destroyed, in frequent and bloody combats under the walls of the city. The bad fame and pernicious qualities of the summer air might already be imputed to the decay of agriculture and population; and the evils of famine and pestilence were aggravated by their own

licentiousness, and the unfriendly disposition of the country. While

Vitiges struggled with his fortune, while he hesitated between shame and

ruin, his retreat was hastened by domestic alarms. The king of the Goths was informed by trembling messengers, that John the Sanguinary spread the devastations of war from the Apennine to the Hadriatic; that the

rich spoils and innumerable captives of Picenum were lodged in the fortifications of Rimini; and that this formidable chief had defeated

his uncle, insulted his capital, and seduced, by secret correspondence, the fidelity of his wife, the imperious daughter of Amalasontha. Yet, before he retired, Vitiges made a last effort, either to storm or to surprise the city. A secret passage was discovered in one of the aqueducts; two citizens of the Vatican were tempted by bribes to

intoxicate the guards of the Aurelian gate; an attack was meditated

on the walls beyond the Tyber, in a place which was not fortified with towers; and the Barbarians advanced, with torches and scaling-ladders, to the assault of the Pincian gate. But every attempt was defeated by the intrepid vigilance of Belisarius and his band of veterans, who,

in the most perilous moments, did not regret the absence of their companions; and the Goths, alike destitute of hope and subsistence, clamorously urged their departure before the truce should expire, and the Roman cavalry should again be united. One year and nine days after the commencement of the siege, an army, so lately strong and triumphant, burnt their tents, and tumultuously repassed the Milvian bridge. They

repassed not with impunity: their thronging multitudes, oppressed in a

narrow passage, were driven headlong into the Tyber, by their own fears and the pursuit of the enemy; and the Roman general, sallying from the

Pincian gate, inflicted a severe and disgraceful wound on their retreat. the slow length of a sickly and desponding host was heavily dragged along the Flaminian way; from whence the Barbarians were sometimes compelled to deviate, lest they should encounter the hostile garrisons that guarded the high road to Rimini and Ravenna. Yet so powerful was this flying army, that Vitiges spared ten thousand men for the defence

of the cities which he was most solicitous to preserve, and detached

his nephew Uraias, with an adequate force, for the chastisement of

rebellious Milan. At the head of his principal army, he besieged Rimini,

only thirty-three miles distant from the Gothic capital. A feeble

rampart, and a shallow ditch, were maintained by the skill and valor of

John the Sanguinary, who shared the danger and fatigue of the meanest

soldier, and emulated, on a theatre less illustrious, the military

virtues of his great commander. The towers and battering-engines of the barbarians were rendered useless; their attacks were repulsed; and the tedious blockade, which reduced the garrison to the last extremity of

hunger, afforded time for the union and march of the Roman forces. a fleet, which had surprised Ancona, sailed along the coast of the

Hadriatic, to the relief of the besieged city. The eunuch Narses landed

in Picenum with two thousand Heruli and five thousand of the bravest troops of the East. The rock of the Apennine was forced; ten thousand

veterans moved round the foot of the mountains, under the command

of Belisarius himself; and a new army, whose encampment blazed with

innumerable lights, \_appeared\_ to advance along the Flaminian way.

Overwhelmed with astonishment and despair, the Goths abandoned the siege

of Rimini, their tents, their standards, and their leaders; and Vitiges, who gave or followed the example of flight, never halted till he found a

shelter within the walls and morasses of Ravenna.

to these walls, and to some fortresses destitute of any mutual support, the Gothic monarchy was now reduced. The provinces of Italy had embraced the party of the emperor and his army, gradually recruited to the number

of twenty thousand men, must have achieved an easy and rapid conquest,

if their invincible powers had not been weakened by the discord of the

Roman chiefs. Before the end of the siege, an act of blood, ambiguous and indiscreet, sullied the fair fame of Belisarius. Presidius, a

loyal Italian, as he fled from Ravenna to Rome, was rudely stopped by constantine, the military governor of Spoleto, and despoiled, even in a church, of two daggers richly inlaid with gold and precious stones. As

soon as the public danger had subsided, Presidius complained of the loss and injury: his complaint was heard, but the order of restitution was disobeyed by the pride and avarice of the offender. Exasperated by the delay, Presidius boldly arrested the general's horse as he passed through the forum; and, with the spirit of a citizen, demanded the common benefit of the Roman laws. The honor of Belisarius was engaged;

he summoned a council; claimed the obedience of his subordinate officer; and was provoked, by an insolent reply, to call hastily for the presence

of his guards. Constantine, viewing their entrance as the signal of death, drew his sword, and rushed on the general, who nimbly eluded the

stroke, and was protected by his friends; while the desperate assassin was disarmed, dragged into a neighboring chamber, and executed, or

rather murdered, by the guards, at the arbitrary command of Belisarius.

In this hasty act of violence, the guilt of Constantine was no longer

remembered; the despair and death of that valiant officer were secretly

imputed to the revenge of Antonina; and each of his colleagues, conscious of the same rapine, was apprehensive of the same fate. the fear of a common enemy suspended the effects of their envy and discontent; but in the confidence of approaching victory, they

instigated a powerful rival to oppose the conqueror of Rome and Africa. from the domestic service of the palace, and the administration of the

private revenue, Narses the eunuch was suddenly exalted to the head of an army; and the spirit of a hero, who afterwards equalled the merit and

glory of Belisarius, served only to perplex the operations of the Gothic war. To his prudent counsels, the relief of Rimini was ascribed by the

leaders of the discontented faction, who exhorted Narses to assume an

independent and separate command. The epistle of Justinian had indeed enjoined his obedience to the general; but the dangerous exception, "as far as may be advantageous to the public service," reserved some freedom

of judgment to the discreet favorite, who had so lately departed from the sacred and familiar conversation of his sovereign. In the exercise

of this doubtful right, the eunuch perpetually dissented from the

opinions of Belisarius; and, after yielding with reluctance to the siege

of Urbino, he deserted his colleague in the night, and marched away to the conquest of the Æmilian province. The fierce and formidable bands

of the Heruli were attached to the person of Narses; ten thousand

Romans and confederates were persuaded to march under his banners; every

malecontent embraced the fair opportunity of revenging his private or

imaginary wrongs; and the remaining troops of Belisarius were divided and dispersed from the garrisons of Sicily to the shores of the

Hadriatic. His skill and perseverance overcame every obstacle: Urbino was taken, the sieges of Fæsulæ Orvieto, and Auximum, were undertaken and vigorously prosecuted; and the eunuch Narses was at length recalled to the domestic cares of the palace. All dissensions were healed, and all opposition was subdued, by the temperate authority of the Roman

general, to whom his enemies could not refuse their esteem; and belisarius inculcated the salutary lesson that the forces of the

state should compose one body, and be animated by one soul. But in the

interval of discord, the Goths were permitted to breathe; an important

season was lost, Milan was destroyed, and the northern provinces of

Italy were afflicted by an inundation of the Franks.

when Justinian first meditated the conquest of Italy, he sent ambassadors to the kings of the Franks, and adjured them, by the common ties of alliance and religion, to join in the holy enterprise against the Arians. The Goths, as their want were more urgent, employed a more effectual mode of persuasion, and vainly strove, by the gift of lands and money, to purchase the friendship, or at least the neutrality, of a

light and perfidious nation. But the arms of Belisarius, and the

revolt of the Italians, had no sooner shaken the Gothic monarchy, than Theodebert of Austrasia, the most powerful and warlike of the

Merovingian kings, was persuaded to succor their distress by an indirect and seasonable aid. Without expecting the consent of their sovereign, the thousand Burgundians, his recent subjects, descended from the Alps, and joined the troops which Vitiges had sent to chastise the revolt of

Milan. After an obstinate siege, the capital of Liguria was reduced by famine; but no capitulation could be obtained, except for the safe

retreat of the Roman garrison. Datius, the orthodox bishop, who had

seduced his countrymen to rebellion and ruin, escaped to the luxury and

honors of the Byzantine court; but the clergy, perhaps the Arian clergy, were slaughtered at the foot of their own altars by the defenders of the Catholic faith. Three hundred thousand males were \_reported\_ to be

slain; the female sex, and the more precious spoil, was resigned to the Burgundians; and the houses, or at least the walls, of Milan, were levelled with the ground. The Goths, in their last moments, were

revenged by the destruction of a city, second only to Rome in size and opulence, in the splendor of its buildings, or the number of

its inhabitants; and Belisarius sympathized alone in the fate of his deserted and devoted friends. Encouraged by this successful inroad, theodebert himself, in the ensuing spring, invaded the plains of Italy with an army of one hundred thousand Barbarians. The king, and some chosen followers, were mounted on horseback, and armed with lances; the

infantry, without bows or spears, were satisfied with a shield, a sword, and a double-edged battle-axe, which, in their hands, became a deadly and unerring weapon. Italy trembled at the march of the Franks; and both the Gothic prince and the Roman general, alike ignorant of their designs, solicited, with hope and terror, the friendship of these dangerous allies. Till he had secured the passage of the Po on the bridge of Pavia, the grandson of Clovis dissembled his intentions, which

he at length declared, by assaulting, almost at the same instant, the

hostile camps of the Romans and Goths. Instead of uniting their arms, they fled with equal precipitation; and the fertile, though desolate

provinces of Liguria and Æmilia, were abandoned to a licentious host of barbarians, whose rage was not mitigated by any thoughts of settlement

or conquest. Among the cities which they ruined, Genoa, not yet constructed of marble, is particularly enumerated; and the deaths of thousands, according to the regular practice of war, appear to have excited less horror than some idolatrous sacrifices of women and children, which were performed with impunity in the camp of the most christian king. If it were not a melancholy truth, that the first and

most cruel sufferings must be the lot of the innocent and helpless,

history might exult in the misery of the conquerors, who, in the midst

of riches, were left destitute of bread or wine, reduced to drink the waters of the Po, and to feed on the flesh of distempered cattle. The dysentery swept away one third of their army; and the clamors of his

subjects, who were impatient to pass the Alps, disposed Theodebert to

listen with respect to the mild exhortations of Belisarius. The memory

of this inglorious and destructive warfare was perpetuated on the medals

of Gaul; and Justinian, without unsheathing his sword, assumed the title

of conqueror of the Franks. The Merovingian prince was offended by the

vanity of the emperor; he affected to pity the fallen fortunes of the

Goths; and his insidious offer of a federal union was fortified by the promise or menace of descending from the Alps at the head of five

hundred thousand men. His plans of conquest were boundless, and perhaps chimerical. The king of Austrasia threatened to chastise Justinian, and to march to the gates of Constantinople: he was overthrown and slain by a wild bull, as he hunted in the Belgic or German forests.

chapter XLI: Conquests Of Justinian, Character Of Balisarius.--Part VI.

as soon as Belisarius was delivered from his foreign and domestic enemies, he seriously applied his forces to the final reduction of

Italy. In the siege of Osimo, the general was nearly transpierced with an arrow, if the mortal stroke had not been intercepted by one of his

guards, who lost, in that pious office, the use of his hand. The Goths

of Osimo, four thousand warriors, with those of Fæsulæ and the Cottian alps, were among the last who maintained their independence; and their

gallant resistance, which almost tired the patience, deserved the esteem, of the conqueror. His prudence refused to subscribe the safe conduct which they asked, to join their brethren of Ravenna; but they

saved, by an honorable capitulation, one moiety at least of their wealth, with the free alternative of retiring peaceably to their estates, or enlisting to serve the emperor in his Persian wars. The

multitudes which yet adhered to the standard of Vitiges far surpassed the number of the Roman troops; but neither prayers nor defiance, nor the extreme danger of his most faithful subjects, could tempt the Gothic

king beyond the fortifications of Ravenna. These fortifications were,

indeed, impregnable to the assaults of art or violence; and when belisarius invested the capital, he was soon convinced that famine only could tame the stubborn spirit of the Barbarians. The sea, the land, and the channels of the Po, were guarded by the vigilance of the Roman

general; and his morality extended the rights of war to the practice of

poisoning the waters, and secretly firing the granaries of a besieged city. While he pressed the blockade of Ravenna, he was surprised by the arrival of two ambassadors from Constantinople, with a treaty of peace, which Justinian had imprudently signed, without deigning to consult the author of his victory. By this disgraceful and precarious agreement,

Italy and the Gothic treasure were divided, and the provinces beyond the Po were left with the regal title to the successor of Theodoric. the ambassadors were eager to accomplish their salutary commission; the captive Vitiges accepted, with transport, the unexpected offer of a crown; honor was less prevalent among the Goths, than the want and appetite of food; and the Roman chiefs, who murmured at the continuance

of the war, professed implicit submission to the commands of the emperor. If Belisarius had possessed only the courage of a soldier, the laurel would have been snatched from his hand by timid and envious counsels; but in this decisive moment, he resolved, with the magnanimity

of a statesman, to sustain alone the danger and merit of generous disobedience. Each of his officers gave a written opinion that the siege

of Ravenna was impracticable and hopeless: the general then rejected the treaty of partition, and declared his own resolution of leading Vitiges

in chains to the feet of Justinian. The Goths retired with doubt and dismay: this peremptory refusal deprived them of the only signature which they could trust, and filled their minds with a just apprehension, that a sagacious enemy had discovered the full extent of their deplorable state. They compared the fame and fortune of Belisarius with the weakness of their ill-fated king; and the comparison suggested an extraordinary project, to which Vitiges, with apparent resignation, was compelled to acquiesce. Partition would ruin the strength, exile would disgrace the honor, of the nation; but they offered their arms, their treasures, and the fortifications of Ravenna, if Belisarius would disclaim the authority of a master, accept the choice of the Goths, and assume, as he had deserved, the kingdom of Italy. If the false lustre

of a diadem could have tempted the loyalty of a faithful subject, his

prudence must have foreseen the inconstancy of the Barbarians, and his

rational ambition would prefer the safe and honorable station of a

Roman general. Even the patience and seeming satisfaction with which he entertained a proposal of treason, might be susceptible of a malignant

interpretation. But the lieutenant of Justinian was conscious of his own

rectitude; he entered into a dark and crooked path, as it might lead to the voluntary submission of the Goths; and his dexterous policy

persuaded them that he was disposed to comply with their wishes, without engaging an oath or a promise for the performance of a treaty which he

secretly abhorred. The day of the surrender of Ravenna was stipulated by the Gothic ambassadors: a fleet, laden with provisions, sailed as a welcome guest into the deepest recess of the harbor: the gates were

opened to the fancied king of Italy; and Belisarius, without meeting an enemy, triumphantly marched through the streets of an impregnable city. the Romans were astonished by their success; the multitudes of tall and

robust Barbarians were confounded by the image of their own patience and the masculine females, spitting in the faces of their sons and husbands,

most bitterly reproached them for betraying their dominion and freedom to these pygmies of the south, contemptible in their numbers, diminutive

in their stature. Before the Goths could recover from the first

surprise, and claim the accomplishment of their doubtful hopes, the

victor established his power in Ravenna, beyond the danger of repentance and revolt.

Vitiges, who perhaps had attempted to escape, was honorably guarded in

his palace; the flower of the Gothic youth was selected for the service

of the emperor; the remainder of the people was dismissed to their

peaceful habitations in the southern provinces; and a colony of Italians was invited to replenish the depopulated city. The submission of the capital was imitated in the towns and villages of Italy, which had not been subdued, or even visited, by the Romans; and the independent Goths, who remained in arms at Pavia and Verona, were ambitious only to become the subjects of Belisarius. But his inflexible loyalty rejected, except as the substitute of Justinian, their oaths of allegiance; and he was

not offended by the reproach of their deputies, that he rather chose to be a slave than a king.

after the second victory of Belisarius, envy again whispered, Justinian

listened, and the hero was recalled. "The remnant of the Gothic war was

no longer worthy of his presence: a gracious sovereign was impatient to

reward his services, and to consult his wisdom; and he alone was capable of defending the East against the innumerable armies of Persia." belisarius understood the suspicion, accepted the excuse, embarked at

Ravenna his spoils and trophies; and proved, by his ready obedience, that such an abrupt removal from the government of Italy was not less

unjust than it might have been indiscreet. The emperor received with

honorable courtesy both Vitiges and his more noble consort; and as the

king of the Goths conformed to the Athanasian faith, he obtained, with a rich inheritance of land in Asia, the rank of senator and patrician. every spectator admired, without peril, the strength and stature of the

young Barbarians: they adored the majesty of the throne, and promised to

shed their blood in the service of their benefactor. Justinian deposited

in the Byzantine palace the treasures of the Gothic monarchy. A flattering senate was sometime admitted to gaze on the magnificent

spectacle; but it was enviously secluded from the public view: and the conqueror of Italy renounced, without a murmur, perhaps without a sigh, the well-earned honors of a second triumph. His glory was indeed exalted above all external pomp; and the faint and hollow praises of the court were supplied, even in a servile age, by the respect and admiration of

his country. Whenever he appeared in the streets and public places

of Constantinople, Belisarius attracted and satisfied the eyes of the

people. His lofty stature and majestic countenance fulfilled their expectations of a hero; the meanest of his fellow-citizens were emboldened by his gentle and gracious demeanor; and the martial train which attended his footsteps left his person more accessible than in a day of battle. Seven thousand horsemen, matchless for beauty and valor, were maintained in the service, and at the private expense, of the

general. Their prowess was always conspicuous in single combats, or

in the foremost ranks; and both parties confessed that in the siege of

Rome, the guards of Belisarius had alone vanquished the Barbarian

host. Their numbers were continually augmented by the bravest and most faithful of the enemy; and his fortunate captives, the Vandals, the

Moors, and the Goths, emulated the attachment of his domestic followers. by the union of liberality and justice, he acquired the love of the

soldiers, without alienating the affections of the people. The sick and wounded were relieved with medicines and money; and still more efficaciously, by the healing visits and smiles of their commander. The

loss of a weapon or a horse was instantly repaired, and each deed of

valor was rewarded by the rich and honorable gifts of a bracelet or a collar, which were rendered more precious by the judgment of Belisarius.

He was endeared to the husbandmen by the peace and plenty which they enjoyed under the shadow of his standard. Instead of being injured, the country was enriched by the march of the Roman armies; and such was the

rigid discipline of their camp, that not an apple was gathered from the tree, not a path could be traced in the fields of corn. Belisarius was chaste and sober. In the license of a military life, none could boast that they had seen him intoxicated with wine: the most beautiful captives of Gothic or Vandal race were offered to his embraces; but he turned aside from their charms, and the husband of Antonina was never

suspected of violating the laws of conjugal fidelity. The spectator and

historian of his exploits has observed, that amidst the perils of war,

he was daring without rashness, prudent without fear, slow or rapid according to the exigencies of the moment; that in the deepest distress

he was animated by real or apparent hope, but that he was modest and

humble in the most prosperous fortune. By these virtues, he equalled or excelled the ancient masters of the military art. Victory, by sea and

land, attended his arms. He subdued Africa, Italy, and the adjacent

islands; led away captives the successors of Genseric and Theodoric; filled Constantinople with the spoils of their palaces; and in the space

of six years recovered half the provinces of the Western empire. In his fame and merit, in wealth and power, he remained without a rival, the first of the Roman subjects; the voice of envy could only magnify his dangerous importance; and the emperor might applaud his own discerning

spirit, which had discovered and raised the genius of Belisarius.

It was the custom of the Roman triumphs, that a slave should be placed behind the chariot to remind the conqueror of the instability of fortune, and the infirmities of human nature. Procopius, in his anecdotes, has assumed that servile and ungrateful office. The generous

reader may cast away the libel, but the evidence of facts will adhere to

his memory; and he will reluctantly confess, that the fame, and even the virtue, of Belisarius, were polluted by the lust and cruelty of his wife; and that hero deserved an appellation which may not drop from the

pen of the decent historian. The mother of Antonina was a theatrical

prostitute, and both her father and grandfather exercised, at thessalonica and Constantinople, the vile, though lucrative, profession

of charioteers. In the various situations of their fortune she became the companion, the enemy, the servant, and the favorite of the empress theodora: these loose and ambitious females had been connected by

similar pleasures; they were separated by the jealousy of vice, and at

length reconciled by the partnership of guilt. Before her marriage with belisarius, Antonina had one husband and many lovers: Photius, the son

of her former nuptials, was of an age to distinguish himself at the

siege of Naples; and it was not till the autumn of her age and beauty that she indulged a scandalous attachment to a Thracian youth. theodosius had been educated in the Eunomian heresy; the African voyage was consecrated by the baptism and auspicious name of the first soldier who embarked; and the proselyte was adopted into the family of his

spiritual parents, Belisarius and Antonina. Before they touched the

shores of Africa, this holy kindred degenerated into sensual love: and as Antonina soon overleaped the bounds of modesty and caution, the Roman

general was alone ignorant of his own dishonor. During their residence at Carthage, he surprised the two lovers in a subterraneous chamber,

solitary, warm, and almost naked. Anger flashed from his eyes. "With the

help of this young man," said the unblushing Antonina, "I was secreting

our most precious effects from the knowledge of Justinian." The youth

resumed his garments, and the pious husband consented to disbelieve the evidence of his own senses. From this pleasing and perhaps voluntary delusion, Belisarius was awakened at Syracuse, by the officious

information of Macedonia; and that female attendant, after requiring an

oath for her security, produced two chamberlains, who, like herself, had

often beheld the adulteries of Antonina. A hasty flight into Asia saved theodosius from the justice of an injured husband, who had signified to

one of his guards the order of his death; but the tears of Antonina, and

her artful seductions, assured the credulous hero of her innocence: and

he stooped, against his faith and judgment, to abandon those imprudent friends, who had presumed to accuse or doubt the chastity of his wife. the revenge of a guilty woman is implacable and bloody: the unfortunate

Macedonia, with the two witnesses, were secretly arrested by the

minister of her cruelty; their tongues were cut out, their bodies were

hacked into small pieces, and their remains were cast into the Sea of

Syracuse. A rash though judicious saying of Constantine, "I would sooner

have punished the adulteress than the boy," was deeply remembered by antonina; and two years afterwards, when despair had armed that officer against his general, her sanguinary advice decided and hastened his execution. Even the indignation of Photius was not forgiven by his

mother; the exile of her son prepared the recall of her lover; and theodosius condescended to accept the pressing and humble invitation of the conqueror of Italy. In the absolute direction of his household, and

in the important commissions of peace and war, the favorite youth most

rapidly acquired a fortune of four hundred thousand pounds sterling; and after their return to Constantinople, the passion of Antonina, at

least, continued ardent and unabated. But fear, devotion, and lassitude

perhaps, inspired Theodosius with more serious thoughts. He dreaded the busy scandal of the capital, and the indiscreet fondness of the wife of belisarius; escaped from her embraces, and retiring to Ephesus, shaved

his head, and took refuge in the sanctuary of a monastic life. The despair of the new Ariadne could scarcely have been excused by the death

of her husband. She wept, she tore her hair, she filled the palace with

her cries; "she had lost the dearest of friends, a tender, a faithful, a

laborious friend!" But her warm entreaties, fortified by the prayers of belisarius, were insufficient to draw the holy monk from the solitude of ephesus. It was not till the general moved forward for the Persian war, that Theodosius could be tempted to return to Constantinople; and the

short interval before the departure of Antonina herself was boldly devoted to love and pleasure.

a philosopher may pity and forgive the infirmities of female nature, from which he receives no real injury: but contemptible is the husband who feels, and yet endures, his own infamy in that of his wife. Antonina

pursued her son with implacable hatred; and the gallant Photius was exposed to her secret persecutions in the camp beyond the Tigris. enraged by his own wrongs, and by the dishonor of his blood, he cast away in his turn the sentiments of nature, and revealed to Belisarius the turpitude of a woman who had violated all the duties of a mother and a wife. From the surprise and indignation of the Roman general, his former credulity appears to have been sincere: he embraced the knees of the son of Antonina, adjured him to remember his obligations rather than

his birth, and confirmed at the altar their holy vows of revenge and

mutual defence. The dominion of Antonina was impaired by absence; and when she met her husband, on his return from the Persian confines, belisarius, in his first and transient emotions, confined her person, and threatened her life. Photius was more resolved to punish, and less

prompt to pardon: he flew to Ephesus; extorted from a trusty eunuch of

his another the full confession of her guilt; arrested Theodosius and

his treasures in the church of St. John the Apostle, and concealed his captives, whose execution was only delayed, in a secure and sequestered fortress of Cilicia. Such a daring outrage against public justice could

not pass with impunity; and the cause of Antonina was espoused by the empress, whose favor she had deserved by the recent services of the disgrace of a præfect, and the exile and murder of a pope. At the end of the campaign, Belisarius was recalled; he complied, as usual, with the Imperial mandate. His mind was not prepared for rebellion: his

obedience, however adverse to the dictates of honor, was consonant to the wishes of his heart; and when he embraced his wife, at the command, and perhaps in the presence, of the empress, the tender husband was disposed to forgive or to be forgiven. The bounty of Theodora reserved for her companion a more precious favor. "I have found," she said, "my dearest patrician, a pearl of inestimable value; it has not yet been

viewed by any mortal eye; but the sight and the possession of this jewel are destined for my friend." As soon as the curiosity and impatience

of Antonina were kindled, the door of a bed-chamber was thrown open, and

she beheld her lover, whom the diligence of the eunuchs had discovered

in his secret prison. Her silent wonder burst into passionate exclamations of gratitude and joy, and she named Theodora her queen, her benefactress, and her savior. The monk of Ephesus was nourished in the

palace with luxury and ambition; but instead of assuming, as he was

promised, the command of the Roman armies, Theodosius expired in the first fatigues of an amorous interview. The grief of Antonina could only be assuaged by the sufferings of her son. A youth of consular rank, and a sickly constitution, was punished, without a trial, like a malefactor and a slave: yet such was the constancy of his mind, that Photius

sustained the tortures of the scourge and the rack, without violating the faith which he had sworn to Belisarius. After this fruitless cruelty, the son of Antonina, while his mother feasted with the empress, was buried in her subterraneous prisons, which admitted not the distinction of night and day. He twice escaped to the most venerable

sanctuaries of Constantinople, the churches of St. Sophia, and of the

Virgin: but his tyrants were insensible of religion as of pity; and the

helpless youth, amidst the clamors of the clergy and people, was twice dragged from the altar to the dungeon. His third attempt was more

successful. At the end of three years, the prophet Zachariah, or some

mortal friend, indicated the means of an escape: he eluded the spies and

guards of the empress, reached the holy sepulchre of Jerusalem, embraced the profession of a monk; and the abbot Photius was employed, after the death of Justinian, to reconcile and regulate the churches of Egypt. the son of Antonina suffered all that an enemy can inflict: her patient

husband imposed on himself the more exquisite misery of violating his

promise and deserting his friend.

In the succeeding campaign, Belisarius was again sent against the

Persians: he saved the East, but he offended Theodora, and perhaps the emperor himself. The malady of Justinian had countenanced the rumor of

his death; and the Roman general, on the supposition of that probable event spoke the free language of a citizen and a soldier. His colleague buzes, who concurred in the same sentiments, lost his rank, his liberty, and his health, by the persecution of the empress: but the disgrace of belisarius was alleviated by the dignity of his own character, and the

influence of his wife, who might wish to humble, but could not desire to

ruin, the partner of her fortunes. Even his removal was colored by the assurance, that the sinking state of Italy would be retrieved by the

single presence of its conqueror. But no sooner had he returned, alone and defenceless, than a hostile commission was sent to the East, to

seize his treasures and criminate his actions; the guards and veterans, who followed his private banner, were distributed among the chiefs of the army, and even the eunuchs presumed to cast lots for the partition

of his martial domestics. When he passed with a small and sordid retinue through the streets of Constantinople, his forlorn appearance excited the amazement and compassion of the people. Justinian and Theodora

received him with cold ingratitude; the servile crowd, with insolence and contempt; and in the evening he retired with trembling steps to

his deserted palace. An indisposition, feigned or real, had confined antonina to her apartment; and she walked disdainfully silent in the adjacent portico, while Belisarius threw himself on his bed, and expected, in an agony of grief and terror, the death which he had so

often braved under the walls of Rome. Long after sunset a messenger was announced from the empress: he opened, with anxious curiosity, the

letter which contained the sentence of his fate. "You cannot be ignorant

how much you have deserved my displeasure. I am not insensible of the

services of Antonina. To her merits and intercession I have granted your

life, and permit you to retain a part of your treasures, which might be

justly forfeited to the state. Let your gratitude, where it is due, be displayed, not in words, but in your future behavior." I know not how to believe or to relate the transports with which the hero is said to have

received this ignominious pardon. He fell prostrate before his wife,

he kissed the feet of his savior, and he devoutly promised to live the

grateful and submissive slave of Antonina. A fine of one hundred and twenty thousand pounds sterling was levied on the fortunes of belisarius; and with the office of count, or master of the royal

stables, he accepted the conduct of the Italian war. At his departure from Constantinople, his friends, and even the public, were persuaded that as soon as he regained his freedom, he would renounce his dissimulation, and that his wife, Theodora, and perhaps the emperor

himself, would be sacrificed to the just revenge of a virtuous rebel. their hopes were deceived; and the unconquerable patience and loyalty of belisarius appear either \_below\_ or \_above\_ the character of a man.

chapter XLII: State Of The Barbaric World.--Part I.

State Of The Barbaric World.--Establishment Of The Lombards

On the Danube.--Tribes And Inroads Of The Sclavonians.--

Origin, Empire, And Embassies Of The Turks.--The Flight Of

The Avars.--Chosroes I, Or Nushirvan, King Of Persia.--His

Prosperous Reign And Wars With The Romans.--The Colchian Or

Lazic War.--The Æthiopians.

Our estimate of personal merit, is relative to the common faculties of

mankind. The aspiring efforts of genius, or virtue, either in active or

speculative life, are measured, not so much by their real elevation, as by the height to which they ascend above the level of their age and country; and the same stature, which in a people of giants would pass

unnoticed, must appear conspicuous in a race of pygmies. Leonidas, and

his three hundred companions, devoted their lives at Thermopylæ; but the education of the infant, the boy, and the man, had prepared, and almost

insured, this memorable sacrifice; and each Spartan would approve,

rather than admire, an act of duty, of which himself and eight thousand

of his fellow-citizens were equally capable. The great Pompey might

inscribe on his trophies, that he had defeated in battle two millions of enemies, and reduced fifteen hundred cities from the Lake Mæotis to the

Red Sea: but the fortune of Rome flew before his eagles; the nations were oppressed by their own fears, and the invincible legions which he commanded, had been formed by the habits of conquest and the discipline

of ages. In this view, the character of Belisarius may be deservedly

placed above the heroes of the ancient republics. His imperfections flowed from the contagion of the times; his virtues were his own, the free gift of nature or reflection; he raised himself without a master or a rival; and so inadequate were the arms committed to his hand, that

his sole advantage was derived from the pride and presumption of his adversaries. Under his command, the subjects of Justinian often deserved to be called Romans: but the unwarlike appellation of Greeks was imposed as a term of reproach by the haughty Goths; who affected to blush, that they must dispute the kingdom of Italy with a nation of tragedians

pantomimes, and pirates. The climate of Asia has indeed been found

less congenial than that of Europe to military spirit: those populous countries were enervated by luxury, despotism, and superstition; and the monks were more expensive and more numerous than the soldiers of the east. The regular force of the empire had once amounted to six hundred and forty-five thousand men: it was reduced, in the time of Justinian, to one hundred and fifty thousand; and this number, large as it may

seem, was thinly scattered over the sea and land; in Spain and Italy, in africa and Egypt, on the banks of the Danube, the coast of the Euxine, and the frontiers of Persia. The citizen was exhausted, yet the soldier was unpaid; his poverty was mischievously soothed by the privilege

of rapine and indolence; and the tardy payments were detained and

intercepted by the fraud of those agents who usurp, without courage or danger, the emoluments of war. Public and private distress recruited the armies of the state; but in the field, and still more in the presence

of the enemy, their numbers were always defective. The want of national

spirit was supplied by the precarious faith and disorderly service of barbarian mercenaries. Even military honor, which has often survived the

loss of virtue and freedom, was almost totally extinct. The generals, who were multiplied beyond the example of former times, labored only to

prevent the success, or to sully the reputation of their colleagues; and they had been taught by experience, that if merit sometimes provoked the jealousy, error, or even guilt, would obtain the indulgence, of a gracious emperor. In such an age, the triumphs of Belisarius, and afterwards of Narses, shine with incomparable lustre; but they are encompassed with the darkest shades of disgrace and calamity. While the

lieutenant of Justinian subdued the kingdoms of the Goths and Vandals, the emperor, timid, though ambitious, balanced the forces of the barbarians, fomented their divisions by flattery and falsehood, and

invited by his patience and liberality the repetition of injuries. The

keys of Carthage, Rome, and Ravenna, were presented to their conqueror, while Antioch was destroyed by the Persians, and Justinian trembled for the safety of Constantinople.

even the Gothic victories of Belisarius were prejudicial to the state,

since they abolished the important barrier of the Upper Danube, which

had been so faithfully guarded by Theodoric and his daughter. For the defence of Italy, the Goths evacuated Pannonia and Noricum, which they left in a peaceful and flourishing condition: the sovereignty was claimed by the emperor of the Romans; the actual possession was abandoned to the boldness of the first invader. On the opposite banks of the Danube, the plains of Upper Hungary and the Transylvanian hills were

possessed, since the death of Attila, by the tribes of the Gepidæ, who

respected the Gothic arms, and despised, not indeed the gold of the

Romans, but the secret motive of their annual subsidies. The vacant fortifications of the river were instantly occupied by these Barbarians; their standards were planted on the walls of Sirmium and Belgrade; and the ironical tone of their apology aggravated this insult on the majesty

of the empire. "So extensive, O Cæsar, are your dominions, so numerous are your cities, that you are continually seeking for nations to whom, either in peace or in war, you may relinquish these useless possessions. the Gepidæ are your brave and faithful allies; and if they have anticipated your gifts, they have shown a just confidence in your bounty." Their presumption was excused by the mode of revenge which

Justinian embraced. Instead of asserting the rights of a sovereign for the protection of his subjects, the emperor invited a strange people to

invade and possess the Roman provinces between the Danube and the Alps and the ambition of the Gepidæ was checked by the rising power and fame of the Lombards. This corrupt appellation has been diffused in the thirteenth century by the merchants and bankers, the Italian posterity

of these savage warriors: but the original name of \_Langobards\_ is expressive only of the peculiar length and fashion of their beards. I am

not disposed either to question or to justify their Scandinavian origin;

nor to pursue the migrations of the Lombards through unknown regions and

marvellous adventures. About the time of Augustus and Trajan, a ray of

historic light breaks on the darkness of their antiquities, and they are discovered, for the first time, between the Elbe and the Oder. Fierce, beyond the example of the Germans, they delighted to propagate the tremendous belief, that their heads were formed like the heads of dogs, and that they drank the blood of their enemies, whom they vanquished in battle. The smallness of their numbers was recruited by the adoption of their bravest slaves; and alone, amidst their powerful neighbors, they defended by arms their high-spirited independence. In the tempests of the north, which overwhelmed so many names and nations, this little bark

of the Lombards still floated on the surface: they gradually descended towards the south and the Danube, and, at the end of four hundred years, they again appear with their ancient valor and renown. Their manners were not less ferocious. The assassination of a royal guest was executed

in the presence, and by the command, of the king's daughter, who

had been provoked by some words of insult, and disappointed by his diminutive stature; and a tribute, the price of blood, was imposed on the Lombards, by his brother the king of the Heruli. Adversity revived a sense of moderation and justice, and the insolence of conquest was chastised by the signal defeat and irreparable dispersion of the Heruli, who were seated in the southern provinces of Poland. The victories of the Lombards recommended them to the friendship of the emperors; and at the solicitations of Justinian, they passed the Danube, to reduce, according to their treaty, the cities of Noricum and the fortresses of

Pannonia. But the spirit of rapine soon tempted them beyond these ample limits; they wandered along the coast of the Hadriatic as far as dyrrachium, and presumed, with familiar rudeness to enter the towns and

houses of their Roman allies, and to seize the captives who had escaped from their audacious hands. These acts of hostility, the sallies, as

it might be pretended, of some loose adventurers, were disowned by the

nation, and excused by the emperor; but the arms of the Lombards were more seriously engaged by a contest of thirty years, which was terminated only by the extirpation of the Gepidæ. The hostile nations

often pleaded their cause before the throne of Constantinople; and the crafty Justinian, to whom the Barbarians were almost equally odious,

pronounced a partial and ambiguous sentence, and dexterously protracted the war by slow and ineffectual succors. Their strength was formidable,

since the Lombards, who sent into the field several \_myriads\_ of

soldiers, still claimed, as the weaker side, the protection of the

Romans. Their spirit was intrepid; yet such is the uncertainty of courage, that the two armies were suddenly struck with a panic; they fled from each other, and the rival kings remained with their guards

in the midst of an empty plain. A short truce was obtained; but their

mutual resentment again kindled; and the remembrance of their shame

rendered the next encounter more desperate and bloody Forty thousand of the Barbarians perished in the decisive battle, which broke the power

of the Gepidæ, transferred the fears and wishes of Justinian, and first displayed the character of Alboin, the youthful prince of the Lombards, and the future conqueror of Italy.

the wild people who dwelt or wandered in the plains of Russia,

Lithuania, and Poland, might be reduced, in the age of Justinian, under the two great families of the Bulgarians and the Sclavonians. According to the Greek writers, the former, who touched the Euxine and the Lake

Mæotis, derived from the Huns their name or descent; and it is needless to renew the simple and well-known picture of Tartar manners. They were bold and dexterous archers, who drank the milk, and feasted on the flesh, of their fleet and indefatigable horses; whose flocks and herds followed, or rather guided, the motions of their roving camps; to whose

inroads no country was remote or impervious, and who were practised

in flight, though incapable of fear. The nation was divided into two

powerful and hostile tribes, who pursued each other with fraternal

hatred. They eagerly disputed the friendship, or rather the gifts, of the emperor; and the distinctions which nature had fixed between the faithful dog and the rapacious wolf was applied by an ambassador who

received only verbal instructions from the mouth of his illiterate

prince. The Bulgarians, of whatsoever species, were equally attracted by Roman wealth: they assumed a vague dominion over the Sclavonian name, and their rapid marches could only be stopped by the Baltic Sea, or the extreme cold and poverty of the north. But the same race of Sclavonians appears to have maintained, in every age, the possession of the same countries. Their numerous tribes, however distant or adverse, used one common language, (it was harsh and irregular,) and where known by the

resemblance of their form, which deviated from the swarthy Tartar, and approached without attaining the lofty stature and fair complexion of the German. Four thousand six hundred villages were scattered over the

provinces of Russia and Poland, and their huts were hastily built of

rough timber, in a country deficient both in stone and iron. Erected,

or rather concealed, in the depth of forests, on the banks of rivers,

or the edges of morasses, we may not perhaps, without flattery, compare them to the architecture of the beaver; which they resembled in a double

issue, to the land and water, for the escape of the savage inhabitant, an animal less cleanly, less diligent, and less social, than that

marvellous quadruped. The fertility of the soil, rather than the labor

of the natives, supplied the rustic plenty of the Sclavonians. Their

sheep and horned cattle were large and numerous, and the fields which they sowed with millet or panic afforded, in place of bread, a coarse and less nutritive food. The incessant rapine of their neighbors compelled them to bury this treasure in the earth; but on the appearance

of a stranger, it was freely imparted by a people, whose unfavorable character is qualified by the epithets of chaste, patient, and

hospitable. As their supreme god, they adored an invisible master of the thunder. The rivers and the nymphs obtained their subordinate honors, and the popular worship was expressed in vows and sacrifice. The

Sclavonians disdained to obey a despot, a prince, or even a magistrate; but their experience was too narrow, their passions too headstrong, to compose a system of equal law or general defence. Some voluntary respect was yielded to age and valor; but each tribe or village existed as a separate republic, and all must be persuaded where none could be compelled. They fought on foot, almost naked, and except an unwieldy

shield, without any defensive armor; their weapons of offence were a bow, a quiver of small poisoned arrows, and a long rope, which they dexterously threw from a distance, and entangled their enemy in a

running noose. In the field, the Sclavonian infantry was dangerous by their speed, agility, and hardiness: they swam, they dived, they

remained under water, drawing their breath through a hollow cane; and a river or lake was often the scene of their unsuspected ambuscade. But these were the achievements of spies or stragglers; the military art was

unknown to the Sclavonians; their name was obscure, and their conquests were inglorious.

I have marked the faint and general outline of the Sclavonians and bulgarians, without attempting to define their intermediate boundaries, which were not accurately known or respected by the Barbarians themselves. Their importance was measured by their vicinity to the empire; and the level country of Moldavia and Wallachia was occupied by the Antes, a Sclavonian tribe, which swelled the titles of

Justinian with an epithet of conquest. Against the Antes he erected the fortifications of the Lower Danube; and labored to secure the alliance

of a people seated in the direct channel of northern inundation, an

interval of two hundred miles between the mountains of Transylvania and the Euxine Sea. But the Antes wanted power and inclination to stem the fury of the torrent; and the light-armed Sclavonians, from a hundred tribes, pursued with almost equal speed the footsteps of the Bulgarian

horse. The payment of one piece of gold for each soldier procured a safe and easy retreat through the country of the Gepidæ, who commanded the

passage of the Upper Danube. The hopes or fears of the Barbarians; their

intense union or discord; the accident of a frozen or shallow stream; the prospect of harvest or vintage; the prosperity or distress of the

Romans; were the causes which produced the uniform repetition of annual

visits, tedious in the narrative, and destructive in the event. The same

year, and possibly the same month, in which Ravenna surrendered, was

marked by an invasion of the Huns or Bulgarians, so dreadful, that it almost effaced the memory of their past inroads. They spread from the

suburbs of Constantinople to the Ionian Gulf, destroyed thirty-two cities or castles, erased Potidæa, which Athens had built, and Philip

had besieged, and repassed the Danube, dragging at their horses' heels

one hundred and twenty thousand of the subjects of Justinian. In a

subsequent inroad they pierced the wall of the Thracian Chersonesus, extirpated the habitations and the inhabitants, boldly traversed the

Hellespont, and returned to their companions, laden with the spoils of asia. Another party, which seemed a multitude in the eyes of the Romans,

penetrated, without opposition, from the Straits of Thermopylæ to the

Isthmus of Corinth; and the last ruin of Greece has appeared an object too minute for the attention of history. The works which the emperor

raised for the protection, but at the expense of his subjects, served

only to disclose the weakness of some neglected part; and the walls, which by flattery had been deemed impregnable, were either deserted by the garrison, or scaled by the Barbarians. Three thousand Sclavonians, who insolently divided themselves into two bands, discovered the weakness and misery of a triumphant reign. They passed the Danube and the Hebrus, vanquished the Roman generals who dared to oppose their

progress, and plundered, with impunity, the cities of Illyricum and Thrace, each of which had arms and numbers to overwhelm their contemptible assailants. Whatever praise the boldness of the Sclavonians

may deserve, it is sullied by the wanton and deliberate cruelty which they are accused of exercising on their prisoners. Without distinction

of rank, or age, or sex, the captives were impaled or flayed alive, or

suspended between four posts, and beaten with clubs till they expired,

or enclosed in some spacious building, and left to perish in the flames with the spoil and cattle which might impede the march of these savage

victors. Perhaps a more impartial narrative would reduce the number, and

qualify the nature, of these horrid acts; and they might sometimes be excused by the cruel laws of retaliation. In the siege of Topirus, whose

obstinate defence had enraged the Sclavonians, they massacred fifteen thousand males; but they spared the women and children; the most

valuable captives were always reserved for labor or ransom; the

servitude was not rigorous, and the terms of their deliverance were

speedy and moderate. But the subject, or the historian of Justinian, exhaled his just indignation in the language of complaint and reproach; and Procopius has confidently affirmed, that in a reign of thirty-two

years, each annual inroad of the Barbarians consumed two hundred thousand of the inhabitants of the Roman empire. The entire population

of Turkish Europe, which nearly corresponds with the provinces of

Justinian, would perhaps be incapable of supplying six millions of

persons, the result of this incredible estimate.

In the midst of these obscure calamities, Europe felt the shock of

revolution, which first revealed to the world the name and nation of the turks. Like Romulus, the founder of that martial people was suckled by a she-wolf, who afterwards made him the father of a numerous progeny; and the representation of that animal in the banners of the Turks

preserved the memory, or rather suggested the idea, of a fable, which was invented, without any mutual intercourse, by the shepherds of Latium and those of Scythia. At the equal distance of two thousand miles from the Caspian, the Icy, the Chinese, and the Bengal Seas, a ridge of

mountains is conspicuous, the centre, and perhaps the summit, of Asia; which, in the language of different nations, has been styled Imaus, and caf, and Altai, and the Golden Mountains, and the Girdle of the Earth. the sides of the hills were productive of minerals; and the iron forges, for the purpose of war, were exercised by the Turks, the most despised

portion of the slaves of the great khan of the Geougen. But their

servitude could only last till a leader, bold and eloquent, should arise to persuade his countrymen that the same arms which they forged for their masters, might become, in their own hands, the instruments of freedom and victory. They sallied from the mountains; a sceptre was the

reward of his advice; and the annual ceremony, in which a piece of iron was heated in the fire, and a smith's hammer was successively handled by the prince and his nobles, recorded for ages the humble profession and rational pride of the Turkish nation. Bertezena, their first leader,

signalized their valor and his own in successful combats against the

neighboring tribes; but when he presumed to ask in marriage the daughter

of the great khan, the insolent demand of a slave and a mechanic was contemptuously rejected. The disgrace was expiated by a more noble alliance with a princess of China; and the decisive battle which almost extirpated the nation of the Geougen, established in Tartary the new and

more powerful empire of the Turks. They reigned over the north; but they confessed the vanity of conquest, by their faithful attachment to the mountain of their fathers. The royal encampment seldom lost sight

of Mount Altai, from whence the River Irtish descends to water the rich

pastures of the Calmucks, which nourish the largest sheep and oxen in the world. The soil is fruitful, and the climate mild and temperate: the

happy region was ignorant of earthquake and pestilence; the emperor's throne was turned towards the East, and a golden wolf on the top of a

spear seemed to guard the entrance of his tent. One of the successors of bertezena was tempted by the luxury and superstition of China; but his design of building cities and temples was defeated by the simple wisdom

of a Barbarian counsellor. "The Turks," he said, "are not equal in

number to one hundredth part of the inhabitants of China. If we balance their power, and elude their armies, it is because we wander without any fixed habitations in the exercise of war and hunting. Are we strong? we advance and conquer: are we feeble? we retire and are concealed. Should the Turks confine themselves within the walls of cities, the loss of a battle would be the destruction of their empire. The bonzes preach only

patience, humility, and the renunciation of the world. Such, O king! is

not the religion of heroes." They entertained, with less reluctance, the doctrines of Zoroaster; but the greatest part of the nation acquiesced, without inquiry, in the opinions, or rather in the practice, of their ancestors. The honors of sacrifice were reserved for the supreme deity; they acknowledged, in rude hymns, their obligations to the air, the fire, the water, and the earth; and their priests derived some profit from the art of divination. Their unwritten laws were rigorous and

impartial: theft was punished with a tenfold restitution; adultery, treason, and murder, with death; and no chastisement could be inflicted too severe for the rare and inexpiable guilt of cowardice. As the

subject nations marched under the standard of the Turks, their cavalry, both men and horses, were proudly computed by millions; one of their effective armies consisted of four hundred thousand soldiers, and in

less than fifty years they were connected in peace and war with the

Romans, the Persians, and the Chinese. In their northern limits, some

vestige may be discovered of the form and situation of Kamptchatka, of a people of hunters and fishermen, whose sledges were drawn by dogs, and whose habitations were buried in the earth. The Turks were ignorant of astronomy; but the observation taken by some learned Chinese, with a

gnomon of eight feet, fixes the royal camp in the latitude of forty-nine degrees, and marks their extreme progress within three, or at least ten degrees, of the polar circle. Among their southern conquests the most

splendid was that of the Nephthalites, or white Huns, a polite and warlike people, who possessed the commercial cities of Bochara and

Samarcand, who had vanquished the Persian monarch, and carried their

victorious arms along the banks, and perhaps to the mouth, of the

Indus. On the side of the West, the Turkish cavalry advanced to the Lake

Mæotis. They passed that lake on the ice. The khan who dwelt at the foot

of Mount Altai issued his commands for the siege of Bosphorus, a city the voluntary subject of Rome, and whose princes had formerly been the friends of Athens. To the east, the Turks invaded China, as often as the vigor of the government was relaxed: and I am taught to read in the

history of the times, that they mowed down their patient enemies like

hemp or grass; and that the mandarins applauded the wisdom of an emperor who repulsed these Barbarians with golden lances. This extent of savage empire compelled the Turkish monarch to establish three subordinate

princes of his own blood, who soon forgot their gratitude and allegiance. The conquerors were enervated by luxury, which is always fatal except to an industrious people; the policy of China solicited the vanquished nations to resume their independence and the power of the turks was limited to a period of two hundred years. The revival of their

name and dominion in the southern countries of Asia are the events of a later age; and the dynasties, which succeeded to their native realms,

may sleep in oblivion; since \_their\_ history bears no relation to the decline and fall of the Roman empire.

chapter XLII: State Of The Barbaric World.--Part II.

In the rapid career of conquest, the Turks attacked and subdued the

nation of the Ogors or Varchonites on the banks of the River Til, which derived the epithet of Black from its dark water or gloomy forests. The khan of the Ogors was slain with three hundred thousand

of his subjects, and their bodies were scattered over the space of four days' journey: their surviving countrymen acknowledged the strength and

mercy of the Turks; and a small portion, about twenty thousand warriors,

preferred exile to servitude. They followed the well-known road of the

Volga, cherished the error of the nations who confounded them with the avars, and spread the terror of that false though famous appellation, which had not, however, saved its lawful proprietors from the yoke of the Turks. After a long and victorious march, the new Avars arrived at the foot of Mount Caucasus, in the country of the Alani and Circassians, where they first heard of the splendor and weakness of the Roman empire. they humbly requested their confederate, the prince of the Alani, to

lead them to this source of riches; and their ambassador, with the

permission of the governor of Lazica, was transported by the Euxine

Sea to Constantinople. The whole city was poured forth to behold with curiosity and terror the aspect of a strange people: their long hair, which hung in tresses down their backs, was gracefully bound with

ribbons, but the rest of their habit appeared to imitate the fashion of the Huns. When they were admitted to the audience of Justinian, Candish, the first of the ambassadors, addressed the Roman emperor in these terms: "You see before you, O mighty prince, the representatives of the

strongest and most populous of nations, the invincible, the irresistible avars. We are willing to devote ourselves to your service: we are able to vanquish and destroy all the enemies who now disturb your repose. but we expect, as the price of our alliance, as the reward of our valor,

precious gifts, annual subsidies, and fruitful possessions." At the time

of this embassy, Justinian had reigned above thirty, he had lived above seventy-five years: his mind, as well as his body, was feeble and languid; and the conqueror of Africa and Italy, careless of the

permanent interest of his people, aspired only to end his days in the bosom even of inglorious peace. In a studied oration, he imparted to the senate his resolution to dissemble the insult, and to purchase the friendship of the Avars; and the whole senate, like the mandarins

of China, applauded the incomparable wisdom and foresight of their

sovereign. The instruments of luxury were immediately prepared to captivate the Barbarians; silken garments, soft and splendid beds, and chains and collars incrusted with gold. The ambassadors, content with

such liberal reception, departed from Constantinople, and Valentin, one

of the emperor's guards, was sent with a similar character to their camp at the foot of Mount Caucasus. As their destruction or their success

must be alike advantageous to the empire, he persuaded them to invade the enemies of Rome; and they were easily tempted, by gifts and

promises, to gratify their ruling inclinations. These fugitives, who fled before the Turkish arms, passed the Tanais and Borysthenes, and boldly advanced into the heart of Poland and Germany, violating the

law of nations, and abusing the rights of victory. Before ten years

had elapsed, their camps were seated on the Danube and the Elbe, many bulgarian and Sclavonian names were obliterated from the earth, and the

remainder of their tribes are found, as tributaries and vassals, under the standard of the Avars. The chagan, the peculiar title of their king,

still affected to cultivate the friendship of the emperor; and Justinian entertained some thoughts of fixing them in Pannonia, to balance the

prevailing power of the Lombards. But the virtue or treachery of an Avar betrayed the secret enmity and ambitious designs of their countrymen; and they loudly complained of the timid, though jealous policy, of detaining their ambassadors, and denying the arms which they had been allowed to purchase in the capital of the empire.

Perhaps the apparent change in the dispositions of the emperors may be ascribed to the embassy which was received from the conquerors of the avars. The immense distance which eluded their arms could not extinguish their resentment: the Turkish ambassadors pursued the footsteps of the vanquished to the Jaik, the Volga, Mount Caucasus, the Euxine and Constantinople, and at length appeared before the successor of constantine, to request that he would not espouse the cause of

rebels and fugitives. Even commerce had some share in this remarkable

negotiation: and the Sogdoites, who were now the tributaries of the turks, embraced the fair occasion of opening, by the north of the caspian, a new road for the importation of Chinese silk into the Roman empire. The Persian, who preferred the navigation of Ceylon, had stopped the caravans of Bochara and Samarcand: their silk was contemptuously burnt: some Turkish ambassadors died in Persia, with a suspicion of

poison; and the great khan permitted his faithful vassal Maniach, the

prince of the Sogdoites, to propose, at the Byzantine court, a treaty of alliance against their common enemies. Their splendid apparel and rich

presents, the fruit of Oriental luxury, distinguished Maniach and his colleagues from the rude savages of the North: their letters, in the

Scythian character and language, announced a people who had attained the

rudiments of science: they enumerated the conquests, they offered the friendship and military aid of the Turks; and their sincerity was attested by direful imprecations (if they were guilty of falsehood) against their own head, and the head of Disabul their master. The Greek

prince entertained with hospitable regard the ambassadors of a remote and powerful monarch: the sight of silk-worms and looms disappointed the

hopes of the Sogdoites; the emperor renounced, or seemed to renounce, the fugitive Avars, but he accepted the alliance of the Turks; and the

ratification of the treaty was carried by a Roman minister to the foot

of Mount Altai. Under the successors of Justinian, the friendship of the two nations was cultivated by frequent and cordial intercourse; the most favored vassals were permitted to imitate the example of the great khan, and one hundred and six Turks, who, on various occasions, had visited constantinople, departed at the same time for their native country. The duration and length of the journey from the Byzantine court to Mount altai are not specified: it might have been difficult to mark a road through the nameless deserts, the mountains, rivers, and morasses of tartary; but a curious account has been preserved of the reception of the Roman ambassadors at the royal camp. After they had been purified with fire and incense, according to a rite still practised under the

sons of Zingis, they were introduced to the presence of Disabul. In a valley of the Golden Mountain, they found the great khan in his tent,

seated in a chair with wheels, to which a horse might be occasionally

harnessed. As soon as they had delivered their presents, which were

received by the proper officers, they exposed, in a florid oration, the wishes of the Roman emperor, that victory might attend the arms of the turks, that their reign might be long and prosperous, and that a strict alliance, without envy or deceit, might forever be maintained between the two most powerful nations of the earth. The answer of Disabul corresponded with these friendly professions, and the ambassadors were

seated by his side, at a banquet which lasted the greatest part of the day: the tent was surrounded with silk hangings, and a Tartar liquor was

served on the table, which possessed at least the intoxicating qualities

of wine. The entertainment of the succeeding day was more sumptuous; the

silk hangings of the second tent were embroidered in various figures; and the royal seat, the cups, and the vases, were of gold. A third

pavilion was supported by columns of gilt wood; a bed of pure and massy

gold was raised on four peacocks of the same metal: and before the entrance of the tent, dishes, basins, and statues of solid silver, and admirable art, were ostentatiously piled in wagons, the monuments of

valor rather than of industry. When Disabul led his armies against the frontiers of Persia, his Roman allies followed many days the march of the Turkish camp, nor were they dismissed till they had enjoyed their

precedency over the envoy of the great king, whose loud and intemperate clamors interrupted the silence of the royal banquet. The power and ambition of Chosroes cemented the union of the Turks and Romans, who touched his dominions on either side: but those distant nations,

regardless of each other, consulted the dictates of interest, without

recollecting the obligations of oaths and treaties. While the successor

of Disabul celebrated his father's obsequies, he was saluted by the ambassadors of the emperor Tiberius, who proposed an invasion of Persia, and sustained, with firmness, the angry and perhaps the just reproaches

of that haughty Barbarian. "You see my ten fingers," said the great

khan, and he applied them to his mouth. "You Romans speak with as many tongues, but they are tongues of deceit and perjury. To me you hold

one language, to my subjects another; and the nations are successively deluded by your perfidious eloquence. You precipitate your allies

into war and danger, you enjoy their labors, and you neglect your benefactors. Hasten your return, inform your master that a Turk is

incapable of uttering or forgiving falsehood, and that he shall speedily

meet the punishment which he deserves. While he solicits my friendship with flattering and hollow words, he is sunk to a confederate of

my fugitive Varchonites. If I condescend to march against those contemptible slaves, they will tremble at the sound of our whips; they will be trampled, like a nest of ants, under the feet of my innumerable cavalry. I am not ignorant of the road which they have followed to

invade your empire; nor can I be deceived by the vain pretence, that

Mount Caucasus is the impregnable barrier of the Romans. I know the course of the Niester, the Danube, and the Hebrus; the most warlike

nations have yielded to the arms of the Turks; and from the rising to the setting sun, the earth is my inheritance." Notwithstanding this

menace, a sense of mutual advantage soon renewed the alliance of the Turks and Romans: but the pride of the great khan survived his

resentment; and when he announced an important conquest to his friend the emperor Maurice, he styled himself the master of the seven races, and the lord of the seven climates of the world.

disputes have often arisen between the sovereigns of Asia for the title

of king of the world; while the contest has proved that it could not belong to either of the competitors. The kingdom of the Turks was bounded by the Oxus or Gihon; and \_Touran\_ was separated by that great

river from the rival monarchy of \_Iran\_, or Persia, which in a smaller compass contained perhaps a larger measure of power and population. The

Persians, who alternately invaded and repulsed the Turks and the Romans, were still ruled by the house of Sassan, which ascended the throne three hundred years before the accession of Justinian. His contemporary, cabades, or Kobad, had been successful in war against the emperor anastasius; but the reign of that prince was distracted by civil and

religious troubles. A prisoner in the hands of his subjects, an exile among the enemies of Persia, he recovered his liberty by prostituting the honor of his wife, and regained his kingdom with the dangerous and

mercenary aid of the Barbarians, who had slain his father. His nobles were suspicious that Kobad never forgave the authors of his expulsion,

or even those of his restoration. The people was deluded and inflamed by the fanaticism of Mazdak, who asserted the community of women, and the equality of mankind, whilst he appropriated the richest lands and

most beautiful females to the use of his sectaries. The view of these disorders, which had been fomented by his laws and example, imbittered the declining age of the Persian monarch; and his fears were increased by the consciousness of his design to reverse the natural and customary

order of succession, in favor of his third and most favored son, so famous under the names of Chosroes and Nushirvan. To render the youth

more illustrious in the eyes of the nations, Kobad was desirous that he

should be adopted by the emperor Justin: the hope of peace inclined the Byzantine court to accept this singular proposal; and Chosroes might

have acquired a specious claim to the inheritance of his Roman parent. but the future mischief was diverted by the advice of the quæstor

Proclus: a difficulty was started, whether the adoption should be performed as a civil or military rite; the treaty was abruptly dissolved; and the sense of this indignity sunk deep into the mind

of Chosroes, who had already advanced to the Tigris on his road to constantinople. His father did not long survive the disappointment of

his wishes: the testament of their deceased sovereign was read in the assembly of the nobles; and a powerful faction, prepared for the event, and regardless of the priority of age, exalted Chosroes to the throne of

Persia. He filled that throne during a prosperous period of forty-eight

years; and the Justice of Nushirvan is celebrated as the theme of

immortal praise by the nations of the East.

but the justice of kings is understood by themselves, and even by their

subjects, with an ample indulgence for the gratification of passion and

interest. The virtue of Chosroes was that of a conqueror, who, in the

measures of peace and war, is excited by ambition, and restrained by

prudence; who confounds the greatness with the happiness of a nation, and calmly devotes the lives of thousands to the fame, or even the amusement, of a single man. In his domestic administration, the just

Nushirvan would merit in our feelings the appellation of a tyrant. His two elder brothers had been deprived of their fair expectations of the diadem: their future life, between the supreme rank and the condition of

subjects, was anxious to themselves and formidable to their master: fear as well as revenge might tempt them to rebel: the slightest evidence

of a conspiracy satisfied the author of their wrongs; and the repose of chosroes was secured by the death of these unhappy princes, with their families and adherents. One guiltless youth was saved and dismissed by the compassion of a veteran general; and this act of humanity, which was

revealed by his son, overbalanced the merit of reducing twelve nations to the obedience of Persia. The zeal and prudence of Mebodes had fixed the diadem on the head of Chosroes himself; but he delayed to attend the

royal summons, till he had performed the duties of a military review: he was instantly commanded to repair to the iron tripod, which stood before the gate of the palace, where it was death to relieve or approach the

victim; and Mebodes languished several days before his sentence was

pronounced, by the inflexible pride and calm ingratitude of the son

of Kobad. But the people, more especially in the East, is disposed to forgive, and even to applaud, the cruelty which strikes at the loftiest

heads; at the slaves of ambition, whose voluntary choice has exposed them to live in the smiles, and to perish by the frown, of a capricious

monarch. In the execution of the laws which he had no temptation to

violate; in the punishment of crimes which attacked his own dignity, as well as the happiness of individuals; Nushirvan, or Chosroes, deserved the appellation of \_just\_. His government was firm, rigorous, and

impartial. It was the first labor of his reign to abolish the dangerous theory of common or equal possessions: the lands and women which the

sectaries of Mazdak has usurped were restored to their lawful owners; and the temperate chastisement of the fanatics or impostors confirmed the domestic rights of society. Instead of listening with blind confidence to a favorite minister, he established four viziers over the four great provinces of his empire, Assyria, Media, Persia, and bactriana. In the choice of judges, præfects, and counsellors, he strove to remove the mask which is always worn in the presence of kings: he wished to substitute the natural order of talents for the accidental distinctions of birth and fortune; he professed, in specious language,

his intention to prefer those men who carried the poor in their bosoms, and to banish corruption from the seat of justice, as dogs were excluded from the temples of the Magi. The code of laws of the first Artaxerxes was revived and published as the rule of the magistrates; but the assurance of speedy punishment was the best security of their virtue. their behavior was inspected by a thousand eyes, their words were

overheard by a thousand ears, the secret or public agents of the throne; and the provinces, from the Indian to the Arabian confines, were enlightened by the frequent visits of a sovereign, who affected to emulate his celestial brother in his rapid and salutary career. education and agriculture he viewed as the two objects most deserving of

his care. In every city of Persia orphans, and the children of the poor, were maintained and instructed at the public expense; the daughters were

given in marriage to the richest citizens of their own rank, and the

sons, according to their different talents, were employed in mechanic trades, or promoted to more honorable service. The deserted villages were relieved by his bounty; to the peasants and farmers who were found

incapable of cultivating their lands, he distributed cattle, seed, and the instruments of husbandry; and the rare and inestimable treasure of fresh water was parsimoniously managed, and skilfully dispersed over the arid territory of Persia. The prosperity of that kingdom was the effect and evidence of his virtues; his vices are those of Oriental despotism; but in the long competition between Chosroes and Justinian, the advantage both of merit and fortune is almost always on the side of the barbarian.

to the praise of justice Nushirvan united the reputation of knowledge; and the seven Greek philosophers, who visited his court, were invited and deceived by the strange assurance, that a disciple of Plato was seated on the Persian throne. Did they expect, that a prince,

strenuously exercised in the toils of war and government, should agitate, with dexterity like their own, the abstruse and profound

questions which amused the leisure of the schools of Athens? Could they

hope that the precepts of philosophy should direct the life, and control the passions, of a despot, whose infancy had been taught to consider his absolute and fluctuating will as the only rule of moral obligation? The

studies of Chosroes were ostentatious and superficial: but his example awakened the curiosity of an ingenious people, and the light of science was diffused over the dominions of Persia. At Gondi Sapor, in the

neighborhood of the royal city of Susa, an academy of physic was founded, which insensibly became a liberal school of poetry, philosophy, and rhetoric. The annals of the monarchy were composed; and while recent and authentic history might afford some useful lessons both to the

prince and people, the darkness of the first ages was embellished by the

giants, the dragons, and the fabulous heroes of Oriental romance. Every

learned or confident stranger was enriched by the bounty, and flattered by the conversation, of the monarch: he nobly rewarded a Greek

physician, by the deliverance of three thousand, captives; and the

sophists, who contended for his favor, were exasperated by the wealth and insolence of Uranius, their more successful rival. Nushirvan believed, or at least respected, the religion of the Magi; and some traces of persecution may be discovered in his reign. Yet he allowed

himself freely to compare the tenets of the various sects; and the theological disputes, in which he frequently presided, diminished the authority of the priest, and enlightened the minds of the people. At his command, the most celebrated writers of Greece and India were translated

into the Persian language; a smooth and elegant idiom, recommended by

Mahomet to the use of paradise; though it is branded with the epithets

of savage and unmusical, by the ignorance and presumption of Agathias.

Yet the Greek historian might reasonably wonder that it should be found possible to execute an entire version of Plato and Aristotle in a foreign dialect, which had not been framed to express the spirit of freedom and the subtilties of philosophic disquisition. And, if the

reason of the Stagyrite might be equally dark, or equally intelligible

in every tongue, the dramatic art and verbal argumentation of the disciple of Socrates, appear to be indissolubly mingled with the grace and perfection of his Attic style. In the search of universal knowledge,

Nushirvan was informed, that the moral and political fables of Pilpay, an ancient Brachman, were preserved with jealous reverence among the treasures of the kings of India. The physician Perozes was secretly despatched to the banks of the Ganges, with instructions to procure, at any price, the communication of this valuable work. His dexterity

obtained a transcript, his learned diligence accomplished the translation; and the fables of Pilpay were read and admired in the assembly of Nushirvan and his nobles. The Indian original, and the

Persian copy, have long since disappeared; but this venerable monument

has been saved by the curiosity of the Arabian caliphs, revived in the modern Persic, the Turkish, the Syriac, the Hebrew, and the Greek

idioms, and transfused through successive versions into the modern

languages of Europe. In their present form, the peculiar character, the

manners and religion of the Hindoos, are completely obliterated; and the

intrinsic merit of the fables of Pilpay is far inferior to the concise elegance of Phædrus, and the native graces of La Fontaine. Fifteen moral and political sentences are illustrated in a series of apologues: but the composition is intricate, the narrative prolix, and the precept

obvious and barren. Yet the Brachman may assume the merit of

\_inventing\_ a pleasing fiction, which adorns the nakedness of truth, and alleviates, perhaps, to a royal ear, the harshness of instruction. With a similar design, to admonish kings that they are strong only in the

strength of their subjects, the same Indians invented the game of chess, which was likewise introduced into Persia under the reign of Nushirvan.

chapter XLII: State Of The Barbaric World.--Part III.

the son of Kobad found his kingdom involved in a war with the successor

of Constantine; and the anxiety of his domestic situation inclined

him to grant the suspension of arms, which Justinian was impatient to

purchase. Chosroes saw the Roman ambassadors at his feet. He accepted eleven thousand pounds of gold, as the price of an \_endless\_ or

indefinite peace: some mutual exchanges were regulated; the Persian assumed the guard of the gates of Caucasus, and the demolition of Dara was suspended, on condition that it should never be made the residence

of the general of the East. This interval of repose had been solicited, and was diligently improved, by the ambition of the emperor: his African conquests were the first fruits of the Persian treaty; and the avarice

of Chosroes was soothed by a large portion of the spoils of Carthage, which his ambassadors required in a tone of pleasantry and under the color of friendship. But the trophies of Belisarius disturbed the

slumbers of the great king; and he heard with astonishment, envy, and fear, that Sicily, Italy, and Rome itself, had been reduced, in three

rapid campaigns, to the obedience of Justinian. Unpractised in the art

of violating treaties, he secretly excited his bold and subtle vassal almondar. That prince of the Saracens, who resided at Hira, had not been

included in the general peace, and still waged an obscure war against

his rival Arethas, the chief of the tribe of Gassan, and confederate of the empire. The subject of their dispute was an extensive sheep-walk

in the desert to the south of Palmyra. An immemorial tribute for the

license of pasture appeared to attest the rights of Almondar, while the Gassanite appealed to the Latin name of strata, a paved road, as an

unquestionable evidence of the sovereignty and labors of the Romans. The two monarchs supported the cause of their respective vassals; and the Persian Arab, without expecting the event of a slow and doubtful arbitration, enriched his flying camp with the spoil and captives of

Syria. Instead of repelling the arms, Justinian attempted to seduce the fidelity of Almondar, while he called from the extremities of the earth the nations of Æthiopia and Scythia to invade the dominions of his

rival. But the aid of such allies was distant and precarious, and the discovery of this hostile correspondence justified the complaints of the Goths and Armenians, who implored, almost at the same time, the

protection of Chosroes. The descendants of Arsaces, who were still

numerous in Armenia, had been provoked to assert the last relics of

national freedom and hereditary rank; and the ambassadors of Vitiges

had secretly traversed the empire to expose the instant, and almost

inevitable, danger of the kingdom of Italy. Their representations were

uniform, weighty, and effectual. "We stand before your throne, the advocates of your interest as well as of our own. The ambitious and faithless Justinian aspires to be the sole master of the world. Since the endless peace, which betrayed the common freedom of mankind, that

prince, your ally in words, your enemy in actions, has alike insulted

his friends and foes, and has filled the earth with blood and confusion.

Has he not violated the privileges of Armenia, the independence of colchos, and the wild liberty of the Tzanian mountains? Has he not

usurped, with equal avidity, the city of Bosphorus on the frozen Mæotis, and the vale of palm-trees on the shores of the Red Sea? The Moors, the

Vandals, the Goths, have been successively oppressed, and each nation

has calmly remained the spectator of their neighbor's ruin. Embrace, O

king! the favorable moment; the East is left without defence, while the armies of Justinian and his renowned general are detained in the distant

regions of the West. If you hesitate or delay, Belisarius and his

victorious troops will soon return from the Tyber to the Tigris, and

Persia may enjoy the wretched consolation of being the last devoured." by such arguments, Chosroes was easily persuaded to imitate the example which he condemned: but the Persian, ambitious of military fame, disdained the inactive warfare of a rival, who issued his sanguinary commands from the secure station of the Byzantine palace.

whatever might be the provocations of Chosroes, he abused the confidence

of treaties; and the just reproaches of dissimulation and falsehood could only be concealed by the lustre of his victories. The Persian army, which had been assembled in the plains of Babylon, prudently declined the strong cities of Mesopotamia, and followed the western bank of the Euphrates, till the small, though populous, town of Dura

presumed to arrest the progress of the great king. The gates of Dura, by treachery and surprise, were burst open; and as soon as Chosroes had

stained his cimeter with the blood of the inhabitants, he dismissed the ambassador of Justinian to inform his master in what place he had left the enemy of the Romans. The conqueror still affected the praise of

humanity and justice; and as he beheld a noble matron with her infant

rudely dragged along the ground, he sighed, he wept, and implored the divine justice to punish the author of these calamities. Yet the herd

of twelve thousand captives was ransomed for two hundred pounds of gold; the neighboring bishop of Sergiopolis pledged his faith for the payment: and in the subsequent year the unfeeling avarice of Chosroes exacted the penalty of an obligation which it was generous to contract and

impossible to discharge. He advanced into the heart of Syria: but a feeble enemy, who vanished at his approach, disappointed him of the

honor of victory; and as he could not hope to establish his dominion, the Persian king displayed in this inroad the mean and rapacious vices

of a robber. Hierapolis, Berrhæa or Aleppo, Apamea and Chalcis, were

successively besieged: they redeemed their safety by a ransom of gold

or silver, proportioned to their respective strength and opulence; and their new master enforced, without observing, the terms of capitulation. educated in the religion of the Magi, he exercised, without remorse, the

lucrative trade of sacrilege; and, after stripping of its gold and gems a piece of the true cross, he generously restored the naked relic to the devotion of the Christians of Apamea. No more than fourteen years had elapsed since Antioch was ruined by an earthquake; but the queen of the East, the new Theopolis, had been raised from the ground by the

liberality of Justinian; and the increasing greatness of the buildings and the people already erased the memory of this recent disaster. On one

side, the city was defended by the mountain, on the other by the River

Orontes; but the most accessible part was commanded by a superior eminence: the proper remedies were rejected, from the despicable fear

of discovering its weakness to the enemy; and Germanus, the emperor's

nephew, refused to trust his person and dignity within the walls of a besieged city. The people of Antioch had inherited the vain and

satirical genius of their ancestors: they were elated by a sudden

reënforcement of six thousand soldiers; they disdained the offers of an easy capitulation and their intemperate clamors insulted from the

ramparts the majesty of the great king. Under his eye the Persian

myriads mounted with scaling-ladders to the assault; the Roman

mercenaries fled through the opposite gate of Daphne; and the generous assistance of the youth of Antioch served only to aggravate the miseries

of their country. As Chosroes, attended by the ambassadors of Justinian, was descending from the mountain, he affected, in a plaintive voice, to deplore the obstinacy and ruin of that unhappy people; but the slaughter

still raged with unrelenting fury; and the city, at the command of a barbarian, was delivered to the flames. The cathedral of Antioch was

indeed preserved by the avarice, not the piety, of the conqueror: a more

honorable exemption was granted to the church of St. Julian, and the

quarter of the town where the ambassadors resided; some distant streets were saved by the shifting of the wind, and the walls still subsisted to protect, and soon to betray, their new inhabitants. Fanaticism had defaced the ornaments of Daphne, but Chosroes breathed a purer air amidst her groves and fountains; and some idolaters in his train might

sacrifice with impunity to the nymphs of that elegant retreat. Eighteen

miles below Antioch, the River Orontes falls into the Mediterranean. The

haughty Persian visited the term of his conquests; and, after bathing alone in the sea, he offered a solemn sacrifice of thanksgiving to the

sun, or rather to the Creator of the sun, whom the Magi adored. If this act of superstition offended the prejudices of the Syrians, they were

pleased by the courteous and even eager attention with which he assisted at the games of the circus; and as Chosroes had heard that the \_blue\_ faction was espoused by the emperor, his peremptory command secured the

victory of the \_green\_ charioteer. From the discipline of his camp the

people derived more solid consolation; and they interceded in vain for the life of a soldier who had too faithfully copied the rapine of the

just Nushirvan. At length, fatigued, though unsatiated, with the spoil

of Syria, he slowly moved to the Euphrates, formed a temporary bridge

in the neighborhood of Barbalissus, and defined the space of three days for the entire passage of his numerous host. After his return,

he founded, at the distance of one day's journey from the palace of ctesiphon, a new city, which perpetuated the joint names of Chosroes and of Antioch. The Syrian captives recognized the form and situation

of their native abodes: baths and a stately circus were constructed for their use; and a colony of musicians and charioteers revived in Assyria the pleasures of a Greek capital. By the munificence of the royal founder, a liberal allowance was assigned to these fortunate exiles; and they enjoyed the singular privilege of bestowing freedom on the slaves whom they acknowledged as their kinsmen. Palestine, and the holy wealth

of Jerusalem, were the next objects that attracted the ambition, or

rather the avarice, of Chosroes. Constantinople, and the palace of the cæsars, no longer appeared impregnable or remote; and his aspiring fancy already covered Asia Minor with the troops, and the Black Sea with the

navies, of Persia.

these hopes might have been realized, if the conqueror of Italy had

not been seasonably recalled to the defence of the East. While Chosroes

pursued his ambitious designs on the coast of the Euxine, Belisarius, at the head of an army without pay or discipline, encamped beyond the euphrates, within six miles of Nisibis. He meditated, by a skilful

operation, to draw the Persians from their impregnable citadel, and

improving his advantage in the field, either to intercept their retreat,

or perhaps to enter the gates with the flying Barbarians. He advanced

one day's journey on the territories of Persia, reduced the fortress of

Sisaurane, and sent the governor, with eight hundred chosen horsemen, to serve the emperor in his Italian wars. He detached Arethas and his arabs, supported by twelve hundred Romans, to pass the Tigris, and to

ravage the harvests of Assyria, a fruitful province, long exempt from the calamities of war. But the plans of Belisarius were disconcerted by the untractable spirit of Arethas, who neither returned to the camp,

nor sent any intelligence of his motions. The Roman general was fixed

in anxious expectation to the same spot; the time of action elapsed, the ardent sun of Mesopotamia inflamed with fevers the blood of his European

soldiers; and the stationary troops and officers of Syria affected to tremble for the safety of their defenceless cities. Yet this diversion

had already succeeded in forcing Chosroes to return with loss and

precipitation; and if the skill of Belisarius had been seconded by discipline and valor, his success might have satisfied the sanguine wishes of the public, who required at his hands the conquest of ctesiphon, and the deliverance of the captives of Antioch. At the end of the campaign, he was recalled to Constantinople by an ungrateful court, but the dangers of the ensuing spring restored his confidence and command; and the hero, almost alone, was despatched, with the speed of

post-horses, to repel, by his name and presence, the invasion of Syria.

He found the Roman generals, among whom was a nephew of Justinian,

imprisoned by their fears in the fortifications of Hierapolis. But

instead of listening to their timid counsels, Belisarius commanded them to follow him to Europus, where he had resolved to collect his forces, and to execute whatever God should inspire him to achieve against the enemy. His firm attitude on the banks of the Euphrates restrained chosroes from advancing towards Palestine; and he received with art and dignity the ambassadors, or rather spies, of the Persian monarch. The

plain between Hierapolis and the river was covered with the squadrons of cavalry, six thousand hunters, tall and robust, who pursued their

game without the apprehension of an enemy. On the opposite bank the ambassadors descried a thousand Armenian horse, who appeared to guard the passage of the Euphrates. The tent of Belisarius was of the coarsest

linen, the simple equipage of a warrior who disdained the luxury of the east. Around his tent, the nations who marched under his standard were arranged with skilful confusion. The Thracians and Illyrians were posted

in the front, the Heruli and Goths in the centre; the prospect was closed by the Moors and Vandals, and their loose array seemed to

multiply their numbers. Their dress was light and active; one soldier carried a whip, another a sword, a third a bow, a fourth, perhaps, a battle axe, and the whole picture exhibited the intrepidity of the troops and the vigilance of the general. Chosroes was deluded by the address, and awed by the genius, of the lieutenant of Justinian. conscious of the merit, and ignorant of the force, of his antagonist,

he dreaded a decisive battle in a distant country, from whence not a Persian might return to relate the melancholy tale. The great king

hastened to repass the Euphrates; and Belisarius pressed his retreat, by affecting to oppose a measure so salutary to the empire, and which could

scarcely have been prevented by an army of a hundred thousand men. Envy

might suggest to ignorance and pride, that the public enemy had been

suffered to escape: but the African and Gothic triumphs are less

glorious than this safe and bloodless victory, in which neither fortune,

nor the valor of the soldiers, can subtract any part of the general's

renown. The second removal of Belisarius from the Persian to the Italian war revealed the extent of his personal merit, which had corrected or

supplied the want of discipline and courage. Fifteen generals, without concert or skill, led through the mountains of Armenia an army of thirty thousand Romans, inattentive to their signals, their ranks, and their ensigns. Four thousand Persians, intrenched in the camp of Dubis,

vanquished, almost without a combat, this disorderly multitude; their

useless arms were scattered along the road, and their horses sunk under the fatigue of their rapid flight. But the Arabs of the Roman party

prevailed over their brethren; the Armenians returned to their allegiance; the cities of Dara and Edessa resisted a sudden assault and a regular siege, and the calamities of war were suspended by those

of pestilence. A tacit or formal agreement between the two sovereigns

protected the tranquillity of the Eastern frontier; and the arms of chosroes were confined to the Colchian or Lazic war, which has been too

minutely described by the historians of the times.

the extreme length of the Euxine Sea from Constantinople to the mouth of the Phasis, may be computed as a voyage of nine days, and a measure

of seven hundred miles. From the Iberian Caucasus, the most lofty and craggy mountains of Asia, that river descends with such oblique

vehemence, that in a short space it is traversed by one hundred and twenty bridges. Nor does the stream become placid and navigable, till it

reaches the town of Sarapana, five days' journey from the Cyrus, which flows from the same hills, but in a contrary direction to the Caspian

Lake. The proximity of these rivers has suggested the practice, or at

least the idea, of wafting the precious merchandise of India down the

Oxus, over the Caspian, up the Cyrus, and with the current of the Phasis

into the Euxine and Mediterranean Seas. As it successively collects the

streams of the plain of Colchos, the Phasis moves with diminished speed, though accumulated weight. At the mouth it is sixty fathom deep, and

half a league broad, but a small woody island is interposed in the midst

of the channel; the water, so soon as it has deposited an earthy or

metallic sediment, floats on the surface of the waves, and is no longer

susceptible of corruption. In a course of one hundred miles, forty of which are navigable for large vessels, the Phasis divides the celebrated

region of Colchos, or Mingrelia, which, on three sides, is fortified by the Iberian and Armenian mountains, and whose maritime coast extends about two hundred miles from the neighborhood of Trebizond to Dioscurias and the confines of Circassia. Both the soil and climate are relaxed by excessive moisture: twenty-eight rivers, besides the Phasis and his dependent streams, convey their waters to the sea; and the hollowness

of the ground appears to indicate the subterraneous channels between the euxine and the Caspian. In the fields where wheat or barley is sown, the earth is too soft to sustain the action of the plough; but the \_gom\_, a small grain, not unlike the millet or coriander seed, supplies the

ordinary food of the people; and the use of bread is confined to the

prince and his nobles. Yet the vintage is more plentiful than the

harvest; and the bulk of the stems, as well as the quality of the wine, display the unassisted powers of nature. The same powers continually tend to overshadow the face of the country with thick forests; the timber of the hills, and the flax of the plains, contribute to the abundance of naval stores; the wild and tame animals, the horse, the ox, and the hog, are remarkably prolific, and the name of the pheasant is expressive of his native habitation on the banks of the Phasis. The gold

mines to the south of Trebizond, which are still worked with sufficient

profit, were a subject of national dispute between Justinian and chosroes; and it is not unreasonable to believe, that a vein of precious

metal may be equally diffused through the circle of the hills, although these secret treasures are neglected by the laziness, or concealed by the prudence, of the Mingrelians. The waters, impregnated with particles

of gold, are carefully strained through sheep-skins or fleeces; but this expedient, the groundwork perhaps of a marvellous fable, affords a faint image of the wealth extracted from a virgin earth by the power and industry of ancient kings. Their silver palaces and golden chambers

surpass our belief; but the fame of their riches is said to have excited the enterprising avarice of the Argonauts. Tradition has affirmed, with

some color of reason, that Egypt planted on the Phasis a learned and

polite colony, which manufactured linen, built navies, and invented

geographical maps. The ingenuity of the moderns has peopled, with flourishing cities and nations, the isthmus between the Euxine and the caspian; and a lively writer, observing the resemblance of climate, and,

in his apprehension, of trade, has not hesitated to pronounce Colchos the Holland of antiquity.

but the riches of Colchos shine only through the darkness of conjecture

or tradition; and its genuine history presents a uniform scene of

rudeness and poverty. If one hundred and thirty languages were spoken

in the market of Dioscurias, they were the imperfect idioms of so many

savage tribes or families, sequestered from each other in the valleys of

Mount Caucasus; and their separation, which diminished the importance,

must have multiplied the number, of their rustic capitals. In the

present state of Mingrelia, a village is an assemblage of huts within a wooden fence; the fortresses are seated in the depths of forests; the

princely town of Cyta, or Cotatis, consists of two hundred houses, and a

stone edifice appertains only to the magnificence of kings. Twelve ships from Constantinople, and about sixty barks, laden with the fruits of

industry, annually cast anchor on the coast; and the list of Colchian exports is much increased, since the natives had only slaves and hides to offer in exchange for the corn and salt which they purchased from the subjects of Justinian. Not a vestige can be found of the art, the

knowledge, or the navigation, of the ancient Colchians: few Greeks desired or dared to pursue the footsteps of the Argonauts; and even the

marks of an Egyptian colony are lost on a nearer approach. The rite of circumcision is practised only by the Mahometans of the Euxine; and the curled hair and swarthy complexion of Africa no longer disfigure the

most perfect of the human race. It is in the adjacent climates of

Georgia, Mingrelia, and Circassia, that nature has placed, at least to

our eyes, the model of beauty in the shape of the limbs, the color

of the skin, the symmetry of the features, and the expression of the countenance. According to the destination of the two sexes, the men

seemed formed for action, the women for love; and the perpetual supply

of females from Mount Caucasus has purified the blood, and improved the breed, of the southern nations of Asia. The proper district of

Mingrelia, a portion only of the ancient Colchos, has long sustained an exportation of twelve thousand slaves. The number of prisoners or criminals would be inadequate to the annual demand; but the common

people are in a state of servitude to their lords; the exercise of fraud or rapine is unpunished in a lawless community; and the market is continually replenished by the abuse of civil and paternal authority.

Such a trade, which reduces the human species to the level of cattle,

may tend to encourage marriage and population, since the multitude of children enriches their sordid and inhuman parent. But this source of

impure wealth must inevitably poison the national manners, obliterate the sense of honor and virtue, and almost extinguish the instincts of

nature: the \_Christians\_ of Georgia and Mingrelia are the most dissolute

of mankind; and their children, who, in a tender age, are sold into foreign slavery, have already learned to imitate the rapine of the father and the prostitution of the mother. Yet, amidst the rudest

ignorance, the untaught natives discover a singular dexterity both of

mind and hand; and although the want of union and discipline exposes them to their more powerful neighbors, a bold and intrepid spirit has animated the Colchians of every age. In the host of Xerxes, they served

on foot; and their arms were a dagger or a javelin, a wooden casque, and a buckler of raw hides. But in their own country the use of cavalry has

more generally prevailed: the meanest of the peasants disdained to walk; the martial nobles are possessed, perhaps, of two hundred horses; and above five thousand are numbered in the train of the prince of

Mingrelia. The Colchian government has been always a pure and hereditary

kingdom; and the authority of the sovereign is only restrained by the turbulence of his subjects. Whenever they were obedient, he could lead a numerous army into the field; but some faith is requisite to believe, that the single tribe of the Suanians as composed of two hundred thousand soldiers, or that the population of Mingrelia now amounts to four millions of inhabitants.

chapter XLII: State Of The Barbaric World.--Part IV.

It was the boast of the Colchians, that their ancestors had checked the victories of Sesostris; and the defeat of the Egyptian is less

incredible than his successful progress as far as the foot of Mount caucasus. They sunk without any memorable effort, under the arms of cyrus; followed in distant wars the standard of the great king, and

presented him every fifth year with one hundred boys, and as many

virgins, the fairest produce of the land. Yet he accepted this \_gift\_

like the gold and ebony of India, the frankincense of the Arabs, or the

negroes and ivory of Æthiopia: the Colchians were not subject to the dominion of a satrap, and they continued to enjoy the name as well as substance of national independence. After the fall of the Persian empire, Mithridates, king of Pontus, added Colchos to the wide circle

of his dominions on the Euxine; and when the natives presumed to request that his son might reign over them, he bound the ambitious youth in chains of gold, and delegated a servant in his place. In pursuit of

Mithridates, the Romans advanced to the banks of the Phasis, and their

galleys ascended the river till they reached the camp of Pompey and

his legions. But the senate, and afterwards the emperors, disdained to

reduce that distant and useless conquest into the form of a province. the family of a Greek rhetorician was permitted to reign in Colchos and the adjacent kingdoms from the time of Mark Antony to that of Nero; and after the race of Polemo was extinct, the eastern Pontus, which

preserved his name, extended no farther than the neighborhood of trebizond. Beyond these limits the fortifications of Hyssus, of Apsarus,

of the Phasis, of Dioscurias or Sebastopolis, and of Pityus, were

guarded by sufficient detachments of horse and foot; and six princes

of Colchos received their diadems from the lieutenants of Cæsar. One of these lieutenants, the eloquent and philosophic Arrian, surveyed, and has described, the Euxine coast, under the reign of Hadrian. The

garrison which he reviewed at the mouth of the Phasis consisted of four hundred chosen legionaries; the brick walls and towers, the double ditch, and the military engines on the rampart, rendered this place

inaccessible to the Barbarians: but the new suburbs which had been built by the merchants and veterans, required, in the opinion of Arrian, some external defence. As the strength of the empire was gradually impaired, the Romans stationed on the Phasis were neither withdrawn nor expelled; and the tribe of the Lazi, whose posterity speak a foreign dialect, and

inhabit the sea coast of Trebizond, imposed their name and dominion on the ancient kingdom of Colchos. Their independence was soon invaded by a formidable neighbor, who had acquired, by arms and treaties, the

sovereignty of Iberia. The dependent king of Lazica received his sceptre at the hands of the Persian monarch, and the successors of Constantine acquiesced in this injurious claim, which was proudly urged as a right

of immemorial prescription. In the beginning of the sixth century, their

influence was restored by the introduction of Christianity, which the

Mingrelians still profess with becoming zeal, without understanding the doctrines, or observing the precepts, of their religion. After the decease of his father, Zathus was exalted to the regal dignity by the favor of the great king; but the pious youth abhorred the ceremonies

of the Magi, and sought, in the palace of Constantinople, an orthodox baptism, a noble wife, and the alliance of the emperor Justin. The king

of Lazica was solemnly invested with the diadem, and his cloak and tunic

of white silk, with a gold border, displayed, in rich embroidery, the figure of his new patron; who soothed the jealousy of the Persian court, and excused the revolt of Colchos, by the venerable names of hospitality and religion. The common interest of both empires imposed on the colchians the duty of guarding the passes of Mount Caucasus, where a wall of sixty miles is now defended by the monthly service of the

musketeers of Mingrelia.

but this honorable connection was soon corrupted by the avarice and ambition of the Romans. Degraded from the rank of allies, the Lazi were

incessantly reminded, by words and actions, of their dependent state. at the distance of a day's journey beyond the Apsarus, they beheld the

rising fortress of Petra, which commanded the maritime country to the

south of the Phasis. Instead of being protected by the valor, Colchos was insulted by the licentiousness, of foreign mercenaries; the benefits

of commerce were converted into base and vexatious monopoly; and

Gubazes, the native prince, was reduced to a pageant of royalty, by the

superior influence of the officers of Justinian. Disappointed in their expectations of Christian virtue, the indignant Lazi reposed some confidence in the justice of an unbeliever. After a private assurance that their ambassadors should not be delivered to the Romans, they

publicly solicited the friendship and aid of Chosroes. The sagacious

monarch instantly discerned the use and importance of Colchos; and

meditated a plan of conquest, which was renewed at the end of a thousand

years by Shah Abbas, the wisest and most powerful of his successors.

His ambition was fired by the hope of launching a Persian navy from the

Phasis, of commanding the trade and navigation of the Euxine Sea, of desolating the coast of Pontus and Bithynia, of distressing, perhaps of attacking, Constantinople, and of persuading the Barbarians of Europe to

second his arms and counsels against the common enemy of mankind.

Under the pretence of a Scythian war, he silently led his troops to the frontiers of Iberia; the Colchian guides were prepared to conduct them through the woods and along the precipices of Mount Caucasus; and a

narrow path was laboriously formed into a safe and spacious highway, for the march of cavalry, and even of elephants. Gubazes laid his person and diadem at the feet of the king of Persia; his Colchians imitated the submission of their prince; and after the walls of Petra had been

shaken, the Roman garrison prevented, by a capitulation, the impending fury of the last assault. But the Lazi soon discovered, that their

impatience had urged them to choose an evil more intolerable than the calamities which they strove to escape. The monopoly of salt and corn was effectually removed by the loss of those valuable commodities. the authority of a Roman legislator, was succeeded by the pride of an

Oriental despot, who beheld, with equal disdain, the slaves whom he had exalted, and the kings whom he had humbled before the footstool of his throne. The adoration of fire was introduced into Colchos by the zeal

of the Magi: their intolerant spirit provoked the fervor of a Christian

people; and the prejudice of nature or education was wounded by the

impious practice of exposing the dead bodies of their parents, on the

summit of a lofty tower, to the crows and vultures of the air. Conscious

of the increasing hatred, which retarded the execution of his great designs, the just Nashirvan had secretly given orders to assassinate the

king of the Lazi, to transplant the people into some distant land, and to fix a faithful and warlike colony on the banks of the Phasis. The watchful jealousy of the Colchians foresaw and averted the approaching

ruin. Their repentance was accepted at Constantinople by the prudence,

rather than clemency, of Justinian; and he commanded Dagisteus, with

seven thousand Romans, and one thousand of the Zani, to expel the

Persians from the coast of the Euxine.

the siege of Petra, which the Roman general, with the aid of the Lazi,

immediately undertook, is one of the most remarkable actions of the age. The city was seated on a craggy rock, which hung over the sea, and communicated by a steep and narrow path with the land. Since the approach was difficult, the attack might be deemed impossible: the

Persian conqueror had strengthened the fortifications of Justinian; and the places least inaccessible were covered by additional bulwarks.

In this important fortress, the vigilance of Chosroes had deposited a

magazine of offensive and defensive arms, sufficient for five times the

number, not only of the garrison, but of the besiegers themselves. The

stock of flour and salt provisions was adequate to the consumption of five years; the want of wine was supplied by vinegar; and of grain from whence a strong liquor was extracted, and a triple aqueduct eluded the diligence, and even the suspicions, of the enemy. But the firmest defence of Petra was placed in the valor of fifteen hundred Persians, who resisted the assaults of the Romans, whilst, in a softer vein of earth, a mine was secretly perforated. The wall, supported by slender and temporary props, hung tottering in the air; but Dagisteus delayed the attack till he had secured a specific recompense; and the town was

relieved before the return of his messenger from Constantinople. The

Persian garrison was reduced to four hundred men, of whom no more than fifty were exempt from sickness or wounds; yet such had been their

inflexible perseverance, that they concealed their losses from the enemy, by enduring, without a murmur, the sight and putrefying stench

of the dead bodies of their eleven hundred companions. After their deliverance, the breaches were hastily stopped with sand-bags; the

mine was replenished with earth; a new wall was erected on a frame

of substantial timber; and a fresh garrison of three thousand men was stationed at Petra to sustain the labors of a second siege. The

operations, both of the attack and defence, were conducted with skilful

obstinacy; and each party derived useful lessons from the experience of their past faults. A battering-ram was invented, of light construction and powerful effect: it was transported and worked by the hands of forty

soldiers; and as the stones were loosened by its repeated strokes, they were torn with long iron hooks from the wall. From those walls, a shower

of darts was incessantly poured on the heads of the assailants; but they were most dangerously annoyed by a fiery composition of sulphur and bitumen, which in Colchos might with some propriety be named the oil

of Medea. Of six thousand Romans who mounted the scaling-ladders, their

general Bessas was the first, a gallant veteran of seventy years of age: the courage of their leader, his fall, and extreme danger, animated the irresistible effort of his troops; and their prevailing numbers

oppressed the strength, without subduing the spirit, of the Persian

garrison. The fate of these valiant men deserves to be more distinctly

noticed. Seven hundred had perished in the siege, two thousand three

hundred survived to defend the breach. One thousand and seventy were destroyed with fire and sword in the last assault; and if seven hundred and thirty were made prisoners, only eighteen among them were found without the marks of honorable wounds. The remaining five hundred escaped into the citadel, which they maintained without any hopes of

relief, rejecting the fairest terms of capitulation and service, till they were lost in the flames. They died in obedience to the commands of their prince; and such examples of loyalty and valor might excite their countrymen to deeds of equal despair and more prosperous event. The

instant demolition of the works of Petra confessed the astonishment and apprehension of the conqueror.

a Spartan would have praised and pitied the virtue of these heroic

slaves; but the tedious warfare and alternate success of the Roman and

Persian arms cannot detain the attention of posterity at the foot of

Mount Caucasus. The advantages obtained by the troops of Justinian were more frequent and splendid; but the forces of the great king were continually supplied, till they amounted to eight elephants and seventy thousand men, including twelve thousand Scythian allies, and above three thousand Dilemites, who descended by their free choice from the hills of

Hyrcania, and were equally formidable in close or in distant combat. the siege of Archæopolis, a name imposed or corrupted by the Greeks, was

raised with some loss and precipitation; but the Persians occupied the

passes of Iberia: Colchos was enslaved by their forts and garrisons; they devoured the scanty sustenance of the people; and the prince of the

Lazi fled into the mountains. In the Roman camp, faith and discipline were unknown; and the independent leaders, who were invested with equal

power, disputed with each other the preeminence of vice and corruption. the Persians followed, without a murmur, the commands of a single chief, who implicitly obeyed the instructions of their supreme lord. Their

general was distinguished among the heroes of the East by his wisdom in council, and his valor in the field. The advanced age of Mermeroes, and the lameness of both his feet, could not diminish the activity of his

mind, or even of his body; and, whilst he was carried in a litter in the front of battle, he inspired terror to the enemy, and a just confidence to the troops, who, under his banners, were always successful. After

his death, the command devolved to Nacoragan, a proud satrap, who, in a conference with the Imperial chiefs, had presumed to declare that he disposed of victory as absolutely as of the ring on his finger. Such

presumption was the natural cause and forerunner of a shameful defeat. the Romans had been gradually repulsed to the edge of the sea-shore; and their last camp, on the ruins of the Grecian colony of Phasis, was defended on all sides by strong intrenchments, the river, the Euxine, and a fleet of galleys. Despair united their counsels and invigorated their arms: they withstood the assault of the Persians and the flight

of Nacoragan preceded or followed the slaughter of ten thousand of his bravest soldiers. He escaped from the Romans to fall into the hands

of an unforgiving master who severely chastised the error of his own choice: the unfortunate general was flayed alive, and his skin, stuffed

into the human form, was exposed on a mountain; a dreadful warning to those who might hereafter be intrusted with the fame and fortune

of Persia. Yet the prudence of Chosroes insensibly relinquished the

prosecution of the Colchian war, in the just persuasion, that it is

impossible to reduce, or, at least, to hold a distant country against the wishes and efforts of its inhabitants. The fidelity of Gubazes

sustained the most rigorous trials. He patiently endured the hardships

of a savage life, and rejected with disdain, the specious temptations

of the Persian court. The king of the Lazi had been educated in the christian religion; his mother was the daughter of a senator; during his

youth he had served ten years a silentiary of the Byzantine palace, and the arrears of an unpaid salary were a motive of attachment as well as

of complaint. But the long continuance of his sufferings extorted from

him a naked representation of the truth; and truth was an unpardonable

libel on the lieutenants of Justinian, who, amidst the delays of a

ruinous war, had spared his enemies and trampled on his allies. Their

malicious information persuaded the emperor that his faithless vassal already meditated a second defection: an order was surprised to send him

prisoner to Constantinople; a treacherous clause was inserted, that he

might be lawfully killed in case of resistance; and Gubazes, without arms, or suspicion of danger, was stabbed in the security of a friendly

interview. In the first moments of rage and despair, the Colchians would have sacrificed their country and religion to the gratification

of revenge. But the authority and eloquence of the wiser few obtained a salutary pause: the victory of the Phasis restored the terror of the

Roman arms, and the emperor was solicitous to absolve his own name from the imputation of so foul a murder. A judge of senatorial rank was commissioned to inquire into the conduct and death of the king of the

Lazi. He ascended a stately tribunal, encompassed by the ministers

of justice and punishment: in the presence of both nations, this extraordinary cause was pleaded, according to the forms of civil

jurisprudence, and some satisfaction was granted to an injured people, by the sentence and execution of the meaner criminals.

In peace, the king of Persia continually sought the pretences of a

rupture: but no sooner had he taken up arms, than he expressed his desire of a safe and honorable treaty. During the fiercest hostilities, the two monarchs entertained a deceitful negotiation; and such was the

superiority of Chosroes, that whilst he treated the Roman ministers with

insolence and contempt, he obtained the most unprecedented honors for his own ambassadors at the Imperial court. The successor of Cyrus assumed the majesty of the Eastern sun, and graciously permitted his

younger brother Justinian to reign over the West, with the pale and

reflected splendor of the moon. This gigantic style was supported by the

pomp and eloquence of Isdigune, one of the royal chamberlains. His wife and daughters, with a train of eunuchs and camels, attended the march of the ambassador: two satraps with golden diadems were numbered among his followers: he was guarded by five hundred horse, the most valiant of the

Persians; and the Roman governor of Dara wisely refused to admit more than twenty of this martial and hostile caravan. When Isdigune had

saluted the emperor, and delivered his presents, he passed ten months at constantinople without discussing any serious affairs. Instead of being confined to his palace, and receiving food and water from the hands

of his keepers, the Persian ambassador, without spies or guards, was allowed to visit the capital; and the freedom of conversation and trade enjoyed by his domestics, offended the prejudices of an age which

rigorously practised the law of nations, without confidence or courtesy. by an unexampled indulgence, his interpreter, a servant below the notice

of a Roman magistrate, was seated, at the table of Justinian, by the

side of his master: and one thousand pounds of gold might be assigned for the expense of his journey and entertainment. Yet the repeated

labors of Isdigune could procure only a partial and imperfect truce, which was always purchased with the treasures, and renewed at the

solicitation, of the Byzantine court Many years of fruitless desolation elapsed before Justinian and Chosroes were compelled, by mutual

lassitude, to consult the repose of their declining age. At a conference

held on the frontier, each party, without expecting to gain credit, displayed the power, the justice, and the pacific intentions, of their

respective sovereigns; but necessity and interest dictated the treaty

of peace, which was concluded for a term of fifty years, diligently composed in the Greek and Persian languages, and attested by the seals

of twelve interpreters. The liberty of commerce and religion was fixed and defined; the allies of the emperor and the great king were

included in the same benefits and obligations; and the most scrupulous

precautions were provided to prevent or determine the accidental disputes that might arise on the confines of two hostile nations. After twenty years of destructive though feeble war, the limits still remained without alteration; and Chosroes was persuaded to renounce his dangerous claim to the possession or sovereignty of Colchos and its dependent

states. Rich in the accumulated treasures of the East, he extorted from the Romans an annual payment of thirty thousand pieces of gold; and the

smallness of the sum revealed the disgrace of a tribute in its naked deformity. In a previous debate, the chariot of Sesostris, and the wheel of fortune, were applied by one of the ministers of Justinian, who observed that the reduction of Antioch, and some Syrian cities, had elevated beyond measure the vain and ambitious spirit of the Barbarian.

"You are mistaken," replied the modest Persian: "the king of kings, the

lord of mankind, looks down with contempt on such petty acquisitions; and of the ten nations, vanquished by his invincible arms, he esteems the Romans as the least formidable." According to the Orientals, the empire of Nushirvan extended from Ferganah, in Transoxiana, to Yemen or arabia Fælix. He subdued the rebels of Hyrcania, reduced the provinces

of Cabul and Zablestan on the banks of the Indus, broke the power of the Euthalites, terminated by an honorable treaty the Turkish war, and admitted the daughter of the great khan into the number of his lawful wives. Victorious and respected among the princes of Asia, he gave audience, in his palace of Madain, or Ctesiphon, to the ambassadors of the world. Their gifts or tributes, arms, rich garments, gems, slaves

or aromatics, were humbly presented at the foot of his throne; and he condescended to accept from the king of India ten quintals of the wood

of aloes, a maid seven cubits in height, and a carpet softer than silk, the skin, as it was reported, of an extraordinary serpent.

Justinian had been reproached for his alliance with the Æthiopians, as

if he attempted to introduce a people of savage negroes into the system

of civilized society. But the friends of the Roman empire, the Axumites,

or Abyssinians, may be always distinguished from the original natives

of Africa. The hand of nature has flattened the noses of the negroes, covered their heads with shaggy wool, and tinged their skin with

inherent and indelible blackness. But the olive complexion of the abyssinians, their hair, shape, and features, distinctly mark them as a colony of Arabs; and this descent is confirmed by the resemblance of

language and manners the report of an ancient emigration, and the narrow

interval between the shores of the Red Sea. Christianity had raised that nation above the level of African barbarism: their intercourse with egypt, and the successors of Constantine, had communicated the rudiments

of the arts and sciences; their vessels traded to the Isle of Ceylon, and seven kingdoms obeyed the Negus or supreme prince of Abyssinia. The

independence of the Homerites, who reigned in the rich and happy Arabia, was first violated by an Æthiopian conqueror: he drew his hereditary claim from the queen of Sheba, and his ambition was sanctified by

religious zeal. The Jews, powerful and active in exile, had seduced the

mind of Dunaan, prince of the Homerites. They urged him to retaliate the persecution inflicted by the Imperial laws on their unfortunate brethren: some Roman merchants were injuriously treated; and several christians of Negra were honored with the crown of martyrdom. The churches of Arabia implored the protection of the Abyssinian monarch. the Negus passed the Red Sea with a fleet and army, deprived the Jewish

proselyte of his kingdom and life, and extinguished a race of princes, who had ruled above two thousand years the sequestered region of myrrh and frankincense. The conqueror immediately announced the victory of the gospel, requested an orthodox patriarch, and so warmly professed his friendship to the Roman empire, that Justinian was flattered by the hope

of diverting the silk trade through the channel of Abyssinia, and

of exciting the forces of Arabia against the Persian king. Nonnosus, descended from a family of ambassadors, was named by the emperor to execute this important commission. He wisely declined the shorter, but

more dangerous, road, through the sandy deserts of Nubia; ascended the

Nile, embarked on the Red Sea, and safely landed at the African port

of Adulis. From Adulis to the royal city of Axume is no more than fifty

leagues, in a direct line; but the winding passes of the mountains detained the ambassador fifteen days; and as he traversed the forests,

he saw, and vaguely computed, about five thousand wild elephants. the capital, according to his report, was large and populous; and the

\_village\_ of Axume is still conspicuous by the regal coronations, by the ruins of a Christian temple, and by sixteen or seventeen obelisks

inscribed with Grecian characters. But the Negus gave audience in the open field, seated on a lofty chariot, which was drawn by four elephants, superbly caparisoned, and surrounded by his nobles and

musicians. He was clad in a linen garment and cap, holding in his

hand two javelins and a light shield; and, although his nakedness was

imperfectly covered, he displayed the Barbaric pomp of gold chains, collars, and bracelets, richly adorned with pearls and precious stones. the ambassador of Justinian knelt; the Negus raised him from the ground, embraced Nonnosus, kissed the seal, perused the letter, accepted the

Roman alliance, and, brandishing his weapons, denounced implacable war against the worshipers of fire. But the proposal of the silk trade was eluded; and notwithstanding the assurances, and perhaps the wishes, of the Abyssinians, these hostile menaces evaporated without effect. The

Homerites were unwilling to abandon their aromatic groves, to explore a

sandy desert, and to encounter, after all their fatigues, a formidable

nation from whom they had never received any personal injuries. Instead

of enlarging his conquests, the king of Æthiopia was incapable of defending his possessions. Abrahah, § the slave of a Roman merchant of adulis, assumed the sceptre of the Homerites; the troops of Africa were seduced by the luxury of the climate; and Justinian solicited the friendship of the usurper, who honored with a slight tribute the

supremacy of his prince. After a long series of prosperity, the power of abrahah was overthrown before the gates of Mecca; and his children were despoiled by the Persian conqueror; and the Æthiopians were finally expelled from the continent of Asia. This narrative of obscure and

remote events is not foreign to the decline and fall of the Roman empire. If a Christian power had been maintained in Arabia, Mahomet must

have been crushed in his cradle, and Abyssinia would have prevented a

revolution which has changed the civil and religious state of the world.

chapter XLIII: Last Victory And Death Of Belisarius, Death Of Justinian.--Part I.

Rebellions Of Africa.--Restoration Of The Gothic Kingdom By

Totila.--Loss And Recovery Of Rome.--Final Conquest Of Italy

By Narses.--Extinction Of The Ostrogoths.--Defeat Of The

Franks And Alemanni.--Last Victory, Disgrace, And Death Of

Belisarius.--Death And Character Of Justinian.--Comet,

Earthquakes, And Plague.

the review of the nations from the Danube to the Nile has exposed, on every side, the weakness of the Romans; and our wonder is reasonably excited that they should presume to enlarge an empire whose ancient

limits they were incapable of defending. But the wars, the conquests, and the triumphs of Justinian, are the feeble and pernicious efforts of

old age, which exhaust the remains of strength, and accelerate the decay of the powers of life. He exulted in the glorious act of restoring africa and Italy to the republic; but the calamities which followed the departure of Belisarius betrayed the impotence of the conqueror, and accomplished the ruin of those unfortunate countries.

from his new acquisitions, Justinian expected that his avarice, as well as pride, should be richly gratified. A rapacious minister of the finances closely pursued the footsteps of Belisarius; and as the old

registers of tribute had been burnt by the Vandals, he indulged his fancy in a liberal calculation and arbitrary assessment of the wealth

of Africa. The increase of taxes, which were drawn away by a distant

sovereign, and a general resumption of the patrimony or crown lands,

soon dispelled the intoxication of the public joy: but the emperor was

insensible to the modest complaints of the people, till he was awakened and alarmed by the clamors of military discontent. Many of the Roman

soldiers had married the widows and daughters of the Vandals. As their

own, by the double right of conquest and inheritance, they claimed the estates which Genseric had assigned to his victorious troops. They heard with disdain the cold and selfish representations of their officers, that the liberality of Justinian had raised them from a savage or

servile condition; that they were already enriched by the spoils of africa, the treasure, the slaves, and the movables of the vanquished barbarians; and that the ancient and lawful patrimony of the emperors would be applied only to the support of that government on which their

own safety and reward must ultimately depend. The mutiny was secretly

inflamed by a thousand soldiers, for the most part Heruli, who had

imbibed the doctrines, and were instigated by the clergy, of the Arian

sect; and the cause of perjury and rebellion was sanctified by the dispensing powers of fanaticism. The Arians deplored the ruin of their church, triumphant above a century in Africa; and they were justly

provoked by the laws of the conqueror, which interdicted the baptism

of their children, and the exercise of all religious worship. Of the

Vandals chosen by Belisarius, the far greater part, in the honors of the eastern service, forgot their country and religion. But a generous band

of four hundred obliged the mariners, when they were in sight of the

Isle of Lesbos, to alter their course: they touched on Peloponnesus,

ran ashore on a desert coast of Africa, and boldly erected, on Mount aurasius, the standard of independence and revolt. While the troops of the provinces disclaimed the commands of their superiors, a conspiracy was formed at Carthage against the life of Solomon, who filled with

honor the place of Belisarius; and the Arians had piously resolved to sacrifice the tyrant at the foot of the altar, during the awful

mysteries of the festival of Easter. Fear or remorse restrained the daggers of the assassins, but the patience of Solomon emboldened their discontent; and, at the end of ten days, a furious sedition was kindled

in the Circus, which desolated Africa above ten years. The pillage of the city, and the indiscriminate slaughter of its inhabitants, were

suspended only by darkness, sleep, and intoxication: the governor, with

seven companions, among whom was the historian Procopius, escaped to

Sicily: two thirds of the army were involved in the guilt of treason; and eight thousand insurgents, assembling in the field of Bulla, elected

Stoza for their chief, a private soldier, who possessed in a superior degree the virtues of a rebel. Under the mask of freedom, his eloquence could lead, or at least impel, the passions of his equals. He raised

himself to a level with Belisarius, and the nephew of the emperor, by daring to encounter them in the field; and the victorious generals were compelled to acknowledge that Stoza deserved a purer cause, and a more

legitimate command. Vanquished in battle, he dexterously employed the arts of negotiation; a Roman army was seduced from their allegiance, and the chiefs who had trusted to his faithless promise were murdered by his

order in a church of Numidia. When every resource, either of force or

perfidy, was exhausted, Stoza, with some desperate Vandals, retired to the wilds of Mauritania, obtained the daughter of a Barbarian prince, and eluded the pursuit of his enemies, by the report of his death. The

personal weight of Belisarius, the rank, the spirit, and the temper, of

Germanus, the emperor's nephew, and the vigor and success of the second administration of the eunuch Solomon, restored the modesty of the camp, and maintained for a while the tranquillity of Africa. But the vices

of the Byzantine court were felt in that distant province; the troops complained that they were neither paid nor relieved, and as soon as the

public disorders were sufficiently mature, Stoza was again alive, in arms, and at the gates of Carthage. He fell in a single combat, but

he smiled in the agonies of death, when he was informed that his own

javelin had reached the heart of his antagonist. The example of Stoza, and the assurance that a fortunate soldier had been the first king, encouraged the ambition of Gontharis, and he promised, by a private treaty, to divide Africa with the Moors, if, with their dangerous aid, he should ascend the throne of Carthage. The feeble Areobindus,

unskilled in the affairs of peace and war, was raised, by his marriage with the niece of Justinian, to the office of exarch. He was suddenly

oppressed by a sedition of the guards, and his abject supplications, which provoked the contempt, could not move the pity, of the inexorable tyrant. After a reign of thirty days, Gontharis himself was stabbed at a banquet by the hand of Artaban; and it is singular enough, that an armenian prince, of the royal family of Arsaces, should reestablish at Carthage the authority of the Roman empire. In the conspiracy which unsheathed the dagger of Brutus against the life of Cæsar, every circumstance is curious and important to the eyes of posterity; but the

guilt or merit of these loyal or rebellious assassins could interest

only the contemporaries of Procopius, who, by their hopes and fears, their friendship or resentment, were personally engaged in the

revolutions of Africa.

that country was rapidly sinking into the state of barbarism from whence

it had been raised by the Phnician colonies and Roman laws; and every

step of intestine discord was marked by some deplorable victory of

savage man over civilized society. The Moors, though ignorant of

justice, were impatient of oppression: their vagrant life and boundless wilderness disappointed the arms, and eluded the chains, of a conqueror; and experience had shown, that neither oaths nor obligations could

secure the fidelity of their attachment. The victory of Mount Auras had awed them into momentary submission; but if they respected the character

of Solomon, they hated and despised the pride and luxury of his two

nephews, Cyrus and Sergius, on whom their uncle had imprudently bestowed the provincial governments of Tripoli and Pentapolis. A Moorish tribe encamped under the walls of Leptis, to renew their alliance, and receive from the governor the customary gifts. Fourscore of their deputies were

introduced as friends into the city; but on the dark suspicion of a conspiracy, they were massacred at the table of Sergius, and the clamor

of arms and revenge was reëchoed through the valleys of Mount Atlas from both the Syrtes to the Atlantic Ocean. A personal injury, the unjust execution or murder of his brother, rendered Antalas the enemy of the

Romans. The defeat of the Vandals had formerly signalized his valor; the

rudiments of justice and prudence were still more conspicuous in a Moor; and while he laid Adrumetum in ashes, he calmly admonished the emperor that the peace of Africa might be secured by the recall of Solomon and

his unworthy nephews. The exarch led forth his troops from Carthage: but, at the distance of six days' journey, in the neighborhood of tebeste, he was astonished by the superior numbers and fierce aspect of the Barbarians. He proposed a treaty; solicited a reconciliation; and

offered to bind himself by the most solemn oaths. "By what oaths can he bind himself?" interrupted the indignant Moors. "Will he swear by the

Gospels, the divine books of the Christians? It was on those books that the faith of his nephew Sergius was pledged to eighty of our innocent and unfortunate brethren. Before we trust them a second time, let us try their efficacy in the chastisement of perjury and the vindication of their own honor." Their honor was vindicated in the field of Tebeste, by the death of Solomon, and the total loss of his army. The arrival of fresh troops and more skilful commanders soon checked the insolence of the Moors: seventeen of their princes were slain in the same battle; and the doubtful and transient submission of their tribes was celebrated with lavish applause by the people of Constantinople. Successive inroads

had reduced the province of Africa to one third of the measure of Italy;

yet the Roman emperors continued to reign above a century over Carthage and the fruitful coast of the Mediterranean. But the victories and the

losses of Justinian were alike pernicious to mankind; and such was the desolation of Africa, that in many parts a stranger might wander whole days without meeting the face either of a friend or an enemy. The nation

of the Vandals had disappeared: they once amounted to a hundred and

sixty thousand warriors, without including the children, the women, or the slaves. Their numbers were infinitely surpassed by the number of the Moorish families extirpated in a relentless war; and the same destruction was retaliated on the Romans and their allies, who perished by the climate, their mutual quarrels, and the rage of the Barbarians. when Procopius first landed, he admired the populousness of the cities and country, strenuously exercised in the labors of commerce and agriculture. In less than twenty years, that busy scene was converted

into a silent solitude; the wealthy citizens escaped to Sicily and constantinople; and the secret historian has confidently affirmed, that five millions of Africans were consumed by the wars and government of the emperor Justinian.

the jealousy of the Byzantine court had not permitted Belisarius to achieve the conquest of Italy; and his abrupt departure revived the courage of the Goths, who respected his genius, his virtue, and even the

laudable motive which had urged the servant of Justinian to deceive and

reject them. They had lost their king, (an inconsiderable loss,) their capital, their treasures, the provinces from Sicily to the Alps, and the military force of two hundred thousand Barbarians, magnificently equipped with horses and arms. Yet all was not lost, as long as Pavia was defended by one thousand Goths, inspired by a sense of honor, the

love of freedom, and the memory of their past greatness. The supreme command was unanimously offered to the brave Uraias; and it was in his eyes alone that the disgrace of his uncle Vitiges could appear as a reason of exclusion. His voice inclined the election in favor of

Hildibald, whose personal merit was recommended by the vain hope that

his kinsman Theudes, the Spanish monarch, would support the common

interest of the Gothic nation. The success of his arms in Liguria and

Venetia seemed to justify their choice; but he soon declared to the world that he was incapable of forgiving or commanding his benefactor. the consort of Hildibald was deeply wounded by the beauty, the riches, and the pride, of the wife of Uraias; and the death of that virtuous

patriot excited the indignation of a free people. A bold assassin executed their sentence by striking off the head of Hildibald in the

midst of a banquet; the Rugians, a foreign tribe, assumed the privilege

of election: and Totila, the nephew of the late king, was tempted, by

revenge, to deliver himself and the garrison of Trevigo into the

hands of the Romans. But the gallant and accomplished youth was easily

persuaded to prefer the Gothic throne before the service of Justinian; and as soon as the palace of Pavia had been purified from the Rugian

usurper, he reviewed the national force of five thousand soldiers, and

generously undertook the restoration of the kingdom of Italy.

the successors of Belisarius, eleven generals of equal rank, neglected to crush the feeble and disunited Goths, till they were roused to action by the progress of Totila and the reproaches of Justinian. The gates

of Verona were secretly opened to Artabazus, at the head of one hundred

Persians in the service of the empire. The Goths fled from the city. At the distance of sixty furlongs the Roman generals halted to regulate the division of the spoil. While they disputed, the enemy discovered the

real number of the victors: the Persians were instantly overpowered, and

it was by leaping from the wall that Artabazus preserved a life which

he lost in a few days by the lance of a Barbarian, who had defied him to

single combat. Twenty thousand Romans encountered the forces of Totila,

near Faenza, and on the hills of Mugello, of the Florentine territory. the ardor of freedmen, who fought to regain their country, was opposed to the languid temper of mercenary troops, who were even destitute

of the merits of strong and well-disciplined servitude. On the first attack, they abandoned their ensigns, threw down their arms, and dispersed on all sides with an active speed, which abated the loss, whilst it aggravated the shame, of their defeat. The king of the Goths, who blushed for the baseness of his enemies, pursued with rapid steps the path of honor and victory. Totila passed the Po, traversed the apennine, suspended the important conquest of Ravenna, Florence, and

Rome, and marched through the heart of Italy, to form the siege or

rather the blockade, of Naples. The Roman chiefs, imprisoned in their

respective cities, and accusing each other of the common disgrace, did

not presume to disturb his enterprise. But the emperor, alarmed by the distress and danger of his Italian conquests, despatched to the relief

of Naples a fleet of galleys and a body of Thracian and Armenian

soldiers. They landed in Sicily, which yielded its copious stores

of provisions; but the delays of the new commander, an unwarlike

magistrate, protracted the sufferings of the besieged; and the succors, which he dropped with a timid and tardy hand, were successively

intercepted by the armed vessels stationed by Totila in the Bay of

Naples. The principal officer of the Romans was dragged, with a rope

round his neck, to the foot of the wall, from whence, with a trembling

voice, he exhorted the citizens to implore, like himself, the mercy of the conqueror. They requested a truce, with a promise of surrendering the city, if no effectual relief should appear at the end of thirty days. Instead of \_one\_ month, the audacious Barbarian granted them

\_three\_, in the just confidence that famine would anticipate the term

of their capitulation. After the reduction of Naples and Cumæ, the

provinces of Lucania, Apulia, and Calabria, submitted to the king of the Goths. Totila led his army to the gates of Rome, pitched his camp at Tibur, or Tivoli, within twenty miles of the capital, and calmly exhorted the senate and people to compare the tyranny of the Greeks with the blessings of the Gothic reign.

the rapid success of Totila may be partly ascribed to the revolution which three years' experience had produced in the sentiments of the

Italians. At the command, or at least in the name, of a Catholic emperor, the pope, their spiritual father, had been torn from the Roman church, and either starved or murdered on a desolate island. The virtues

of Belisarius were replaced by the various or uniform vices of eleven chiefs, at Rome, Ravenna, Florence, Perugia, Spoleto, &c., who abused their authority for the indulgence of lust or avarice. The improvement

of the revenue was committed to Alexander, a subtle scribe, long

practised in the fraud and oppression of the Byzantine schools, and whose name of \_Psalliction\_, the \_scissors\_, was drawn from the dexterous artifice with which he reduced the size without defacing the figure, of the gold coin. Instead of expecting the restoration of peace and industry, he imposed a heavy assessment on the fortunes of the

Italians. Yet his present or future demands were less odious than a

prosecution of arbitrary rigor against the persons and property of all those who, under the Gothic kings, had been concerned in the receipt and expenditure of the public money. The subjects of Justinian, who escaped these partial vexations, were oppressed by the irregular maintenance

of the soldiers, whom Alexander defrauded and despised; and their hasty

sallies in quest of wealth, or subsistence, provoked the inhabitants of the country to await or implore their deliverance from the virtues of a Barbarian. Totila was chaste and temperate; and none were deceived, either friends or enemies, who depended on his faith or his clemency. To the husbandmen of Italy the Gothic king issued a welcome proclamation, enjoining them to pursue their important labors, and to rest assured, that, on the payment of the ordinary taxes, they should be defended by

his valor and discipline from the injuries of war. The strong towns he

successively attacked; and as soon as they had yielded to his arms, he demolished the fortifications, to save the people from the calamities

of a future siege, to deprive the Romans of the arts of defence, and to decide the tedious quarrel of the two nations, by an equal and honorable conflict in the field of battle. The Roman captives and deserters were tempted to enlist in the service of a liberal and courteous adversary; the slaves were attracted by the firm and faithful promise, that they

should never be delivered to their masters; and from the thousand warriors of Pavia, a new people, under the same appellation of Goths, was insensibly formed in the camp of Totila. He sincerely accomplished the articles of capitulation, without seeking or accepting any sinister advantage from ambiguous expressions or unforeseen events: the garrison

of Naples had stipulated that they should be transported by sea; the

obstinacy of the winds prevented their voyage, but they were generously

supplied with horses, provisions, and a safe-conduct to the gates of

Rome. The wives of the senators, who had been surprised in the villas

of Campania, were restored, without a ransom, to their husbands; the

violation of female chastity was inexorably chastised with death; and

in the salutary regulation of the edict of the famished Neapolitans, the conqueror assumed the office of a humane and attentive physician. The

virtues of Totila are equally laudable, whether they proceeded from true policy, religious principle, or the instinct of humanity: he often

harangued his troops; and it was his constant theme, that national vice and ruin are inseparably connected; that victory is the fruit of moral as well as military virtue; and that the prince, and even the people, are responsible for the crimes which they neglect to punish.

the return of Belisarius to save the country which he had subdued, was

pressed with equal vehemence by his friends and enemies; and the Gothic war was imposed as a trust or an exile on the veteran commander. A hero

on the banks of the Euphrates, a slave in the palace of Constantinople,

he accepted with reluctance the painful task of supporting his own

reputation, and retrieving the faults of his successors. The sea was

open to the Romans: the ships and soldiers were assembled at Salona,

near the palace of Diocletian: he refreshed and reviewed his troops at

Pola in Istria, coasted round the head of the Adriatic, entered the

port of Ravenna, and despatched orders rather than supplies to the

subordinate cities. His first public oration was addressed to the Goths and Romans, in the name of the emperor, who had suspended for a while the conquest of Persia, and listened to the prayers of his Italian

subjects. He gently touched on the causes and the authors of the recent disasters; striving to remove the fear of punishment for the past, and the hope of impunity for the future, and laboring, with more zeal than

success, to unite all the members of his government in a firm league of affection and obedience. Justinian, his gracious master, was inclined to pardon and reward; and it was their interest, as well as duty, to

reclaim their deluded brethren, who had been seduced by the arts of the usurper. Not a man was tempted to desert the standard of the Gothic

king. Belisarius soon discovered, that he was sent to remain the idle and impotent spectator of the glory of a young Barbarian; and his own epistle exhibits a genuine and lively picture of the distress of a noble

mind. "Most excellent prince, we are arrived in Italy, destitute of all the necessary implements of war, men, horses, arms, and money. In our

late circuit through the villages of Thrace and Illyricum, we have collected, with extreme difficulty, about four thousand recruits, naked, and unskilled in the use of weapons and the exercises of the camp. The

soldiers already stationed in the province are discontented, fearful, and dismayed; at the sound of an enemy, they dismiss their horses, and cast their arms on the ground. No taxes can be raised, since Italy is in the hands of the Barbarians; the failure of payment has deprived us of the right of command, or even of admonition. Be assured, dread Sir, that the greater part of your troops have already deserted to the Goths.

If the war could be achieved by the presence of Belisarius alone, your wishes are satisfied; Belisarius is in the midst of Italy. But if you desire to conquer, far other preparations are requisite: without a

military force, the title of general is an empty name. It would be expedient to restore to my service my own veteran and domestic guards. before I can take the field, I must receive an adequate supply of light and heavy armed troops; and it is only with ready money that you can

procure the indispensable aid of a powerful body of the cavalry of the

Huns." An officer in whom Belisarius confided was sent from Ravenna to

hasten and conduct the succors; but the message was neglected, and the

messenger was detained at Constantinople by an advantageous marriage. after his patience had been exhausted by delay and disappointment, the

Roman general repassed the Adriatic, and expected at Dyrrachium the arrival of the troops, which were slowly assembled among the subjects and allies of the empire. His powers were still inadequate to the deliverance of Rome, which was closely besieged by the Gothic king. The appian way, a march of forty days, was covered by the Barbarians; and as the prudence of Belisarius declined a battle, he preferred the safe and

speedy navigation of five days from the coast of Epirus to the mouth of the Tyber.

after reducing, by force, or treaty, the towns of inferior note in the

midland provinces of Italy, Totila proceeded, not to assault, but to encompass and starve, the ancient capital. Rome was afflicted by the avarice, and guarded by the valor, of Bessas, a veteran chief of Gothic extraction, who filled, with a garrison of three thousand soldiers, the

spacious circle of her venerable walls. From the distress of the

people he extracted a profitable trade, and secretly rejoiced in the continuance of the siege. It was for his use that the granaries had been

replenished: the charity of Pope Vigilius had purchased and embarked an ample supply of Sicilian corn; but the vessels which escaped the barbarians were seized by a rapacious governor, who imparted a scanty

sustenance to the soldiers, and sold the remainder to the wealthy

Romans. The medimnus, or fifth part of the quarter of wheat, was exchanged for seven pieces of gold; fifty pieces were given for an ox, a rare and accidental prize; the progress of famine enhanced this exorbitant value, and the mercenaries were tempted to deprive themselves

of the allowance which was scarcely sufficient for the support of life. a tasteless and unwholesome mixture, in which the bran thrice exceeded the quantity of flour, appeased the hunger of the poor; they were

gradually reduced to feed on dead horses, dogs, cats, and mice, and eagerly to snatch the grass, and even the nettles, which grew among the

ruins of the city. A crowd of spectres, pale and emaciated, their bodies

oppressed with disease, and their minds with despair, surrounded the

palace of the governor, urged, with unavailing truth, that it was the duty of a master to maintain his slaves, and humbly requested that he would provide for their subsistence, to permit their flight, or command their immediate execution. Bessas replied, with unfeeling tranquillity, that it was impossible to feed, unsafe to dismiss, and unlawful to kill, the subjects of the emperor. Yet the example of a private citizen might

have shown his countrymen that a tyrant cannot withhold the privilege of death. Pierced by the cries of five children, who vainly called on their father for bread, he ordered them to follow his steps, advanced with calm and silent despair to one of the bridges of the Tyber, and, covering his face, threw himself headlong into the stream, in the presence of his family and the Roman people. To the rich and

pusillanimous, Bessas sold the permission of departure; but the

greatest part of the fugitives expired on the public highways, or were

intercepted by the flying parties of Barbarians. In the mean while, the artful governor soothed the discontent, and revived the hopes of the Romans, by the vague reports of the fleets and armies which were

hastening to their relief from the extremities of the East. They derived

more rational comfort from the assurance that Belisarius had landed at the \_port\_; and, without numbering his forces, they firmly relied on the

humanity, the courage, and the skill of their great deliverer.

chapter XLIII: Last Victory And Death Of Belisarius, Death Of Justinian.--Part II.

the foresight of Totila had raised obstacles worthy of such an antagonist. Ninety furlongs below the city, in the narrowest part of the

river, he joined the two banks by strong and solid timbers in the form

of a bridge, on which he erected two lofty towers, manned by the bravest

of his Goths, and profusely stored with missile weapons and engines of

offence. The approach of the bridge and towers was covered by a strong and massy chain of iron; and the chain, at either end, on the opposite

sides of the Tyber, was defended by a numerous and chosen detachment of archers. But the enterprise of forcing these barriers, and relieving the capital, displays a shining example of the boldness and conduct of belisarius. His cavalry advanced from the port along the public road, to awe the motions, and distract the attention of the enemy. His infantry and provisions were distributed in two hundred large boats; and each boat was shielded by a high rampart of thick planks, pierced with many

small holes for the discharge of missile weapons. In the front, two

large vessels were linked together to sustain a floating castle, which commanded the towers of the bridge, and contained a magazine of fire,

sulphur, and bitumen. The whole fleet, which the general led in person, was laboriously moved against the current of the river. The chain

yielded to their weight, and the enemies who guarded the banks were either slain or scattered. As soon as they touched the principal barrier, the fire-ship was instantly grappled to the bridge; one of the towers, with two hundred Goths, was consumed by the flames; the assailants shouted victory; and Rome was saved, if the wisdom of belisarius had not been defeated by the misconduct of his officers.

He had previously sent orders to Bessas to second his operations by a timely sally from the town; and he had fixed his lieutenant, Isaac, by a peremptory command, to the station of the port. But avarice rendered bessas immovable; while the youthful ardor of Isaac delivered him into the hands of a superior enemy. The exaggerated rumor of his defeat was

hastily carried to the ears of Belisarius: he paused; betrayed in that

single moment of his life some emotions of surprise and perplexity; and

reluctantly sounded a retreat to save his wife Antonina, his treasures, and the only harbor which he possessed on the Tuscan coast. The vexation

of his mind produced an ardent and almost mortal fever; and Rome was

left without protection to the mercy or indignation of Totila. The continuance of hostilities had imbittered the national hatred: the Arian clergy was ignominiously driven from Rome; Pelagius, the archdeacon,

returned without success from an embassy to the Gothic camp; and a

Sicilian bishop, the envoy or nuncio of the pope, was deprived of both

his hands, for daring to utter falsehoods in the service of the church and state.

famine had relaxed the strength and discipline of the garrison of Rome. they could derive no effectual service from a dying people; and the

inhuman avarice of the merchant at length absorbed the vigilance of the

governor. Four Isaurian sentinels, while their companions slept, and their officers were absent, descended by a rope from the wall, and

secretly proposed to the Gothic king to introduce his troops into the city. The offer was entertained with coldness and suspicion; they

returned in safety; they twice repeated their visit; the place was twice examined; the conspiracy was known and disregarded; and no sooner had totila consented to the attempt, than they unbarred the Asinarian gate, and gave admittance to the Goths. Till the dawn of day, they halted in

order of battle, apprehensive of treachery or ambush; but the troops of bessas, with their leader, had already escaped; and when the king was

pressed to disturb their retreat, he prudently replied, that no sight could be more grateful than that of a flying enemy. The patricians, who were still possessed of horses, Decius, Basilius, &c. accompanied the

governor; their brethren, among whom Olybrius, Orestes, and Maximus, are

named by the historian, took refuge in the church of St. Peter: but the assertion, that only five hundred persons remained in the capital,

inspires some doubt of the fidelity either of his narrative or of his text. As soon as daylight had displayed the entire victory of the Goths, their monarch devoutly visited the tomb of the prince of the apostles; but while he prayed at the altar, twenty-five soldiers, and sixty citizens, were put to the sword in the vestibule of the temple. The archdeacon Pelagius stood before him, with the Gospels in his hand. "O

Lord, be merciful to your servant." "Pelagius," said Totila, with an

insulting smile, "your pride now condescends to become a suppliant." "I

\_am\_ a suppliant," replied the prudent archdeacon; "God has now made us

your subjects, and as your subjects, we are entitled to your clemency." at his humble prayer, the lives of the Romans were spared; and the chastity of the maids and matrons was preserved inviolate from the

passions of the hungry soldiers. But they were rewarded by the freedom

of pillage, after the most precious spoils had been reserved for the

royal treasury. The houses of the senators were plentifully stored with

gold and silver; and the avarice of Bessas had labored with so much

guilt and shame for the benefit of the conqueror. In this revolution, the sons and daughters of Roman consuls lasted the misery which they had

spurned or relieved, wandered in tattered garments through the streets

of the city and begged their bread, perhaps without success, before the gates of their hereditary mansions. The riches of Rusticiana, the daughter of Symmachus and widow of Boethius, had been generously devoted to alleviate the calamities of famine. But the Barbarians were exasperated by the report, that she had prompted the people to overthrow the statues of the great Theodoric; and the life of that venerable

matron would have been sacrificed to his memory, if Totila had not

respected her birth, her virtues, and even the pious motive of her

revenge. The next day he pronounced two orations, to congratulate and admonish his victorious Goths, and to reproach the senate, as the

vilest of slaves, with their perjury, folly, and ingratitude; sternly declaring, that their estates and honors were justly forfeited to the companions of his arms. Yet he consented to forgive their revolt; and the senators repaid his clemency by despatching circular letters to their tenants and vassals in the provinces of Italy, strictly to enjoin them to desert the standard of the Greeks, to cultivate their lands in

peace, and to learn from their masters the duty of obedience to a Gothic

sovereign. Against the city which had so long delayed the course of his

victories, he appeared inexorable: one third of the walls, in different

parts, were demolished by his command; fire and engines prepared to consume or subvert the most stately works of antiquity; and the world was astonished by the fatal decree, that Rome should be changed into a

pasture for cattle. The firm and temperate remonstrance of Belisarius

suspended the execution; he warned the Barbarian not to sully his fame by the destruction of those monuments which were the glory of the dead, and the delight of the living; and Totila was persuaded, by the advice

of an enemy, to preserve Rome as the ornament of his kingdom, or the fairest pledge of peace and reconciliation. When he had signified to the ambassadors of Belisarius his intention of sparing the city, he

stationed an army at the distance of one hundred and twenty furlongs, to observe the motions of the Roman general. With the remainder of his forces he marched into Lucania and Apulia, and occupied on the summit of

Mount Garganus one of the camps of Hannibal. The senators were dragged

in his train, and afterwards confined in the fortresses of Campania: the citizens, with their wives and children, were dispersed in exile; and during forty days Rome was abandoned to desolate and dreary solitude.

the loss of Rome was speedily retrieved by an action, to which, according to the event, the public opinion would apply the names of

rashness or heroism. After the departure of Totila, the Roman general

sallied from the port at the head of a thousand horse, cut in pieces the enemy who opposed his progress, and visited with pity and reverence the

vacant space of the \_eternal\_ city. Resolved to maintain a station so conspicuous in the eyes of mankind, he summoned the greatest part of

his troops to the standard which he erected on the Capitol: the old

inhabitants were recalled by the love of their country and the hopes

of food; and the keys of Rome were sent a second time to the emperor

Justinian. The walls, as far as they had been demolished by the

Goths, were repaired with rude and dissimilar materials; the ditch was

restored; iron spikes were profusely scattered in the highways to annoy the feet of the horses; and as new gates could not suddenly be procured, the entrance was guarded by a Spartan rampart of his bravest soldiers. at the expiration of twenty-five days, Totila returned by hasty marches from Apulia to avenge the injury and disgrace. Belisarius expected his approach. The Goths were thrice repulsed in three general assaults; they

lost the flower of their troops; the royal standard had almost fallen

into the hands of the enemy, and the fame of Totila sunk, as it had

risen, with the fortune of his arms. Whatever skill and courage could achieve, had been performed by the Roman general: it remained only that

Justinian should terminate, by a strong and seasonable effort, the war which he had ambitiously undertaken. The indolence, perhaps the impotence, of a prince who despised his enemies, and envied his

servants, protracted the calamities of Italy. After a long silence, belisarius was commanded to leave a sufficient garrison at Rome, and to transport himself into the province of Lucania, whose inhabitants,

inflamed by Catholic zeal, had cast away the yoke of their Arian conquerors. In this ignoble warfare, the hero, invincible against the power of the Barbarians, was basely vanquished by the delay, the disobedience, and the cowardice of his own officers. He reposed in his winter quarters of Crotona, in the full assurance, that the two passes

of the Lucanian hills were guarded by his cavalry. They were betrayed by treachery or weakness; and the rapid march of the Goths scarcely allowed time for the escape of Belisarius to the coast of Sicily. At length a fleet and army were assembled for the relief of Ruscianum, or Rossano, a fortress sixty furlongs from the ruins of Sybaris, where the nobles

of Lucania had taken refuge. In the first attempt, the Roman forces were dissipated by a storm. In the second, they approached the shore; but they saw the hills covered with archers, the landing-place defended by a line of spears, and the king of the Goths impatient for battle. The conqueror of Italy retired with a sigh, and continued to languish,

inglorious and inactive, till Antonina, who had been sent to constantinople to solicit succors, obtained, after the death of the empress, the permission of his return.

the five last campaigns of Belisarius might abate the envy of his competitors, whose eyes had been dazzled and wounded by the blaze of

his former glory. Instead of delivering Italy from the Goths, he had wandered like a fugitive along the coast, without daring to march into the country, or to accept the bold and repeated challenge of Totila.

Yet, in the judgment of the few who could discriminate counsels from events, and compare the instruments with the execution, he appeared a more consummate master of the art of war, than in the season of his

prosperity, when he presented two captive kings before the throne of

Justinian. The valor of Belisarius was not chilled by age: his prudence was matured by experience; but the moral virtues of humanity and justice

seem to have yielded to the hard necessity of the times. The parsimony

or poverty of the emperor compelled him to deviate from the rule of conduct which had deserved the love and confidence of the Italians. The war was maintained by the oppression of Ravenna, Sicily, and all the faithful subjects of the empire; and the rigorous prosecution of

Herodian provoked that injured or guilty officer to deliver Spoleto into the hands of the enemy. The avarice of Antonina, which had been some times diverted by love, now reigned without a rival in her breast. belisarius himself had always understood, that riches, in a corrupt age, are the support and ornament of personal merit. And it cannot be

presumed that he should stain his honor for the public service, without applying a part of the spoil to his private emolument. The hero had escaped the sword of the Barbarians. But the dagger of conspiracy awaited his return. In the midst of wealth and honors, Artaban, who had chastised the African tyrant, complained of the ingratitude of courts.

He aspired to Præjecta, the emperor's niece, who wished to reward her deliverer; but the impediment of his previous marriage was asserted by the piety of Theodora. The pride of royal descent was irritated by flattery; and the service in which he gloried had proved him capable of bold and sanguinary deeds. The death of Justinian was resolved, but the conspirators delayed the execution till they could surprise Belisarius disarmed, and naked, in the palace of Constantinople. Not a hope could be entertained of shaking his long-tried fidelity; and they justly dreaded the revenge, or rather the justice, of the veteran general, who

might speedily assemble an army in Thrace to punish the assassins, and

perhaps to enjoy the fruits of their crime. Delay afforded time for rash communications and honest confessions: Artaban and his accomplices were condemned by the senate, but the extreme clemency of Justinian detained them in the gentle confinement of the palace, till he pardoned their flagitious attempt against his throne and life. If the emperor forgave

his enemies, he must cordially embrace a friend whose victories were alone remembered, and who was endeared to his prince by the recent circumstances of their common danger. Belisarius reposed from his toils,

in the high station of general of the East and count of the domestics; and the older consuls and patricians respectfully yielded the precedency

of rank to the peerless merit of the first of the Romans. The first

of the Romans still submitted to be the slave of his wife; but the

servitude of habit and affection became less disgraceful when the death

of Theodora had removed the baser influence of fear. Joannina, their daughter, and the sole heiress of their fortunes, was betrothed to anastasius, the grandson, or rather the nephew, of the empress, whose

kind interposition forwarded the consummation of their youthful loves. but the power of Theodora expired, the parents of Joannina returned, and

her honor, perhaps her happiness, were sacrificed to the revenge of an

unfeeling mother, who dissolved the imperfect nuptials before they had been ratified by the ceremonies of the church.

before the departure of Belisarius, Perusia was besieged, and few cities were impregnable to the Gothic arms. Ravenna, Ancona, and Crotona, still

resisted the Barbarians; and when Totila asked in marriage one of the daughters of France, he was stung by the just reproach that the king of

Italy was unworthy of his title till it was acknowledged by the Roman

people. Three thousand of the bravest soldiers had been left to defend the capital. On the suspicion of a monopoly, they massacred the

governor, and announced to Justinian, by a deputation of the clergy, that unless their offence was pardoned, and their arrears were

satisfied, they should instantly accept the tempting offers of Totila. but the officer who succeeded to the command (his name was Diogenes) deserved their esteem and confidence; and the Goths, instead of finding an easy conquest, encountered a vigorous resistance from the soldiers and people, who patiently endured the loss of the port and of all

maritime supplies. The siege of Rome would perhaps have been raised,

if the liberality of Totila to the Isaurians had not encouraged some of their venal countrymen to copy the example of treason. In a dark night, while the Gothic trumpets sounded on another side, they silently opened the gate of St. Paul: the Barbarians rushed into the city; and the flying garrison was intercepted before they could reach the harbor of centumcellæ. A soldier trained in the school of Belisarius, Paul of cilicia, retired with four hundred men to the mole of Hadrian. They

repelled the Goths; but they felt the approach of famine; and their aversion to the taste of horse-flesh confirmed their resolution to risk the event of a desperate and decisive sally. But their spirit insensibly

stooped to the offers of capitulation; they retrieved their arrears of

pay, and preserved their arms and horses, by enlisting in the service of totila; their chiefs, who pleaded a laudable attachment to their wives and children in the East, were dismissed with honor; and above four

hundred enemies, who had taken refuge in the sanctuaries, were saved by the clemency of the victor. He no longer entertained a wish of destroying the edifices of Rome, which he now respected as the seat

of the Gothic kingdom: the senate and people were restored to their country; the means of subsistence were liberally provided; and Totila,

in the robe of peace, exhibited the equestrian games of the circus. whilst he amused the eyes of the multitude, four hundred vessels were

prepared for the embarkation of his troops. The cities of Rhegium and Tarentum were reduced: he passed into Sicily, the object of his

implacable resentment; and the island was stripped of its gold and

silver, of the fruits of the earth, and of an infinite number of horses,

sheep, and oxen. Sardinia and Corsica obeyed the fortune of Italy; and the sea-coast of Greece was visited by a fleet of three hundred galleys. the Goths were landed in Corcyra and the ancient continent of Epirus; they advanced as far as Nicopolis, the trophy of Augustus, and Dodona,

once famous by the oracle of Jove. In every step of his victories, the wise Barbarian repeated to Justinian the desire of peace, applauded the concord of their predecessors, and offered to employ the Gothic arms in the service of the empire.

Justinian was deaf to the voice of peace: but he neglected the

prosecution of war; and the indolence of his temper disappointed, in

some degree, the obstinacy of his passions. From this salutary slumber the emperor was awakened by the pope Vigilius and the patrician cethegus, who appeared before his throne, and adjured him, in the name

of God and the people, to resume the conquest and deliverance of Italy.

In the choice of the generals, caprice, as well as judgment, was shown. a fleet and army sailed for the relief of Sicily, under the conduct

of Liberius; but his youth and want of experience were afterwards discovered, and before he touched the shores of the island he was

overtaken by his successor. In the place of Liberius, the conspirator artaban was raised from a prison to military honors; in the pious

presumption, that gratitude would animate his valor and fortify his allegiance. Belisarius reposed in the shade of his laurels, but the command of the principal army was reserved for Germanus, the emperor's

nephew, whose rank and merit had been long depressed by the jealousy of the court. Theodora had injured him in the rights of a private citizen, the marriage of his children, and the testament of his brother; and although his conduct was pure and blameless, Justinian was displeased that he should be thought worthy of the confidence of the malecontents. the life of Germanus was a lesson of implicit obedience: he nobly

refused to prostitute his name and character in the factions of the circus: the gravity of his manners was tempered by innocent cheerfulness; and his riches were lent without interest to indigent or deserving friends. His valor had formerly triumphed over the Sclavonians

of the Danube and the rebels of Africa: the first report of his

promotion revived the hopes of the Italians; and he was privately assured, that a crowd of Roman deserters would abandon, on his approach, the standard of Totila. His second marriage with Malasontha, the

granddaughter of Theodoric endeared Germanus to the Goths themselves; and they marched with reluctance against the father of a royal infant the last offspring of the line of Amali. A splendid allowance was assigned by the emperor: the general contribute his private fortune: his two sons were popular and active and he surpassed, in the promptitude and success of his levies the expectation of mankind. He was permitted to select some squadrons of Thracian cavalry: the veterans, as well as the youth of Constantinople and Europe, engaged their voluntary service; and as far as the heart of Germany, his fame and liberality attracted the aid of the Barbarians. The Romans advanced to Sardica; an army of

Sclavonians fled before their march; but within two days of their final departure, the designs of Germanus were terminated by his malady and death. Yet the impulse which he had given to the Italian war still continued to act with energy and effect. The maritime towns Ancona, crotona, Centumcellæ, resisted the assaults of Totila Sicily was reduced by the zeal of Artaban, and the Gothic navy was defeated near the coast

of the Adriatic. The two fleets were almost equal, forty-seven to fifty

galleys: the victory was decided by the knowledge and dexterity of the

Greeks; but the ships were so closely grappled, that only twelve of the Goths escaped from this unfortunate conflict. They affected to depreciate an element in which they were unskilled; but their own experience confirmed the truth of a maxim, that the master of the sea will always acquire the dominion of the land.

after the loss of Germanus, the nations were provoked to smile, by the

strange intelligence, that the command of the Roman armies was given to a eunuch. But the eunuch Narses is ranked among the few who have rescued that unhappy name from the contempt and hatred of mankind. A feeble, diminutive body concealed the soul of a statesman and a warrior. His

youth had been employed in the management of the loom and distaff, in the cares of the household, and the service of female luxury; but while

his hands were busy, he secretly exercised the faculties of a vigorous and discerning mind. A stranger to the schools and the camp, he studied

in the palace to dissemble, to flatter, and to persuade; and as soon as he approached the person of the emperor, Justinian listened with

surprise and pleasure to the manly counsels of his chamberlain and

private treasurer. The talents of Narses were tried and improved in frequent embassies: he led an army into Italy acquired a practical

knowledge of the war and the country, and presumed to strive with the

genius of Belisarius. Twelve years after his return, the eunuch was chosen to achieve the conquest which had been left imperfect by the first of the Roman generals. Instead of being dazzled by vanity or emulation, he seriously declared that, unless he were armed with an adequate force, he would never consent to risk his own glory and that

of his sovereign. Justinian granted to the favorite what he might have denied to the hero: the Gothic war was rekindled from its ashes, and the

preparations were not unworthy of the ancient majesty of the empire. The

key of the public treasure was put into his hand, to collect magazines, to levy soldiers, to purchase arms and horses, to discharge the arrears

of pay, and to tempt the fidelity of the fugitives and deserters. The troops of Germanus were still in arms; they halted at Salona in the expectation of a new leader; and legions of subjects and allies were created by the well-known liberality of the eunuch Narses. The king

of the Lombards satisfied or surpassed the obligations of a treaty, by lending two thousand two hundred of his bravest warriors, who were followed by three thousand of their martial attendants. Three thousand

Heruli fought on horseback under Philemuth, their native chief; and the

noble Aratus, who adopted the manners and discipline of Rome, conducted a band of veterans of the same nation. Dagistheus was released from

prison to command the Huns; and Kobad, the grandson and nephew of the great king, was conspicuous by the regal tiara at the head of his faithful Persians, who had devoted themselves to the fortunes of their

prince. Absolute in the exercise of his authority, more absolute in the affection of his troops, Narses led a numerous and gallant army from

Philippopolis to Salona, from whence he coasted the eastern side of the adriatic as far as the confines of Italy. His progress was checked. The east could not supply vessels capable of transporting such multitudes of

men and horses. The Franks, who, in the general confusion, had usurped the greater part of the Venetian province, refused a free passage to the friends of the Lombards. The station of Verona was occupied by Teias, with the flower of the Gothic forces; and that skilful commander

had overspread the adjacent country with the fall of woods and the

inundation of waters. In this perplexity, an officer of experience

proposed a measure, secure by the appearance of rashness; that the

Roman army should cautiously advance along the seashore, while the fleet

preceded their march, and successively cast a bridge of boats over the

mouths of the rivers, the Timavus, the Brenta, the Adige, and the

Po, that fall into the Adriatic to the north of Ravenna. Nine days he

reposed in the city, collected the fragments of the Italian army, and

marching towards Rimini to meet the defiance of an insulting enemy.

chapter XLIII: Last Victory And Death Of Belisarius, Death Of Justinian.--Part III.

the prudence of Narses impelled him to speedy and decisive action.

His powers were the last effort of the state; the cost of each day accumulated the enormous account; and the nations, untrained to discipline or fatigue, might be rashly provoked to turn their arms against each other, or against their benefactor. The same considerations

might have tempered the ardor of Totila. But he was conscious that the clergy and people of Italy aspired to a second revolution: he felt or

suspected the rapid progress of treason; and he resolved to risk the

Gothic kingdom on the chance of a day, in which the valiant would be animated by instant danger and the disaffected might be awed by mutual

ignorance. In his march from Ravenna, the Roman general chastised the

garrison of Rimini, traversed in a direct line the hills of Urbino, and

reentered the Flaminian way, nine miles beyond the perforated rock, an obstacle of art and nature which might have stopped or retarded his

progress. The Goths were assembled in the neighborhood of Rome, they advanced without delay to seek a superior enemy, and the two armies approached each other at the distance of one hundred furlongs, between tagina and the sepulchres of the Gauls. The haughty message of Narses was an offer, not of peace, but of pardon. The answer of the Gothic

king declared his resolution to die or conquer. "What day," said the

messenger, "will you fix for the combat?" "The eighth day," replied totila; but early the next morning he attempted to surprise a foe,

suspicious of deceit, and prepared for battle. Ten thousand Heruli and Lombards, of approved valor and doubtful faith, were placed in the centre. Each of the wings was composed of eight thousand Romans; the

right was guarded by the cavalry of the Huns, the left was covered by fifteen hundred chosen horse, destined, according to the emergencies

of action, to sustain the retreat of their friends, or to encompass the flank of the enemy. From his proper station at the head of the right wing, the eunuch rode along the line, expressing by his voice and countenance the assurance of victory; exciting the soldiers of the emperor to punish the guilt and madness of a band of robbers; and exposing to their view gold chains, collars, and bracelets, the rewards

of military virtue. From the event of a single combat they drew an omen

of success; and they beheld with pleasure the courage of fifty archers, who maintained a small eminence against three successive attacks of the

Gothic cavalry. At the distance only of two bow-shots, the armies spent the morning in dreadful suspense, and the Romans tasted some necessary food, without unloosing the cuirass from their breast, or the bridle from their horses. Narses awaited the charge; and it was delayed by totila till he had received his last succors of two thousand Goths. while he consumed the hours in fruitless treaty, the king exhibited in a narrow space the strength and agility of a warrior. His armor was enchased with gold; his purple banner floated with the wind: he cast

his lance into the air; caught it with the right hand; shifted it to the

left; threw himself backwards; recovered his seat; and managed a fiery

steed in all the paces and evolutions of the equestrian school. As soon as the succors had arrived, he retired to his tent, assumed the dress and arms of a private soldier, and gave the signal of a battle. The first line of cavalry advanced with more courage than discretion, and

left behind them the infantry of the second line. They were soon engaged between the horns of a crescent, into which the adverse wings had been

insensibly curved, and were saluted from either side by the volleys of four thousand archers. Their ardor, and even their distress, drove them forwards to a close and unequal conflict, in which they could only use their lances against an enemy equally skilled in all the instruments

of war. A generous emulation inspired the Romans and their Barbarian allies; and Narses, who calmly viewed and directed their efforts, doubted to whom he should adjudge the prize of superior bravery. The

Gothic cavalry was astonished and disordered, pressed and broken; and the line of infantry, instead of presenting their spears, or opening their intervals, were trampled under the feet of the flying horse. Six thousand of the Goths were slaughtered without mercy in the field of tagina. Their prince, with five attendants, was overtaken by Asbad,

of the race of the Gepidæ. "Spare the king of Italy," cried a loyal

voice, and Asbad struck his lance through the body of Totila. The blow was instantly revenged by the faithful Goths: they transported their dying monarch seven miles beyond the scene of his disgrace; and his

last moments were not imbittered by the presence of an enemy. Compassion afforded him the shelter of an obscure tomb; but the Romans were not

satisfied of their victory, till they beheld the corpse of the Gothic

king. His hat, enriched with gems, and his bloody robe, were presented to Justinian by the messengers of triumph.

as soon as Narses had paid his devotions to the Author of victory, and the blessed Virgin, his peculiar patroness, he praised, rewarded, and dismissed the Lombards. The villages had been reduced to ashes by these

valiant savages; they ravished matrons and virgins on the altar; their

retreat was diligently watched by a strong detachment of regular forces, who prevented a repetition of the like disorders. The victorious eunuch

pursued his march through Tuscany, accepted the submission of the Goths,

heard the acclamations, and often the complaints, of the Italians, and encompassed the walls of Rome with the remainder of his formidable host.

Round the wide circumference, Narses assigned to himself, and to each

of his lieutenants, a real or a feigned attack, while he silently marked the place of easy and unguarded entrance. Neither the fortifications of

Hadrian's mole, nor of the port, could long delay the progress of the conqueror; and Justinian once more received the keys of Rome, which,

under his reign, had been five times taken and recovered. But the deliverance of Rome was the last calamity of the Roman people. The barbarian allies of Narses too frequently confounded the privileges of

peace and war. The despair of the flying Goths found some consolation

in sanguinary revenge; and three hundred youths of the noblest families, who had been sent as hostages beyond the Po, were inhumanly slain by the

successor of Totila. The fate of the senate suggests an awful lesson

of the vicissitude of human affairs. Of the senators whom Totila

had banished from their country, some were rescued by an officer of belisarius, and transported from Campania to Sicily; while others were too guilty to confide in the clemency of Justinian, or too poor to

provide horses for their escape to the sea-shore. Their brethren

languished five years in a state of indigence and exile: the victory of

Narses revived their hopes; but their premature return to the metropolis was prevented by the furious Goths; and all the fortresses of Campania were stained with patrician blood. After a period of thirteen centuries, the institution of Romulus expired; and if the nobles of Rome still assumed the title of senators, few subsequent traces can be discovered

of a public council, or constitutional order. Ascend six hundred years, and contemplate the kings of the earth soliciting an audience, as the

slaves or freedmen of the Roman senate!

the Gothic war was yet alive. The bravest of the nation retired beyond the Po; and Teias was unanimously chosen to succeed and revenge their departed hero. The new king immediately sent ambassadors to implore, or

rather to purchase, the aid of the Franks, and nobly lavished, for the

public safety, the riches which had been deposited in the palace of

Pavia. The residue of the royal treasure was guarded by his brother aligern, at Cumæa, in Campania; but the strong castle which Totila had fortified was closely besieged by the arms of Narses. From the Alps to the foot of Mount Vesuvius, the Gothic king, by rapid and secret

marches, advanced to the relief of his brother, eluded the vigilance

of the Roman chiefs, and pitched his camp on the banks of the Sarnus

or \_Draco\_, which flows from Nuceria into the Bay of Naples. The river

separated the two armies: sixty days were consumed in distant and fruitless combats, and Teias maintained this important post till he was deserted by his fleet and the hope of subsistence. With reluctant steps

he ascended the \_Lactarian\_ mount, where the physicians of Rome, since the time of Galen, had sent their patients for the benefit of the air and the milk. But the Goths soon embraced a more generous resolution: to descend the hill, to dismiss their horses, and to die in arms, and

in the possession of freedom. The king marched at their head, bearing in

his right hand a lance, and an ample buckler in his left: with the

one he struck dead the foremost of the assailants; with the other he

received the weapons which every hand was ambitious to aim against his

life. After a combat of many hours, his left arm was fatigued by the weight of twelve javelins which hung from his shield. Without moving from his ground, or suspending his blows, the hero called aloud on his attendants for a fresh buckler; but in the moment while his side was

uncovered, it was pierced by a mortal dart. He fell; and his head, exalted on a spear, proclaimed to the nations that the Gothic kingdom was no more. But the example of his death served only to animate the companions who had sworn to perish with their leader. They fought till darkness descended on the earth. They reposed on their arms. The combat was renewed with the return of light, and maintained with unabated vigor till the evening of the second day. The repose of a second night, the want of water, and the loss of their bravest champions, determined the

surviving Goths to accept the fair capitulation which the prudence

of Narses was inclined to propose. They embraced the alternative

of residing in Italy, as the subjects and soldiers of Justinian, or departing with a portion of their private wealth, in search of some

independent country. Yet the oath of fidelity or exile was alike

rejected by one thousand Goths, who broke away before the treaty was

signed, and boldly effected their retreat to the walls of Pavia. The

spirit, as well as the situation, of Aligern prompted him to imitate

rather than to bewail his brother: a strong and dexterous archer, he transpierced with a single arrow the armor and breast of his antagonist; and his military conduct defended Cumæ above a year against the forces

of the Romans. Their industry had scooped the Sibyl's cave into a

prodigious mine; combustible materials were introduced to consume the temporary props: the wall and the gate of Cumæ sunk into the cavern, but the ruins formed a deep and inaccessible precipice. On the fragment of a rock Aligern stood alone and unshaken, till he calmly surveyed the

hopeless condition of his country, and judged it more honorable to be the friend of Narses, than the slave of the Franks. After the death of teias, the Roman general separated his troops to reduce the cities

of Italy; Lucca sustained a long and vigorous siege: and such was the

humanity or the prudence of Narses, that the repeated perfidy of the

inhabitants could not provoke him to exact the forfeit lives of their

hostages. These hostages were dismissed in safety; and their grateful

zeal at length subdued the obstinacy of their countrymen.

before Lucca had surrendered, Italy was overwhelmed by a new deluge of barbarians. A feeble youth, the grandson of Clovis, reigned over the austrasians or oriental Franks. The guardians of Theodebald entertained with coldness and reluctance the magnificent promises of the Gothic ambassadors. But the spirit of a martial people outstripped the timid counsels of the court: two brothers, Lothaire and Buccelin, the dukes

of the Alemanni, stood forth as the leaders of the Italian war; and

seventy-five thousand Germans descended in the autumn from the Rhætian alps into the plain of Milan. The vanguard of the Roman army was

stationed near the Po, under the conduct of Fulcaris, a bold Herulian, who rashly conceived that personal bravery was the sole duty and merit

of a commander. As he marched without order or precaution along the

Æmilian way, an ambuscade of Franks suddenly rose from the amphitheatre

of Parma; his troops were surprised and routed; but their leader refused to fly; declaring to the last moment, that death was less terrible than the angry countenance of Narses. The death of Fulcaris, and the

retreat of the surviving chiefs, decided the fluctuating and rebellious temper of the Goths; they flew to the standard of their deliverers, and admitted them into the cities which still resisted the arms of the

Roman general. The conqueror of Italy opened a free passage to the

irresistible torrent of Barbarians. They passed under the walls of cesena, and answered by threats and reproaches the advice of Aligern, that the Gothic treasures could no longer repay the labor of an

invasion. Two thousand Franks were destroyed by the skill and valor

of Narses himself, who sailed from Rimini at the head of three hundred

horse, to chastise the licentious rapine of their march. On the confines

of Samnium the two brothers divided their forces. With the right wing, buccelin assumed the spoil of Campania, Lucania, and Bruttium; with the left, Lothaire accepted the plunder of Apulia and Calabria. They followed the coast of the Mediterranean and the Adriatic, as far as

Rhegium and Otranto, and the extreme lands of Italy were the term

of their destructive progress. The Franks, who were Christians and catholics, contented themselves with simple pillage and occasional

murder. But the churches which their piety had spared, were stripped by the sacrilegious hands of the Alamanni, who sacrificed horses' heads to their native deities of the woods and rivers; they melted or profaned the consecrated vessels, and the ruins of shrines and altars were

stained with the blood of the faithful. Buccelin was actuated by ambition, and Lothaire by avarice. The former aspired to restore the

Gothic kingdom; the latter, after a promise to his brother of speedy

succors, returned by the same road to deposit his treasure beyond the alps. The strength of their armies was already wasted by the change of climate and contagion of disease: the Germans revelled in the vintage of

Italy; and their own intemperance avenged, in some degree, the miseries

of a defenceless people.

at the entrance of the spring, the Imperial troops, who had guarded the cities, assembled, to the number of eighteen thousand men, in the neighborhood of Rome. Their winter hours had not been consumed

in idleness. By the command, and after the example, of Narses, they

repeated each day their military exercise on foot and on horseback, accustomed their ear to obey the sound of the trumpet, and practised the

steps and evolutions of the Pyrrhic dance. From the Straits of Sicily, buccelin, with thirty thousand Franks and Alamanni, slowly moved towards capua, occupied with a wooden tower the bridge of Casilinum, covered

his right by the stream of the Vulturnus, and secured the rest of his encampment by a rampart of sharp stakes, and a circle of wagons, whose wheels were buried in the earth. He impatiently expected the return of

Lothaire; ignorant, alas! that his brother could never return, and that the chief and his army had been swept away by a strange disease on the banks of the Lake Benacus, between Trent and Verona. The banners

of Narses soon approached the Vulturnus, and the eyes of Italy were anxiously fixed on the event of this final contest. Perhaps the talents

of the Roman general were most conspicuous in the calm operations which

precede the tumult of a battle. His skilful movements intercepted the

subsistence of the Barbarian deprived him of the advantage of the bridge and river, and in the choice of the ground and moment of action reduced

him to comply with the inclination of his enemy. On the morning of the

important day, when the ranks were already formed, a servant, for some trivial fault, was killed by his master, one of the leaders of the

Heruli. The justice or passion of Narses was awakened: he summoned the

offender to his presence, and without listening to his excuses, gave the

signal to the minister of death. If the cruel master had not infringed the laws of his nation, this arbitrary execution was not less unjust than it appears to have been imprudent. The Heruli felt the indignity; they halted: but the Roman general, without soothing their rage, or expecting their resolution, called aloud, as the trumpets sounded, that

unless they hastened to occupy their place, they would lose the honor

of the victory. His troops were disposed in a long front, the cavalry on the wings; in the centre, the heavy-armed foot; the archers and slingers

in the rear. The Germans advanced in a sharp-pointed column, of the form

of a triangle or solid wedge. They pierced the feeble centre of Narses, who received them with a smile into the fatal snare, and directed his wings of cavalry insensibly to wheel on their flanks and encompass their

rear. The host of the Franks and Alamanni consisted of infantry: a

sword and buckler hung by their side; and they used, as their weapons

of offence, a weighty hatchet and a hooked javelin, which were only formidable in close combat, or at a short distance. The flower of the

Roman archers, on horseback, and in complete armor, skirmished without

peril round this immovable phalanx; supplied by active speed the deficiency of number; and aimed their arrows against a crowd of barbarians, who, instead of a cuirass and helmet, were covered by a

loose garment of fur or linen. They paused, they trembled, their ranks were confounded, and in the decisive moment the Heruli, preferring glory to revenge, charged with rapid violence the head of the column. Their

leader, Sinbal, and Aligern, the Gothic prince, deserved the prize

of superior valor; and their example excited the victorious troops to achieve with swords and spears the destruction of the enemy. Buccelin, and the greatest part of his army, perished on the field of battle, in the waters of the Vulturnus, or by the hands of the enraged peasants: but it may seem incredible, that a victory, which no more than five of the Alamanni survived, could be purchased with the loss of fourscore

Romans. Seven thousand Goths, the relics of the war, defended the fortress of Campsa till the ensuing spring; and every messenger of

Narses announced the reduction of the Italian cities, whose names were corrupted by the ignorance or vanity of the Greeks. After the battle

of Casilinum, Narses entered the capital; the arms and treasures of the

Goths, the Franks, and the Alamanni, were displayed; his soldiers, with

garlands in their hands, chanted the praises of the conqueror; and Rome, for the last time, beheld the semblance of a triumph.

after a reign of sixty years, the throne of the Gothic kings was filled by the exarchs of Ravenna, the representatives in peace and war of the emperor of the Romans. Their jurisdiction was soon reduced to the limits

of a narrow province: but Narses himself, the first and most powerful

of the exarchs, administered above fifteen years the entire kingdom of

Italy. Like Belisarius, he had deserved the honors of envy, calumny, and disgrace: but the favorite eunuch still enjoyed the confidence of

Justinian; or the leader of a victorious army awed and repressed the

ingratitude of a timid court. Yet it was not by weak and mischievous

indulgence that Narses secured the attachment of his troops. Forgetful

of the past, and regardless of the future, they abused the present hour

of prosperity and peace. The cities of Italy resounded with the noise

of drinking and dancing; the spoils of victory were wasted in sensual

pleasures; and nothing (says Agathias) remained unless to exchange their

shields and helmets for the soft lute and the capacious hogshead. In a

manly oration, not unworthy of a Roman censor, the eunuch reproved these disorderly vices, which sullied their fame, and endangered their

safety. The soldiers blushed and obeyed; discipline was confirmed; the fortifications were restored; a \_duke\_ was stationed for the defence and

military command of each of the principal cities; and the eye of Narses

pervaded the ample prospect from Calabria to the Alps. The remains of the Gothic nation evacuated the country, or mingled with the people; the franks, instead of revenging the death of Buccelin, abandoned, without a struggle, their Italian conquests; and the rebellious Sinbal, chief

of the Heruli, was subdued, taken and hung on a lofty gallows by the

inflexible justice of the exarch. The civil state of Italy, after the agitation of a long tempest, was fixed by a pragmatic sanction, which the emperor promulgated at the request of the pope. Justinian introduced

his own jurisprudence into the schools and tribunals of the West; he

ratified the acts of Theodoric and his immediate successors, but every deed was rescinded and abolished which force had extorted, or fear had

subscribed, under the usurpation of Totila. A moderate theory was framed to reconcile the rights of property with the safety of prescription, the claims of the state with the poverty of the people, and the pardon of

offences with the interest of virtue and order of society. Under the exarchs of Ravenna, Rome was degraded to the second rank. Yet the

senators were gratified by the permission of visiting their estates

in Italy, and of approaching, without obstacle, the throne of constantinople: the regulation of weights and measures was delegated to the pope and senate; and the salaries of lawyers and physicians, of

orators and grammarians, were destined to preserve, or rekindle, the light of science in the ancient capital. Justinian might dictate benevolent edicts, and Narses might second his wishes by the restoration

of cities, and more especially of churches. But the power of kings is

most effectual to destroy; and the twenty years of the Gothic war had consummated the distress and depopulation of Italy. As early as the fourth campaign, under the discipline of Belisarius himself, fifty thousand laborers died of hunger in the narrow region of Picenum; and a

strict interpretation of the evidence of Procopius would swell the loss

of Italy above the total sum of her present inhabitants.

I desire to believe, but I dare not affirm, that Belisarius sincerely

rejoiced in the triumph of Narses. Yet the consciousness of his own exploits might teach him to esteem without jealousy the merit of a

rival; and the repose of the aged warrior was crowned by a last victory, which saved the emperor and the capital. The Barbarians, who annually

visited the provinces of Europe, were less discouraged by some accidental defeats, than they were excited by the double hope of spoil and of subsidy. In the thirty-second winter of Justinian's reign, the danube was deeply frozen: Zabergan led the cavalry of the Bulgarians, and his standard was followed by a promiscuous multitude of Sclavonians.

\* The savage chief passed, without opposition, the river and the

mountains, spread his troops over Macedonia and Thrace, and advanced with no more than seven thousand horse to the long wall, which should

have defended the territory of Constantinople. But the works of man are

impotent against the assaults of nature: a recent earthquake had shaken the foundations of the wall; and the forces of the empire were employed

on the distant frontiers of Italy, Africa, and Persia. The seven

\_schools\_, or companies of the guards or domestic troops, had been augmented to the number of five thousand five hundred men, whose

ordinary station was in the peaceful cities of Asia. But the places

of the brave Armenians were insensibly supplied by lazy citizens, who

purchased an exemption from the duties of civil life, without being exposed to the dangers of military service. Of such soldiers, few could be tempted to sally from the gates; and none could be persuaded to

remain in the field, unless they wanted strength and speed to escape from the Bulgarians. The report of the fugitives exaggerated the numbers and fierceness of an enemy, who had polluted holy virgins, and abandoned

new-born infants to the dogs and vultures; a crowd of rustics, imploring food and protection, increased the consternation of the city, and the tents of Zabergan were pitched at the distance of twenty miles, on the banks of a small river, which encircles Melanthias, and afterwards falls

into the Propontis. Justinian trembled: and those who had only seen the emperor in his old age, were pleased to suppose, that he had \_lost\_ the alacrity and vigor of his youth. By his command the vessels of gold and

silver were removed from the churches in the neighborhood, and even the suburbs, of Constantinople; the ramparts were lined with trembling

spectators; the golden gate was crowded with useless generals and tribunes, and the senate shared the fatigues and the apprehensions of the populace.

but the eyes of the prince and people were directed to a feeble veteran, who was compelled by the public danger to resume the armor in which he

had entered Carthage and defended Rome. The horses of the royal stables,

of private citizens, and even of the circus, were hastily collected; the emulation of the old and young was roused by the name of Belisarius, and his first encampment was in the presence of a victorious enemy. His

prudence, and the labor of the friendly peasants, secured, with a ditch and rampart, the repose of the night; innumerable fires, and clouds of dust, were artfully contrived to magnify the opinion of his strength;

his soldiers suddenly passed from despondency to presumption; and, while ten thousand voices demanded the battle, Belisarius dissembled his

knowledge, that in the hour of trial he must depend on the firmness of three hundred veterans. The next morning the Bulgarian cavalry advanced to the charge. But they heard the shouts of multitudes, they beheld the arms and discipline of the front; they were assaulted on the flanks by two ambuscades which rose from the woods; their foremost warriors fell by the hand of the aged hero and his guards; and the swiftness of their evolutions was rendered useless by the close attack and rapid pursuit of the Romans. In this action (so speedy was their flight) the Bulgarians

lost only four hundred horse; but Constantinople was saved; and

Zabergan, who felt the hand of a master, withdrew to a respectful distance. But his friends were numerous in the councils of the emperor, and Belisarius obeyed with reluctance the commands of envy and

Justinian, which forbade him to achieve the deliverance of his country.

On his return to the city, the people, still conscious of their danger, accompanied his triumph with acclamations of joy and gratitude, which were imputed as a crime to the victorious general. But when he entered the palace, the courtiers were silent, and the emperor, after a cold and thankless embrace, dismissed him to mingle with the train of slaves.

Yet so deep was the impression of his glory on the minds of men, that

Justinian, in the seventy-seventh year of his age, was encouraged to advance near forty miles from the capital, and to inspect in person the

restoration of the long wall. The Bulgarians wasted the summer in the

plains of Thrace; but they were inclined to peace by the failure of their rash attempts on Greece and the Chersonesus. A menace of killing their prisoners quickened the payment of heavy ransoms; and the departure of Zabergan was hastened by the report, that double-prowed

vessels were built on the Danube to intercept his passage. The danger was soon forgotten; and a vain question, whether their sovereign had

shown more wisdom or weakness, amused the idleness of the city.

chapter XLIII: Last Victory And Death Of Belisarius, Death Of Justinian.--Part IV.

about two years after the last victory of Belisarius, the emperor

returned from a Thracian journey of health, or business, or devotion.

Justinian was afflicted by a pain in his head; and his private entry countenanced the rumor of his death. Before the third hour of the day, the bakers' shops were plundered of their bread, the houses were shut, and every citizen, with hope or terror, prepared for the impending tumult. The senators themselves, fearful and suspicious, were convened at the ninth hour; and the præfect received their commands to visit every quarter of the city, and proclaim a general illumination for the recovery of the emperor's health. The ferment subsided; but every accident betrayed the impotence of the government, and the factious temper of the people: the guards were disposed to mutiny as often as their quarters were changed, or their pay was withheld: the frequent calamities of fires and earthquakes afforded the opportunities of disorder; the disputes of the blues and greens, of the orthodox and

heretics, degenerated into bloody battles; and, in the presence of the

Persian ambassador, Justinian blushed for himself and for his subjects. capricious pardon and arbitrary punishment imbittered the irksomeness and discontent of a long reign: a conspiracy was formed in the palace; and, unless we are deceived by the names of Marcellus and Sergius, the

most virtuous and the most profligate of the courtiers were associated

in the same designs. They had fixed the time of the execution; their

rank gave them access to the royal banquet; and their black slaves were

stationed in the vestibule and porticos, to announce the death of the tyrant, and to excite a sedition in the capital. But the indiscretion

of an accomplice saved the poor remnant of the days of Justinian. The conspirators were detected and seized, with daggers hidden under their

garments: Marcellus died by his own hand, and Sergius was dragged from the sanctuary. Pressed by remorse, or tempted by the hopes of safety, he accused two officers of the household of Belisarius; and torture forced them to declare that they had acted according to the secret instructions

of their patron. Posterity will not hastily believe that a hero who,

in the vigor of life, had disdained the fairest offers of ambition and

revenge, should stoop to the murder of his prince, whom he could not

long expect to survive. His followers were impatient to fly; but flight

must have been supported by rebellion, and he had lived enough for

nature and for glory. Belisarius appeared before the council with less fear than indignation: after forty years' service, the emperor had

prejudged his guilt; and injustice was sanctified by the presence and authority of the patriarch. The life of Belisarius was graciously

spared; but his fortunes were sequestered, and, from December to July,

he was guarded as a prisoner in his own palace. At length his innocence was acknowledged; his freedom and honor were restored; and death, which

might be hastened by resentment and grief, removed him from the world

in about eight months after his deliverance. The name of Belisarius can

never die but instead of the funeral, the monuments, the statues, so

justly due to his memory, I only read, that his treasures, the spoil of the Goths and Vandals, were immediately confiscated by the emperor. Some decent portion was reserved, however for the use of his widow: and as antonina had much to repent, she devoted the last remains of her life and fortune to the foundation of a convent. Such is the simple and

genuine narrative of the fall of Belisarius and the ingratitude of

Justinian. That he was deprived of his eyes, and reduced by envy to beg

his bread, "Give a penny to Belisarius the general!" is a fiction of

later times, which has obtained credit, or rather favor, as a strange example of the vicissitudes of fortune.

If the emperor could rejoice in the death of Belisarius, he enjoyed the base satisfaction only eight months, the last period of a reign

of thirty-eight years, and a life of eighty-three years. It would be difficult to trace the character of a prince who is not the most conspicuous object of his own times: but the confessions of an enemy may be received as the safest evidence of his virtues. The resemblance

of Justinian to the bust of Domitian, is maliciously urged; with the acknowledgment, however, of a well-proportioned figure, a ruddy complexion, and a pleasing countenance. The emperor was easy of access,

patient of hearing, courteous and affable in discourse, and a master

of the angry passions which rage with such destructive violence in the breast of a despot. Procopius praises his temper, to reproach him with calm and deliberate cruelty: but in the conspiracies which attacked his authority and person, a more candid judge will approve the justice, or admire the clemency, of Justinian. He excelled in the private virtues

of chastity and temperance: but the impartial love of beauty would have been less mischievous than his conjugal tenderness for Theodora; and his abstemious diet was regulated, not by the prudence of a philosopher, but the superstition of a monk. His repasts were short and frugal: on solemn fasts, he contented himself with water and vegetables; and such was his

strength, as well as fervor, that he frequently passed two days, and as

many nights, without tasting any food. The measure of his sleep was not

less rigorous: after the repose of a single hour, the body was awakened by the soul, and, to the astonishment of his chamberlain, Justinian walked or studied till the morning light. Such restless application

prolonged his time for the acquisition of knowledge and the despatch of business; and he might seriously deserve the reproach of confounding, by minute and preposterous diligence, the general order of his administration. The emperor professed himself a musician and architect, a poet and philosopher, a lawyer and theologian; and if he failed in the enterprise of reconciling the Christian sects, the review of the Roman

jurisprudence is a noble monument of his spirit and industry. In the

government of the empire, he was less wise, or less successful: the age was unfortunate; the people was oppressed and discontented; Theodora abused her power; a succession of bad ministers disgraced his judgment; and Justinian was neither beloved in his life, nor regretted at his death. The love of fame was deeply implanted in his breast, but he condescended to the poor ambition of titles, honors, and contemporary

praise; and while he labored to fix the admiration, he forfeited the esteem and affection, of the Romans. The design of the African and

Italian wars was boldly conceived and executed; and his penetration discovered the talents of Belisarius in the camp, of Narses in the

palace. But the name of the emperor is eclipsed by the names of his

victorious generals; and Belisarius still lives, to upbraid the envy and

ingratitude of his sovereign. The partial favor of mankind applauds the genius of a conqueror, who leads and directs his subjects in the exercise of arms. The characters of Philip the Second and of Justinian are distinguished by the cold ambition which delights in war, and declines the dangers of the field. Yet a colossal statue of bronze

represented the emperor on horseback, preparing to march against the

Persians in the habit and armor of Achilles. In the great square before the church of St. Sophia, this monument was raised on a brass column and a stone pedestal of seven steps; and the pillar of Theodosius, which weighed seven thousand four hundred pounds of silver, was removed from the same place by the avarice and vanity of Justinian. Future princes were more just or indulgent to \_his\_ memory; the elder Andronicus, in the beginning of the fourteenth century, repaired and beautified his equestrian statue: since the fall of the empire it has been melted into cannon by the victorious Turks.

I shall conclude this chapter with the comets, the earthquakes, and the

plague, which astonished or afflicted the age of Justinian.

I. In the fifth year of his reign, and in the month of September, a comet was seen during twenty days in the western quarter of the heavens, and which shot its rays into the north. Eight years afterwards, while the sun was in Capricorn, another comet appeared to follow in the

Sagittary; the size was gradually increasing; the head was in the east, the tail in the west, and it remained visible above forty days. The

nations, who gazed with astonishment, expected wars and calamities from their baleful influence; and these expectations were abundantly fulfilled. The astronomers dissembled their ignorance of the nature of these blazing stars, which they affected to represent as the floating

meteors of the air; and few among them embraced the simple notion of

Seneca and the Chaldeans, that they are only planets of a longer

period and more eccentric motion. Time and science have justified the conjectures and predictions of the Roman sage: the telescope has opened

new worlds to the eyes of astronomers; and, in the narrow space of

history and fable, one and the same comet is already found to have

revisited the earth in \_seven\_ equal revolutions of five hundred and

seventy-five years. The \_first\_, which ascends beyond the Christian æra

one thousand seven hundred and sixty-seven years, is coeval with Ogyges, the father of Grecian antiquity. And this appearance explains the tradition which Varro has preserved, that under his reign the planet

Venus changed her color, size, figure, and course; a prodigy without example either in past or succeeding ages. The \_second\_ visit, in the

year eleven hundred and ninety-three, is darkly implied in the fable of electra, the seventh of the Pleiads, who have been reduced to six since the time of the Trojan war. That nymph, the wife of Dardanus, was unable to support the ruin of her country: she abandoned the dances of her

sister orbs, fled from the zodiac to the north pole, and obtained, from her dishevelled locks, the name of the \_comet\_. The \_third\_ period expires in the year six hundred and eighteen, a date that exactly agrees with the tremendous comet of the Sibyl, and perhaps of Pliny, which arose in the West two generations before the reign of Cyrus. The

\_fourth\_ apparition, forty-four years before the birth of Christ, is of all others the most splendid and important. After the death of Cæsar, a

long-haired star was conspicuous to Rome and to the nations, during the

games which were exhibited by young Octavian in honor of Venus and his

uncle. The vulgar opinion, that it conveyed to heaven the divine soul of the dictator, was cherished and consecrated by the piety of a statesman; while his secret superstition referred the comet to the glory of his own times. The \_fifth\_ visit has been already ascribed to the fifth year of

Justinian, which coincides with the five hundred and thirty-first of the Christian æra. And it may deserve notice, that in this, as in the

preceding instance, the comet was followed, though at a longer interval, by a remarkable paleness of the sun. The \_sixth\_ return, in the year eleven hundred and six, is recorded by the chronicles of Europe and china: and in the first fervor of the crusades, the Christians and the Mahometans might surmise, with equal reason, that it portended the destruction of the Infidels. The \_seventh\_ phenomenon, of one thousand

six hundred and eighty, was presented to the eyes of an enlightened age. the philosophy of Bayle dispelled a prejudice which Milton's muse had

so recently adorned, that the comet, "from its horrid hair shakes

pestilence and war." Its road in the heavens was observed with exquisite

skill by Flamstead and Cassini: and the mathematical science of bernoulli, Newton, and Halley, investigated the laws of its

revolutions. At the \_eighth\_ period, in the year two thousand three

hundred and fifty-five, their calculations may perhaps be verified by the astronomers of some future capital in the Siberian or American wilderness.

II. The near approach of a comet may injure or destroy the globe which we inhabit; but the changes on its surface have been hitherto produced by the action of volcanoes and earthquakes. The nature of the soil may

indicate the countries most exposed to these formidable concussions,

since they are caused by subterraneous fires, and such fires are kindled by the union and fermentation of iron and sulphur. But their times and effects appear to lie beyond the reach of human curiosity; and the

philosopher will discreetly abstain from the prediction of earthquakes, till he has counted the drops of water that silently filtrate on the inflammable mineral, and measured the caverns which increase by

resistance the explosion of the imprisoned air. Without assigning the cause, history will distinguish the periods in which these calamitous events have been rare or frequent, and will observe, that this fever of the earth raged with uncommon violence during the reign of Justinian. each year is marked by the repetition of earthquakes, of such duration, that Constantinople has been shaken above forty days; of such extent, that the shock has been communicated to the whole surface of the globe,

or at least of the Roman empire. An impulsive or vibratory motion was felt: enormous chasms were opened, huge and heavy bodies were discharged

into the air, the sea alternately advanced and retreated beyond its

ordinary bounds, and a mountain was torn from Libanus, and cast into the waves, where it protected, as a mole, the new harbor of Botrys

in Phnicia. The stroke that agitates an ant-hill may crush the

insect-myriads in the dust; yet truth must extort confession that man

has industriously labored for his own destruction. The institution of

great cities, which include a nation within the limits of a wall, almost

realizes the wish of Caligula, that the Roman people had but one neck. two hundred and fifty thousand persons are said to have perished in the earthquake of Antioch, whose domestic multitudes were swelled by the conflux of strangers to the festival of the Ascension. The loss of berytus was of smaller account, but of much greater value. That city,

on the coast of Phnicia, was illustrated by the study of the civil

law, which opened the surest road to wealth and dignity: the schools of berytus were filled with the rising spirits of the age, and many a youth was lost in the earthquake, who might have lived to be the scourge or the guardian of his country. In these disasters, the architect becomes the enemy of mankind. The hut of a savage, or the tent of an Arab, may be thrown down without injury to the inhabitant; and the Peruvians had

reason to deride the folly of their Spanish conquerors, who with so

much cost and labor erected their own sepulchres. The rich marbles of a

patrician are dashed on his own head: a whole people is buried under the

ruins of public and private edifices, and the conflagration is kindled and propagated by the innumerable fires which are necessary for the

subsistence and manufactures of a great city. Instead of the mutual

sympathy which might comfort and assist the distressed, they dreadfully experience the vices and passions which are released from the fear

of punishment: the tottering houses are pillaged by intrepid avarice;

revenge embraces the moment, and selects the victim; and the earth often

swallows the assassin, or the ravisher, in the consummation of their crimes. Superstition involves the present danger with invisible terrors; and if the image of death may sometimes be subservient to the virtue or

repentance of individuals, an affrighted people is more forcibly moved to expect the end of the world, or to deprecate with servile homage the wrath of an avenging Deity.

III. Æthiopia and Egypt have been stigmatized, in every age, as the

original source and seminary of the plague. In a damp, hot, stagnating air, this African fever is generated from the putrefaction of animal

substances, and especially from the swarms of locusts, not less destructive to mankind in their death than in their lives. The fatal disease which depopulated the earth in the time of Justinian and his

successors, first appeared in the neighborhood of Pelusium, between the

Serbonian bog and the eastern channel of the Nile. From thence, tracing as it were a double path, it spread to the East, over Syria, Persia, and the Indies, and penetrated to the West, along the coast of Africa, and over the continent of Europe. In the spring of the second year, constantinople, during three or four months, was visited by the

pestilence; and Procopius, who observed its progress and symptoms with the eyes of a physician, has emulated the skill and diligence of thucydides in the description of the plague of Athens. The infection was sometimes announced by the visions of a distempered fancy, and the

victim despaired as soon as he had heard the menace and felt the stroke

of an invisible spectre. But the greater number, in their beds, in the

streets, in their usual occupation, were surprised by a slight fever; so

slight, indeed, that neither the pulse nor the color of the patient

gave any signs of the approaching danger. The same, the next, or the succeeding day, it was declared by the swelling of the glands,

particularly those of the groin, of the armpits, and under the ear; and when these buboes or tumors were opened, they were found to contain a

\_coal\_, or black substance, of the size of a lentil. If they came to a

just swelling and suppuration, the patient was saved by this kind and

natural discharge of the morbid humor. But if they continued hard and dry, a mortification quickly ensued, and the fifth day was commonly the term of his life. The fever was often accompanied with lethargy or delirium; the bodies of the sick were covered with black pustules or carbuncles, the symptoms of immediate death; and in the constitutions too feeble to produce an irruption, the vomiting of blood was followed by a mortification of the bowels. To pregnant women the plague was

generally mortal: yet one infant was drawn alive from his dead mother, and three mothers survived the loss of their infected ftus. Youth was the most perilous season; and the female sex was less susceptible than the male: but every rank and profession was attacked with indiscriminate

rage, and many of those who escaped were deprived of the use of their speech, without being secure from a return of the disorder. The

physicians of Constantinople were zealous and skilful; but their art was baffled by the various symptoms and pertinacious vehemence of the disease: the same remedies were productive of contrary effects, and the event capriciously disappointed their prognostics of death or recovery. the order of funerals, and the right of sepulchres, were confounded: those who were left without friends or servants, lay unburied in the

streets, or in their desolate houses; and a magistrate was authorized to collect the promiscuous heaps of dead bodies, to transport them by land

or water, and to inter them in deep pits beyond the precincts of the city. Their own danger, and the prospect of public distress, awakened

some remorse in the minds of the most vicious of mankind: the confidence

of health again revived their passions and habits; but philosophy must disdain the observation of Procopius, that the lives of such men were

guarded by the peculiar favor of fortune or Providence. He forgot, or

perhaps he secretly recollected, that the plague had touched the

person of Justinian himself; but the abstemious diet of the emperor may

suggest, as in the case of Socrates, a more rational and honorable cause for his recovery. During his sickness, the public consternation was expressed in the habits of the citizens; and their idleness and despondence occasioned a general scarcity in the capital of the East.

contagion is the inseparable symptom of the plague; which, by mutual

respiration, is transfused from the infected persons to the lungs and

stomach of those who approach them. While philosophers believe and tremble, it is singular, that the existence of a real danger should have been denied by a people most prone to vain and imaginary terrors. Yet the fellow-citizens of Procopius were satisfied, by some short and

partial experience, that the infection could not be gained by the closest conversation: and this persuasion might support the assiduity

of friends or physicians in the care of the sick, whom inhuman prudence would have condemned to solitude and despair. But the fatal security,

like the predestination of the Turks, must have aided the progress

of the contagion; and those salutary precautions to which Europe is

indebted for her safety, were unknown to the government of Justinian.

No restraints were imposed on the free and frequent intercourse of the

Roman provinces: from Persia to France, the nations were mingled and

infected by wars and emigrations; and the pestilential odor which lurks for years in a bale of cotton was imported, by the abuse of trade, into the most distant regions. The mode of its propagation is explained by the remark of Procopius himself, that it always spread from the

sea-coast to the inland country: the most sequestered islands and

mountains were successively visited; the places which had escaped the fury of its first passage were alone exposed to the contagion of the ensuing year. The winds might diffuse that subtile venom; but unless the atmosphere be previously disposed for its reception, the plague would

soon expire in the cold or temperate climates of the earth. Such was the

universal corruption of the air, that the pestilence which burst forth

in the fifteenth year of Justinian was not checked or alleviated by any difference of the seasons. In time, its first malignity was abated and dispersed; the disease alternately languished and revived; but it was

not till the end of a calamitous period of fifty-two years, that mankind

recovered their health, or the air resumed its pure and salubrious

quality. No facts have been preserved to sustain an account, or even a conjecture, of the numbers that perished in this extraordinary

mortality. I only find, that during three months, five, and at length ten, thousand persons died each day at Constantinople; that many cities

of the East were left vacant, and that in several districts of Italy the

harvest and the vintage withered on the ground. The triple scourge of war, pestilence, and famine, afflicted the subjects of Justinian; and

his reign is disgraced by the visible decrease of the human species, which has never been repaired in some of the fairest countries of the

globe.

chapter XLIV: Idea Of The Roman Jurisprudence.--Part I.

Idea Of The Roman Jurisprudence.--The Laws Of The Kings--The

Twelve Of The Decemvirs.--The Laws Of The People.--The

Decrees Of The Senate.--The Edicts Of The Magistrates And

Emperors--Authority Of The Civilians.--Code, Pandects,

Novels, And Institutes Of Justinian:--I. Rights Of Persons.--

II. Rights Of Things.--III. Private Injuries And Actions.--

IV. Crimes And Punishments.

the vain titles of the victories of Justinian are crumbled into dust; but the name of the legislator is inscribed on a fair and everlasting

monument. Under his reign, and by his care, the civil jurisprudence was digested in the immortal works of the Code, the Pandects, and the Institutes: the public reason of the Romans has been silently or

studiously transfused into the domestic institutions of Europe,, and the

laws of Justinian still command the respect or obedience of independent

nations. Wise or fortunate is the prince who connects his own reputation with the honor or interest of a perpetual order of men. The defence of their founder is the first cause, which in every age has exercised the zeal and industry of the civilians. They piously commemorate his

virtues; dissemble or deny his failings; and fiercely chastise the guilt

or folly of the rebels, who presume to sully the majesty of the purple. the idolatry of love has provoked, as it usually happens, the rancor

of opposition; the character of Justinian has been exposed to the blind

vehemence of flattery and invective; and the injustice of a sect (the

\_Anti-Tribonians\_,) has refused all praise and merit to the prince, his

ministers, and his laws. Attached to no party, interested only for the truth and candor of history, and directed by the most temperate and

skilful guides, I enter with just diffidence on the subject of civil

law, which has exhausted so many learned lives, and clothed the walls of

such spacious libraries. In a single, if possible in a short, chapter,

I shall trace the Roman jurisprudence from Romulus to Justinian, appreciate the labors of that emperor, and pause to contemplate the

principles of a science so important to the peace and happiness of

society. The laws of a nation form the most instructive portion of its

history; and although I have devoted myself to write the annals of a declining monarchy, I shall embrace the occasion to breathe the pure and

invigorating air of the republic.

the primitive government of Rome was composed, with some political

skill, of an elective king, a council of nobles, and a general assembly

of the people. War and religion were administered by the supreme

magistrate; and he alone proposed the laws, which were debated in the

senate, and finally ratified or rejected by a majority of votes in the thirty \_curi\_ or parishes of the city. Romulus, Numa, and Servius tullius, are celebrated as the most ancient legislators; and each

of them claims his peculiar part in the threefold division of

jurisprudence. The laws of marriage, the education of children, and the authority of parents, which may seem to draw their origin from \_nature\_

itself, are ascribed to the untutored wisdom of Romulus. The law of

\_nations\_ and of religious worship, which Numa introduced, was derived from his nocturnal converse with the nymph Egeria. The \_civil\_ law is attributed to the experience of Servius: he balanced the rights and fortunes of the seven classes of citizens; and guarded, by fifty new

regulations, the observance of contracts and the punishment of crimes. the state, which he had inclined towards a democracy, was changed by the

last Tarquin into a lawless despotism; and when the kingly office was abolished, the patricians engrossed the benefits of freedom. The royal

laws became odious or obsolete; the mysterious deposit was silently

preserved by the priests and nobles; and at the end of sixty years, the citizens of Rome still complained that they were ruled by the arbitrary

sentence of the magistrates. Yet the positive institutions of the kings

had blended themselves with the public and private manners of the city,

some fragments of that venerable jurisprudence were compiled by the diligence of antiquarians, and above twenty texts still speak the

rudeness of the Pelasgic idiom of the Latins.

I shall not repeat the well-known story of the Decemvirs, who sullied by their actions the honor of inscribing on brass, or wood, or ivory, the twelve Tables of the Roman laws. They were dictated by the rigid and

jealous spirit of an aristocracy, which had yielded with reluctance to the just demands of the people. But the substance of the Twelve Tables was adapted to the state of the city; and the Romans had emerged from Barbarism, since they were capable of studying and embracing the

institutions of their more enlightened neighbors. A wise Ephesian was driven by envy from his native country: before he could reach the shores

of Latium, he had observed the various forms of human nature and civil

society: he imparted his knowledge to the legislators of Rome, and a

statue was erected in the forum to the perpetual memory of Hermodorus. the names and divisions of the copper money, the sole coin of the

infant state, were of Dorian origin: the harvests of Campania and Sicily

relieved the wants of a people whose agriculture was often interrupted by war and faction; and since the trade was established, the deputies who sailed from the Tyber might return from the same harbors with a more

precious cargo of political wisdom. The colonies of Great Greece had transported and improved the arts of their mother country. Cumæ and

Rhegium, Crotona and Tarentum, Agrigentum and Syracuse, were in the

rank of the most flourishing cities. The disciples of Pythagoras applied

philosophy to the use of government; the unwritten laws of Charondas accepted the aid of poetry and music, and Zaleucus framed the republic

of the Locrians, which stood without alteration above two hundred years. from a similar motive of national pride, both Livy and Dionysius are willing to believe, that the deputies of Rome visited Athens under the wise and splendid administration of Pericles; and the laws of Solon were transfused into the twelve tables. If such an embassy had indeed been

received from the Barbarians of Hesperia, the Roman name would have been familiar to the Greeks before the reign of Alexander; and the faintest evidence would have been explored and celebrated by the curiosity of

succeeding times. But the Athenian monuments are silent; nor will it

seem credible that the patricians should undertake a long and perilous

navigation to copy the purest model of democracy. In the comparison of the tables of Solon with those of the Decemvirs, some casual resemblance

may be found; some rules which nature and reason have revealed to every

society; some proofs of a common descent from Egypt or Phnicia. But in all the great lines of public and private jurisprudence, the legislators

of Rome and Athens appear to be strangers or adverse at each other.

chapter XLIV: Idea Of The Roman Jurisprudence.--Part II.

whatever might be the origin or the merit of the twelve tables, they

obtained among the Romans that blind and partial reverence which the lawyers of every country delight to bestow on their municipal

institutions. The study is recommended by Cicero as equally pleasant and

instructive. "They amuse the mind by the remembrance of old words and the portrait of ancient manners; they inculcate the soundest principles

of government and morals; and I am not afraid to affirm, that the brief composition of the Decemvirs surpasses in genuine value the libraries of

Grecian philosophy. How admirable," says Tully, with honest or affected

prejudice, "is the wisdom of our ancestors! We alone are the masters of civil prudence, and our superiority is the more conspicuous, if we deign to cast our eyes on the rude and almost ridiculous jurisprudence of draco, of Solon, and of Lycurgus." The twelve tables were committed to the memory of the young and the meditation of the old; they were transcribed and illustrated with learned diligence; they had escaped the flames of the Gauls, they subsisted in the age of Justinian, and their

subsequent loss has been imperfectly restored by the labors of modern critics. But although these venerable monuments were considered as the

rule of right and the fountain of justice, they were overwhelmed by the weight and variety of new laws, which, at the end of five centuries, became a grievance more intolerable than the vices of the city. Three thousand brass plates, the acts of the senate of the people, were deposited in the Capitol: and some of the acts, as the Julian law against extortion, surpassed the number of a hundred chapters. The decemvirs had neglected to import the sanction of Zaleucus, which so

long maintained the integrity of his republic. A Locrian, who proposed any new law, stood forth in the assembly of the people with a cord

round his neck, and if the law was rejected, the innovator was instantly

strangled.

the Decemvirs had been named, and their tables were approved, by an assembly of the \_centuries\_, in which riches preponderated against

numbers. To the first class of Romans, the proprietors of one hundred thousand pounds of copper, ninety-eight votes were assigned, and

only ninety-five were left for the six inferior classes, distributed according to their substance by the artful policy of Servius. But the tribunes soon established a more specious and popular maxim, that every citizen has an equal right to enact the laws which he is bound to

obey. Instead of the \_centuries\_, they convened the \_tribes\_; and the

patricians, after an impotent struggle, submitted to the decrees of an assembly, in which their votes were confounded with those of the meanest

plebeians. Yet as long as the tribes successively passed over narrow

\_bridges\_ and gave their voices aloud, the conduct of each citizen was exposed to the eyes and ears of his friends and countrymen. The

insolvent debtor consulted the wishes of his creditor; the client would

have blushed to oppose the views of his patron; the general was followed by his veterans, and the aspect of a grave magistrate was a living

lesson to the multitude. A new method of secret ballot abolished the

influence of fear and shame, of honor and interest, and the abuse of freedom accelerated the progress of anarchy and despotism. The

Romans had aspired to be equal; they were levelled by the equality of

servitude; and the dictates of Augustus were patiently ratified by the formal consent of the tribes or centuries. Once, and once only,

he experienced a sincere and strenuous opposition. His subjects had

resigned all political liberty; they defended the freedom of domestic

life. A law which enforced the obligation, and strengthened the bonds

of marriage, was clamorously rejected; Propertius, in the arms of Delia, applauded the victory of licentious love; and the project of reform was

suspended till a new and more tractable generation had arisen in the world. Such an example was not necessary to instruct a prudent usurper

of the mischief of popular assemblies; and their abolition, which augustus had silently prepared, was accomplished without resistance, and almost without notice, on the accession of his successor. Sixty thousand

plebeian legislators, whom numbers made formidable, and poverty secure, were supplanted by six hundred senators, who held their honors, their fortunes, and their lives, by the clemency of the emperor. The loss of executive power was alleviated by the gift of legislative authority; and

Ulpian might assert, after the practice of two hundred years, that the decrees of the senate obtained the force and validity of laws. In the times of freedom, the resolves of the people had often been dictated by the passion or error of the moment: the Cornelian, Pompeian, and Julian

laws were adapted by a single hand to the prevailing disorders; but the

senate, under the reign of the Cæsars, was composed of magistrates and

lawyers, and in questions of private jurisprudence, the integrity of their judgment was seldom perverted by fear or interest.

the silence or ambiguity of the laws was supplied by the occasional edicts of those magistrates who were invested with the \_honors\_ of the

state. This ancient prerogative of the Roman kings was transferred, in their respective offices, to the consuls and dictators, the censors and

prætors; and a similar right was assumed by the tribunes of the people, the ediles, and the proconsuls. At Rome, and in the provinces, the duties of the subject, and the intentions of the governor, were

proclaimed; and the civil jurisprudence was reformed by the annual edicts of the supreme judge, the prætor of the city. As soon as he ascended his tribunal, he announced by the voice of the crier, and afterwards inscribed on a white wall, the rules which he proposed to follow in the decision of doubtful cases, and the relief which his equity would afford from the precise rigor of ancient statutes. A

principle of discretion more congenial to monarchy was introduced into the republic: the art of respecting the name, and eluding the efficacy,

of the laws, was improved by successive prætors; subtleties and fictions were invented to defeat the plainest meaning of the Decemvirs, and where the end was salutary, the means were frequently absurd. The secret or

probable wish of the dead was suffered to prevail over the order of

succession and the forms of testaments; and the claimant, who was excluded from the character of heir, accepted with equal pleasure from an indulgent prætor the possession of the goods of his late kinsman or benefactor. In the redress of private wrongs, compensations and fines were substituted to the obsolete rigor of the Twelve Tables; time and

space were annihilated by fanciful suppositions; and the plea of

youth, or fraud, or violence, annulled the obligation, or excused the

performance, of an inconvenient contract. A jurisdiction thus vague and arbitrary was exposed to the most dangerous abuse: the substance, as well as the form, of justice were often sacrificed to the prejudices of

virtue, the bias of laudable affection, and the grosser seductions of

interest or resentment. But the errors or vices of each prætor expired with his annual office; such maxims alone as had been approved by reason and practice were copied by succeeding judges; the rule of proceeding was defined by the solution of new cases; and the temptations of

injustice were removed by the Cornelian law, which compelled the

prætor of the year to adhere to the spirit and letter of his first

proclamation. It was reserved for the curiosity and learning of Adrian, to accomplish the design which had been conceived by the genius of cæsar; and the prætorship of Salvius Julian, an eminent lawyer, was immortalized by the composition of the Perpetual Edict. This well-digested code was ratified by the emperor and the senate; the long divorce of law and equity was at length reconciled; and, instead of the twelve Tables, the perpetual edict was fixed as the invariable standard

of civil jurisprudence.

from Augustus to Trajan, the modest Cæsars were content to promulgate their edicts in the various characters of a Roman magistrate; and, in the decrees of the senate, the \_epistles\_ and \_orations\_ of the prince were respectfully inserted. Adrian appears to have been the first who assumed, without disguise, the plenitude of legislative power. And this

innovation, so agreeable to his active mind, was countenanced by the

patience of the times, and his long absence from the seat of government. the same policy was embraced by succeeding monarchs, and, according to the harsh metaphor of Tertullian, "the gloomy and intricate forest

of ancient laws was cleared away by the axe of royal mandates and

\_constitutions\_." During four centuries, from Adrian to Justinian the public and private jurisprudence was moulded by the will of the

sovereign; and few institutions, either human or divine, were permitted to stand on their former basis. The origin of Imperial legislation was concealed by the darkness of ages and the terrors of armed despotism; and a double fiction was propagated by the servility, or perhaps the

ignorance, of the civilians, who basked in the sunshine of the Roman and byzantine courts. 1. To the prayer of the ancient Cæsars, the people

or the senate had sometimes granted a personal exemption from the

obligation and penalty of particular statutes; and each indulgence was an act of jurisdiction exercised by the republic over the first of

her citizens. His humble privilege was at length transformed into the

prerogative of a tyrant; and the Latin expression of "released from the

laws" was supposed to exalt the emperor above \_all\_ human restraints, and to leave his conscience and reason as the sacred measure of his conduct. 2. A similar dependence was implied in the decrees of the

senate, which, in every reign, defined the titles and powers of an elective magistrate. But it was not before the ideas, and even the

language, of the Romans had been corrupted, that a \_royal\_ law, and an

irrevocable gift of the people, were created by the fancy of Ulpian, or

more probably of Tribonian himself; and the origin of Imperial power, though false in fact, and slavish in its consequence, was supported on a principle of freedom and justice. "The pleasure of the emperor has the

vigor and effect of law, since the Roman people, by the royal law,

have transferred to their prince the full extent of their own power and

sovereignty." The will of a single man, of a child perhaps, was allowed to prevail over the wisdom of ages and the inclinations of millions; and the degenerate Greeks were proud to declare, that in his hands alone the arbitrary exercise of legislation could be safely deposited. "What

interest or passion," exclaims Theophilus in the court of Justinian,

"can reach the calm and sublime elevation of the monarch? He is already

master of the lives and fortunes of his subjects; and those who have

incurred his displeasure are already numbered with the dead." Disdaining the language of flattery, the historian may confess, that in questions

of private jurisprudence, the absolute sovereign of a great empire can

seldom be influenced by any personal considerations. Virtue, or even

reason, will suggest to his impartial mind, that he is the guardian

of peace and equity, and that the interest of society is inseparably connected with his own. Under the weakest and most vicious reign, the

seat of justice was filled by the wisdom and integrity of Papinian and

Ulpian; and the purest materials of the Code and Pandects are inscribed with the names of Caracalla and his ministers. The tyrant of Rome was

sometimes the benefactor of the provinces. A dagger terminated the crimes of Domitian; but the prudence of Nerva confirmed his acts, which,

in the joy of their deliverance, had been rescinded by an indignant

senate. Yet in the \_rescripts\_, replies to the consultations of the

magistrates, the wisest of princes might be deceived by a partial exposition of the case. And this abuse, which placed their hasty decisions on the same level with mature and deliberate acts of

legislation, was ineffectually condemned by the sense and example of trajan. The \_rescripts\_ of the emperor, his \_grants\_ and \_decrees\_, his

\_edicts\_ and \_pragmatic sanctions\_, were subscribed in purple ink, and transmitted to the provinces as general or special laws, which the

magistrates were bound to execute, and the people to obey. But as their

number continually multiplied, the rule of obedience became each day

more doubtful and obscure, till the will of the sovereign was fixed and ascertained in the Gregorian, the Hermogenian, and the Theodosian codes.

\* The two first, of which some fragments have escaped, were framed by two private lawyers, to preserve the constitutions of the Pagan emperors from Adrian to Constantine. The third, which is still extant, was digested in sixteen books by the order of the younger Theodosius to consecrate the laws of the Christian princes from Constantine to his own

reign. But the three codes obtained an equal authority in the tribunals; and any act which was not included in the sacred deposit might be disregarded by the judge as spurious or obsolete.

chapter XLIV: Idea Of The Roman Jurisprudence.--Part III.

among savage nations, the want of letters is imperfectly supplied by the use of visible signs, which awaken attention, and perpetuate the

remembrance of any public or private transaction. The jurisprudence of the first Romans exhibited the scenes of a pantomime; the words were adapted to the gestures, and the slightest error or neglect in the

\_forms\_ of proceeding was sufficient to annul the \_substance\_ of the fairest claim. The communion of the marriage-life was denoted by the

necessary elements of fire and water; and the divorced wife resigned the bunch of keys, by the delivery of which she had been invested with the

government of the family. The manumission of a son, or a slave, was

performed by turning him round with a gentle blow on the cheek; a work was prohibited by the casting of a stone; prescription was interrupted by the breaking of a branch; the clinched fist was the symbol of a

pledge or deposit; the right hand was the gift of faith and confidence. the indenture of covenants was a broken straw; weights and scales were

introduced into every payment, and the heir who accepted a testament was

sometimes obliged to snap his fingers, to cast away his garments, and to

leap or dance with real or affected transport. If a citizen pursued any

stolen goods into a neighbor's house, he concealed his nakedness with a linen towel, and hid his face with a mask or basin, lest he should encounter the eyes of a virgin or a matron. In a civil action the

plaintiff touched the ear of his witness, seized his reluctant adversary by the neck, and implored, in solemn lamentation, the aid of his fellow-citizens. The two competitors grasped each other's hand as if they stood prepared for combat before the tribunal of the prætor; he commanded them to produce the object of the dispute; they went, they

returned with measured steps, and a clod of earth was cast at his feet to represent the field for which they contended. This occult science

of the words and actions of law was the inheritance of the pontiffs and patricians. Like the Chaldean astrologers, they announced to their clients the days of business and repose; these important trifles were

interwoven with the religion of Numa; and after the publication of the twelve Tables, the Roman people was still enslaved by the ignorance of

judicial proceedings. The treachery of some plebeian officers at length

revealed the profitable mystery: in a more enlightened age, the

legal actions were derided and observed; and the same antiquity which

sanctified the practice, obliterated the use and meaning of this

primitive language.

a more liberal art was cultivated, however, by the sage of Rome, who, in a stricter sense, may be considered as the authors of the civil law. The alteration of the idiom and manners of the Romans rendered the style

of the Twelve Tables less familiar to each rising generation, and the doubtful passages were imperfectly explained by the study of legal antiquarians. To define the ambiguities, to circumscribe the latitude, to apply the principles, to extend the consequences, to reconcile the

real or apparent contradictions, was a much nobler and more important task; and the province of legislation was silently invaded by the expounders of ancient statutes. Their subtle interpretations concurred with the equity of the prætor, to reform the tyranny of the darker ages:

however strange or intricate the means, it was the aim of artificial

jurisprudence to restore the simple dictates of nature and reason, and the skill of private citizens was usefully employed to undermine the

public institutions of their country. The revolution of almost one thousand years, from the Twelve Tables to the reign of Justinian, may be divided into three periods, almost equal in duration, and distinguished from each other by the mode of instruction and the character of the civilians. Pride and ignorance contributed, during the first period, to confine within narrow limits the science of the Roman law. On the public days of market or assembly, the masters of the art were seen walking

in the forum ready to impart the needful advice to the meanest of their fellow-citizens, from whose votes, on a future occasion, they might

solicit a grateful return. As their years and honors increased, they

seated themselves at home on a chair or throne, to expect with patient

gravity the visits of their clients, who at the dawn of day, from the town and country, began to thunder at their door. The duties of social

life, and the incidents of judicial proceeding, were the ordinary

subject of these consultations, and the verbal or written opinion of the

\_juris-consults\_ was framed according to the rules of prudence and law. the youths of their own order and family were permitted to listen; their children enjoyed the benefit of more private lessons, and the Mucian

race was long renowned for the hereditary knowledge of the civil law. the second period, the learned and splendid age of jurisprudence, may be extended from the birth of Cicero to the reign of Severus Alexander. a system was formed, schools were instituted, books were composed, and both the living and the dead became subservient to the instruction of the student. The \_tripartite\_ of Ælius Pætus, surnamed Catus, or the cunning, was preserved as the oldest work of Jurisprudence. Cato the censor derived some additional fame from his legal studies, and those

of his son: the kindred appellation of Mucius Scævola was illustrated by three sages of the law; but the perfection of the science was ascribed to Servius Sulpicius, their disciple, and the friend of Tully; and the

long succession, which shone with equal lustre under the republic and

under the Cæsars, is finally closed by the respectable characters of

Papinian, of Paul, and of Ulpian. Their names, and the various titles

of their productions, have been minutely preserved, and the example

of Labeo may suggest some idea of their diligence and fecundity. That eminent lawyer of the Augustan age divided the year between the city and country, between business and composition; and four hundred books are enumerated as the fruit of his retirement. Of the collection of his

rival Capito, the two hundred and fifty-ninth book is expressly quoted; and few teachers could deliver their opinions in less than a century

of volumes. In the third period, between the reigns of Alexander and

Justinian, the oracles of jurisprudence were almost mute. The measure

of curiosity had been filled: the throne was occupied by tyrants and barbarians, the active spirits were diverted by religious disputes, and the professors of Rome, Constantinople, and Berytus, were humbly content to repeat the lessons of their more enlightened predecessors. From the slow advances and rapid decay of these legal studies, it may be

inferred, that they require a state of peace and refinement. From the

multitude of voluminous civilians who fill the intermediate space, it

is evident that such studies may be pursued, and such works may be

performed, with a common share of judgment, experience, and industry. the genius of Cicero and Virgil was more sensibly felt, as each

revolving age had been found incapable of producing a similar or a

second: but the most eminent teachers of the law were assured of leaving disciples equal or superior to themselves in merit and reputation.

the jurisprudence which had been grossly adapted to the wants of the first Romans, was polished and improved in the seventh century of the city, by the alliance of Grecian philosophy. The Scævolas had been taught by use and experience; but Servius Sulpicius was the first civilian who established his art on a certain and general theory. For the discernment of truth and falsehood he applied, as an infallible

rule, the logic of Aristotle and the stoics, reduced particular cases to general principles, and diffused over the shapeless mass the light of

order and eloquence. Cicero, his contemporary and friend, declined the

reputation of a professed lawyer; but the jurisprudence of his country was adorned by his incomparable genius, which converts into gold every

object that it touches. After the example of Plato, he composed a

republic; and, for the use of his republic, a treatise of laws; in which

he labors to deduce from a celestial origin the wisdom and justice of the Roman constitution. The whole universe, according to his sublime

hypothesis, forms one immense commonwealth: gods and men, who

participate of the same essence, are members of the same community;

reason prescribes the law of nature and nations; and all positive

institutions, however modified by accident or custom, are drawn from the rule of right, which the Deity has inscribed on every virtuous mind. from these philosophical mysteries, he mildly excludes the sceptics who refuse to believe, and the epicureans who are unwilling to act. The

latter disdain the care of the republic: he advises them to slumber in their shady gardens. But he humbly entreats that the new academy would be silent, since her bold objections would too soon destroy the fair and well ordered structure of his lofty system. Plato, Aristotle, and Zeno,

he represents as the only teachers who arm and instruct a citizen for the duties of social life. Of these, the armor of the stoics was found to be of the firmest temper; and it was chiefly worn, both for use and

ornament, in the schools of jurisprudence. From the portico, the Roman civilians learned to live, to reason, and to die: but they imbibed

in some degree the prejudices of the sect; the love of paradox, the

pertinacious habits of dispute, and a minute attachment to words and verbal distinctions. The superiority of \_form\_ to \_matter\_ was

introduced to ascertain the right of property: and the equality of crimes is countenanced by an opinion of Trebatius, that he who touches the ear, touches the whole body; and that he who steals from a heap of corn, or a hogshead of wine, is guilty of the entire theft.

arms, eloquence, and the study of the civil law, promoted a citizen to the honors of the Roman state; and the three professions were

sometimes more conspicuous by their union in the same character. In the composition of the edict, a learned prætor gave a sanction and

preference to his private sentiments; the opinion of a censor, or a counsel, was entertained with respect; and a doubtful interpretation of the laws might be supported by the virtues or triumphs of the civilian. the patrician arts were long protected by the veil of mystery; and in

more enlightened times, the freedom of inquiry established the general

principles of jurisprudence. Subtile and intricate cases were elucidated by the disputes of the forum: rules, axioms, and definitions, were admitted as the genuine dictates of reason; and the consent of the legal

professors was interwoven into the practice of the tribunals. But these

interpreters could neither enact nor execute the laws of the republic; and the judges might disregard the authority of the Scævolas themselves, which was often overthrown by the eloquence or sophistry of an ingenious

pleader. Augustus and Tiberius were the first to adopt, as a useful engine, the science of the civilians; and their servile labors accommodated the old system to the spirit and views of despotism. Under the fair pretence of securing the dignity of the art, the privilege

of subscribing legal and valid opinions was confined to the sages of

senatorian or equestrian rank, who had been previously approved by the judgment of the prince; and this monopoly prevailed, till Adrian

restored the freedom of the profession to every citizen conscious of his abilities and knowledge. The discretion of the prætor was now governed by the lessons of his teachers; the judges were enjoined to obey the comment as well as the text of the law; and the use of codicils was a memorable innovation, which Augustus ratified by the advice of the civilians.

the most absolute mandate could only require that the judges should agree with the civilians, if the civilians agreed among themselves. But

positive institutions are often the result of custom and prejudice; laws and language are ambiguous and arbitrary; where reason is incapable of

pronouncing, the love of argument is inflamed by the envy of rivals, the vanity of masters, the blind attachment of their disciples; and the Roman jurisprudence was divided by the once famous sects of the

\_Proculians\_ and \_Sabinians\_. Two sages of the law, Ateius Capito and antistius Labeo, adorned the peace of the Augustan age; the former distinguished by the favor of his sovereign; the latter more illustrious by his contempt of that favor, and his stern though harmless opposition to the tyrant of Rome. Their legal studies were influenced by the

various colors of their temper and principles. Labeo was attached to the form of the old republic; his rival embraced the more profitable

substance of the rising monarchy. But the disposition of a courtier

is tame and submissive; and Capito seldom presumed to deviate from the

sentiments, or at least from the words, of his predecessors; while the bold republican pursued his independent ideas without fear of paradox or

innovations. The freedom of Labeo was enslaved, however, by the rigor of

his own conclusions, and he decided, according to the letter of the

law, the same questions which his indulgent competitor resolved with a latitude of equity more suitable to the common sense and feelings

of mankind. If a fair exchange had been substituted to the payment of

money, Capito still considered the transaction as a legal sale; and

he consulted nature for the age of puberty, without confining his definition to the precise period of twelve or fourteen years. This

opposition of sentiments was propagated in the writings and lessons

of the two founders; the schools of Capito and Labeo maintained their

inveterate conflict from the age of Augustus to that of Adrian; and the two sects derived their appellations from Sabinus and Proculus, their

most celebrated teachers. The names of \_Cassians\_ and \_Pegasians\_ were

likewise applied to the same parties; but, by a strange reverse, the

popular cause was in the hands of Pegasus, a timid slave of Domitian, while the favorite of the Cæsars was represented by Cassius, who gloried

in his descent from the patriot assassin. By the perpetual edict, the controversies of the sects were in a great measure determined. For that

important work, the emperor Adrian preferred the chief of the Sabinians: the friends of monarchy prevailed; but the moderation of Salvius

Julian insensibly reconciled the victors and the vanquished. Like the contemporary philosophers, the lawyers of the age of the Antonines disclaimed the authority of a master, and adopted from every system the most probable doctrines. But their writings would have been less

voluminous, had their choice been more unanimous. The conscience of the

judge was perplexed by the number and weight of discordant testimonies, and every sentence that his passion or interest might pronounce was

justified by the sanction of some venerable name. An indulgent edict

of the younger Theodosius excused him from the labor of comparing and weighing their arguments. Five civilians, Caius, Papinian, Paul, Ulpian, and Modestinus, were established as the oracles of jurisprudence: a

majority was decisive: but if their opinions were equally divided, a casting vote was ascribed to the superior wisdom of Papinian.

chapter XLIV: Idea Of The Roman Jurisprudence.--Part IV.

when Justinian ascended the throne, the reformation of the Roman

jurisprudence was an arduous but indispensable task. In the space of ten centuries, the infinite variety of laws and legal opinions had filled

many thousand volumes, which no fortune could purchase and no capacity could digest. Books could not easily be found; and the judges, poor in the midst of riches, were reduced to the exercise of their illiterate discretion. The subjects of the Greek provinces were ignorant of the language that disposed of their lives and properties; and the

\_barbarous\_ dialect of the Latins was imperfectly studied in the academies of Berytus and Constantinople. As an Illyrian soldier, that

idiom was familiar to the infancy of Justinian; his youth had been

instructed by the lessons of jurisprudence, and his Imperial choice

selected the most learned civilians of the East, to labor with their

sovereign in the work of reformation. The theory of professors was assisted by the practice of advocates, and the experience of

magistrates; and the whole undertaking was animated by the spirit of tribonian. This extraordinary man, the object of so much praise and censure, was a native of Side in Pamphylia; and his genius, like that of bacon, embraced, as his own, all the business and knowledge of the age. tribonian composed, both in prose and verse, on a strange diversity of curious and abstruse subjects: a double panegyric of Justinian and the life of the philosopher Theodotus; the nature of happiness and the duties of government; Homer's catalogue and the four-and-twenty sorts of

metre; the astronomical canon of Ptolemy; the changes of the months; the houses of the planets; and the harmonic system of the world. To the

literature of Greece he added the use of the Latin tongue; the Roman civilians were deposited in his library and in his mind; and he most assiduously cultivated those arts which opened the road of wealth and

preferment. From the bar of the Prætorian præfects, he raised himself to the honors of quæstor, of consul, and of master of the offices: the council of Justinian listened to his eloquence and wisdom; and envy was mitigated by the gentleness and affability of his manners. The

reproaches of impiety and avarice have stained the virtue or the

reputation of Tribonian. In a bigoted and persecuting court, the

principal minister was accused of a secret aversion to the Christian faith, and was supposed to entertain the sentiments of an Atheist and a Pagan, which have been imputed, inconsistently enough, to the last

philosophers of Greece. His avarice was more clearly proved and more

sensibly felt. If he were swayed by gifts in the administration of

justice, the example of Bacon will again occur; nor can the merit of tribonian atone for his baseness, if he degraded the sanctity of his

profession; and if laws were every day enacted, modified, or repealed, for the base consideration of his private emolument. In the sedition of constantinople, his removal was granted to the clamors, perhaps to the

just indignation, of the people: but the quæstor was speedily restored, and, till the hour of his death, he possessed, above twenty years, the favor and confidence of the emperor. His passive and dutiful submission

had been honored with the praise of Justinian himself, whose vanity was

incapable of discerning how often that submission degenerated into the

grossest adulation. Tribonian adored the virtues of his gracious of

his gracious master; the earth was unworthy of such a prince; and he affected a pious fear, that Justinian, like Elijah or Romulus, would be

snatched into the air, and translated alive to the mansions of celestial

glory.

If Cæsar had achieved the reformation of the Roman law, his creative

genius, enlightened by reflection and study, would have given to the world a pure and original system of jurisprudence. Whatever flattery

might suggest, the emperor of the East was afraid to establish his

private judgment as the standard of equity: in the possession of

legislative power, he borrowed the aid of time and opinion; and his

laborious compilations are guarded by the sages and legislature of past times. Instead of a statue cast in a simple mould by the hand of an artist, the works of Justinian represent a tessellated pavement of antique and costly, but too often of incoherent, fragments. In the first

year of his reign, he directed the faithful Tribonian, and nine learned associates, to revise the ordinances of his predecessors, as they were contained, since the time of Adrian, in the Gregorian Hermogenian, and theodosian codes; to purge the errors and contradictions, to retrench whatever was obsolete or superfluous, and to select the wise and

salutary laws best adapted to the practice of the tribunals and the use

of his subjects. The work was accomplished in fourteen months; and the twelve books or \_tables\_, which the new decemvirs produced, might be designed to imitate the labors of their Roman predecessors. The new code of Justinian was honored with his name, and confirmed by his royal

signature: authentic transcripts were multiplied by the pens of notaries and scribes; they were transmitted to the magistrates of the European, the Asiatic, and afterwards the African provinces; and the law of the empire was proclaimed on solemn festivals at the doors of churches. a more arduous operation was still behind--to extract the spirit of

jurisprudence from the decisions and conjectures, the questions and disputes, of the Roman civilians. Seventeen lawyers, with Tribonian at their head, were appointed by the emperor to exercise an absolute

jurisdiction over the works of their predecessors. If they had obeyed

his commands in ten years, Justinian would have been satisfied with their diligence; and the rapid composition of the Digest or Pandects, in three years, will deserve praise or censure, according to the merit of the execution. From the library of Tribonian, they chose forty, the most eminent civilians of former times: two thousand treatises were comprised

in an abridgment of fifty books; and it has been carefully recorded, that three millions of lines or sentences, were reduced, in this abstract, to the moderate number of one hundred and fifty thousand. the edition of this great work was delayed a month after that of the

Institutes; and it seemed reasonable that the elements should precede the digest of the Roman law. As soon as the emperor had approved their

labors, he ratified, by his legislative power, the speculations of these private citizens: their commentaries, on the twelve tables, the

perpetual edict, the laws of the people, and the decrees of the senate,

succeeded to the authority of the text; and the text was abandoned, as a useless, though venerable, relic of antiquity. The \_Code\_, the

\_Pandects\_, and the \_Institutes\_, were declared to be the legitimate

system of civil jurisprudence; they alone were admitted into the tribunals, and they alone were taught in the academies of Rome, constantinople, and Berytus. Justinian addressed to the senate and

provinces his \_eternal oracles\_; and his pride, under the mask of

piety, ascribed the consummation of this great design to the support and

inspiration of the Deity.

Since the emperor declined the fame and envy of original composition, we can only require, at his hands, method choice, and fidelity, the

humble, though indispensable, virtues of a compiler. Among the various combinations of ideas, it is difficult to assign any reasonable

preference; but as the order of Justinian is different in his three works, it is possible that all may be wrong; and it is certain that two cannot be right. In the selection of ancient laws, he seems to have

viewed his predecessors without jealousy, and with equal regard: the

series could not ascend above the reign of Adrian, and the narrow distinction of Paganism and Christianity, introduced by the superstition

of Theodosius, had been abolished by the consent of mankind. But the

jurisprudence of the Pandects is circumscribed within a period of a hundred years, from the perpetual edict to the death of Severus alexander: the civilians who lived under the first Cæsars are seldom

permitted to speak, and only three names can be attributed to the age of the republic. The favorite of Justinian (it has been fiercely urged) was fearful of encountering the light of freedom and the gravity of Roman

sages. Tribonian condemned to oblivion the genuine and native wisdom

of Cato, the Scævolas, and Sulpicius; while he invoked spirits more congenial to his own, the Syrians, Greeks, and Africans, who flocked to the Imperial court to study Latin as a foreign tongue, and jurisprudence as a lucrative profession. But the ministers of Justinian, were

instructed to labor, not for the curiosity of antiquarians, but for the immediate benefit of his subjects. It was their duty to select the

useful and practical parts of the Roman law; and the writings of the old

republicans, however curious on excellent, were no longer suited to the new system of manners, religion, and government. Perhaps, if the

preceptors and friends of Cicero were still alive, our candor would acknowledge, that, except in purity of language, their intrinsic merit was excelled by the school of Papinian and Ulpian. The science of the

laws is the slow growth of time and experience, and the advantage both of method and materials, is naturally assumed by the most recent authors. The civilians of the reign of the Antonines had studied the works of their predecessors: their philosophic spirit had mitigated the

rigor of antiquity, simplified the forms of proceeding, and emerged from the jealousy and prejudice of the rival sects. The choice of the authorities that compose the Pandects depended on the judgment of tribonian: but the power of his sovereign could not absolve him from the sacred obligations of truth and fidelity. As the legislator of the empire, Justinian might repeal the acts of the Antonines, or condemn, as

seditious, the free principles, which were maintained by the last of the

\_Roman\_ lawyers. But the existence of past facts is placed beyond the

reach of despotism; and the emperor was guilty of fraud and forgery, when he corrupted the integrity of their text, inscribed with their venerable names the words and ideas of his servile reign, and

suppressed, by the hand of power, the pure and authentic copies of their sentiments. The changes and interpolations of Tribonian and his colleagues are excused by the pretence of uniformity: but their cares

have been insufficient, and the \_antinomies\_, or contradictions of the code and Pandects, still exercise the patience and subtilty of modern civilians.

a rumor devoid of evidence has been propagated by the enemies of

Justinian; that the jurisprudence of ancient Rome was reduced to ashes by the author of the Pandects, from the vain persuasion, that it was now either false or superfluous. Without usurping an office so

invidious, the emperor might safely commit to ignorance and time the accomplishments of this destructive wish. Before the invention of

printing and paper, the labor and the materials of writing could be

purchased only by the rich; and it may reasonably be computed, that the price of books was a hundred fold their present value. Copies were

slowly multiplied and cautiously renewed: the hopes of profit tempted the sacrilegious scribes to erase the characters of antiquity, and

Sophocles or Tacitus were obliged to resign the parchment to missals,

homilies, and the golden legend. If such was the fate of the most beautiful compositions of genius, what stability could be expected for the dull and barren works of an obsolete science? The books of

jurisprudence were interesting to few, and entertaining to none: their

value was connected with present use, and they sunk forever as soon as that use was superseded by the innovations of fashion, superior merit,

or public authority. In the age of peace and learning, between Cicero and the last of the Antonines, many losses had been already sustained, and some luminaries of the school, or forum, were known only to the curious by tradition and report. Three hundred and sixty years of disorder and decay accelerated the progress of oblivion; and it may fairly be presumed, that of the writings, which Justinian is accused

of neglecting, many were no longer to be found in the libraries of the East. The copies of Papinian, or Ulpian, which the reformer had

proscribed, were deemed unworthy of future notice: the Twelve Tables and

prætorian edicts insensibly vanished, and the monuments of ancient Rome were neglected or destroyed by the envy and ignorance of the Greeks. even the Pandects themselves have escaped with difficulty and danger from the common shipwreck, and criticism has pronounced that \_all\_ the editions and manuscripts of the West are derived from \_one\_ original.

It was transcribed at Constantinople in the beginning of the seventh century, was successively transported by the accidents of war and commerce to Amalphi, Pisa, and Florence, and is now deposited as a

sacred relic in the ancient palace of the republic.

It is the first care of a reformer to prevent any future reformation. To

maintain the text of the Pandects, the Institutes, and the Code, the use

of ciphers and abbreviations was rigorously proscribed; and as Justinian

recollected, that the perpetual edict had been buried under the weight

of commentators, he denounced the punishment of forgery against the rash civilians who should presume to interpret or pervert the will of their

sovereign. The scholars of Accursius, of Bartolus, of Cujacius, should blush for their accumulated guilt, unless they dare to dispute his right

of binding the authority of his successors, and the native freedom of the mind. But the emperor was unable to fix his own inconstancy; and, while he boasted of renewing the exchange of Diomede, of transmuting brass into gold, discovered the necessity of purifying his gold from the

mixture of baser alloy. Six years had not elapsed from the publication

of the Code, before he condemned the imperfect attempt, by a new and

more accurate edition of the same work; which he enriched with two

hundred of his own laws, and fifty decisions of the darkest and

most intricate points of jurisprudence. Every year, or, according to Procopius, each day, of his long reign, was marked by some legal

innovation. Many of his acts were rescinded by himself; many were

rejected by his successors; many have been obliterated by time; but the

number of sixteen Edicts, and one hundred and sixty-eight Novels, has been admitted into the authentic body of the civil jurisprudence. In the

opinion of a philosopher superior to the prejudices of his profession, these incessant, and, for the most part, trifling alterations, can be

only explained by the venal spirit of a prince, who sold without shame

his judgments and his laws. The charge of the secret historian is indeed explicit and vehement; but the sole instance, which he produces, may be ascribed to the devotion as well as to the avarice of Justinian. A wealthy bigot had bequeathed his inheritance to the church of Emesa; and its value was enhanced by the dexterity of an artist, who subscribed confessions of debt and promises of payment with the names of the

richest Syrians. They pleaded the established prescription of thirty or forty years; but their defence was overruled by a retrospective edict, which extended the claims of the church to the term of a century; an edict so pregnant with injustice and disorder, that, after serving this

occasional purpose, it was prudently abolished in the same reign. If candor will acquit the emperor himself, and transfer the corruption to his wife and favorites, the suspicion of so foul a vice must still degrade the majesty of his laws; and the advocates of Justinian may acknowledge, that such levity, whatsoever be the motive, is unworthy of a legislator and a man.

Monarchs seldom condescend to become the preceptors of their subjects; and some praise is due to Justinian, by whose command an ample system was reduced to a short and elementary treatise. Among the various

institutes of the Roman law, those of Caius were the most popular in the east and West; and their use may be considered as an evidence of their merit. They were selected by the Imperial delegates, Tribonian, theophilus, and Dorotheus; and the freedom and purity of the Antonines was incrusted with the coarser materials of a degenerate age. The same

volume which introduced the youth of Rome, Constantinople, and Berytus, to the gradual study of the Code and Pandects, is still precious to the historian, the philosopher, and the magistrate. The Institutes

of Justinian are divided into four books: they proceed, with no contemptible method, from, I. \_Persons\_, to, II. \_Things\_, and from things, to, III. \_Actions\_; and the article IV., of \_Private Wrongs\_, is terminated by the principles of \_Criminal Law\_.

chapter XLIV: Idea Of The Roman Jurisprudence.--Part V.

the distinction of ranks and \_persons\_ is the firmest basis of a mixed and limited government. In France, the remains of liberty are kept alive by the spirit, the honors, and even the prejudices, of fifty thousand

nobles. Two hundred families supply, in lineal descent, the second branch of English legislature, which maintains, between the king and commons, the balance of the constitution. A gradation of patricians and

plebeians, of strangers and subjects, has supported the aristocracy

of Genoa, Venice, and ancient Rome. The perfect equality of men is the

point in which the extremes of democracy and despotism are confounded;

since the majesty of the prince or people would be offended, if any heads were exalted above the level of their fellow-slaves or fellow-citizens. In the decline of the Roman empire, the proud distinctions of the republic were gradually abolished, and the reason or

instinct of Justinian completed the simple form of an absolute monarchy. the emperor could not eradicate the popular reverence which always waits on the possession of hereditary wealth, or the memory of famous ancestors. He delighted to honor, with titles and emoluments, his

generals, magistrates, and senators; and his precarious indulgence communicated some rays of their glory to the persons of their wives and children. But in the eye of the law, all Roman citizens were equal, and all subjects of the empire were citizens of Rome. That inestimable character was degraded to an obsolete and empty name. The voice of a

Roman could no longer enact his laws, or create the annual ministers of

his power: his constitutional rights might have checked the arbitrary will of a master: and the bold adventurer from Germany or Arabia was admitted, with equal favor, to the civil and military command, which the citizen alone had been once entitled to assume over the conquests of his fathers. The first Cæsars had scrupulously guarded the distinction of

\_ingenuous\_ and \_servile\_ birth, which was decided by the condition of the mother; and the candor of the laws was satisfied, if her freedom could be ascertained, during a single moment, between the conception and the delivery. The slaves, who were liberated by a generous master,

immediately entered into the middle class of \_libertines\_ or freedmen; but they could never be enfranchised from the duties of obedience and

gratitude; whatever were the fruits of their industry, their patron and

his family inherited the third part; or even the whole of their fortune,

if they died without children and without a testament. Justinian

respected the rights of patrons; but his indulgence removed the badge of disgrace from the two inferior orders of freedmen; whoever ceased to be a slave, obtained, without reserve or delay, the station of a citizen; and at length the dignity of an ingenuous birth, which nature had

refused, was created, or supposed, by the omnipotence of the emperor. whatever restraints of age, or forms, or numbers, had been formerly

introduced to check the abuse of manumissions, and the too rapid

increase of vile and indigent Romans, he finally abolished; and the

spirit of his laws promoted the extinction of domestic servitude.

Yet the eastern provinces were filled, in the time of Justinian, with

multitudes of slaves, either born or purchased for the use of their

masters; and the price, from ten to seventy pieces of gold, was determined by their age, their strength, and their education. But the

hardships of this dependent state were continually diminished by the

influence of government and religion: and the pride of a subject was no

longer elated by his absolute dominion over the life and happiness of

his bondsman.

the law of nature instructs most animals to cherish and educate their

infant progeny. The law of reason inculcates to the human species the

returns of filial piety. But the exclusive, absolute, and perpetual dominion of the father over his children, is peculiar to the Roman

jurisprudence, and seems to be coeval with the foundation of the city. the paternal power was instituted or confirmed by Romulus himself; and, after the practice of three centuries, it was inscribed on the fourth table of the Decemvirs. In the forum, the senate, or the camp, the adult son of a Roman citizen enjoyed the public and private rights of a

\_person\_: in his father's house he was a mere \_thing\_; confounded by the

laws with the movables, the cattle, and the slaves, whom the capricious

master might alienate or destroy, without being responsible to any earthly tribunal. The hand which bestowed the daily sustenance might

resume the voluntary gift, and whatever was acquired by the labor or fortune of the son was immediately lost in the property of the father.

His stolen goods (his oxen or his children) might be recovered by the

same action of theft; and if either had been guilty of a trespass, it was in his own option to compensate the damage, or resign to the injured

party the obnoxious animal. At the call of indigence or avarice, the

master of a family could dispose of his children or his slaves. But the condition of the slave was far more advantageous, since he regained, by the first manumission, his alienated freedom: the son was again restored to his unnatural father; he might be condemned to servitude a second and a third time, and it was not till after the third sale and deliverance, that he was enfranchised from the domestic power which had been so

repeatedly abused. According to his discretion, a father might chastise the real or imaginary faults of his children, by stripes, by

imprisonment, by exile, by sending them to the country to work in chains among the meanest of his servants. The majesty of a parent was armed with the power of life and death; and the examples of such bloody executions, which were sometimes praised and never punished, may be traced in the annals of Rome beyond the times of Pompey and Augustus.

Neither age, nor rank, nor the consular office, nor the honors of a triumph, could exempt the most illustrious citizen from the bonds of filial subjection: his own descendants were included in the family of their common ancestor; and the claims of adoption were not less sacred

or less rigorous than those of nature. Without fear, though not without danger of abuse, the Roman legislators had reposed an unbounded confidence in the sentiments of paternal love; and the oppression was tempered by the assurance that each generation must succeed in its turn to the awful dignity of parent and master.

the first limitation of paternal power is ascribed to the justice and

humanity of Numa; and the maid who, with \_his\_ father's consent, had espoused a freeman, was protected from the disgrace of becoming the wife of a slave. In the first ages, when the city was pressed, and often famished, by her Latin and Tuscan neighbors, the sale of children might be a frequent practice; but as a Roman could not legally purchase the

liberty of his fellow-citizen, the market must gradually fail, and the trade would be destroyed by the conquests of the republic. An imperfect

right of property was at length communicated to sons; and the threefold distinction of \_profectitious\_, \_adventitious\_, and \_professional\_ was ascertained by the jurisprudence of the Code and Pandects. Of all that

proceeded from the father, he imparted only the use, and reserved the absolute dominion; yet if his goods were sold, the filial portion was excepted, by a favorable interpretation, from the demands of the creditors. In whatever accrued by marriage, gift, or collateral

succession, the property was secured to the son; but the father, unless

he had been specially excluded, enjoyed the usufruct during his life. as a just and prudent reward of military virtue, the spoils of the enemy were acquired, possessed, and bequeathed by the soldier alone; and the fair analogy was extended to the emoluments of any liberal profession, the salary of public service, and the sacred liberality of the emperor

or empress. The life of a citizen was less exposed than his fortune to the abuse of paternal power. Yet his life might be adverse to the

interest or passions of an unworthy father: the same crimes that flowed from the corruption, were more sensibly felt by the humanity, of the augustan age; and the cruel Erixo, who whipped his son till he expired, was saved by the emperor from the just fury of the multitude. The Roman father, from the license of servile dominion, was reduced to the

gravity and moderation of a judge. The presence and opinion of Augustus confirmed the sentence of exile pronounced against an intentional

parricide by the domestic tribunal of Arius. Adrian transported to an island the jealous parent, who, like a robber, had seized the

opportunity of hunting, to assassinate a youth, the incestuous lover of

his step-mother. A private jurisdiction is repugnant to the spirit of

monarchy; the parent was again reduced from a judge to an accuser; and the magistrates were enjoined by Severus Alexander to hear his complaints and execute his sentence. He could no longer take the life

of a son without incurring the guilt and punishment of murder; and the

pains of parricide, from which he had been excepted by the Pompeian

law, were finally inflicted by the justice of Constantine. The same

protection was due to every period of existence; and reason must applaud the humanity of Paulus, for imputing the crime of murder to the father who strangles, or starves, or abandons his new-born infant; or exposes

him in a public place to find the mercy which he himself had denied. but the exposition of children was the prevailing and stubborn vice of antiquity: it was sometimes prescribed, often permitted, almost always

practised with impunity, by the nations who never entertained the Roman

ideas of paternal power; and the dramatic poets, who appeal to the human

heart, represent with indifference a popular custom which was palliated by the motives of economy and compassion. If the father could subdue

his own feelings, he might escape, though not the censure, at least the chastisement, of the laws; and the Roman empire was stained with the blood of infants, till such murders were included, by Valentinian and

his colleagues, in the letter and spirit of the Cornelian law. The

lessons of jurisprudence and Christianity had been insufficient to eradicate this inhuman practice, till their gentle influence was fortified by the terrors of capital punishment.

experience has proved, that savages are the tyrants of the female sex, and that the condition of women is usually softened by the refinements

of social life. In the hope of a robust progeny, Lycurgus had delayed the season of marriage: it was fixed by Numa at the tender age of twelve

years, that the Roman husband might educate to his will a pure and

obedient virgin. According to the custom of antiquity, he bought his bride of her parents, and she fulfilled the \_coemption\_ by purchasing, with three pieces of copper, a just introduction to his house and

household deities. A sacrifice of fruits was offered by the pontiffs in the presence of ten witnesses; the contracting parties were seated on the same sheep-skin; they tasted a salt cake of \_far\_ or rice; and this

\_confarreation\_, which denoted the ancient food of Italy, served as an emblem of their mystic union of mind and body. But this union on the

side of the woman was rigorous and unequal; and she renounced the name and worship of her father's house, to embrace a new servitude, decorated

only by the title of adoption, a fiction of the law, neither rational

nor elegant, bestowed on the mother of a family (her proper appellation) the strange characters of sister to her own children, and of daughter to

her husband or master, who was invested with the plenitude of paternal

power. By his judgment or caprice her behavior was approved, or censured, or chastised; he exercised the jurisdiction of life and death; and it was allowed, that in the cases of adultery or drunkenness, the

sentence might be properly inflicted. She acquired and inherited for the sole profit of her lord; and so clearly was woman defined, not as a

\_person\_, but as a \_thing\_, that, if the original title were deficient,

she might be claimed, like other movables, by the use and possession

of an entire year. The inclination of the Roman husband discharged or withheld the conjugal debt, so scrupulously exacted by the Athenian and

Jewish laws: but as polygamy was unknown, he could never admit to his bed a fairer or a more favored partner.

after the Punic triumphs, the matrons of Rome aspired to the common benefits of a free and opulent republic: their wishes were gratified by the indulgence of fathers and lovers, and their ambition was

unsuccessfully resisted by the gravity of Cato the Censor. They declined the solemnities of the old nuptials; defeated the annual prescription by an absence of three days; and, without losing their name or

independence, subscribed the liberal and definite terms of a marriage contract. Of their private fortunes, they communicated the use, and

secured the property: the estates of a wife could neither be alienated

nor mortgaged by a prodigal husband; their mutual gifts were prohibited by the jealousy of the laws; and the misconduct of either party might afford, under another name, a future subject for an action of theft. to this loose and voluntary compact, religious and civil rights were no

longer essential; and, between persons of a similar rank, the apparent community of life was allowed as sufficient evidence of their nuptials. the dignity of marriage was restored by the Christians, who derived all

spiritual grace from the prayers of the faithful and the benediction

of the priest or bishop. The origin, validity, and duties of the holy

institution were regulated by the tradition of the synagogue, the

precepts of the gospel, and the canons of general or provincial synods; and the conscience of the Christians was awed by the decrees and censures of their ecclesiastical rulers. Yet the magistrates of

Justinian were not subject to the authority of the church: the emperor consulted the unbelieving civilians of antiquity, and the choice of

matrimonial laws in the Code and Pandects, is directed by the earthly

motives of justice, policy, and the natural freedom of both sexes.

besides the agreement of the parties, the essence of every rational contract, the Roman marriage required the previous approbation of the

parents. A father might be forced by some recent laws to supply the wants of a mature daughter; but even his insanity was not gradually allowed to supersede the necessity of his consent. The causes of the dissolution of matrimony have varied among the Romans; but the most

solemn sacrament, the confarreation itself, might always be done away by

rites of a contrary tendency. In the first ages, the father of a family

might sell his children, and his wife was reckoned in the number of his children: the domestic judge might pronounce the death of the offender,

or his mercy might expel her from his bed and house; but the slavery of the wretched female was hopeless and perpetual, unless he asserted for

his own convenience the manly prerogative of divorce. The warmest applause has been lavished on the virtue of the Romans, who abstained from the exercise of this tempting privilege above five hundred years: but the same fact evinces the unequal terms of a connection in which the

slave was unable to renounce her tyrant, and the tyrant was unwilling to relinquish his slave. When the Roman matrons became the equal and

voluntary companions of their lords, a new jurisprudence was introduced, that marriage, like other partnerships, might be dissolved by the abdication of one of the associates. In three centuries of prosperity and corruption, this principle was enlarged to frequent practice and

pernicious abuse. Passion, interest, or caprice, suggested daily motives for the dissolution of marriage; a word, a sign, a message, a letter, the mandate of a freedman, declared the separation; the most tender

of human connections was degraded to a transient society of profit

or pleasure. According to the various conditions of life, both

sexes alternately felt the disgrace and injury: an inconstant spouse transferred her wealth to a new family, abandoning a numerous, perhaps a spurious, progeny to the paternal authority and care of her late

husband; a beautiful virgin might be dismissed to the world, old,

indigent, and friendless; but the reluctance of the Romans, when they were pressed to marriage by Augustus, sufficiently marks, that the

prevailing institutions were least favorable to the males. A specious theory is confuted by this free and perfect experiment, which demonstrates, that the liberty of divorce does not contribute to

happiness and virtue. The facility of separation would destroy all

mutual confidence, and inflame every trifling dispute: the minute difference between a husband and a stranger, which might so easily be

removed, might still more easily be forgotten; and the matron, who in five years can submit to the embraces of eight husbands, must cease to

reverence the chastity of her own person.

Insufficient remedies followed with distant and tardy steps the rapid

progress of the evil. The ancient worship of the Romans afforded a

peculiar goddess to hear and reconcile the complaints of a married life; but her epithet of \_Viriplaca\_, the appeaser of husbands, too clearly

indicates on which side submission and repentance were always expected. every act of a citizen was subject to the judgment of the \_censors\_; the first who used the privilege of divorce assigned, at their command, the

motives of his conduct; and a senator was expelled for dismissing his

virgin spouse without the knowledge or advice of his friends. Whenever an action was instituted for the recovery of a marriage portion, the \_prtor\_, as the guardian of equity, examined the cause and the characters, and gently inclined the scale in favor of the guiltless and injured party. Augustus, who united the powers of both magistrates, adopted their different modes of repressing or chastising the license

of divorce. The presence of seven Roman witnesses was required for the

validity of this solemn and deliberate act: if any adequate provocation

had been given by the husband, instead of the delay of two years, he was compelled to refund immediately, or in the space of six months; but

if he could arraign the manners of his wife, her guilt or levity was expiated by the loss of the sixth or eighth part of her marriage

portion. The Christian princes were the first who specified the just causes of a private divorce; their institutions, from Constantine to

Justinian, appear to fluctuate between the custom of the empire and the wishes of the church, and the author of the Novels too frequently

reforms the jurisprudence of the Code and Pandects. In the most rigorous

laws, a wife was condemned to support a gamester, a drunkard, or a

libertine, unless he were guilty of homicide, poison, or sacrilege, in which cases the marriage, as it should seem, might have been dissolved by the hand of the executioner. But the sacred right of the husband was

invariably maintained, to deliver his name and family from the disgrace

of adultery: the list of \_mortal\_ sins, either male or female, was curtailed and enlarged by successive regulations, and the obstacles of

incurable impotence, long absence, and monastic profession, were allowed to rescind the matrimonial obligation. Whoever transgressed the

permission of the law, was subject to various and heavy penalties. The woman was stripped of her wealth and ornaments, without excepting the bodkin of her hair: if the man introduced a new bride into his bed,

\_her\_ fortune might be lawfully seized by the vengeance of his exiled wife. Forfeiture was sometimes commuted to a fine; the fine was

sometimes aggravated by transportation to an island, or imprisonment in a monastery; the injured party was released from the bonds of marriage; but the offender, during life, or a term of years, was disabled from the repetition of nuptials. The successor of Justinian yielded to the

prayers of his unhappy subjects, and restored the liberty of divorce by mutual consent: the civilians were unanimous, the theologians were divided, and the ambiguous word, which contains the precept of Christ,

is flexible to any interpretation that the wisdom of a legislator can demand.

the freedom of love and marriage was restrained among the Romans by

natural and civil impediments. An instinct, almost innate and universal, appears to prohibit the incestuous commerce of parents and children in the infinite series of ascending and descending generations. Concerning the oblique and collateral branches, nature is indifferent, reason mute, and custom various and arbitrary. In Egypt, the marriage of brothers and sisters was admitted without scruple or exception: a Spartan might espouse the daughter of his father, an Athenian, that of his mother; and the nuptials of an uncle with his niece were applauded at Athens as a

happy union of the dearest relations. The profane lawgivers of Rome were never tempted by interest or superstition to multiply the forbidden degrees: but they inflexibly condemned the marriage of sisters and brothers, hesitated whether first cousins should be touched by the same

interdict; revered the parental character of aunts and uncles, and treated affinity and adoption as a just imitation of the ties of blood. according to the proud maxims of the republic, a legal marriage could

only be contracted by free citizens; an honorable, at least an ingenuous birth, was required for the spouse of a senator: but the blood of kings could never mingle in legitimate nuptials with the blood of a Roman; and the name of Stranger degraded Cleopatra and Berenice, to live the

\_concubines\_ of Mark Antony and Titus. This appellation, indeed, so

injurious to the majesty, cannot without indulgence be applied to the

manners, of these Oriental queens. A concubine, in the strict sense of the civilians, was a woman of servile or plebeian extraction, the sole and faithful companion of a Roman citizen, who continued in a state

of celibacy. Her modest station, below the honors of a wife, above the

infamy of a prostitute, was acknowledged and approved by the laws: from the age of Augustus to the tenth century, the use of this secondary

marriage prevailed both in the West and East; and the humble virtues of a concubine were often preferred to the pomp and insolence of a noble

matron. In this connection, the two Antonines, the best of princes and

of men, enjoyed the comforts of domestic love: the example was imitated by many citizens impatient of celibacy, but regardful of their families.

If at any time they desired to legitimate their natural children, the conversion was instantly performed by the celebration of their nuptials with a partner whose faithfulness and fidelity they had already tried.

\* By this epithet of \_natural\_, the offspring of the concubine were distinguished from the spurious brood of adultery, prostitution, and

incest, to whom Justinian reluctantly grants the necessary aliments of

life; and these natural children alone were capable of succeeding to a

sixth part of the inheritance of their reputed father. According to the

rigor of law, bastards were entitled only to the name and condition of their mother, from whom they might derive the character of a slave, a stranger, or a citizen. The outcasts of every family were adopted without reproach as the children of the state.

chapter XLIV: Idea Of The Roman Jurisprudence.--Part VI.

the relation of guardian and ward, or in Roman words of \_tutor\_ and

\_pupil\_, which covers so many titles of the Institutes and Pandects,

is of a very simple and uniform nature. The person and property of an

orphan must always be trusted to the custody of some discreet friend.

If the deceased father had not signified his choice, the \_agnats\_, or

paternal kindred of the nearest degree, were compelled to act as the

natural guardians: the Athenians were apprehensive of exposing the

infant to the power of those most interested in his death; but an axiom

of Roman jurisprudence has pronounced, that the charge of tutelage

should constantly attend the emolument of succession. If the choice

of the father, and the line of consanguinity, afforded no efficient

guardian, the failure was supplied by the nomination of the prætor of the city, or the president of the province. But the person whom they

named to this \_public\_ office might be legally excused by insanity or blindness, by ignorance or inability, by previous enmity or adverse

interest, by the number of children or guardianships with which he was already burdened, and by the immunities which were granted to the useful

labors of magistrates, lawyers, physicians, and professors. Till the

infant could speak, and think, he was represented by the tutor, whose authority was finally determined by the age of puberty. Without his consent, no act of the pupil could bind himself to his own prejudice, though it might oblige others for his personal benefit. It is needless to observe, that the tutor often gave security, and always rendered an account, and that the want of diligence or integrity exposed him to a civil and almost criminal action for the violation of his sacred trust. the age of puberty had been rashly fixed by the civilians at fourteen;

\* but as the faculties of the mind ripen more slowly than those of the body, a \_curator\_ was interposed to guard the fortunes of a Roman youth from his own inexperience and headstrong passions. Such a trustee had been first instituted by the prætor, to save a family from the blind

havoc of a prodigal or madman; and the minor was compelled, by the laws, to solicit the same protection, to give validity to his acts till he accomplished the full period of twenty-five years. Women were condemned to the perpetual tutelage of parents, husbands, or guardians; a sex created to please and obey was never supposed to have attained the age

of reason and experience. Such, at least, was the stern and haughty

spirit of the ancient law, which had been insensibly mollified before the time of Justinian.

II. The original right of property can only be justified by the accident

or merit of prior occupancy; and on this foundation it is wisely established by the philosophy of the civilians. The savage who hollows a tree, inserts a sharp stone into a wooden handle, or applies a string to an elastic branch, becomes in a state of nature the just proprietor of the canoe, the bow, or the hatchet. The materials were common to all, the new form, the produce of his time and simple industry, belongs

solely to himself. His hungry brethren cannot, without a sense of their

own injustice, extort from the hunter the game of the forest overtaken

or slain by his personal strength and dexterity. If his provident care

preserves and multiplies the tame animals, whose nature is tractable to the arts of education, he acquires a perpetual title to the use and

service of their numerous progeny, which derives its existence from him alone. If he encloses and cultivates a field for their sustenance and

his own, a barren waste is converted into a fertile soil; the seed, the

manure, the labor, create a new value, and the rewards of harvest are painfully earned by the fatigues of the revolving year. In the

successive states of society, the hunter, the shepherd, the husbandman,

may defend their possessions by two reasons which forcibly appeal to the feelings of the human mind: that whatever they enjoy is the fruit

of their own industry; and that every man who envies their felicity,

may purchase similar acquisitions by the exercise of similar diligence.

Such, in truth, may be the freedom and plenty of a small colony cast

on a fruitful island. But the colony multiplies, while the space still continues the same; the common rights, the equal inheritance of

mankind, are engrossed by the bold and crafty; each field and forest

is circumscribed by the landmarks of a jealous master; and it is the

peculiar praise of the Roman jurisprudence, that it asserts the claim of the first occupant to the wild animals of the earth, the air, and the waters. In the progress from primitive equity to final injustice, the

steps are silent, the shades are almost imperceptible, and the absolute

monopoly is guarded by positive laws and artificial reason. The active,

insatiate principle of self-love can alone supply the arts of life and the wages of industry; and as soon as civil government and exclusive

property have been introduced, they become necessary to the existence

of the human race. Except in the singular institutions of Sparta, the wisest legislators have disapproved an agrarian law as a false and dangerous innovation. Among the Romans, the enormous disproportion of wealth surmounted the ideal restraints of a doubtful tradition, and an

obsolete statute; a tradition that the poorest follower of Romulus had been endowed with the perpetual inheritance of two \_jugera\_; a statute which confined the richest citizen to the measure of five hundred

jugera, or three hundred and twelve acres of land. The original territory of Rome consisted only of some miles of wood and meadow along the banks of the Tyber; and domestic exchange could add nothing to the

national stock. But the goods of an alien or enemy were lawfully exposed to the first hostile occupier; the city was enriched by the profitable trade of war; and the blood of her sons was the only price that was paid for the Volscian sheep, the slaves of Briton, or the gems and gold of asiatic kingdoms. In the language of ancient jurisprudence, which was corrupted and forgotten before the age of Justinian, these spoils were distinguished by the name of \_manceps\_ or \_mancipium\_, taken with the hand; and whenever they were sold or \_emancipated\_, the purchaser

required some assurance that they had been the property of an enemy, and not of a fellow-citizen. A citizen could only forfeit his rights by apparent dereliction, and such dereliction of a valuable interest could not easily be presumed. Yet, according to the Twelve Tables, a

prescription of one year for movables, and of two years for immovables, abolished the claim of the ancient master, if the actual possessor had acquired them by a fair transaction from the person whom he believed to be the lawful proprietor. Such conscientious injustice, without any

mixture of fraud or force could seldom injure the members of a small

republic; but the various periods of three, of ten, or of twenty years, determined by Justinian, are more suitable to the latitude of a great empire. It is only in the term of prescription that the distinction of

real and personal fortune has been remarked by the civilians; and their general idea of property is that of simple, uniform, and absolute dominion. The subordinate exceptions of \_use\_, of \_usufruct\_, of

\_servitude\_, imposed for the benefit of a neighbor on lands and houses, are abundantly explained by the professors of jurisprudence. The claims

of property, as far as they are altered by the mixture, the division,

or the transformation of substances, are investigated with metaphysical

subtilty by the same civilians.

the personal title of the first proprietor must be determined by

his death: but the possession, without any appearance of change, is

peaceably continued in his children, the associates of his toil, and the

partners of his wealth. This natural inheritance has been protected by the legislators of every climate and age, and the father is encouraged to persevere in slow and distant improvements, by the tender hope, that a long posterity will enjoy the fruits of his labor. The \_principle\_ of

hereditary succession is universal; but the \_order\_ has been variously established by convenience or caprice, by the spirit of national

institutions, or by some partial example which was originally decided by fraud or violence. The jurisprudence of the Romans appear to have deviated from the inequality of nature much less than the Jewish, the athenian, or the English institutions. On the death of a citizen, all

his descendants, unless they were already freed from his paternal

power, were called to the inheritance of his possessions. The insolent

prerogative of primogeniture was unknown; the two sexes were placed on a

just level; all the sons and daughters were entitled to an equal portion

of the patrimonial estate; and if any of the sons had been intercepted by a premature death, his person was represented, and his share was divided, by his surviving children. On the failure of the direct line, the right of succession must diverge to the collateral branches. The degrees of kindred are numbered by the civilians, ascending from the

last possessor to a common parent, and descending from the common parent to the next heir: my father stands in the first degree, my brother in the second, his children in the third, and the remainder of the series

may be conceived by a fancy, or pictured in a genealogical table. In this computation, a distinction was made, essential to the laws and even the constitution of Rome; the \_agnats\_, or persons connected by a line

of males, were called, as they stood in the nearest degree, to an equal

partition; but a female was incapable of transmitting any legal claims; and the \_cognats\_ of every rank, without excepting the dear relation of a mother and a son, were disinherited by the Twelve Tables, as strangers and aliens. Among the Romans \_agens\_ or lineage was united by a common

\_name\_ and domestic rites; the various \_cognomens\_ or \_surnames\_ of

Scipio, or Marcellus, distinguished from each other the subordinate branches or families of the Cornelian or Claudian race: the default

of the \_agnats\_, of the same surname, was supplied by the larger denomination of \_gentiles\_; and the vigilance of the laws maintained, in the same name, the perpetual descent of religion and property. A similar

principle dictated the Voconian law, which abolished the right of female

inheritance. As long as virgins were given or sold in marriage, the adoption of the wife extinguished the hopes of the daughter. But the equal succession of independent matrons supported their pride and

luxury, and might transport into a foreign house the riches of their fathers. While the maxims of Cato were revered, they tended to

perpetuate in each family a just and virtuous mediocrity: till female blandishments insensibly triumphed; and every salutary restraint was

lost in the dissolute greatness of the republic. The rigor of the decemvirs was tempered by the equity of the prætors. Their edicts

restored and emancipated posthumous children to the rights of nature; and upon the failure of the \_agnats\_, they preferred the blood of the

\_cognats\_ to the name of the gentiles whose title and character were

insensibly covered with oblivion. The reciprocal inheritance of mothers and sons was established in the Tertullian and Orphitian decrees by the

humanity of the senate. A new and more impartial order was introduced by the Novels of Justinian, who affected to revive the jurisprudence of the Twelve Tables. The lines of masculine and female kindred were confounded: the descending, ascending, and collateral series was accurately defined; and each degree, according tot he proximity of blood and affection, succeeded to the vacant possessions of a Roman citizen.

the order of succession is regulated by nature, or at least by the

general and permanent reason of the lawgiver: but this order is frequently violated by the arbitrary and partial \_wills\_, which prolong the dominion of the testator beyond the grave. In the simple state

of society, this last use or abuse of the right of property is seldom

indulged: it was introduced at Athens by the laws of Solon; and the

private testaments of the father of a family are authorized by the twelve Tables. Before the time of the decemvirs, a Roman citizen exposed

his wishes and motives to the assembly of the thirty curiæ or parishes, and the general law of inheritance was suspended by an occasional act

of the legislature. After the permission of the decemvirs, each private

lawgiver promulgated his verbal or written testament in the presence of five citizens, who represented the five classes of the Roman people; a

sixth witness attested their concurrence; a seventh weighed the copper

money, which was paid by an imaginary purchaser; and the estate was emancipated by a fictitious sale and immediate release. This singular ceremony, which excited the wonder of the Greeks, was still practised in the age of Severus; but the prætors had already approved a more simple testament, for which they required the seals and signatures of seven witnesses, free from all legal exception, and purposely summoned for the execution of that important act. A domestic monarch, who reigned

over the lives and fortunes of his children, might distribute their

respective shares according to the degrees of their merit or his affection; his arbitrary displeasure chastised an unworthy son by the

loss of his inheritance, and the mortifying preference of a stranger. but the experience of unnatural parents recommended some limitations of their testamentary powers. A son, or, by the laws of Justinian, even a daughter, could no longer be disinherited by their silence: they were compelled to name the criminal, and to specify the offence; and the

justice of the emperor enumerated the sole causes that could justify

such a violation of the first principles of nature and society. Unless a legitimate portion, a fourth part, had been reserved for the children, they were entitled to institute an action or complaint of \_inofficious\_ testament; to suppose that their father's understanding was impaired by

sickness or age; and respectfully to appeal from his rigorous sentence to the deliberate wisdom of the magistrate. In the Roman jurisprudence, an essential distinction was admitted between the inheritance and the

legacies. The heirs who succeeded to the entire unity, or to any of the twelve fractions of the substance of the testator, represented his civil and religious character, asserted his rights, fulfilled his obligations, and discharged the gifts of friendship or liberality, which his last will had bequeathed under the name of legacies. But as the imprudence or

prodigality of a dying man might exhaust the inheritance, and leave

only risk and labor to his successor, he was empowered to retain the

\_Falcidian\_ portion; to deduct, before the payment of the legacies, a clear fourth for his own emolument. A reasonable time was allowed to examine the proportion between the debts and the estate, to decide whether he should accept or refuse the testament; and if he used the benefit of an inventory, the demands of the creditors could not exceed the valuation of the effects. The last will of a citizen might be altered during his life, or rescinded after his death: the persons whom

he named might die before him, or reject the inheritance, or be exposed to some legal disqualification. In the contemplation of these events,

he was permitted to substitute second and third heirs, to replace each

other according to the order of the testament; and the incapacity of a madman or an infant to bequeath his property might be supplied by a

similar substitution. But the power of the testator expired with the acceptance of the testament: each Roman of mature age and discretion acquired the absolute dominion of his inheritance, and the simplicity of the civil law was never clouded by the long and intricate entails which confine the happiness and freedom of unborn generations.

conquest and the formalities of law established the use of \_codicils\_.

If a Roman was surprised by death in a remote province of the empire,

he addressed a short epistle to his legitimate or testamentary heir; who fulfilled with honor, or neglected with impunity, this last request, which the judges before the age of Augustus were not authorized to enforce. A codicil might be expressed in any mode, or in any language; but the subscription of five witnesses must declare that it was the

genuine composition of the author. His intention, however laudable, was

sometimes illegal; and the invention of \_fidei-commissa\_, or trusts, arose form the struggle between natural justice and positive

jurisprudence. A stranger of Greece or Africa might be the friend or benefactor of a childless Roman, but none, except a fellow-citizen, could act as his heir. The Voconian law, which abolished female

succession, restrained the legacy or inheritance of a woman to the sum

of one hundred thousand sesterces; and an only daughter was condemned almost as an alien in her father's house. The zeal of friendship, and

parental affection, suggested a liberal artifice: a qualified citizen was named in the testament, with a prayer or injunction that he would

restore the inheritance to the person for whom it was truly intended.

Various was the conduct of the trustees in this painful situation: they

had sworn to observe the laws of their country, but honor prompted them to violate their oath; and if they preferred their interest under the

mask of patriotism, they forfeited the esteem of every virtuous mind. the declaration of Augustus relieved their doubts, gave a legal sanction to confidential testaments and codicils, and gently unravelled the forms and restraints of the republican jurisprudence. But as the new practice

of trusts degenerated into some abuse, the trustee was enabled, by the trebellian and Pegasian decrees, to reserve one fourth of the estate,

or to transfer on the head of the real heir all the debts and actions of the succession. The interpretation of testaments was strict and literal; but the language of \_trusts\_ and codicils was delivered from the minute and technical accuracy of the civilians.

III. The general duties of mankind are imposed by their public and

private relations: but their specific \_obligations\_ to each other can

only be the effect of, 1. a promise, 2. a benefit, or 3. an injury: and when these obligations are ratified by law, the interested party may compel the performance by a judicial action. On this principle, the civilians of every country have erected a similar jurisprudence, the fair conclusion of universal reason and justice.

chapter XLIV: Idea Of The Roman Jurisprudence.--Part VII.

1. The goddess of \_faith\_ (of human and social faith) was worshipped,

not only in her temples, but in the lives of the Romans; and if that

nation was deficient in the more amiable qualities of benevolence and

generosity, they astonished the Greeks by their sincere and simple

performance of the most burdensome engagements. Yet among the same

people, according to the rigid maxims of the patricians and decemvirs, a \_naked pact\_, a promise, or even an oath, did not create any civil obligation, unless it was confirmed by the legal form of a

\_stipulation\_. Whatever might be the etymology of the Latin word, it conveyed the idea of a firm and irrevocable contract, which was always expressed in the mode of a question and answer. Do you promise to pay me

one hundred pieces of gold? was the solemn interrogation of Seius. I do promise, was the reply of Sempronius. The friends of Sempronius, who answered for his ability and inclination, might be separately sued at the option of Seius; and the benefit of partition, or order of

reciprocal actions, insensibly deviated from the strict theory of

stipulation. The most cautious and deliberate consent was justly

required to sustain the validity of a gratuitous promise; and the citizen who might have obtained a legal security, incurred the suspicion

of fraud, and paid the forfeit of his neglect. But the ingenuity of the civilians successfully labored to convert simple engagements into the form of solemn stipulations. The prætors, as the guardians of social faith, admitted every rational evidence of a voluntary and deliberate act, which in their tribunal produced an equitable obligation, and for which they gave an action and a remedy.

2. The obligations of the second class, as they were contracted by the delivery of a thing, are marked by the civilians with the epithet of

real. A grateful return is due to the author of a benefit; and whoever

is intrusted with the property of another, has bound himself to the

sacred duty of restitution. In the case of a friendly loan, the merit of

generosity is on the side of the lender only; in a deposit, on the side

of the receiver; but in a \_pledge\_, and the rest of the selfish commerce

of ordinary life, the benefit is compensated by an equivalent, and the obligation to restore is variously modified by the nature of the transaction. The Latin language very happily expresses the fundamental difference between the \_commodatum\_ and the \_mutuum\_, which our poverty

is reduced to confound under the vague and common appellation of a loan.

In the former, the borrower was obliged to restore the same individual thing with which he had been \_accommodated\_ for the temporary supply of

his wants; in the latter, it was destined for his use and consumption, and he discharged this \_mutual\_ engagement, by substituting the same

specific value according to a just estimation of number, of weight, and of measure. In the contract of \_sale\_, the absolute dominion is transferred to the purchaser, and he repays the benefit with an adequate

sum of gold or silver, the price and universal standard of all earthly

possessions. The obligation of another contract, that of \_location\_, is

of a more complicated kind. Lands or houses, labor or talents, may be

hired for a definite term; at the expiration of the time, the thing

itself must be restored to the owner, with an additional reward for the beneficial occupation and employment. In these lucrative contracts, to which may be added those of partnership and commissions, the civilians

sometimes imagine the delivery of the object, and sometimes presume the consent of the parties. The substantial pledge has been refined into the invisible rights of a mortgage or \_hypotheca\_; and the agreement

of sale, for a certain price, imputes, from that moment, the chances of

gain or loss to the account of the purchaser. It may be fairly supposed, that every man will obey the dictates of his interest; and if he accepts the benefit, he is obliged to sustain the expense, of the transaction.

In this boundless subject, the historian will observe the \_location\_ of

land and money, the rent of the one and the interest of the other, as they materially affect the prosperity of agriculture and commerce. the landlord was often obliged to advance the stock and instruments of

husbandry, and to content himself with a partition of the fruits. If the feeble tenant was oppressed by accident, contagion, or hostile violence,

he claimed a proportionable relief from the equity of the laws: five

years were the customary term, and no solid or costly improvements could be expected from a farmer, who, at each moment might be ejected by the

sale of the estate. Usury, the inveterate grievance of the city, had been discouraged by the Twelve Tables, and abolished by the clamors of the people. It was revived by their wants and idleness, tolerated by the discretion of the prætors, and finally determined by the Code of

Justinian. Persons of illustrious rank were confined to the moderate

profit of \_four per cent\_.; six was pronounced to be the ordinary and

legal standard of interest; eight was allowed for the convenience of

manufactures and merchants; twelve was granted to nautical insurance, which the wiser ancients had not attempted to define; but, except in this perilous adventure, the practice of exorbitant usury was severely

restrained. The most simple interest was condemned by the clergy of the east and West; but the sense of mutual benefit, which had triumphed over the law of the republic, has resisted with equal firmness the decrees of the church, and even the prejudices of mankind.

3. Nature and society impose the strict obligation of repairing an

injury; and the sufferer by private injustice acquires a personal right and a legitimate action. If the property of another be intrusted to our care, the requisite degree of care may rise and fall according to the benefit which we derive from such temporary possession; we are seldom

made responsible for inevitable accident, but the consequences of a

voluntary fault must always be imputed to the author. A Roman pursued and recovered his stolen goods by a civil action of theft; they might

pass through a succession of pure and innocent hands, but nothing less than a prescription of thirty years could extinguish his original claim. they were restored by the sentence of the prætor, and the injury was compensated by double, or threefold, or even quadruple damages, as the deed had been perpetrated by secret fraud or open rapine, as the robber

had been surprised in the fact, or detected by a subsequent research. the Aquilian law defended the living property of a citizen, his slaves and cattle, from the stroke of malice or negligence: the highest price was allowed that could be ascribed to the domestic animal at any moment

of the year preceding his death; a similar latitude of thirty days was

granted on the destruction of any other valuable effects. A personal

injury is blunted or sharpened by the manners of the times and the

sensibility of the individual: the pain or the disgrace of a word or blow cannot easily be appreciated by a pecuniary equivalent. The rude

jurisprudence of the decemvirs had confounded all hasty insults, which did not amount to the fracture of a limb, by condemning the aggressor to the common penalty of twenty-five \_asses\_. But the same denomination

of money was reduced, in three centuries, from a pound to the weight of

half an ounce: and the insolence of a wealthy Roman indulged himself

in the cheap amusement of breaking and satisfying the law of the twelve tables. Veratius ran through the streets striking on the face the

inoffensive passengers, and his attendant purse-bearer immediately

silenced their clamors by the legal tender of twenty-five pieces of copper, about the value of one shilling. The equity of the prætors examined and estimated the distinct merits of each particular complaint.

In the adjudication of civil damages, the magistrate assumed a right to consider the various circumstances of time and place, of age and dignity, which may aggravate the shame and sufferings of the injured

person; but if he admitted the idea of a fine, a punishment, an example,

he invaded the province, though, perhaps, he supplied the defects, of the criminal law.

the execution of the Alban dictator, who was dismembered by eight

horses, is represented by Livy as the first and the fast instance of

Roman cruelty in the punishment of the most atrocious crimes. But this act of justice, or revenge, was inflicted on a foreign enemy in the heat

of victory, and at the command of a single man. The twelve tables afford a more decisive proof of the national spirit, since they were framed by the wisest of the senate, and accepted by the free voices of the people;

yet these laws, like the statutes of Draco, are written in characters

of blood. They approve the inhuman and unequal principle of retaliation; and the forfeit of an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, a limb for a

limb, is rigorously exacted, unless the offender can redeem his pardon by a fine of three hundred pounds of copper. The decemvirs distributed with much liberality the slighter chastisements of flagellation and

servitude; and nine crimes of a very different complexion are adjudged worthy of death. \_1.\_ Any act of \_treason\_ against the state, or of correspondence with the public enemy. The mode of execution was painful and ignominious: the head of the degenerate Roman was shrouded in a veil, his hands were tied behind his back, and after he had been

scourged by the lictor, he was suspended in the midst of the forum on a cross, or inauspicious tree. \_2.\_ Nocturnal meetings in the city; whatever might be the pretence, of pleasure, or religion, or the public

good. \_3.\_ The murder of a citizen; for which the common feelings of

mankind demand the blood of the murderer. Poison is still more odious than the sword or dagger; and we are surprised to discover, in two flagitious events, how early such subtle wickedness had infected the

simplicity of the republic, and the chaste virtues of the Roman matrons. the parricide, who violated the duties of nature and gratitude, was cast

into the river or the sea, enclosed in a sack; and a cock, a viper, a dog, and a monkey, were successively added, as the most suitable companions. Italy produces no monkeys; but the want could never be felt, till the middle of the sixth century first revealed the guilt of a parricide. \_4.\_The malice of an \_incendiary\_. After the previous ceremony of whipping, he himself was delivered to the flames; and in this example alone our reason is tempted to applaud the justice of

retaliation. \_5.\_ \_Judicial perjury\_. The corrupt or malicious witness was thrown headlong from the Tarpeian rock, to expiate his falsehood, which was rendered still more fatal by the severity of the penal laws, and the deficiency of written evidence. \_6.\_ The corruption of a judge, who accepted bribes to pronounce an iniquitous sentence. \_7.\_ Libels and satires, whose rude strains sometimes disturbed the peace of an illiterate city. The author was beaten with clubs, a worthy chastisement, but it is not certain that he was left to expire under the blows of the executioner. \_8.\_ The nocturnal mischief of damaging or destroying a neighbor's corn. The criminal was suspended as a grateful

victim to Ceres. But the sylvan deities were less implacable, and the extirpation of a more valuable tree was compensated by the moderate fine

of twenty-five pounds of copper. \_9.\_ Magical incantations; which had

power, in the opinion of the Latin shepherds, to exhaust the strength

of an enemy, to extinguish his life, and to remove from their seats

his deep-rooted plantations. The cruelty of the twelve tables against

insolvent debtors still remains to be told; and I shall dare to prefer the literal sense of antiquity to the specious refinements of modern criticism. After the judicial proof or confession of the debt, thirty days of grace were allowed before a Roman was delivered into the power

of his fellow-citizen. In this private prison, twelve ounces of rice were his daily food; he might be bound with a chain of fifteen pounds weight; and his misery was thrice exposed in the market place, to

solicit the compassion of his friends and countrymen. At the expiration

of sixty days, the debt was discharged by the loss of liberty or life; the insolvent debtor was either put to death, or sold in foreign slavery beyond the Tyber: but, if several creditors were alike obstinate and

unrelenting, they might legally dismember his body, and satiate their

revenge by this horrid partition. The advocates for this savage law have

insisted, that it must strongly operate in deterring idleness and fraud from contracting debts which they were unable to discharge; but experience would dissipate this salutary terror, by proving that no creditor could be found to exact this unprofitable penalty of life or

limb. As the manners of Rome were insensibly polished, the criminal code

of the decemvirs was abolished by the humanity of accusers, witnesses, and judges; and impunity became the consequence of immoderate rigor. The

Porcian and Valerian laws prohibited the magistrates from inflicting

on a free citizen any capital, or even corporal, punishment; and the

obsolete statutes of blood were artfully, and perhaps truly, ascribed to the spirit, not of patrician, but of regal, tyranny.

In the absence of penal laws, and the insufficiency of civil actions, the peace and justice of the city were imperfectly maintained by the

private jurisdiction of the citizens. The malefactors who replenish our

jails are the outcasts of society, and the crimes for which they suffer

may be commonly ascribed to ignorance, poverty, and brutal appetite. For the perpetration of similar enormities, a vile plebeian might claim and abuse the sacred character of a member of the republic: but, on the

proof or suspicion of guilt, the slave, or the stranger, was nailed to a cross; and this strict and summary justice might be exercised without

restraint over the greatest part of the populace of Rome. Each family contained a domestic tribunal, which was not confined, like that of the

prætor, to the cognizance of external actions: virtuous principles and

habits were inculcated by the discipline of education; and the Roman father was accountable to the state for the manners of his children,

since he disposed, without appeal, of their life, their liberty, and their inheritance. In some pressing emergencies, the citizen was authorized to avenge his private or public wrongs. The consent of the

Jewish, the Athenian, and the Roman laws approved the slaughter of the

nocturnal thief; though in open daylight a robber could not be slain without some previous evidence of danger and complaint. Whoever

surprised an adulterer in his nuptial bed might freely exercise

his revenge; the most bloody and wanton outrage was excused by the

provocation; nor was it before the reign of Augustus that the husband was reduced to weigh the rank of the offender, or that the parent was condemned to sacrifice his daughter with her guilty seducer. After the expulsion of the kings, the ambitious Roman, who should dare to assume their title or imitate their tyranny, was devoted to the infernal gods: each of his fellow-citizens was armed with the sword of justice; and the act of Brutus, however repugnant to gratitude or prudence, had been already sanctified by the judgment of his country. The barbarous

practice of wearing arms in the midst of peace, and the bloody maxims of

honor, were unknown to the Romans; and, during the two purest ages, from the establishment of equal freedom to the end of the Punic wars, the city was never disturbed by sedition, and rarely polluted with atrocious crimes. The failure of penal laws was more sensibly felt, when every

vice was inflamed by faction at home and dominion abroad. In the time

of Cicero, each private citizen enjoyed the privilege of anarchy; each

minister of the republic was exalted to the temptations of regal power, and their virtues are entitled to the warmest praise, as the spontaneous fruits of nature or philosophy. After a triennial indulgence of lust,

rapine, and cruelty, Verres, the tyrant of Sicily, could only be sued for the pecuniary restitution of three hundred thousand pounds sterling; and such was the temper of the laws, the judges, and perhaps the accuser

himself, that, on refunding a thirteenth part of his plunder, Verres could retire to an easy and luxurious exile.

the first imperfect attempt to restore the proportion of crimes and

punishments was made by the dictator Sylla, who, in the midst of his

sanguinary triumph, aspired to restrain the license, rather than to oppress the liberty, of the Romans. He gloried in the arbitrary

proscription of four thousand seven hundred citizens. But, in the character of a legislator, he respected the prejudices of the times; and, instead of pronouncing a sentence of death against the robber or assassin, the general who betrayed an army, or the magistrate who ruined a province, Sylla was content to aggravate the pecuniary damages by the penalty of exile, or, in more constitutional language, by the

interdiction of fire and water. The Cornelian, and afterwards the Pompeian and Julian, laws introduced a new system of criminal

jurisprudence; and the emperors, from Augustus to Justinian, disguised their increasing rigor under the names of the original authors. But the

invention and frequent use of \_extraordinary pains\_ proceeded from the desire to extend and conceal the progress of despotism. In the condemnation of illustrious Romans, the senate was always prepared to confound, at the will of their masters, the judicial and legislative

powers. It was the duty of the governors to maintain the peace of their

province, by the arbitrary and rigid administration of justice; the freedom of the city evaporated in the extent of empire, and the Spanish

malefactor, who claimed the privilege of a Roman, was elevated by the command of Galba on a fairer and more lofty cross. Occasional rescripts

issued from the throne to decide the questions which, by their novelty

or importance, appeared to surpass the authority and discernment of a proconsul. Transportation and beheading were reserved for honorable

persons; meaner criminals were either hanged, or burnt, or buried in the

mines, or exposed to the wild beasts of the amphitheatre. Armed robbers were pursued and extirpated as the enemies of society; the driving away horses or cattle was made a capital offence; but simple theft was

uniformly considered as a mere civil and private injury. The degrees

of guilt, and the modes of punishment, were too often determined by the discretion of the rulers, and the subject was left in ignorance of the

legal danger which he might incur by every action of his life.

a sin, a vice, a crime, are the objects of theology, ethics, and

jurisprudence. Whenever their judgments agree, they corroborate each

other; but, as often as they differ, a prudent legislator appreciates the guilt and punishment according to the measure of social injury. On this principle, the most daring attack on the life and property of a

private citizen is judged less atrocious than the crime of treason or

rebellion, which invades the \_majesty\_ of the republic: the obsequious civilians unanimously pronounced, that the republic is contained in the

person of its chief; and the edge of the Julian law was sharpened by the incessant diligence of the emperors. The licentious commerce of the

sexes may be tolerated as an impulse of nature, or forbidden as a source

of disorder and corruption; but the fame, the fortunes, the family of the husband, are seriously injured by the adultery of the wife. The wisdom of Augustus, after curbing the freedom of revenge, applied to this domestic offence the animadversion of the laws: and the guilty

parties, after the payment of heavy forfeitures and fines, were condemned to long or perpetual exile in two separate islands. Religion

pronounces an equal censure against the infidelity of the husband; but, as it is not accompanied by the same civil effects, the wife was never

permitted to vindicate her wrongs; and the distinction of simple or double adultery, so familiar and so important in the canon law, is

unknown to the jurisprudence of the Code and the Pandects. I touch with

reluctance, and despatch with impatience, a more odious vice, of which

modesty rejects the name, and nature abominates the idea. The primitive

Romans were infected by the example of the Etruscans and Greeks: and in the mad abuse of prosperity and power, every pleasure that is innocent was deemed insipid; and the Scatinian law, which had been extorted by an act of violence, was insensibly abolished by the lapse of time and the

multitude of criminals. By this law, the rape, perhaps the seduction, of an ingenuous youth, was compensated, as a personal injury, by the poor damages of ten thousand sesterces, or fourscore pounds; the ravisher

might be slain by the resistance or revenge of chastity; and I wish to believe, that at Rome, as in Athens, the voluntary and effeminate deserter of his sex was degraded from the honors and the rights of a citizen. But the practice of vice was not discouraged by the severity

of opinion: the indelible stain of manhood was confounded with the

more venial transgressions of fornication and adultery, nor was the

licentious lover exposed to the same dishonor which he impressed on the

male or female partner of his guilt. From Catullus to Juvenal, the poets accuse and celebrate the degeneracy of the times; and the reformation

of manners was feebly attempted by the reason and authority of the civilians till the most virtuous of the Cæsars proscribed the sin against nature as a crime against society.

chapter XLIV: Idea Of The Roman Jurisprudence.--Part VIII.

a new spirit of legislation, respectable even in its error, arose in the empire with the religion of Constantine. The laws of Moses were received as the divine original of justice, and the Christian princes adapted their penal statutes to the degrees of moral and religious turpitude. adultery was first declared to be a capital offence: the frailty of the sexes was assimilated to poison or assassination, to sorcery or

parricide; the same penalties were inflicted on the passive and active

guilt of pæderasty; and all criminals of free or servile condition were either drowned or beheaded, or cast alive into the avenging flames. The adulterers were spared by the common sympathy of mankind; but the lovers

of their own sex were pursued by general and pious indignation: the

impure manners of Greece still prevailed in the cities of Asia, and every vice was fomented by the celibacy of the monks and clergy.

Justinian relaxed the punishment at least of female infidelity: the

guilty spouse was only condemned to solitude and penance, and at the end

of two years she might be recalled to the arms of a forgiving husband. but the same emperor declared himself the implacable enemy of unmanly

lust, and the cruelty of his persecution can scarcely be excused by the

purity of his motives. In defiance of every principle of justice, he

stretched to past as well as future offences the operations of his edicts, with the previous allowance of a short respite for confession and pardon. A painful death was inflicted by the amputation of the

sinful instrument, or the insertion of sharp reeds into the pores and tubes of most exquisite sensibility; and Justinian defended the

propriety of the execution, since the criminals would have lost their

hands, had they been convicted of sacrilege. In this state of disgrace and agony, two bishops, Isaiah of Rhodes and Alexander of Diospolis, were dragged through the streets of Constantinople, while their brethren were admonished, by the voice of a crier, to observe this awful lesson, and not to pollute the sanctity of their character. Perhaps these

prelates were innocent. A sentence of death and infamy was often founded

on the slight and suspicious evidence of a child or a servant: the guilt

of the green faction, of the rich, and of the enemies of Theodora, was

presumed by the judges, and pæderasty became the crime of those to whom

no crime could be imputed. A French philosopher has dared to remark that whatever is secret must be doubtful, and that our natural horror of vice

may be abused as an engine of tyranny. But the favorable persuasion of the same writer, that a legislator may confide in the taste and reason

of mankind, is impeached by the unwelcome discovery of the antiquity and extent of the disease.

the free citizens of Athens and Rome enjoyed, in all criminal cases, the invaluable privilege of being tried by their country. 1. The administration of justice is the most ancient office of a prince: it was exercised by the Roman kings, and abused by Tarquin; who alone, without

law or council, pronounced his arbitrary judgments. The first consuls

succeeded to this regal prerogative; but the sacred right of appeal soon abolished the jurisdiction of the magistrates, and all public causes were decided by the supreme tribunal of the people. But a wild democracy, superior to the forms, too often disdains the essential

principles, of justice: the pride of despotism was envenomed by plebeian envy, and the heroes of Athens might sometimes applaud the happiness of the Persian, whose fate depended on the caprice of a \_single\_ tyrant.

Some salutary restraints, imposed by the people or their own passions, were at once the cause and effect of the gravity and temperance of the

Romans. The right of accusation was confined to the magistrates. A vote

of the thirty five tribes could inflict a fine; but the cognizance of all capital crimes was reserved by a fundamental law to the assembly of the centuries, in which the weight of influence and property was sure to

preponderate. Repeated proclamations and adjournments were interposed, to allow time for prejudice and resentment to subside: the whole

proceeding might be annulled by a seasonable omen, or the opposition

of a tribune; and such popular trials were commonly less formidable to innocence than they were favorable to guilt. But this union of the

judicial and legislative powers left it doubtful whether the accused

party was pardoned or acquitted; and, in the defence of an illustrious client, the orators of Rome and Athens address their arguments to the

policy and benevolence, as well as to the justice, of their sovereign.

2. The task of convening the citizens for the trial of each offender became more difficult, as the citizens and the offenders continually

multiplied; and the ready expedient was adopted of delegating the jurisdiction of the people to the ordinary magistrates, or to extraordinary \_inquisitors\_. In the first ages these questions were rare and occasional. In the beginning of the seventh century of Rome they were made perpetual: four prætors were annually empowered to sit in

judgment on the state offences of treason, extortion, peculation, and bribery; and Sylla added new prætors and new questions for those crimes which more directly injure the safety of individuals. By these

\_inquisitors\_ the trial was prepared and directed; but they could only

pronounce the sentence of the majority of \_judges\_, who with some truth, and more prejudice, have been compared to the English juries. To discharge this important, though burdensome office, an annual list of ancient and respectable citizens was formed by the prætor. After many constitutional struggles, they were chosen in equal numbers from the

senate, the equestrian order, and the people; four hundred and fifty were appointed for single questions; and the various rolls or \_decuries\_

of judges must have contained the names of some thousand Romans, who

represented the judicial authority of the state. In each particular cause, a sufficient number was drawn from the urn; their integrity was

guarded by an oath; the mode of ballot secured their independence; the

suspicion of partiality was removed by the mutual challenges of the accuser and defendant; and the judges of Milo, by the retrenchment of fifteen on each side, were reduced to fifty-one voices or tablets,

of acquittal, of condemnation, or of favorable doubt. 3. In his civil

jurisdiction, the prætor of the city was truly a judge, and almost a

legislator; but, as soon as he had prescribed the action of law, he

often referred to a delegate the determination of the fact. With the

increase of legal proceedings, the tribunal of the centumvirs, in which

he presided, acquired more weight and reputation. But whether he acted alone, or with the advice of his council, the most absolute powers might be trusted to a magistrate who was annually chosen by the votes of the people. The rules and precautions of freedom have required some explanation; the order of despotism is simple and inanimate. Before the age of Justinian, or perhaps of Diocletian, the decuries of Roman judges

had sunk to an empty title: the humble advice of the assessors might be accepted or despised; and in each tribunal the civil and criminal

jurisdiction was administered by a single magistrate, who was raised and disgraced by the will of the emperor.

a Roman accused of any capital crime might prevent the sentence of the law by voluntary exile, or death. Till his guilt had been legally

proved, his innocence was presumed, and his person was free: till the

votes of the last \_century\_ had been counted and declared, he might

peaceably secede to any of the allied cities of Italy, or Greece, or asia. His fame and fortunes were preserved, at least to his children, by this civil death; and he might still be happy in every rational and

sensual enjoyment, if a mind accustomed to the ambitious tumult of Rome could support the uniformity and silence of Rhodes or Athens. A bolder effort was required to escape from the tyranny of the Cæsars; but this effort was rendered familiar by the maxims of the stoics, the example of the bravest Romans, and the legal encouragements of suicide. The bodies

of condemned criminals were exposed to public ignominy, and their children, a more serious evil, were reduced to poverty by the confiscation of their fortunes. But, if the victims of Tiberius and

Nero anticipated the decree of the prince or senate, their courage and despatch were recompensed by the applause of the public, the decent

honors of burial, and the validity of their testaments. The exquisite avarice and cruelty of Domitian appear to have deprived the unfortunate

of this last consolation, and it was still denied even by the clemency

of the Antonines. A voluntary death, which, in the case of a capital

offence, intervened between the accusation and the sentence, was admitted as a confession of guilt, and the spoils of the deceased were

seized by the inhuman claims of the treasury. Yet the civilians have always respected the natural right of a citizen to dispose of his life; and the posthumous disgrace invented by Tarquin, to check the despair of

his subjects, was never revived or imitated by succeeding tyrants. The

powers of this world have indeed lost their dominion over him who is

resolved on death; and his arm can only be restrained by the religious apprehension of a future state. Suicides are enumerated by Virgil among the unfortunate, rather than the guilty; and the poetical fables of the

infernal shades could not seriously influence the faith or practice of

mankind. But the precepts of the gospel, or the church, have at length

imposed a pious servitude on the minds of Christians, and condemn them to expect, without a murmur, the last stroke of disease or the executioner.

the penal statutes form a very small proportion of the sixty-two books

of the Code and Pandects; and in all judicial proceedings, the life or death of a citizen is determined with less caution or delay than the most ordinary question of covenant or inheritance. This singular distinction, though something may be allowed for the urgent necessity of defending the peace of society, is derived from the nature of criminal and civil jurisprudence. Our duties to the state are simple and uniform: the law by which he is condemned is inscribed not only on brass or

marble, but on the conscience of the offender, and his guilt is commonly

proved by the testimony of a single fact. But our relations to each

other are various and infinite; our obligations are created, annulled, and modified, by injuries, benefits, and promises; and the

interpretation of voluntary contracts and testaments, which are often dictated by fraud or ignorance, affords a long and laborious exercise to the sagacity of the judge. The business of life is multiplied by the extent of commerce and dominion, and the residence of the parties in the distant provinces of an empire is productive of doubt, delay, and

inevitable appeals from the local to the supreme magistrate. Justinian, the Greek emperor of Constantinople and the East, was the legal

successor of the Latin shepherd who had planted a colony on the banks

of the Tyber. In a period of thirteen hundred years, the laws had

reluctantly followed the changes of government and manners; and the

laudable desire of conciliating ancient names with recent institutions destroyed the harmony, and swelled the magnitude, of the obscure and

irregular system. The laws which excuse, on any occasions, the

ignorance of their subjects, confess their own imperfections: the civil jurisprudence, as it was abridged by Justinian, still continued a

mysterious science, and a profitable trade, and the innate perplexity

of the study was involved in tenfold darkness by the private industry

of the practitioners. The expense of the pursuit sometimes exceeded the

value of the prize, and the fairest rights were abandoned by the poverty

or prudence of the claimants. Such costly justice might tend to abate the spirit of litigation, but the unequal pressure serves only to

increase the influence of the rich, and to aggravate the misery of the

poor. By these dilatory and expensive proceedings, the wealthy pleader

obtains a more certain advantage than he could hope from the accidental corruption of his judge. The experience of an abuse, from which our

own age and country are not perfectly exempt, may sometimes provoke a generous indignation, and extort the hasty wish of exchanging our elaborate jurisprudence for the simple and summary decrees of a Turkish cadhi. Our calmer reflection will suggest, that such forms and delays are necessary to guard the person and property of the citizen; that the discretion of the judge is the first engine of tyranny; and that the

laws of a free people should foresee and determine every question that

may probably arise in the exercise of power and the transactions of

industry. But the government of Justinian united the evils of liberty and servitude; and the Romans were oppressed at the same time by the

multiplicity of their laws and the arbitrary will of their master.

chapter XLV: State Of Italy Under The Lombards.--Part I.

Reign Of The Younger Justin.--Embassy Of The Avars.--Their

Settlement On The Danube.--Conquest Of Italy By The

Lombards.--Adoption And Reign Of Tiberius.--Of Maurice.--

State Of Italy Under The Lombards And The Exarchs.--Of

Ravenna.--Distress Of Rome.--Character And Pontificate Of

Gregory The First.

during the last years of Justinian, his infirm mind was devoted to

heavenly contemplation, and he neglected the business of the lower world. His subjects were impatient of the long continuance of his life and reign: yet all who were capable of reflection apprehended the moment

of his death, which might involve the capital in tumult, and the empire

in civil war. Seven nephews of the childless monarch, the sons or

grandsons of his brother and sister, had been educated in the splendor

of a princely fortune; they had been shown in high commands to the

provinces and armies; their characters were known, their followers were

zealous, and, as the jealousy of age postponed the declaration of a

successor, they might expect with equal hopes the inheritance of their

uncle. He expired in his palace, after a reign of thirty-eight years; and the decisive opportunity was embraced by the friends of Justin, the

son of Vigilantia. At the hour of midnight, his domestics were awakened by an importunate crowd, who thundered at his door, and obtained admittance by revealing themselves to be the principal members of the

senate. These welcome deputies announced the recent and momentous secret

of the emperor's decease; reported, or perhaps invented, his dying choice of the best beloved and most deserving of his nephews, and conjured Justin to prevent the disorders of the multitude, if they

should perceive, with the return of light, that they were left without a

master. After composing his countenance to surprise, sorrow, and decent

modesty, Justin, by the advice of his wife Sophia, submitted to the authority of the senate. He was conducted with speed and silence to the palace; the guards saluted their new sovereign; and the martial and

religious rites of his coronation were diligently accomplished. By the

hands of the proper officers he was invested with the Imperial garments, the red buskins, white tunic, and purple robe. A fortunate soldier, whom

he instantly promoted to the rank of tribune, encircled his neck with a military collar; four robust youths exalted him on a shield; he stood firm and erect to receive the adoration of his subjects; and their choice was sanctified by the benediction of the patriarch, who imposed the diadem on the head of an orthodox prince. The hippodrome was already filled with innumerable multitudes; and no sooner did the emperor appear

on his throne, than the voices of the blue and the green factions were confounded in the same loyal acclamations. In the speeches which Justin addressed to the senate and people, he promised to correct the abuses which had disgraced the age of his predecessor, displayed the maxims of a just and beneficent government, and declared that, on the approaching calends of January, he would revive in his own person the name and

liberty of a Roman consul. The immediate discharge of his uncle's debts exhibited a solid pledge of his faith and generosity: a train

of porters, laden with bags of gold, advanced into the midst of the

hippodrome, and the hopeless creditors of Justinian accepted this equitable payment as a voluntary gift. Before the end of three years,

his example was imitated and surpassed by the empress Sophia, who delivered many indigent citizens from the weight of debt and usury: an act of benevolence the best entitled to gratitude, since it relieves the

most intolerable distress; but in which the bounty of a prince is the

most liable to be abused by the claims of prodigality and fraud.

On the seventh day of his reign, Justin gave audience to the ambassadors

of the Avars, and the scene was decorated to impress the Barbarians with astonishment, veneration, and terror. From the palace gate, the spacious courts and long porticos were lined with the lofty crests and gilt bucklers of the guards, who presented their spears and axes with more confidence than they would have shown in a field of battle. The officers who exercised the power, or attended the person, of the prince, were attired in their richest habits, and arranged according to the military and civil order of the hierarchy. When the veil of the sanctuary was withdrawn, the ambassadors beheld the emperor of the East on his throne, beneath a canopy, or dome, which was supported by four columns, and crowned with a winged figure of Victory. In the first emotions of

surprise, they submitted to the servile adoration of the Byzantine court; but as soon as they rose from the ground, Targetius, the chief

of the embassy, expressed the freedom and pride of a Barbarian. He extolled, by the tongue of his interpreter, the greatness of the chagan, by whose clemency the kingdoms of the South were permitted to exist, whose victorious subjects had traversed the frozen rivers of Scythia, and who now covered the banks of the Danube with innumerable tents. the late emperor had cultivated, with annual and costly gifts, the friendship of a grateful monarch, and the enemies of Rome had respected the allies of the Avars. The same prudence would instruct the nephew of

Justinian to imitate the liberality of his uncle, and to purchase the blessings of peace from an invincible people, who delighted and excelled

in the exercise of war. The reply of the emperor was delivered in the

same strain of haughty defiance, and he derived his confidence from the God of the Christians, the ancient glory of Rome, and the recent triumphs of Justinian. "The empire," said he, "abounds with men and

horses, and arms sufficient to defend our frontiers, and to chastise the Barbarians. You offer aid, you threaten hostilities: we despise your enmity and your aid. The conquerors of the Avars solicit our alliance;

shall we dread their fugitives and exiles? The bounty of our uncle was granted to your misery, to your humble prayers. From us you shall

receive a more important obligation, the knowledge of your own weakness.

Retire from our presence; the lives of ambassadors are safe; and, if

you return to implore our pardon, perhaps you will taste of our benevolence." On the report of his ambassadors, the chagan was awed by the apparent firmness of a Roman emperor of whose character and

resources he was ignorant. Instead of executing his threats against the Eastern empire, he marched into the poor and savage countries of

Germany, which were subject to the dominion of the Franks. After two doubtful battles, he consented to retire, and the Austrasian king

relieve the distress of his camp with an immediate supply of corn and cattle. Such repeated disappointments had chilled the spirit of the avars, and their power would have dissolved away in the Sarmatian desert, if the alliance of Alboin, king of the Lombards, had not given a new object to their arms, and a lasting settlement to their wearied fortunes.

while Alboin served under his father's standard, he encountered in battle, and transpierced with his lance, the rival prince of the Gepidæ. the Lombards, who applauded such early prowess, requested his father, with unanimous acclamations, that the heroic youth, who had shared the dangers of the field, might be admitted to the feast of victory. "You are not unmindful," replied the inflexible Audoin, "of the wise customs

of our ancestors. Whatever may be his merit, a prince is incapable of

sitting at table with his father till he has received his arms from a foreign and royal hand." Alboin bowed with reverence to the institutions

of his country, selected forty companions, and boldly visited the court

of Turisund, king of the Gepidæ, who embraced and entertained, according to the laws of hospitality, the murderer of his son. At the banquet, whilst Alboin occupied the seat of the youth whom he had slain, a tender

remembrance arose in the mind of Turisund. "How dear is that place! how

hateful is that person!" were the words that escaped, with a sigh, from the indignant father. His grief exasperated the national resentment of the Gepidæ; and Cunimund, his surviving son, was provoked by wine, or fraternal affection, to the desire of vengeance. "The Lombards," said the rude Barbarian, "resemble, in figure and in smell, the mares of our

Sarmatian plains." And this insult was a coarse allusion to the white bands which enveloped their legs. "Add another resemblance," replied an audacious Lombard; "you have felt how strongly they kick. Visit the plain of Asfield, and seek for the bones of thy brother: they are

mingled with those of the vilest animals." The Gepidæ, a nation of warriors, started from their seats, and the fearless Alboin, with his forty companions, laid their hands on their swords. The tumult was appeased by the venerable interposition of Turisund. He saved his

own honor, and the life of his guest; and, after the solemn rites of

investiture, dismissed the stranger in the bloody arms of his son; the

gift of a weeping parent. Alboin returned in triumph; and the Lombards, who celebrated his matchless intrepidity, were compelled to praise the

virtues of an enemy. In this extraordinary visit he had probably seen the daughter of Cunimund, who soon after ascended the throne of the

Gepidæ. Her name was Rosamond, an appellation expressive of female beauty, and which our own history or romance has consecrated to amorous tales. The king of the Lombards (the father of Alboin no longer lived) was contracted to the granddaughter of Clovis; but the restraints

of faith and policy soon yielded to the hope of possessing the fair

Rosamond, and of insulting her family and nation. The arts of persuasion were tried without success; and the impatient lover, by force and

stratagem, obtained the object of his desires. War was the consequence which he foresaw and solicited; but the Lombards could not long withstand the furious assault of the Gepidæ, who were sustained by a

Roman army. And, as the offer of marriage was rejected with contempt, alboin was compelled to relinquish his prey, and to partake of the disgrace which he had inflicted on the house of Cunimund.

when a public quarrel is envenomed by private injuries, a blow that is

not mortal or decisive can be productive only of a short truce, which allows the unsuccessful combatant to sharpen his arms for a

new encounter. The strength of Alboin had been found unequal to the

gratification of his love, ambition, and revenge: he condescended to

implore the formidable aid of the chagan; and the arguments that he employed are expressive of the art and policy of the Barbarians. In the attack of the Gepidæ, he had been prompted by the just desire of extirpating a people whom their alliance with the Roman empire had

rendered the common enemies of the nations, and the personal adversaries

of the chagan. If the forces of the Avars and the Lombards should

unite in this glorious quarrel, the victory was secure, and the reward

inestimable: the Danube, the Hebrus, Italy, and Constantinople, would be exposed, without a barrier, to their invincible arms. But, if they

hesitated or delayed to prevent the malice of the Romans, the same

spirit which had insulted would pursue the Avars to the extremity of the earth. These specious reasons were heard by the chagan with coldness and disdain: he detained the Lombard ambassadors in his camp, protracted the

negotiation, and by turns alleged his want of inclination, or his want of ability, to undertake this important enterprise. At length he

signified the ultimate price of his alliance, that the Lombards should

immediately present him with a tithe of their cattle; that the spoils and captives should be equally divided; but that the lands of the Gepidæ

should become the sole patrimony of the Avars. Such hard conditions were eagerly accepted by the passions of Alboin; and, as the Romans were dissatisfied with the ingratitude and perfidy of the Gepidæ, Justin abandoned that incorrigible people to their fate, and remained the tranquil spectator of this unequal conflict. The despair of Cunimund was active and dangerous. He was informed that the Avars had entered

his confines; but, on the strong assurance that, after the defeat of the Lombards, these foreign invaders would easily be repelled, he rushed forwards to encounter the implacable enemy of his name and family. But the courage of the Gepidæ could secure them no more than an honorable death. The bravest of the nation fell in the field of battle; the king

of the Lombards contemplated with delight the head of Cunimund; and his

skull was fashioned into a cup to satiate the hatred of the conqueror,

or, perhaps, to comply with the savage custom of his country. After this victory, no further obstacle could impede the progress of the confederates, and they faithfully executed the terms of their agreement. the fair countries of Walachia, Moldavia, Transylvania, and the other

parts of Hungary beyond the Danube, were occupied, without resistance, by a new colony of Scythians; and the Dacian empire of the chagans

subsisted with splendor above two hundred and thirty years. The nation

of the Gepidæ was dissolved; but, in the distribution of the captives, the slaves of the Avars were less fortunate than the companions of the

Lombards, whose generosity adopted a valiant foe, and whose freedom was

incompatible with cool and deliberate tyranny. One moiety of the spoil

introduced into the camp of Alboin more wealth than a Barbarian could

readily compute. The fair Rosamond was persuaded, or compelled, to acknowledge the rights of her victorious lover; and the daughter of cunimund appeared to forgive those crimes which might be imputed to her

own irresistible charms.

the destruction of a mighty kingdom established the fame of Alboin. In the days of Charlemagne, the Bavarians, the Saxons, and the other tribes

of the Teutonic language, still repeated the songs which described the

heroic virtues, the valor, liberality, and fortune of the king of the

Lombards. But his ambition was yet unsatisfied; and the conqueror of the

Gepidæ turned his eyes from the Danube to the richer banks of the Po, and the Tyber. Fifteen years had not elapsed, since his subjects, the confederates of Narses, had visited the pleasant climate of Italy: the

mountains, the rivers, the highways, were familiar to their memory: the

report of their success, perhaps the view of their spoils, had kindled

in the rising generation the flame of emulation and enterprise. Their

hopes were encouraged by the spirit and eloquence of Alboin: and it

is affirmed, that he spoke to their senses, by producing at the royal feast, the fairest and most exquisite fruits that grew spontaneously in the garden of the world. No sooner had he erected his standard, than the

native strength of the Lombard was multiplied by the adventurous youth

of Germany and Scythia. The robust peasantry of Noricum and Pannonia

had resumed the manners of Barbarians; and the names of the Gepidæ, bulgarians, Sarmatians, and Bavarians, may be distinctly traced in the provinces of Italy. Of the Saxons, the old allies of the Lombards, twenty thousand warriors, with their wives and children, accepted the

invitation of Alboin. Their bravery contributed to his success; but the accession or the absence of their numbers was not sensibly felt in the

magnitude of his host. Every mode of religion was freely practised by

its respective votaries. The king of the Lombards had been educated

in the Arian heresy; but the Catholics, in their public worship, were allowed to pray for his conversion; while the more stubborn Barbarians

sacrificed a she-goat, or perhaps a captive, to the gods of their fathers. The Lombards, and their confederates, were united by their common attachment to a chief, who excelled in all the virtues and vices

of a savage hero; and the vigilance of Alboin provided an ample magazine

of offensive and defensive arms for the use of the expedition. The

portable wealth of the Lombards attended the march: their lands they cheerfully relinquished to the Avars, on the solemn promise, which was

made and accepted without a smile, that if they failed in the conquest

of Italy, these voluntary exiles should be reinstated in their former

possessions.

they might have failed, if Narses had been the antagonist of the

Lombards; and the veteran warriors, the associates of his Gothic

victory, would have encountered with reluctance an enemy whom they dreaded and esteemed. But the weakness of the Byzantine court was

subservient to the Barbarian cause; and it was for the ruin of Italy, that the emperor once listened to the complaints of his subjects. The

virtues of Narses were stained with avarice; and, in his provincial

reign of fifteen years, he accumulated a treasure of gold and silver which surpassed the modesty of a private fortune. His government was

oppressive or unpopular, and the general discontent was expressed with freedom by the deputies of Rome. Before the throne of Justinian they boldly declared, that their Gothic servitude had been more tolerable than the despotism of a Greek eunuch; and that, unless their tyrant were

instantly removed, they would consult their own happiness in the choice

of a master. The apprehension of a revolt was urged by the voice of envy and detraction, which had so recently triumphed over the merit

of Belisarius. A new exarch, Longinus, was appointed to supersede the conqueror of Italy, and the base motives of his recall were revealed in the insulting mandate of the empress Sophia, "that he should leave to

\_men\_ the exercise of arms, and return to his proper station among the

maidens of the palace, where a distaff should be again placed in the

hand of the eunuch." "I will spin her such a thread as she shall not easily unravel!" is said to have been the reply which indignation and conscious virtue extorted from the hero. Instead of attending, a slave and a victim, at the gate of the Byzantine palace, he retired to Naples, from whence (if any credit is due to the belief of the times) Narses

invited the Lombards to chastise the ingratitude of the prince and

people. But the passions of the people are furious and changeable, and the Romans soon recollected the merits, or dreaded the resentment, of their victorious general. By the mediation of the pope, who undertook a

special pilgrimage to Naples, their repentance was accepted; and Narses, assuming a milder aspect and a more dutiful language, consented to fix

his residence in the Capitol. His death, though in the extreme period of

old age, was unseasonable and premature, since \_his\_ genius alone could

have repaired the last and fatal error of his life. The reality, or the suspicion, of a conspiracy disarmed and disunited the Italians. The

soldiers resented the disgrace, and bewailed the loss, of their general. they were ignorant of their new exarch; and Longinus was himself

ignorant of the state of the army and the province. In the preceding

years Italy had been desolated by pestilence and famine, and a disaffected people ascribed the calamities of nature to the guilt or folly of their rulers.

whatever might be the grounds of his security, Alboin neither expected

nor encountered a Roman army in the field. He ascended the Julian Alps, and looked down with contempt and desire on the fruitful plains to which his victory communicated the perpetual appellation of Lombardy. a faithful chieftain, and a select band, were stationed at Forum Julii, the modern Friuli, to guard the passes of the mountains. The Lombards

respected the strength of Pavia, and listened to the prayers of the trevisans: their slow and heavy multitudes proceeded to occupy the

palace and city of Verona; and Milan, now rising from her ashes, was

invested by the powers of Alboin five months after his departure from

Pannonia. Terror preceded his march: he found every where, or he left, a dreary solitude; and the pusillanimous Italians presumed, without a trial, that the stranger was invincible. Escaping to lakes, or rocks,

or morasses, the affrighted crowds concealed some fragments of their wealth, and delayed the moment of their servitude. Paulinus, the

patriarch of Aquileia, removed his treasures, sacred and profane, to the

Isle of Grado, and his successors were adopted by the infant republic

of Venice, which was continually enriched by the public calamities.

Honoratus, who filled the chair of St. Ambrose, had credulously accepted the faithless offers of a capitulation; and the archbishop, with the clergy and nobles of Milan, were driven by the perfidy of Alboin to seek a refuge in the less accessible ramparts of Genoa. Along the maritime coast, the courage of the inhabitants was supported by the facility

of supply, the hopes of relief, and the power of escape; but from the trentine hills to the gates of Ravenna and Rome the inland regions of

Italy became, without a battle or a siege, the lasting patrimony of the

Lombards. The submission of the people invited the Barbarian to assume the character of a lawful sovereign, and the helpless exarch was confined to the office of announcing to the emperor Justin the rapid and

irretrievable loss of his provinces and cities. One city, which had been diligently fortified by the Goths, resisted the arms of a new invader; and while Italy was subdued by the flying detachments of the Lombards, the royal camp was fixed above three years before the western gate

of Ticinum, or Pavia. The same courage which obtains the esteem of a civilized enemy provokes the fury of a savage, and the impatient besieger had bound himself by a tremendous oath, that age, and sex, and dignity, should be confounded in a general massacre. The aid of famine at length enabled him to execute his bloody vow; but, as Alboin entered the gate, his horse stumbled, fell, and could not be raised from the

ground. One of his attendants was prompted by compassion, or piety, to

interpret this miraculous sign of the wrath of Heaven: the conqueror

paused and relented; he sheathed his sword, and peacefully reposing

himself in the palace of Theodoric, proclaimed to the trembling

multitude that they should live and obey. Delighted with the situation

of a city which was endeared to his pride by the difficulty of the

purchase, the prince of the Lombards disdained the ancient glories of

Milan; and Pavia, during some ages, was respected as the capital of the

kingdom of Italy.

the reign of the founder was splendid and transient; and, before he could regulate his new conquests, Alboin fell a sacrifice to domestic treason and female revenge. In a palace near Verona, which had not been erected for the Barbarians, he feasted the companions of his arms;

intoxication was the reward of valor, and the king himself was tempted by appetite, or vanity, to exceed the ordinary measure of

his intemperance. After draining many capacious bowls of Rhætian or falernian wine, he called for the skull of Cunimund, the noblest and

most precious ornament of his sideboard. The cup of victory was accepted with horrid applause by the circle of the Lombard chiefs. "Fill it again with wine," exclaimed the inhuman conqueror, "fill it to the brim: carry this goblet to the queen, and request in my name that she would rejoice with her father." In an agony of grief and rage, Rosamond had strength to utter, "Let the will of my lord be obeyed!" and, touching it with her

lips, pronounced a silent imprecation, that the insult should be washed away in the blood of Alboin. Some indulgence might be due to the

resentment of a daughter, if she had not already violated the duties of a wife. Implacable in her enmity, or inconstant in her love, the queen

of Italy had stooped from the throne to the arms of a subject, and

Helmichis, the king's armor-bearer, was the secret minister of her

pleasure and revenge. Against the proposal of the murder, he could

no longer urge the scruples of fidelity or gratitude; but Helmichis trembled when he revolved the danger as well as the guilt, when he

recollected the matchless strength and intrepidity of a warrior whom he

had so often attended in the field of battle. He pressed and obtained, that one of the bravest champions of the Lombards should be associated to the enterprise; but no more than a promise of secrecy could be drawn from the gallant Peredeus, and the mode of seduction employed by

Rosamond betrays her shameless insensibility both to honor and love. She

supplied the place of one of her female attendants who was beloved by

Peredeus, and contrived some excuse for darkness and silence, till

she could inform her companion that he had enjoyed the queen of the

Lombards, and that his own death, or the death of Alboin, must be the consequence of such treasonable adultery. In this alternative he chose

rather to be the accomplice than the victim of Rosamond, whose undaunted

spirit was incapable of fear or remorse. She expected and soon found a favorable moment, when the king, oppressed with wine, had retired from the table to his afternoon slumbers. His faithless spouse was anxious for his health and repose: the gates of the palace were shut, the arms

removed, the attendants dismissed, and Rosamond, after lulling him to

rest by her tender caresses, unbolted the chamber door, and urged the

reluctant conspirators to the instant execution of the deed. On the first alarm, the warrior started from his couch: his sword, which he attempted to draw, had been fastened to the scabbard by the hand of

Rosamond; and a small stool, his only weapon, could not long protect him from the spears of the assassins. The daughter of Cunimund smiled in

his fall: his body was buried under the staircase of the palace; and the

grateful posterity of the Lombards revered the tomb and the memory of their victorious leader.

chapter XLV: State Of Italy Under The Lombards.--Part II.

the ambitious Rosamond aspired to reign in the name of her lover; the city and palace of Verona were awed by her power; and a faithful band of

her native Gepidæ was prepared to applaud the revenge, and to second the wishes, of their sovereign. But the Lombard chiefs, who fled in the first moments of consternation and disorder, had resumed their courage and collected their powers; and the nation, instead of submitting to her

reign, demanded, with unanimous cries, that justice should be executed

on the guilty spouse and the murderers of their king. She sought a

refuge among the enemies of her country; and a criminal who deserved the abhorrence of mankind was protected by the selfish policy of the exarch. with her daughter, the heiress of the Lombard throne, her two lovers,

her trusty Gepidæ, and the spoils of the palace of Verona, Rosamond descended the Adige and the Po, and was transported by a Greek vessel to the safe harbor of Ravenna. Longinus beheld with delight the charms and the treasures of the widow of Alboin: her situation and her past conduct

might justify the most licentious proposals; and she readily listened to the passion of a minister, who, even in the decline of the empire, was

respected as the equal of kings. The death of a jealous lover was an easy and grateful sacrifice; and, as Helmichis issued from the bath, he

received the deadly potion from the hand of his mistress. The taste of the liquor, its speedy operation, and his experience of the character of

Rosamond, convinced him that he was poisoned: he pointed his dagger to

her breast, compelled her to drain the remainder of the cup, and expired

in a few minutes, with the consolation that she could not survive to enjoy the fruits of her wickedness. The daughter of Alboin and

Rosamond, with the richest spoils of the Lombards, was embarked for constantinople: the surprising strength of Peredeus amused and terrified the Imperial court: his blindness and revenge exhibited an imperfect copy of the adventures of Samson. By the free suffrage of the nation, in the assembly of Pavia, Clepho, one of their noblest chiefs, was elected as the successor of Alboin. Before the end of eighteen months, the throne was polluted by a second murder: Clepho was stabbed by the hand

of a domestic; the regal office was suspended above ten years during the

minority of his son Autharis; and Italy was divided and oppressed by a ducal aristocracy of thirty tyrants.

when the nephew of Justinian ascended the throne, he proclaimed a new

æra of happiness and glory. The annals of the second Justin are marked with disgrace abroad and misery at home. In the West, the Roman empire was afflicted by the loss of Italy, the desolation of Africa, and the conquests of the Persians. Injustice prevailed both in the capital and the provinces: the rich trembled for their property, the poor for their

safety, the ordinary magistrates were ignorant or venal, the occasional

remedies appear to have been arbitrary and violent, and the complaints

of the people could no longer be silenced by the splendid names of a

legislator and a conqueror. The opinion which imputes to the prince all the calamities of his times may be countenanced by the historian as a serious truth or a salutary prejudice. Yet a candid suspicion will arise, that the sentiments of Justin were pure and benevolent, and that

he might have filled his station without reproach, if the faculties of

his mind had not been impaired by disease, which deprived the emperor of the use of his feet, and confined him to the palace, a stranger to the complaints of the people and the vices of the government. The tardy

knowledge of his own impotence determined him to lay down the weight of the diadem; and, in the choice of a worthy substitute, he showed some

symptoms of a discerning and even magnanimous spirit. The only son of

Justin and Sophia died in his infancy; their daughter Arabia was the wife of Baduarius, superintendent of the palace, and afterwards commander of the Italian armies, who vainly aspired to confirm the

rights of marriage by those of adoption. While the empire appeared an

object of desire, Justin was accustomed to behold with jealousy and

hatred his brothers and cousins, the rivals of his hopes; nor could

he depend on the gratitude of those who would accept the purple as a

restitution, rather than a gift. Of these competitors, one had been

removed by exile, and afterwards by death; and the emperor himself had

inflicted such cruel insults on another, that he must either dread his

resentment or despise his patience. This domestic animosity was refined

into a generous resolution of seeking a successor, not in his family, but in the republic; and the artful Sophia recommended Tiberius, his faithful captain of the guards, whose virtues and fortune the emperor

might cherish as the fruit of his judicious choice. The ceremony of

his elevation to the rank of Cæsar, or Augustus, was performed in the

portico of the palace, in the presence of the patriarch and the senate.

Justin collected the remaining strength of his mind and body; but the

popular belief that his speech was inspired by the Deity betrays a very

humble opinion both of the man and of the times. "You behold," said the emperor, "the ensigns of supreme power. You are about to receive them,

not from my hand, but from the hand of God. Honor them, and from them

you will derive honor. Respect the empress your mother: you are now her

son; before, you were her servant. Delight not in blood; abstain from

revenge; avoid those actions by which I have incurred the public

hatred; and consult the experience, rather than the example, of your

predecessor. As a man, I have sinned; as a sinner, even in this life, I

have been severely punished: but these servants, (and we pointed to his

ministers,) who have abused my confidence, and inflamed my passions, will appear with me before the tribunal of Christ. I have been dazzled by the splendor of the diadem: be thou wise and modest; remember what

you have been, remember what you are. You see around us your slaves, and

your children: with the authority, assume the tenderness, of a parent.

Love your people like yourself; cultivate the affections, maintain the discipline, of the army; protect the fortunes of the rich, relieve the necessities of the poor." The assembly, in silence and in tears, applauded the counsels, and sympathized with the repentance, of their

prince the patriarch rehearsed the prayers of the church; Tiberius

received the diadem on his knees; and Justin, who in his abdication appeared most worthy to reign, addressed the new monarch in the following words: "If you consent, I live; if you command, I die: may the

God of heaven and earth infuse into your heart whatever I have neglected

or forgotten." The four last years of the emperor Justin were passed

in tranquil obscurity: his conscience was no longer tormented by the

remembrance of those duties which he was incapable of discharging; and his choice was justified by the filial reverence and gratitude of tiberius.

among the virtues of Tiberius, his beauty (he was one of the tallest and

most comely of the Romans) might introduce him to the favor of Sophia; and the widow of Justin was persuaded, that she should preserve her

station and influence under the reign of a second and more youthful

husband. But, if the ambitious candidate had been tempted to flatter and dissemble, it was no longer in his power to fulfil her expectations,

or his own promise. The factions of the hippodrome demanded, with some

impatience, the name of their new empress: both the people and Sophia were astonished by the proclamation of Anastasia, the secret, though

lawful, wife of the emperor Tiberius. Whatever could alleviate the disappointment of Sophia, Imperial honors, a stately palace, a numerous

household, was liberally bestowed by the piety of her adopted son; on

solemn occasions he attended and consulted the widow of his benefactor; but her ambition disdained the vain semblance of royalty, and the

respectful appellation of mother served to exasperate, rather than appease, the rage of an injured woman. While she accepted, and repaid with a courtly smile, the fair expressions of regard and confidence, a secret alliance was concluded between the dowager empress and her ancient enemies; and Justinian, the son of Germanus, was employed as the

instrument of her revenge. The pride of the reigning house supported, with reluctance, the dominion of a stranger: the youth was deservedly

popular; his name, after the death of Justin, had been mentioned by a tumultuous faction; and his own submissive offer of his head with a treasure of sixty thousand pounds, might be interpreted as an evidence

of guilt, or at least of fear. Justinian received a free pardon, and the command of the eastern army. The Persian monarch fled before his arms; and the acclamations which accompanied his triumph declared him worthy

of the purple. His artful patroness had chosen the month of the vintage, while the emperor, in a rural solitude, was permitted to enjoy the

pleasures of a subject. On the first intelligence of her designs, he

returned to Constantinople, and the conspiracy was suppressed by his

presence and firmness. From the pomp and honors which she had abused,

Sophia was reduced to a modest allowance: Tiberius dismissed her train,

intercepted her correspondence, and committed to a faithful guard the custody of her person. But the services of Justinian were not considered by that excellent prince as an aggravation of his offences: after a mild

reproof, his treason and ingratitude were forgiven; and it was commonly believed, that the emperor entertained some thoughts of contracting a double alliance with the rival of his throne. The voice of an angel

(such a fable was propagated) might reveal to the emperor, that he

should always triumph over his domestic foes; but Tiberius derived a firmer assurance from the innocence and generosity of his own mind.

with the odious name of Tiberius, he assumed the more popular appellation of Constantine, and imitated the purer virtues of the antonines. After recording the vice or folly of so many Roman princes,

it is pleasing to repose, for a moment, on a character conspicuous by the qualities of humanity, justice, temperance, and fortitude; to contemplate a sovereign affable in his palace, pious in the church,

impartial on the seat of judgment, and victorious, at least by his

generals, in the Persian war. The most glorious trophy of his victory consisted in a multitude of captives, whom Tiberius entertained,

redeemed, and dismissed to their native homes with the charitable spirit

of a Christian hero. The merit or misfortunes of his own subjects had a dearer claim to his beneficence, and he measured his bounty not so

much by their expectations as by his own dignity. This maxim, however dangerous in a trustee of the public wealth, was balanced by a principle

of humanity and justice, which taught him to abhor, as of the basest alloy, the gold that was extracted from the tears of the people. For their relief, as often as they had suffered by natural or hostile calamities, he was impatient to remit the arrears of the past, or the demands of future taxes: he sternly rejected the servile offerings of

his ministers, which were compensated by tenfold oppression; and the wise and equitable laws of Tiberius excited the praise and regret

of succeeding times. Constantinople believed that the emperor had discovered a treasure: but his genuine treasure consisted in the

practice of liberal economy, and the contempt of all vain and

superfluous expense. The Romans of the East would have been happy, if the best gift of Heaven, a patriot king, had been confirmed as a proper and permanent blessing. But in less than four years after the death of

Justin, his worthy successor sunk into a mortal disease, which left him

only sufficient time to restore the diadem, according to the tenure by which he held it, to the most deserving of his fellow-citizens.

He selected Maurice from the crowd, a judgment more precious than the

purple itself: the patriarch and senate were summoned to the bed of the dying prince: he bestowed his daughter and the empire; and his last advice was solemnly delivered by the voice of the quæstor. Tiberius expressed his hope that the virtues of his son and successor would erect the noblest mausoleum to his memory. His memory was embalmed by the

public affliction; but the most sincere grief evaporates in the tumult

of a new reign, and the eyes and acclamations of mankind were speedily directed to the rising sun.

the emperor Maurice derived his origin from ancient Rome; but his

immediate parents were settled at Arabissus in Cappadocia, and their

singular felicity preserved them alive to behold and partake the fortune

of their august son. The youth of Maurice was spent in the profession of arms: Tiberius promoted him to the command of a new and favorite legion

of twelve thousand confederates; his valor and conduct were signalized

in the Persian war; and he returned to Constantinople to accept, as his

just reward, the inheritance of the empire. Maurice ascended the throne at the mature age of forty-three years; and he reigned above twenty

years over the East and over himself; expelling from his mind the wild democracy of passions, and establishing (according to the quaint expression of Evagrius) a perfect aristocracy of reason and virtue. Some

suspicion will degrade the testimony of a subject, though he protests that his secret praise should never reach the ear of his sovereign, and

some failings seem to place the character of Maurice below the purer

merit of his predecessor. His cold and reserved demeanor might be

imputed to arrogance; his justice was not always exempt from cruelty,

nor his clemency from weakness; and his rigid economy too often exposed

him to the reproach of avarice. But the rational wishes of an absolute

monarch must tend to the happiness of his people. Maurice was endowed with sense and courage to promote that happiness, and his administration was directed by the principles and example of Tiberius. The

pusillanimity of the Greeks had introduced so complete a separation between the offices of king and of general, that a private soldier, who

had deserved and obtained the purple, seldom or never appeared at the head of his armies. Yet the emperor Maurice enjoyed the glory of

restoring the Persian monarch to his throne; his lieutenants waged a doubtful war against the Avars of the Danube; and he cast an eye of

pity, of ineffectual pity, on the abject and distressful state of his

Italian provinces.

from Italy the emperors were incessantly tormented by tales of misery and demands of succor, which extorted the humiliating confession of their own weakness. The expiring dignity of Rome was only marked by the freedom and energy of her complaints: "If you are incapable," she said,

"of delivering us from the sword of the Lombards, save us at least from the calamity of famine." Tiberius forgave the reproach, and relieved the distress: a supply of corn was transported from Egypt to the Tyber; and the Roman people, invoking the name, not of Camillus, but of St. Peter

repulsed the Barbarians from their walls. But the relief was accidental, the danger was perpetual and pressing; and the clergy and senate, collecting the remains of their ancient opulence, a sum of three thousand pounds of gold, despatched the patrician Pamphronius to lay their gifts and their complaints at the foot of the Byzantine throne. the attention of the court, and the forces of the East, were diverted by the Persian war: but the justice of Tiberius applied the subsidy to the defence of the city; and he dismissed the patrician with his best advice, either to bribe the Lombard chiefs, or to purchase the aid of the kings of France. Notwithstanding this weak invention, Italy was

still afflicted, Rome was again besieged, and the suburb of Classe, only three miles from Ravenna, was pillaged and occupied by the troops of a

simple duke of Spoleto. Maurice gave audience to a second deputation

of priests and senators: the duties and the menaces of religion were forcibly urged in the letters of the Roman pontiff; and his nuncio, the deacon Gregory, was alike qualified to solicit the powers either of

heaven or of the earth. The emperor adopted, with stronger effect, the

measures of his predecessor: some formidable chiefs were persuaded to embrace the friendship of the Romans; and one of them, a mild and faithful Barbarian, lived and died in the service of the exarchs: the

passes of the Alps were delivered to the Franks; and the pope encouraged them to violate, without scruple, their oaths and engagements to the

misbelievers. Childebert, the great-grandson of Clovis, was persuaded to invade Italy by the payment of fifty thousand pieces; but, as he had

viewed with delight some Byzantine coin of the weight of one pound of

gold, the king of Austrasia might stipulate, that the gift should be

rendered more worthy of his acceptance, by a proper mixture of these

respectable medals. The dukes of the Lombards had provoked by frequent

inroads their powerful neighbors of Gaul. As soon as they were apprehensive of a just retaliation, they renounced their feeble and disorderly independence: the advantages of real government, union,

secrecy, and vigor, were unanimously confessed; and Autharis, the son of clepho, had already attained the strength and reputation of a warrior.

Under the standard of their new king, the conquerors of Italy withstood three successive invasions, one of which was led by Childebert himself, the last of the Merovingian race who descended from the Alps. The first expedition was defeated by the jealous animosity of the Franks and alemanni. In the second they were vanquished in a bloody battle, with

more loss and dishonor than they had sustained since the foundation of their monarchy. Impatient for revenge, they returned a third time with accumulated force, and Autharis yielded to the fury of the torrent. the troops and treasures of the Lombards were distributed in the walled towns between the Alps and the Apennine. A nation, less sensible of danger than of fatigue and delay, soon murmured against the folly of their twenty commanders; and the hot vapors of an Italian sun infected with disease those tramontane bodies which had already suffered the

vicissitudes of intemperance and famine. The powers that were inadequate to the conquest, were more than sufficient for the desolation, of the country; nor could the trembling natives distinguish between their enemies and their deliverers. If the junction of the Merovingian and

Imperial forces had been effected in the neighborhood of Milan, perhaps they might have subverted the throne of the Lombards; but the Franks expected six days the signal of a flaming village, and the arms of the

Greeks were idly employed in the reduction of Modena and Parma, which were torn from them after the retreat of their transalpine allies. The

victorious Autharis asserted his claim to the dominion of Italy. At the foot of the Rhætian Alps, he subdued the resistance, and rifled the

hidden treasures, of a sequestered island in the Lake of Comum. At the extreme point of the Calabria, he touched with his spear a column on the sea-shore of Rhegium, proclaiming that ancient landmark to stand the

immovable boundary of his kingdom.

during a period of two hundred years, Italy was unequally divided between the kingdom of the Lombards and the exarchate of Ravenna. the offices and professions, which the jealousy of Constantine had

separated, were united by the indulgence of Justinian; and eighteen

successive exarchs were invested, in the decline of the empire, with the full remains of civil, of military, and even of ecclesiastical, power. their immediate jurisdiction, which was afterwards consecrated as the

patrimony of St. Peter, extended over the modern Romagna, the marshes

or valleys of Ferrara and Commachio, five maritime cities from Rimini to ancona, and a second inland Pentapolis, between the Adriatic coast and the hills of the Apennine. Three subordinate provinces, of Rome, of

Venice, and of Naples, which were divided by hostile lands from the

palace of Ravenna, acknowledged, both in peace and war, the supremacy

of the exarch. The duchy of Rome appears to have included the Tuscan,

Sabine, and Latin conquests, of the first four hundred years of the city, and the limits may be distinctly traced along the coast, from civita Vecchia to Terracina, and with the course of the Tyber from ameria and Narni to the port of Ostia. The numerous islands from

Grado to Chiozza composed the infant dominion of Venice: but the more accessible towns on the Continent were overthrown by the Lombards, who beheld with impotent fury a new capital rising from the waves. The power

of the dukes of Naples was circumscribed by the bay and the adjacent

isles, by the hostile territory of Capua, and by the Roman colony of amalphi, whose industrious citizens, by the invention of the mariner's compass, have unveiled the face of the globe. The three islands of

Sardinia, Corsica, and Sicily, still adhered to the empire; and the acquisition of the farther Calabria removed the landmark of Autharis from the shore of Rhegium to the Isthmus of Consentia. In Sardinia, the savage mountaineers preserved the liberty and religion of their ancestors; and the husbandmen of Sicily were chained to their rich and cultivated soil. Rome was oppressed by the iron sceptre of the exarchs, and a Greek, perhaps a eunuch, insulted with impunity the ruins of the capitol. But Naples soon acquired the privilege of electing her own dukes: the independence of Amalphi was the fruit of commerce; and the

voluntary attachment of Venice was finally ennobled by an equal alliance with the Eastern empire. On the map of Italy, the measure of the exarchate occupies a very inadequate space, but it included an ample

proportion of wealth, industry, and population. The most faithful and

valuable subjects escaped from the Barbarian yoke; and the banners of

Pavia and Verona, of Milan and Padua, were displayed in their respective

quarters by the new inhabitants of Ravenna. The remainder of Italy was

possessed by the Lombards; and from Pavia, the royal seat, their

kingdom was extended to the east, the north, and the west, as far as the confines of the Avars, the Bavarians, and the Franks of Austrasia and burgundy. In the language of modern geography, it is now represented by the Terra Firma of the Venetian republic, Tyrol, the Milanese, Piedmont, the coast of Genoa, Mantua, Parma, and Modena, the grand duchy of tuscany, and a large portion of the ecclesiastical state from Perugia to the Adriatic. The dukes, and at length the princes, of Beneventum,

survived the monarchy, and propagated the name of the Lombards. From capua to Tarentum, they reigned near five hundred years over the

greatest part of the present kingdom of Naples.

In comparing the proportion of the victorious and the vanquished

people, the change of language will afford the most probably inference. according to this standard, it will appear, that the Lombards of Italy, and the Visigoths of Spain, were less numerous than the Franks or burgundians; and the conquerors of Gaul must yield, in their turn, to the multitude of Saxons and Angles who almost eradicated the idioms of britain. The modern Italian has been insensibly formed by the mixture

of nations: the awkwardness of the Barbarians in the nice management

of declensions and conjugations reduced them to the use of articles and auxiliary verbs; and many new ideas have been expressed by Teutonic appellations. Yet the principal stock of technical and familiar words is found to be of Latin derivation; and, if we were sufficiently conversant with the obsolete, the rustic, and the municipal dialects of ancient

Italy, we should trace the origin of many terms which might, perhaps, be

rejected by the classic purity of Rome. A numerous army constitutes but a small nation, and the powers of the Lombards were soon diminished by the retreat of twenty thousand Saxons, who scorned a dependent

situation, and returned, after many bold and perilous adventures, to their native country. The camp of Alboin was of formidable extent, but the extent of a camp would be easily circumscribed within the limits of a city; and its martial in habitants must be thinly scattered over the face of a large country. When Alboin descended from the Alps, he

invested his nephew, the first duke of Friuli, with the command of the

province and the people: but the prudent Gisulf would have declined the dangerous office, unless he had been permitted to choose, among the nobles of the Lombards, a sufficient number of families to form a

perpetual colony of soldiers and subjects. In the progress of conquest, the same option could not be granted to the dukes of Brescia or Bergamo,

of Pavia or Turin, of Spoleto or Beneventum; but each of these, and each

of their colleagues, settled in his appointed district with a band of followers who resorted to his standard in war and his tribunal in

peace. Their attachment was free and honorable: resigning the gifts and benefits which they had accepted, they might emigrate with their families into the jurisdiction of another duke; but their absence from the kingdom was punished with death, as a crime of military desertion. the posterity of the first conquerors struck a deeper root into the

soil, which, by every motive of interest and honor, they were bound to defend. A Lombard was born the soldier of his king and his duke; and the civil assemblies of the nation displayed the banners, and assumed the appellation, of a regular army. Of this army, the pay and the rewards were drawn from the conquered provinces; and the distribution, which was

not effected till after the death of Alboin, is disgraced by the foul

marks of injustice and rapine. Many of the most wealthy Italians were

slain or banished; the remainder were divided among the strangers, and a tributary obligation was imposed (under the name of hospitality) of

paying to the Lombards a third part of the fruits of the earth. Within

less than seventy years, this artificial system was abolished by a more

simple and solid tenure. Either the Roman landlord was expelled by

his strong and insolent guest, or the annual payment, a third of the

produce, was exchanged by a more equitable transaction for an adequate

proportion of landed property. Under these foreign masters, the business

of agriculture, in the cultivation of corn, wines, and olives, was exercised with degenerate skill and industry by the labor of the slaves and natives. But the occupations of a pastoral life were more pleasing to the idleness of the Barbarian. In the rich meadows of Venetia, they

restored and improved the breed of horses, for which that province

had once been illustrious; and the Italians beheld with astonishment a foreign race of oxen or buffaloes. The depopulation of Lombardy, and the

increase of forests, afforded an ample range for the pleasures of the chase. That marvellous art which teaches the birds of the air to acknowledge the voice, and execute the commands, of their master, had been unknown to the ingenuity of the Greeks and Romans. Scandinavia and

Scythia produce the boldest and most tractable falcons: they were tamed and educated by the roving inhabitants, always on horseback and in the field. This favorite amusement of our ancestors was introduced by the barbarians into the Roman provinces; and the laws of Italy esteemed the

sword and the hawk as of equal dignity and importance in the hands of a

noble Lombard.

chapter XLV: State Of Italy Under The Lombards.--Part III.

So rapid was the influence of climate and example, that the Lombards of the fourth generation surveyed with curiosity and affright the portraits

of their savage forefathers. Their heads were shaven behind, but the shaggy locks hung over their eyes and mouth, and a long beard

represented the name and character of the nation. Their dress consisted

of loose linen garments, after the fashion of the Anglo-Saxons, which were decorated, in their opinion, with broad stripes or variegated colors. The legs and feet were clothed in long hose, and open sandals; and even in the security of peace a trusty sword was constantly girt to their side. Yet this strange apparel, and horrid aspect, often concealed a gentle and generous disposition; and as soon as the rage of battle

had subsided, the captives and subjects were sometimes surprised by the

humanity of the victor. The vices of the Lombards were the effect of

passion, of ignorance, of intoxication; their virtues are the more

laudable, as they were not affected by the hypocrisy of social manners,

nor imposed by the rigid constraint of laws and education. I should not be apprehensive of deviating from my subject, if it were in my power to delineate the private life of the conquerors of Italy; and I shall

relate with pleasure the adventurous gallantry of Autharis, which breathes the true spirit of chivalry and romance. After the loss of

his promised bride, a Merovingian princess, he sought in marriage the daughter of the king of Bavaria; and Garribald accepted the alliance of the Italian monarch. Impatient of the slow progress of negotiation, the ardent lover escaped from his palace, and visited the court of Bavaria

in the train of his own embassy. At the public audience, the unknown

stranger advanced to the throne, and informed Garribald that the ambassador was indeed the minister of state, but that he alone was the friend of Autharis, who had trusted him with the delicate commission of

making a faithful report of the charms of his spouse. Theudelinda was

summoned to undergo this important examination; and, after a pause

of silent rapture, he hailed her as the queen of Italy, and humbly

requested that, according to the custom of the nation, she would present a cup of wine to the first of her new subjects. By the command of

her father she obeyed: Autharis received the cup in his turn, and, in

restoring it to the princess, he secretly touched her hand, and drew his

own finger over his face and lips. In the evening, Theudelinda imparted to her nurse the indiscreet familiarity of the stranger, and was comforted by the assurance, that such boldness could proceed only from the king her husband, who, by his beauty and courage, appeared worthy of

her love. The ambassadors were dismissed: no sooner did they reach the confines of Italy than Autharis, raising himself on his horse, darted

his battle-axe against a tree with incomparable strength and dexterity.

"Such," said he to the astonished Bavarians, "such are the strokes of the king of the Lombards." On the approach of a French army, Garribald and his daughter took refuge in the dominions of their ally; and the

marriage was consummated in the palace of Verona. At the end of one

year, it was dissolved by the death of Autharis: but the virtues of theudelinda had endeared her to the nation, and she was permitted to bestow, with her hand, the sceptre of the Italian kingdom.

from this fact, as well as from similar events, it is certain that the Lombards possessed freedom to elect their sovereign, and sense to decline the frequent use of that dangerous privilege. The public revenue arose from the produce of land and the profits of justice. When the

independent dukes agreed that Autharis should ascend the throne of

his father, they endowed the regal office with a fair moiety of their

respective domains. The proudest nobles aspired to the honors of

servitude near the person of their prince: he rewarded the fidelity

of his vassals by the precarious gift of pensions and \_benefices\_; and atoned for the injuries of war by the rich foundation of monasteries and churches. In peace a judge, a leader in war, he never usurped the

powers of a sole and absolute legislator. The king of Italy convened the

national assemblies in the palace, or more probably in the fields, of

Pavia: his great council was composed of the persons most eminent by their birth and dignities; but the validity, as well as the execution,

of their decrees depended on the approbation of the \_faithful\_ people, the \_fortunate\_ army of the Lombards. About fourscore years after the conquest of Italy, their traditional customs were transcribed in teutonic Latin, and ratified by the consent of the prince and people:

some new regulations were introduced, more suitable to their present condition; the example of Rotharis was imitated by the wisest of his

successors; and the laws of the Lombards have been esteemed the

least imperfect of the Barbaric codes. Secure by their courage in the

possession of liberty, these rude and hasty legislators were incapable

of balancing the powers of the constitution, or of discussing the nice theory of political government. Such crimes as threatened the life

of the sovereign, or the safety of the state, were adjudged worthy of death; but their attention was principally confined to the defence

of the person and property of the subject. According to the strange

jurisprudence of the times, the guilt of blood might be redeemed by a fine; yet the high price of nine hundred pieces of gold declares a

just sense of the value of a simple citizen. Less atrocious injuries, a wound, a fracture, a blow, an opprobrious word, were measured with

scrupulous and almost ridiculous diligence; and the prudence of the

legislator encouraged the ignoble practice of bartering honor and

revenge for a pecuniary compensation. The ignorance of the Lombards in the state of Paganism or Christianity gave implicit credit to the malice and mischief of witchcraft, but the judges of the seventeenth century

might have been instructed and confounded by the wisdom of Rotharis, who derides the absurd superstition, and protects the wretched victims of

popular or judicial cruelty. The same spirit of a legislator, superior to his age and country, may be ascribed to Luitprand, who condemns, while he tolerates, the impious and inveterate abuse of duels,

observing, from his own experience, that the juster cause had often been

oppressed by successful violence. Whatever merit may be discovered in the laws of the Lombards, they are the genuine fruit of the reason of the Barbarians, who never admitted the bishops of Italy to a seat in their legislative councils. But the succession of their kings is marked with virtue and ability; the troubled series of their annals is adorned with fair intervals of peace, order, and domestic happiness; and the

Italians enjoyed a milder and more equitable government, than any of the other kingdoms which had been founded on the ruins of the Western empire.

amidst the arms of the Lombards, and under the despotism of the Greeks, we again inquire into the fate of Rome, which had reached, about the close of the sixth century, the lowest period of her depression. By the

removal of the seat of empire, and the successive loss of the provinces, the sources of public and private opulence were exhausted: the lofty tree, under whose shade the nations of the earth had reposed, was deprived of its leaves and branches, and the sapless trunk was left to wither on the ground. The ministers of command, and the messengers of

victory, no longer met on the Appian or Flaminian way; and the hostile approach of the Lombards was often felt, and continually feared. The

inhabitants of a potent and peaceful capital, who visit without an anxious thought the garden of the adjacent country, will faintly picture

in their fancy the distress of the Romans: they shut or opened their

gates with a trembling hand, beheld from the walls the flames of their

houses, and heard the lamentations of their brethren, who were coupled together like dogs, and dragged away into distant slavery beyond the sea and the mountains. Such incessant alarms must annihilate the pleasures and interrupt the labors of a rural life; and the Campagna of Rome was

speedily reduced to the state of a dreary wilderness, in which the land

is barren, the waters are impure, and the air is infectious. Curiosity and ambition no longer attracted the nations to the capital of the world: but, if chance or necessity directed the steps of a wandering

stranger, he contemplated with horror the vacancy and solitude of the city, and might be tempted to ask, Where is the senate, and where are the people? In a season of excessive rains, the Tyber swelled above its banks, and rushed with irresistible violence into the valleys of the

seven hills. A pestilential disease arose from the stagnation of the deluge, and so rapid was the contagion, that fourscore persons expired

in an hour in the midst of a solemn procession, which implored the

mercy of Heaven. A society in which marriage is encouraged and industry

prevails soon repairs the accidental losses of pestilence and war: but, as the far greater part of the Romans was condemned to hopeless

indigence and celibacy, the depopulation was constant and visible, and the gloomy enthusiasts might expect the approaching failure of the

human race. Yet the number of citizens still exceeded the measure of

subsistence: their precarious food was supplied from the harvests of

Sicily or Egypt; and the frequent repetition of famine betrays the

inattention of the emperor to a distant province. The edifices of Rome were exposed to the same ruin and decay: the mouldering fabrics were easily overthrown by inundations, tempests, and earthquakes: and the

monks, who had occupied the most advantageous stations, exulted in their base triumph over the ruins of antiquity. It is commonly believed, that

Pope Gregory the First attacked the temples and mutilated the statues

of the city; that, by the command of the Barbarian, the Palatine library was reduced to ashes, and that the history of Livy was the peculiar

mark of his absurd and mischievous fanaticism. The writings of Gregory

himself reveal his implacable aversion to the monuments of classic

genius; and he points his severest censure against the profane learning

of a bishop, who taught the art of grammar, studied the Latin poets, and pronounced with the same voice the praises of Jupiter and those of christ. But the evidence of his destructive rage is doubtful and recent: the Temple of Peace, or the theatre of Marcellus, have been demolished by the slow operation of ages, and a formal proscription would have

multiplied the copies of Virgil and Livy in the countries which were not

subject to the ecclesiastical dictator.

Like Thebes, or Babylon, or Carthage, the names of Rome might have been erased from the earth, if the city had not been animated by a vital

principle, which again restored her to honor and dominion. A vague tradition was embraced, that two Jewish teachers, a tent-maker and a fisherman, had formerly been executed in the circus of Nero, and at the end of five hundred years, their genuine or fictitious relics were adored as the Palladium of Christian Rome. The pilgrims of the East and west resorted to the holy threshold; but the shrines of the apostles were guarded by miracles and invisible terrors; and it was not without fear that the pious Catholic approached the object of his worship.

It was fatal to touch, it was dangerous to behold, the bodies of the

saints; and those who, from the purest motives, presumed to disturb the

repose of the sanctuary, were affrighted by visions, or punished with

sudden death. The unreasonable request of an empress, who wished to deprive the Romans of their sacred treasure, the head of St. Paul, was rejected with the deepest abhorrence; and the pope asserted, most

probably with truth, that a linen which had been sanctified in the

neighborhood of his body, or the filings of his chain, which it was

sometimes easy and sometimes impossible to obtain, possessed an equal degree of miraculous virtue. But the power as well as virtue of the apostles resided with living energy in the breast of their successors; and the chair of St. Peter was filled under the reign of Maurice by the first and greatest of the name of Gregory. His grandfather Felix had

himself been pope, and as the bishops were already bound by the laws of celibacy, his consecration must have been preceded by the death of his wife. The parents of Gregory, Sylvia, and Gordian, were the noblest

of the senate, and the most pious of the church of Rome; his female

relations were numbered among the saints and virgins; and his own figure, with those of his father and mother, were represented near three

hundred years in a family portrait, which he offered to the monastery of

St. Andrew. The design and coloring of this picture afford an honorable testimony that the art of painting was cultivated by the Italians of the

sixth century; but the most abject ideas must be entertained of their taste and learning, since the epistles of Gregory, his sermons, and his dialogues, are the work of a man who was second in erudition to none of

his contemporaries: his birth and abilities had raised him to the office

of præfect of the city, and he enjoyed the merit of renouncing the pomps and vanities of this world. His ample patrimony was dedicated to the foundation of seven monasteries, one in Rome, and six in Sicily; and

it was the wish of Gregory that he might be unknown in this life, and

glorious only in the next. Yet his devotion (and it might be sincere)

pursued the path which would have been chosen by a crafty and ambitious

statesman. The talents of Gregory, and the splendor which accompanied

his retreat, rendered him dear and useful to the church; and implicit

obedience has always been inculcated as the first duty of a monk. As

soon as he had received the character of deacon, Gregory was sent to

reside at the Byzantine court, the nuncio or minister of the apostolic

see; and he boldly assumed, in the name of St. Peter, a tone of

independent dignity, which would have been criminal and dangerous in the

most illustrious layman of the empire. He returned to Rome with a just

increase of reputation, and, after a short exercise of the monastic

virtues, he was dragged from the cloister to the papal throne, by the

unanimous voice of the clergy, the senate, and the people. He alone

resisted, or seemed to resist, his own elevation; and his humble

petition, that Maurice would be pleased to reject the choice of the

Romans, could only serve to exalt his character in the eyes of the emperor and the public. When the fatal mandate was proclaimed, Gregory

solicited the aid of some friendly merchants to convey him in a basket beyond the gates of Rome, and modestly concealed himself some days among the woods and mountains, till his retreat was discovered, as it is said, by a celestial light.

the pontificate of Gregory the \_Great\_, which lasted thirteen years, six

months, and ten days, is one of the most edifying periods of the history

of the church. His virtues, and even his faults, a singular mixture

of simplicity and cunning, of pride and humility, of sense and

superstition, were happily suited to his station and to the temper of the times. In his rival, the patriarch of Constantinople, he condemned the anti-Christian title of universal bishop, which the successor of

St. Peter was too haughty to concede, and too feeble to assume; and the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of Gregory was confined to the triple character of Bishop of Rome, Primate of Italy, and Apostle of the West.

He frequently ascended the pulpit, and kindled, by his rude, though

pathetic, eloquence, the congenial passions of his audience: the

language of the Jewish prophets was interpreted and applied; and the

minds of a people, depressed by their present calamities, were directed to the hopes and fears of the invisible world. His precepts and example defined the model of the Roman liturgy; the distribution of the

parishes, the calendar of the festivals, the order of processions, the

service of the priests and deacons, the variety and change of sacerdotal

garments. Till the last days of his life, he officiated in the canon

of the mass, which continued above three hours: the Gregorian chant has

preserved the vocal and instrumental music of the theatre, and the rough

voices of the Barbarians attempted to imitate the melody of the Roman

school. Experience had shown him the efficacy of these solemn and

pompous rites, to soothe the distress, to confirm the faith, to mitigate the fierceness, and to dispel the dark enthusiasm of the vulgar, and he

readily forgave their tendency to promote the reign of priesthood and

superstition. The bishops of Italy and the adjacent islands acknowledged the Roman pontiff as their special metropolitan. Even the existence, the

union, or the translation of episcopal seats was decided by his absolute discretion: and his successful inroads into the provinces of Greece,

of Spain, and of Gaul, might countenance the more lofty pretensions

of succeeding popes. He interposed to prevent the abuses of popular elections; his jealous care maintained the purity of faith and discipline; and the apostolic shepherd assiduously watched over the faith and discipline of the subordinate pastors. Under his reign, the arians of Italy and Spain were reconciled to the Catholic church, and the conquest of Britain reflects less glory on the name of Cæsar, than

on that of Gregory the First. Instead of six legions, forty monks were embarked for that distant island, and the pontiff lamented the austere duties which forbade him to partake the perils of their spiritual warfare. In less than two years, he could announce to the archbishop of alexandria, that they had baptized the king of Kent with ten thousand

of his Anglo-Saxons, and that the Roman missionaries, like those of the primitive church, were armed only with spiritual and supernatural

powers. The credulity or the prudence of Gregory was always disposed to confirm the truths of religion by the evidence of ghosts, miracles, and

resurrections; and posterity has paid to \_his\_ memory the same tribute which he freely granted to the virtue of his own or the preceding

generation. The celestial honors have been liberally bestowed by the authority of the popes, but Gregory is the last of their own order whom they have presumed to inscribe in the calendar of saints.

their temporal power insensibly arose from the calamities of the times: and the Roman bishops, who have deluged Europe and Asia with blood, were compelled to reign as the ministers of charity and peace. I. The church

of Rome, as it has been formerly observed, was endowed with ample

possessions in Italy, Sicily, and the more distant provinces; and her agents, who were commonly sub-deacons, had acquired a civil, and even criminal, jurisdiction over their tenants and husbandmen. The successor

of St. Peter administered his patrimony with the temper of a vigilant and moderate landlord; and the epistles of Gregory are filled with

salutary instructions to abstain from doubtful or vexatious lawsuits; to preserve the integrity of weights and measures; to grant every

reasonable delay; and to reduce the capitation of the slaves of the glebe, who purchased the right of marriage by the payment of an arbitrary fine. The rent or the produce of these estates was transported to the mouth of the Tyber, at the risk and expense of the pope: in the

use of wealth he acted like a faithful steward of the church and the

poor, and liberally applied to their wants the inexhaustible resources

of abstinence and order. The voluminous account of his receipts and disbursements was kept above three hundred years in the Lateran, as the model of Christian economy. On the four great festivals, he divided their quarterly allowance to the clergy, to his domestics, to the

monasteries, the churches, the places of burial, the almshouses, and the hospitals of Rome, and the rest of the diocese. On the first day of every month, he distributed to the poor, according to the season, their

stated portion of corn, wine, cheese, vegetables, oil, fish, fresh

provisions, clothes, and money; and his treasurers were continually

summoned to satisfy, in his name, the extraordinary demands of indigence and merit. The instant distress of the sick and helpless, of strangers and pilgrims, was relieved by the bounty of each day, and of every hour;

nor would the pontiff indulge himself in a frugal repast, till he had

sent the dishes from his own table to some objects deserving of his compassion. The misery of the times had reduced the nobles and matrons

of Rome to accept, without a blush, the benevolence of the church: three thousand virgins received their food and raiment from the hand of their benefactor; and many bishops of Italy escaped from the Barbarians to the

hospitable threshold of the Vatican. Gregory might justly be styled the Father of his Country; and such was the extreme sensibility of his conscience, that, for the death of a beggar who had perished in the

streets, he interdicted himself during several days from the exercise

of sacerdotal functions. II. The misfortunes of Rome involved the apostolical pastor in the business of peace and war; and it might be doubtful to himself, whether piety or ambition prompted him to supply the place of his absent sovereign. Gregory awakened the emperor from a long slumber; exposed the guilt or incapacity of the exarch and his

inferior ministers; complained that the veterans were withdrawn from

Rome for the defence of Spoleto; encouraged the Italians to guard their cities and altars; and condescended, in the crisis of danger, to name the tribunes, and to direct the operations, of the provincial troops. but the martial spirit of the pope was checked by the scruples of

humanity and religion: the imposition of tribute, though it was employed

in the Italian war, he freely condemned as odious and oppressive; whilst

he protected, against the Imperial edicts, the pious cowardice of the

soldiers who deserted a military for a monastic life If we may credit

his own declarations, it would have been easy for Gregory to exterminate the Lombards by their domestic factions, without leaving a king, a duke,

or a count, to save that unfortunate nation from the vengeance of their foes As a Christian bishop, he preferred the salutary offices of peace;

his mediation appeased the tumult of arms: but he was too conscious of the arts of the Greeks, and the passions of the Lombards, to engage his

sacred promise for the observance of the truce. Disappointed in the hope

of a general and lasting treaty, he presumed to save his country without the consent of the emperor or the exarch. The sword of the enemy was

suspended over Rome; it was averted by the mild eloquence and seasonable

gifts of the pontiff, who commanded the respect of heretics and barbarians. The merits of Gregory were treated by the Byzantine court with reproach and insult; but in the attachment of a grateful people, he found the purest reward of a citizen, and the best right of a sovereign.

chapter XLVI: Troubles In Persia.--Part I.

Revolutions On Persia After The Death Of Chosroes On

Nushirvan.--His Son Hormouz, A Tyrant, Is Deposed.--

Usurpation Of Baharam.--Flight And Restoration Of Chosroes

II.--His Gratitude To The Romans.--The Chagan Of The Avars.--

Revolt Of The Army Against Maurice.--His Death.--Tyranny Of

Phocas.--Elevation Of Heraclius.--The Persian War.--Chosroes

Subdues Syria, Egypt, And Asia Minor.--Siege Of

Constantinople By The Persians And Avars.--Persian

Expeditions.--Victories And Triumph Of Heraclius.

the conflict of Rome and Persia was prolonged from the death of Crassus to the reign of Heraclius. An experience of seven hundred years might convince the rival nations of the impossibility of maintaining their conquests beyond the fatal limits of the Tigris and Euphrates. Yet the emulation of Trajan and Julian was awakened by the trophies of alexander, and the sovereigns of Persia indulged the ambitious hope of

restoring the empire of Cyrus. Such extraordinary efforts of power and courage will always command the attention of posterity; but the events by which the fate of nations is not materially changed, leave a faint

impression on the page of history, and the patience of the reader would be exhausted by the repetition of the same hostilities, undertaken without cause, prosecuted without glory, and terminated without effect. the arts of negotiation, unknown to the simple greatness of the senate and the Cæsars, were assiduously cultivated by the Byzantine princes; and the memorials of their perpetual embassies repeat, with the same

uniform prolixity, the language of falsehood and declamation, the

insolence of the Barbarians, and the servile temper of the tributary

Greeks. Lamenting the barren superfluity of materials, I have studied to compress the narrative of these uninteresting transactions: but the just

Nushirvan is still applauded as the model of Oriental kings, and the ambition of his grandson Chosroes prepared the revolution of the East, which was speedily accomplished by the arms and the religion of the

successors of Mahomet.

In the useless altercations, that precede and justify the quarrels of

princes, the Greeks and the Barbarians accused each other of violating the peace which had been concluded between the two empires about four

years before the death of Justinian. The sovereign of Persia and India aspired to reduce under his obedience the province of Yemen or Arabia felix; the distant land of myrrh and frankincense, which had escaped,

rather than opposed, the conquerors of the East. After the defeat of abrahah under the walls of Mecca, the discord of his sons and brothers

gave an easy entrance to the Persians: they chased the strangers

of Abyssinia beyond the Red Sea; and a native prince of the ancient

Homerites was restored to the throne as the vassal or viceroy of the

great Nushirvan. But the nephew of Justinian declared his resolution to avenge the injuries of his Christian ally the prince of Abyssinia, as they suggested a decent pretence to discontinue the annual \_tribute\_, which was poorly disguised by the name of pension. The churches of

Persarmenia were oppressed by the intolerant spirit of the Magi; they

secretly invoked the protector of the Christians, and, after the pious

murder of their satraps, the rebels were avowed and supported as the brethren and subjects of the Roman emperor. The complaints of Nushirvan were disregarded by the Byzantine court; Justin yielded to the

importunities of the Turks, who offered an alliance against the common enemy; and the Persian monarchy was threatened at the same instant by the united forces of Europe, of Æthiopia, and of Scythia. At the age

of fourscore the sovereign of the East would perhaps have chosen the

peaceful enjoyment of his glory and greatness; but as soon as war became

inevitable, he took the field with the alacrity of youth, whilst the aggressor trembled in the palace of Constantinople. Nushirvan, or chosroes, conducted in person the siege of Dara; and although that

important fortress had been left destitute of troops and magazines, the

valor of the inhabitants resisted above five months the archers, the elephants, and the military engines of the Great King. In the mean while

his general Adarman advanced from Babylon, traversed the desert, passed the Euphrates, insulted the suburbs of Antioch, reduced to ashes the city of Apamea, and laid the spoils of Syria at the feet of his master, whose perseverance in the midst of winter at length subverted the bulwark of the East. But these losses, which astonished the provinces and the court, produced a salutary effect in the repentance and abdication of the emperor Justin: a new spirit arose in the Byzantine councils; and a truce of three years was obtained by the prudence of tiberius. That seasonable interval was employed in the preparations

of war; and the voice of rumor proclaimed to the world, that from the distant countries of the Alps and the Rhine, from Scythia, Mæsia,

Pannonia, Illyricum, and Isauria, the strength of the Imperial cavalry was reënforced with one hundred and fifty thousand soldiers. Yet the

king of Persia, without fear, or without faith, resolved to prevent the attack of the enemy; again passed the Euphrates, and dismissing the ambassadors of Tiberius, arrogantly commanded them to await his arrival at Cæsarea, the metropolis of the Cappadocian provinces. The two armies encountered each other in the battle of Melitene: the Barbarians, who darkened the air with a cloud of arrows, prolonged their line, and extended their wings across the plain; while the Romans, in deep and

solid bodies, expected to prevail in closer action, by the weight of their swords and lances. A Scythian chief, who commanded their right wing, suddenly turned the flank of the enemy, attacked their rear-guard

in the presence of Chosroes, penetrated to the midst of the camp,

pillaged the royal tent, profaned the eternal fire, loaded a train of camels with the spoils of Asia, cut his way through the Persian host, and returned with songs of victory to his friends, who had consumed the day in single combats, or ineffectual skirmishes. The darkness of the

night, and the separation of the Romans, afforded the Persian monarch an

opportunity of revenge; and one of their camps was swept away by a rapid and impetuous assault. But the review of his loss, and the consciousness

of his danger, determined Chosroes to a speedy retreat: he burnt, in his

passage, the vacant town of Melitene; and, without consulting the safety

of his troops, boldly swam the Euphrates on the back of an elephant. after this unsuccessful campaign, the want of magazines, and perhaps

some inroad of the Turks, obliged him to disband or divide his forces; the Romans were left masters of the field, and their general Justinian, advancing to the relief of the Persarmenian rebels, erected his standard

on the banks of the Araxes. The great Pompey had formerly halted within three days' march of the Caspian: that inland sea was explored, for the first time, by a hostile fleet, and seventy thousand captives were transplanted from Hyrcania to the Isle of Cyprus. On the return of

spring, Justinian descended into the fertile plains of Assyria; the flames of war approached the residence of Nushirvan; the indignant

monarch sunk into the grave; and his last edict restrained his

successors from exposing their person in battle against the Romans.

Yet the memory of this transient affront was lost in the glories of a

long reign; and his formidable enemies, after indulging their dream of conquest, again solicited a short respite from the calamities of war.

the throne of Chosroes Nushirvan was filled by Hormouz, or Hormisdas, the eldest or the most favored of his sons. With the kingdoms of Persia and India, he inherited the reputation and example of his father, the

service, in every rank, of his wise and valiant officers, and a general

system of administration, harmonized by time and political wisdom to

promote the happiness of the prince and people. But the royal youth enjoyed a still more valuable blessing, the friendship of a sage who had

presided over his education, and who always preferred the honor to the

interest of his pupil, his interest to his inclination. In a dispute with the Greek and Indian philosophers, Buzurg had once maintained, that the most grievous misfortune of life is old age without the remembrance

of virtue; and our candor will presume that the same principle compelled

him, during three years, to direct the councils of the Persian empire.

His zeal was rewarded by the gratitude and docility of Hormouz, who acknowledged himself more indebted to his preceptor than to his parent: but when age and labor had impaired the strength, and perhaps the faculties, of this prudent counsellor, he retired from court, and abandoned the youthful monarch to his own passions and those of his favorites. By the fatal vicissitude of human affairs, the same scenes were renewed at Ctesiphon, which had been exhibited at Rome after the death of Marcus Antoninus. The ministers of flattery and corruption, who

had been banished by his father, were recalled and cherished by the son; the disgrace and exile of the friends of Nushirvan established their tyranny; and virtue was driven by degrees from the mind of Hormouz, from

his palace, and from the government of the state. The faithful agents, the eyes and ears of the king, informed him of the progress of disorder, that the provincial governors flew to their prey with the fierceness of

lions and eagles, and that their rapine and injustice would teach the

most loyal of his subjects to abhor the name and authority of their

sovereign. The sincerity of this advice was punished with death; the

murmurs of the cities were despised, their tumults were quelled by

military execution: the intermediate powers between the throne and the

people were abolished; and the childish vanity of Hormouz, who affected the daily use of the tiara, was fond of declaring, that he alone would be the judge as well as the master of his kingdom. In every word, and in every action, the son of Nushirvan degenerated from the virtues of his father. His avarice defrauded the troops; his jealous caprice degraded the satraps; the palace, the tribunals, the waters of the Tigris, were

stained with the blood of the innocent, and the tyrant exulted in the

sufferings and execution of thirteen thousand victims. As the excuse of

his cruelty, he sometimes condescended to observe, that the fears of the Persians would be productive of hatred, and that their hatred must terminate in rebellion but he forgot that his own guilt and folly had

inspired the sentiments which he deplored, and prepared the event which

he so justly apprehended. Exasperated by long and hopeless oppression, the provinces of Babylon, Susa, and Carmania, erected the standard

of revolt; and the princes of Arabia, India, and Scythia, refused the customary tribute to the unworthy successor of Nushirvan. The arms of the Romans, in slow sieges and frequent inroads, afflicted the frontiers

of Mesopotamia and Assyria: one of their generals professed himself the disciple of Scipio; and the soldiers were animated by a miraculous image

of Christ, whose mild aspect should never have been displayed in the front of battle. At the same time, the eastern provinces of Persia were

invaded by the great khan, who passed the Oxus at the head of three

or four hundred thousand Turks. The imprudent Hormouz accepted their

perfidious and formidable aid; the cities of Khorassan or Bactriana were commanded to open their gates the march of the Barbarians towards the

mountains of Hyrcania revealed the correspondence of the Turkish and

Roman arms; and their union must have subverted the throne of the house

of Sassan.

Persia had been lost by a king; it was saved by a hero. After his

revolt, Varanes or Bahram is stigmatized by the son of Hormouz as an

ungrateful slave; the proud and ambiguous reproach of despotism, since

he was truly descended from the ancient princes of Rei, one of the seven families whose splendid, as well as substantial, prerogatives exalted them above the heads of the Persian nobility. At the siege of Dara, the

valor of Bahram was signalized under the eyes of Nushirvan, and both the father and son successively promoted him to the command of armies, the

government of Media, and the superintendence of the palace. The popular

prediction which marked him as the deliverer of Persia, might be

inspired by his past victories and extraordinary figure: the epithet

\_Giubin\_ is expressive of the quality of \_dry wood\_: he had the

strength and stature of a giant; and his savage countenance was fancifully compared to that of a wild cat. While the nation trembled, while Hormouz disguised his terror by the name of suspicion, and his

servants concealed their disloyalty under the mask of fear, Bahram alone displayed his undaunted courage and apparent fidelity: and as soon as

he found that no more than twelve thousand soldiers would follow him against the enemy; he prudently declared, that to this fatal number

Heaven had reserved the honors of the triumph. The steep and narrow descent of the Pule Rudbar, or Hyrcanian rock, is the only pass through which an army can penetrate into the territory of Rei and the plains

of Media. From the commanding heights, a band of resolute men might

overwhelm with stones and darts the myriads of the Turkish host: their emperor and his son were transpierced with arrows; and the fugitives were left, without counsel or provisions, to the revenge of an injured

people. The patriotism of the Persian general was stimulated by his affection for the city of his forefathers: in the hour of victory, every

peasant became a soldier, and every soldier a hero; and their ardor was

kindled by the gorgeous spectacle of beds, and thrones, and tables of

massy gold, the spoils of Asia, and the luxury of the hostile camp. A

prince of a less malignant temper could not easily have forgiven

his benefactor; and the secret hatred of Hormouz was envenomed by a

malicious report, that Bahram had privately retained the most precious fruits of his Turkish victory. But the approach of a Roman army on the side of the Araxes compelled the implacable tyrant to smile and to applaud; and the toils of Bahram were rewarded with the permission of encountering a new enemy, by their skill and discipline more formidable than a Scythian multitude. Elated by his recent success, he despatched a herald with a bold defiance to the camp of the Romans, requesting them to fix a day of battle, and to choose whether they would pass the river themselves, or allow a free passage to the arms of the great king. The

lieutenant of the emperor Maurice preferred the safer alternative; and this local circumstance, which would have enhanced the victory of the Persians, rendered their defeat more bloody and their escape more difficult. But the loss of his subjects, and the danger of his kingdom, were overbalanced in the mind of Hormouz by the disgrace of his personal enemy; and no sooner had Bahram collected and reviewed his forces, than

he received from a royal messenger the insulting gift of a distaff, a

spinning-wheel, and a complete suit of female apparel. Obedient to the will of his sovereign he showed himself to the soldiers in this unworthy disguise they resented his ignominy and their own; a shout of rebellion

ran through the ranks; and the general accepted their oath of fidelity and vows of revenge. A second messenger, who had been commanded to bring the rebel in chains, was trampled under the feet of an elephant, and

manifestos were diligently circulated, exhorting the Persians to assert their freedom against an odious and contemptible tyrant. The defection was rapid and universal; his loyal slaves were sacrificed to the public fury; the troops deserted to the standard of Bahram; and the provinces again saluted the deliverer of his country.

as the passes were faithfully guarded, Hormouz could only compute the

number of his enemies by the testimony of a guilty conscience, and the daily defection of those who, in the hour of his distress, avenged their wrongs, or forgot their obligations. He proudly displayed the ensigns of

royalty; but the city and palace of Modain had already escaped from the hand of the tyrant. Among the victims of his cruelty, Bindoes, a

Sassanian prince, had been cast into a dungeon; his fetters were broken by the zeal and courage of a brother; and he stood before the king at the head of those trusty guards, who had been chosen as the ministers

of his confinement, and perhaps of his death. Alarmed by the hasty

intrusion and bold reproaches of the captive, Hormouz looked round, but in vain, for advice or assistance; discovered that his strength consisted in the obedience of others; and patiently yielded to the

single arm of Bindoes, who dragged him from the throne to the same dungeon in which he himself had been so lately confined. At the first tumult, Chosroes, the eldest of the sons of Hormouz, escaped from the city; he was persuaded to return by the pressing and friendly invitation

of Bindoes, who promised to seat him on his father's throne, and who expected to reign under the name of an inexperienced youth. In the just assurance, that his accomplices could neither forgive nor hope to be forgiven, and that every Persian might be trusted as the judge and enemy

of the tyrant, he instituted a public trial without a precedent and without a copy in the annals of the East. The son of Nushirvan, who had

requested to plead in his own defence, was introduced as a criminal into the full assembly of the nobles and satraps. He was heard with decent attention as long as he expatiated on the advantages of order and

obedience, the danger of innovation, and the inevitable discord of those who had encouraged each other to trample on their lawful and hereditary

sovereign. By a pathetic appeal to their humanity, he extorted that pity which is seldom refused to the fallen fortunes of a king; and while they beheld the abject posture and squalid appearance of the prisoner,

his tears, his chains, and the marks of ignominious stripes, it was

impossible to forget how recently they had adored the divine splendor of

his diadem and purple. But an angry murmur arose in the assembly as soon as he presumed to vindicate his conduct, and to applaud the victories

of his reign. He defined the duties of a king, and the Persian nobles

listened with a smile of contempt; they were fired with indignation when he dared to vilify the character of Chosroes; and by the indiscreet

offer of resigning the sceptre to the second of his sons, he subscribed

his own condemnation, and sacrificed the life of his own innocent favorite. The mangled bodies of the boy and his mother were exposed to the people; the eyes of Hormouz were pierced with a hot needle; and the

punishment of the father was succeeded by the coronation of his eldest

son. Chosroes had ascended the throne without guilt, and his piety

strove to alleviate the misery of the abdicated monarch; from the dungeon he removed Hormouz to an apartment of the palace, supplied with

liberality the consolations of sensual enjoyment, and patiently endured the furious sallies of his resentment and despair. He might despise the

resentment of a blind and unpopular tyrant, but the tiara was trembling

on his head, till he could subvert the power, or acquire the friendship,

of the great Bahram, who sternly denied the justice of a revolution, in which himself and his soldiers, the true representatives of Persia, had

never been consulted. The offer of a general amnesty, and of the second

rank in his kingdom, was answered by an epistle from Bahram, friend of the gods, conqueror of men, and enemy of tyrants, the satrap of satraps,

general of the Persian armies, and a prince adorned with the title of eleven virtues. He commands Chosroes, the son of Hormouz, to shun the example and fate of his father, to confine the traitors who had been

released from their chains, to deposit in some holy place the diadem which he had usurped, and to accept from his gracious benefactor the

pardon of his faults and the government of a province. The rebel might

not be proud, and the king most assuredly was not humble; but the one was conscious of his strength, the other was sensible of his weakness; and even the modest language of his reply still left room for treaty and

reconciliation. Chosroes led into the field the slaves of the palace and the populace of the capital: they beheld with terror the banners of a

veteran army; they were encompassed and surprised by the evolutions

of the general; and the satraps who had deposed Hormouz, received the

punishment of their revolt, or expiated their first treason by a second and more criminal act of disloyalty. The life and liberty of Chosroes were saved, but he was reduced to the necessity of imploring aid or

refuge in some foreign land; and the implacable Bindoes, anxious to

secure an unquestionable title, hastily returned to the palace, and ended, with a bowstring, the wretched existence of the son of Nushirvan.

while Chosroes despatched the preparations of his retreat, he deliberated with his remaining friends, whether he should lurk in the

valleys of Mount Caucasus, or fly to the tents of the Turks, or solicit the protection of the emperor. The long emulation of the successors

of Artaxerxes and Constantine increased his reluctance to appear as a

suppliant in a rival court; but he weighed the forces of the Romans, and prudently considered that the neighborhood of Syria would render his escape more easy and their succors more effectual. Attended only by his concubines, and a troop of thirty guards, he secretly departed from the capital, followed the banks of the Euphrates, traversed the desert, and halted at the distance of ten miles from Circesium. About the third watch of the night, the Roman præfect was informed of his approach, and

he introduced the royal stranger to the fortress at the dawn of day. from thence the king of Persia was conducted to the more honorable

residence of Hierapolis; and Maurice dissembled his pride, and displayed

his benevolence, at the reception of the letters and ambassadors of the grandson of Nushirvan. They humbly represented the vicissitudes of fortune and the common interest of princes, exaggerated the ingratitude

of Bahram, the agent of the evil principle, and urged, with specious argument, that it was for the advantage of the Romans themselves to

support the two monarchies which balance the world, the two great

luminaries by whose salutary influence it is vivified and adorned. The anxiety of Chosroes was soon relieved by the assurance, that the emperor

had espoused the cause of justice and royalty; but Maurice prudently declined the expense and delay of his useless visit to Constantinople.

In the name of his generous benefactor, a rich diadem was presented to the fugitive prince, with an inestimable gift of jewels and gold; a

powerful army was assembled on the frontiers of Syria and Armenia, under the command of the valiant and faithful Narses, and this general, of

his own nation, and his own choice, was directed to pass the Tigris, and

never to sheathe his sword till he had restored Chosroes to the throne

of his ancestors. The enterprise, however splendid, was less arduous than it might appear. Persia had already repented of her fatal rashness, which betrayed the heir of the house of Sassan to the ambition of a

rebellious subject: and the bold refusal of the Magi to consecrate his

usurpation, compelled Bahram to assume the sceptre, regardless of the

laws and prejudices of the nation. The palace was soon distracted with conspiracy, the city with tumult, the provinces with insurrection; and the cruel execution of the guilty and the suspected served to irritate

rather than subdue the public discontent. No sooner did the grandson of

Nushirvan display his own and the Roman banners beyond the Tigris, than

he was joined, each day, by the increasing multitudes of the nobility and people; and as he advanced, he received from every side the grateful

offerings of the keys of his cities and the heads of his enemies. As

soon as Modain was freed from the presence of the usurper, the loyal

inhabitants obeyed the first summons of Mebodes at the head of only two thousand horse, and Chosroes accepted the sacred and precious ornaments

of the palace as the pledge of their truth and the presage of his approaching success. After the junction of the Imperial troops, which bahram vainly struggled to prevent, the contest was decided by two battles on the banks of the Zab, and the confines of Media. The Romans, with the faithful subjects of Persia, amounted to sixty thousand, while the whole force of the usurper did not exceed forty thousand men: the two generals signalized their valor and ability; but the victory was finally determined by the prevalence of numbers and discipline. With the

remnant of a broken army, Bahram fled towards the eastern provinces of the Oxus: the enmity of Persia reconciled him to the Turks; but his days were shortened by poison, perhaps the most incurable of poisons; the

stings of remorse and despair, and the bitter remembrance of lost glory.

Yet the modern Persians still commemorate the exploits of Bahram; and

some excellent laws have prolonged the duration of his troubled and transitory reign.

the restoration of Chosroes was celebrated with feasts and executions; and the music of the royal banquet was often disturbed by the groans

of dying or mutilated criminals. A general pardon might have diffused comfort and tranquillity through a country which had been shaken by the late revolutions; yet, before the sanguinary temper of Chosroes is blamed, we should learn whether the Persians had not been accustomed either to dread the rigor, or to despise the weakness, of their

sovereign. The revolt of Bahram, and the conspiracy of the satraps, were

impartially punished by the revenge or justice of the conqueror; the

merits of Bindoes himself could not purify his hand from the guilt

of royal blood: and the son of Hormouz was desirous to assert his own

innocence, and to vindicate the sanctity of kings. During the vigor of the Roman power, several princes were seated on the throne of Persia by the arms and the authority of the first Cæsars. But their new subjects were soon disgusted with the vices or virtues which they had imbibed in a foreign land; the instability of their dominion gave birth to a vulgar

observation, that the choice of Rome was solicited and rejected with equal ardor by the capricious levity of Oriental slaves. But the glory

of Maurice was conspicuous in the long and fortunate reign of his \_son\_ and his ally. A band of a thousand Romans, who continued to guard the

person of Chosroes, proclaimed his confidence in the fidelity of the

strangers; his growing strength enabled him to dismiss this unpopular aid, but he steadily professed the same gratitude and reverence to his adopted father; and till the death of Maurice, the peace and alliance of the two empires were faithfully maintained. Yet the mercenary friendship

of the Roman prince had been purchased with costly and important gifts; the strong cities of Martyropolis and Dara were restored, and the

Persarmenians became the willing subjects of an empire, whose eastern

limit was extended, beyond the example of former times, as far as the banks of the Araxes, and the neighborhood of the Caspian. A pious hope was indulged, that the church as well as the state might triumph in this revolution: but if Chosroes had sincerely listened to the Christian bishops, the impression was erased by the zeal and eloquence of the

Magi: if he was armed with philosophic indifference, he accommodated his belief, or rather his professions, to the various circumstances of an exile and a sovereign. The imaginary conversion of the king of Persia was reduced to a local and superstitious veneration for Sergius, one

of the saints of Antioch, who heard his prayers and appeared to him in dreams; he enriched the shrine with offerings of gold and silver, and ascribed to this invisible patron the success of his arms, and the

pregnancy of Sira, a devout Christian and the best beloved of his wives. the beauty of Sira, or Schirin, her wit, her musical talents, are still famous in the history, or rather in the romances, of the East: her own

name is expressive, in the Persian tongue, of sweetness and grace; and the epithet of \_Parviz\_ alludes to the charms of her royal lover. Yet

Sira never shared the passions which she inspired, and the bliss of chosroes was tortured by a jealous doubt, that while he possessed her

person, she had bestowed her affections on a meaner favorite.

chapter XLVI: Troubles In Persia.--Part II.

while the majesty of the Roman name was revived in the East, the

prospect of Europe is less pleasing and less glorious. By the departure

of the Lombards, and the ruin of the Gepidæ, the balance of power was destroyed on the Danube; and the Avars spread their permanent dominion from the foot of the Alps to the sea-coast of the Euxine. The reign of baian is the brightest æra of their monarchy; their chagan, who occupied the rustic palace of Attila, appears to have imitated his character and policy; but as the same scenes were repeated in a smaller circle, a

minute representation of the copy would be devoid of the greatness and

novelty of the original. The pride of the second Justin, of Tiberius, and Maurice, was humbled by a proud Barbarian, more prompt to inflict, than exposed to suffer, the injuries of war; and as often as Asia was threatened by the Persian arms, Europe was oppressed by the dangerous

inroads, or costly friendship, of the Avars. When the Roman envoys approached the presence of the chagan, they were commanded to wait at the door of his tent, till, at the end perhaps of ten or twelve days,

he condescended to admit them. If the substance or the style of their

message was offensive to his ear, he insulted, with real or affected fury, their own dignity, and that of their prince; their baggage was

plundered, and their lives were only saved by the promise of a richer

present and a more respectful address. But \_his\_ sacred ambassadors enjoyed and abused an unbounded license in the midst of Constantinople: they urged, with importunate clamors, the increase of tribute, or the

restitution of captives and deserters: and the majesty of the empire was almost equally degraded by a base compliance, or by the false and fearful excuses with which they eluded such insolent demands. The chagan had never seen an elephant; and his curiosity was excited by the

strange, and perhaps fabulous, portrait of that wonderful animal. At

his command, one of the largest elephants of the Imperial stables was equipped with stately caparisons, and conducted by a numerous train to the royal village in the plains of Hungary. He surveyed the enormous beast with surprise, with disgust, and possibly with terror; and smiled at the vain industry of the Romans, who, in search of such useless

rarities, could explore the limits of the land and sea. He wished, at the expense of the emperor, to repose in a golden bed. The wealth of constantinople, and the skilful diligence of her artists, were instantly devoted to the gratification of his caprice; but when the work was finished, he rejected with scorn a present so unworthy the majesty of a

great king. These were the casual sallies of his pride; but the avarice

of the chagan was a more steady and tractable passion: a rich and

regular supply of silk apparel, furniture, and plate, introduced the

rudiments of art and luxury among the tents of the Scythians; their appetite was stimulated by the pepper and cinnamon of India; the annual

subsidy or tribute was raised from fourscore to one hundred and twenty thousand pieces of gold; and after each hostile interruption, the

payment of the arrears, with exorbitant interest, was always made the first condition of the new treaty. In the language of a Barbarian, without guile, the prince of the Avars affected to complain of the

insincerity of the Greeks; yet he was not inferior to the most civilized

nations in the refinement of dissimulation and perfidy. As the successor

of the Lombards, the chagan asserted his claim to the important city of

Sirmium, the ancient bulwark of the Illyrian provinces. The plains of the Lower Hungary were covered with the Avar horse and a fleet of large boats was built in the Hercynian wood, to descend the Danube, and to transport into the Save the materials of a bridge. But as the strong

garrison of Singidunum, which commanded the conflux of the two rivers,

might have stopped their passage and baffled his designs, he dispelled their apprehensions by a solemn oath that his views were not hostile to the empire. He swore by his sword, the symbol of the god of war, that he did not, as the enemy of Rome, construct a bridge upon the Save. "If

I violate my oath," pursued the intrepid Baian, "may I myself, and the

last of my nation, perish by the sword! May the heavens, and fire, the deity of the heavens, fall upon our heads! May the forests and mountains bury us in their ruins! and the Save returning, against the laws of

nature, to his source, overwhelm us in his angry waters!" After this barbarous imprecation, he calmly inquired, what oath was most sacred and venerable among the Christians, what guilt or perjury it was most dangerous to incur. The bishop of Singidunum presented the gospel, which the chagan received with devout reverence. "I swear," said he, "by the

God who has spoken in this holy book, that I have neither falsehood

on my tongue, nor treachery in my heart." As soon as he rose from his

knees, he accelerated the labor of the bridge, and despatched an envoy to proclaim what he no longer wished to conceal. "Inform the emperor,"

said the perfidious Baian, "that Sirmium is invested on every side. advise his prudence to withdraw the citizens and their effects, and to

resign a city which it is now impossible to relieve or defend." Without the hope of relief, the defence of Sirmium was prolonged above three

years: the walls were still untouched; but famine was enclosed within the walls, till a merciful capitulation allowed the escape of the naked and hungry inhabitants. Singidunum, at the distance of fifty miles, experienced a more cruel fate: the buildings were razed, and the

vanquished people was condemned to servitude and exile. Yet the ruins of

Sirmium are no longer visible; the advantageous situation of Singidunum

soon attracted a new colony of Sclavonians, and the conflux of the Save and Danube is still guarded by the fortifications of Belgrade, or the

\_White City\_, so often and so obstinately disputed by the Christian and turkish arms. From Belgrade to the walls of Constantinople a line may be

measured of six hundred miles: that line was marked with flames and with blood; the horses of the Avars were alternately bathed in the Euxine and the Adriatic; and the Roman pontiff, alarmed by the approach of a more

savage enemy, was reduced to cherish the Lombards, as the protectors

of Italy. The despair of a captive, whom his country refused to ransom, disclosed to the Avars the invention and practice of military engines. but in the first attempts they were rudely framed, and awkwardly

managed; and the resistance of Diocletianopolis and Beræa, of

Philippopolis and Adrianople, soon exhausted the skill and patience of the besiegers. The warfare of Baian was that of a Tartar; yet his mind was susceptible of a humane and generous sentiment: he spared Anchialus, whose salutary waters had restored the health of the best beloved of his wives; and the Romans confessed, that their starving army was fed and dismissed by the liberality of a foe. His empire extended over Hungary,

Poland, and Prussia, from the mouth of the Danube to that of the Oder; and his new subjects were divided and transplanted by the jealous policy

of the conqueror. The eastern regions of Germany, which had been

left vacant by the emigration of the Vandals, were replenished with

Sclavonian colonists; the same tribes are discovered in the neighborhood

of the Adriatic and of the Baltic, and with the name of Baian himself, the Illyrian cities of Neyss and Lissa are again found in the heart of

Silesia. In the disposition both of his troops and provinces the chagan exposed the vassals, whose lives he disregarded, to the first assault; and the swords of the enemy were blunted before they encountered the

native valor of the Avars.

the Persian alliance restored the troops of the East to the defence of europe: and Maurice, who had supported ten years the insolence of the chagan, declared his resolution to march in person against the barbarians. In the space of two centuries, none of the successors of theodosius had appeared in the field: their lives were supinely spent in the palace of Constantinople; and the Greeks could no longer understand, that the name of \_emperor\_, in its primitive sense, denoted the chief of the armies of the republic. The martial ardor of Maurice was opposed by the grave flattery of the senate, the timid superstition of the

patriarch, and the tears of the empress Constantina; and they all conjured him to devolve on some meaner general the fatigues and perils

of a Scythian campaign. Deaf to their advice and entreaty, the emperor boldly advanced seven miles from the capital; the sacred ensign of the cross was displayed in the front; and Maurice reviewed, with conscious

pride, the arms and numbers of the veterans who had fought and conquered beyond the Tigris. Anchialus was the last term of his progress by sea and land; he solicited, without success, a miraculous answer to his

nocturnal prayers; his mind was confounded by the death of a favorite

horse, the encounter of a wild boar, a storm of wind and rain, and the birth of a monstrous child; and he forgot that the best of omens is to

unsheathe our sword in the defence of our country. Under the pretence

of receiving the ambassadors of Persia, the emperor returned to constantinople, exchanged the thoughts of war for those of devotion, and disappointed the public hope by his absence and the choice of his

lieutenants. The blind partiality of fraternal love might excuse the

promotion of his brother Peter, who fled with equal disgrace from the barbarians, from his own soldiers and from the inhabitants of a Roman city. That city, if we may credit the resemblance of name and character, was the famous Azimuntium, which had alone repelled the tempest of attila. The example of her warlike youth was propagated to succeeding

generations; and they obtained, from the first or the second Justin, an

honorable privilege, that their valor should be always reserved for the defence of their native country. The brother of Maurice attempted to violate this privilege, and to mingle a patriot band with the

mercenaries of his camp; they retired to the church, he was not awed by the sanctity of the place; the people rose in their cause, the gates were shut, the ramparts were manned; and the cowardice of Peter was found equal to his arrogance and injustice. The military fame of commentiolus is the object of satire or comedy rather than of

serious history, since he was even deficient in the vile and vulgar

qualification of personal courage. His solemn councils, strange evolutions, and secret orders, always supplied an apology for flight or delay. If he marched against the enemy, the pleasant valleys of Mount

Hæmus opposed an insuperable barrier; but in his retreat, he explored, with fearless curiosity, the most difficult and obsolete paths, which

had almost escaped the memory of the oldest native. The only blood which

he lost was drawn, in a real or affected malady, by the lancet of a

surgeon; and his health, which felt with exquisite sensibility the approach of the Barbarians, was uniformly restored by the repose and

safety of the winter season. A prince who could promote and support this

unworthy favorite must derive no glory from the accidental merit of his colleague Priscus. In five successive battles, which seem to have been conducted with skill and resolution, seventeen thousand two hundred barbarians were made prisoners: near sixty thousand, with four sons of the chagan, were slain: the Roman general surprised a peaceful district

of the Gepidæ, who slept under the protection of the Avars; and his last trophies were erected on the banks of the Danube and the Teyss. Since the death of Trajan the arms of the empire had not penetrated so deeply

into the old Dacia: yet the success of Priscus was transient and barren; and he was soon recalled by the apprehension that Baian, with dauntless

spirit and recruited forces, was preparing to avenge his defeat under the walls of Constantinople.

the theory of war was not more familiar to the camps of Cæsar and trajan, than to those of Justinian and Maurice. The iron of Tuscany or

Pontus still received the keenest temper from the skill of the Byzantine workmen. The magazines were plentifully stored with every species of

offensive and defensive arms. In the construction and use of ships, engines, and fortifications, the Barbarians admired the superior

ingenuity of a people whom they had so often vanquished in the field. the science of tactics, the order, evolutions, and stratagems of antiquity, was transcribed and studied in the books of the Greeks and

Romans. But the solitude or degeneracy of the provinces could no longer

supply a race of men to handle those weapons, to guard those walls, to navigate those ships, and to reduce the theory of war into bold and

successful practice. The genius of Belisarius and Narses had been formed without a master, and expired without a disciple Neither honor, nor

patriotism, nor generous superstition, could animate the lifeless bodies

of slaves and strangers, who had succeeded to the honors of the legions:

it was in the camp alone that the emperor should have exercised a despotic command; it was only in the camps that his authority was disobeyed and insulted: he appeased and inflamed with gold the

licentiousness of the troops; but their vices were inherent, their

victories were accidental, and their costly maintenance exhausted the

substance of a state which they were unable to defend. After a long and

pernicious indulgence, the cure of this inveterate evil was undertaken by Maurice; but the rash attempt, which drew destruction on his own

head, tended only to aggravate the disease. A reformer should be exempt from the suspicion of interest, and he must possess the confidence and esteem of those whom he proposes to reclaim. The troops of Maurice

might listen to the voice of a victorious leader; they disdained the admonitions of statesmen and sophists; and, when they received an edict which deducted from their pay the price of their arms and clothing, they execrated the avarice of a prince insensible of the dangers and fatigues from which he had escaped. The camps both of Asia and Europe were agitated with frequent and furious seditions; the enraged soldiers

of Edessa pursued with reproaches, with threats, with wounds, their trembling generals; they overturned the statues of the emperor, cast

stones against the miraculous image of Christ, and either rejected the

yoke of all civil and military laws, or instituted a dangerous model of

voluntary subordination. The monarch, always distant and often deceived, was incapable of yielding or persisting, according to the exigence of the moment. But the fear of a general revolt induced him too readily to accept any act of valor, or any expression of loyalty, as an atonement for the popular offence; the new reform was abolished as hastily as it

had been announced, and the troops, instead of punishment and restraint, were agreeably surprised by a gracious proclamation of immunities and

rewards. But the soldiers accepted without gratitude the tardy and

reluctant gifts of the emperor: their insolence was elated by the discovery of his weakness and their own strength; and their mutual

hatred was inflamed beyond the desire of forgiveness or the hope of

reconciliation. The historians of the times adopt the vulgar suspicion, that Maurice conspired to destroy the troops whom he had labored to

reform; the misconduct and favor of Commentiolus are imputed to this

malevolent design; and every age must condemn the inhumanity of avarice

of a prince, who, by the trifling ransom of six thousand pieces of gold,

might have prevented the massacre of twelve thousand prisoners in the

hands of the chagan. In the just fervor of indignation, an order was signified to the army of the Danube, that they should spare the

magazines of the province, and establish their winter quarters in the

hostile country of the Avars. The measure of their grievances was full: they pronounced Maurice unworthy to reign, expelled or slaughtered

his faithful adherents, and, under the command of Phocas, a

simple centurion, returned by hasty marches to the neighborhood of constantinople. After a long series of legal succession, the military disorders of the third century were again revived; yet such was the

novelty of the enterprise, that the insurgents were awed by their

own rashness. They hesitated to invest their favorite with the vacant

purple; and, while they rejected all treaty with Maurice himself, they held a friendly correspondence with his son Theodosius, and with

Germanus, the father-in-law of the royal youth. So obscure had been the former condition of Phocas, that the emperor was ignorant of the

name and character of his rival; but as soon as he learned, that the centurion, though bold in sedition, was timid in the face of danger,

"Alas!" cried the desponding prince, "if he is a coward, he will surely be a murderer."

Yet if Constantinople had been firm and faithful, the murderer might

have spent his fury against the walls; and the rebel army would have been gradually consumed or reconciled by the prudence of the emperor.

In the games of the Circus, which he repeated with unusual pomp,

Maurice disguised, with smiles of confidence, the anxiety of his heart, condescended to solicit the applause of the \_factions\_, and flattered their pride by accepting from their respective tribunes a list of nine

hundred \_blues\_ and fifteen hundred \_greens\_, whom he affected to esteem as the solid pillars of his throne Their treacherous or languid support betrayed his weakness and hastened his fall: the green faction were the

secret accomplices of the rebels, and the blues recommended lenity and moderation in a contest with their Roman brethren The rigid and

parsimonious virtues of Maurice had long since alienated the hearts of

his subjects: as he walked barefoot in a religious procession, he was

rudely assaulted with stones, and his guards were compelled to present their iron maces in the defence of his person. A fanatic monk ran through the streets with a drawn sword, denouncing against him the wrath and the sentence of God; and a vile plebeian, who represented

his countenance and apparel, was seated on an ass, and pursued by the

imprecations of the multitude. The emperor suspected the popularity of

Germanus with the soldiers and citizens: he feared, he threatened, but

he delayed to strike; the patrician fled to the sanctuary of the church; the people rose in his defence, the walls were deserted by the guards, and the lawless city was abandoned to the flames and rapine of a

nocturnal tumult. In a small bark, the unfortunate Maurice, with his wife and nine children, escaped to the Asiatic shore; but the violence

of the wind compelled him to land at the church of St. Autonomus, near chalcedon, from whence he despatched Theodosius, he eldest son, to

implore the gratitude and friendship of the Persian monarch. For

himself, he refused to fly: his body was tortured with sciatic pains,

his mind was enfeebled by superstition; he patiently awaited the event

of the revolution, and addressed a fervent and public prayer to the almighty, that the punishment of his sins might be inflicted in this world rather than in a future life. After the abdication of Maurice, the two factions disputed the choice of an emperor; but the favorite of the blues was rejected by the jealousy of their antagonists, and Germanus

himself was hurried along by the crowds who rushed to the palace of

Hebdomon, seven miles from the city, to adore the majesty of Phocas the centurion. A modest wish of resigning the purple to the rank and merit

of Germanus was opposed by \_his\_ resolution, more obstinate and equally

sincere; the senate and clergy obeyed his summons; and, as soon as the patriarch was assured of his orthodox belief, he consecrated the

successful usurper in the church of St. John the Baptist. On the third day, amidst the acclamations of a thoughtless people, Phocas made his

public entry in a chariot drawn by four white horses: the revolt of the troops was rewarded by a lavish donative; and the new sovereign, after

visiting the palace, beheld from his throne the games of the hippodrome.

In a dispute of precedency between the two factions, his partial

judgment inclined in favor of the greens. "Remember that Maurice is

still alive," resounded from the opposite side; and the indiscreet clamor of the blues admonished and stimulated the cruelty of the tyrant. the ministers of death were despatched to Chalcedon: they dragged the emperor from his sanctuary; and the five sons of Maurice were

successively murdered before the eyes of their agonizing parent. At each stroke, which he felt in his heart, he found strength to rehearse a pious ejaculation: "Thou art just, O Lord! and thy judgments are

righteous." And such, in the last moments, was his rigid attachment to truth and justice, that he revealed to the soldiers the pious falsehood

of a nurse who presented her own child in the place of a royal infant. the tragic scene was finally closed by the execution of the emperor

himself, in the twentieth year of his reign, and the sixty-third of his age. The bodies of the father and his five sons were cast into the sea; their heads were exposed at Constantinople to the insults or pity of the

multitude; and it was not till some signs of putrefaction had appeared, that Phocas connived at the private burial of these venerable remains.

In that grave, the faults and errors of Maurice were kindly interred.

His fate alone was remembered; and at the end of twenty years, in the

recital of the history of Theophylact, the mournful tale was interrupted by the tears of the audience.

Such tears must have flowed in secret, and such compassion would have been criminal, under the reign of Phocas, who was peaceably acknowledged

in the provinces of the East and West. The images of the emperor and his wife Leontia were exposed in the Lateran to the veneration of the clergy and senate of Rome, and afterwards deposited in the palace of the cæsars, between those of Constantine and Theodosius. As a subject and a Christian, it was the duty of Gregory to acquiesce in the established

government; but the joyful applause with which he salutes the fortune of the assassin, has sullied, with indelible disgrace, the character of the

saint. The successor of the apostles might have inculcated with decent firmness the guilt of blood, and the necessity of repentance; he is content to celebrate the deliverance of the people and the fall of the

oppressor; to rejoice that the piety and benignity of Phocas have been

raised by Providence to the Imperial throne; to pray that his hands may be strengthened against all his enemies; and to express a wish,

perhaps a prophecy, that, after a long and triumphant reign, he may be transferred from a temporal to an everlasting kingdom. I have already traced the steps of a revolution so pleasing, in Gregory's opinion, both to heaven and earth; and Phocas does not appear less hateful in the exercise than in the acquisition of power The pencil of an impartial

historian has delineated the portrait of a monster: his diminutive and deformed person, the closeness of his shaggy eyebrows, his red hair, his beardless chin, and his cheek disfigured and discolored by a formidable

scar. Ignorant of letters, of laws, and even of arms, he indulged in the supreme rank a more ample privilege of lust and drunkenness; and his brutal pleasures were either injurious to his subjects or disgraceful to himself. Without assuming the office of a prince, he renounced the

profession of a soldier; and the reign of Phocas afflicted Europe with

ignominious peace, and Asia with desolating war. His savage temper was

inflamed by passion, hardened by fear, and exasperated by resistance

of reproach. The flight of Theodosius to the Persian court had been

intercepted by a rapid pursuit, or a deceitful message: he was beheaded at Nice, and the last hours of the young prince were soothed by the comforts of religion and the consciousness of innocence. Yet his phantom disturbed the repose of the usurper: a whisper was circulated through the East, that the son of Maurice was still alive: the people expected their avenger, and the widow and daughters of the late emperor would

have adopted as their son and brother the vilest of mankind. In the

massacre of the Imperial family, the mercy, or rather the discretion, of

Phocas had spared these unhappy females, and they were decently confined to a private house. But the spirit of the empress Constantina, still

mindful of her father, her husband, and her sons, aspired to freedom and revenge. At the dead of night, she escaped to the sanctuary of St.

Sophia; but her tears, and the gold of her associate Germanus, were

insufficient to provoke an insurrection. Her life was forfeited to

revenge, and even to justice: but the patriarch obtained and pledged an

oath for her safety: a monastery was allotted for her prison, and the widow of Maurice accepted and abused the lenity of his assassin. the discovery or the suspicion of a second conspiracy, dissolved the engagements, and rekindled the fury, of Phocas. A matron who commanded the respect and pity of mankind, the daughter, wife, and mother of emperors, was tortured like the vilest malefactor, to force a confession

of her designs and associates; and the empress Constantina, with her three innocent daughters, was beheaded at Chalcedon, on the same ground which had been stained with the blood of her husband and five sons. after such an example, it would be superfluous to enumerate the names and sufferings of meaner victims. Their condemnation was seldom preceded by the forms of trial, and their punishment was embittered by the

refinements of cruelty: their eyes were pierced, their tongues were torn from the root, the hands and feet were amputated; some expired under the

lash, others in the flames; others again were transfixed with arrows; and a simple speedy death was mercy which they could rarely obtain. The

hippodrome, the sacred asylum of the pleasures and the liberty of the

Romans, was polluted with heads and limbs, and mangled bodies; and the companions of Phocas were the most sensible, that neither his favor, nor their services, could protect them from a tyrant, the worthy rival of the Caligulas and Domitians of the first age of the empire.

chapter XLVI: Troubles In Persia.--Part III.

a daughter of Phocas, his only child, was given in marriage to the

patrician Crispus, and the \_royal\_ images of the bride and bridegroom were indiscreetly placed in the circus, by the side of the emperor. The father must desire that his posterity should inherit the fruit of his crimes, but the monarch was offended by this premature and popular association: the tribunes of the green faction, who accused the

officious error of their sculptors, were condemned to instant death: their lives were granted to the prayers of the people; but Crispus might

reasonably doubt, whether a jealous usurper could forget and pardon

his involuntary competition. The green faction was alienated by the

ingratitude of Phocas and the loss of their privileges; every province

of the empire was ripe for rebellion; and Heraclius, exarch of Africa,

persisted above two years in refusing all tribute and obedience to the centurion who disgraced the throne of Constantinople. By the secret emissaries of Crispus and the senate, the independent exarch was

solicited to save and to govern his country; but his ambition was chilled by age, and he resigned the dangerous enterprise to his

son Heraclius, and to Nicetas, the son of Gregory, his friend and

lieutenant. The powers of Africa were armed by the two adventurous

youths; they agreed that the one should navigate the fleet from Carthage to Constantinople, that the other should lead an army through Egypt and asia, and that the Imperial purple should be the reward of diligence and

success. A faint rumor of their undertaking was conveyed to the ears of

Phocas, and the wife and mother of the younger Heraclius were secured as the hostages of his faith: but the treacherous heart of Crispus extenuated the distant peril, the means of defence were neglected or delayed, and the tyrant supinely slept till the African navy cast anchor

in the Hellespont. Their standard was joined at Abidus by the fugitives and exiles who thirsted for revenge; the ships of Heraclius, whose lofty

masts were adorned with the holy symbols of religion, steered their triumphant course through the Propontis; and Phocas beheld from the windows of the palace his approaching and inevitable fate. The green faction was tempted, by gifts and promises, to oppose a feeble and fruitless resistance to the landing of the Africans: but the people, and even the guards, were determined by the well-timed defection of Crispus; and they tyrant was seized by a private enemy, who boldly invaded the

solitude of the palace. Stripped of the diadem and purple, clothed in a

vile habit, and loaded with chains, he was transported in a small boat to the Imperial galley of Heraclius, who reproached him with the crimes

of his abominable reign. "Wilt thou govern better?" were the last words

of the despair of Phocas. After suffering each variety of insult and torture, his head was severed from his body, the mangled trunk was cast

into the flames, and the same treatment was inflicted on the statues

of the vain usurper, and the seditious banner of the green faction. The

voice of the clergy, the senate, and the people, invited Heraclius to ascend the throne which he had purified from guilt and ignominy; after

some graceful hesitation, he yielded to their entreaties. His coronation was accompanied by that of his wife Eudoxia; and their posterity, till the fourth generation, continued to reign over the empire of the East. the voyage of Heraclius had been easy and prosperous; the tedious march

of Nicetas was not accomplished before the decision of the contest: but he submitted without a murmur to the fortune of his friend, and

his laudable intentions were rewarded with an equestrian statue, and a daughter of the emperor. It was more difficult to trust the fidelity of crispus, whose recent services were recompensed by the command of the cappadocian army. His arrogance soon provoked, and seemed to excuse, the ingratitude of his new sovereign. In the presence of the senate, the

son-in-law of Phocas was condemned to embrace the monastic life; and the

sentence was justified by the weighty observation of Heraclius, that the

man who had betrayed his father could never be faithful to his friend.

even after his death the republic was afflicted by the crimes of Phocas, which armed with a pious cause the most formidable of her enemies. according to the friendly and equal forms of the Byzantine and Persian courts, he announced his exaltation to the throne; and his ambassador

Lilius, who had presented him with the heads of Maurice and his sons, was the best qualified to describe the circumstances of the tragic

scene. However it might be varnished by fiction or sophistry, Chosroes turned with horror from the assassin, imprisoned the pretended envoy, disclaimed the usurper, and declared himself the avenger of his father and benefactor. The sentiments of grief and resentment, which humanity would feel, and honor would dictate, promoted on this occasion the

interest of the Persian king; and his interest was powerfully magnified by the national and religious prejudices of the Magi and satraps. In a

strain of artful adulation, which assumed the language of freedom, they

presumed to censure the excess of his gratitude and friendship for the

Greeks; a nation with whom it was dangerous to conclude either peace or alliance; whose superstition was devoid of truth and justice, and who

must be incapable of any virtue, since they could perpetrate the most atrocious of crimes, the impious murder of their sovereign. For the crime of an ambitious centurion, the nation which he oppressed was chastised with the calamities of war; and the same calamities, at the end of twenty years, were retaliated and redoubled on the heads of the

Persians. The general who had restored Chosroes to the throne still commanded in the East; and the name of Narses was the formidable

sound with which the Assyrian mothers were accustomed to terrify their

infants. It is not improbable, that a native subject of Persia should encourage his master and his friend to deliver and possess the provinces

of Asia. It is still more probable, that Chosroes should animate his troops by the assurance that the sword which they dreaded the most would

remain in its scabbard, or be drawn in their favor. The hero could not depend on the faith of a tyrant; and the tyrant was conscious how

little he deserved the obedience of a hero. Narses was removed from his

military command; he reared an independent standard at Hierapolis, in

Syria: he was betrayed by fallacious promises, and burnt alive in the

market-place of Constantinople. Deprived of the only chief whom they could fear or esteem, the bands which he had led to victory were twice broken by the cavalry, trampled by the elephants, and pierced by the arrows of the Barbarians; and a great number of the captives were beheaded on the field of battle by the sentence of the victor, who might

justly condemn these seditious mercenaries as the authors or accomplices

of the death of Maurice. Under the reign of Phocas, the fortifications

of Merdin, Dara, Amida, and Edessa, were successively besieged, reduced, and destroyed, by the Persian monarch: he passed the Euphrates, occupied the Syrian cities, Hierapolis, Chalcis, and Berrhæa or Aleppo, and soon encompassed the walls of Antioch with his irresistible arms. The rapid tide of success discloses the decay of the empire, the incapacity of

Phocas, and the disaffection of his subjects; and Chosroes provided a decent apology for their submission or revolt, by an impostor, who attended his camp as the son of Maurice and the lawful heir of the

monarchy.

the first intelligence from the East which Heraclius received, was that

of the loss of Antioch; but the aged metropolis, so often overturned by earthquakes, and pillaged by the enemy, could supply but a small and languid stream of treasure and blood. The Persians were equally

successful, and more fortunate, in the sack of Cæsarea, the capital of cappadocia; and as they advanced beyond the ramparts of the frontier, the boundary of ancient war, they found a less obstinate resistance and a more plentiful harvest. The pleasant vale of Damascus has been adorned

in every age with a royal city: her obscure felicity has hitherto escaped the historian of the Roman empire: but Chosroes reposed his troops in the paradise of Damascus before he ascended the hills of

Libanus, or invaded the cities of the Phnician coast. The conquest of

Jerusalem, which had been meditated by Nushirvan, was achieved by the

zeal and avarice of his grandson; the ruin of the proudest monument of christianity was vehemently urged by the intolerant spirit of the Magi; and he could enlist for this holy warfare with an army of six-and-twenty thousand Jews, whose furious bigotry might compensate, in some degree, for the want of valor and discipline. After the reduction of Galilee, and the region beyond the Jordan, whose resistance appears to have delayed the fate of the capital, Jerusalem itself was taken by assault. the sepulchre of Christ, and the stately churches of Helena and constantine, were consumed, or at least damaged, by the flames; the devout offerings of three hundred years were rifled in one sacrilegious day; the Patriarch Zachariah, and the \_true cross\_, were transported

into Persia; and the massacre of ninety thousand Christians is imputed to the Jews and Arabs, who swelled the disorder of the Persian march. the fugitives of Palestine were entertained at Alexandria by the charity

of John the Archbishop, who is distinguished among a crowd of saints by the epithet of \_almsgiver\_: and the revenues of the church, with a treasure of three hundred thousand pounds, were restored to the true

proprietors, the poor of every country and every denomination. But egypt itself, the only province which had been exempt, since the time

of Diocletian, from foreign and domestic war, was again subdued by the

successors of Cyrus. Pelusium, the key of that impervious country, was

surprised by the cavalry of the Persians: they passed, with impunity, the innumerable channels of the Delta, and explored the long valley

of the Nile, from the pyramids of Memphis to the confines of Æthiopia. alexandria might have been relieved by a naval force, but the archbishop and the præfect embarked for Cyprus; and Chosroes entered the second city of the empire, which still preserved a wealthy remnant of industry and commerce. His western trophy was erected, not on the walls of carthage, but in the neighborhood of Tripoli; the Greek colonies of cyrene were finally extirpated; and the conqueror, treading in the footsteps of Alexander, returned in triumph through the sands of the

Libyan desert. In the same campaign, another army advanced from the euphrates to the Thracian Bosphorus; Chalcedon surrendered after a long

siege, and a Persian camp was maintained above ten years in the presence

of Constantinople. The sea-coast of Pontus, the city of Ancyra, and the

Isle of Rhodes, are enumerated among the last conquests of the great

king; and if Chosroes had possessed any maritime power, his boundless ambition would have spread slavery and desolation over the provinces of europe.

from the long-disputed banks of the Tigris and Euphrates, the reign of the grandson of Nushirvan was suddenly extended to the Hellespont and the Nile, the ancient limits of the Persian monarchy. But the provinces, which had been fashioned by the habits of six hundred years to the

virtues and vices of the Roman government, supported with reluctance the yoke of the Barbarians. The idea of a republic was kept alive by the

institutions, or at least by the writings, of the Greeks and Romans, and the subjects of Heraclius had been educated to pronounce the words of

liberty and law. But it has always been the pride and policy of Oriental

princes to display the titles and attributes of their omnipotence; to

upbraid a nation of slaves with their true name and abject condition, and to enforce, by cruel and insolent threats, the rigor of their absolute commands. The Christians of the East were scandalized by the worship of fire, and the impious doctrine of the two principles: the

Magi were not less intolerant than the bishops; and the martyrdom of

some native Persians, who had deserted the religion of Zoroaster, was conceived to be the prelude of a fierce and general persecution. By the

oppressive laws of Justinian, the adversaries of the church were made the enemies of the state; the alliance of the Jews, Nestorians, and

Jacobites, had contributed to the success of Chosroes, and his partial favor to the sectaries provoked the hatred and fears of the Catholic clergy. Conscious of their fear and hatred, the Persian conqueror

governed his new subjects with an iron sceptre; and, as if he suspected the stability of his dominion, he exhausted their wealth by exorbitant tributes and licentious rapine despoiled or demolished the temples of the East; and transported to his hereditary realms the gold, the silver, the precious marbles, the arts, and the artists of the Asiatic cities.

In the obscure picture of the calamities of the empire, it is not easy to discern the figure of Chosroes himself, to separate his actions from those of his lieutenants, or to ascertain his personal merit in the

general blaze of glory and magnificence. He enjoyed with ostentation the fruits of victory, and frequently retired from the hardships of war to the luxury of the palace. But in the space of twenty-four years, he was deterred by superstition or resentment from approaching the gates of ctesiphon: and his favorite residence of Artemita, or Dastagerd, was situate beyond the Tigris, about sixty miles to the north of the capital. The adjacent pastures were covered with flocks and herds: the

paradise or park was replenished with pheasants, peacocks, ostriches,

roebucks, and wild boars, and the noble game of lions and tigers was

sometimes turned loose for the bolder pleasures of the chase. Nine

hundred and sixty elephants were maintained for the use or splendor of the great king: his tents and baggage were carried into the field by twelve thousand great camels and eight thousand of a smaller size; and the royal stables were filled with six thousand mules and horses, among whom the names of Shebdiz and Barid are renowned for their speed or beauty. Six thousand guards successively mounted before the palace

gate; the service of the interior apartments was performed by twelve thousand slaves, and in the number of three thousand virgins, the fairest of Asia, some happy concubine might console her master for the age or the indifference of Sira. The various treasures of gold, silver,

gems, silks, and aromatics, were deposited in a hundred subterraneous

vaults and the chamber \_Badaverd\_ denoted the accidental gift of the winds which had wafted the spoils of Heraclius into one of the Syrian

harbors of his rival. The vice of flattery, and perhaps of fiction, is

not ashamed to compute the thirty thousand rich hangings that adorned the walls; the forty thousand columns of silver, or more probably of

marble, and plated wood, that supported the roof; and the thousand

globes of gold suspended in the dome, to imitate the motions of the

planets and the constellations of the zodiac. While the Persian monarch contemplated the wonders of his art and power, he received an epistle from an obscure citizen of Mecca, inviting him to acknowledge Mahomet as the apostle of God. He rejected the invitation, and tore the epistle.

"It is thus," exclaimed the Arabian prophet, "that God will tear the

kingdom, and reject the supplications of Chosroes." Placed on the verge

of the two great empires of the East, Mahomet observed with secret

joy the progress of their mutual destruction; and in the midst of the

Persian triumphs, he ventured to foretell, that before many years should elapse, victory should again return to the banners of the Romans.

at the time when this prediction is said to have been delivered, no

prophecy could be more distant from its accomplishment, since the first twelve years of Heraclius announced the approaching dissolution of the empire. If the motives of Chosroes had been pure and honorable, he

must have ended the quarrel with the death of Phocas, and he would have embraced, as his best ally, the fortunate African who had so generously avenged the injuries of his benefactor Maurice. The prosecution of the war revealed the true character of the Barbarian; and the suppliant embassies of Heraclius to beseech his clemency, that he would spare the

innocent, accept a tribute, and give peace to the world, were rejected with contemptuous silence or insolent menace. Syria, Egypt, and the

provinces of Asia, were subdued by the Persian arms, while Europe, from the confines of Istria to the long wall of Thrace, was oppressed by the avars, unsatiated with the blood and rapine of the Italian war. They had coolly massacred their male captives in the sacred field of Pannonia; the women and children were reduced to servitude, and the noblest

virgins were abandoned to the promiscuous lust of the Barbarians. The amorous matron who opened the gates of Friuli passed a short night in the arms of her royal lover; the next evening, Romilda was condemned to the embraces of twelve Avars, and the third day the Lombard princess was

impaled in the sight of the camp, while the chagan observed with a cruel

smile, that such a husband was the fit recompense of her lewdness and

perfidy. By these implacable enemies, Heraclius, on either side, was

insulted and besieged: and the Roman empire was reduced to the walls of constantinople, with the remnant of Greece, Italy, and Africa, and some

maritime cities, from Tyre to Trebizond, of the Asiatic coast. After the

loss of Egypt, the capital was afflicted by famine and pestilence; and the emperor, incapable of resistance, and hopeless of relief,

had resolved to transfer his person and government to the more secure

residence of Carthage. His ships were already laden with the treasures

of the palace; but his flight was arrested by the patriarch, who armed the powers of religion in the defence of his country; led Heraclius to the altar of St. Sophia, and extorted a solemn oath, that he would live and die with the people whom God had intrusted to his care. The chagan was encamped in the plains of Thrace; but he dissembled his perfidious designs, and solicited an interview with the emperor near the town of

Heraclea. Their reconciliation was celebrated with equestrian games; the

senate and people, in their gayest apparel, resorted to the festival

of peace; and the Avars beheld, with envy and desire, the spectacle of

Roman luxury. On a sudden the hippodrome was encompassed by the

Scythian cavalry, who had pressed their secret and nocturnal march: the tremendous sound of the chagan's whip gave the signal of the assault, and Heraclius, wrapping his diadem round his arm, was saved with extreme

hazard, by the fleetness of his horse. So rapid was the pursuit, that the Avars almost entered the golden gate of Constantinople with the flying crowds: but the plunder of the suburbs rewarded their treason, and they transported beyond the Danube two hundred and seventy thousand captives. On the shore of Chalcedon, the emperor held a safer conference with a more honorable foe, who, before Heraclius descended from his

galley, saluted with reverence and pity the majesty of the purple. The friendly offer of Sain, the Persian general, to conduct an embassy to the presence of the great king, was accepted with the warmest gratitude, and the prayer for pardon and peace was humbly presented by the

Prætorian præfect, the præfect of the city, and one of the first ecclesiastics of the patriarchal church. But the lieutenant of Chosroes

had fatally mistaken the intentions of his master. "It was not an embassy," said the tyrant of Asia, "it was the person of Heraclius, bound in chains, that he should have brought to the foot of my throne.

I will never give peace to the emperor of Rome, till he had abjured his crucified God, and embraced the worship of the sun." Sain was flayed alive, according to the inhuman practice of his country; and the

separate and rigorous confinement of the ambassadors violated the law of

nations, and the faith of an express stipulation. Yet the experience

of six years at length persuaded the Persian monarch to renounce the conquest of Constantinople, and to specify the annual tribute or ransom

of the Roman empire; a thousand talents of gold, a thousand talents

of silver, a thousand silk robes, a thousand horses, and a thousand

virgins. Heraclius subscribed these ignominious terms; but the time and

space which he obtained to collect such treasures from the poverty of the East, was industriously employed in the preparations of a bold and desperate attack.

Of the characters conspicuous in history, that of Heraclius is one of the most extraordinary and inconsistent. In the first and last years of a long reign, the emperor appears to be the slave of sloth, of pleasure,

or of superstition, the careless and impotent spectator of the public calamities. But the languid mists of the morning and evening are

separated by the brightness of the meridian sun; the Arcadius of the

palace arose the Cæsar of the camp; and the honor of Rome and Heraclius was gloriously retrieved by the exploits and trophies of six adventurous campaigns. It was the duty of the Byzantine historians to have revealed the causes of his slumber and vigilance. At this distance we can

only conjecture, that he was endowed with more personal courage than

political resolution; that he was detained by the charms, and perhaps the arts, of his niece Martina, with whom, after the death of Eudocia,

he contracted an incestuous marriage; and that he yielded to the base advice of the counsellors, who urged, as a fundamental law, that the

life of the emperor should never be exposed in the field. Perhaps he was awakened by the last insolent demand of the Persian conqueror; but at the moment when Heraclius assumed the spirit of a hero, the only hopes

of the Romans were drawn from the vicissitudes of fortune, which might threaten the proud prosperity of Chosroes, and must be favorable to those who had attained the lowest period of depression. To provide for the expenses of war, was the first care of the emperor; and for the

purpose of collecting the tribute, he was allowed to solicit the benevolence of the eastern provinces. But the revenue no longer flowed

in the usual channels; the credit of an arbitrary prince is annihilated by his power; and the courage of Heraclius was first displayed in daring to borrow the consecrated wealth of churches, under the solemn vow of

restoring, with usury, whatever he had been compelled to employ in the

service of religion and the empire. The clergy themselves appear to

have sympathized with the public distress; and the discreet patriarch of alexandria, without admitting the precedent of sacrilege, assisted

his sovereign by the miraculous or seasonable revelation of a secret treasure. Of the soldiers who had conspired with Phocas, only two were found to have survived the stroke of time and of the Barbarians; the

loss, even of these seditious veterans, was imperfectly supplied by the

new levies of Heraclius, and the gold of the sanctuary united, in the

same camp, the names, and arms, and languages of the East and West.

He would have been content with the neutrality of the Avars; and his friendly entreaty, that the chagan would act, not as the enemy, but as the guardian, of the empire, was accompanied with a more persuasive donative of two hundred thousand pieces of gold. Two days after the festival of Easter, the emperor, exchanging his purple for the simple

garb of a penitent and warrior, gave the signal of his departure. To the faith of the people Heraclius recommended his children; the civil and military powers were vested in the most deserving hands, and the discretion of the patriarch and senate was authorized to save or

surrender the city, if they should be oppressed in his absence by the

superior forces of the enemy.

the neighboring heights of Chalcedon were covered with tents and arms: but if the new levies of Heraclius had been rashly led to the attack, the victory of the Persians in the sight of Constantinople might have been the last day of the Roman empire. As imprudent would it have been to advance into the provinces of Asia, leaving their innumerable cavalry to intercept his convoys, and continually to hang on the lassitude and disorder of his rear. But the Greeks were still masters of the sea; a fleet of galleys, transports, and store-ships, was assembled in the

harbor; the Barbarians consented to embark; a steady wind carried them through the Hellespont the western and southern coast of Asia Minor lay

on their left hand; the spirit of their chief was first displayed in a

storm, and even the eunuchs of his train were excited to suffer and to work by the example of their master. He landed his troops on the confines of Syria and Cilicia, in the Gulf of Scanderoon, where the coast suddenly turns to the south; and his discernment was expressed

in the choice of this important post. From all sides, the scattered

garrisons of the maritime cities and the mountains might repair with

speed and safety to his Imperial standard. The natural fortifications of cilicia protected, and even concealed, the camp of Heraclius, which was

pitched near Issus, on the same ground where Alexander had vanquished the host of Darius. The angle which the emperor occupied was deeply

indented into a vast semicircle of the Asiatic, Armenian, and Syrian

provinces; and to whatsoever point of the circumference he should direct

his attack, it was easy for him to dissemble his own motions, and to

prevent those of the enemy. In the camp of Issus, the Roman general

reformed the sloth and disorder of the veterans, and educated the new

recruits in the knowledge and practice of military virtue. Unfolding the

miraculous image of Christ, he urged them to \_revenge\_ the holy altars which had been profaned by the worshippers of fire; addressing them by the endearing appellations of sons and brethren, he deplored the public and private wrongs of the republic. The subjects of a monarch were

persuaded that they fought in the cause of freedom; and a similar enthusiasm was communicated to the foreign mercenaries, who must have

viewed with equal indifference the interest of Rome and of Persia.

Heraclius himself, with the skill and patience of a centurion,

inculcated the lessons of the school of tactics, and the soldiers were assiduously trained in the use of their weapons, and the exercises and evolutions of the field. The cavalry and infantry in light or heavy armor were divided into two parties; the trumpets were fixed in the centre, and their signals directed the march, the charge, the retreat or

pursuit; the direct or oblique order, the deep or extended phalanx; to

represent in fictitious combat the operations of genuine war. Whatever

hardships the emperor imposed on the troops, he inflicted with equal

severity on himself; their labor, their diet, their sleep, were measured by the inflexible rules of discipline; and, without despising the enemy, they were taught to repose an implicit confidence in their own valor and the wisdom of their leader. Cilicia was soon encompassed with the

Persian arms; but their cavalry hesitated to enter the defiles of Mount taurus, till they were circumvented by the evolutions of Heraclius, who

insensibly gained their rear, whilst he appeared to present his front in

order of battle. By a false motion, which seemed to threaten Armenia, he drew them, against their wishes, to a general action. They were tempted by the artful disorder of his camp; but when they advanced to combat, the ground, the sun, and the expectation of both armies, were

unpropitious to the Barbarians; the Romans successfully repeated their tactics in a field of battle, and the event of the day declared to the world, that the Persians were not invincible, and that a hero was

invested with the purple. Strong in victory and fame, Heraclius boldly ascended the heights of Mount Taurus, directed his march through the

plains of Cappadocia, and established his troops, for the winter season,

in safe and plentiful quarters on the banks of the River Halys. His

soul was superior to the vanity of entertaining Constantinople with an

imperfect triumph; but the presence of the emperor was indispensably

required to soothe the restless and rapacious spirit of the Avars.

Since the days of Scipio and Hannibal, no bolder enterprise has been attempted than that which Heraclius achieved for the deliverance of the empire He permitted the Persians to oppress for a while the provinces, and to insult with impunity the capital of the East; while the Roman emperor explored his perilous way through the Black Sea, and the

mountains of Armenia, penetrated into the heart of Persia, and recalled the armies of the great king to the defence of their bleeding country. with a select band of five thousand soldiers, Heraclius sailed from constantinople to Trebizond; assembled his forces which had wintered

in the Pontic regions; and, from the mouth of the Phasis to the Caspian

Sea, encouraged his subjects and allies to march with the successor of constantine under the faithful and victorious banner of the cross. When the legions of Lucullus and Pompey first passed the Euphrates, they blushed at their easy victory over the natives of Armenia. But the long experience of war had hardened the minds and bodies of that effeminate

people; their zeal and bravery were approved in the service of a declining empire; they abhorred and feared the usurpation of the house

of Sassan, and the memory of persecution envenomed their pious hatred

of the enemies of Christ. The limits of Armenia, as it had been ceded to the emperor Maurice, extended as far as the Araxes: the river submitted to the indignity of a bridge, and Heraclius, in the footsteps of Mark antony, advanced towards the city of Tauris or Gandzaca, the ancient and

modern capital of one of the provinces of Media. At the head of forty thousand men, Chosroes himself had returned from some distant expedition to oppose the progress of the Roman arms; but he retreated on the approach of Heraclius, declining the generous alternative of peace or

of battle. Instead of half a million of inhabitants, which have been ascribed to Tauris under the reign of the Sophys, the city contained no

more than three thousand houses; but the value of the royal treasures was enhanced by a tradition, that they were the spoils of Crsus, which

had been transported by Cyrus from the citadel of Sardes. The rapid conquests of Heraclius were suspended only by the winter season; a

motive of prudence, or superstition, determined his retreat into the

province of Albania, along the shores of the Caspian; and his tents were

most probably pitched in the plains of Mogan, the favorite encampment of

Oriental princes. In the course of this successful inroad, he signalized the zeal and revenge of a Christian emperor: at his command, the

soldiers extinguished the fire, and destroyed the temples, of the Magi; the statues of Chosroes, who aspired to divine honors, were abandoned to the flames; and the ruins of Thebarma or Ormia, which had given birth to Zoroaster himself, made some atonement for the injuries of the

holy sepulchre. A purer spirit of religion was shown in the relief and deliverance of fifty thousand captives. Heraclius was rewarded by their tears and grateful acclamations; but this wise measure, which spread the fame of his benevolence, diffused the murmurs of the Persians against the pride and obstinacy of their own sovereign.

chapter XLVI: Troubles In Persia.--Part IV.

amidst the glories of the succeeding campaign, Heraclius is almost lost to our eyes, and to those of the Byzantine historians. From the spacious and fruitful plains of Albania, the emperor appears to follow the chain

of Hyrcanian Mountains, to descend into the province of Media or Irak, and to carry his victorious arms as far as the royal cities of Casbin and Ispahan, which had never been approached by a Roman conqueror. alarmed by the danger of his kingdom, the powers of Chosroes were already recalled from the Nile and the Bosphorus, and three formidable armies surrounded, in a distant and hostile land, the camp of the emperor. The Colchian allies prepared to desert his standard; and the fears of the bravest veterans were expressed, rather than concealed, by their desponding silence. "Be not terrified," said the intrepid

Heraclius, "by the multitude of your foes. With the aid of Heaven, one

Roman may triumph over a thousand Barbarians. But if we devote our

lives for the salvation of our brethren, we shall obtain the crown of

martyrdom, and our immortal reward will be liberally paid by God and

posterity." These magnanimous sentiments were supported by the vigor of

his actions. He repelled the threefold attack of the Persians, improved the divisions of their chiefs, and, by a well-concerted train of

marches, retreats, and successful actions, finally chased them from the field into the fortified cities of Media and Assyria. In the severity

of the winter season, Sarbaraza deemed himself secure in the walls of

Salban: he was surprised by the activity of Heraclius, who divided his troops, and performed a laborious march in the silence of the night. The flat roofs of the houses were defended with useless valor against the darts and torches of the Romans: the satraps and nobles of Persia, with their wives and children, and the flower of their martial youth, were either slain or made prisoners. The general escaped by a precipitate flight, but his golden armor was the prize of the conqueror; and the

soldiers of Heraclius enjoyed the wealth and repose which they had so

nobly deserved. On the return of spring, the emperor traversed in seven days the mountains of Curdistan, and passed without resistance the

rapid stream of the Tigris. Oppressed by the weight of their spoils and captives, the Roman army halted under the walls of Amida; and Heraclius

informed the senate of Constantinople of his safety and success, which they had already felt by the retreat of the besiegers. The bridges of the Euphrates were destroyed by the Persians; but as soon as the emperor

had discovered a ford, they hastily retired to defend the banks of the

Sarus, in Cilicia. That river, an impetuous torrent, was about three

hundred feet broad; the bridge was fortified with strong turrets; and the banks were lined with Barbarian archers. After a bloody conflict, which continued till the evening, the Romans prevailed in the assault; and a Persian of gigantic size was slain and thrown into the Sarus by the hand of the emperor himself. The enemies were dispersed and dismayed; Heraclius pursued his march to Sebaste in Cappadocia; and at the expiration of three years, the same coast of the Euxine applauded

his return from a long and victorious expedition.

Instead of skirmishing on the frontier, the two monarchs who disputed the empire of the East aimed their desperate strokes at the heart of their rival. The military force of Persia was wasted by the marches and combats of twenty years, and many of the veterans, who had survived the perils of the sword and the climate, were still detained in the fortresses of Egypt and Syria. But the revenge and ambition of Chosroes exhausted his kingdom; and the new levies of subjects, strangers, and

slaves, were divided into three formidable bodies. The first army of fifty thousand men, illustrious by the ornament and title of the

\_golden spears\_, was destined to march against Heraclius; the second was stationed to prevent his junction with the troops of his brother theodore's; and the third was commanded to besiege Constantinople, and to second the operations of the chagan, with whom the Persian king had

ratified a treaty of alliance and partition. Sarbar, the general of the third army, penetrated through the provinces of Asia to the well-known camp of Chalcedon, and amused himself with the destruction of the sacred and profane buildings of the Asiatic suburbs, while he impatiently waited the arrival of his Scythian friends on the opposite side of the bosphorus. On the twenty-ninth of June, thirty thousand Barbarians, the

vanguard of the Avars, forced the long wall, and drove into the capital a promiscuous crowd of peasants, citizens, and soldiers. Fourscore thousand of his native subjects, and of the vassal tribes of Gepidæ,

Russians, Bulgarians, and Sclavonians, advanced under the standard of the chagan; a month was spent in marches and negotiations, but the whole city was invested on the thirty-first of July, from the suburbs of

Pera and Galata to the Blachernæ and seven towers; and the inhabitants descried with terror the flaming signals of the European and Asiatic

shores. In the mean while, the magistrates of Constantinople repeatedly

strove to purchase the retreat of the chagan; but their deputies were

rejected and insulted; and he suffered the patricians to stand before

his throne, while the Persian envoys, in silk robes, were seated by his

side. "You see," said the haughty Barbarian, "the proofs of my perfect

union with the great king; and his lieutenant is ready to send into

my camp a select band of three thousand warriors. Presume no longer to tempt your master with a partial and inadequate ransom your wealth and

your city are the only presents worthy of my acceptance. For yourselves,

I shall permit you to depart, each with an under-garment and a shirt; and, at my entreaty, my friend Sarbar will not refuse a passage through

his lines. Your absent prince, even now a captive or a fugitive, has

left Constantinople to its fate; nor can you escape the arms of the avars and Persians, unless you could soar into the air like birds,

unless like fishes you could dive into the waves." During ten successive days, the capital was assaulted by the Avars, who had made some progress

in the science of attack; they advanced to sap or batter the wall,

under the cover of the impenetrable tortoise; their engines discharged a perpetual volley of stones and darts; and twelve lofty towers of wood exalted the combatants to the height of the neighboring ramparts. But the senate and people were animated by the spirit of Heraclius, who

had detached to their relief a body of twelve thousand cuirassiers; the

powers of fire and mechanics were used with superior art and success in the defence of Constantinople; and the galleys, with two and three ranks

of oars, commanded the Bosphorus, and rendered the Persians the idle

spectators of the defeat of their allies. The Avars were repulsed; a fleet of Sclavonian canoes was destroyed in the harbor; the vassals

of the chagan threatened to desert, his provisions were exhausted, and after burning his engines, he gave the signal of a slow and formidable

retreat. The devotion of the Romans ascribed this signal deliverance to the Virgin Mary; but the mother of Christ would surely have condemned their inhuman murder of the Persian envoys, who were entitled to the

rights of humanity, if they were not protected by the laws of nations.

after the division of his army, Heraclius prudently retired to the banks

of the Phasis, from whence he maintained a defensive war against the fifty thousand gold spears of Persia. His anxiety was relieved by the deliverance of Constantinople; his hopes were confirmed by a victory of

his brother Theodorus; and to the hostile league of Chosroes with the avars, the Roman emperor opposed the useful and honorable alliance of the Turks. At his liberal invitation, the horde of Chozars transported their tents from the plains of the Volga to the mountains of Georgia;

Heraclius received them in the neighborhood of Teflis, and the khan with

his nobles dismounted from their horses, if we may credit the Greeks, and fell prostrate on the ground, to adore the purple of the Cæsars.

Such voluntary homage and important aid were entitled to the warmest acknowledgments; and the emperor, taking off his own diadem, placed it

on the head of the Turkish prince, whom he saluted with a tender embrace and the appellation of son. After a sumptuous banquet, he presented

Ziebel with the plate and ornaments, the gold, the gems, and the silk, which had been used at the Imperial table, and, with his own hand, distributed rich jewels and ear-rings to his new allies. In a

secret interview, he produced the portrait of his daughter Eudocia, condescended to flatter the Barbarian with the promise of a fair and august bride; obtained an immediate succor of forty thousand horse, and

negotiated a strong diversion of the Turkish arms on the side of the

Oxus. The Persians, in their turn, retreated with precipitation; in the camp of Edessa, Heraclius reviewed an army of seventy thousand Romans and strangers; and some months were successfully employed in the

recovery of the cities of Syria, Mesopotamia and Armenia, whose fortifications had been imperfectly restored. Sarbar still maintained the important station of Chalcedon; but the jealousy of Chosroes, or the artifice of Heraclius, soon alienated the mind of that powerful satrap from the service of his king and country. A messenger was intercepted with a real or fictitious mandate to the cadarigan, or second in command, directing him to send, without delay, to the throne, the head

of a guilty or unfortunate general. The despatches were transmitted to

Sarbar himself; and as soon as he read the sentence of his own death,

he dexterously inserted the names of four hundred officers, assembled a

military council, and asked the \_cadarigan\_ whether he was prepared to execute the commands of their tyrant. The Persians unanimously declared, that Chosroes had forfeited the sceptre; a separate treaty was concluded with the government of Constantinople; and if some considerations

of honor or policy restrained Sarbar from joining the standard of

Heraclius, the emperor was assured that he might prosecute, without

interruption, his designs of victory and peace.

deprived of his firmest support, and doubtful of the fidelity of his

subjects, the greatness of Chosroes was still conspicuous in its ruins. the number of five hundred thousand may be interpreted as an Oriental

metaphor, to describe the men and arms, the horses and elephants, that covered Media and Assyria against the invasion of Heraclius. Yet the

Romans boldly advanced from the Araxes to the Tigris, and the timid

prudence of Rhazates was content to follow them by forced marches through a desolate country, till he received a peremptory mandate to

risk the fate of Persia in a decisive battle. Eastward of the Tigris, at the end of the bridge of Mosul, the great Nineveh had formerly been erected: the city, and even the ruins of the city, had long

since disappeared; the vacant space afforded a spacious field for the

operations of the two armies. But these operations are neglected by the byzantine historians, and, like the authors of epic poetry and romance, they ascribe the victory, not to the military conduct, but to the

personal valor, of their favorite hero. On this memorable day,

Heraclius, on his horse Phallas, surpassed the bravest of his warriors:

his lip was pierced with a spear; the steed was wounded in the thigh; but he carried his master safe and victorious through the triple phalanx

of the Barbarians. In the heat of the action, three valiant chiefs were

successively slain by the sword and lance of the emperor: among these was Rhazates himself; he fell like a soldier, but the sight of his head

scattered grief and despair through the fainting ranks of the Persians.

His armor of pure and massy gold, the shield of one hundred and twenty

plates, the sword and belt, the saddle and cuirass, adorned the triumph

of Heraclius; and if he had not been faithful to Christ and his mother, the champion of Rome might have offered the fourth \_opime\_ spoils to the Jupiter of the Capitol. In the battle of Nineveh, which was fiercely fought from daybreak to the eleventh hour, twenty-eight standards, besides those which might be broken or torn, were taken from the

Persians; the greatest part of their army was cut in pieces, and the

victors, concealing their own loss, passed the night on the field. They acknowledged, that on this occasion it was less difficult to kill than to discomfit the soldiers of Chosroes; amidst the bodies of their friends, no more than two bow-shot from the enemy the remnant of the

Persian cavalry stood firm till the seventh hour of the night; about the eighth hour they retired to their unrifled camp, collected their baggage, and dispersed on all sides, from the want of orders rather than

of resolution. The diligence of Heraclius was not less admirable in the use of victory; by a march of forty-eight miles in four-and-twenty

hours, his vanguard occupied the bridges of the great and the lesser

Zab; and the cities and palaces of Assyria were open for the first time to the Romans. By a just gradation of magnificent scenes, they

penetrated to the royal seat of Dastagerd, and, though much of the treasure had been removed, and much had been expended, the remaining wealth appears to have exceeded their hopes, and even to have satiated their avarice. Whatever could not be easily transported, they consumed with fire, that Chosroes might feel the anguish of those wounds which he

had so often inflicted on the provinces of the empire: and justice might allow the excuse, if the desolation had been confined to the works of

regal luxury, if national hatred, military license, and religious zeal,

had not wasted with equal rage the habitations and the temples of the

guiltless subject. The recovery of three hundred Roman standards, and the deliverance of the numerous captives of Edessa and Alexandria,

reflect a purer glory on the arms of Heraclius. From the palace

of Dastagerd, he pursued his march within a few miles of Modain or ctesiphon, till he was stopped, on the banks of the Arba, by the difficulty of the passage, the rigor of the season, and perhaps the fame

of an impregnable capital. The return of the emperor is marked by the

modern name of the city of Sherhzour: he fortunately passed Mount

Zara, before the snow, which fell incessantly thirty-four days; and the citizens of Gandzca, or Tauris, were compelled to entertain the soldiers and their horses with a hospitable reception.

when the ambition of Chosroes was reduced to the defence of his

hereditary kingdom, the love of glory, or even the sense of shame,

should have urged him to meet his rival in the field. In the battle of

Nineveh, his courage might have taught the Persians to vanquish, or

he might have fallen with honor by the lance of a Roman emperor. The

successor of Cyrus chose rather, at a secure distance, to expect the event, to assemble the relics of the defeat, and to retire, by measured

steps, before the march of Heraclius, till he beheld with a sigh the

once loved mansions of Dastagerd. Both his friends and enemies were

persuaded, that it was the intention of Chosroes to bury himself under the ruins of the city and palace: and as both might have been equally adverse to his flight, the monarch of Asia, with Sira, and three concubines, escaped through a hole in the wall nine days before the arrival of the Romans. The slow and stately procession in which he

showed himself to the prostrate crowd, was changed to a rapid and secret

journey; and the first evening he lodged in the cottage of a peasant, whose humble door would scarcely give admittance to the great king. His

superstition was subdued by fear: on the third day, he entered with joy the fortifications of Ctesiphon; yet he still doubted of his safety till he had opposed the River Tigris to the pursuit of the Romans. The discovery of his flight agitated with terror and tumult the palace, the city, and the camp of Dastagerd: the satraps hesitated whether they had

most to fear from their sovereign or the enemy; and the females of the

harem were astonished and pleased by the sight of mankind, till the

jealous husband of three thousand wives again confined them to a more distant castle. At his command, the army of Dastagerd retreated to a

new camp: the front was covered by the Arba, and a line of two hundred elephants; the troops of the more distant provinces successively arrived, and the vilest domestics of the king and satraps were enrolled for the last defence of the throne. It was still in the power of chosroes to obtain a reasonable peace; and he was repeatedly pressed by the messengers of Heraclius to spare the blood of his subjects, and to

relieve a humane conqueror from the painful duty of carrying fire and sword through the fairest countries of Asia. But the pride of the

Persian had not yet sunk to the level of his fortune; he derived a

momentary confidence from the retreat of the emperor; he wept with

impotent rage over the ruins of his Assyrian palaces, and disregarded too long the rising murmurs of the nation, who complained that their

lives and fortunes were sacrificed to the obstinacy of an old man. That

unhappy old man was himself tortured with the sharpest pains both of

mind and body; and, in the consciousness of his approaching end, he

resolved to fix the tiara on the head of Merdaza, the most favored of

his sons. But the will of Chosroes was no longer revered, and Siroes, who gloried in the rank and merit of his mother Sira, had conspired with the malecontents to assert and anticipate the rights of primogeniture. twenty-two satraps (they styled themselves patriots) were tempted by the wealth and honors of a new reign: to the soldiers, the heir of Chosroes

promised an increase of pay; to the Christians, the free exercise of their religion; to the captives, liberty and rewards; and to the nation,

instant peace and the reduction of taxes. It was determined by the conspirators, that Siroes, with the ensigns of royalty, should appear in the camp; and if the enterprise should fail, his escape was contrived to the Imperial court. But the new monarch was saluted with unanimous acclamations; the flight of Chosroes (yet where could he have fled?) was

rudely arrested, eighteen sons were massacred before his face, and he was thrown into a dungeon, where he expired on the fifth day. The Greeks and modern Persians minutely describe how Chosroes was insulted, and famished, and tortured, by the command of an inhuman son, who so far

surpassed the example of his father: but at the time of his death, what tongue would relate the story of the parricide? what eye could penetrate

into the \_tower of darkness?\_ According to the faith and mercy of his christian enemies, he sunk without hope into a still deeper abyss; and

it will not be denied, that tyrants of every age and sect are the best entitled to such infernal abodes. The glory of the house of Sassan ended with the life of Chosroes: his unnatural son enjoyed only eight months the fruit of his crimes: and in the space of four years, the regal title was assumed by nine candidates, who disputed, with the sword or dagger, the fragments of an exhausted monarchy. Every province, and each city of

Persia, was the scene of independence, of discord, and of blood; and the

state of anarchy prevailed about eight years longer, till the factions were silenced and united under the common yoke of the Arabian caliphs.

as soon as the mountains became passable, the emperor received the welcome news of the success of the conspiracy, the death of Chosroes, and the elevation of his eldest son to the throne of Persia. The authors

of the revolution, eager to display their merits in the court or camp of tauris, preceded the ambassadors of Siroes, who delivered the letters of their master to his \_brother\_ the emperor of the Romans. In the language

of the usurpers of every age, he imputes his own crimes to the Deity, and, without degrading his equal majesty, he offers to reconcile the

long discord of the two nations, by a treaty of peace and alliance more durable than brass or iron. The conditions of the treaty were easily defined and faithfully executed. In the recovery of the standards and

prisoners which had fallen into the hands of the Persians, the emperor

imitated the example of Augustus: their care of the national dignity was celebrated by the poets of the times, but the decay of genius may be measured by the distance between Horace and George of Pisidia: the

subjects and brethren of Heraclius were redeemed from persecution,

slavery, and exile; but, instead of the Roman eagles, the true wood of the holy cross was restored to the importunate demands of the successor

of Constantine. The victor was not ambitious of enlarging the weakness

of the empire; the son of Chosroes abandoned without regret the conquests of his father; the Persians who evacuated the cities of Syria and Egypt were honorably conducted to the frontier, and a war which had wounded the vitals of the two monarchies, produced no change in their external and relative situation. The return of Heraclius from Tauris to constantinople was a perpetual triumph; and after the exploits of six

glorious campaigns, he peaceably enjoyed the Sabbath of his toils. After a long impatience, the senate, the clergy, and the people, went forth to meet their hero, with tears and acclamations, with olive branches and innumerable lamps; he entered the capital in a chariot drawn by four elephants; and as soon as the emperor could disengage himself from the tumult of public joy, he tasted more genuine satisfaction in the embraces of his mother and his son.

the succeeding year was illustrated by a triumph of a very different

kind, the restitution of the true cross to the holy sepulchre. Heraclius

performed in person the pilgrimage of Jerusalem, the identity of the

relic was verified by the discreet patriarch, and this august ceremony

has been commemorated by the annual festival of the exaltation of the cross. Before the emperor presumed to tread the consecrated ground, he was instructed to strip himself of the diadem and purple, the pomp and

vanity of the world: but in the judgment of his clergy, the persecution

of the Jews was more easily reconciled with the precepts of the gospel.

\* He again ascended his throne to receive the congratulations of the ambassadors of France and India: and the fame of Moses, Alexander, and

Hercules, was eclipsed in the popular estimation, by the superior merit and glory of the great Heraclius. Yet the deliverer of the East was

indigent and feeble. Of the Persian spoils, the most valuable portion

had been expended in the war, distributed to the soldiers, or buried, by an unlucky tempest, in the waves of the Euxine. The conscience of the emperor was oppressed by the obligation of restoring the wealth of the clergy, which he had borrowed for their own defence: a perpetual fund was required to satisfy these inexorable creditors; the provinces, already wasted by the arms and avarice of the Persians, were compelled to a second payment of the same taxes; and the arrears of a simple citizen, the treasurer of Damascus, were commuted to a fine of one

hundred thousand pieces of gold. The loss of two hundred thousand

soldiers who had fallen by the sword, was of less fatal importance than the decay of arts, agriculture, and population, in this long and destructive war: and although a victorious army had been formed

under the standard of Heraclius, the unnatural effort appears to have exhausted rather than exercised their strength. While the emperor triumphed at Constantinople or Jerusalem, an obscure town on the confines of Syria was pillaged by the Saracens, and they cut in pieces

some troops who advanced to its relief; an ordinary and trifling

occurrence, had it not been the prelude of a mighty revolution. These

robbers were the apostles of Mahomet; their fanatic valor had emerged from the desert; and in the last eight years of his reign, Heraclius

lost to the Arabs the same provinces which he had rescued from the

Persians.

chapter XLVII: Ecclesiastical Discord.--Part I.

Theological History Of The Doctrine Of The Incarnation.--The

Human And Divine Nature Of Christ.--Enmity Of The Patriarchs

Of Alexandria And Constantinople.--St. Cyril And Nestorius.--

Third General Council Of Ephesus.--Heresy Of Eutyches.--

Fourth General Council Of Chalcedon.--Civil And

Ecclesiastical Discord.--Intolerance Of Justinian.--The

Three Chapters.--The Monothelite Controversy.--State Of The

Oriental Sects:--I. The Nestorians.--II. The Jacobites.--

III. The Maronites.--IV. The Armenians.--V. The Copts And

Abyssinians.

after the extinction of paganism, the Christians in peace and piety

might have enjoyed their solitary triumph. But the principle of discord was alive in their bosom, and they were more solicitous to explore the

nature, than to practice the laws, of their founder. I have already

observed, that the disputes of the Trinity were succeeded by those of the Incarnation; alike scandalous to the church, alike pernicious to the

state, still more minute in their origin, still more durable in their effects. It is my design to comprise in the present chapter a religious war of two hundred and fifty years, to represent the ecclesiastical and

political schism of the Oriental sects, and to introduce their clamorous

or sanguinary contests, by a modest inquiry into the doctrines of the

primitive church.

I. A laudable regard for the honor of the first proselyte has countenanced the belief, the hope, the wish, that the Ebionites, or at least the Nazarenes, were distinguished only by their obstinate

perseverance in the practice of the Mosaic rites. Their churches have disappeared, their books are obliterated: their obscure freedom might allow a latitude of faith, and the softness of their infant creed would be variously moulded by the zeal or prudence of three hundred years. Yet the most charitable criticism must refuse these sectaries any knowledge

of the pure and proper divinity of Christ. Educated in the school of

Jewish prophecy and prejudice, they had never been taught to elevate their hopes above a human and temporal Messiah. If they had courage to hail their king when he appeared in a plebeian garb, their grosser apprehensions were incapable of discerning their God, who had studiously disguised his celestial character under the name and person of a mortal. the familiar companions of Jesus of Nazareth conversed with their friend and countryman, who, in all the actions of rational and animal life, appeared of the same species with themselves. His progress from infancy to youth and manhood was marked by a regular increase in stature and wisdom; and after a painful agony of mind and body, he expired on the cross. He lived and died for the service of mankind: but the life and death of Socrates had likewise been devoted to the cause of religion and justice; and although the stoic or the hero may disdain the humble

virtues of Jesus, the tears which he shed over his friend and country

may be esteemed the purest evidence of his humanity. The miracles of the

gospel could not astonish a people who held with intrepid faith the more

splendid prodigies of the Mosaic law. The prophets of ancient days had cured diseases, raised the dead, divided the sea, stopped the sun, and ascended to heaven in a fiery chariot. And the metaphorical style of the

Hebrews might ascribe to a saint and martyr the adoptive title of Son of

God.

Yet in the insufficient creed of the Nazarenes and the Ebionites, a distinction is faintly noticed between the heretics, who confounded the

generation of Christ in the common order of nature, and the less guilty

schismatics, who revered the virginity of his mother, and excluded the aid of an earthly father. The incredulity of the former was countenanced by the visible circumstances of his birth, the legal marriage of the

reputed parents, Joseph and Mary, and his lineal claim to the kingdom of david and the inheritance of Judah. But the secret and authentic history

has been recorded in several copies of the Gospel according to St.

Matthew, which these sectaries long preserved in the original Hebrew, as the sole evidence of their faith. The natural suspicions of the husband, conscious of his own chastity, were dispelled by the assurance (in a dream) that his wife was pregnant of the Holy Ghost: and as this distant and domestic prodigy could not fall under the personal observation of the historian, he must have listened to the same voice which dictated to

Isaiah the future conception of a virgin. The son of a virgin, generated by the ineffable operation of the Holy Spirit, was a creature without example or resemblance, superior in every attribute of mind and body to the children of Adam. Since the introduction of the Greek or Chaldean

philosophy, the Jews were persuaded of the preexistence, transmigration, and immortality of souls; and providence was justified by a supposition, that they were confined in their earthly prisons to expiate the stains which they had contracted in a former state. But the degrees of purity and corruption are almost immeasurable. It might be fairly presumed, that the most sublime and virtuous of human spirits was infused into the

offspring of Mary and the Holy Ghost; that his abasement was the result

of his voluntary choice; and that the object of his mission was, to

purify, not his own, but the sins of the world. On his return to his

native skies, he received the immense reward of his obedience; the everlasting kingdom of the Messiah, which had been darkly foretold by the prophets, under the carnal images of peace, of conquest, and of dominion. Omnipotence could enlarge the human faculties of Christ to the extend of is celestial office. In the language of antiquity, the title

of God has not been severely confined to the first parent, and his

incomparable minister, his only-begotten son, might claim, without

presumption, the religious, though secondary, worship of a subject of a

subject world.

II. The seeds of the faith, which had slowly arisen in the rocky and

ungrateful soil of Judea, were transplanted, in full maturity, to the

happier climes of the Gentiles; and the strangers of Rome or Asia, who

never beheld the manhood, were the more readily disposed to embrace the divinity, of Christ. The polytheist and the philosopher, the Greek and the Barbarian, were alike accustomed to conceive a long succession, an

infinite chain of angels or dæmons, or deities, or æons, or emanations,

issuing from the throne of light. Nor could it seem strange or

incredible, that the first of these æons, the \_Logos\_, or Word of God,

of the same substance with the Father, should descend upon earth, to deliver the human race from vice and error, and to conduct them in the paths of life and immortality. But the prevailing doctrine of the eternity and inherent pravity of matter infected the primitive churches

of the East. Many among the Gentile proselytes refused to believe that a celestial spirit, an undivided portion of the first essence, had been

personally united with a mass of impure and contaminated flesh; and,

in their zeal for the divinity, they piously abjured the humanity,

of Christ. While his blood was still recent on Mount Calvary, the

\_Docetes\_, a numerous and learned sect of Asiatics, invented the

\_phantastic\_ system, which was afterwards propagated by the Marcionites, the Manichæans, and the various names of the Gnostic heresy. They denied the truth and authenticity of the Gospels, as far as they relate the conception of Mary, the birth of Christ, and the thirty years that

preceded the exercise of his ministry. He first appeared on the banks of the Jordan in the form of perfect manhood; but it was a form only, and

not a substance; a human figure created by the hand of Omnipotence to

imitate the faculties and actions of a man, and to impose a perpetual

illusion on the senses of his friends and enemies. Articulate sounds

vibrated on the ears of the disciples; but the image which was impressed

on their optic nerve eluded the more stubborn evidence of the touch; and they enjoyed the spiritual, not the corporeal, presence of the Son of

God. The rage of the Jews was idly wasted against an impassive phantom; and the mystic scenes of the passion and death, the resurrection and ascension, of Christ were represented on the theatre of Jerusalem for the benefit of mankind. If it were urged, that such ideal mimicry,

such incessant deception, was unworthy of the God of truth, the Docetes agreed with too many of their orthodox brethren in the justification of

pious falsehood. In the system of the Gnostics, the Jehovah of Israel, the Creator of this lower world, was a rebellious, or at least an

ignorant, spirit. The Son of God descended upon earth to abolish his temple and his law; and, for the accomplishment of this salutary end, he dexterously transferred to his own person the hope and prediction of a temporal Messiah.

One of the most subtile disputants of the Manichæan school has pressed the danger and indecency of supposing, that the God of the Christians,

in the state of a human ftus, emerged at the end of nine months from a female womb. The pious horror of his antagonists provoked them to disclaim all sensual circumstances of conception and delivery; to

maintain that the divinity passed through Mary like a sunbeam through a

plate of glass; and to assert, that the seal of her virginity remained

unbroken even at the moment when she became the mother of Christ. But the rashness of these concessions has encouraged a milder sentiment of those of the Docetes, who taught, not that Christ was a phantom, but that he was clothed with an impassible and incorruptible body.

Such, indeed, in the more orthodox system, he has acquired since his

resurrection, and such he must have always possessed, if it were capable

of pervading, without resistance or injury, the density of intermediate

matter. Devoid of its most essential properties, it might be exempt from the attributes and infirmities of the flesh. A ftus that could increase from an invisible point to its full maturity; a child that could attain the stature of perfect manhood without deriving any nourishment from the ordinary sources, might continue to exist without repairing a daily waste by a daily supply of external matter. Jesus might share the

repasts of his disciples without being subject to the calls of thirst

or hunger; and his virgin purity was never sullied by the involuntary

stains of sensual concupiscence. Of a body thus singularly constituted, a question would arise, by what means, and of what materials, it was

originally framed; and our sounder theology is startled by an answer which was not peculiar to the Gnostics, that both the form and the

substance proceeded from the divine essence. The idea of pure and absolute spirit is a refinement of modern philosophy: the incorporeal essence, ascribed by the ancients to human souls, celestial beings, and even the Deity himself, does not exclude the notion of extended space; and their imagination was satisfied with a subtile nature of air, or fire, or æther, incomparably more perfect than the grossness of the

material world. If we define the place, we must describe the figure, of the Deity. Our experience, perhaps our vanity, represents the powers of

reason and virtue under a human form. The Anthropomorphites, who swarmed among the monks of Egypt and the Catholics of Africa, could produce the express declaration of Scripture, that man was made after the image of

his Creator. The venerable Serapion, one of the saints of the Nitrian deserts, relinquished, with many a tear, his darling prejudice; and bewailed, like an infant, his unlucky conversion, which had stolen away his God, and left his mind without any visible object of faith or devotion.

III. Such were the fleeting shadows of the Docetes. A more substantial, though less simple, hypothesis, was contrived by Cerinthus of Asia, who dared to oppose the last of the apostles. Placed on the confines of the

Jewish and Gentile world, he labored to reconcile the Gnostic with the ebionite, by confessing in the same Messiah the supernatural union of a

man and a God; and this mystic doctrine was adopted with many fanciful

improvements by Carpocrates, Basilides, and Valentine, the heretics of the Egyptian school. In their eyes, Jesus of Nazareth was a mere mortal, the legitimate son of Joseph and Mary: but he was the best and wisest of the human race, selected as the worthy instrument to restore upon earth the worship of the true and supreme Deity. When he was baptized in the Jordan, the Christ, the first of the æons, the Son of God himself, descended on Jesus in the form of a dove, to inhabit his mind, and direct his actions during the allotted period of his ministry. When the Messiah was delivered into the hands of the Jews, the Christ, an

immortal and impassible being, forsook his earthly tabernacle, flew back to the \_pleroma\_ or world of spirits, and left the solitary Jesus to

suffer, to complain, and to expire. But the justice and generosity of

such a desertion are strongly questionable; and the fate of an innocent

martyr, at first impelled, and at length abandoned, by his divine companion, might provoke the pity and indignation of the profane. their murmurs were variously silenced by the sectaries who espoused and

modified the double system of Cerinthus. It was alleged, that when Jesus was nailed to the cross, he was endowed with a miraculous apathy of mind and body, which rendered him insensible of his apparent sufferings.

It was affirmed, that these momentary, though real, pangs would be abundantly repaid by the temporal reign of a thousand years reserved for the Messiah in his kingdom of the new Jerusalem. It was insinuated, that if he suffered, he deserved to suffer; that human nature is never absolutely perfect; and that the cross and passion might serve to expiate the venial transgressions of the son of Joseph, before his

mysterious union with the Son of God.

IV. All those who believe the immateriality of the soul, a specious and noble tenet, must confess, from their present experience, the

incomprehensible union of mind and matter. A similar union is not

inconsistent with a much higher, or even with the highest, degree of

mental faculties; and the incarnation of an æon or archangel, the most

perfect of created spirits, does not involve any positive contradiction

or absurdity. In the age of religious freedom, which was determined by the council of Nice, the dignity of Christ was measured by private

judgment according to the indefinite rule of Scripture, or reason, or tradition. But when his pure and proper divinity had been established on the ruins of Arianism, the faith of the Catholics trembled on the edge

of a precipice where it was impossible to recede, dangerous to stand, dreadful to fall and the manifold inconveniences of their creed were aggravated by the sublime character of their theology. They hesitated to pronounce; \_that\_ God himself, the second person of an equal and consubstantial trinity, was manifested in the flesh; \_that\_ a being who

pervades the universe, had been confined in the womb of Mary; \_that\_ his eternal duration had been marked by the days, and months, and years of

human existence; \_that\_ the Almighty had been scourged and crucified;

\_that\_ his impassible essence had felt pain and anguish; \_that\_ his

omniscience was not exempt from ignorance; and that the source of life and immortality expired on Mount Calvary. These alarming consequences were affirmed with unblushing simplicity by Apollinaris, bishop of

Laodicea, and one of the luminaries of the church. The son of a learned

grammarian, he was skilled in all the sciences of Greece; eloquence, erudition, and philosophy, conspicuous in the volumes of Apollinaris, were humbly devoted to the service of religion. The worthy friend of athanasius, the worthy antagonist of Julian, he bravely wrestled with the Arians and Polytheists, and though he affected the rigor of

geometrical demonstration, his commentaries revealed the literal and allegorical sense of the Scriptures. A mystery, which had long floated

in the looseness of popular belief, was defined by his perverse diligence in a technical form; and he first proclaimed the memorable words, "One incarnate nature of Christ," which are still reëchoed with

hostile clamors in the churches of Asia, Egypt, and Æthiopia. He taught that the Godhead was united or mingled with the body of a man; and that the \_Logos\_, the eternal wisdom, supplied in the flesh the place and

office of a human soul. Yet as the profound doctor had been terrified at

his own rashness, Apollinaris was heard to mutter some faint accents

of excuse and explanation. He acquiesced in the old distinction of the

Greek philosophers between the rational and sensitive soul of man; that

he might reserve the \_Logos\_ for intellectual functions, and employ the

subordinate human principle in the meaner actions of animal life. With the moderate Docetes, he revered Mary as the spiritual, rather than as the carnal, mother of Christ, whose body either came from heaven,

impassible and incorruptible, or was absorbed, and as it were transformed, into the essence of the Deity. The system of Apollinaris was strenuously encountered by the Asiatic and Syrian divines whose

schools are honored by the names of Basil, Gregory and Chrysostom, and tainted by those of Diodorus, Theodore, and Nestorius. But the person

of the aged bishop of Laodicea, his character and dignity, remained

inviolate; and his rivals, since we may not suspect them of the weakness

of toleration, were astonished, perhaps, by the novelty of the argument, and diffident of the final sentence of the Catholic church. Her judgment at length inclined in their favor; the heresy of Apollinaris was condemned, and the separate congregations of his disciples were

proscribed by the Imperial laws. But his principles were secretly entertained in the monasteries of Egypt, and his enemies felt the hatred

of Theophilus and Cyril, the successive patriarchs of Alexandria.

V. The grovelling Ebionite, and the fantastic Docetes, were rejected and forgotten: the recent zeal against the errors of Apollinaris reduced the catholics to a seeming agreement with the double nature of Cerinthus. but instead of a temporary and occasional alliance, \_they\_ established, and we still embrace, the substantial, indissoluble, and everlasting

union of a perfect God with a perfect man, of the second person of the trinity with a reasonable soul and human flesh. In the beginning of the fifth century, the \_unity\_ of the \_two natures\_ was the prevailing doctrine of the church. On all sides, it was confessed, that the mode

of their coexistence could neither be represented by our ideas, nor expressed by our language. Yet a secret and incurable discord was cherished, between those who were most apprehensive of confounding, and those who were most fearful of separating, the divinity, and the

humanity, of Christ. Impelled by religious frenzy, they fled with adverse haste from the error which they mutually deemed most destructive

of truth and salvation. On either hand they were anxious to guard, they were jealous to defend, the union and the distinction of the two

natures, and to invent such forms of speech, such symbols of doctrine, as were least susceptible of doubt or ambiguity. The poverty of ideas and language tempted them to ransack art and nature for every possible comparison, and each comparison mislead their fancy in the explanation

of an incomparable mystery. In the polemic microscope, an atom is enlarged to a monster, and each party was skilful to exaggerate the absurd or impious conclusions that might be extorted from the principles

of their adversaries. To escape from each other, they wandered through

many a dark and devious thicket, till they were astonished by the horrid

phantoms of Cerinthus and Apollinaris, who guarded the opposite issues

of the theological labyrinth. As soon as they beheld the twilight of

sense and heresy, they started, measured back their steps, and were again involved in the gloom of impenetrable orthodoxy. To purge themselves from the guilt or reproach of damnable error, they disavowed their consequences, explained their principles, excused their

indiscretions, and unanimously pronounced the sounds of concord and faith. Yet a latent and almost invisible spark still lurked among the embers of controversy: by the breath of prejudice and passion, it was quickly kindled to a mighty flame, and the verbal disputes of the

Oriental sects have shaken the pillars of the church and state.

the name of Cyril of Alexandria is famous in controversial story, and the title of \_saint\_ is a mark that his opinions and his party have finally prevailed. In the house of his uncle, the archbishop Theophilus,

he imbibed the orthodox lessons of zeal and dominion, and five years of

his youth were profitably spent in the adjacent monasteries of

Nitria. Under the tuition of the abbot Serapion, he applied himself to ecclesiastical studies, with such indefatigable ardor, that in the course of \_one\_ sleepless night, he has perused the four Gospels, the catholic Epistles, and the Epistle to the Romans. Origen he detested; but the writings of Clemens and Dionysius, of Athanasius and Basil, were continually in his hands: by the theory and practice of dispute, his faith was confirmed and his wit was sharpened; he extended round his cell the cobwebs of scholastic theology, and meditated the works of allegory and metaphysics, whose remains, in seven verbose folios, now

peaceably slumber by the side of their rivals. Cyril prayed and fasted

in the desert, but his thoughts (it is the reproach of a friend) were

still fixed on the world; and the call of Theophilus, who summoned

him to the tumult of cities and synods, was too readily obeyed by the aspiring hermit. With the approbation of his uncle, he assumed the

office, and acquired the fame, of a popular preacher. His comely person adorned the pulpit; the harmony of his voice resounded in the cathedral;

his friends were stationed to lead or second the applause of the congregation; and the hasty notes of the scribes preserved his discourses, which in their effect, though not in their composition,

might be compared with those of the Athenian orators. The death of theophilus expanded and realized the hopes of his nephew. The clergy

of Alexandria was divided; the soldiers and their general supported the claims of the archdeacon; but a resistless multitude, with voices and with hands, asserted the cause of their favorite; and after a period of thirty-nine years, Cyril was seated on the throne of Athanasius.

chapter XLVII: Ecclesiastical Discord.--Part II.

the prize was not unworthy of his ambition. At a distance from the court, and at the head of an immense capital, the patriarch, as he was

now styled, of Alexandria had gradually usurped the state and authority

of a civil magistrate. The public and private charities of the city were blindly obeyed by his numerous and fanatic \_parabolani\_, familiarized in their daily office with scenes of death; and the præfects of Egypt were awed or provoked by the temporal power of these Christian pontiffs. ardent in the prosecution of heresy, Cyril auspiciously opened his

reign by oppressing the Novatians, the most innocent and harmless of the

sectaries. The interdiction of their religious worship appeared in his eyes a just and meritorious act; and he confiscated their holy vessels, without apprehending the guilt of sacrilege. The toleration, and even the privileges of the Jews, who had multiplied to the number of forty thousand, were secured by the laws of the Cæsars and Ptolemies, and a long prescription of seven hundred years since the foundation of alexandria. Without any legal sentence, without any royal mandate, the

patriarch, at the dawn of day, led a seditious multitude to the attack

of the synagogues. Unarmed and unprepared, the Jews were incapable of

resistance; their houses of prayer were levelled with the ground, and the episcopal warrior, after-rewarding his troops with the plunder

of their goods, expelled from the city the remnant of the unbelieving

nation. Perhaps he might plead the insolence of their prosperity, and their deadly hatred of the Christians, whose blood they had recently

shed in a malicious or accidental tumult. Such crimes would have deserved the animadversion of the magistrate; but in this promiscuous

outrage, the innocent were confounded with the guilty, and Alexandria was impoverished by the loss of a wealthy and industrious colony. The

zeal of Cyril exposed him to the penalties of the Julian law; but in a feeble government and a superstitious age, he was secure of impunity, and even of praise. Orestes complained; but his just complaints were too quickly forgotten by the ministers of Theodosius, and too deeply

remembered by a priest who affected to pardon, and continued to hate, the præfect of Egypt. As he passed through the streets, his chariot was assaulted by a band of five hundred of the Nitrian monks his guards fled from the wild beasts of the desert; his protestations that he was a Christian and a Catholic were answered by a volley of stones, and the face of Orestes was covered with blood. The loyal citizens of Alexandria

hastened to his rescue; he instantly satisfied his justice and revenge against the monk by whose hand he had been wounded, and Ammonius expired

under the rod of the lictor. At the command of Cyril his body was

raised from the ground, and transported, in solemn procession, to the cathedral; the name of Ammonius was changed to that of Thaumasius the

\_wonderful\_; his tomb was decorated with the trophies of martyrdom, and the patriarch ascended the pulpit to celebrate the magnanimity of an assassin and a rebel. Such honors might incite the faithful to combat and die under the banners of the saint; and he soon prompted, or accepted, the sacrifice of a virgin, who professed the religion of the

Greeks, and cultivated the friendship of Orestes. Hypatia, the daughter

of Theon the mathematician, was initiated in her father's studies;

her learned comments have elucidated the geometry of Apollonius and diophantus, and she publicly taught, both at Athens and Alexandria, the

philosophy of Plato and Aristotle. In the bloom of beauty, and in the

maturity of wisdom, the modest maid refused her lovers and instructed

her disciples; the persons most illustrious for their rank or merit were impatient to visit the female philosopher; and Cyril beheld, with a jealous eye, the gorgeous train of horses and slaves who crowded the door of her academy. A rumor was spread among the Christians, that the daughter of Theon was the only obstacle to the reconciliation of the

præfect and the archbishop; and that obstacle was speedily removed. On a fatal day, in the holy season of Lent, Hypatia was torn from her chariot, stripped naked, dragged to the church, and inhumanly butchered by the hands of Peter the reader, and a troop of savage and merciless fanatics: her flesh was scraped from her bones with sharp oyster shells, and her quivering limbs were delivered to the flames. The just progress

of inquiry and punishment was stopped by seasonable gifts; but the

murder of Hypatia has imprinted an indelible stain on the character and

religion of Cyril of Alexandria.

Superstition, perhaps, would more gently expiate the blood of a virgin, than the banishment of a saint; and Cyril had accompanied his uncle to the iniquitous synod of the Oak. When the memory of Chrysostom was

restored and consecrated, the nephew of Theophilus, at the head of a dying faction, still maintained the justice of his sentence; nor was it till after a tedious delay and an obstinate resistance, that he yielded to the consent of the Catholic world. His enmity to the Byzantine

pontiffs was a sense of interest, not a sally of passion: he envied their fortunate station in the sunshine of the Imperial court; and he dreaded their upstart ambition, which oppressed the metropolitans of europe and Asia, invaded the provinces of Antioch and Alexandria, and

measured their diocese by the limits of the empire. The long moderation

of Atticus, the mild usurper of the throne of Chrysostom, suspended the animosities of the Eastern patriarchs; but Cyril was at length awakened by the exaltation of a rival more worthy of his esteem and hatred. After the short and troubled reign of Sisinnius, bishop of Constantinople, the factions of the clergy and people were appeased by the choice of the emperor, who, on this occasion, consulted the voice of fame, and invited the merit of a stranger. Nestorius, native of Germanicia, and a monk of antioch, was recommended by the austerity of his life, and the eloquence

of his sermons; but the first homily which he preached before the devout theodosius betrayed the acrimony and impatience of his zeal. "Give me, O cæsar!" he exclaimed, "give me the earth purged of heretics, and I will

give you in exchange the kingdom of heaven. Exterminate with me the

heretics; and with you I will exterminate the Persians." On the fifth day as if the treaty had been already signed, the patriarch of constantinople discovered, surprised, and attacked a secret conventicle

of the Arians: they preferred death to submission; the flames that were

kindled by their despair, soon spread to the neighboring houses, and the triumph of Nestorius was clouded by the name of \_incendiary\_. On either

side of the Hellespont his episcopal vigor imposed a rigid formulary of faith and discipline; a chronological error concerning the festival of easter was punished as an offence against the church and state. Lydia and Caria, Sardes and Miletus, were purified with the blood of the

obstinate Quartodecimans; and the edict of the emperor, or rather of the

patriarch, enumerates three-and-twenty degrees and denominations in the guilt and punishment of heresy. But the sword of persecution which

Nestorius so furiously wielded was soon turned against his own breast.

Religion was the pretence; but, in the judgment of a contemporary saint, ambition was the genuine motive of episcopal warfare.

In the Syrian school, Nestorius had been taught to abhor the confusion

of the two natures, and nicely to discriminate the humanity of his

\_master\_ Christ from the divinity of the \_Lord\_ Jesus. The Blessed

Virgin he revered as the mother of Christ, but his ears were offended with the rash and recent title of mother of God, which had been

insensibly adopted since the origin of the Arian controversy. From the

pulpit of Constantinople, a friend of the patriarch, and afterwards the

patriarch himself, repeatedly preached against the use, or the abuse,

of a word unknown to the apostles, unauthorized by the church, and which could only tend to alarm the timorous, to mislead the simple, to amuse the profane, and to justify, by a seeming resemblance, the old genealogy

of Olympus. In his calmer moments Nestorius confessed, that it might be tolerated or excused by the union of the two natures, and the communication of their \_idioms\_: but he was exasperated, by contradiction, to disclaim the worship of a new-born, an infant Deity, to draw his inadequate similes from the conjugal or civil partnerships

of life, and to describe the manhood of Christ as the robe, the

instrument, the tabernacle of his Godhead. At these blasphemous sounds, the pillars of the sanctuary were shaken. The unsuccessful competitors

of Nestorius indulged their pious or personal resentment, the Byzantine clergy was secretly displeased with the intrusion of a stranger: whatever is superstitious or absurd, might claim the protection of the monks; and the people were interested in the glory of their virgin

patroness. The sermons of the archbishop, and the service of the altar, were disturbed by seditious clamor; his authority and doctrine were

renounced by separate congregations; every wind scattered round the empire the leaves of controversy; and the voice of the combatants on a

sonorous theatre reëchoed in the cells of Palestine and Egypt. It was the duty of Cyril to enlighten the zeal and ignorance of his innumerable

monks: in the school of Alexandria, he had imbibed and professed the

incarnation of one nature; and the successor of Athanasius consulted

his pride and ambition, when he rose in arms against another Arius, more formidable and more guilty, on the second throne of the hierarchy. After a short correspondence, in which the rival prelates disguised their

hatred in the hollow language of respect and charity, the patriarch of alexandria denounced to the prince and people, to the East and to the west, the damnable errors of the Byzantine pontiff. From the East,

more especially from Antioch, he obtained the ambiguous counsels of toleration and silence, which were addressed to both parties while they favored the cause of Nestorius. But the Vatican received with open arms the messengers of Egypt. The vanity of Celestine was flattered by the appeal; and the partial version of a monk decided the faith of the pope, who with his Latin clergy was ignorant of the language, the arts, and the theology of the Greeks. At the head of an Italian synod, Celestine weighed the merits of the cause, approved the creed of Cyril, condemned the sentiments and person of Nestorius, degraded the heretic from his episcopal dignity, allowed a respite of ten days for recantation and

penance, and delegated to his enemy the execution of this rash and

illegal sentence. But the patriarch of Alexandria, while he darted the thunders of a god, exposed the errors and passions of a mortal; and his twelve anathemas still torture the orthodox slaves, who adore the

memory of a saint, without forfeiting their allegiance to the synod of chalcedon. These bold assertions are indelibly tinged with the colors

of the Apollinarian heresy; but the serious, and perhaps the sincere

professions of Nestorius have satisfied the wiser and less partial theologians of the present times.

Yet neither the emperor nor the primate of the East were disposed to

obey the mandate of an Italian priest; and a synod of the Catholic, or

rather of the Greek church, was unanimously demanded as the sole remedy that could appease or decide this ecclesiastical quarrel. Ephesus, on all sides accessible by sea and land, was chosen for the place, the festival of Pentecost for the day, of the meeting; a writ of summons was despatched to each metropolitan, and a guard was stationed to protect and confine the fathers till they should settle the mysteries of heaven, and the faith of the earth. Nestorius appeared not as a criminal, but as a judge; be depended on the weight rather than the number of his

prelates, and his sturdy slaves from the baths of Zeuxippus were armed for every service of injury or defence. But his adversary Cyril was more

powerful in the weapons both of the flesh and of the spirit. Disobedient to the letter, or at least to the meaning, of the royal summons, he was attended by fifty Egyptian bishops, who expected from their patriarch's

nod the inspiration of the Holy Ghost. He had contracted an intimate alliance with Memnon, bishop of Ephesus. The despotic primate of Asia disposed of the ready succors of thirty or forty episcopal votes: a crowd of peasants, the slaves of the church, was poured into the city to

support with blows and clamors a metaphysical argument; and the people

zealously asserted the honor of the Virgin, whose body reposed within the walls of Ephesus. The fleet which had transported Cyril from alexandria was laden with the riches of Egypt; and he disembarked a

numerous body of mariners, slaves, and fanatics, enlisted with blind

obedience under the banner of St. Mark and the mother of God. The fathers, and even the guards, of the council were awed by this martial array; the adversaries of Cyril and Mary were insulted in the streets,

or threatened in their houses; his eloquence and liberality made a daily

increase in the number of his adherents; and the Egyptian soon computed that he might command the attendance and the voices of two hundred bishops. But the author of the twelve anathemas foresaw and dreaded the

opposition of John of Antioch, who, with a small, but respectable, train

of metropolitans and divines, was advancing by slow journeys from the distant capital of the East. Impatient of a delay, which he stigmatized as voluntary and culpable, Cyril announced the opening of the synod

sixteen days after the festival of Pentecost. Nestorius, who depended

on the near approach of his Eastern friends, persisted, like his

predecessor Chrysostom, to disclaim the jurisdiction, and to disobey the summons, of his enemies: they hastened his trial, and his accuser

presided in the seat of judgment. Sixty-eight bishops, twenty-two of

metropolitan rank, defended his cause by a modest and temperate protest: they were excluded from the councils of their brethren. Candidian,

in the emperor's name, requested a delay of four days; the profane

magistrate was driven with outrage and insult from the assembly of the

saints. The whole of this momentous transaction was crowded into the compass of a summer's day: the bishops delivered their separate

opinions; but the uniformity of style reveals the influence or the hand

of a master, who has been accused of corrupting the public evidence

of their acts and subscriptions. Without a dissenting voice, they

recognized in the epistles of Cyril the Nicene creed and the doctrine of the fathers: but the partial extracts from the letters and homilies of

Nestorius were interrupted by curses and anathemas: and the heretic was degraded from his episcopal and ecclesiastical dignity. The sentence,

maliciously inscribed to the new Judas, was affixed and proclaimed in the streets of Ephesus: the weary prelates, as they issued from the church of the mother of God, were saluted as her champions; and her

victory was celebrated by the illuminations, the songs, and the tumult

of the night.

On the fifth day, the triumph was clouded by the arrival and indignation

of the Eastern bishops. In a chamber of the inn, before he had wiped the dust from his shoes, John of Antioch gave audience to Candidian, the

Imperial minister; who related his ineffectual efforts to prevent or to annul the hasty violence of the Egyptian. With equal haste and violence, the Oriental synod of fifty bishops degraded Cyril and Memnon from their episcopal honors, condemned, in the twelve anathemas, the purest venom

of the Apollinarian heresy, and described the Alexandrian primate as a

monster, born and educated for the destruction of the church. His throne was distant and inaccessible; but they instantly resolved to bestow

on the flock of Ephesus the blessing of a faithful shepherd. By the

vigilance of Memnon, the churches were shut against them, and a strong

garrison was thrown into the cathedral. The troops, under the command of candidian, advanced to the assault; the outguards were routed and put to the sword, but the place was impregnable: the besiegers retired; their

retreat was pursued by a vigorous sally; they lost their horses, and

many of their soldiers were dangerously wounded with clubs and stones. ephesus, the city of the Virgin, was defiled with rage and clamor, with sedition and blood; the rival synods darted anathemas and excommunications from their spiritual engines; and the court of theodosius was perplexed by the adverse and contradictory narratives of the Syrian and Egyptian factions. During a busy period of three months, the emperor tried every method, except the most effectual means of

indifference and contempt, to reconcile this theological quarrel. He attempted to remove or intimidate the leaders by a common sentence, of acquittal or condemnation; he invested his representatives at Ephesus with ample power and military force; he summoned from either party eight chosen deputies to a free and candid conference in the neighborhood of the capital, far from the contagion of popular frenzy. But the Orientals

refused to yield, and the Catholics, proud of their numbers and of their

Latin allies, rejected all terms of union or toleration. The patience

of the meek Theodosius was provoked; and he dissolved in anger this episcopal tumult, which at the distance of thirteen centuries assumes the venerable aspect of the third cumenical council. "God is my witness," said the pious prince, "that I am not the author of this confusion. His providence will discern and punish the guilty. Return to your provinces, and may your private virtues repair the mischief and

scandal of your meeting." They returned to their provinces; but the same

passions which had distracted the synod of Ephesus were diffused over the Eastern world. After three obstinate and equal campaigns, John of antioch and Cyril of Alexandria condescended to explain and embrace: but their seeming reunion must be imputed rather to prudence than to reason, to the mutual lassitude rather than to the Christian charity of the

patriarchs.

the Byzantine pontiff had instilled into the royal ear a baleful

prejudice against the character and conduct of his Egyptian rival. An epistle of menace and invective, which accompanied the summons, accused him as a busy, insolent, and envious priest, who perplexed the

simplicity of the faith, violated the peace of the church and state, and, by his artful and separate addresses to the wife and sister of theodosius, presumed to suppose, or to scatter, the seeds of discord in the Imperial family. At the stern command of his sovereign. Cyril had

repaired to Ephesus, where he was resisted, threatened, and confined, by the magistrates in the interest of Nestorius and the Orientals; who assembled the troops of Lydia and Ionia to suppress the fanatic and disorderly train of the patriarch. Without expecting the royal license,

he escaped from his guards, precipitately embarked, deserted the

imperfect synod, and retired to his episcopal fortress of safety and

independence. But his artful emissaries, both in the court and city,

successfully labored to appease the resentment, and to conciliate the favor, of the emperor. The feeble son of Arcadius was alternately

swayed by his wife and sister, by the eunuchs and women of the palace:

superstition and avarice were their ruling passions; and the orthodox chiefs were assiduous in their endeavors to alarm the former, and to

gratify the latter. Constantinople and the suburbs were sanctified with frequent monasteries, and the holy abbots, Dalmatius and Eutyches, had devoted their zeal and fidelity to the cause of Cyril, the worship of

Mary, and the unity of Christ. From the first moment of their monastic

life, they had never mingled with the world, or trod the profane ground

of the city. But in this awful moment of the danger of the church, their

vow was superseded by a more sublime and indispensable duty. At the

head of a long order of monks and hermits, who carried burning tapers in their hands, and chanted litanies to the mother of God, they proceeded from their monasteries to the palace. The people was edified and

inflamed by this extraordinary spectacle, and the trembling monarch

listened to the prayers and adjurations of the saints, who boldly

pronounced, that none could hope for salvation, unless they embraced the person and the creed of the orthodox successor of Athanasius. At the

same time, every avenue of the throne was assaulted with gold. Under the decent names of \_eulogies\_ and \_benedictions\_, the courtiers of both sexes were bribed according to the measure of their power and

rapaciousness. But their incessant demands despoiled the sanctuaries of constantinople and Alexandria; and the authority of the patriarch was

unable to silence the just murmur of his clergy, that a debt of sixty thousand pounds had already been contracted to support the expense of this scandalous corruption. Pulcheria, who relieved her brother from the weight of an empire, was the firmest pillar of orthodoxy; and so

intimate was the alliance between the thunders of the synod and the whispers of the court, that Cyril was assured of success if he could displace one eunuch, and substitute another in the favor of Theodosius.

Yet the Egyptian could not boast of a glorious or decisive victory. the emperor, with unaccustomed firmness, adhered to his promise of

protecting the innocence of the Oriental bishops; and Cyril softened

his anathemas, and confessed, with ambiguity and reluctance, a twofold

nature of Christ, before he was permitted to satiate his revenge against the unfortunate Nestorius.

the rash and obstinate Nestorius, before the end of the synod, was

oppressed by Cyril, betrayed by the court, and faintly supported by his eastern friends. A sentiment or fear or indignation prompted him, while

it was yet time, to affect the glory of a voluntary abdication: his wish, or at least his request, was readily granted; he was conducted with honor from Ephesus to his old monastery of Antioch; and, after a

short pause, his successors, Maximian and Proclus, were acknowledged as the lawful bishops of Constantinople. But in the silence of his cell, the degraded patriarch could no longer resume the innocence and security

of a private monk. The past he regretted, he was discontented with the

present, and the future he had reason to dread: the Oriental bishops

successively disengaged their cause from his unpopular name, and each day decreased the number of the schismatics who revered Nestorius as the confessor of the faith. After a residence at Antioch of four years, the

hand of Theodosius subscribed an edict, which ranked him with Simon the

magician, proscribed his opinions and followers, condemned his writings to the flames, and banished his person first to Petra, in Arabia, and at

length to Oasis, one of the islands of the Libyan desert. Secluded from the church and from the world, the exile was still pursued by the rage

of bigotry and war. A wandering tribe of the Blemmyes or Nubians invaded

his solitary prison: in their retreat they dismissed a crowd of useless captives: but no sooner had Nestorius reached the banks of the Nile, than he would gladly have escaped from a Roman and orthodox city, to the

milder servitude of the savages. His flight was punished as a new crime: the soul of the patriarch inspired the civil and ecclesiastical powers

of Egypt; the magistrates, the soldiers, the monks, devoutly tortured the enemy of Christ and St. Cyril; and, as far as the confines of

Æthiopia, the heretic was alternately dragged and recalled, till his aged body was broken by the hardships and accidents of these reiterated

journeys. Yet his mind was still independent and erect; the president

of Thebais was awed by his pastoral letters; he survived the Catholic tyrant of Alexandria, and, after sixteen years' banishment, the synod of chalcedon would perhaps have restored him to the honors, or at least to the communion, of the church. The death of Nestorius prevented his

obedience to their welcome summons; and his disease might afford some color to the scandalous report, that his tongue, the organ of blasphemy,

had been eaten by the worms. He was buried in a city of Upper Egypt,

known by the names of Chemnis, or Panopolis, or Akmim; but the immortal

malice of the Jacobites has persevered for ages to cast stones against

his sepulchre, and to propagate the foolish tradition, that it was never watered by the rain of heaven, which equally descends on the righteous and the ungodly. Humanity may drop a tear on the fate of Nestorius;

yet justice must observe, that he suffered the persecution which he had approved and inflicted.

chapter XLVII: Ecclesiastical Discord.--Part III.

the death of the Alexandrian primate, after a reign of thirty-two years, abandoned the Catholics to the intemperance of zeal and the abuse

of victory. The \_monophysite\_ doctrine (one incarnate nature) was

rigorously preached in the churches of Egypt and the monasteries of the east; the primitive creed of Apollinarius was protected by the sanctity

of Cyril; and the name of Eutyches, his venerable friend, has been applied to the sect most adverse to the Syrian heresy of Nestorius. His

rival Eutyches was the abbot, or archimandrite, or superior of three

hundred monks, but the opinions of a simple and illiterate recluse might

have expired in the cell, where he had slept above seventy years, if the

resentment or indiscretion of Flavian, the Byzantine pontiff, had not exposed the scandal to the eyes of the Christian world. His domestic

synod was instantly convened, their proceedings were sullied with clamor and artifice, and the aged heretic was surprised into a seeming confession, that Christ had not derived his body from the substance

of the Virgin Mary. From their partial decree, Eutyches appealed to a

general council; and his cause was vigorously asserted by his godson chrysaphius, the reigning eunuch of the palace, and his accomplice dioscorus, who had succeeded to the throne, the creed, the talents, and the vices, of the nephew of Theophilus. By the special summons of theodosius, the second synod of Ephesus was judiciously composed of ten metropolitans and ten bishops from each of the six dioceses of the eastern empire: some exceptions of favor or merit enlarged the number to

one hundred and thirty-five; and the Syrian Barsumas, as the chief and representative of the monks, was invited to sit and vote with the successors of the apostles. But the despotism of the Alexandrian

patriarch again oppressed the freedom of debate: the same spiritual and carnal weapons were again drawn from the arsenals of Egypt: the Asiatic

veterans, a band of archers, served under the orders of Dioscorus; and the more formidable monks, whose minds were inaccessible to reason or

mercy, besieged the doors of the cathedral. The general, and, as it

should seem, the unconstrained voice of the fathers, accepted the faith and even the anathemas of Cyril; and the heresy of the two natures was formally condemned in the persons and writings of the most learned

Orientals. "May those who divide Christ be divided with the sword, may they be hewn in pieces, may they be burned alive!" were the charitable wishes of a Christian synod. The innocence and sanctity of Eutyches were acknowledged without hesitation; but the prelates, more especially those

of Thrace and Asia, were unwilling to depose their patriarch for the use

or even the abuse of his lawful jurisdiction. They embraced the knees of dioscorus, as he stood with a threatening aspect on the footstool of

his throne, and conjured him to forgive the offences, and to respect the dignity, of his brother. "Do you mean to raise a sedition?" exclaimed the relentless tyrant. "Where are the officers?" At these words a furious multitude of monks and soldiers, with staves, and swords, and chains, burst into the church; the trembling bishops hid themselves behind the altar, or under the benches, and as they were not inspired with the zeal of martyrdom, they successively subscribed a blank paper, which was afterwards filled with the condemnation of the Byzantine

pontiff. Flavian was instantly delivered to the wild beasts of this

spiritual amphitheatre: the monks were stimulated by the voice and example of Barsumas to avenge the injuries of Christ: it is said that the patriarch of Alexandria reviled, and buffeted, and kicked, and trampled his brother of Constantinople: it is certain, that the victim, before he could reach the place of his exile, expired on the third day

of the wounds and bruises which he had received at Ephesus. This second

synod has been justly branded as a gang of robbers and assassins; yet the accusers of Dioscorus would magnify his violence, to alleviate the cowardice and inconstancy of their own behavior.

the faith of Egypt had prevailed: but the vanquished party was supported by the same pope who encountered without fear the hostile rage of Attila and Genseric. The theology of Leo, his famous \_tome\_ or epistle on the mystery of the incarnation, had been disregarded by the synod of ephesus: his authority, and that of the Latin church, was insulted in

his legates, who escaped from slavery and death to relate the melancholy tale of the tyranny of Dioscorus and the martyrdom of Flavian. His

provincial synod annulled the irregular proceedings of Ephesus; but as this step was itself irregular, he solicited the convocation of a

general council in the free and orthodox provinces of Italy. From his

independent throne, the Roman bishop spoke and acted without danger as the head of the Christians, and his dictates were obsequiously transcribed by Placidia and her son Valentinian; who addressed their eastern colleague to restore the peace and unity of the church. But the

pageant of Oriental royalty was moved with equal dexterity by the hand

of the eunuch; and Theodosius could pronounce, without hesitation, that the church was already peaceful and triumphant, and that the recent flame had been extinguished by the just punishment of the Nestorians.

Perhaps the Greeks would be still involved in the heresy of the

Monophysites, if the emperor's horse had not fortunately stumbled; theodosius expired; his orthodox sister Pulcheria, with a nominal

husband, succeeded to the throne; Chrysaphius was burnt, Dioscorus was disgraced, the exiles were recalled, and the tome of Leo was subscribed by the Oriental bishops. Yet the pope was disappointed in his favorite

project of a Latin council: he disdained to preside in the Greek synod, which was speedily assembled at Nice in Bithynia; his legates required

in a peremptory tone the presence of the emperor; and the weary fathers were transported to Chalcedon under the immediate eye of Marcian and the senate of Constantinople. A quarter of a mile from the Thracian bosphorus, the church of St. Euphemia was built on the summit of a

gentle though lofty ascent: the triple structure was celebrated as a

prodigy of art, and the boundless prospect of the land and sea might

have raised the mind of a sectary to the contemplation of the God of the universe. Six hundred and thirty bishops were ranged in order in the

nave of the church; but the patriarchs of the East were preceded by the

legates, of whom the third was a simple priest; and the place of honor was reserved for twenty laymen of consular or senatorian rank. The

gospel was ostentatiously displayed in the centre, but the rule of faith was defined by the Papal and Imperial ministers, who moderated the thirteen sessions of the council of Chalcedon. Their partial

interposition silenced the intemperate shouts and execrations, which degraded the episcopal gravity; but, on the formal accusation of the

legates, Dioscorus was compelled to descend from his throne to the

rank of a criminal, already condemned in the opinion of his judges. The

Orientals, less adverse to Nestorius than to Cyril, accepted the Romans as their deliverers: Thrace, and Pontus, and Asia, were exasperated against the murderer of Flavian, and the new patriarchs of constantinople and Antioch secured their places by the sacrifice of their benefactor. The bishops of Palestine, Macedonia, and Greece, were attached to the faith of Cyril; but in the face of the synod, in the

heat of the battle, the leaders, with their obsequious train, passed from the right to the left wing, and decided the victory by this

seasonable desertion. Of the seventeen suffragans who sailed from alexandria, four were tempted from their allegiance, and the thirteen, falling prostrate on the ground, implored the mercy of the council, with

sighs and tears, and a pathetic declaration, that, if they yielded, they

should be massacred, on their return to Egypt, by the indignant people. a tardy repentance was allowed to expiate the guilt or error of the accomplices of Dioscorus: but their sins were accumulated on his head;

he neither asked nor hoped for pardon, and the moderation of those who pleaded for a general amnesty was drowned in the prevailing cry of

victory and revenge. To save the reputation of his late adherents,

some \_personal\_ offences were skilfully detected; his rash and illegal excommunication of the pope, and his contumacious refusal (while he was detained a prisoner) to attend to the summons of the synod. Witnesses were introduced to prove the special facts of his pride, avarice, and cruelty; and the fathers heard with abhorrence, that the alms of the church were lavished on the female dancers, that his palace, and even

his bath, was open to the prostitutes of Alexandria, and that the

infamous Pansophia, or Irene, was publicly entertained as the concubine

of the patriarch.

for these scandalous offences, Dioscorus was deposed by the synod, and banished by the emperor; but the purity of his faith was declared in the

presence, and with the tacit approbation, of the fathers. Their prudence

supposed rather than pronounced the heresy of Eutyches, who was never

summoned before their tribunal; and they sat silent and abashed, when a bold Monophysite casting at their feet a volume of Cyril, challenged them to anathematize in his person the doctrine of the saint. If we fairly peruse the acts of Chalcedon as they are recorded by the orthodox

party, we shall find that a great majority of the bishops embraced the

simple unity of Christ; and the ambiguous concession that he was formed

Of or From two natures, might imply either their previous existence,

or their subsequent confusion, or some dangerous interval between the conception of the man and the assumption of the God. The Roman theology,

more positive and precise, adopted the term most offensive to the ears

of the Egyptians, that Christ existed In two natures; and this momentous

particle (which the memory, rather than the understanding, must retain)

had almost produced a schism among the Catholic bishops. The \_tome\_

of Leo had been respectfully, perhaps sincerely, subscribed; but they

protested, in two successive debates, that it was neither expedient nor

lawful to transgress the sacred landmarks which had been fixed at Nice, constantinople, and Ephesus, according to the rule of Scripture and tradition. At length they yielded to the importunities of their masters; but their infallible decree, after it had been ratified with deliberate

votes and vehement acclamations, was overturned in the next session by the opposition of the legates and their Oriental friends. It was in vain that a multitude of episcopal voices repeated in chorus, "The definition

of the fathers is orthodox and immutable! The heretics are now discovered! Anathema to the Nestorians! Let them depart from the synod!

Let them repair to Rome." The legates threatened, the emperor was absolute, and a committee of eighteen bishops prepared a new decree, which was imposed on the reluctant assembly. In the name of the fourth

general council, the Christ in one person, but in two natures, was announced to the Catholic world: an invisible line was drawn between the heresy of Apollinaris and the faith of St. Cyril; and the road to

paradise, a bridge as sharp as a razor, was suspended over the abyss by the master-hand of the theological artist. During ten centuries of blindness and servitude, Europe received her religious opinions from the

oracle of the Vatican; and the same doctrine, already varnished with the

rust of antiquity, was admitted without dispute into the creed of the

reformers, who disclaimed the supremacy of the Roman pontiff. The synod

of Chalcedon still triumphs in the Protestant churches; but the ferment

of controversy has subsided, and the most pious Christians of the

present day are ignorant, or careless, of their own belief concerning the mystery of the incarnation.

far different was the temper of the Greeks and Egyptians under the

orthodox reigns of Leo and Marcian. Those pious emperors enforced with arms and edicts the symbol of their faith; and it was declared by the conscience or honor of five hundred bishops, that the decrees of the

synod of Chalcedon might be lawfully supported, even with blood. The catholics observed with satisfaction, that the same synod was odious both to the Nestorians and the Monophysites; but the Nestorians were

less angry, or less powerful, and the East was distracted by the

obstinate and sanguinary zeal of the Monophysites. Jerusalem was

occupied by an army of monks; in the name of the one incarnate nature, they pillaged, they burnt, they murdered; the sepulchre of Christ was defiled with blood; and the gates of the city were guarded in tumultuous

rebellion against the troops of the emperor. After the disgrace and exile of Dioscorus, the Egyptians still regretted their spiritual father; and detested the usurpation of his successor, who was introduced by the fathers of Chalcedon. The throne of Proterius was supported by a

guard of two thousand soldiers: he waged a five years' war against the

people of Alexandria; and on the first intelligence of the death of

Marcian, he became the victim of their zeal. On the third day before the festival of Easter, the patriarch was besieged in the cathedral, and murdered in the baptistery. The remains of his mangled corpse were delivered to the flames, and his ashes to the wind; and the deed was

inspired by the vision of a pretended angel: an ambitious monk, who,

under the name of Timothy the Cat, succeeded to the place and opinions

of Dioscorus. This deadly superstition was inflamed, on either side, by the principle and the practice of retaliation: in the pursuit of a

metaphysical quarrel, many thousands were slain, and the Christians of every degree were deprived of the substantial enjoyments of social life, and of the invisible gifts of baptism and the holy communion. Perhaps an extravagant fable of the times may conceal an allegorical picture

of these fanatics, who tortured each other and themselves. "Under the consulship of Venantius and Celer," says a grave bishop, "the people

of Alexandria, and all Egypt, were seized with a strange and diabolical frenzy: great and small, slaves and freedmen, monks and clergy, the

natives of the land, who opposed the synod of Chalcedon, lost their

speech and reason, barked like dogs, and tore, with their own teeth the flesh from their hands and arms."

the disorders of thirty years at length produced the famous Henoticon

of the emperor Zeno, which in his reign, and in that of Anastasius, was

signed by all the bishops of the East, under the penalty of degradation and exile, if they rejected or infringed this salutary and fundamental

law. The clergy may smile or groan at the presumption of a layman who defines the articles of faith; yet if he stoops to the humiliating task,

his mind is less infected by prejudice or interest, and the authority of the magistrate can only be maintained by the concord of the people. It

is in ecclesiastical story, that Zeno appears least contemptible; and I am not able to discern any Manichæan or Eutychian guilt in the generous

saying of Anastasius. That it was unworthy of an emperor to persecute the worshippers of Christ and the citizens of Rome. The Henoticon was

most pleasing to the Egyptians; yet the smallest blemish has not been described by the jealous, and even jaundiced eyes of our orthodox

schoolmen, and it accurately represents the Catholic faith of the

incarnation, without adopting or disclaiming the peculiar terms of tenets of the hostile sects. A solemn anathema is pronounced against

Nestorius and Eutyches; against all heretics by whom Christ is divided,

or confounded, or reduced to a phantom. Without defining the number

or the article of the word \_nature\_, the pure system of St. Cyril, the faith of Nice, Constantinople, and Ephesus, is respectfully confirmed; but, instead of bowing at the name of the fourth council, the subject

is dismissed by the censure of all contrary doctrines, \_if\_ any such

have been taught either elsewhere or at Chalcedon. Under this ambiguous expression, the friends and the enemies of the last synod might unite in a silent embrace. The most reasonable Christians acquiesced in this mode

of toleration; but their reason was feeble and inconstant, and their

obedience was despised as timid and servile by the vehement spirit of their brethren. On a subject which engrossed the thoughts and discourses

of men, it was difficult to preserve an exact neutrality; a book, a

sermon, a prayer, rekindled the flame of controversy; and the bonds of communion were alternately broken and renewed by the private animosity

of the bishops. The space between Nestorius and Eutyches was filled by a thousand shades of language and opinion; the \_acephali\_ of Egypt, and the Roman pontiffs, of equal valor, though of unequal strength, may be found at the two extremities of the theological scale. The acephali, without a king or a bishop, were separated above three hundred years from the patriarchs of Alexandria, who had accepted the communion of constantinople, without exacting a formal condemnation of the synod of chalcedon. For accepting the communion of Alexandria, without a formal approbation of the same synod, the patriarchs of Constantinople were anathematized by the popes. Their inflexible despotism involved the most

orthodox of the Greek churches in this spiritual contagion, denied or doubted the validity of their sacraments, and fomented, thirty-five

years, the schism of the East and West, till they finally abolished the

memory of four Byzantine pontiffs, who had dared to oppose the supremacy

of St. Peter. Before that period, the precarious truce of Constantinople and Egypt had been violated by the zeal of the rival prelates.

Macedonius, who was suspected of the Nestorian heresy, asserted, in disgrace and exile, the synod of Chalcedon, while the successor of Cyril would have purchased its overthrow with a bribe of two thousand pounds

of gold.

In the fever of the times, the sense, or rather the sound of a syllable, was sufficient to disturb the peace of an empire. The Trisagion (thrice

holy,) "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts!" is supposed, by the

Greeks, to be the identical hymn which the angels and cherubim eternally

repeat before the throne of God, and which, about the middle of the fifth century, was miraculously revealed to the church of constantinople. The devotion of Antioch soon added, "who was crucified for us!" and this grateful address, either to Christ alone, or to the whole Trinity, may be justified by the rules of theology, and has been

gradually adopted by the Catholics of the East and West. But it had been imagined by a Monophysite bishop; the gift of an enemy was at first

rejected as a dire and dangerous blasphemy, and the rash innovation had

nearly cost the emperor Anastasius his throne and his life. The people

of Constantinople was devoid of any rational principles of freedom; but they held, as a lawful cause of rebellion, the color of a livery in the

races, or the color of a mystery in the schools. The Trisagion, with and without this obnoxious addition, was chanted in the cathedral by two adverse choirs, and when their lungs were exhausted, they had recourse to the more solid arguments of sticks and stones; the aggressors were

punished by the emperor, and defended by the patriarch; and the crown and mitre were staked on the event of this momentous quarrel. The

streets were instantly crowded with innumerable swarms of men, women, and children; the legions of monks, in regular array, marched, and

shouted, and fought at their head, "Christians! this is the day of

martyrdom: let us not desert our spiritual father; anathema to the

Manichæan tyrant! he is unworthy to reign." Such was the Catholic cry; and the galleys of Anastasius lay upon their oars before the palace, till the patriarch had pardoned his penitent, and hushed the waves

of the troubled multitude. The triumph of Macedonius was checked by a

speedy exile; but the zeal of his flock was again exasperated by the

same question, "Whether one of the Trinity had been crucified?" On this momentous occasion, the blue and green factions of Constantinople

suspended their discord, and the civil and military powers were annihilated in their presence. The keys of the city, and the standards

of the guards, were deposited in the forum of Constantine, the principal

station and camp of the faithful. Day and night they were incessantly busied either in singing hymns to the honor of their God, or in

pillaging and murdering the servants of their prince. The head of his favorite monk, the friend, as they styled him, of the enemy of the Holy trinity, was borne aloft on a spear; and the firebrands, which had been darted against heretical structures, diffused the undistinguishing flames over the most orthodox buildings. The statues of the emperor were broken, and his person was concealed in a suburb, till, at the end of three days, he dared to implore the mercy of his subjects. Without his diadem, and in the posture of a suppliant, Anastasius appeared on the throne of the circus. The Catholics, before his face, rehearsed their

genuine Trisagion; they exulted in the offer, which he proclaimed by the voice of a herald, of abdicating the purple; they listened to the admonition, that, since \_all\_ could not reign, they should previously agree in the choice of a sovereign; and they accepted the blood of two

unpopular ministers, whom their master, without hesitation, condemned to the lions. These furious but transient seditions were encouraged by the

success of Vitalian, who, with an army of Huns and Bulgarians, for the most part idolaters, declared himself the champion of the Catholic faith. In this pious rebellion he depopulated Thrace, besieged constantinople, exterminated sixty-five thousand of his fellow-Christians, till he obtained the recall of the bishops, the

satisfaction of the pope, and the establishment of the council

of Chalcedon, an orthodox treaty, reluctantly signed by the dying anastasius, and more faithfully performed by the uncle of Justinian. And

such was the event of the \_first\_ of the religious wars which have been waged in the name and by the disciples, of the God of peace.

chapter XLVII: Ecclesiastical Discord.--Part IV.

Justinian has been already seen in the various lights of a prince, a conqueror, and a lawgiver: the theologian still remains, and it affords an unfavorable prejudice, that his theology should form a very prominent feature of his portrait. The sovereign sympathized with his subjects in their superstitious reverence for living and departed saints: his Code, and more especially his Novels, confirm and enlarge the privileges

of the clergy; and in every dispute between a monk and a layman, the

partial judge was inclined to pronounce, that truth, and innocence, and justice, were always on the side of the church. In his public and

private devotions, the emperor was assiduous and exemplary; his prayers,

vigils, and fasts, displayed the austere penance of a monk; his fancy was amused by the hope, or belief, of personal inspiration; he had

secured the patronage of the Virgin and St. Michael the archangel; and

his recovery from a dangerous disease was ascribed to the miraculous

succor of the holy martyrs Cosmas and Damian. The capital and the

provinces of the East were decorated with the monuments of his religion; and though the far greater part of these costly structures may be attributed to his taste or ostentation, the zeal of the royal architect was probably quickened by a genuine sense of love and gratitude towards

his invisible benefactors. Among the titles of Imperial greatness, the

name of \_Pious\_ was most pleasing to his ear; to promote the temporal and spiritual interest of the church was the serious business of his

life; and the duty of father of his country was often sacrificed to that

of defender of the faith. The controversies of the times were congenial to his temper and understanding and the theological professors must

inwardly deride the diligence of a stranger, who cultivated their art and neglected his own. "What can ye fear," said a bold conspirator to

his associates, "from your bigoted tyrant? Sleepless and unarmed, he

sits whole nights in his closet, debating with reverend graybeards, and turning over the pages of ecclesiastical volumes." The fruits of these

lucubrations were displayed in many a conference, where Justinian might

shine as the loudest and most subtile of the disputants; in many a

sermon, which, under the name of edicts and epistles, proclaimed to the empire the theology of their master. While the Barbarians invaded the

provinces, while the victorious legion marched under the banners of belisarius and Narses, the successor of Trajan, unknown to the camp, was content to vanquish at the head of a synod. Had he invited to these

synods a disinterested and rational spectator, Justinian might have

learned, "\_that\_ religious controversy is the offspring of arrogance and folly; \_that\_ true piety is most laudably expressed by silence and

submission; \_that\_ man, ignorant of his own nature, should not presume to scrutinize the nature of his God; and \_that\_ it is sufficient for us to know, that power and benevolence are the perfect attributes of the deity."

toleration was not the virtue of the times, and indulgence to rebels has

seldom been the virtue of princes. But when the prince descends to the

narrow and peevish character of a disputant, he is easily provoked to

supply the defect of argument by the plenitude of power, and to chastise without mercy the perverse blindness of those who wilfully shut their eyes against the light of demonstration. The reign of Justinian was a uniform yet various scene of persecution; and he appears to have

surpassed his indolent predecessors, both in the contrivance of his laws and the rigor of their execution. The insufficient term of three months was assigned for the conversion or exile of all heretics; and if he

still connived at their precarious stay, they were deprived, under

his iron yoke, not only of the benefits of society, but of the common birth-right of men and Christians. At the end of four hundred years, the

Montanists of Phrygia still breathed the wild enthusiasm of perfection and prophecy which they had imbibed from their male and female apostles, the special organs of the Paraclete. On the approach of the Catholic

priests and soldiers, they grasped with alacrity the crown of martyrdom the conventicle and the congregation perished in the flames, but these

primitive fanatics were not extinguished three hundred years after the death of their tyrant. Under the protection of their Gothic confederates, the church of the Arians at Constantinople had braved the

severity of the laws: their clergy equalled the wealth and magnificence

of the senate; and the gold and silver which were seized by the

rapacious hand of Justinian might perhaps be claimed as the spoils of the provinces, and the trophies of the Barbarians. A secret remnant of

Pagans, who still lurked in the most refined and most rustic conditions

of mankind, excited the indignation of the Christians, who were perhaps

unwilling that any strangers should be the witnesses of their intestine

quarrels. A bishop was named as the inquisitor of the faith, and his diligence soon discovered, in the court and city, the magistrates,

lawyers, physicians, and sophists, who still cherished the superstition

of the Greeks. They were sternly informed that they must choose without delay between the displeasure of Jupiter or Justinian, and that their aversion to the gospel could no longer be distinguished under the

scandalous mask of indifference or impiety. The patrician Photius,

perhaps, alone was resolved to live and to die like his ancestors: he enfranchised himself with the stroke of a dagger, and left his tyrant the poor consolation of exposing with ignominy the lifeless corpse of the fugitive. His weaker brethren submitted to their earthly monarch,

underwent the ceremony of baptism, and labored, by their extraordinary

zeal, to erase the suspicion, or to expiate the guilt, of idolatry. the native country of Homer, and the theatre of the Trojan war, still

retained the last sparks of his mythology: by the care of the same bishop, seventy thousand Pagans were detected and converted in Asia,

Phrygia, Lydia, and Caria; ninety-six churches were built for the new

proselytes; and linen vestments, Bibles, and liturgies, and vases of

gold and silver, were supplied by the pious munificence of Justinian. the Jews, who had been gradually stripped of their immunities, were

oppressed by a vexatious law, which compelled them to observe the festival of Easter the same day on which it was celebrated by the christians. And they might complain with the more reason, since the catholics themselves did not agree with the astronomical calculations of their sovereign: the people of Constantinople delayed the beginning of their Lent a whole week after it had been ordained by authority; and they had the pleasure of fasting seven days, while meat was exposed for

sale by the command of the emperor. The Samaritans of Palestine were a

motley race, an ambiguous sect, rejected as Jews by the Pagans, by the

Jews as schismatics, and by the Christians as idolaters. The abomination

of the cross had already been planted on their holy mount of Garizim, but the persecution of Justinian offered only the alternative of baptism

or rebellion. They chose the latter: under the standard of a desperate

leader, they rose in arms, and retaliated their wrongs on the lives, the

property, and the temples, of a defenceless people. The Samaritans were finally subdued by the regular forces of the East: twenty thousand were

slain, twenty thousand were sold by the Arabs to the infidels of Persia and India, and the remains of that unhappy nation atoned for the crime

of treason by the sin of hypocrisy. It has been computed that one

hundred thousand Roman subjects were extirpated in the Samaritan war, which converted the once fruitful province into a desolate and smoking wilderness. But in the creed of Justinian, the guilt of murder could not be applied to the slaughter of unbelievers; and he piously labored to establish with fire and sword the unity of the Christian faith.

with these sentiments, it was incumbent on him, at least, to be always

in the right. In the first years of his administration, he signalized

his zeal as the disciple and patron of orthodoxy: the reconciliation of the Greeks and Latins established the \_tome\_ of St. Leo as the creed of the emperor and the empire; the Nestorians and Eutychians were exposed.

on either side, to the double edge of persecution; and the four synods

of Nice, Constantinople, Ephesus, and \_Chalcedon\_, were ratified by the code of a Catholic lawgiver. But while Justinian strove to maintain the

uniformity of faith and worship, his wife Theodora, whose vices were not

incompatible with devotion, had listened to the Monophysite teachers; and the open or clandestine enemies of the church revived and multiplied at the smile of their gracious patroness. The capital, the palace, the

nuptial bed, were torn by spiritual discord; yet so doubtful was the

sincerity of the royal consorts, that their seeming disagreement was

imputed by many to a secret and mischievous confederacy against the

religion and happiness of their people. The famous dispute of the Three chapters, which has filled more volumes than it deserves lines, is deeply marked with this subtile and disingenuous spirit. It was now three hundred years since the body of Origen had been eaten by the worms: his soul, of which he held the preexistence, was in the hands

of its Creator; but his writings were eagerly perused by the monks of

Palestine. In these writings, the piercing eye of Justinian descried

more than ten metaphysical errors; and the primitive doctor, in the company of Pythagoras and Plato, was devoted by the clergy to the

\_eternity\_ of hell-fire, which he had presumed to deny. Under the cover of this precedent, a treacherous blow was aimed at the council of chalcedon. The fathers had listened without impatience to the praise

of Theodore of Mopsuestia; and their justice or indulgence had restored both Theodore of Cyrrhus, and Ibas of Edessa, to the communion of the church. But the characters of these Oriental bishops were tainted with the reproach of heresy; the first had been the master, the two others were the friends, of Nestorius; their most suspicious passages were accused under the title of the \_three chapters\_; and the condemnation

of their memory must involve the honor of a synod, whose name was

pronounced with sincere or affected reverence by the Catholic world. If these bishops, whether innocent or guilty, were annihilated in the sleep

of death, they would not probably be awakened by the clamor which, after the a hundred years, was raised over their grave. If they were already

in the fangs of the dæmon, their torments could neither be aggravated

nor assuaged by human industry. If in the company of saints and angels they enjoyed the rewards of piety, they must have smiled at the idle fury of the theological insects who still crawled on the surface of the earth. The foremost of these insects, the emperor of the Romans, darted

his sting, and distilled his venom, perhaps without discerning the true

motives of Theodora and her ecclesiastical faction. The victims were no

longer subject to his power, and the vehement style of his edicts could

only proclaim their damnation, and invite the clergy of the East to

join in a full chorus of curses and anathemas. The East, with some

hesitation, consented to the voice of her sovereign: the fifth general council, of three patriarchs and one hundred and sixty-five bishops, was

held at Constantinople; and the authors, as well as the defenders, of the three chapters were separated from the communion of the saints, and

solemnly delivered to the prince of darkness. But the Latin churches were more jealous of the honor of Leo and the synod of Chalcedon: and

if they had fought as they usually did under the standard of Rome, they

might have prevailed in the cause of reason and humanity. But their chief was a prisoner in the hands of the enemy; the throne of St. Peter, which had been disgraced by the simony, was betrayed by the cowardice,

of Vigilius, who yielded, after a long and inconsistent struggle, to the despotism of Justinian and the sophistry of the Greeks. His apostasy

provoked the indignation of the Latins, and no more than two bishops could be found who would impose their hands on his deacon and successor

Pelagius. Yet the perseverance of the popes insensibly transferred to their adversaries the appellation of schismatics; the Illyrian, African, and Italian churches were oppressed by the civil and ecclesiastical

powers, not without some effort of military force; the distant barbarians transcribed the creed of the Vatican, and, in the period of a century, the schism of the three chapters expired in an obscure angle of the Venetian province. But the religious discontent of the Italians

had already promoted the conquests of the Lombards, and the Romans themselves were accustomed to suspect the faith and to detest the

government of their Byzantine tyrant.

Justinian was neither steady nor consistent in the nice process of fixing his volatile opinions and those of his subjects. In his youth he was, offended by the slightest deviation from the orthodox line; in

his old age he transgressed the measure of temperate heresy, and the Jacobites, not less than the Catholics, were scandalized by his declaration, that the body of Christ was incorruptible, and that his

manhood was never subject to any wants and infirmities, the inheritance

of our mortal flesh. This \_fantastic\_ opinion was announced in the last edicts of Justinian; and at the moment of his seasonable departure, the clergy had refused to subscribe, the prince was prepared to persecute, and the people were resolved to suffer or resist. A bishop of Treves,

secure beyond the limits of his power, addressed the monarch of the East

in the language of authority and affection. "Most gracious Justinian,

remember your baptism and your creed. Let not your gray hairs be defiled with heresy. Recall your fathers from exile, and your followers from

perdition. You cannot be ignorant, that Italy and Gaul, Spain and africa, already deplore your fall, and anathematize your name. Unless, without delay, you destroy what you have taught; unless you exclaim with a loud voice, I have erred, I have sinned, anathema to Nestorius, anathema to Eutyches, you deliver your soul to the same flames in which \_they\_ will eternally burn." He died and made no sign. His death

restored in some degree the peace of the church, and the reigns of his four successors, Justin Tiberius, Maurice, and Phocas, are distinguished by a rare, though fortunate, vacancy in the ecclesiastical history of the East.

the faculties of sense and reason are least capable of acting on themselves; the eye is most inaccessible to the sight, the soul to the thought; yet we think, and even feel, that \_one will\_, a sole principle

of action, is essential to a rational and conscious being. When

Heraclius returned from the Persian war, the orthodox hero consulted his bishops, whether the Christ whom he adored, of one person, but of two

natures, was actuated by a single or a double will. They replied in the

singular, and the emperor was encouraged to hope that the Jacobites of egypt and Syria might be reconciled by the profession of a doctrine,

most certainly harmless, and most probably true, since it was taught even by the Nestorians themselves. The experiment was tried without effect, and the timid or vehement Catholics condemned even the semblance

of a retreat in the presence of a subtle and audacious enemy. The

orthodox (the prevailing) party devised new modes of speech, and argument, and interpretation: to either nature of Christ they speciously applied a proper and distinct energy; but the difference was no longer

visible when they allowed that the human and the divine will were

invariably the same. The disease was attended with the customary

symptoms: but the Greek clergy, as if satiated with the endless controversy of the incarnation, instilled a healing counsel into the ear of the prince and people. They declared themselves monothelites,

(asserters of the unity of will,) but they treated the words as new, the questions as superfluous; and recommended a religious silence as the

most agreeable to the prudence and charity of the gospel. This law of

silence was successively imposed by the \_ecthesis\_ or exposition

of Heraclius, the \_type\_ or model of his grandson Constans; and the

Imperial edicts were subscribed with alacrity or reluctance by the four

patriarchs of Rome, Constantinople, Alexandria, and Antioch. But the bishop and monks of Jerusalem sounded the alarm: in the language, or even in the silence, of the Greeks, the Latin churches detected a

latent heresy: and the obedience of Pope Honorius to the commands of

his sovereign was retracted and censured by the bolder ignorance of his

successors. They condemned the execrable and abominable heresy of the

Monothelites, who revived the errors of Manes, Apollinaris, Eutyches,

&c.; they signed the sentence of excommunication on the tomb of St.

Peter; the ink was mingled with the sacramental wine, the blood of christ; and no ceremony was omitted that could fill the superstitious

mind with horror and affright. As the representative of the Western church, Pope Martin and his Lateran synod anathematized the perfidious and guilty silence of the Greeks: one hundred and five bishops of Italy, for the most part the subjects of Constans, presumed to reprobate his wicked \_type\_, and the impious \_ecthesis\_ of his grandfather; and to confound the authors and their adherents with the twenty-one notorious

heretics, the apostates from the church, and the organs of the devil.

Such an insult under the tamest reign could not pass with impunity.

Pope Martin ended his days on the inhospitable shore of the Tauric chersonesus, and his oracle, the abbot Maximus, was inhumanly chastised by the amputation of his tongue and his right hand. But the same

invincible spirit survived in their successors; and the triumph of the

Latins avenged their recent defeat, and obliterated the disgrace of the three chapters. The synods of Rome were confirmed by the sixth general council of Constantinople, in the palace and the presence of a new constantine, a descendant of Heraclius. The royal convert converted the byzantine pontiff and a majority of the bishops; the dissenters, with their chief, Macarius of Antioch, were condemned to the spiritual and temporal pains of heresy; the East condescended to accept the lessons of the West; and the creed was finally settled, which teaches the Catholics

of every age, that two wills or energies are harmonized in the person of christ. The majesty of the pope and the Roman synod was represented by two priests, one deacon, and three bishops; but these obscure Latins

had neither arms to compel, nor treasures to bribe, nor language to

persuade; and I am ignorant by what arts they could determine the lofty emperor of the Greeks to abjure the catechism of his infancy, and to

persecute the religion of his fathers. Perhaps the monks and people of constantinople were favorable to the Lateran creed, which is indeed the

least reasonable of the two: and the suspicion is countenanced by the

unnatural moderation of the Greek clergy, who appear in this quarrel to be conscious of their weakness. While the synod debated, a fanatic

proposed a more summary decision, by raising a dead man to life: the

prelates assisted at the trial; but the acknowledged failure may serve to indicate, that the passions and prejudices of the multitude were not enlisted on the side of the Monothelites. In the next generation, when the son of Constantine was deposed and slain by the disciple of

Macarius, they tasted the feast of revenge and dominion: the image or

monument of the sixth council was defaced, and the original acts were committed to the flames. But in the second year, their patron was cast

headlong from the throne, the bishops of the East were released from their occasional conformity, the Roman faith was more firmly replanted by the orthodox successors of Bardanes, and the fine problems of the

incarnation were forgotten in the more popular and visible quarrel of the worship of images.

before the end of the seventh century, the creed of the incarnation, which had been defined at Rome and Constantinople, was uniformly

preached in the remote islands of Britain and Ireland; the same ideas were entertained, or rather the same words were repeated, by all the christians whose liturgy was performed in the Greek or the Latin tongue. their numbers, and visible splendor, bestowed an imperfect claim to the appellation of Catholics: but in the East, they were marked with the

less honorable name of \_Melchites\_, or Royalists; of men, whose faith,

instead of resting on the basis of Scripture, reason, or tradition, had been established, and was still maintained, by the arbitrary power of a temporal monarch. Their adversaries might allege the words of the fathers of Constantinople, who profess themselves the slaves of the

king; and they might relate, with malicious joy, how the decrees of chalcedon had been inspired and reformed by the emperor Marcian and his

virgin bride. The prevailing faction will naturally inculcate the duty

of submission, nor is it less natural that dissenters should feel and assert the principles of freedom. Under the rod of persecution, the

Nestorians and Monophysites degenerated into rebels and fugitives; and the most ancient and useful allies of Rome were taught to consider the emperor not as the chief, but as the enemy of the Christians. Language, the leading principle which unites or separates the tribes of mankind,

soon discriminated the sectaries of the East, by a peculiar and

perpetual badge, which abolished the means of intercourse and the hope

of reconciliation. The long dominion of the Greeks, their colonies, and, above all, their eloquence, had propagated a language doubtless the most

perfect that has been contrived by the art of man. Yet the body of the

people, both in Syria and Egypt, still persevered in the use of their

national idioms; with this difference, however, that the Coptic was confined to the rude and illiterate peasants of the Nile, while the

Syriac, from the mountains of Assyria to the Red Sea, was adapted to the higher topics of poetry and argument. Armenia and Abyssinia were

infected by the speech or learning of the Greeks; and their Barbaric tongues, which have been revived in the studies of modern Europe, were

unintelligible to the inhabitants of the Roman empire. The Syriac and the Coptic, the Armenian and the Æthiopic, are consecrated in the

service of their respective churches: and their theology is enriched by domestic versions both of the Scriptures and of the most popular fathers. After a period of thirteen hundred and sixty years, the spark

of controversy, first kindled by a sermon of Nestorius, still burns in the bosom of the East, and the hostile communions still maintain the faith and discipline of their founders. In the most abject state of

ignorance, poverty, and servitude, the Nestorians and Monophysites

reject the spiritual supremacy of Rome, and cherish the toleration of their Turkish masters, which allows them to anathematize, on the one

hand, St. Cyril and the synod of Ephesus: on the other, Pope Leo and the council of Chalcedon. The weight which they cast into the downfall of the Eastern empire demands our notice, and the reader may be amused with the various prospect of, I. The Nestorians; II. The Jacobites; III. The

Maronites; IV. The Armenians; V. The Copts; and, VI. The Abyssinians. to the three former, the Syriac is common; but of the latter, each is discriminated by the use of a national idiom. Yet the modern natives

of Armenia and Abyssinia would be incapable of conversing with their ancestors; and the Christians of Egypt and Syria, who reject the

religion, have adopted the language of the Arabians. The lapse of time

has seconded the sacerdotal arts; and in the East, as well as in the west, the Deity is addressed in an obsolete tongue, unknown to the

majority of the congregation.

chapter XLVII: Ecclesiastical Discord.--Part V.

I. Both in his native and his episcopal province, the heresy of the

unfortunate Nestorius was speedily obliterated. The Oriental bishops, who at Ephesus had resisted to his face the arrogance of Cyril, were mollified by his tardy concessions. The same prelates, or their

successors, subscribed, not without a murmur, the decrees of Chalcedon; the power of the Monophysites reconciled them with the Catholics in the conformity of passion, of interest, and, insensibly, of belief; and their last reluctant sigh was breathed in the defence of the three chapters. Their dissenting brethren, less moderate, or more sincere, were crushed by the penal laws; and, as early as the reign of Justinian,

it became difficult to find a church of Nestorians within the limits of the Roman empire. Beyond those limits they had discovered a new world,

in which they might hope for liberty, and aspire to conquest. In Persia,

notwithstanding the resistance of the Magi, Christianity had struck a deep root, and the nations of the East reposed under its salutary shade. the \_catholic\_, or primate, resided in the capital: in \_his\_ synods, and

in \_their\_ dioceses, his metropolitans, bishops, and clergy, represented the pomp and order of a regular hierarchy: they rejoiced in the increase

of proselytes, who were converted from the Zendavesta to the gospel, from the secular to the monastic life; and their zeal was stimulated by the presence of an artful and formidable enemy. The Persian church

had been founded by the missionaries of Syria; and their language, discipline, and doctrine, were closely interwoven with its original frame. The \_catholics\_ were elected and ordained by their own suffragans; but their filial dependence on the patriarchs of Antioch is attested by the canons of the Oriental church. In the Persian school of Edessa, the

rising generations of the faithful imbibed their theological idiom: they

studied in the Syriac version the ten thousand volumes of Theodore of

Mopsuestia; and they revered the apostolic faith and holy martyrdom of

his disciple Nestorius, whose person and language were equally unknown to the nations beyond the Tigris. The first indelible lesson of Ibas, bishop of Edessa, taught them to execrate the \_Egyptians\_, who, in the

synod of Ephesus, had impiously confounded the two natures of Christ. the flight of the masters and scholars, who were twice expelled from the Athens of Syria, dispersed a crowd of missionaries inflamed by the double zeal of religion and revenge. And the rigid unity of the

Monophysites, who, under the reigns of Zeno and Anastasius, had invaded the thrones of the East, provoked their antagonists, in a land of freedom, to avow a moral, rather than a physical, union of the two

persons of Christ. Since the first preaching of the gospel, the

Sassanian kings beheld with an eye of suspicion a race of aliens and apostates, who had embraced the religion, and who might favor the cause,

of the hereditary foes of their country. The royal edicts had often

prohibited their dangerous correspondence with the Syrian clergy: the

progress of the schism was grateful to the jealous pride of Perozes, and

he listened to the eloquence of an artful prelate, who painted Nestorius as the friend of Persia, and urged him to secure the fidelity of his christian subjects, by granting a just preference to the victims and enemies of the Roman tyrant. The Nestorians composed a large majority of the clergy and people: they were encouraged by the smile, and armed with the sword, of despotism; yet many of their weaker brethren were startled at the thought of breaking loose from the communion of the Christian world, and the blood of seven thousand seven hundred Monophysites,

or Catholics, confirmed the uniformity of faith and discipline in the churches of Persia. Their ecclesiastical institutions are distinguished by a liberal principle of reason, or at least of policy: the austerity

of the cloister was relaxed and gradually forgotten; houses of charity were endowed for the education of orphans and foundlings; the law

of celibacy, so forcibly recommended to the Greeks and Latins, was disregarded by the Persian clergy; and the number of the elect was

multiplied by the public and reiterated nuptials of the priests, the bishops, and even the patriarch himself. To this standard of natural and

religious freedom, myriads of fugitives resorted from all the provinces

of the Eastern empire; the narrow bigotry of Justinian was punished by the emigration of his most industrious subjects; they transported into

Persia the arts both of peace and war: and those who deserved the favor, were promoted in the service, of a discerning monarch. The arms of

Nushirvan, and his fiercer grandson, were assisted with advice, and

money, and troops, by the desperate sectaries who still lurked in their

native cities of the East: their zeal was rewarded with the gift of the catholic churches; but when those cities and churches were recovered by

Heraclius, their open profession of treason and heresy compelled them to seek a refuge in the realm of their foreign ally. But the seeming tranquillity of the Nestorians was often endangered, and sometimes

overthrown. They were involved in the common evils of Oriental despotism: their enmity to Rome could not always atone for their attachment to the gospel: and a colony of three hundred thousand

Jacobites, the captives of Apamea and Antioch, was permitted to erect a

hostile altar in the face of the \_catholic\_, and in the sunshine of the court. In his last treaty, Justinian introduced some conditions which tended to enlarge and fortify the toleration of Christianity in Persia. the emperor, ignorant of the rights of conscience, was incapable of pity

or esteem for the heretics who denied the authority of the holy synods: but he flattered himself that they would gradually perceive the temporal benefits of union with the empire and the church of Rome; and if

he failed in exciting their gratitude, he might hope to provoke the

jealousy of their sovereign. In a later age the Lutherans have been burnt at Paris, and protected in Germany, by the superstition and policy

of the most Christian king.

the desire of gaining souls for God and subjects for the church, has excited in every age the diligence of the Christian priests. From the conquest of Persia they carried their spiritual arms to the north, the east, and the south; and the simplicity of the gospel was fashioned and

painted with the colors of the Syriac theology. In the sixth century, according to the report of a Nestorian traveller, Christianity was

successfully preached to the Bactrians, the Huns, the Persians, the

Indians, the Persarmenians, the Medes, and the Elamites: the Barbaric churches, from the Gulf of Persia to the Caspian Sea, were almost

infinite; and their recent faith was conspicuous in the number and

sanctity of their monks and martyrs. The pepper coast of Malabar, and the isles of the ocean, Socotora and Ceylon, were peopled with an

increasing multitude of Christians; and the bishops and clergy of those sequestered regions derived their ordination from the Catholic of babylon. In a subsequent age the zeal of the Nestorians overleaped the

limits which had confined the ambition and curiosity both of the Greeks and Persians. The missionaries of Balch and Samarcand pursued without fear the footsteps of the roving Tartar, and insinuated themselves into the camps of the valleys of Imaus and the banks of the Selinga. They exposed a metaphysical creed to those illiterate shepherds: to those

sanguinary warriors, they recommended humanity and repose. Yet a khan, whose power they vainly magnified, is said to have received at their

hands the rites of baptism, and even of ordination; and the fame of

\_Prester\_ or \_Presbyter\_ John has long amused the credulity of Europe. the royal convert was indulged in the use of a portable altar; but he despatched an embassy to the patriarch, to inquire how, in the season of

Lent, he should abstain from animal food, and how he might celebrate the Eucharist in a desert that produced neither corn nor wine. In their

progress by sea and land, the Nestorians entered China by the port of canton and the northern residence of Sigan. Unlike the senators of

Rome, who assumed with a smile the characters of priests and augurs, the

mandarins, who affect in public the reason of philosophers, are devoted

in private to every mode of popular superstition. They cherished and they confounded the gods of Palestine and of India; but the propagation

of Christianity awakened the jealousy of the state, and, after a short

vicissitude of favor and persecution, the foreign sect expired in

ignorance and oblivion. Under the reign of the caliphs, the Nestorian church was diffused from China to Jerusalem and Cyrus; and their

numbers, with those of the Jacobites, were computed to surpass the Greek and Latin communions. Twenty-five metropolitans or archbishops composed their hierarchy; but several of these were dispensed, by the distance and danger of the way, from the duty of personal attendance, on the easy condition that every six years they should testify their faith and

obedience to the catholic or patriarch of Babylon, a vague appellation which has been successively applied to the royal seats of Seleucia, ctesiphon, and Bagdad. These remote branches are long since withered; and the old patriarchal trunk is now divided by the \_Elijahs\_ of

Mosul, the representatives almost on lineal descent of the genuine and

primitive succession; the \_Josephs\_ of Amida, who are reconciled to the church of Rome: and the \_Simeons\_ of Van or Ormia, whose revolt, at the

head of forty thousand families, was promoted in the sixteenth century by the Sophis of Persia. The number of three hundred thousand is allowed for the whole body of the Nestorians, who, under the name of Chaldeans

or Assyrians, are confounded with the most learned or the most powerful

nation of Eastern antiquity.

according to the legend of antiquity, the gospel was preached in India by St. Thomas. At the end of the ninth century, his shrine, perhaps in the neighborhood of Madras, was devoutly visited by the ambassadors of alfred; and their return with a cargo of pearls and spices rewarded the

zeal of the English monarch, who entertained the largest projects of trade and discovery. When the Portuguese first opened the navigation

of India, the Christians of St. Thomas had been seated for ages on the coast of Malabar, and the difference of their character and color attested the mixture of a foreign race. In arms, in arts, and possibly

in virtue, they excelled the natives of Hindostan; the husbandmen cultivated the palm-tree, the merchants were enriched by the pepper trade, the soldiers preceded the \_nairs\_ or nobles of Malabar, and their

hereditary privileges were respected by the gratitude or the fear of the

king of Cochin and the Zamorin himself. They acknowledged a Gentoo of

sovereign, but they were governed, even in temporal concerns, by the bishop of Angamala. He still asserted his ancient title of metropolitan

of India, but his real jurisdiction was exercised in fourteen hundred churches, and he was intrusted with the care of two hundred thousand

souls. Their religion would have rendered them the firmest and most cordial allies of the Portuguese; but the inquisitors soon discerned

in the Christians of St. Thomas the unpardonable guilt of heresy and

schism. Instead of owning themselves the subjects of the Roman pontiff, the spiritual and temporal monarch of the globe, they adhered, like their ancestors, to the communion of the Nestorian patriarch; and the bishops whom he ordained at Mosul, traversed the dangers of the sea and

land to reach their diocese on the coast of Malabar. In their Syriac

liturgy the names of Theodore and Nestorius were piously commemorated: they united their adoration of the two persons of Christ; the title

of Mother of God was offensive to their ear, and they measured with

scrupulous avarice the honors of the Virgin Mary, whom the superstition

of the Latins had almost exalted to the rank of a goddess. When

her image was first presented to the disciples of St. Thomas, they

indignantly exclaimed, "We are Christians, not idolaters!" and their

simple devotion was content with the veneration of the cross. Their

separation from the Western world had left them in ignorance of the

improvements, or corruptions, of a thousand years; and their conformity with the faith and practice of the fifth century would equally disappoint the prejudices of a Papist or a Protestant. It was the first care of the ministers of Rome to intercept all correspondence with the

Nestorian patriarch, and several of his bishops expired in the prisons

of the holy office. The flock, without a shepherd, was assaulted by the

power of the Portuguese, the arts of the Jesuits, and the zeal of Alexis de Menezes, archbishop of Goa, in his personal visitation of the coast

of Malabar. The synod of Diamper, at which he presided, consummated the pious work of the reunion; and rigorously imposed the doctrine and discipline of the Roman church, without forgetting auricular confession, the strongest engine of ecclesiastical torture. The memory of Theodore and Nestorius was condemned, and Malabar was reduced under the dominion

of the pope, of the primate, and of the Jesuits who invaded the see

of Angamala or Cranganor. Sixty years of servitude and hypocrisy were

patiently endured; but as soon as the Portuguese empire was shaken by the courage and industry of the Dutch, the Nestorians asserted, with

vigor and effect, the religion of their fathers. The Jesuits were

incapable of defending the power which they had abused; the arms of forty thousand Christians were pointed against their falling tyrants; and the Indian archdeacon assumed the character of bishop till a fresh

supply of episcopal gifts and Syriac missionaries could be obtained from the patriarch of Babylon. Since the expulsion of the Portuguese, the

Nestorian creed is freely professed on the coast of Malabar. The trading companies of Holland and England are the friends of toleration; but

if oppression be less mortifying than contempt, the Christians of St. thomas have reason to complain of the cold and silent indifference of their brethren of Europe.

II. The history of the Monophysites is less copious and interesting than that of the Nestorians. Under the reigns of Zeno and Anastasius, their artful leaders surprised the ear of the prince, usurped the thrones of the East, and crushed on its native soil the school of the Syrians. The

rule of the Monophysite faith was defined with exquisite discretion by Severus, patriarch of Antioch: he condemned, in the style of the

Henoticon, the adverse heresies of Nestorius; and Eutyches maintained against the latter the reality of the body of Christ, and constrained the Greeks to allow that he was a liar who spoke truth. But the approximation of ideas could not abate the vehemence of passion; each

party was the more astonished that their blind antagonist could dispute

on so trifling a difference; the tyrant of Syria enforced the belief of

his creed, and his reign was polluted with the blood of three hundred and fifty monks, who were slain, not perhaps without provocation or

resistance, under the walls of Apamea. The successor of Anastasius

replanted the orthodox standard in the East; Severus fled into egypt; and his friend, the eloquent Xenaias, who had escaped from the

Nestorians of Persia, was suffocated in his exile by the Melchites of

Paphlagonia. Fifty-four bishops were swept from their thrones, eight

hundred ecclesiastics were cast into prison, and notwithstanding the ambiguous favor of Theodora, the Oriental flocks, deprived of their

shepherds, must insensibly have been either famished or poisoned. In this spiritual distress, the expiring faction was revived, and united, and perpetuated, by the labors of a monk; and the name of James Baradæus

has been preserved in the appellation of \_Jacobites\_, a familiar sound, which may startle the ear of an English reader. From the holy confessors

in their prison of Constantinople, he received the powers of bishop of edessa and apostle of the East, and the ordination of fourscore thousand bishops, priests, and deacons, is derived from the same inexhaustible

source. The speed of the zealous missionary was promoted by the fleetest dromedaries of a devout chief of the Arabs; the doctrine and discipline

of the Jacobites were secretly established in the dominions of

Justinian; and each Jacobite was compelled to violate the laws and to

hate the Roman legislator. The successors of Severus, while they lurked

in convents or villages, while they sheltered their proscribed heads in the caverns of hermits, or the tents of the Saracens, still asserted, as they now assert, their indefeasible right to the title, the rank, and the prerogatives of patriarch of Antioch: under the milder yoke of the infidels, they reside about a league from Merdin, in the pleasant

monastery of Zapharan, which they have embellished with cells, aqueducts, and plantations. The secondary, though honorable, place is filled by the \_maphrian\_, who, in his station at Mosul itself, defies the Nestorian \_catholic\_ with whom he contests the primacy of the East.

Under the patriarch and the maphrian, one hundred and fifty archbishops and bishops have been counted in the different ages of the Jacobite church; but the order of the hierarchy is relaxed or dissolved, and the

greater part of their dioceses is confined to the neighborhood of the euphrates and the Tigris. The cities of Aleppo and Amida, which are

often visited by the patriarch, contain some wealthy merchants and

industrious mechanics, but the multitude derive their scanty sustenance from their daily labor: and poverty, as well as superstition, may impose their excessive fasts: five annual lents, during which both the clergy and laity abstain not only from flesh or eggs, but even from the taste

of wine, of oil, and of fish. Their present numbers are esteemed from fifty to fourscore thousand souls, the remnant of a populous church, which was gradually decreased under the impression of twelve centuries.

Yet in that long period, some strangers of merit have been converted to the Monophysite faith, and a Jew was the father of Abulpharagius,

primate of the East, so truly eminent both in his life and death. In his

life he was an elegant writer of the Syriac and Arabic tongues, a poet,

physician, and historian, a subtile philosopher, and a moderate divine.

In his death, his funeral was attended by his rival the Nestorian

patriarch, with a train of Greeks and Armenians, who forgot their disputes, and mingled their tears over the grave of an enemy. The sect which was honored by the virtues of Abulpharagius appears, however, to

sink below the level of their Nestorian brethren. The superstition of the Jacobites is more abject, their fasts more rigid, their intestine divisions are more numerous, and their doctors (as far as I can measure the degrees of nonsense) are more remote from the precincts of reason.

Something may possibly be allowed for the rigor of the Monophysite theology; much more for the superior influence of the monastic order.

In Syria, in Egypt, in Ethiopia, the Jacobite monks have ever been distinguished by the austerity of their penance and the absurdity of their legends. Alive or dead, they are worshipped as the favorites of the Deity; the crosier of bishop and patriarch is reserved for their

venerable hands; and they assume the government of men, while they are

yet reeking with the habits and prejudices of the cloister.

III. In the style of the Oriental Christians, the Monothelites of every age are described under the appellation of \_Maronites\_, a name which

has been insensibly transferred from a hermit to a monastery, from a

monastery to a nation. Maron, a saint or savage of the fifth century, displayed his religious madness in Syria; the rival cities of Apamea and emesa disputed his relics, a stately church was erected on his tomb, and

six hundred of his disciples united their solitary cells on the banks

of the Orontes. In the controversies of the incarnation they nicely threaded the orthodox line between the sects of Nestorians and Eutyches; but the unfortunate question of \_one will\_ or operation in the two

natures of Christ, was generated by their curious leisure. Their

proselyte, the emperor Heraclius, was rejected as a Maronite from the walls of Emesa, he found a refuge in the monastery of his brethren; and their theological lessons were repaid with the gift a spacious and wealthy domain. The name and doctrine of this venerable school were

propagated among the Greeks and Syrians, and their zeal is expressed by Macarius, patriarch of Antioch, who declared before the synod of constantinople, that sooner than subscribe the \_two wills\_ of Christ, he would submit to be hewn piecemeal and cast into the sea. A similar or a

less cruel mode of persecution soon converted the unresisting subjects

of the plain, while the glorious title of \_Mardaites\_, or rebels, was bravely maintained by the hardy natives of Mount Libanus. John Maron,

one of the most learned and popular of the monks, assumed the character

of patriarch of Antioch; his nephew, Abraham, at the head of the

Maronites, defended their civil and religious freedom against the tyrants of the East. The son of the orthodox Constantine pursued with

pious hatred a people of soldiers, who might have stood the bulwark of

his empire against the common foes of Christ and of Rome. An army of

Greeks invaded Syria; the monastery of St. Maron was destroyed with fire; the bravest chieftains were betrayed and murdered, and twelve thousand of their followers were transplanted to the distant frontiers

of Armenia and Thrace. Yet the humble nation of the Maronites had

survived the empire of Constantinople, and they still enjoy, under their Turkish masters, a free religion and a mitigated servitude. Their domestic governors are chosen among the ancient nobility: the patriarch,

in his monastery of Canobin, still fancies himself on the throne of antioch: nine bishops compose his synod, and one hundred and fifty

priests, who retain the liberty of marriage, are intrusted with the care

of one hundred thousand souls. Their country extends from the ridge of

Mount Libanus to the shores of Tripoli; and the gradual descent affords,

in a narrow space, each variety of soil and climate, from the Holy cedars, erect under the weight of snow, to the vine, the mulberry, and the olive-trees of the fruitful valley. In the twelfth century, the

Maronites, abjuring the Monothelite error were reconciled to the Latin churches of Antioch and Rome, and the same alliance has been frequently

renewed by the ambition of the popes and the distress of the Syrians. but it may reasonably be questioned, whether their union has ever been

perfect or sincere; and the learned Maronites of the college of Rome

have vainly labored to absolve their ancestors from the guilt of heresy and schism.

IV. Since the age of Constantine, the Armenians had signalized their attachment to the religion and empire of the Christians. The disorders

of their country, and their ignorance of the Greek tongue, prevented their clergy from assisting at the synod of Chalcedon, and they floated eighty-four years in a state of indifference or suspense, till their

vacant faith was finally occupied by the missionaries of Julian of

Halicarnassus, who in Egypt, their common exile, had been vanquished by the arguments or the influence of his rival Severus, the Monophysite

patriarch of Antioch. The Armenians alone are the pure disciples of eutyches, an unfortunate parent, who has been renounced by the greater

part of his spiritual progeny. They alone persevere in the opinion, that the manhood of Christ was created, or existed without creation, of a divine and incorruptible substance. Their adversaries reproach them with the adoration of a phantom; and they retort the accusation, by deriding

or execrating the blasphemy of the Jacobites, who impute to the Godhead the vile infirmities of the flesh, even the natural effects of nutrition and digestion. The religion of Armenia could not derive much glory from the learning or the power of its inhabitants. The royalty expired with the origin of their schism; and their Christian kings, who arose and fell in the thirteenth century on the confines of Cilicia, were the clients of the Latins and the vassals of the Turkish sultan of Iconium. the helpless nation has seldom been permitted to enjoy the tranquillity

of servitude. From the earliest period to the present hour, Armenia has been the theatre of perpetual war: the lands between Tauris and Erivan were dispeopled by the cruel policy of the Sophis; and myriads of christian families were transplanted, to perish or to propagate in the distant provinces of Persia. Under the rod of oppression, the zeal of the Armenians is fervent and intrepid; they have often preferred the crown of martyrdom to the white turban of Mahomet; they devoutly hate the error and idolatry of the Greeks; and their transient union with the Latins is not less devoid of truth, than the thousand bishops, whom their patriarch offered at the feet of the Roman pontiff. The

\_catholic\_, or patriarch, of the Armenians resides in the monastery of ekmiasin, three leagues from Erivan. Forty-seven archbishops, each of whom may claim the obedience of four or five suffragans, are consecrated by his hand; but the far greater part are only titular prelates, who dignify with their presence and service the simplicity of his court. As

soon as they have performed the liturgy, they cultivate the garden; and

our bishops will hear with surprise, that the austerity of their life

increases in just proportion to the elevation of their rank. In the fourscore thousand towns or villages of his spiritual empire, the

patriarch receives a small and voluntary tax from each person above the age of fifteen; but the annual amount of six hundred thousand crowns

is insufficient to supply the incessant demands of charity and tribute.

Since the beginning of the last century, the Armenians have obtained a

large and lucrative share of the commerce of the East: in their return from Europe, the caravan usually halts in the neighborhood of Erivan, the altars are enriched with the fruits of their patient industry; and the faith of Eutyches is preached in their recent congregations of barbary and Poland.

V. In the rest of the Roman empire, the despotism of the prince might eradicate or silence the sectaries of an obnoxious creed. But the

stubborn temper of the Egyptians maintained their opposition to the

synod of Chalcedon, and the policy of Justinian condescended to expect and to seize the opportunity of discord. The Monophysite church

of Alexandria was torn by the disputes of the \_corruptibles\_ and

\_incorruptibles\_, and on the death of the patriarch, the two factions

upheld their respective candidates. Gaian was the disciple of Julian, theodosius had been the pupil of Severus: the claims of the former were

supported by the consent of the monks and senators, the city and the

province; the latter depended on the priority of his ordination, the favor of the empress Theodora, and the arms of the eunuch Narses, which

might have been used in more honorable warfare. The exile of the popular candidate to Carthage and Sardinia inflamed the ferment of Alexandria; and after a schism of one hundred and seventy years, the \_Gaianites\_

still revered the memory and doctrine of their founder. The strength of

numbers and of discipline was tried in a desperate and bloody conflict; the streets were filled with the dead bodies of citizens and soldiers; the pious women, ascending the roofs of their houses, showered down every sharp or ponderous utensil on the heads of the enemy; and the final victory of Narses was owing to the flames, with which he wasted the third capital of the Roman world. But the lieutenant of Justinian

had not conquered in the cause of a heretic; Theodosius himself was

speedily, though gently, removed; and Paul of Tanis, an orthodox monk, was raised to the throne of Athanasius. The powers of government were

strained in his support; he might appoint or displace the dukes and tribunes of Egypt; the allowance of bread, which Diocletian had granted, was suppressed, the churches were shut, and a nation of schismatics was deprived at once of their spiritual and carnal food. In his turn, the tyrant was excommunicated by the zeal and revenge of the people: and none except his servile Melchites would salute him as a man, a christian, or a bishop. Yet such is the blindness of ambition, that, when Paul was expelled on a charge of murder, he solicited, with a bribe

of seven hundred pounds of gold, his restoration to the same station of

hatred and ignominy. His successor Apollinaris entered the hostile city

in military array, alike qualified for prayer or for battle. His troops,

under arms, were distributed through the streets; the gates of the cathedral were guarded, and a chosen band was stationed in the choir, to defend the person of their chief. He stood erect on his throne, and, throwing aside the upper garment of a warrior, suddenly appeared before the eyes of the multitude in the robes of patriarch of Alexandria. astonishment held them mute; but no sooner had Apollinaris begun to

read the tome of St. Leo, than a volley of curses, and invectives, and

stones, assaulted the odious minister of the emperor and the synod. a charge was instantly sounded by the successor of the apostles; the soldiers waded to their knees in blood; and two hundred thousand christians are said to have fallen by the sword: an incredible account, even if it be extended from the slaughter of a day to the eighteen years

of the reign of Apollinaris. Two succeeding patriarchs, Eulogius and

John, labored in the conversion of heretics, with arms and arguments

more worthy of their evangelical profession. The theological knowledge

of Eulogius was displayed in many a volume, which magnified the errors

of Eutyches and Severus, and attempted to reconcile the ambiguous

language of St. Cyril with the orthodox creed of Pope Leo and the fathers of Chalcedon. The bounteous alms of John the eleemosynary were dictated by superstition, or benevolence, or policy. Seven thousand five

hundred poor were maintained at his expense; on his accession he found eight thousand pounds of gold in the treasury of the church; he collected ten thousand from the liberality of the faithful; yet the

primate could boast in his testament, that he left behind him no more than the third part of the smallest of the silver coins. The churches

of Alexandria were delivered to the Catholics, the religion of the

Monophysites was proscribed in Egypt, and a law was revived which excluded the natives from the honors and emoluments of the state.

chapter XLVII: Ecclesiastical Discord.--Part VI.

a more important conquest still remained, of the patriarch, the oracle and leader of the Egyptian church. Theodosius had resisted the threats and promises of Justinian with the spirit of an apostle or an enthusiast. "Such," replied the patriarch, "were the offers of the tempter when he showed the kingdoms of the earth. But my soul is far dearer to me than life or dominion. The churches attain the hands of a

prince who can kill the body; but my conscience is my own; and in exile,

poverty, or chains, I will steadfastly adhere to the faith of my holy

predecessors, Athanasius, Cyril, and Dioscorus. Anathema to the tome of

Leo and the synod of Chalcedon! Anathema to all who embrace their creed! anathema to them now and forevermore! Naked came I out of my mother's womb, naked shall I descend into the grave. Let those who love God follow me and seek their salvation." After comforting his brethren,

he embarked for Constantinople, and sustained, in six successive

interviews, the almost irresistible weight of the royal presence. His

opinions were favorably entertained in the palace and the city; the influence of Theodora assured him a safe conduct and honorable dismission; and he ended his days, though not on the throne, yet in the bosom, of his native country. On the news of his death, Apollinaris

indecently feasted the nobles and the clergy; but his joy was checked by the intelligence of a new election; and while he enjoyed the wealth of alexandria, his rivals reigned in the monasteries of Thebais, and were maintained by the voluntary oblations of the people. A perpetual

succession of patriarchs arose from the ashes of Theodosius; and the

Monophysite churches of Syria and Egypt were united by the name of

Jacobites and the communion of the faith. But the same faith, which has been confined to a narrow sect of the Syrians, was diffused over the

mass of the Egyptian or Coptic nation; who, almost unanimously, rejected the decrees of the synod of Chalcedon. A thousand years were now elapsed

since Egypt had ceased to be a kingdom, since the conquerors of Asia and europe had trampled on the ready necks of a people, whose ancient wisdom and power ascend beyond the records of history. The conflict of zeal and persecution rekindled some sparks of their national spirit. They abjured, with a foreign heresy, the manners and language of the Greeks: every Melchite, in their eyes, was a stranger, every Jacobite a citizen; the alliance of marriage, the offices of humanity, were condemned as a deadly sin the natives renounced all allegiance to the emperor; and

his orders, at a distance from Alexandria, were obeyed only under the

pressure of military force. A generous effort might have redeemed the

religion and liberty of Egypt, and her six hundred monasteries might

have poured forth their myriads of holy warriors, for whom death should

have no terrors, since life had no comfort or delight. But experience

has proved the distinction of active and passive courage; the fanatic who endures without a groan the torture of the rack or the stake, would tremble and fly before the face of an armed enemy. The pusillanimous temper of the Egyptians could only hope for a change of masters; the arms of Chosroes depopulated the land, yet under his reign the Jacobites enjoyed a short and precarious respite. The victory of Heraclius renewed and aggravated the persecution, and the patriarch again escaped from alexandria to the desert. In his flight, Benjamin was encouraged by a voice, which bade him expect, at the end of ten years, the aid of a foreign nation, marked, like the Egyptians themselves, with the ancient

rite of circumcision. The character of these deliverers, and the nature

of the deliverance, will be hereafter explained; and I shall step over the interval of eleven centuries to observe the present misery of the

Jacobites of Egypt. The populous city of Cairo affords a residence, or

rather a shelter, for their indigent patriarch, and a remnant of ten bishops; forty monasteries have survived the inroads of the Arabs; and the progress of servitude and apostasy has reduced the Coptic nation to the despicable number of twenty-five or thirty thousand families; a

race of illiterate beggars, whose only consolation is derived from the superior wretchedness of the Greek patriarch and his diminutive congregation.

VI. The Coptic patriarch, a rebel to the Cæsars, or a slave to the

khalifs, still gloried in the filial obedience of the kings of Nubia and

Æthiopia. He repaid their homage by magnifying their greatness; and

it was boldly asserted that they could bring into the field a hundred thousand horse, with an equal number of camels; that their hand could

pour out or restrain the waters of the Nile; and the peace and plenty

of Egypt was obtained, even in this world, by the intercession of the

patriarch. In exile at Constantinople, Theodosius recommended to his

patroness the conversion of the black nations of Nubia, from the tropic

of Cancer to the confines of Abyssinia. Her design was suspected and emulated by the more orthodox emperor. The rival missionaries, a

Melchite and a Jacobite, embarked at the same time; but the empress, from a motive of love or fear, was more effectually obeyed; and the catholic priest was detained by the president of Thebais, while the king

of Nubia and his court were hastily baptized in the faith of Dioscorus. the tardy envoy of Justinian was received and dismissed with honor: but when he accused the heresy and treason of the Egyptians, the

negro convert was instructed to reply that he would never abandon his brethren, the true believers, to the persecuting ministers of the synod

of Chalcedon. During several ages, the bishops of Nubia were named and consecrated by the Jacobite patriarch of Alexandria: as late as the twelfth century, Christianity prevailed; and some rites, some ruins, are still visible in the savage towns of Sennaar and Dongola. But the

Nubians at length executed their threats of returning to the worship of

idols; the climate required the indulgence of polygamy, and they have finally preferred the triumph of the Koran to the abasement of the cross. A metaphysical religion may appear too refined for the capacity

of the negro race: yet a black or a parrot might be taught to repeat the

\_words\_ of the Chalcedonian or Monophysite creed.

christianity was more deeply rooted in the Abyssinian empire; and, although the correspondence has been sometimes interrupted above seventy

or a hundred years, the mother-church of Alexandria retains her colony

in a state of perpetual pupilage. Seven bishops once composed the

Æthiopic synod: had their number amounted to ten, they might have elected an independent primate; and one of their kings was ambitious of

promoting his brother to the ecclesiastical throne. But the event was foreseen, the increase was denied: the episcopal office has been

gradually confined to the \_abuna\_, the head and author of the Abyssinian

priesthood; the patriarch supplies each vacancy with an Egyptian monk; and the character of a stranger appears more venerable in the eyes

of the people, less dangerous in those of the monarch. In the sixth century, when the schism of Egypt was confirmed, the rival chiefs, with their patrons, Justinian and Theodora, strove to outstrip each other in the conquest of a remote and independent province. The industry of the empress was again victorious, and the pious Theodora has established

in that sequestered church the faith and discipline of the Jacobites. encompassed on all sides by the enemies of their religion, the

Æthiopians slept near a thousand years, forgetful of the world, by whom they were forgotten. They were awakened by the Portuguese, who, turning the southern promontory of Africa, appeared in India and the Red Sea, as if they had descended through the air from a distant planet. In the first moments of their interview, the subjects of Rome and Alexandria

observed the resemblance, rather than the difference, of their faith; and each nation expected the most important benefits from an alliance with their Christian brethren. In their lonely situation, the Æthiopians

had almost relapsed into the savage life. Their vessels, which had traded to Ceylon, scarcely presumed to navigate the rivers of Africa; the ruins of Axume were deserted, the nation was scattered in villages, and the emperor, a pompous name, was content, both in peace and war, with the immovable residence of a camp. Conscious of their own

indigence, the Abyssinians had formed the rational project of importing the arts and ingenuity of Europe; and their ambassadors at Rome and

Lisbon were instructed to solicit a colony of smiths, carpenters, tilers, masons, printers, surgeons, and physicians, for the use of their country. But the public danger soon called for the instant and effectual aid of arms and soldiers, to defend an unwarlike people from the barbarians who ravaged the inland country and the Turks and Arabs who advanced from the sea-coast in more formidable array. Æthiopia was saved by four hundred and fifty Portuguese, who displayed in the field the

native valor of Europeans, and the artificial power of the musket and cannon. In a moment of terror, the emperor had promised to reconcile

himself and his subjects to the Catholic faith; a Latin patriarch

represented the supremacy of the pope: the empire, enlarged in a tenfold

proportion, was supposed to contain more gold than the mines of America; and the wildest hopes of avarice and zeal were built on the willing

submission of the Christians of Africa.

but the vows which pain had extorted were forsworn on the return of

health. The Abyssinians still adhered with unshaken constancy to the

Monophysite faith; their languid belief was inflamed by the exercise

of dispute; they branded the Latins with the names of Arians and

Nestorians, and imputed the adoration of \_four\_ gods to those who

separated the two natures of Christ. Fremona, a place of worship, or

rather of exile, was assigned to the Jesuit missionaries. Their skill

in the liberal and mechanic arts, their theological learning, and the decency of their manners, inspired a barren esteem; but they were

not endowed with the gift of miracles, and they vainly solicited a

reënforcement of European troops. The patience and dexterity of forty

years at length obtained a more favorable audience, and two emperors

of Abyssinia were persuaded that Rome could insure the temporal and everlasting happiness of her votaries. The first of these royal converts

lost his crown and his life; and the rebel army was sanctified by the \_abuna\_, who hurled an anathema at the apostate, and absolved his

subjects from their oath of fidelity. The fate of Zadenghel was revenged by the courage and fortune of Susneus, who ascended the throne under the

name of Segued, and more vigorously prosecuted the pious enterprise of

his kinsman. After the amusement of some unequal combats between the

Jesuits and his illiterate priests, the emperor declared himself a

proselyte to the synod of Chalcedon, presuming that his clergy and

people would embrace without delay the religion of their prince. The

liberty of choice was succeeded by a law, which imposed, under pain of death, the belief of the two natures of Christ: the Abyssinians were enjoined to work and to play on the Sabbath; and Segued, in the face of europe and Africa, renounced his connection with the Alexandrian church. a Jesuit, Alphonso Mendez, the Catholic patriarch of Æthiopia, accepted,

in the name of Urban VIII., the homage and abjuration of the penitent.

"I confess," said the emperor on his knees, "I confess that the pope is the vicar of Christ, the successor of St. Peter, and the sovereign of the world. To him I swear true obedience, and at his feet I offer

my person and kingdom." A similar oath was repeated by his son, his brother, the clergy, the nobles, and even the ladies of the court: the Latin patriarch was invested with honors and wealth; and his

missionaries erected their churches or citadels in the most convenient

stations of the empire. The Jesuits themselves deplore the fatal

indiscretion of their chief, who forgot the mildness of the gospel and the policy of his order, to introduce with hasty violence the liturgy of

Rome and the inquisition of Portugal. He condemned the ancient practice

of circumcision, which health, rather than superstition, had first

invented in the climate of Æthiopia. A new baptism, a new ordination, was inflicted on the natives; and they trembled with horror when the most holy of the dead were torn from their graves, when the most

illustrious of the living were excommunicated by a foreign priest. In the defense of their religion and liberty, the Abyssinians rose in arms, with desperate but unsuccessful zeal. Five rebellions were extinguished

in the blood of the insurgents: two abunas were slain in battle, whole

legions were slaughtered in the field, or suffocated in their caverns; and neither merit, nor rank, nor sex, could save from an ignominious death the enemies of Rome. But the victorious monarch was finally

subdued by the constancy of the nation, of his mother, of his son, and

of his most faithful friends. Segued listened to the voice of pity,

of reason, perhaps of fear: and his edict of liberty of conscience

instantly revealed the tyranny and weakness of the Jesuits. On the death

of his father, Basilides expelled the Latin patriarch, and restored to the wishes of the nation the faith and the discipline of Egypt. The

Monophysite churches resounded with a song of triumph, "that the sheep

of Æthiopia were now delivered from the hyænas of the West;" and the

gates of that solitary realm were forever shut against the arts, the

science, and the fanaticism of Europe.

chapter XLVIII: Succession And Characters Of The Greek Emperors.--Part I.

Plan Of The Two Last Volumes.--Succession And Characters Of

The Greek Emperors Of Constantinople, From The Time Of

Heraclius To The Latin Conquest.

I have now deduced from Trajan to Constantine, from Constantine to

Heraclius, the regular series of the Roman emperors; and faithfully exposed the prosperous and adverse fortunes of their reigns. Five centuries of the decline and fall of the empire have already elapsed; but a period of more than eight hundred years still separates me from the term of my labors, the taking of Constantinople by the Turks. Should

I persevere in the same course, should I observe the same measure, a

prolix and slender thread would be spun through many a volume, nor would the patient reader find an adequate reward of instruction or amusement. at every step, as we sink deeper in the decline and fall of the eastern empire, the annals of each succeeding reign would impose a more

ungrateful and melancholy task. These annals must continue to repeat a tedious and uniform tale of weakness and misery; the natural connection

of causes and events would be broken by frequent and hasty transitions, and a minute accumulation of circumstances must destroy the light and effect of those general pictures which compose the use and ornament of a remote history. From the time of Heraclius, the Byzantine theatre is contracted and darkened: the line of empire, which had been defined by the laws of Justinian and the arms of Belisarius, recedes on all sides from our view; the Roman name, the proper subject of our inquiries,

is reduced to a narrow corner of Europe, to the lonely suburbs of constantinople; and the fate of the Greek empire has been compared to that of the Rhine, which loses itself in the sands, before its waters can mingle with the ocean. The scale of dominion is diminished to our

view by the distance of time and place; nor is the loss of external

splendor compensated by the nobler gifts of virtue and genius. In the

last moments of her decay, Constantinople was doubtless more opulent and

populous than Athens at her most flourishing æra, when a scanty sum of

six thousand talents, or twelve hundred thousand pounds sterling was

possessed by twenty-one thousand male citizens of an adult age. But each

of these citizens was a freeman, who dared to assert the liberty of his thoughts, words, and actions, whose person and property were guarded by equal law; and who exercised his independent vote in the government

of the republic. Their numbers seem to be multiplied by the strong and

various discriminations of character; under the shield of freedom, on the wings of emulation and vanity, each Athenian aspired to the level of the national dignity; from this commanding eminence, some chosen spirits

soared beyond the reach of a vulgar eye; and the chances of superior

merit in a great and populous kingdom, as they are proved by experience, would excuse the computation of imaginary millions. The territories of athens, Sparta, and their allies, do not exceed a moderate province of france or England; but after the trophies of Salamis and Platea, they expand in our fancy to the gigantic size of Asia, which had been trampled under the feet of the victorious Greeks. But the subjects of the Byzantine empire, who assume and dishonor the names both of Greeks and Romans, present a dead uniformity of abject vices, which are neither

softened by the weakness of humanity, nor animated by the vigor of

memorable crimes. The freemen of antiquity might repeat with generous enthusiasm the sentence of Homer, "that on the first day of his

servitude, the captive is deprived of one half of his manly virtue." but the poet had only seen the effects of civil or domestic slavery, nor could he foretell that the second moiety of manhood must be annihilated by the spiritual despotism which shackles not only the actions, but even the thoughts, of the prostrate votary. By this double yoke, the Greeks were oppressed under the successors of Heraclius; the tyrant, a law of eternal justice, was degraded by the vices of his subjects; and on the throne, in the camp, in the schools, we search, perhaps with fruitless diligence, the names and characters that may deserve to be rescued from

oblivion. Nor are the defects of the subject compensated by the skill and variety of the painters. Of a space of eight hundred years, the four first centuries are overspread with a cloud interrupted by some faint and broken rays of historic light: in the lives of the emperors, from

Maurice to Alexius, Basil the Macedonian has alone been the theme of a

separate work; and the absence, or loss, or imperfection of contemporary evidence, must be poorly supplied by the doubtful authority of more

recent compilers. The four last centuries are exempt from the reproach

of penury; and with the Comnenian family, the historic muse of constantinople again revives, but her apparel is gaudy, her motions are without elegance or grace. A succession of priests, or courtiers, treads in each other's footsteps in the same path of servitude and

superstition: their views are narrow, their judgment is feeble or corrupt; and we close the volume of copious barrenness, still ignorant

of the causes of events, the characters of the actors, and the manners

of the times which they celebrate or deplore. The observation which

has been applied to a man, may be extended to a whole people, that the energy of the sword is communicated to the pen; and it will be found by experience, that the tone of history will rise or fall with the spirit

of the age.

from these considerations, I should have abandoned without regret the

Greek slaves and their servile historians, had I not reflected that the fate of the Byzantine monarchy is \_passively\_ connected with the most

splendid and important revolutions which have changed the state of the world. The space of the lost provinces was immediately replenished with

new colonies and rising kingdoms: the active virtues of peace and war deserted from the vanquished to the victorious nations; and it is in their origin and conquests, in their religion and government, that we must explore the causes and effects of the decline and fall of the eastern empire. Nor will this scope of narrative, the riches and

variety of these materials, be incompatible with the unity of design and composition. As, in his daily prayers, the Mussulman of Fez or Delhi

still turns his face towards the temple of Mecca, the historian's eye

shall be always fixed on the city of Constantinople. The excursive line

may embrace the wilds of Arabia and Tartary, but the circle will be

ultimately reduced to the decreasing limit of the Roman monarchy.

On this principle I shall now establish the plan of the last two volumes

of the present work. The first chapter will contain, in a regular

series, the emperors who reigned at Constantinople during a period of

six hundred years, from the days of Heraclius to the Latin conquest; a rapid abstract, which may be supported by a \_general\_ appeal to the

order and text of the original historians. In this introduction, I

shall confine myself to the revolutions of the throne, the succession

of families, the personal characters of the Greek princes, the mode

of their life and death, the maxims and influence of their domestic

government, and the tendency of their reign to accelerate or suspend the downfall of the Eastern empire. Such a chronological review will serve to illustrate the various argument of the subsequent chapters; and each circumstance of the eventful story of the Barbarians will adapt itself

in a proper place to the Byzantine annals. The internal state of the empire, and the dangerous heresy of the Paulicians, which shook the East and enlightened the West, will be the subject of two separate chapters; but these inquiries must be postponed till our further progress shall

have opened the view of the world in the ninth and tenth centuries of the Christian area. After this foundation of Byzantine history, the following nations will pass before our eyes, and each will occupy the

space to which it may be entitled by greatness or merit, or the degree

of connection with the Roman world and the present age. I. The Franks; a

general appellation which includes all the Barbarians of France, Italy, and Germany, who were united by the sword and sceptre of Charlemagne. the persecution of images and their votaries separated Rome and Italy from the Byzantine throne, and prepared the restoration of the Roman empire in the West. II. The Arabs or Saracens. Three ample chapters will be devoted to this curious and interesting object. In the first, after a picture of the country and its inhabitants, I shall investigate the character of Mahomet; the character, religion, and success of the

prophet. In the second, I shall lead the Arabs to the conquest of Syria, egypt, and Africa, the provinces of the Roman empire; nor can I check their victorious career till they have overthrown the monarchies of

Persia and Spain. In the third, I shall inquire how Constantinople and europe were saved by the luxury and arts, the division and decay, of the empire of the caliphs. A single chapter will include, III. The bulgarians, IV. Hungarians, and, V. Russians, who assaulted by sea or by

land the provinces and the capital; but the last of these, so important

in their present greatness, will excite some curiosity in their origin and infancy. VI. The Normans; or rather the private adventurers of that warlike people, who founded a powerful kingdom in Apulia and Sicily,

shook the throne of Constantinople, displayed the trophies of chivalry, and almost realized the wonders of romance. VII. The Latins; the

subjects of the pope, the nations of the West, who enlisted under the banner of the cross for the recovery or relief of the holy sepulchre. the Greek emperors were terrified and preserved by the myriads of

pilgrims who marched to Jerusalem with Godfrey of Bouillon and the peers

of Christendom. The second and third crusades trod in the footsteps of the first: Asia and Europe were mingled in a sacred war of two hundred

years; and the Christian powers were bravely resisted, and finally expelled by Saladin and the Mamelukes of Egypt. In these memorable crusades, a fleet and army of French and Venetians were diverted from

Syria to the Thracian Bosphorus: they assaulted the capital, they

subverted the Greek monarchy: and a dynasty of Latin princes was seated

near threescore years on the throne of Constantine. VIII. The Greeks themselves, during this period of captivity and exile, must be considered as a foreign nation; the enemies, and again the sovereigns of constantinople. Misfortune had rekindled a spark of national virtue; and the Imperial series may be continued with some dignity from their

restoration to the Turkish conquest. IX. The Moguls and Tartars. By the arms of Zingis and his descendants, the globe was shaken from China to

Poland and Greece: the sultans were overthrown: the caliphs fell, and the Cæsars trembled on their throne. The victories of Timour suspended above fifty years the final ruin of the Byzantine empire. X. I have already noticed the first appearance of the Turks; and the names of the fathers, of \_Seljuk\_ and \_Othman\_, discriminate the two successive dynasties of the nation, which emerged in the eleventh century from the Scythian wilderness. The former established a splendid and potent

kingdom from the banks of the Oxus to Antioch and Nice; and the first crusade was provoked by the violation of Jerusalem and the danger of constantinople. From an humble origin, the \_Ottomans\_ arose, the scourge and terror of Christendom. Constantinople was besieged and taken by

Mahomet II., and his triumph annihilates the remnant, the image, the title, of the Roman empire in the East. The schism of the Greeks will be connected with their last calamities, and the restoration of learning in the Western world. I shall return from the captivity of the new, to the

ruins of ancient Rome; and the venerable name, the interesting theme, will shed a ray of glory on the conclusion of my labors.

the emperor Heraclius had punished a tyrant and ascended his throne; and the memory of his reign is perpetuated by the transient conquest, and

irreparable loss, of the Eastern provinces. After the death of Eudocia,

his first wife, he disobeyed the patriarch, and violated the laws, by

his second marriage with his niece Martina; and the superstition of the

Greeks beheld the judgment of Heaven in the diseases of the father and the deformity of his offspring. But the opinion of an illegitimate birth

is sufficient to distract the choice, and loosen the obedience, of the

people: the ambition of Martina was quickened by maternal love, and

perhaps by the envy of a step-mother; and the aged husband was too feeble to withstand the arts of conjugal allurements. Constantine,

his eldest son, enjoyed in a mature age the title of Augustus; but the weakness of his constitution required a colleague and a guardian, and

he yielded with secret reluctance to the partition of the empire. The

senate was summoned to the palace to ratify or attest the association

of Heracleonas, the son of Martina: the imposition of the diadem was consecrated by the prayer and blessing of the patriarch; the senators and patricians adored the majesty of the great emperor and the partners

of his reign; and as soon as the doors were thrown open, they were

hailed by the tumultuary but important voice of the soldiers. After an

interval of five months, the pompous ceremonies which formed the essence of the Byzantine state were celebrated in the cathedral and the

hippodrome; the concord of the royal brothers was affectedly displayed by the younger leaning on the arm of the elder; and the name of Martina was mingled in the reluctant or venal acclamations of the people.

Heraclius survived this association about two years: his last testimony declared his two sons the equal heirs of the Eastern empire, and commanded them to honor his widow Martina as their mother and their

sovereign.

when Martina first appeared on the throne with the name and attributes

of royalty, she was checked by a firm, though respectful, opposition; and the dying embers of freedom were kindled by the breath of

superstitious prejudice. "We reverence," exclaimed the voice of a citizen, "we reverence the mother of our princes; but to those princes alone our obedience is due; and Constantine, the elder emperor, is of an age to sustain, in his own hands, the weight of the sceptre. Your sex is excluded by nature from the toils of government. How could you combat,

how could you answer, the Barbarians, who, with hostile or friendly

intentions, may approach the royal city? May Heaven avert from the Roman

republic this national disgrace, which would provoke the patience of the

slaves of Persia!" Martina descended from the throne with indignation, and sought a refuge in the female apartment of the palace. The reign of constantine the Third lasted only one hundred and three days: he expired

in the thirtieth year of his age, and, although his life had been a long

malady, a belief was entertained that poison had been the means, and

his cruel step-mother the author, of his untimely fate. Martina reaped

indeed the harvest of his death, and assumed the government in the name

of the surviving emperor; but the incestuous widow of Heraclius was

universally abhorred; the jealousy of the people was awakened, and the two orphans whom Constantine had left became the objects of the public care. It was in vain that the son of Martina, who was no more than fifteen years of age, was taught to declare himself the guardian of his

nephews, one of whom he had presented at the baptismal font: it was in

vain that he swore on the wood of the true cross, to defend them against all their enemies. On his death-bed, the late emperor had despatched a trusty servant to arm the troops and provinces of the East in the defence of his helpless children: the eloquence and liberality of

Valentin had been successful, and from his camp of Chalcedon, he boldly demanded the punishment of the assassins, and the restoration of the

lawful heir. The license of the soldiers, who devoured the grapes and drank the wine of their Asiatic vineyards, provoked the citizens of constantinople against the domestic authors of their calamities, and the dome of St. Sophia reëchoed, not with prayers and hymns, but with the clamors and imprecations of an enraged multitude. At their imperious command, Heracleonas appeared in the pulpit with the eldest of the royal

orphans; Constans alone was saluted as emperor of the Romans, and a crown of gold, which had been taken from the tomb of Heraclius, was

placed on his head, with the solemn benediction of the patriarch. But

in the tumult of joy and indignation, the church was pillaged, the

sanctuary was polluted by a promiscuous crowd of Jews and Barbarians; and the Monothelite Pyrrhus, a creature of the empress, after dropping a

protestation on the altar, escaped by a prudent flight from the zeal

of the Catholics. A more serious and bloody task was reserved for the senate, who derived a temporary strength from the consent of the

soldiers and people. The spirit of Roman freedom revived the ancient and awful examples of the judgment of tyrants, and the Imperial culprits were deposed and condemned as the authors of the death of Constantine. but the severity of the conscript fathers was stained by the

indiscriminate punishment of the innocent and the guilty: Martina and

Heracleonas were sentenced to the amputation, the former of her tongue, the latter of his nose; and after this cruel execution, they consumed the remainder of their days in exile and oblivion. The Greeks who were capable of reflection might find some consolation for their servitude, by observing the abuse of power when it was lodged for a moment in the

hands of an aristocracy.

we shall imagine ourselves transported five hundred years backwards to the age of the Antonines, if we listen to the oration which Constans II.

pronounced in the twelfth year of his age before the Byzantine senate. after returning his thanks for the just punishment of the assassins, who

had intercepted the fairest hopes of his father's reign, "By the divine

Providence," said the young emperor, "and by your righteous decree,

Martina and her incestuous progeny have been cast headlong from the throne. Your majesty and wisdom have prevented the Roman state from degenerating into lawless tyranny. I therefore exhort and beseech you to stand forth as the counsellors and judges of the common safety." The

senators were gratified by the respectful address and liberal donative

of their sovereign; but these servile Greeks were unworthy and

regardless of freedom; and in his mind, the lesson of an hour was

quickly erased by the prejudices of the age and the habits of despotism.

He retained only a jealous fear lest the senate or people should one day

invade the right of primogeniture, and seat his brother Theodosius on an equal throne. By the imposition of holy orders, the grandson of

Heraclius was disqualified for the purple; but this ceremony, which

seemed to profane the sacraments of the church, was insufficient to appease the suspicions of the tyrant, and the death of the deacon theodosius could alone expiate the crime of his royal birth. His

murder was avenged by the imprecations of the people, and the assassin,

in the fullness of power, was driven from his capital into voluntary and perpetual exile. Constans embarked for Greece and, as if he meant to retort the abhorrence which he deserved he is said, from the Imperial

galley, to have spit against the walls of his native city. After passing the winter at Athens, he sailed to Tarentum in Italy, visited Rome, and concluded a long pilgrimage of disgrace and sacrilegious rapine, by fixing his residence at Syracuse. But if Constans could fly from his

people, he could not fly from himself. The remorse of his conscience created a phantom who pursued him by land and sea, by day and by night; and the visionary Theodosius, presenting to his lips a cup of blood,

said, or seemed to say, "Drink, brother, drink;" a sure emblem of the aggravation of his guilt, since he had received from the hands of the deacon the mystic cup of the blood of Christ. Odious to himself and to

mankind, Constans perished by domestic, perhaps by episcopal, treason,

in the capital of Sicily. A servant who waited in the bath, after

pouring warm water on his head, struck him violently with the vase.

He fell, stunned by the blow, and suffocated by the water; and his attendants, who wondered at the tedious delay, beheld with indifference the corpse of their lifeless emperor. The troops of Sicily invested with the purple an obscure youth, whose inimitable beauty eluded, and it

might easily elude, the declining art of the painters and sculptors of the age.

constans had left in the Byzantine palace three sons, the eldest of whom had been clothed in his infancy with the purple. When the father

summoned them to attend his person in Sicily, these precious hostages were detained by the Greeks, and a firm refusal informed him that they were the children of the state. The news of his murder was conveyed with almost supernatural speed from Syracuse to Constantinople; and constantine, the eldest of his sons, inherited his throne without being the heir of the public hatred. His subjects contributed, with zeal and alacrity, to chastise the guilt and presumption of a province which had

usurped the rights of the senate and people; the young emperor sailed from the Hellespont with a powerful fleet; and the legions of Rome and carthage were assembled under his standard in the harbor of Syracuse. the defeat of the Sicilian tyrant was easy, his punishment just, and his beauteous head was exposed in the hippodrome: but I cannot applaud the clemency of a prince, who, among a crowd of victims, condemned the son

of a patrician, for deploring with some bitterness the execution of a

virtuous father. The youth was castrated: he survived the operation, and the memory of this indecent cruelty is preserved by the elevation of

Germanus to the rank of a patriarch and saint. After pouring this bloody

libation on his father's tomb, Constantine returned to his capital; and the growth of his young beard during the Sicilian voyage was announced, by the familiar surname of Pogonatus, to the Grecian world. But his

reign, like that of his predecessor, was stained with fraternal discord.

On his two brothers, Heraclius and Tiberius, he had bestowed the title

of Augustus; an empty title, for they continued to languish, without trust or power, in the solitude of the palace. At their secret

instigation, the troops of the Anatolian \_theme\_ or province approached the city on the Asiatic side, demanded for the royal brothers the

partition or exercise of sovereignty, and supported their seditious claim by a theological argument. They were Christians, (they cried,) and orthodox Catholics; the sincere votaries of the holy and undivided trinity. Since there are three equal persons in heaven, it is reasonable there should be three equal persons upon earth. The emperor invited these learned divines to a friendly conference, in which they might

propose their arguments to the senate: they obeyed the summons, but the

prospect of their bodies hanging on the gibbet in the suburb of Galata

reconciled their companions to the unity of the reign of Constantine.

He pardoned his brothers, and their names were still pronounced in the

public acclamations: but on the repetition or suspicion of a similar

offence, the obnoxious princes were deprived of their titles and

noses, in the presence of the Catholic bishops who were assembled at constantinople in the sixth general synod. In the close of his life,

Pogonatus was anxious only to establish the right of primogeniture: the

heir of his two sons, Justinian and Heraclius, was offered on the shrine

of St. Peter, as a symbol of their spiritual adoption by the pope; but the elder was alone exalted to the rank of Augustus, and the assurance

of the empire.

after the decease of his father, the inheritance of the Roman world devolved to Justinian II.; and the name of a triumphant lawgiver was dishonored by the vices of a boy, who imitated his namesake only in the expensive luxury of building. His passions were strong; his

understanding was feeble; and he was intoxicated with a foolish pride, that his birth had given him the command of millions, of whom the

smallest community would not have chosen him for their local magistrate.

His favorite ministers were two beings the least susceptible of human

sympathy, a eunuch and a monk: to the one he abandoned the palace, to the other the finances; the former corrected the emperor's mother with a scourge, the latter suspended the insolvent tributaries, with their

heads downwards, over a slow and smoky fire. Since the days of Commodus and Caracalla, the cruelty of the Roman princes had most commonly been the effect of their fear; but Justinian, who possessed some vigor

of character, enjoyed the sufferings, and braved the revenge, of his

subjects, about ten years, till the measure was full, of his crimes and

of their patience. In a dark dungeon, Leontius, a general of reputation,

had groaned above three years, with some of the noblest and most deserving of the patricians: he was suddenly drawn forth to assume the

government of Greece; and this promotion of an injured man was a mark

of the contempt rather than of the confidence of his prince. As he was followed to the port by the kind offices of his friends, Leontius

observed, with a sigh, that he was a victim adorned for sacrifice, and that inevitable death would pursue his footsteps. They ventured to reply, that glory and empire might be the recompense of a generous

resolution; that every order of men abhorred the reign of a monster; and that the hands of two hundred thousand patriots expected only the voice

of a leader. The night was chosen for their deliverance; and in the first effort of the conspirators, the præfect was slain, and the prisons were forced open: the emissaries of Leontius proclaimed in every street,

"Christians, to St. Sophia!" and the seasonable text of the patriarch,

"This is the day of the Lord!" was the prelude of an inflammatory

sermon. From the church the people adjourned to the hippodrome:

Justinian, in whose cause not a sword had been drawn, was dragged before these tumultuary judges, and their clamors demanded the instant death of the tyrant. But Leontius, who was already clothed with the purple, cast an eye of pity on the prostrate son of his own benefactor and of so many emperors. The life of Justinian was spared; the amputation of his nose,

perhaps of his tongue, was imperfectly performed: the happy flexibility

of the Greek language could impose the name of Rhinotmetus; and the

mutilated tyrant was banished to Chersonæ in Crim-Tartary, a lonely

settlement, where corn, wine, and oil, were imported as foreign

luxuries.

On the edge of the Scythian wilderness, Justinian still cherished the

pride of his birth, and the hope of his restoration. After three years' exile, he received the pleasing intelligence that his injury was avenged by a second revolution, and that Leontius in his turn had been dethroned and mutilated by the rebel Apsimar, who assumed the more respectable

name of Tiberius. But the claim of lineal succession was still formidable to a plebeian usurper; and his jealousy was stimulated by the complaints and charges of the Chersonites, who beheld the vices of the tyrant in the spirit of the exile. With a band of followers, attached to his person by common hope or common despair, Justinian fled from the

inhospitable shore to the horde of the Chozars, who pitched their tents between the Tanais and Borysthenes. The khan entertained with pity and

respect the royal suppliant: Phanagoria, once an opulent city, on the asiatic side of the lake Motis, was assigned for his residence; and every Roman prejudice was stifled in his marriage with the sister of the Barbarian, who seems, however, from the name of Theodora, to have

received the sacrament of baptism. But the faithless Chozar was soon tempted by the gold of Constantinople: and had not the design been

revealed by the conjugal love of Theodora, her husband must have been assassinated or betrayed into the power of his enemies. After

strangling, with his own hands, the two emissaries of the khan,

Justinian sent back his wife to her brother, and embarked on the Euxine

in search of new and more faithful allies. His vessel was assaulted by a

violent tempest; and one of his pious companions advised him to deserve the mercy of God by a vow of general forgiveness, if he should be

restored to the throne. "Of forgiveness?" replied the intrepid tyrant:

"may I perish this instant--may the Almighty whelm me in the waves--if I consent to spare a single head of my enemies!" He survived this impious

menace, sailed into the mouth of the Danube, trusted his person in the

royal village of the Bulgarians, and purchased the aid of Terbelis, a

pagan conqueror, by the promise of his daughter and a fair partition

of the treasures of the empire. The Bulgarian kingdom extended to the confines of Thrace; and the two princes besieged Constantinople at the

head of fifteen thousand horse. Apsimar was dismayed by the sudden and

hostile apparition of his rival whose head had been promised by the chozar, and of whose evasion he was yet ignorant. After an absence of ten years, the crimes of Justinian were faintly remembered, and the birth and misfortunes of their hereditary sovereign excited the pity

of the multitude, ever discontented with the ruling powers; and by the active diligence of his adherents, he was introduced into the city and

palace of Constantine.

chapter XLVIII: Succession And Characters Of The Greek Emperors.--Part II.

In rewarding his allies, and recalling his wife, Justinian displayed

some sense of honor and gratitude; and Terbelis retired, after

sweeping away a heap of gold coin, which he measured with his Scythian whip. But never was vow more religiously performed than the sacred oath

of revenge which he had sworn amidst the storms of the Euxine. The two

usurpers (for I must reserve the name of tyrant for the conqueror) were dragged into the hippodrome, the one from his prison, the other from his

palace. Before their execution, Leontius and Apsimar were cast prostrate

in chains beneath the throne of the emperor; and Justinian, planting a foot on each of their necks, contemplated above an hour the chariot-race, while the inconstant people shouted, in the words of the

Psalmist, "Thou shalt trample on the asp and basilisk, and on the lion and dragon shalt thou set thy foot!" The universal defection which he

had once experienced might provoke him to repeat the wish of Caligula, that the Roman people had but one head. Yet I shall presume to observe, that such a wish is unworthy of an ingenious tyrant, since his revenge and cruelty would have been extinguished by a single blow, instead of the slow variety of tortures which Justinian inflicted on the victims of

his anger. His pleasures were inexhaustible: neither private virtue

nor public service could expiate the guilt of active, or even passive,

obedience to an established government; and, during the six years of his

new reign, he considered the axe, the cord, and the rack, as the only

instruments of royalty. But his most implacable hatred was pointed against the Chersonites, who had insulted his exile and violated the

laws of hospitality. Their remote situation afforded some means of defence, or at least of escape; and a grievous tax was imposed on constantinople, to supply the preparations of a fleet and army. "All are guilty, and all must perish," was the mandate of Justinian; and the bloody execution was intrusted to his favorite Stephen, who was

recommended by the epithet of the savage. Yet even the savage Stephen

imperfectly accomplished the intentions of his sovereign. The slowness

of his attack allowed the greater part of the inhabitants to withdraw

into the country; and the minister of vengeance contented himself with

reducing the youth of both sexes to a state of servitude, with roasting alive seven of the principal citizens, with drowning twenty in the sea, and with reserving forty-two in chains to receive their doom from the

mouth of the emperor. In their return, the fleet was driven on the rocky

shores of Anatolia; and Justinian applauded the obedience of the Euxine, which had involved so many thousands of his subjects and enemies in a common shipwreck: but the tyrant was still insatiate of blood; and a second expedition was commanded to extirpate the remains of the

proscribed colony. In the short interval, the Chersonites had returned to their city, and were prepared to die in arms; the khan of the Chozars

had renounced the cause of his odious brother; the exiles of every

province were assembled in Tauris; and Bardanes, under the name

of Philippicus, was invested with the purple. The Imperial troops,

unwilling and unable to perpetrate the revenge of Justinian, escaped

his displeasure by abjuring his allegiance: the fleet, under their

new sovereign, steered back a more auspicious course to the harbors of

Sinope and Constantinople; and every tongue was prompt to pronounce, every hand to execute, the death of the tyrant. Destitute of friends, he was deserted by his Barbarian guards; and the stroke of the assassin was

praised as an act of patriotism and Roman virtue. His son Tiberius had taken refuge in a church; his aged grandmother guarded the door; and the

innocent youth, suspending round his neck the most formidable relics, embraced with one hand the altar, with the other the wood of the true cross. But the popular fury that dares to trample on superstition,

is deaf to the cries of humanity; and the race of Heraclius was extinguished after a reign of one hundred years.

between the fall of the Heraclian and the rise of the Isaurian dynasty, a short interval of six years is divided into three reigns. Bardanes,

or Philippicus, was hailed at Constantinople as a hero who had delivered

his country from a tyrant; and he might taste some moments of happiness

in the first transports of sincere and universal joy. Justinian had left behind him an ample treasure, the fruit of cruelty and rapine: but this useful fund was soon and idly dissipated by his successor. On the festival of his birthday, Philippicus entertained the multitude with the

games of the hippodrome; from thence he paraded through the streets with a thousand banners and a thousand trumpets; refreshed himself in the baths of Zeuxippus, and returning to the palace, entertained his nobles with a sumptuous banquet. At the meridian hour he withdrew to his chamber, intoxicated with flattery and wine, and forgetful that his example had made every subject ambitious, and that every ambitious

subject was his secret enemy. Some bold conspirators introduced themselves in the disorder of the feast; and the slumbering monarch was

surprised, bound, blinded, and deposed, before he was sensible of his danger. Yet the traitors were deprived of their reward; and the free

voice of the senate and people promoted Artemius from the office of

secretary to that of emperor: he assumed the title of Anastasius the

Second, and displayed in a short and troubled reign the virtues both of

peace and war. But after the extinction of the Imperial line, the rule

of obedience was violated, and every change diffused the seeds of new

revolutions. In a mutiny of the fleet, an obscure and reluctant officer

of the revenue was forcibly invested with the purple: after some months

of a naval war, Anastasius resigned the sceptre; and the conqueror, theodosius the Third, submitted in his turn to the superior ascendant

of Leo, the general and emperor of the Oriental troops. His two

predecessors were permitted to embrace the ecclesiastical profession: the restless impatience of Anastasius tempted him to risk and to lose

his life in a treasonable enterprise; but the last days of Theodosius were honorable and secure. The single sublime word, "health," which

he inscribed on his tomb, expresses the confidence of philosophy or

religion; and the fame of his miracles was long preserved among the

people of Ephesus. This convenient shelter of the church might sometimes

impose a lesson of clemency; but it may be questioned whether it is for the public interest to diminish the perils of unsuccessful ambition.

I have dwelt on the fall of a tyrant; I shall briefly represent the founder of a new dynasty, who is known to posterity by the invectives

of his enemies, and whose public and private life is involved in the ecclesiastical story of the Iconoclasts. Yet in spite of the clamors

of superstition, a favorable prejudice for the character of Leo the

Isaurian may be reasonably drawn from the obscurity of his birth, and the duration of his reign.--I. In an age of manly spirit, the prospect

of an Imperial reward would have kindled every energy of the mind, and

produced a crowd of competitors as deserving as they were desirous to

reign. Even in the corruption and debility of the modern Greeks, the elevation of a plebeian from the last to the first rank of society,

supposes some qualifications above the level of the multitude. He would

probably be ignorant and disdainful of speculative science; and, in the

pursuit of fortune, he might absolve himself from the obligations of benevolence and justice; but to his character we may ascribe the useful

virtues of prudence and fortitude, the knowledge of mankind, and the

important art of gaining their confidence and directing their passions.

It is agreed that Leo was a native of Isauria, and that Conon was his

primitive name. The writers, whose awkward satire is praise, describe

him as an itinerant pedler, who drove an ass with some paltry

merchandise to the country fairs; and foolishly relate that he met on the road some Jewish fortune-tellers, who promised him the Roman empire, on condition that he should abolish the worship of idols. A more

probable account relates the migration of his father from Asia Minor to thrace, where he exercised the lucrative trade of a grazier; and he must

have acquired considerable wealth, since the first introduction of his

son was procured by a supply of five hundred sheep to the Imperial camp. His first service was in the guards of Justinian, where he soon attracted the notice, and by degrees the jealousy, of the tyrant.

His valor and dexterity were conspicuous in the Colchian war: from anastasius he received the command of the Anatolian legions, and by the

suffrage of the soldiers he was raised to the empire with the general applause of the Roman world.--II. In this dangerous elevation, Leo the third supported himself against the envy of his equals, the discontent

of a powerful faction, and the assaults of his foreign and domestic enemies. The Catholics, who accuse his religious innovations, are

obliged to confess that they were undertaken with temper and conducted with firmness. Their silence respects the wisdom of his administration and the purity of his manners. After a reign of twenty-four years, he

peaceably expired in the palace of Constantinople; and the purple which

he had acquired was transmitted by the right of inheritance to the third

generation.

In a long reign of thirty-four years, the son and successor of Leo, constantine the Fifth, surnamed Copronymus, attacked with less temperate

zeal the images or idols of the church. Their votaries have exhausted the bitterness of religious gall, in their portrait of this spotted

panther, this antichrist, this flying dragon of the serpent's seed, who surpassed the vices of Elagabalus and Nero. His reign was a long butchery of whatever was most noble, or holy, or innocent, in his empire. In person, the emperor assisted at the execution of his victims,

surveyed their agonies, listened to their groans, and indulged, without

satiating, his appetite for blood: a plate of noses was accepted as a

grateful offering, and his domestics were often scourged or mutilated by the royal hand. His surname was derived from his pollution of his baptismal font. The infant might be excused; but the manly pleasures of copronymus degraded him below the level of a brute; his lust confounded the eternal distinctions of sex and species, and he seemed to extract

some unnatural delight from the objects most offensive to human sense.

In his religion the Iconoclast was a Heretic, a Jew, a Mahometan, a

Pagan, and an Atheist; and his belief of an invisible power could be discovered only in his magic rites, human victims, and nocturnal

sacrifices to Venus and the dæmons of antiquity. His life was stained with the most opposite vices, and the ulcers which covered his body, anticipated before his death the sentiment of hell-tortures. Of these accusations, which I have so patiently copied, a part is refuted by its

own absurdity; and in the private anecdotes of the life of the princes, the lie is more easy as the detection is more difficult. Without adopting the pernicious maxim, that where much is alleged, something

must be true, I can however discern, that Constantine the Fifth was dissolute and cruel. Calumny is more prone to exaggerate than to invent; and her licentious tongue is checked in some measure by the experience

of the age and country to which she appeals. Of the bishops and monks, the generals and magistrates, who are said to have suffered under

his reign, the numbers are recorded, the names were conspicuous, the execution was public, the mutilation visible and permanent. The catholics hated the person and government of Copronymus; but even their

hatred is a proof of their oppression. They dissembled the provocations which might excuse or justify his rigor, but even these provocations

must gradually inflame his resentment and harden his temper in the use

or the abuse of despotism. Yet the character of the fifth Constantine was not devoid of merit, nor did his government always deserve the curses or the contempt of the Greeks. From the confession of his enemies, I am informed of the restoration of an ancient aqueduct, of the

redemption of two thousand five hundred captives, of the uncommon

plenty of the times, and of the new colonies with which he repeopled constantinople and the Thracian cities. They reluctantly praise his activity and courage; he was on horseback in the field at the head

of his legions; and, although the fortune of his arms was various, he triumphed by sea and land, on the Euphrates and the Danube, in civil and Barbarian war. Heretical praise must be cast into the scale to counterbalance the weight of orthodox invective. The Iconoclasts revered the virtues of the prince: forty years after his death they still prayed before the tomb of the saint. A miraculous vision was propagated by fanaticism or fraud: and the Christian hero appeared on a milk-white

steed, brandishing his lance against the Pagans of Bulgaria: "An absurd fable," says the Catholic historian, "since Copronymus is chained with the dæmons in the abyss of hell."

Leo the Fourth, the son of the fifth and the father of the sixth constantine, was of a feeble constitution both of mind and body, and the principal care of his reign was the settlement of the succession. the association of the young Constantine was urged by the officious

zeal of his subjects; and the emperor, conscious of his decay, complied, after a prudent hesitation, with their unanimous wishes. The royal

infant, at the age of five years, was crowned with his mother Irene; and the national consent was ratified by every circumstance of pomp and solemnity, that could dazzle the eyes or bind the conscience of the

Greeks. An oath of fidelity was administered in the palace, the church, and the hippodrome, to the several orders of the state, who adjured the

holy names of the Son, and mother of God. "Be witness, O Christ! that we will watch over the safety of Constantine the son of Leo, expose

our lives in his service, and bear true allegiance to his person and

posterity." They pledged their faith on the wood of the true cross, and the act of their engagement was deposited on the altar of St. Sophia. the first to swear, and the first to violate their oath, were the five

sons of Copronymus by a second marriage; and the story of these princes

is singular and tragic. The right of primogeniture excluded them from the throne; the injustice of their elder brother defrauded them of a

legacy of about two millions sterling; some vain titles were not deemed a sufficient compensation for wealth and power; and they repeatedly conspired against their nephew, before and after the death of his father. Their first attempt was pardoned; for the second offence they were condemned to the ecclesiastical state; and for the third treason,

Nicephorus, the eldest and most guilty, was deprived of his eyes, and

his four brothers, Christopher, Nicetas, Anthemeus, and Eudoxas, were

punished, as a milder sentence, by the amputation of their tongues. after five years' confinement, they escaped to the church of St. Sophia, and displayed a pathetic spectacle to the people. "Countrymen and christians," cried Nicephorus for himself and his mute brethren, "behold the sons of your emperor, if you can still recognize our features in this miserable state. A life, an imperfect life, is all that the malice

of our enemies has spared. It is now threatened, and we now throw

ourselves on your compassion." The rising murmur might have produced a

revolution, had it not been checked by the presence of a minister, who

soothed the unhappy princes with flattery and hope, and gently drew them from the sanctuary to the palace. They were speedily embarked for

Greece, and Athens was allotted for the place of their exile. In this calm retreat, and in their helpless condition, Nicephorus and his brothers were tormented by the thirst of power, and tempted by a

Sclavonian chief, who offered to break their prison, and to lead them

in arms, and in the purple, to the gates of Constantinople. But the athenian people, ever zealous in the cause of Irene, prevented her

justice or cruelty; and the five sons of Copronymus were plunged in eternal darkness and oblivion.

for himself, that emperor had chosen a Barbarian wife, the daughter of the khan of the Chozars; but in the marriage of his heir, he preferred an Athenian virgin, an orphan, seventeen years old, whose sole fortune

must have consisted in her personal accomplishments. The nuptials of Leo and Irene were celebrated with royal pomp; she soon acquired the love and confidence of a feeble husband, and in his testament he declared the empress guardian of the Roman world, and of their son Constantine the

Sixth, who was no more than ten years of age. During his childhood,

Irene most ably and assiduously discharged, in her public administration, the duties of a faithful mother; and her zeal in the

restoration of images has deserved the name and honors of a saint, which

she still occupies in the Greek calendar. But the emperor attained the maturity of youth; the maternal yoke became more grievous; and he

listened to the favorites of his own age, who shared his pleasures, and were ambitious of sharing his power. Their reasons convinced him of

his right, their praises of his ability, to reign; and he consented to

reward the services of Irene by a perpetual banishment to the Isle of

Sicily. But her vigilance and penetration easily disconcerted their

rash projects: a similar, or more severe, punishment was retaliated on themselves and their advisers; and Irene inflicted on the ungrateful

prince the chastisement of a boy. After this contest, the mother and the son were at the head of two domestic factions; and instead of mild

influence and voluntary obedience, she held in chains a captive and an enemy. The empress was overthrown by the abuse of victory; the oath

of fidelity, which she exacted to herself alone, was pronounced with reluctant murmurs; and the bold refusal of the Armenian guards encouraged a free and general declaration, that Constantine the Sixth was the lawful emperor of the Romans. In this character he ascended his

hereditary throne, and dismissed Irene to a life of solitude and repose. but her haughty spirit condescended to the arts of dissimulation: she flattered the bishops and eunuchs, revived the filial tenderness of the prince, regained his confidence, and betrayed his credulity. The character of Constantine was not destitute of sense or spirit; but

his education had been studiously neglected; and the ambitious mother exposed to the public censure the vices which she had nourished, and the actions which she had secretly advised: his divorce and second marriage

offended the prejudices of the clergy, and by his imprudent rigor he forfeited the attachment of the Armenian guards. A powerful conspiracy was formed for the restoration of Irene; and the secret, though widely diffused, was faithfully kept above eight months, till the emperor,

suspicious of his danger, escaped from Constantinople, with the design

of appealing to the provinces and armies. By this hasty flight, the empress was left on the brink of the precipice; yet before she implored the mercy of her son, Irene addressed a private epistle to the friends whom she had placed about his person, with a menace, that unless \_they\_ accomplished, \_she\_ would reveal, their treason. Their fear rendered them intrepid; they seized the emperor on the Asiatic shore, and he was transported to the porphyry apartment of the palace, where he had first seen the light. In the mind of Irene, ambition had stifled every

sentiment of humanity and nature; and it was decreed in her bloody council, that Constantine should be rendered incapable of the throne:

her emissaries assaulted the sleeping prince, and stabbed their daggers with such violence and precipitation into his eyes as if they meant to execute a mortal sentence. An ambiguous passage of Theophanes persuaded the annalist of the church that death was the immediate consequence of this barbarous execution. The Catholics have been deceived or subdued by the authority of Baronius; and Protestant zeal has reëchoed the words

of a cardinal, desirous, as it should seem, to favor the patroness of

images. Yet the blind son of Irene survived many years, oppressed by the court and forgotten by the world; the Isaurian dynasty was silently extinguished; and the memory of Constantine was recalled only by the

nuptials of his daughter Euphrosyne with the emperor Michael the Second.

the most bigoted orthodoxy has justly execrated the unnatural mother, who may not easily be paralleled in the history of crimes. To her bloody deed superstition has attributed a subsequent darkness of seventeen days; during which many vessels in midday were driven from their course, as if the sun, a globe of fire so vast and so remote, could sympathize with the atoms of a revolving planet. On earth, the crime of Irene was left five years unpunished; her reign was crowned with external

splendor; and if she could silence the voice of conscience, she neither

heard nor regarded the reproaches of mankind. The Roman world bowed to the government of a female; and as she moved through the streets of constantinople, the reins of four milk-white steeds were held by as

many patricians, who marched on foot before the golden chariot of their

queen. But these patricians were for the most part eunuchs; and their black ingratitude justified, on this occasion, the popular hatred and contempt. Raised, enriched, intrusted with the first dignities of the empire, they basely conspired against their benefactress; the great treasurer Nicephorus was secretly invested with the purple; her

successor was introduced into the palace, and crowned at St. Sophia by the venal patriarch. In their first interview, she recapitulated with dignity the revolutions of her life, gently accused the perfidy of

Nicephorus, insinuated that he owed his life to her unsuspicious clemency, and for the throne and treasures which she resigned, solicited a decent and honorable retreat. His avarice refused this modest compensation; and, in her exile of the Isle of Lesbos, the empress earned a scanty subsistence by the labors of her distaff.

Many tyrants have reigned undoubtedly more criminal than Nicephorus, but

none perhaps have more deeply incurred the universal abhorrence of their people. His character was stained with the three odious vices of

hypocrisy, ingratitude, and avarice: his want of virtue was not redeemed by any superior talents, nor his want of talents by any pleasing

qualifications. Unskilful and unfortunate in war, Nicephorus was

vanquished by the Saracens, and slain by the Bulgarians; and the advantage of his death overbalanced, in the public opinion, the destruction of a Roman army. His son and heir Stauracius escaped from the field with a mortal wound; yet six months of an expiring life were

sufficient to refute his indecent, though popular declaration, that

he would in all things avoid the example of his father. On the near

prospect of his decease, Michael, the great master of the palace, and the husband of his sister Procopia, was named by every person of the

palace and city, except by his envious brother. Tenacious of a sceptre

now falling from his hand, he conspired against the life of his

successor, and cherished the idea of changing to a democracy the Roman empire. But these rash projects served only to inflame the zeal of the

people and to remove the scruples of the candidate: Michael the First accepted the purple, and before he sunk into the grave the son of

Nicephorus implored the clemency of his new sovereign. Had Michael in an age of peace ascended an hereditary throne, he might have reigned and died the father of his people: but his mild virtues were adapted to the

shade of private life, nor was he capable of controlling the ambition of

his equals, or of resisting the arms of the victorious Bulgarians. while his want of ability and success exposed him to the contempt of the soldiers, the masculine spirit of his wife Procopia awakened their

indignation. Even the Greeks of the ninth century were provoked by the

insolence of a female, who, in the front of the standards, presumed to direct their discipline and animate their valor; and their licentious clamors advised the new Semiramis to reverence the majesty of a Roman camp. After an unsuccessful campaign, the emperor left, in their winter-quarters of Thrace, a disaffected army under the command of his enemies; and their artful eloquence persuaded the soldiers to break the dominion of the eunuchs, to degrade the husband of Procopia, and to assert the right of a military election. They marched towards the capital: yet the clergy, the senate, and the people of Constantinople, adhered to the cause of Michael; and the troops and treasures of Asia

might have protracted the mischiefs of civil war. But his humanity (by the ambitious it will be termed his weakness) protested that not a drop

of Christian blood should be shed in his quarrel, and his messengers

presented the conquerors with the keys of the city and the palace. They were disarmed by his innocence and submission; his life and his eyes were spared; and the Imperial monk enjoyed the comforts of solitude and

religion above thirty-two years after he had been stripped of the purple and separated from his wife.

a rebel, in the time of Nicephorus, the famous and unfortunate Bardanes,

had once the curiosity to consult an Asiatic prophet, who, after

prognosticating his fall, announced the fortunes of his three principal

officers, Leo the Armenian, Michael the Phrygian, and Thomas the cappadocian, the successive reigns of the two former, the fruitless and fatal enterprise of the third. This prediction was verified, or rather was produced, by the event. Ten years afterwards, when the Thracian camp

rejected the husband of Procopia, the crown was presented to the same

Leo, the first in military rank and the secret author of the mutiny. As

he affected to hesitate, "With this sword," said his companion Michael,

"I will open the gates of Constantinople to your Imperial sway; or

instantly plunge it into your bosom, if you obstinately resist the just desires of your fellow-soldiers." The compliance of the Armenian was

rewarded with the empire, and he reigned seven years and a half under the name of Leo the Fifth. Educated in a camp, and ignorant both of laws and letters, he introduced into his civil government the rigor and even cruelty of military discipline; but if his severity was sometimes dangerous to the innocent, it was always formidable to the guilty. His

religious inconstancy was taxed by the epithet of Chameleon, but the catholics have acknowledged by the voice of a saint and confessors, that the life of the Iconoclast was useful to the republic. The zeal of his companion Michael was repaid with riches, honors, and military command; and his subordinate talents were beneficially employed in the public

service. Yet the Phrygian was dissatisfied at receiving as a favor a

scanty portion of the Imperial prize which he had bestowed on his equal; and his discontent, which sometimes evaporated in hasty discourse, at

length assumed a more threatening and hostile aspect against a prince whom he represented as a cruel tyrant. That tyrant, however, repeatedly detected, warned, and dismissed the old companion of his arms, till fear and resentment prevailed over gratitude; and Michael, after a scrutiny

into his actions and designs, was convicted of treason, and sentenced to be burnt alive in the furnace of the private baths. The devout humanity

of the empress Theophano was fatal to her husband and family. A solemn day, the twenty-fifth of December, had been fixed for the execution: she

urged, that the anniversary of the Savior's birth would be profaned by this inhuman spectacle, and Leo consented with reluctance to a decent

respite. But on the vigil of the feast his sleepless anxiety prompted

him to visit at the dead of night the chamber in which his enemy was confined: he beheld him released from his chain, and stretched on his

jailer's bed in a profound slumber. Leo was alarmed at these signs of

security and intelligence; but though he retired with silent steps, his entrance and departure were noticed by a slave who lay concealed in a corner of the prison. Under the pretence of requesting the spiritual aid of a confessor, Michael informed the conspirators, that their lives depended on his discretion, and that a few hours were left to assure their own safety, by the deliverance of their friend and country. On the

great festivals, a chosen band of priests and chanters was admitted into the palace by a private gate to sing matins in the chapel; and Leo, who

regulated with the same strictness the discipline of the choir and

of the camp, was seldom absent from these early devotions. In the ecclesiastical habit, but with their swords under their robes, the conspirators mingled with the procession, lurked in the angles of the chapel, and expected, as the signal of murder, the intonation of the first psalm by the emperor himself. The imperfect light, and the

uniformity of dress, might have favored his escape, whilst their assault was pointed against a harmless priest; but they soon discovered their

mistake, and encompassed on all sides the royal victim. Without a weapon and without a friend, he grasped a weighty cross, and stood at bay against the hunters of his life; but as he asked for mercy, "This is the hour, not of mercy, but of vengeance," was the inexorable reply. The

stroke of a well-aimed sword separated from his body the right arm and the cross, and Leo the Armenian was slain at the foot of the altar.

a memorable reverse of fortune was displayed in Michael the Second, who from a defect in his speech was surnamed the Stammerer. He was snatched from the fiery furnace to the sovereignty of an empire; and as in the tumult a smith could not readily be found, the fetters remained on his

legs several hours after he was seated on the throne of the Cæsars. The

royal blood which had been the price of his elevation, was unprofitably

spent: in the purple he retained the ignoble vices of his origin; and

Michael lost his provinces with as supine indifference as if they had been the inheritance of his fathers. His title was disputed by Thomas, the last of the military triumvirate, who transported into Europe fourscore thousand Barbarians from the banks of the Tigris and the

shores of the Caspian. He formed the siege of Constantinople; but the capital was defended with spiritual and carnal weapons; a Bulgarian king assaulted the camp of the Orientals, and Thomas had the misfortune, or the weakness, to fall alive into the power of the conqueror. The hands and feet of the rebel were amputated; he was placed on an ass, and, amidst the insults of the people, was led through the streets, which he

sprinkled with his blood. The depravation of manners, as savage as they were corrupt, is marked by the presence of the emperor himself. Deaf to the lamentation of a fellow-soldier, he incessantly pressed the discovery of more accomplices, till his curiosity was checked by the

question of an honest or guilty minister: "Would you give credit to an enemy against the most faithful of your friends?" After the death of

his first wife, the emperor, at the request of the senate, drew from her

monastery Euphrosyne, the daughter of Constantine the Sixth. Her august birth might justify a stipulation in the marriage-contract, that her children should equally share the empire with their elder brother. But the nuptials of Michael and Euphrosyne were barren; and she was content with the title of mother of Theophilus, his son and successor.

the character of Theophilus is a rare example in which religious zeal

has allowed, and perhaps magnified, the virtues of a heretic and a

persecutor. His valor was often felt by the enemies, and his justice by the subjects, of the monarchy; but the valor of Theophilus was rash and fruitless, and his justice arbitrary and cruel. He displayed the banner of the cross against the Saracens; but his five expeditions were concluded by a signal overthrow: Amorium, the native city of his ancestors, was levelled with the ground and from his military toils he derived only the surname of the Unfortunate. The wisdom of a sovereign

is comprised in the institution of laws and the choice of magistrates, and while he seems without action, his civil government revolves round

his centre with the silence and order of the planetary system. But the justice of Theophilus was fashioned on the model of the Oriental despots, who, in personal and irregular acts of authority, consult the

reason or passion of the moment, without measuring the sentence by the

law, or the penalty by the offense. A poor woman threw herself at the emperor's feet to complain of a powerful neighbor, the brother of the empress, who had raised his palace-wall to such an inconvenient height, that her humble dwelling was excluded from light and air! On the proof

of the fact, instead of granting, like an ordinary judge, sufficient or ample damages to the plaintiff, the sovereign adjudged to her use and benefit the palace and the ground. Nor was Theophilus content with this extravagant satisfaction: his zeal converted a civil trespass into a criminal act; and the unfortunate patrician was stripped and scourged

in the public place of Constantinople. For some venial offenses, some defect of equity or vigilance, the principal ministers, a præfect, a

quæstor, a captain of the guards, were banished or mutilated, or scalded with boiling pitch, or burnt alive in the hippodrome; and as these dreadful examples might be the effects of error or caprice, they must

have alienated from his service the best and wisest of the citizens. But the pride of the monarch was flattered in the exercise of power, or, as he thought, of virtue; and the people, safe in their obscurity, applauded the danger and debasement of their superiors. This extraordinary rigor was justified, in some measure, by its salutary consequences; since, after a scrutiny of seventeen days, not a complaint

or abuse could be found in the court or city; and it might be alleged that the Greeks could be ruled only with a rod of iron, and that the

public interest is the motive and law of the supreme judge. Yet in the crime, or the suspicion, of treason, that judge is of all others the

most credulous and partial. Theophilus might inflict a tardy vengeance

on the assassins of Leo and the saviors of his father; but he enjoyed the fruits of their crime; and his jealous tyranny sacrificed a brother and a prince to the future safety of his life. A Persian of the race of the Sassanides died in poverty and exile at Constantinople, leaving an

only son, the issue of a plebeian marriage. At the age of twelve years, the royal birth of Theophobus was revealed, and his merit was not

unworthy of his birth. He was educated in the Byzantine palace, a christian and a soldier; advanced with rapid steps in the career of fortune and glory; received the hand of the emperor's sister; and was

promoted to the command of thirty thousand Persians, who, like his father, had fled from the Mahometan conquerors. These troops, doubly

infected with mercenary and fanatic vices, were desirous of revolting against their benefactor, and erecting the standard of their native

king but the loyal Theophobus rejected their offers, disconcerted their

schemes, and escaped from their hands to the camp or palace of his royal brother. A generous confidence might have secured a faithful and able

guardian for his wife and his infant son, to whom Theophilus, in the flower of his age, was compelled to leave the inheritance of the empire. but his jealousy was exasperated by envy and disease; he feared the dangerous virtues which might either support or oppress their infancy and weakness; and the dying emperor demanded the head of the Persian

prince. With savage delight he recognized the familiar features of his brother: "Thou art no longer Theophobus," he said; and, sinking on his couch, he added, with a faltering voice, "Soon, too soon, I shall be no

more Theophilus!"

chapter XLVIII: Succession And Characters Of The Greek Emperors.--Part III.

the Russians, who have borrowed from the Greeks the greatest part of their civil and ecclesiastical policy, preserved, till the last century, a singular institution in the marriage of the Czar. They collected, not the virgins of every rank and of every province, a vain and romantic

idea, but the daughters of the principal nobles, who awaited in the

palace the choice of their sovereign. It is affirmed, that a similar

method was adopted in the nuptials of Theophilus. With a golden apple in

his hand, he slowly walked between two lines of contending beauties: his eye was detained by the charms of Icasia, and in the awkwardness of a first declaration, the prince could only observe, that, in this world, women had been the cause of much evil; "And surely, sir," she pertly

replied, "they have likewise been the occasion of much good." This affectation of unseasonable wit displeased the Imperial lover: he turned aside in disgust; Icasia concealed her mortification in a convent; and the modest silence of Theodora was rewarded with the golden apple. She deserved the love, but did not escape the severity, of her lord. From the palace garden he beheld a vessel deeply laden, and steering into the

port: on the discovery that the precious cargo of Syrian luxury was the

property of his wife, he condemned the ship to the flames, with a sharp

reproach, that her avarice had degraded the character of an empress

into that of a merchant. Yet his last choice intrusted her with the

guardianship of the empire and her son Michael, who was left an orphan

in the fifth year of his age. The restoration of images, and the final extirpation of the Iconoclasts, has endeared her name to the devotion of the Greeks; but in the fervor of religious zeal, Theodora entertained a grateful regard for the memory and salvation of her husband. After thirteen years of a prudent and frugal administration, she perceived the decline of her influence; but the second Irene imitated only the virtues

of her predecessor. Instead of conspiring against the life or government

of her son, she retired, without a struggle, though not without a

murmur, to the solitude of private life, deploring the ingratitude, the

vices, and the inevitable ruin, of the worthless youth.

among the successors of Nero and Elagabalus, we have not hitherto found the imitation of their vices, the character of a Roman prince who considered pleasure as the object of life, and virtue as the enemy of

pleasure. Whatever might have been the maternal care of Theodora in the education of Michael the Third, her unfortunate son was a king before

he was a man. If the ambitious mother labored to check the progress of

reason, she could not cool the ebullition of passion; and her selfish

policy was justly repaid by the contempt and ingratitude of the

headstrong youth. At the age of eighteen, he rejected her authority, without feeling his own incapacity to govern the empire and himself. with Theodora, all gravity and wisdom retired from the court; their

place was supplied by the alternate dominion of vice and folly; and

it was impossible, without forfeiting the public esteem, to acquire or

preserve the favor of the emperor. The millions of gold and silver which

had been accumulated for the service of the state, were lavished on the

vilest of men, who flattered his passions and shared his pleasures; and

in a reign of thirteen years, the richest of sovereigns was compelled to strip the palace and the churches of their precious furniture. Like

Nero, he delighted in the amusements of the theatre, and sighed to be

surpassed in the accomplishments in which he should have blushed to excel. Yet the studies of Nero in music and poetry betrayed some

symptoms of a liberal taste; the more ignoble arts of the son of theophilus were confined to the chariot-race of the hippodrome. The four factions which had agitated the peace, still amused the idleness, of the capital: for himself, the emperor assumed the blue livery; the three

rival colors were distributed to his favorites, and in the vile though eager contention he forgot the dignity of his person and the safety of

his dominions. He silenced the messenger of an invasion, who presumed to divert his attention in the most critical moment of the race; and by his command, the importunate beacons were extinguished, that too frequently

spread the alarm from Tarsus to Constantinople. The most skilful charioteers obtained the first place in his confidence and esteem; their

merit was profusely rewarded the emperor feasted in their houses, and

presented their children at the baptismal font; and while he applauded

his own popularity, he affected to blame the cold and stately reserve

of his predecessors. The unnatural lusts which had degraded even the

manhood of Nero, were banished from the world; yet the strength of

Michael was consumed by the indulgence of love and intemperance. In

his midnight revels, when his passions were inflamed by wine, he was

provoked to issue the most sanguinary commands; and if any feelings of

humanity were left, he was reduced, with the return of sense, to approve the salutary disobedience of his servants. But the most extraordinary feature in the character of Michael, is the profane mockery of the

religion of his country. The superstition of the Greeks might indeed excite the smile of a philosopher; but his smile would have been

rational and temperate, and he must have condemned the ignorant folly of a youth who insulted the objects of public veneration. A buffoon of the court was invested in the robes of the patriarch: his twelve

metropolitans, among whom the emperor was ranked, assumed their ecclesiastical garments: they used or abused the sacred vessels of the altar; and in their bacchanalian feasts, the holy communion was administered in a nauseous compound of vinegar and mustard. Nor were these impious spectacles concealed from the eyes of the city. On the day

of a solemn festival, the emperor, with his bishops or buffoons, rode on asses through the streets, encountered the true patriarch at the head

of his clergy; and by their licentious shouts and obscene gestures, disordered the gravity of the Christian procession. The devotion of

Michael appeared only in some offence to reason or piety: he received

his theatrical crowns from the statue of the Virgin; and an Imperial tomb was violated for the sake of burning the bones of Constantine the

Iconoclast. By this extravagant conduct, the son of Theophilus became as contemptible as he was odious: every citizen was impatient for the deliverance of his country; and even the favorites of the moment were apprehensive that a caprice might snatch away what a caprice

had bestowed. In the thirtieth year of his age, and in the hour of

intoxication and sleep, Michael the Third was murdered in his chamber by the founder of a new dynasty, whom the emperor had raised to an equality

of rank and power.

the genealogy of Basil the Macedonian (if it be not the spurious

offspring of pride and flattery) exhibits a genuine picture of the

revolution of the most illustrious families. The Arsacides, the rivals

of Rome, possessed the sceptre of the East near four hundred years: a

younger branch of these Parthian kings continued to reign in Armenia; and their royal descendants survived the partition and servitude of that ancient monarchy. Two of these, Artabanus and Chlienes, escaped or

retired to the court of Leo the First: his bounty seated them in a safe and hospitable exile, in the province of Macedonia: Adrianople was their final settlement. During several generations they maintained the dignity

of their birth; and their Roman patriotism rejected the tempting offers

of the Persian and Arabian powers, who recalled them to their native country. But their splendor was insensibly clouded by time and poverty; and the father of Basil was reduced to a small farm, which he cultivated with his own hands: yet he scorned to disgrace the blood of the arsacides by a plebeian alliance: his wife, a widow of Adrianople, was

pleased to count among her ancestors the great Constantine; and their

royal infant was connected by some dark affinity of lineage or country with the Macedonian Alexander. No sooner was he born, than the cradle of basil, his family, and his city, were swept away by an inundation of the Bulgarians: he was educated a slave in a foreign land; and in this

severe discipline, he acquired the hardiness of body and flexibility of

mind which promoted his future elevation. In the age of youth or manhood

he shared the deliverance of the Roman captives, who generously broke their fetters, marched through Bulgaria to the shores of the Euxine, defeated two armies of Barbarians, embarked in the ships which had been

stationed for their reception, and returned to Constantinople, from whence they were distributed to their respective homes. But the freedom

of Basil was naked and destitute: his farm was ruined by the calamities

of war: after his father's death, his manual labor, or service, could

no longer support a family of orphans and he resolved to seek a more conspicuous theatre, in which every virtue and every vice may lead to the paths of greatness. The first night of his arrival at constantinople, without friends or money, the weary pilgrim slept on the

steps of the church of St. Diomede: he was fed by the casual hospitality

of a monk; and was introduced to the service of a cousin and namesake of the emperor Theophilus; who, though himself of a diminutive person, was always followed by a train of tall and handsome domestics. Basil attended his patron to the government of Peloponnesus; eclipsed, by his

personal merit the birth and dignity of Theophilus, and formed a useful connection with a wealthy and charitable matron of Patras. Her spiritual

or carnal love embraced the young adventurer, whom she adopted as her

son. Danielis presented him with thirty slaves; and the produce of her bounty was expended in the support of his brothers, and the purchase

of some large estates in Macedonia. His gratitude or ambition still attached him to the service of Theophilus; and a lucky accident

recommended him to the notice of the court. A famous wrestler, in the train of the Bulgarian ambassadors, had defied, at the royal banquet, the boldest and most robust of the Greeks. The strength of Basil was

praised; he accepted the challenge; and the Barbarian champion was

overthrown at the first onset. A beautiful but vicious horse was condemned to be hamstrung: it was subdued by the dexterity and courage

of the servant of Theophilus; and his conqueror was promoted to an

honorable rank in the Imperial stables. But it was impossible to obtain the confidence of Michael, without complying with his vices; and his new favorite, the great chamberlain of the palace, was raised and supported by a disgraceful marriage with a royal concubine, and the dishonor of

his sister, who succeeded to her place. The public administration had been abandoned to the Cæsar Bardas, the brother and enemy of Theodora; but the arts of female influence persuaded Michael to hate and to fear

his uncle: he was drawn from Constantinople, under the pretence of a cretan expedition, and stabbed in the tent of audience, by the sword of the chamberlain, and in the presence of the emperor. About a month after this execution, Basil was invested with the title of Augustus and the

government of the empire. He supported this unequal association till his

influence was fortified by popular esteem. His life was endangered by the caprice of the emperor; and his dignity was profaned by a second colleague, who had rowed in the galleys. Yet the murder of his benefactor must be condemned as an act of ingratitude and treason; and the churches which he dedicated to the name of St. Michael were a poor and puerile expiation of his guilt.

the different ages of Basil the First may be compared with those of augustus. The situation of the Greek did not allow him in his earliest

youth to lead an army against his country; or to proscribe the nobles

of her sons; but his aspiring genius stooped to the arts of a slave;

he dissembled his ambition and even his virtues, and grasped, with the bloody hand of an assassin, the empire which he ruled with the wisdom and tenderness of a parent. A private citizen may feel his interest

repugnant to his duty; but it must be from a deficiency of sense or courage, that an absolute monarch can separate his happiness from his

glory, or his glory from the public welfare. The life or panegyric of basil has indeed been composed and published under the long reign of

his descendants; but even their stability on the throne may be justly ascribed to the superior merit of their ancestor. In his character,

his grandson Constantine has attempted to delineate a perfect image

of royalty: but that feeble prince, unless he had copied a real model, could not easily have soared so high above the level of his own conduct

or conceptions. But the most solid praise of Basil is drawn from the comparison of a ruined and a flourishing monarchy, that which he wrested from the dissolute Michael, and that which he bequeathed to the Mecedonian dynasty. The evils which had been sanctified by time and example, were corrected by his master-hand; and he revived, if not the

national spirit, at least the order and majesty of the Roman empire.

His application was indefatigable, his temper cool, his understanding

vigorous and decisive; and in his practice he observed that rare and

salutary moderation, which pursues each virtue, at an equal distance between the opposite vices. His military service had been confined to the palace: nor was the emperor endowed with the spirit or the talents

of a warrior. Yet under his reign the Roman arms were again formidable to the Barbarians. As soon as he had formed a new army by discipline and exercise, he appeared in person on the banks of the Euphrates, curbed the pride of the Saracens, and suppressed the dangerous though just

revolt of the Manichæans. His indignation against a rebel who had long eluded his pursuit, provoked him to wish and to pray, that, by the grace

of God, he might drive three arrows into the head of Chrysochir. That

odious head, which had been obtained by treason rather than by valor, was suspended from a tree, and thrice exposed to the dexterity of the

Imperial archer; a base revenge against the dead, more worthy of the times than of the character of Basil. But his principal merit was in the civil administration of the finances and of the laws. To replenish and exhausted treasury, it was proposed to resume the lavish and ill-placed

gifts of his predecessor: his prudence abated one moiety of the

restitution; and a sum of twelve hundred thousand pounds was instantly

procured to answer the most pressing demands, and to allow some space for the mature operations of economy. Among the various schemes for the

improvement of the revenue, a new mode was suggested of capitation, or tribute, which would have too much depended on the arbitrary discretion

of the assessors. A sufficient list of honest and able agents was

instantly produced by the minister; but on the more careful scrutiny of basil himself, only two could be found, who might be safely intrusted with such dangerous powers; but they justified his esteem by declining

his confidence. But the serious and successful diligence of the emperor established by degrees the equitable balance of property and payment,

of receipt and expenditure; a peculiar fund was appropriated to each

service; and a public method secured the interest of the prince and the property of the people. After reforming the luxury, he assigned two

patrimonial estates to supply the decent plenty, of the Imperial table: the contributions of the subject were reserved for his defence; and the

residue was employed in the embellishment of the capital and provinces. a taste for building, however costly, may deserve some praise and much excuse: from thence industry is fed, art is encouraged, and some object

is attained of public emolument or pleasure: the use of a road, an aqueduct, or a hospital, is obvious and solid; and the hundred churches that arose by the command of Basil were consecrated to the devotion of the age. In the character of a judge he was assiduous and impartial; desirous to save, but not afraid to strike: the oppressors of the people were severely chastised; but his personal foes, whom it might be unsafe to pardon, were condemned, after the loss of their eyes, to a life of

solitude and repentance. The change of language and manners demanded a

revision of the obsolete jurisprudence of Justinian: the voluminous body

of his Institutes, Pandects, Code, and Novels, was digested under forty titles, in the Greek idiom; and the Basilics, which were improved and completed by his son and grandson, must be referred to the original

genius of the founder of their race. This glorious reign was terminated by an accident in the chase. A furious stag entangled his horns in the belt of Basil, and raised him from his horse: he was rescued by an attendant, who cut the belt and slew the animal; but the fall, or the fever, exhausted the strength of the aged monarch, and he expired in the

palace amidst the tears of his family and people. If he struck off the

head of the faithful servant for presuming to draw his sword against his

sovereign, the pride of despotism, which had lain dormant in his life,

revived in the last moments of despair, when he no longer wanted or

valued the opinion of mankind.

Of the four sons of the emperor, Constantine died before his father, whose grief and credulity were amused by a flattering impostor and a

vain apparition. Stephen, the youngest, was content with the honors of a patriarch and a saint; both Leo and Alexander were alike invested with the purple, but the powers of government were solely exercised by the elder brother. The name of Leo the Sixth has been dignified with the title of \_philosopher\_; and the union of the prince and the sage, of the active and speculative virtues, would indeed constitute the perfection

of human nature. But the claims of Leo are far short of this ideal excellence. Did he reduce his passions and appetites under the dominion

of reason? His life was spent in the pomp of the palace, in the society

of his wives and concubines; and even the clemency which he showed, and the peace which he strove to preserve, must be imputed to the softness and indolence of his character. Did he subdue his prejudices, and those

of his subjects? His mind was tinged with the most puerile superstition; the influence of the clergy, and the errors of the people, were consecrated by his laws; and the oracles of Leo, which reveal, in

prophetic style, the fates of the empire, are founded on the arts of astrology and divination. If we still inquire the reason of his sage appellation, it can only be replied, that the son of Basil was less

ignorant than the greater part of his contemporaries in church and

state; that his education had been directed by the learned Photius; and that several books of profane and ecclesiastical science were composed by the pen, or in the name, of the Imperial \_philosopher\_. But the

reputation of his philosophy and religion was overthrown by a domestic

vice, the repetition of his nuptials. The primitive ideas of the merit and holiness of celibacy were preached by the monks and entertained by the Greeks. Marriage was allowed as a necessary means for the

propagation of mankind; after the death of either party, the survivor

might satisfy, by a \_second\_ union, the weakness or the strength of the flesh: but a \_third\_ marriage was censured as a state of legal fornication; and a \_fourth\_ was a sin or scandal as yet unknown to the christians of the East. In the beginning of his reign, Leo himself had abolished the state of concubines, and condemned, without annulling, third marriages: but his patriotism and love soon compelled him to

violate his own laws, and to incur the penance, which in a similar case he had imposed on his subjects. In his three first alliances, his

nuptial bed was unfruitful; the emperor required a female companion, and the empire a legitimate heir. The beautiful Zoe was introduced into the

palace as a concubine; and after a trial of her fecundity, and the birth

of Constantine, her lover declared his intention of legitimating the

mother and the child, by the celebration of his fourth nuptials. But the patriarch Nicholas refused his blessing: the Imperial baptism of the young prince was obtained by a promise of separation; and the contumacious husband of Zoe was excluded from the communion of the faithful. Neither the fear of exile, nor the desertion of his brethren,

nor the authority of the Latin church, nor the danger of failure or doubt in the succession to the empire, could bend the spirit of the

inflexible monk. After the death of Leo, he was recalled from exile to the civil and ecclesiastical administration; and the edict of union which was promulgated in the name of Constantine, condemned the future

scandal of fourth marriages, and left a tacit imputation on his own birth.

In the Greek language, \_purple\_ and \_porphyry\_ are the same word: and as the colors of nature are invariable, we may learn, that a dark deep

red was the Tyrian dye which stained the purple of the ancients. An apartment of the Byzantine palace was lined with porphyry: it was

reserved for the use of the pregnant empresses; and the royal birth of their children was expressed by the appellation of \_porphyrogenite\_, or born in the purple. Several of the Roman princes had been blessed with an heir; but this peculiar surname was first applied to Constantine the Seventh. His life and titular reign were of equal duration; but of fifty-four years, six had elapsed before his father's death; and the

son of Leo was ever the voluntary or reluctant subject of those who

oppressed his weakness or abused his confidence. His uncle Alexander, who had long been invested with the title of Augustus, was the first colleague and governor of the young prince: but in a rapid career of

vice and folly, the brother of Leo already emulated the reputation of

Michael; and when he was extinguished by a timely death, he entertained a project of castrating his nephew, and leaving the empire to a worthless favorite. The succeeding years of the minority of Constantine were occupied by his mother Zoe, and a succession or council of seven

regents, who pursued their interest, gratified their passions, abandoned the republic, supplanted each other, and finally vanished in the

presence of a soldier. From an obscure origin, Romanus Lecapenus had

raised himself to the command of the naval armies; and in the anarchy of the times, had deserved, or at least had obtained, the national esteem. with a victorious and affectionate fleet, he sailed from the mouth of the Danube into the harbor of Constantinople, and was hailed as the deliverer of the people, and the guardian of the prince. His supreme

office was at first defined by the new appellation of father of the emperor; but Romanus soon disdained the subordinate powers of a

minister, and assumed with the titles of Cæsar and Augustus, the full

independence of royalty, which he held near five-and-twenty years. His three sons, Christopher, Stephen, and Constantine were successively adorned with the same honors, and the lawful emperor was degraded from the first to the fifth rank in this college of princes. Yet, in the

preservation of his life and crown, he might still applaud his own fortune and the clemency of the usurper. The examples of ancient and

modern history would have excused the ambition of Romanus: the powers and the laws of the empire were in his hand; the spurious birth of constantine would have justified his exclusion; and the grave or the

monastery was open to receive the son of the concubine. But Lecapenus does not appear to have possessed either the virtues or the vices of a tyrant. The spirit and activity of his private life dissolved away in the sunshine of the throne; and in his licentious pleasures, he forgot the safety both of the republic and of his family. Of a mild and

religious character, he respected the sanctity of oaths, the innocence

of the youth, the memory of his parents, and the attachment of the

people. The studious temper and retirement of Constantine disarmed the

jealousy of power: his books and music, his pen and his pencil, were a constant source of amusement; and if he could improve a scanty allowance by the sale of his pictures, if their price was not enhanced by the name

of the artist, he was endowed with a personal talent, which few princes could employ in the hour of adversity.

the fall of Romanus was occasioned by his own vices and those of his children. After the decease of Christopher, his eldest son, the two

surviving brothers quarrelled with each other, and conspired against their father. At the hour of noon, when all strangers were regularly excluded from the palace, they entered his apartment with an armed force, and conveyed him, in the habit of a monk, to a small island in the Propontis, which was peopled by a religious community. The rumor

of this domestic revolution excited a tumult in the city; but

Porphyrogenitus alone, the true and lawful emperor, was the object

of the public care; and the sons of Lecapenus were taught, by tardy experience, that they had achieved a guilty and perilous enterprise for the benefit of their rival. Their sister Helena, the wife of constantine, revealed, or supposed, their treacherous design of assassinating her husband at the royal banquet. His loyal adherents were alarmed, and the two usurpers were prevented, seized, degraded from the purple, and embarked for the same island and monastery where their father had been so lately confined. Old Romanus met them on the beach with a sarcastic smile, and, after a just reproach of their folly and

ingratitude, presented his Imperial colleagues with an equal share

of his water and vegetable diet. In the fortieth year of his reign, constantine the Seventh obtained the possession of the Eastern world, which he ruled or seemed to rule, near fifteen years. But he was devoid

of that energy of character which could emerge into a life of action and

glory; and the studies, which had amused and dignified his leisure, were incompatible with the serious duties of a sovereign. The emperor

neglected the practice to instruct his son Romanus in the theory of

government; while he indulged the habits of intemperance and sloth, he dropped the reins of the administration into the hands of Helena his wife; and, in the shifting scene of her favor and caprice, each minister was regretted in the promotion of a more worthless successor. Yet the birth and misfortunes of Constantine had endeared him to the Greeks; they excused his failings; they respected his learning, his innocence, and charity, his love of justice; and the ceremony of his funeral was

mourned with the unfeigned tears of his subjects. The body, according to ancient custom, lay in state in the vestibule of the palace; and the civil and military officers, the patricians, the senate, and the clergy approached in due order to adore and kiss the inanimate corpse of their

sovereign. Before the procession moved towards the Imperial sepulchre, a herald proclaimed this awful admonition: "Arise, O king of the world, and obey the summons of the King of kings!"

the death of Constantine was imputed to poison; and his son Romanus, who derived that name from his maternal grandfather, ascended the throne of constantinople. A prince who, at the age of twenty, could be suspected

of anticipating his inheritance, must have been already lost in the

public esteem; yet Romanus was rather weak than wicked; and the largest

share of the guilt was transferred to his wife, Theophano, a woman

of base origin masculine spirit, and flagitious manners. The sense of

personal glory and public happiness, the true pleasures of royalty, were unknown to the son of Constantine; and, while the two brothers,

Nicephorus and Leo, triumphed over the Saracens, the hours which the emperor owed to his people were consumed in strenuous idleness. In the

morning he visited the circus; at noon he feasted the senators; the

greater part of the afternoon he spent in the \_sphristerium\_, or tennis-court, the only theatre of his victories; from thence he passed

over to the Asiatic side of the Bosphorus, hunted and killed four wild boars of the largest size, and returned to the palace, proudly content with the labors of the day. In strength and beauty he was conspicuous above his equals: tall and straight as a young cypress, his complexion was fair and florid, his eyes sparkling, his shoulders broad, his nose

long and aquiline. Yet even these perfections were insufficient to fix the love of Theophano; and, after a reign of four years, she mingled for her husband the same deadly draught which she had composed for his father.

by his marriage with this impious woman, Romanus the younger left two

sons, Basil the Second and Constantine the Ninth, and two daughters, theophano and Anne. The eldest sister was given to Otho the Second, emperor of the West; the younger became the wife of Wolodomir, great duke and apostle of Russia, and by the marriage of her granddaughter with Henry the First, king of France, the blood of the Macedonians, and

perhaps of the Arsacides, still flows in the veins of the Bourbon line. after the death of her husband, the empress aspired to reign in the name

of her sons, the elder of whom was five, and the younger only two,

years of age; but she soon felt the instability of a throne which was

supported by a female who could not be esteemed, and two infants who could not be feared. Theophano looked around for a protector, and threw

herself into the arms of the bravest soldier; her heart was capacious; but the deformity of the new favorite rendered it more than probable that interest was the motive and excuse of her love. Nicephorus Phocus

united, in the popular opinion, the double merit of a hero and a saint.

In the former character, his qualifications were genuine and splendid: the descendant of a race illustrious by their military exploits, he

had displayed in every station and in every province the courage of a soldier and the conduct of a chief; and Nicephorus was crowned with

recent laurels, from the important conquest of the Isle of Crete. His

religion was of a more ambiguous cast; and his hair-cloth, his fasts,

his pious idiom, and his wish to retire from the business of the world, were a convenient mask for his dark and dangerous ambition. Yet he

imposed on a holy patriarch, by whose influence, and by a decree of the

senate, he was intrusted, during the minority of the young princes, with the absolute and independent command of the Oriental armies. As soon as he had secured the leaders and the troops, he boldly marched to constantinople, trampled on his enemies, avowed his correspondence with the empress, and without degrading her sons, assumed, with the title of augustus, the preeminence of rank and the plenitude of power. But his

marriage with Theophano was refused by the same patriarch who had placed the crown on his head: by his second nuptials he incurred a year of canonical penance; a bar of spiritual affinity was opposed to their celebration; and some evasion and perjury were required to silence the

scruples of the clergy and people. The popularity of the emperor was

lost in the purple: in a reign of six years he provoked the hatred

of strangers and subjects: and the hypocrisy and avarice of the first

Nicephorus were revived in his successor. Hypocrisy I shall never

justify or palliate; but I will dare to observe, that the odious vice of avarice is of all others most hastily arraigned, and most unmercifully condemned. In a private citizen, our judgment seldom expects an accurate

scrutiny into his fortune and expense; and in a steward of the public treasure, frugality is always a virtue, and the increase of taxes too

often an indispensable duty. In the use of his patrimony, the generous temper of Nicephorus had been proved; and the revenue was strictly applied to the service of the state: each spring the emperor marched

in person against the Saracens; and every Roman might compute the employment of his taxes in triumphs, conquests, and the security of the eastern barrier.

chapter XLVIII: Succession And Characters Of The Greek Emperors.--Part IV.

among the warriors who promoted his elevation, and served under his

standard, a noble and valiant Armenian had deserved and obtained the most eminent rewards. The stature of John Zimisces was below the

ordinary standard: but this diminutive body was endowed with strength, beauty, and the soul of a hero. By the jealousy of the emperor's brother, he was degraded from the office of general of the East, to that

of director of the posts, and his murmurs were chastised with disgrace and exile. But Zimisces was ranked among the numerous lovers of the empress: on her intercession, he was permitted to reside at Chalcedon,

in the neighborhood of the capital: her bounty was repaid in his clandestine and amorous visits to the palace; and Theophano consented, with alacrity, to the death of an ugly and penurious husband. Some bold and trusty conspirators were concealed in her most private chambers: in the darkness of a winter night, Zimisces, with his principal companions, embarked in a small boat, traversed the Bosphorus, landed at the palace

stairs, and silently ascended a ladder of ropes, which was cast down by the female attendants. Neither his own suspicions, nor the warnings

of his friends, nor the tardy aid of his brother Leo, nor the fortress which he had erected in the palace, could protect Nicephorus from a domestic foe, at whose voice every door was open to the assassins. As

he slept on a bear-skin on the ground, he was roused by their noisy

intrusion, and thirty daggers glittered before his eyes. It is doubtful whether Zimisces imbrued his hands in the blood of his sovereign; but he enjoyed the inhuman spectacle of revenge. The murder was protracted by

insult and cruelty: and as soon as the head of Nicephorus was shown from the window, the tumult was hushed, and the Armenian was emperor of the east. On the day of his coronation, he was stopped on the threshold of

St. Sophia, by the intrepid patriarch; who charged his conscience with the deed of treason and blood; and required, as a sign of repentance, that he should separate himself from his more criminal associate. This

sally of apostolic zeal was not offensive to the prince, since he could

neither love nor trust a woman who had repeatedly violated the most

sacred obligations; and Theophano, instead of sharing his imperial fortune, was dismissed with ignominy from his bed and palace. In their

last interview, she displayed a frantic and impotent rage; accused the ingratitude of her lover; assaulted, with words and blows, her son basil, as he stood silent and submissive in the presence of a

superior colleague; and avowed her own prostitution in proclaiming the

illegitimacy of his birth. The public indignation was appeased by her exile, and the punishment of the meaner accomplices: the death of an

unpopular prince was forgiven; and the guilt of Zimisces was forgotten

in the splendor of his virtues. Perhaps his profusion was less useful to the state than the avarice of Nicephorus; but his gentle and generous behavior delighted all who approached his person; and it was only in the

paths of victory that he trod in the footsteps of his predecessor. The

greatest part of his reign was employed in the camp and the field:

his personal valor and activity were signalized on the Danube and the tigris, the ancient boundaries of the Roman world; and by his double triumph over the Russians and the Saracens, he deserved the titles of

savior of the empire, and conqueror of the East. In his last return from

Syria, he observed that the most fruitful lands of his new provinces were possessed by the eunuchs. "And is it for them," he exclaimed, with

honest indignation, "that we have fought and conquered? Is it for them that we shed our blood, and exhaust the treasures of our people?" The complaint was reëchoed to the palace, and the death of Zimisces is

strongly marked with the suspicion of poison.

Under this usurpation, or regency, of twelve years, the two lawful emperors, Basil and Constantine, had silently grown to the age of

manhood. Their tender years had been incapable of dominion: the

respectful modesty of their attendance and salutation was due to the age and merit of their guardians; the childless ambition of those guardians

had no temptation to violate their right of succession: their patrimony was ably and faithfully administered; and the premature death of

Zimisces was a loss, rather than a benefit, to the sons of Romanus. their want of experience detained them twelve years longer the obscure and voluntary pupils of a minister, who extended his reign by persuading them to indulge the pleasures of youth, and to disdain the labors of

government. In this silken web, the weakness of Constantine was forever entangled; but his elder brother felt the impulse of genius and the desire of action; he frowned, and the minister was no more. Basil was the acknowledged sovereign of Constantinople and the provinces

of Europe; but Asia was oppressed by two veteran generals, Phocas and

Sclerus, who, alternately friends and enemies, subjects and rebels,

maintained their independence, and labored to emulate the example of

successful usurpation. Against these domestic enemies the son of Romanus first drew his sword, and they trembled in the presence of a lawful and

high-spirited prince. The first, in the front of battle, was thrown from

his horse, by the stroke of poison, or an arrow; the second, who had been twice loaded with chains, and twice invested with the purple, was desirous of ending in peace the small remainder of his days. As the aged suppliant approached the throne, with dim eyes and faltering steps,

leaning on his two attendants, the emperor exclaimed, in the insolence

of youth and power, "And is this the man who has so long been the object

of our terror?" After he had confirmed his own authority, and the peace

of the empire, the trophies of Nicephorus and Zimisces would not

suffer their royal pupil to sleep in the palace. His long and frequent expeditions against the Saracens were rather glorious than useful to the empire; but the final destruction of the kingdom of Bulgaria appears,

since the time of Belisarius, the most important triumph of the Roman arms. Yet, instead of applauding their victorious prince, his subjects detested the rapacious and rigid avarice of Basil; and in the imperfect

narrative of his exploits, we can only discern the courage, patience, and ferociousness of a soldier. A vicious education, which could not

subdue his spirit, had clouded his mind; he was ignorant of every

science; and the remembrance of his learned and feeble grandsire might encourage his real or affected contempt of laws and lawyers, of artists and arts. Of such a character, in such an age, superstition took a firm and lasting possession; after the first license of his youth, Basil the

Second devoted his life, in the palace and the camp, to the penance of a hermit, wore the monastic habit under his robes and armor, observed a

vow of continence, and imposed on his appetites a perpetual abstinence from wine and flesh. In the sixty-eighth year of his age, his martial

spirit urged him to embark in person ferso the clergy and the curse of the people. After his decease, his brother Constantine enjoyed, about three years, the power, ersrather the pleasures, of royalty; and his

only care was the settlement of the succession. He had enjoyed sixty-six

years the title of Augustus; and the reign of the two brothers is the

longest, and most obscure, of the Byzantine history.

a lineal succession of five emperors, in a period of one hundred and

sixty years, had attached the loyalty of the Greeks to the Macedonian dynasty, which had been thrice respected by the usurpers of their power. after the death of Constantine the Ninth, the last male of the royal

race, a new and broken scene presents itself, and the accumulated years

of twelve emperors do not equal the space of his single reign. His elder brother had preferred his private chastity to the public interest, and constantine himself had only three daughters; Eudocia, who took the

veil, and Zoe and Theodora, who were preserved till a mature age in a

state of ignorance and virginity. When their marriage was discussed in the council of their dying father, the cold erspious Theodora refused to give an heir to the empire, but her sister Zoe presented herself a willing victim at the altar. Romanus Argyrus, a patrician of a graceful

person and fair reputation, was chosen for her husband, and, on his declining that blindness or death was the second alternative. The

motive of his reluctance was conjugal affection but his faithful wife

sacrificed her own happiness to his safety and greatness; and her entrance into a monastery removed the only bar to the Imperial nuptials. after the decease of Constantine, the sceptre devolved to Romanus the Third; but his labors at the indulgence of pleasure. Her favorite chamberlain was a handsome Paphlagonian of the name of Michael, whose first trade had been that of a money-changer; and Romanus, either from

gratitude, connived at their criminal intercourse, accepted a slight assurance of their innocence. But Zoe soon justified the Roman

maxim, that every adulteress is capable of poisoning her husband; and the death of Romanus was instantly followed by the scandalous marriage and elevation of Michael the Fourth. The expectations of Zoe were,

however, disappointed: instead of a vigorous and grateful lover, she

had placed in her bed a miserable wretch, whose health and reason were impaired by epileptic fits, and whose conscience was tormented by despair and remorse. The most skilful physicians of the mind and body were summoned to his aid; and his hopes were amused by frequent

pilgrimages to the baths, and to the tombs of the most popular saints; the monks applauded his penance, and, except restitution, (but to whom

should he have restored?) Michael sought every method of expiating his

guilt. While he groaned and prayed in sackcloth and ashes, his brother, the eunuch John, smiled at his remorse, and enjoyed the harvest of a crime of which himself was the secret and most guilty author. His administration was only the art of satiating his avarice, and Zoe became a captive in the palace of her fathers, and in the hands of her slaves. when he perceived the irretrievable decline of his brother's health,

he introduced his nephew, another Michael, who derived his surname of calaphates from his father's occupation in the careening of vessels: at the command of the eunuch, Zoe adopted for her son the son of a

mechanic; and this fictitious heir was invested with the title and

purple of the Cæsars, in the presence of the senate and clergy. So feeble was the character of Zoe, that she was oppressed by the liberty and power which she recovered by the death of the Paphlagonian; and at the end of four days, she placed the crown on the head of Michael the fifth, who had protested, with tears and oaths, that he should ever

reign the first and most obedient of her subjects. The only act of his

short reign was his base ingratitude to his benefactors, the eunuch and the empress. The disgrace of the former was pleasing to the public: but the murmurs, and at length the clamors, of Constantinople deplored the exile of Zoe, the daughter of so many emperors; her vices were forgotten, and Michael was taught, that there is a period in which the

patience of the tamest slaves rises into fury and revenge. The citizens

of every degree assembled in a formidable tumult which lasted three days; they besieged the palace, forced the gates, recalled their

\_mothers\_, Zoe from her prison, Theodora from her monastery, and condemned the son of Calaphates to the loss of his eyes or of his life. for the first time the Greeks beheld with surprise the two royal sisters

seated on the same throne, presiding in the senate, and giving audience to the ambassadors of the nations. But the singular union subsisted no

more than two months; the two sovereigns, their tempers, interests, and adherents, were secretly hostile to each other; and as Theodora was

still averse to marriage, the indefatigable Zoe, at the age of sixty, consented, for the public good, to sustain the embraces of a third

husband, and the censures of the Greek church. His name and number were Constantine the Tenth, and the epithet of \_Monomachus\_, the single combatant, must have been expressive of his valor and victory in some

public or private quarrel. But his health was broken by the tortures

of the gout, and his dissolute reign was spent in the alternative

of sickness and pleasure. A fair and noble widow had accompanied constantine in his exile to the Isle of Lesbos, and Sclerena gloried in the appellation of his mistress. After his marriage and elevation,

she was invested with the title and pomp of \_Augusta\_, and occupied a contiguous apartment in the palace. The lawful consort (such was the delicacy or corruption of Zoe) consented to this strange and scandalous

partition; and the emperor appeared in public between his wife and his concubine. He survived them both; but the last measures of Constantine to change the order of succession were prevented by the more vigilant friends of Theodora; and after his decease, she resumed, with the

general consent, the possession of her inheritance. In her name, and by the influence of four eunuchs, the Eastern world was peaceably governed about nineteen months; and as they wished to prolong their dominion, they persuaded the aged princess to nominate for her successor

Michael the Sixth. The surname of \_Stratioticus\_ declares his military

profession; but the crazy and decrepit veteran could only see with the eyes, and execute with the hands, of his ministers. Whilst he ascended the throne, Theodora sunk into the grave; the last of the Macedonian

or Basilian dynasty. I have hastily reviewed, and gladly dismiss, this

shameful and destructive period of twenty-eight years, in which the

Greeks, degraded below the common level of servitude, were transferred

like a herd of cattle by the choice or caprice of two impotent females.

from this night of slavery, a ray of freedom, or at least of spirit, begins to emerge: the Greeks either preserved or revived the use of

surnames, which perpetuate the fame of hereditary virtue: and we now discern the rise, succession, and alliances of the last dynasties of constantinople and Trebizond. The \_Comneni\_, who upheld for a while the fate of the sinking empire, assumed the honor of a Roman origin: but the family had been long since transported from Italy to Asia. Their

patrimonial estate was situate in the district of Castamona, in the

neighborhood of the Euxine; and one of their chiefs, who had already entered the paths of ambition, revisited with affection, perhaps with

regret, the modest though honorable dwelling of his fathers. The first

of their line was the illustrious Manuel, who in the reign of the second basil, contributed by war and treaty to appease the troubles of the east: he left, in a tender age, two sons, Isaac and John, whom, with the consciousness of desert, he bequeathed to the gratitude and favor of his

sovereign. The noble youths were carefully trained in the learning of the monastery, the arts of the palace, and the exercises of the camp: and from the domestic service of the guards, they were rapidly promoted to the command of provinces and armies. Their fraternal union doubled the force and reputation of the Comneni, and their ancient nobility was

illustrated by the marriage of the two brothers, with a captive princess

of Bulgaria, and the daughter of a patrician, who had obtained the name

of \_Charon\_ from the number of enemies whom he had sent to the infernal

shades. The soldiers had served with reluctant loyalty a series of effeminate masters; the elevation of Michael the Sixth was a personal

insult to the more deserving generals; and their discontent was inflamed by the parsimony of the emperor and the insolence of the eunuchs. They

secretly assembled in the sanctuary of St. Sophia, and the votes of the

military synod would have been unanimous in favor of the old and valiant catacalon, if the patriotism or modesty of the veteran had not suggested the importance of birth as well as merit in the choice of a sovereign.

Isaac Comnenus was approved by general consent, and the associates

separated without delay to meet in the plains of Phrygia at the head

of their respective squadrons and detachments. The cause of Michael was defended in a single battle by the mercenaries of the Imperial guard, who were aliens to the public interest, and animated only by a principle

of honor and gratitude. After their defeat, the fears of the emperor

solicited a treaty, which was almost accepted by the moderation of the Comnenian. But the former was betrayed by his ambassadors, and the

latter was prevented by his friends. The solitary Michael submitted to the voice of the people; the patriarch annulled their oath of allegiance; and as he shaved the head of the royal monk, congratulated

his beneficial exchange of temporal royalty for the kingdom of heaven; an exchange, however, which the priest, on his own account, would

probably have declined. By the hands of the same patriarch, Isaac comnenus was solemnly crowned; the sword which he inscribed on his coins

might be an offensive symbol, if it implied his title by conquest; but this sword would have been drawn against the foreign and domestic enemies of the state. The decline of his health and vigor suspended the operation of active virtue; and the prospect of approaching death determined him to interpose some moments between life and eternity. But

instead of leaving the empire as the marriage portion of his daughter,

his reason and inclination concurred in the preference of his brother

John, a soldier, a patriot, and the father of five sons, the future

pillars of an hereditary succession. His first modest reluctance might be the natural dictates of discretion and tenderness, but his obstinate and successful perseverance, however it may dazzle with the show of

virtue, must be censured as a criminal desertion of his duty, and a rare

offence against his family and country. The purple which he had refused was accepted by Constantine Ducas, a friend of the Comnenian house, and whose noble birth was adorned with the experience and reputation

of civil policy. In the monastic habit, Isaac recovered his health, and survived two years his voluntary abdication. At the command of his abbot, he observed the rule of St. Basil, and executed the most servile

offices of the convent: but his latent vanity was gratified by the frequent and respectful visits of the reigning monarch, who revered in

his person the character of a benefactor and a saint.

If Constantine the Eleventh were indeed the subject most worthy of empire, we must pity the debasement of the age and nation in which he was chosen. In the labor of puerile declamations he sought, without

obtaining, the crown of eloquence, more precious, in his opinion, than that of Rome; and in the subordinate functions of a judge, he forgot the duties of a sovereign and a warrior. Far from imitating the patriotic

indifference of the authors of his greatness, Ducas was anxious only to

secure, at the expense of the republic, the power and prosperity of his children. His three sons, Michael the Seventh, Andronicus the First, and constantine the Twelfth, were invested, in a tender age, with the equal title of Augustus; and the succession was speedily opened by their father's death. His widow, Eudocia, was intrusted with the administration; but experience had taught the jealousy of the dying

monarch to protect his sons from the danger of her second nuptials; and

her solemn engagement, attested by the principal senators, was deposited

in the hands of the patriarch. Before the end of seven months, the wants

of Eudocia, or those of the state, called aloud for the male virtues of a soldier; and her heart had already chosen Romanus Diogenes, whom she

raised from the scaffold to the throne. The discovery of a treasonable attempt had exposed him to the severity of the laws: his beauty and

valor absolved him in the eyes of the empress; and Romanus, from a mild exile, was recalled on the second day to the command of the Oriental armies. Her royal choice was yet unknown to the public; and the promise which would have betrayed her falsehood and levity, was stolen by a dexterous emissary from the ambition of the patriarch. Xiphilin at first alleged the sanctity of oaths, and the sacred nature of a trust; but a whisper, that his brother was the future emperor, relaxed his scruples, and forced him to confess that the public safety was the supreme law. He

resigned the important paper; and when his hopes were confounded by the

nomination of Romanus, he could no longer regain his security, retract

his declarations, nor oppose the second nuptials of the empress. Yet a murmur was heard in the palace; and the Barbarian guards had raised their battle-axes in the cause of the house of Lucas, till the young

princes were soothed by the tears of their mother and the solemn assurances of the fidelity of their guardian, who filled the Imperial

station with dignity and honor. Hereafter I shall relate his valiant, but unsuccessful, efforts to resist the progress of the Turks. His defeat and captivity inflicted a deadly wound on the Byzantine monarchy

of the East; and after he was released from the chains of the sultan, he

vainly sought his wife and his subjects. His wife had been thrust into a monastery, and the subjects of Romanus had embraced the rigid maxim of the civil law, that a prisoner in the hands of the enemy is deprived, as by the stroke of death, of all the public and private rights of a citizen. In the general consternation, the Cæsar John asserted the

indefeasible right of his three nephews: Constantinople listened to

his voice: and the Turkish captive was proclaimed in the capital, and

received on the frontier, as an enemy of the republic. Romanus was not

more fortunate in domestic than in foreign war: the loss of two battles compelled him to yield, on the assurance of fair and honorable treatment; but his enemies were devoid of faith or humanity; and, after the cruel extinction of his sight, his wounds were left to bleed and corrupt, till in a few days he was relieved from a state of misery.

Under the triple reign of the house of Ducas, the two younger brothers were reduced to the vain honors of the purple; but the eldest, the

pusillanimous Michael, was incapable of sustaining the Roman sceptre; and his surname of \_Parapinaces\_ denotes the reproach which he shared with an avaricious favorite, who enhanced the price, and diminished the

measure, of wheat. In the school of Psellus, and after the example of

his mother, the son of Eudocia made some proficiency in philosophy and

rhetoric; but his character was degraded, rather than ennobled, by the

virtues of a monk and the learning of a sophist. Strong in the contempt

of their sovereign and their own esteem, two generals, at the head of the European and Asiatic legions, assumed the purple at Adrianople and

Nice. Their revolt was in the same months; they bore the same name of

Nicephorus; but the two candidates were distinguished by the surnames

of Bryennius and Botaniates; the former in the maturity of wisdom and courage, the latter conspicuous only by the memory of his past exploits. while Botaniates advanced with cautious and dilatory steps, his active competitor stood in arms before the gates of Constantinople. The name

of Bryennius was illustrious; his cause was popular; but his licentious troops could not be restrained from burning and pillaging a suburb; and the people, who would have hailed the rebel, rejected and repulsed the incendiary of his country. This change of the public opinion was favorable to Botaniates, who at length, with an army of Turks, approached the shores of Chalcedon. A formal invitation, in the name

of the patriarch, the synod, and the senate, was circulated through the

streets of Constantinople; and the general assembly, in the dome of

St. Sophia, debated, with order and calmness, on the choice of their

sovereign. The guards of Michael would have dispersed this unarmed

multitude; but the feeble emperor, applauding his own moderation and clemency, resigned the ensigns of royalty, and was rewarded with the

monastic habit, and the title of Archbishop of Ephesus. He left a son, a Constantine, born and educated in the purple; and a daughter of the

house of Ducas illustrated the blood, and confirmed the succession, of the Comnenian dynasty.

John Comnenus, the brother of the emperor Isaac, survived in peace and dignity his generous refusal of the sceptre. By his wife Anne, a woman

of masculine spirit and a policy, he left eight children: the three daughters multiplied the Comnenian alliance with the noblest of the

Greeks: of the five sons, Manuel was stopped by a premature death; Isaac and Alexius restored the Imperial greatness of their house, which was enjoyed without toil or danger by the two younger brethren, Adrian and

Nicephorus. Alexius, the third and most illustrious of the brothers was endowed by nature with the choicest gifts both of mind and body: they were cultivated by a liberal education, and exercised in the school of

obedience and adversity. The youth was dismissed from the perils of the turkish war, by the paternal care of the emperor Romanus: but the mother

of the Comneni, with her aspiring face, was accused of treason, and banished, by the sons of Ducas, to an island in the Propontis. The two brothers soon emerged into favor and action, fought by each other's side against the rebels and Barbarians, and adhered to the emperor Michael, till he was deserted by the world and by himself. In his first interview with Botaniates, "Prince," said Alexius with a noble frankness, "my duty

rendered me your enemy; the decrees of God and of the people have made

me your subject. Judge of my future loyalty by my past opposition." The

successor of Michael entertained him with esteem and confidence: his

valor was employed against three rebels, who disturbed the peace of the empire, or at least of the emperors. Ursel, Bryennius, and Basilacius, were formidable by their numerous forces and military fame: they were

successively vanquished in the field, and led in chains to the foot of the throne; and whatever treatment they might receive from a timid and cruel court, they applauded the clemency, as well as the courage, of their conqueror. But the loyalty of the Comneni was soon tainted by fear and suspicion; nor is it easy to settle between a subject and a despot, the debt of gratitude, which the former is tempted to claim by a revolt, and the latter to discharge by an executioner. The refusal of Alexius to

march against a fourth rebel, the husband of his sister, destroyed the merit or memory of his past services: the favorites of Botaniates

provoked the ambition which they apprehended and accused; and the

retreat of the two brothers might be justified by the defence of their

life and liberty. The women of the family were deposited in a sanctuary,

respected by tyrants: the men, mounted on horseback, sallied from the city, and erected the standard of civil war. The soldiers who had been

gradually assembled in the capital and the neighborhood, were devoted to the cause of a victorious and injured leader: the ties of common

interest and domestic alliance secured the attachment of the house of ducas; and the generous dispute of the Comneni was terminated by the decisive resolution of Isaac, who was the first to invest his younger brother with the name and ensigns of royalty. They returned to constantinople, to threaten rather than besiege that impregnable fortress; but the fidelity of the guards was corrupted; a gate was

surprised, and the fleet was occupied by the active courage of George

Palæologus, who fought against his father, without foreseeing that he

labored for his posterity. Alexius ascended the throne; and his aged competitor disappeared in a monastery. An army of various nations was

gratified with the pillage of the city; but the public disorders were expiated by the tears and fasts of the Comneni, who submitted to every

penance compatible with the possession of the empire.

the life of the emperor Alexius has been delineated by a favorite daughter, who was inspired by a tender regard for his person and a laudable zeal to perpetuate his virtues. Conscious of the just

suspicions of her readers, the princess Anna Comnena repeatedly

protests, that, besides her personal knowledge, she had searched the discourses and writings of the most respectable veterans: and after an

interval of thirty years, forgotten by, and forgetful of, the world, her

mournful solitude was inaccessible to hope and fear; and that truth, the naked perfect truth, was more dear and sacred than the memory of her

parent. Yet, instead of the simplicity of style and narrative which wins

our belief, an elaborate affectation of rhetoric and science betrays

in every page the vanity of a female author. The genuine character of alexius is lost in a vague constellation of virtues; and the perpetual

strain of panegyric and apology awakens our jealousy, to question the

veracity of the historian and the merit of the hero. We cannot, however,

refuse her judicious and important remark, that the disorders of the times were the misfortune and the glory of Alexius; and that every calamity which can afflict a declining empire was accumulated on his

reign by the justice of Heaven and the vices of his predecessors. In the east, the victorious Turks had spread, from Persia to the Hellespont, the reign of the Koran and the Crescent: the West was invaded by the adventurous valor of the Normans; and, in the moments of peace, the danube poured forth new swarms, who had gained, in the science of war, what they had lost in the ferociousness of manners. The sea was not less

hostile than the land; and while the frontiers were assaulted by an open enemy, the palace was distracted with secret treason and conspiracy. On a sudden, the banner of the Cross was displayed by the Latins; Europe was precipitated on Asia; and Constantinople had almost been swept away by this impetuous deluge. In the tempest, Alexius steered the Imperial

vessel with dexterity and courage. At the head of his armies, he was bold in action, skilful in stratagem, patient of fatigue, ready to

improve his advantages, and rising from his defeats with inexhaustible

vigor. The discipline of the camp was revived, and a new generation

of men and soldiers was created by the example and precepts of their

leader. In his intercourse with the Latins, Alexius was patient and artful: his discerning eye pervaded the new system of an unknown world and I shall hereafter describe the superior policy with which

he balanced the interests and passions of the champions of the first crusade. In a long reign of thirty-seven years, he subdued and pardoned the envy of his equals: the laws of public and private order were

restored: the arts of wealth and science were cultivated: the limits of the empire were enlarged in Europe and Asia; and the Comnenian sceptre was transmitted to his children of the third and fourth generation. Yet the difficulties of the times betrayed some defects in his character; and have exposed his memory to some just or ungenerous reproach. The

reader may possibly smile at the lavish praise which his daughter

so often bestows on a flying hero: the weakness or prudence of his

situation might be mistaken for a want of personal courage; and his

political arts are branded by the Latins with the names of deceit and dissimulation. The increase of the male and female branches of his family adorned the throne, and secured the succession; but their

princely luxury and pride offended the patricians, exhausted the

revenue, and insulted the misery of the people. Anna is a faithful witness that his happiness was destroyed, and his health was broken, by the cares of a public life; the patience of Constantinople was fatigued by the length and severity of his reign; and before Alexius expired, he

had lost the love and reverence of his subjects. The clergy could not forgive his application of the sacred riches to the defence of the

state; but they applauded his theological learning and ardent zeal for the orthodox faith, which he defended with his tongue, his pen, and his

sword. His character was degraded by the superstition of the Greeks; and the same inconsistent principle of human nature enjoined the emperor to found a hospital for the poor and infirm, and to direct the execution

of a heretic, who was burned alive in the square of St. Sophia. Even the sincerity of his moral and religious virtues was suspected by the

persons who had passed their lives in his familiar confidence. In

his last hours, when he was pressed by his wife Irene to alter the

succession, he raised his head, and breathed a pious ejaculation on the vanity of this world. The indignant reply of the empress may be

inscribed as an epitaph on his tomb, "You die, as you have lived--a

Hypocrite!"

It was the wish of Irene to supplant the eldest of her surviving sons,

in favor of her daughter the princess Anne whose philosophy would not

have refused the weight of a diadem. But the order of male succession was asserted by the friends of their country; the lawful heir drew the

royal signet from the finger of his insensible or conscious father and the empire obeyed the master of the palace. Anna Comnena was stimulated by ambition and revenge to conspire against the life of her brother, and when the design was prevented by the fears or scruples of her husband,

she passionately exclaimed that nature had mistaken the two sexes, and

had endowed Bryennius with the soul of a woman. The two sons of Alexius,

John and Isaac, maintained the fraternal concord, the hereditary virtue

of their race, and the younger brother was content with the title of

\_Sebastocrator\_, which approached the dignity, without sharing the

power, of the emperor. In the same person the claims of primogeniture and merit were fortunately united; his swarthy complexion, harsh features, and diminutive stature, had suggested the ironical surname of calo-Johannes, or John the Handsome, which his grateful subjects more

seriously applied to the beauties of his mind. After the discovery of

her treason, the life and fortune of Anne were justly forfeited to the

laws. Her life was spared by the clemency of the emperor; but he visited the pomp and treasures of her palace, and bestowed the rich confiscation

on the most deserving of his friends. That respectable friend Axuch, a slave of Turkish extraction, presumed to decline the gift, and to

intercede for the criminal: his generous master applauded and imitated the virtue of his favorite, and the reproach or complaint of an injured brother was the only chastisement of the guilty princess. After this example of clemency, the remainder of his reign was never disturbed by conspiracy or rebellion: feared by his nobles, beloved by his people,

John was never reduced to the painful necessity of punishing, or even

of pardoning, his personal enemies. During his government of twenty-five

years, the penalty of death was abolished in the Roman empire, a law of

mercy most delightful to the humane theorist, but of which the practice,

in a large and vicious community, is seldom consistent with the

public safety. Severe to himself, indulgent to others, chaste, frugal, abstemious, the philosophic Marcus would not have disdained the artless

virtues of his successor, derived from his heart, and not borrowed from the schools. He despised and moderated the stately magnificence of the byzantine court, so oppressive to the people, so contemptible to the eye

of reason. Under such a prince, innocence had nothing to fear, and merit

had every thing to hope; and, without assuming the tyrannic office of a censor, he introduced a gradual though visible reformation in the

public and private manners of Constantinople. The only defect of this accomplished character was the frailty of noble minds, the love of arms and military glory. Yet the frequent expeditions of John the Handsome

may be justified, at least in their principle, by the necessity of

repelling the Turks from the Hellespont and the Bosphorus. The sultan of

Iconium was confined to his capital, the Barbarians were driven to the

mountains, and the maritime provinces of Asia enjoyed the transient blessings of their deliverance. From Constantinople to Antioch and aleppo, he repeatedly marched at the head of a victorious army, and

in the sieges and battles of this holy war, his Latin allies were astonished by the superior spirit and prowess of a Greek. As he began to indulge the ambitious hope of restoring the ancient limits of the empire, as he revolved in his mind, the Euphrates and Tigris, the dominion of Syria, and the conquest of Jerusalem, the thread of his life and of the public felicity was broken by a singular accident. He hunted the wild boar in the valley of Anazarbus, and had fixed his javelin in the body of the furious animal; but in the struggle a poisoned arrow dropped from his quiver, and a slight wound in his hand, which produced a mortification, was fatal to the best and greatest of the Comnenian

princes.

chapter XLVIII: Succession And Characters Of The Greek Emperors.--Part VI.

a premature death had swept away the two eldest sons of John the

Handsome; of the two survivors, Isaac and Manuel, his judgment or affection preferred the younger; and the choice of their dying prince was ratified by the soldiers, who had applauded the valor of his favorite in the Turkish war The faithful Axuch hastened to the capital,

secured the person of Isaac in honorable confinement, and purchased, with a gift of two hundred pounds of silver, the leading ecclesiastics

of St. Sophia, who possessed a decisive voice in the consecration of an emperor. With his veteran and affectionate troops, Manuel soon visited constantinople; his brother acquiesced in the title of Sebastocrator;

his subjects admired the lofty stature and martial graces of their new

sovereign, and listened with credulity to the flattering promise, that

he blended the wisdom of age with the activity and vigor of youth. By the experience of his government, they were taught, that he emulated the

spirit, and shared the talents, of his father whose social virtues were buried in the grave. A reign of thirty seven years is filled by a

perpetual though various warfare against the Turks, the Christians, and the hordes of the wilderness beyond the Danube. The arms of Manuel were exercised on Mount Taurus, in the plains of Hungary, on the coast of

Italy and Egypt, and on the seas of Sicily and Greece: the influence

of his negotiations extended from Jerusalem to Rome and Russia; and the byzantine monarchy, for a while, became an object of respect or terror to the powers of Asia and Europe. Educated in the silk and purple of the east, Manuel possessed the iron temper of a soldier, which cannot easily be paralleled, except in the lives of Richard the First of England, and

of Charles the Twelfth of Sweden. Such was his strength and exercise in arms, that Raymond, surnamed the Hercules of Antioch, was incapable

of wielding the lance and buckler of the Greek emperor. In a famous tournament, he entered the lists on a fiery courser, and overturned in

his first career two of the stoutest of the Italian knights. The first

in the charge, the last in the retreat, his friends and his enemies alike trembled, the former for his safety, and the latter for their own. after posting an ambuscade in a wood, he rode forwards in search of some

perilous adventure, accompanied only by his brother and the faithful axuch, who refused to desert their sovereign. Eighteen horsemen, after a

short combat, fled before them: but the numbers of the enemy increased; the march of the reënforcement was tardy and fearful, and Manuel, without receiving a wound, cut his way through a squadron of five

hundred Turks. In a battle against the Hungarians, impatient of the

slowness of his troops, he snatched a standard from the head of the column, and was the first, almost alone, who passed a bridge that

separated him from the enemy. In the same country, after transporting

his army beyond the Save, he sent back the boats, with an order under

pain of death, to their commander, that he should leave him to conquer

or die on that hostile land. In the siege of Corfu, towing after him a captive galley, the emperor stood aloft on the poop, opposing against the volleys of darts and stones, a large buckler and a flowing sail;

nor could he have escaped inevitable death, had not the Sicilian admiral enjoined his archers to respect the person of a hero. In one day, he is

said to have slain above forty of the Barbarians with his own hand; he

returned to the camp, dragging along four Turkish prisoners, whom he had tied to the rings of his saddle: he was ever the foremost to provoke or to accept a single combat; and the \_gigantic\_ champions, who encountered

his arm, were transpierced by the lance, or cut asunder by the sword,

of the invincible Manuel. The story of his exploits, which appear as a model or a copy of the romances of chivalry, may induce a reasonable

suspicion of the veracity of the Greeks: I will not, to vindicate their credit, endanger my own: yet I may observe, that, in the long series

of their annals, Manuel is the only prince who has been the subject of

similar exaggeration. With the valor of a soldier, he did no unite the

skill or prudence of a general; his victories were not productive of any

permanent or useful conquest; and his Turkish laurels were blasted

in his last unfortunate campaign, in which he lost his army in the

mountains of Pisidia, and owed his deliverance to the generosity of the

sultan. But the most singular feature in the character of Manuel, is the contrast and vicissitude of labor and sloth, of hardiness and effeminacy. In war he seemed ignorant of peace, in peace he appeared

incapable of war. In the field he slept in the sun or in the snow, tired

in the longest marches the strength of his men and horses, and shared with a smile the abstinence or diet of the camp. No sooner did he return to Constantinople, than he resigned himself to the arts and pleasures of a life of luxury: the expense of his dress, his table, and his palace,

surpassed the measure of his predecessors, and whole summer days were

idly wasted in the delicious isles of the Propontis, in the incestuous

love of his niece Theodora. The double cost of a warlike and dissolute

prince exhausted the revenue, and multiplied the taxes; and Manuel, in the distress of his last Turkish campaign, endured a bitter reproach from the mouth of a desperate soldier. As he quenched his thirst, he complained that the water of a fountain was mingled with Christian blood. "It is not the first time," exclaimed a voice from the crowd,

"that you have drank, O emperor, the blood of your Christian subjects."

Manuel Comnenus was twice married, to the virtuous Bertha or Irene

of Germany, and to the beauteous Maria, a French or Latin princess of antioch. The only daughter of his first wife was destined for Bela, a

Hungarian prince, who was educated at Constantinople under the name of alexius; and the consummation of their nuptials might have transferred the Roman sceptre to a race of free and warlike Barbarians. But as

soon as Maria of Antioch had given a son and heir to the empire, the

presumptive rights of Bela were abolished, and he was deprived of

his promised bride; but the Hungarian prince resumed his name and the

kingdom of his fathers, and displayed such virtues as might excite the

regret and envy of the Greeks. The son of Maria was named Alexius; and at the age of ten years he ascended the Byzantine throne, after his father's decease had closed the glories of the Comnenian line.

the fraternal concord of the two sons of the great Alexius had been

sometimes clouded by an opposition of interest and passion. By ambition,

Isaac the Sebastocrator was excited to flight and rebellion, from whence

he was reclaimed by the firmness and clemency of John the Handsome. The errors of Isaac, the father of the emperors of Trebizond, were short and

venial; but John, the elder of his sons, renounced forever his religion.

Provoked by a real or imaginary insult of his uncle, he escaped from the

Roman to the Turkish camp: his apostasy was rewarded with the sultan's daughter, the title of Chelebi, or noble, and the inheritance of a

princely estate; and in the fifteenth century, Mahomet the Second boasted of his Imperial descent from the Comnenian family. Andronicus, the younger brother of John, son of Isaac, and grandson of Alexius comnenus, is one of the most conspicuous characters of the age; and his

genuine adventures might form the subject of a very singular romance. To

justify the choice of three ladies of royal birth, it is incumbent on me to observe, that their fortunate lover was cast in the best proportions

of strength and beauty; and that the want of the softer graces was

supplied by a manly countenance, a lofty stature, athletic muscles, and the air and deportment of a soldier. The preservation, in his old age,

of health and vigor, was the reward of temperance and exercise. A piece

of bread and a draught of water was often his sole and evening repast; and if he tasted of a wild boar or a stag, which he had roasted with his

own hands, it was the well-earned fruit of a laborious chase. Dexterous

in arms, he was ignorant of fear; his persuasive eloquence could bend to every situation and character of life, his style, though not his

practice, was fashioned by the example of St. Paul; and, in every deed

of mischief, he had a heart to resolve, a head to contrive, and a

hand to execute. In his youth, after the death of the emperor John, he followed the retreat of the Roman army; but, in the march through Asia

Minor, design or accident tempted him to wander in the mountains: the

hunter was encompassed by the Turkish huntsmen, and he remained some time a reluctant or willing captive in the power of the sultan. His

virtues and vices recommended him to the favor of his cousin: he shared the perils and the pleasures of Manuel; and while the emperor lived

in public incest with his niece Theodora, the affections of her sister eudocia were seduced and enjoyed by Andronicus. Above the decencies of

her sex and rank, she gloried in the name of his concubine; and both the palace and the camp could witness that she slept, or watched, in the arms of her lover. She accompanied him to his military command of cilicia, the first scene of his valor and imprudence. He pressed, with active ardor, the siege of Mopsuestia: the day was employed in the boldest attacks; but the night was wasted in song and dance; and a band

of Greek comedians formed the choicest part of his retinue. Andronicus was surprised by the sally of a vigilant foe; but, while his troops fled

in disorder, his invincible lance transpierced the thickest ranks of the Armenians. On his return to the Imperial camp in Macedonia, he was

received by Manuel with public smiles and a private reproof; but the duchies of Naissus, Braniseba, and Castoria, were the reward or consolation of the unsuccessful general. Eudocia still attended his

motions: at midnight, their tent was suddenly attacked by her angry brothers, impatient to expiate her infamy in his blood: his daring

spirit refused her advice, and the disguise of a female habit; and, boldly starting from his couch, he drew his sword, and cut his way through the numerous assassins. It was here that he first betrayed his

ingratitude and treachery: he engaged in a treasonable correspondence with the king of Hungary and the German emperor; approached the royal tent at a suspicious hour with a drawn sword, and under the mask of a

Latin soldier, avowed an intention of revenge against a mortal foe; and imprudently praised the fleetness of his horse as an instrument of flight and safety. The monarch dissembled his suspicions; but, after the close of the campaign, Andronicus was arrested and strictly confined in a tower of the palace of Constantinople.

In this prison he was left about twelve years; a most painful restraint, from which the thirst of action and pleasure perpetually urged him to escape. Alone and pensive, he perceived some broken bricks in a corner

of the chamber, and gradually widened the passage, till he had explored a dark and forgotten recess. Into this hole he conveyed himself, and the remains of his provisions, replacing the bricks in their former

position, and erasing with care the footsteps of his retreat. At the

hour of the customary visit, his guards were amazed by the silence and solitude of the prison, and reported, with shame and fear, his

incomprehensible flight. The gates of the palace and city were instantly

shut: the strictest orders were despatched into the provinces, for the

recovery of the fugitive; and his wife, on the suspicion of a pious act, was basely imprisoned in the same tower. At the dead of night she beheld a spectre; she recognized her husband: they shared their provisions; and a son was the fruit of these stolen interviews, which alleviated the tediousness of their confinement. In the custody of a woman, the

vigilance of the keepers was insensibly relaxed; and the captive had accomplished his real escape, when he was discovered, brought back to constantinople, and loaded with a double chain. At length he found the

moment, and the means, of his deliverance. A boy, his domestic servant,

intoxicated the guards, and obtained in wax the impression of the keys. by the diligence of his friends, a similar key, with a bundle of ropes, was introduced into the prison, in the bottom of a hogshead. Andronicus employed, with industry and courage, the instruments of his safety,

unlocked the doors, descended from the tower, concealed himself all day among the bushes, and scaled in the night the garden-wall of the palace. a boat was stationed for his reception: he visited his own house, embraced his children, cast away his chain, mounted a fleet horse, and directed his rapid course towards the banks of the Danube. At Anchialus

in Thrace, an intrepid friend supplied him with horses and money: he

passed the river, traversed with speed the desert of Moldavia and the carpathian hills, and had almost reached the town of Halicz, in the

Polish Russia, when he was intercepted by a party of Walachians, who

resolved to convey their important captive to Constantinople. His

presence of mind again extricated him from danger. Under the pretence of

sickness, he dismounted in the night, and was allowed to step aside from the troop: he planted in the ground his long staff, clothed it with his cap and upper garment; and, stealing into the wood, left a phantom to amuse, for some time, the eyes of the Walachians. From Halicz he was

honorably conducted to Kiow, the residence of the great duke: the

subtle Greek soon obtained the esteem and confidence of Ieroslaus; his character could assume the manners of every climate; and the Barbarians applauded his strength and courage in the chase of the elks and bears

of the forest. In this northern region he deserved the forgiveness

of Manuel, who solicited the Russian prince to join his arms in the

invasion of Hungary. The influence of Andronicus achieved this important

service: his private treaty was signed with a promise of fidelity on one

side, and of oblivion on the other; and he marched, at the head of the

Russian cavalry, from the Borysthenes to the Danube. In his resentment

Manuel had ever sympathized with the martial and dissolute character of

his cousin; and his free pardon was sealed in the assault of Zemlin, in which he was second, and second only, to the valor of the emperor.

No sooner was the exile restored to freedom and his country, than his ambition revived, at first to his own, and at length to the public,

misfortune. A daughter of Manuel was a feeble bar to the succession of the more deserving males of the Comnenian blood; her future marriage with the prince of Hungary was repugnant to the hopes or prejudices of the princes and nobles. But when an oath of allegiance was required to the presumptive heir, Andronicus alone asserted the honor of the Roman

name, declined the unlawful engagement, and boldly protested against the adoption of a stranger. His patriotism was offensive to the emperor, but

he spoke the sentiments of the people, and was removed from the royal

presence by an honorable banishment, a second command of the Cilician frontier, with the absolute disposal of the revenues of Cyprus. In this station the Armenians again exercised his courage and exposed his

negligence; and the same rebel, who baffled all his operations, was

unhorsed, and almost slain by the vigor of his lance. But Andronicus

soon discovered a more easy and pleasing conquest, the beautiful

Philippa, sister of the empress Maria, and daughter of Raymond of

Poitou, the Latin prince of Antioch. For her sake he deserted his

station, and wasted the summer in balls and tournaments: to his love

she sacrificed her innocence, her reputation, and the offer of an advantageous marriage. But the resentment of Manuel for this domestic affront interrupted his pleasures: Andronicus left the indiscreet

princess to weep and to repent; and, with a band of desperate adventurers, undertook the pilgrimage of Jerusalem. His birth, his

martial renown, and professions of zeal, announced him as the champion

of the Cross: he soon captivated both the clergy and the king; and the

Greek prince was invested with the lordship of Berytus, on the coast of

Phnicia. In his neighborhood resided a young and handsome queen, of his

own nation and family, great-granddaughter of the emperor Alexis, and widow of Baldwin the Third, king of Jerusalem. She visited and loved her

kinsman. Theodora was the third victim of his amorous seduction; and her

shame was more public and scandalous than that of her predecessors. The emperor still thirsted for revenge; and his subjects and allies of the

Syrian frontier were repeatedly pressed to seize the person, and put out the eyes, of the fugitive. In Palestine he was no longer safe; but the tender Theodora revealed his danger, and accompanied his flight. The

queen of Jerusalem was exposed to the East, his obsequious concubine; and two illegitimate children were the living monuments of her weakness. damascus was his first refuge; and, in the characters of the great

Noureddin and his servant Saladin, the superstitious Greek might learn to revere the virtues of the Mussulmans. As the friend of Noureddin he

visited, most probably, Bagdad, and the courts of Persia; and, after a long circuit round the Caspian Sea and the mountains of Georgia, he finally settled among the Turks of Asia Minor, the hereditary enemies

of his country. The sultan of Colonia afforded a hospitable retreat to andronicus, his mistress, and his band of outlaws: the debt of gratitude was paid by frequent inroads in the Roman province of Trebizond; and

he seldom returned without an ample harvest of spoil and of Christian captives. In the story of his adventures, he was fond of comparing

himself to David, who escaped, by a long exile, the snares of the wicked. But the royal prophet (he presumed to add) was content to lurk

on the borders of Judæa, to slay an Amalekite, and to threaten, in his

miserable state, the life of the avaricious Nabal. The excursions of the comnenian prince had a wider range; and he had spread over the Eastern world the glory of his name and religion. By a sentence of the Greek church, the licentious rover had been separated from the faithful; but even this excommunication may prove, that he never abjured the

profession of Christianity.

His vigilance had eluded or repelled the open and secret persecution

of the emperor; but he was at length insnared by the captivity of his female companion. The governor of Trebizond succeeded in his attempt to surprise the person of Theodora: the queen of Jerusalem and her two children were sent to Constantinople, and their loss imbittered the tedious solitude of banishment. The fugitive implored and obtained a final pardon, with leave to throw himself at the feet of his sovereign, who was satisfied with the submission of this haughty spirit. Prostrate

on the ground, he deplored with tears and groans the guilt of his past

rebellion; nor would he presume to arise, unless some faithful subject would drag him to the foot of the throne, by an iron chain with which he

had secretly encircled his neck. This extraordinary penance excited the wonder and pity of the assembly; his sins were forgiven by the church and state; but the just suspicion of Manuel fixed his residence at a distance from the court, at Oenoe, a town of Pontus, surrounded with

rich vineyards, and situate on the coast of the Euxine. The death of

Manuel, and the disorders of the minority, soon opened the fairest field to his ambition. The emperor was a boy of twelve or fourteen years of age, without vigor, or wisdom, or experience: his mother, the empress

Mary, abandoned her person and government to a favorite of the Comnenian

name; and his sister, another Mary, whose husband, an Italian, was decorated with the title of Cæsar, excited a conspiracy, and at length an insurrection, against her odious step-mother. The provinces were forgotten, the capital was in flames, and a century of peace and order was overthrown in the vice and weakness of a few months. A civil war was

kindled in Constantinople; the two factions fought a bloody battle in the square of the palace, and the rebels sustained a regular siege in the cathedral of St. Sophia. The patriarch labored with honest zeal to

heal the wounds of the republic, the most respectable patriots called aloud for a guardian and avenger, and every tongue repeated the praise

of the talents and even the virtues of Andronicus. In his retirement,

he affected to revolve the solemn duties of his oath: "If the safety or

honor of the Imperial family be threatened, I will reveal and oppose the mischief to the utmost of my power." His correspondence with the

patriarch and patricians was seasoned with apt quotations from the

Psalms of David and the epistles of St. Paul; and he patiently waited till he was called to her deliverance by the voice of his country. In

his march from Oenoe to Constantinople, his slender train insensibly

swelled to a crowd and an army: his professions of religion and loyalty were mistaken for the language of his heart; and the simplicity of a foreign dress, which showed to advantage his majestic stature, displayed a lively image of his poverty and exile. All opposition sunk before him;

he reached the straits of the Thracian Bosphorus; the Byzantine navy

sailed from the harbor to receive and transport the savior of the empire: the torrent was loud and irresistible, and the insects who had basked in the sunshine of royal favor disappeared at the blast of the

storm. It was the first care of Andronicus to occupy the palace, to

salute the emperor, to confine his mother, to punish her minister, and to restore the public order and tranquillity. He then visited the

sepulchre of Manuel: the spectators were ordered to stand aloof, but as

he bowed in the attitude of prayer, they heard, or thought they heard, a

murmur of triumph or revenge: "I no longer fear thee, my old enemy, who

hast driven me a vagabond to every climate of the earth. Thou art safety deposited under a seven-fold dome, from whence thou canst never arise till the signal of the last trumpet. It is now my turn, and speedily will I trample on thy ashes and thy posterity." From his subsequent tyranny we may impute such feelings to the man and the moment; but it

is not extremely probable that he gave an articulate sound to his secret thoughts. In the first months of his administration, his designs were

veiled by a fair semblance of hypocrisy, which could delude only the eyes of the multitude; the coronation of Alexius was performed with due

solemnity, and his perfidious guardian, holding in his hands the body and blood of Christ, most fervently declared that he lived, and was

ready to die, for the service of his beloved pupil. But his numerous adherents were instructed to maintain, that the sinking empire must

perish in the hands of a child, that the Romans could only be saved by a

veteran prince, bold in arms, skilful in policy, and taught to reign by the long experience of fortune and mankind; and that it was the duty of every citizen to force the reluctant modesty of Andronicus to undertake the burden of the public care. The young emperor was himself constrained to join his voice to the general acclamation, and to solicit the association of a colleague, who instantly degraded him from the supreme

rank, secluded his person, and verified the rash declaration of the

patriarch, that Alexius might be considered as dead, so soon as he was committed to the custody of his guardian. But his death was preceded by the imprisonment and execution of his mother. After blackening her

reputation, and inflaming against her the passions of the multitude, the tyrant accused and tried the empress for a treasonable correspondence with the king of Hungary. His own son, a youth of honor and humanity, avowed his abhorrence of this flagitious act, and three of the judges

had the merit of preferring their conscience to their safety: but the

obsequious tribunal, without requiring any reproof, or hearing any defence, condemned the widow of Manuel; and her unfortunate son

subscribed the sentence of her death. Maria was strangled, her corpse was buried in the sea, and her memory was wounded by the insult most

offensive to female vanity, a false and ugly representation of her beauteous form. The fate of her son was not long deferred: he was

strangled with a bowstring; and the tyrant, insensible to pity or

remorse, after surveying the body of the innocent youth, struck it

rudely with his foot: "Thy father," he cried, "was a \_knave\_, thy mother a \_whore\_, and thyself a \_fool\_!"

the Roman sceptre, the reward of his crimes, was held by Andronicus about three years and a half as the guardian or sovereign of the empire.

His government exhibited a singular contrast of vice and virtue. When

he listened to his passions, he was the scourge; when he consulted his

reason, the father, of his people. In the exercise of private justice,

he was equitable and rigorous: a shameful and pernicious venality was abolished, and the offices were filled with the most deserving candidates, by a prince who had sense to choose, and severity to punish.

He prohibited the inhuman practice of pillaging the goods and persons of

shipwrecked mariners; the provinces, so long the objects of oppression

or neglect, revived in prosperity and plenty; and millions applauded the distant blessings of his reign, while he was cursed by the witnesses of

his daily cruelties. The ancient proverb, That bloodthirsty is the man who returns from banishment to power, had been applied, with too much truth, to 'Marius and Tiberius; and was now verified for the third time

in the life of Andronicus. His memory was stored with a black list

of the enemies and rivals, who had traduced his merit, opposed his

greatness, or insulted his misfortunes; and the only comfort of

his exile was the sacred hope and promise of revenge. The necessary extinction of the young emperor and his mother imposed the fatal

obligation of extirpating the friends, who hated, and might punish, the assassin; and the repetition of murder rendered him less willing, and

less able, to forgive. A horrid narrative of the victims whom he

sacrificed by poison or the sword, by the sea or the flames, would be

less expressive of his cruelty than the appellation of the halcyon days, which was applied to a rare and bloodless week of repose: the tyrant

strove to transfer, on the laws and the judges, some portion of his

guilt; but the mask was fallen, and his subjects could no longer mistake the true author of their calamities. The noblest of the Greeks,

more especially those who, by descent or alliance, might dispute the comnenian inheritance, escaped from the monster's den: Nice and Prusa,

Sicily or Cyprus, were their places of refuge; and as their flight was already criminal, they aggravated their offence by an open revolt, and the Imperial title. Yet Andronicus resisted the daggers and swords of

his most formidable enemies: Nice and Prusa were reduced and chastised: the Sicilians were content with the sack of Thessalonica; and the distance of Cyprus was not more propitious to the rebel than to the tyrant. His throne was subverted by a rival without merit, and a people without arms. Isaac Angelus, a descendant in the female line from the

great Alexius, was marked as a victim by the prudence or superstition

of the emperor. In a moment of despair, Angelus defended his life and

liberty, slew the executioner, and fled to the church of St. Sophia. The

sanctuary was insensibly filled with a curious and mournful crowd, who,

in his fate, prognosticated their own. But their lamentations were soon turned to curses, and their curses to threats: they dared to ask, "Why do we fear? why do we obey? We are many, and he is one: our patience is the only bond of our slavery." With the dawn of day the city burst into a general sedition, the prisons were thrown open, the coldest and most

servile were roused to the defence of their country, and Isaac, the

second of the name, was raised from the sanctuary to the throne.

Unconscious of his danger, the tyrant was absent; withdrawn from the toils of state, in the delicious islands of the Propontis. He had contracted an indecent marriage with Alice, or Agnes, daughter of Lewis the Seventh, of France, and relict of the unfortunate Alexius; and his

society, more suitable to his temper than to his age, was composed of a young wife and a favorite concubine. On the first alarm, he rushed to Constantinople, impatient for the blood of the guilty; but he was astonished by the silence of the palace, the tumult of the city, and the

general desertion of mankind. Andronicus proclaimed a free pardon to his

subjects; they neither desired, nor would grant, forgiveness; he offered to resign the crown to his son Manuel; but the virtues of the son could

not expiate his father's crimes. The sea was still open for his retreat; but the news of the revolution had flown along the coast; when fear had ceased, obedience was no more: the Imperial galley was pursued and taken by an armed brigantine; and the tyrant was dragged to the presence of

Isaac Angelus, loaded with fetters, and a long chain round his neck. His eloquence, and the tears of his female companions, pleaded in vain for

his life; but, instead of the decencies of a legal execution, the new

monarch abandoned the criminal to the numerous sufferers, whom he had deprived of a father, a husband, or a friend. His teeth and hair, an eye and a hand, were torn from him, as a poor compensation for their loss: and a short respite was allowed, that he might feel the bitterness

of death. Astride on a camel, without any danger of a rescue, he was carried through the city, and the basest of the populace rejoiced to trample on the fallen majesty of their prince. After a thousand blows and outrages, Andronicus was hung by the feet, between two pillars, that

supported the statues of a wolf and an a sow; and every hand that could

reach the public enemy, inflicted on his body some mark of ingenious or brutal cruelty, till two friendly or furious Italians, plunging their

swords into his body, released him from all human punishment. In this

long and painful agony, "Lord, have mercy upon me!" and "Why will you bruise a broken reed?" were the only words that escaped from his mouth.

Our hatred for the tyrant is lost in pity for the man; nor can we blame

his pusillanimous resignation, since a Greek Christian was no longer

master of his life.

I have been tempted to expatiate on the extraordinary character and adventures of Andronicus; but I shall here terminate the series of the

Greek emperors since the time of Heraclius. The branches that sprang from the Comnenian trunk had insensibly withered; and the male line was continued only in the posterity of Andronicus himself, who, in the

public confusion, usurped the sovereignty of Trebizond, so obscure in

history, and so famous in romance. A private citizen of Philadelphia, constantine Angelus, had emerged to wealth and honors, by his

marriage with a daughter of the emperor Alexius. His son Andronicus

is conspicuous only by his cowardice. His grandson Isaac punished and

succeeded the tyrant; but he was dethroned by his own vices, and the ambition of his brother; and their discord introduced the Latins to the conquest of Constantinople, the first great period in the fall of the eastern empire.

If we compute the number and duration of the reigns, it will be found, that a period of six hundred years is filled by sixty emperors,

including in the Augustan list some female sovereigns; and deducting

some usurpers who were never acknowledged in the capital, and some

princes who did not live to possess their inheritance. The average

proportion will allow ten years for each emperor, far below the chronological rule of Sir Isaac Newton, who, from the experience of

more recent and regular monarchies, has defined about eighteen or twenty

years as the term of an ordinary reign. The Byzantine empire was

most tranquil and prosperous when it could acquiesce in hereditary

succession; five dynasties, the Heraclian, Isaurian, Amorian, Basilian, and Comnenian families, enjoyed and transmitted the royal patrimony during their respective series of five, four, three, six, and four

generations; several princes number the years of their reign with those

of their infancy; and Constantine the Seventh and his two grandsons

occupy the space of an entire century. But in the intervals of the byzantine dynasties, the succession is rapid and broken, and the name

of a successful candidate is speedily erased by a more fortunate competitor. Many were the paths that led to the summit of royalty: the fabric of rebellion was overthrown by the stroke of conspiracy, or

undermined by the silent arts of intrigue: the favorites of the soldiers

or people, of the senate or clergy, of the women and eunuchs, were alternately clothed with the purple: the means of their elevation were base, and their end was often contemptible or tragic. A being of the

nature of man, endowed with the same faculties, but with a longer

measure of existence, would cast down a smile of pity and contempt on the crimes and follies of human ambition, so eager, in a narrow span, to grasp at a precarious and short-lived enjoyment. It is thus that the experience of history exalts and enlarges the horizon of our

intellectual view. In a composition of some days, in a perusal of some

hours, six hundred years have rolled away, and the duration of a life or

reign is contracted to a fleeting moment: the grave is ever beside the throne: the success of a criminal is almost instantly followed by the

loss of his prize and our immortal reason survives and disdains the

sixty phantoms of kings who have passed before our eyes, and faintly dwell on our remembrance. The observation that, in every age and climate, ambition has prevailed with the same commanding energy, may abate the surprise of a philosopher: but while he condemns the vanity,

he may search the motive, of this universal desire to obtain and hold the sceptre of dominion. To the greater part of the Byzantine series, we cannot reasonably ascribe the love of fame and of mankind. The virtue alone of John Comnenus was beneficent and pure: the most illustrious of the princes, who precede or follow that respectable name, have trod with some dexterity and vigor the crooked and bloody paths of a selfish

policy: in scrutinizing the imperfect characters of Leo the Isaurian, basil the First, and Alexius Comnenus, of Theophilus, the second Basil, and Manuel Comnenus, our esteem and censure are almost equally balanced; and the remainder of the Imperial crowd could only desire and expect to be forgotten by posterity. Was personal happiness the aim and object of their ambition? I shall not descant on the vulgar topics of the misery

of kings; but I may surely observe, that their condition, of all others,

is the most pregnant with fear, and the least susceptible of hope. For these opposite passions, a larger scope was allowed in the revolutions

of antiquity, than in the smooth and solid temper of the modern world, which cannot easily repeat either the triumph of Alexander or the fall

of Darius. But the peculiar infelicity of the Byzantine princes exposed them to domestic perils, without affording any lively promise of foreign conquest. From the pinnacle of greatness, Andronicus was precipitated by a death more cruel and shameful than that of the malefactor; but the most glorious of his predecessors had much more to dread from their subjects than to hope from their enemies. The army was licentious without spirit, the nation turbulent without freedom: the Barbarians of the East and West pressed on the monarchy, and the loss of the provinces was terminated by the final servitude of the capital.

the entire series of Roman emperors, from the first of the Cæsars to the

last of the Constantines, extends above fifteen hundred years: and the term of dominion, unbroken by foreign conquest, surpasses the measure of the ancient monarchies; the Assyrians or Medes, the successors of Cyrus,

or those of Alexander.

end Of Vol. IV.

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\*\*\* START OF THIS PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK DECLINE AND FALL OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE \*\*\*

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HISTORY OF THE DECLINE AND FALL OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE

edward Gibbon, Esq.

with notes by the Rev. H. H. Milman

Vol. 5

1782 (Written), 1845 (Revised)

chapter XLIX: Conquest Of Italy By The Franks.--Part I.

Introduction, Worship, And Persecution Of Images.--Revolt Of

Italy And Rome.--Temporal Dominion Of The Popes.--Conquest

Of Italy By The Franks.--Establishment Of Images.--Character

And Coronation Of Charlemagne.--Restoration And Decay Of The

Roman Empire In The West.--Independence Of Italy.--

Constitution Of The Germanic Body.

In the connection of the church and state, I have considered the former as subservient only, and relative, to the latter; a salutary maxim,

if in fact, as well as in narrative, it had ever been held sacred. The

Oriental philosophy of the Gnostics, the dark abyss of predestination and grace, and the strange transformation of the Eucharist from the sign to the substance of Christ's body, I have purposely abandoned to the curiosity of speculative divines. But I have reviewed, with diligence and pleasure, the objects of ecclesiastical history, by which the decline and fall of the Roman empire were materially affected, the

propagation of Christianity, the constitution of the Catholic church, the ruin of Paganism, and the sects that arose from the mysterious controversies concerning the Trinity and incarnation. At the head

of this class, we may justly rank the worship of images, so fiercely disputed in the eighth and ninth centuries; since a question of popular

superstition produced the revolt of Italy, the temporal power of the

popes, and the restoration of the Roman empire in the West.

the primitive Christians were possessed with an unconquerable repugnance to the use and abuse of images; and this aversion may be ascribed to their descent from the Jews, and their enmity to the Greeks. The Mosaic

law had severely proscribed all representations of the Deity; and that

precept was firmly established in the principles and practice of the chosen people. The wit of the Christian apologists was pointed against the foolish idolaters, who bowed before the workmanship of their own

hands; the images of brass and marble, which, had \_they\_ been endowed with sense and motion, should have started rather from the pedestal to adore the creative powers of the artist. Perhaps some recent and

imperfect converts of the Gnostic tribe might crown the statues of christ and St. Paul with the profane honors which they paid to those of aristotle and Pythagoras; but the public religion of the Catholics was uniformly simple and spiritual; and the first notice of the use of

pictures is in the censure of the council of Illiberis, three hundred

years after the Christian æra. Under the successors of Constantine, in the peace and luxury of the triumphant church, the more prudent bishops condescended to indulge a visible superstition, for the benefit of the multitude; and, after the ruin of Paganism, they were no longer

restrained by the apprehension of an odious parallel. The first

introduction of a symbolic worship was in the veneration of the cross, and of relics. The saints and martyrs, whose intercession was implored, were seated on the right hand if God; but the gracious and often

supernatural favors, which, in the popular belief, were showered round their tomb, conveyed an unquestionable sanction of the devout pilgrims, who visited, and touched, and kissed these lifeless remains, the

memorials of their merits and sufferings. But a memorial, more

interesting than the skull or the sandals of a departed worthy, is the faithful copy of his person and features, delineated by the arts of

painting or sculpture. In every age, such copies, so congenial to human feelings, have been cherished by the zeal of private friendship, or

public esteem: the images of the Roman emperors were adored with civil, and almost religious, honors; a reverence less ostentatious, but more

sincere, was applied to the statues of sages and patriots; and these

profane virtues, these splendid sins, disappeared in the presence of the

holy men, who had died for their celestial and everlasting country. at first, the experiment was made with caution and scruple; and the

venerable pictures were discreetly allowed to instruct the ignorant, to awaken the cold, and to gratify the prejudices of the heathen

proselytes. By a slow though inevitable progression, the honors of the original were transferred to the copy: the devout Christian prayed before the image of a saint; and the Pagan rites of genuflection,

luminaries, and incense, again stole into the Catholic church. The

scruples of reason, or piety, were silenced by the strong evidence of

visions and miracles; and the pictures which speak, and move, and bleed,

must be endowed with a divine energy, and may be considered as the

proper objects of religious adoration. The most audacious pencil might tremble in the rash attempt of defining, by forms and colors, the

infinite Spirit, the eternal Father, who pervades and sustains the

universe. But the superstitious mind was more easily reconciled to paint and to worship the angels, and, above all, the Son of God, under the

human shape, which, on earth, they have condescended to assume. The

second person of the Trinity had been clothed with a real and mortal body; but that body had ascended into heaven: and, had not some

similitude been presented to the eyes of his disciples, the spiritual worship of Christ might have been obliterated by the visible relics and

representations of the saints. A similar indulgence was requisite and

propitious for the Virgin Mary: the place of her burial was unknown; and the assumption of her soul and body into heaven was adopted by the credulity of the Greeks and Latins. The use, and even the worship, of

images was firmly established before the end of the sixth century: they were fondly cherished by the warm imagination of the Greeks and asiatics: the Pantheon and Vatican were adorned with the emblems of a new superstition; but this semblance of idolatry was more coldly entertained by the rude Barbarians and the Arian clergy of the West. The bolder forms of sculpture, in brass or marble, which peopled the temples

of antiquity, were offensive to the fancy or conscience of the Christian

Greeks: and a smooth surface of colors has ever been esteemed a more decent and harmless mode of imitation.

the merit and effect of a copy depends on its resemblance with the

original; but the primitive Christians were ignorant of the genuine features of the Son of God, his mother, and his apostles: the statue of christ at Paneas in Palestine was more probably that of some temporal

savior; the Gnostics and their profane monuments were reprobated; and the fancy of the Christian artists could only be guided by the clandestine imitation of some heathen model. In this distress, a bold and dexterous invention assured at once the likeness of the image and the innocence of the worship. A new super structure of fable was raised

on the popular basis of a Syrian legend, on the correspondence of Christ and Abgarus, so famous in the days of Eusebius, so reluctantly deserted by our modern advocates. The bishop of Cæsarea records the epistle, but

he most strangely forgets the picture of Christ; the perfect impression

of his face on a linen, with which he gratified the faith of the royal

stranger who had invoked his healing power, and offered the strong city

of Edessa to protect him against the malice of the Jews. The ignorance

of the primitive church is explained by the long imprisonment of the

image in a niche of the wall, from whence, after an oblivion of five

hundred years, it was released by some prudent bishop, and seasonably

presented to the devotion of the times. Its first and most glorious exploit was the deliverance of the city from the arms of Chosroes

Nushirvan; and it was soon revered as a pledge of the divine promise, that Edessa should never be taken by a foreign enemy. It is true,

indeed, that the text of Procopius ascribes the double deliverance

of Edessa to the wealth and valor of her citizens, who purchased the absence and repelled the assaults of the Persian monarch. He was

ignorant, the profane historian, of the testimony which he is compelled to deliver in the ecclesiastical page of Evagrius, that the Palladium was exposed on the rampart, and that the water which had been sprinkled

on the holy face, instead of quenching, added new fuel to the flames

of the besieged. After this important service, the image of Edessa was

preserved with respect and gratitude; and if the Armenians rejected the

legend, the more credulous Greeks adored the similitude, which was not the work of any mortal pencil, but the immediate creation of the divine

original. The style and sentiments of a Byzantine hymn will declare how far their worship was removed from the grossest idolatry. "How can we with mortal eyes contemplate this image, whose celestial splendor the host of heaven presumes not to behold? He who dwells in heaven, condescends this day to visit us by his venerable image; He who is

seated on the cherubim, visits us this day by a picture, which the father has delineated with his immaculate hand, which he has formed in an ineffable manner, and which we sanctify by adoring it with fear and

love." Before the end of the sixth century, these images, \_made without

hands\_, (in Greek it is a single word, ) were propagated in the camps and cities of the Eastern empire: they were the objects of worship, and the instruments of miracles; and in the hour of danger or tumult, their

venerable presence could revive the hope, rekindle the courage, or

repress the fury, of the Roman legions. Of these pictures, the far

greater part, the transcripts of a human pencil, could only pretend to a secondary likeness and improper title: but there were some of higher descent, who derived their resemblance from an immediate contact with the original, endowed, for that purpose, with a miraculous and prolific

virtue. The most ambitious aspired from a filial to a fraternal relation with the image of Edessa; and such is the \_veronica\_ of Rome, or Spain,

or Jerusalem, which Christ in his agony and bloody sweat applied to

his face, and delivered to a holy matron. The fruitful precedent was

speedily transferred to the Virgin Mary, and the saints and martyrs. In the church of Diospolis, in Palestine, the features of the Mother of God were deeply inscribed in a marble column; the East and West have been decorated by the pencil of St. Luke; and the Evangelist, who was perhaps a physician, has been forced to exercise the occupation of a painter, so

profane and odious in the eyes of the primitive Christians. The Olympian

Jove, created by the muse of Homer and the chisel of Phidias, might

inspire a philosophic mind with momentary devotion; but these Catholic

images were faintly and flatly delineated by monkish artists in the last degeneracy of taste and genius.

the worship of images had stolen into the church by insensible degrees, and each petty step was pleasing to the superstitious mind, as

productive of comfort, and innocent of sin. But in the beginning of the eighth century, in the full magnitude of the abuse, the more timorous

Greeks were awakened by an apprehension, that under the mask of christianity, they had restored the religion of their fathers: they

heard, with grief and impatience, the name of idolaters; the incessant charge of the Jews and Mahometans, who derived from the Law and the

Koran an immortal hatred to graven images and all relative worship. the servitude of the Jews might curb their zeal, and depreciate their authority; but the triumphant Mussulmans, who reigned at Damascus, and threatened Constantinople, cast into the scale of reproach the accumulated weight of truth and victory. The cities of Syria, Palestine, and Egypt had been fortified with the images of Christ, his mother, and

his saints; and each city presumed on the hope or promise of miraculous defence. In a rapid conquest of ten years, the Arabs subdued those cities and these images; and, in their opinion, the Lord of Hosts

pronounced a decisive judgment between the adoration and contempt of these mute and inanimate idols. For a while Edessa had braved the

Persian assaults; but the chosen city, the spouse of Christ, was

involved in the common ruin; and his divine resemblance became the slave and trophy of the infidels. After a servitude of three hundred years, the Palladium was yielded to the devotion of Constantinople, for a

ransom of twelve thousand pounds of silver, the redemption of two

hundred Mussulmans, and a perpetual truce for the territory of Edessa.

In this season of distress and dismay, the eloquence of the monks was exercised in the defence of images; and they attempted to prove, that the sin and schism of the greatest part of the Orientals had forfeited the favor, and annihilated the virtue, of these precious symbols. but they were now opposed by the murmurs of many simple or rational christians, who appealed to the evidence of texts, of facts, and of the

primitive times, and secretly desired the reformation of the church. as the worship of images had never been established by any general or

positive law, its progress in the Eastern empire had been retarded, or accelerated, by the differences of men and manners, the local degrees

of refinement, and the personal characters of the bishops. The splendid devotion was fondly cherished by the levity of the capital, and the

inventive genius of the Byzantine clergy; while the rude and remote districts of Asia were strangers to this innovation of sacred luxury.

Many large congregations of Gnostics and Arians maintained, after their conversion, the simple worship which had preceded their separation; and the Armenians, the most warlike subjects of Rome, were not reconciled,

in the twelfth century, to the sight of images. These various denominations of men afforded a fund of prejudice and aversion, of small account in the villages of Anatolia or Thrace, but which, in the fortune

of a soldier, a prelate, or a eunuch, might be often connected with the

powers of the church and state.

Of such adventurers, the most fortunate was the emperor Leo the Third, who, from the mountains of Isauria, ascended the throne of the East.

He was ignorant of sacred and profane letters; but his education, his

reason, perhaps his intercourse with the Jews and Arabs, had inspired the martial peasant with a hatred of images; and it was held to be the duty of a prince to impose on his subjects the dictates of his own conscience. But in the outset of an unsettled reign, during ten years

of toil and danger, Leo submitted to the meanness of hypocrisy, bowed before the idols which he despised, and satisfied the Roman pontiff with the annual professions of his orthodoxy and zeal. In the reformation

of religion, his first steps were moderate and cautious: he assembled a

great council of senators and bishops, and enacted, with their consent, that all the images should be removed from the sanctuary and altar to a

proper height in the churches where they might be visible to the eyes, and inaccessible to the superstition, of the people. But it was

impossible on either side to check the rapid through adverse impulse of

veneration and abhorrence: in their lofty position, the sacred images

still edified their votaries, and reproached the tyrant. He was himself

provoked by resistance and invective; and his own party accused him

of an imperfect discharge of his duty, and urged for his imitation the example of the Jewish king, who had broken without scruple the brazen

serpent of the temple. By a second edict, he proscribed the existence as well as the use of religious pictures; the churches of Constantinople and the provinces were cleansed from idolatry; the images of Christ, the

Virgin, and the saints, were demolished, or a smooth surface of plaster was spread over the walls of the edifice. The sect of the Iconoclasts was supported by the zeal and despotism of six emperors, and the East and West were involved in a noisy conflict of one hundred and twenty years. It was the design of Leo the Isaurian to pronounce the condemnation of images as an article of faith, and by the authority of a general council: but the convocation of such an assembly was reserved for his son Constantine; and though it is stigmatized by triumphant bigotry as a meeting of fools and atheists, their own partial and

mutilated acts betray many symptoms of reason and piety. The debates and decrees of many provincial synods introduced the summons of the general council which met in the suburbs of Constantinople, and was composed

of the respectable number of three hundred and thirty-eight bishops of europe and Anatolia; for the patriarchs of Antioch and Alexandria were the slaves of the caliph, and the Roman pontiff had withdrawn the churches of Italy and the West from the communion of the Greeks. This byzantine synod assumed the rank and powers of the seventh general council; yet even this title was a recognition of the six preceding assemblies, which had laboriously built the structure of the Catholic faith. After a serious deliberation of six months, the three hundred and thirty-eight bishops pronounced and subscribed a unanimous decree, that all visible symbols of Christ, except in the Eucharist, were either blasphemous or heretical; that image-worship was a corruption of christianity and a renewal of Paganism; that all such monuments of

idolatry should be broken or erased; and that those who should refuse to deliver the objects of their private superstition, were guilty of disobedience to the authority of the church and of the emperor. In their loud and loyal acclamations, they celebrated the merits of their temporal redeemer; and to his zeal and justice they intrusted the execution of their spiritual censures. At Constantinople, as in the former councils, the will of the prince was the rule of episcopal faith; but on this occasion, I am inclined to suspect that a large majority of the prelates sacrificed their secret conscience to the temptations of

hope and fear. In the long night of superstition, the Christians had wandered far away from the simplicity of the gospel: nor was it easy for them to discern the clew, and tread back the mazes, of the labyrinth. the worship of images was inseparably blended, at least to a pious fancy, with the Cross, the Virgin, the Saints and their relics; the holy

ground was involved in a cloud of miracles and visions; and the nerves

of the mind, curiosity and scepticism, were benumbed by the habits of

obedience and belief. Constantine himself is accused of indulging a royal license to doubt, or deny, or deride the mysteries of the catholics, but they were deeply inscribed in the public and private creed of his bishops; and the boldest Iconoclast might assault with a

secret horror the monuments of popular devotion, which were consecrated to the honor of his celestial patrons. In the reformation of the

sixteenth century, freedom and knowledge had expanded all the faculties

of man: the thirst of innovation superseded the reverence of antiquity; and the vigor of Europe could disdain those phantoms which terrified the

sickly and servile weakness of the Greeks.

the scandal of an abstract heresy can be only proclaimed to the people by the blast of the ecclesiastical trumpet; but the most ignorant can

perceive, the most torpid must feel, the profanation and downfall

of their visible deities. The first hostilities of Leo were directed against a lofty Christ on the vestibule, and above the gate, of the

palace. A ladder had been planted for the assault, but it was furiously

shaken by a crowd of zealots and women: they beheld, with pious transport, the ministers of sacrilege tumbling from on high and dashed against the pavement: and the honors of the ancient martyrs were

prostituted to these criminals, who justly suffered for murder and

rebellion. The execution of the Imperial edicts was resisted by frequent tumults in Constantinople and the provinces: the person of Leo was endangered, his officers were massacred, and the popular enthusiasm was

quelled by the strongest efforts of the civil and military power. Of the archipelago, or Holy Sea, the numerous islands were filled with images and monks: their votaries abjured, without scruple, the enemy of Christ,

his mother, and the saints; they armed a fleet of boats and galleys, displayed their consecrated banners, and boldly steered for the harbor

of Constantinople, to place on the throne a new favorite of God and the

people. They depended on the succor of a miracle: but their miracles were inefficient against the \_Greek fire\_; and, after the defeat and conflagration of the fleet, the naked islands were abandoned to the clemency or justice of the conqueror. The son of Leo, in the first year

of his reign, had undertaken an expedition against the Saracens: during

his absence, the capital, the palace, and the purple, were occupied by

his kinsman Artavasdes, the ambitious champion of the orthodox faith. the worship of images was triumphantly restored: the patriarch renounced

his dissimulation, or dissembled his sentiments and the righteous claims

of the usurper was acknowledged, both in the new, and in ancient, Rome. constantine flew for refuge to his paternal mountains; but he descended at the head of the bold and affectionate Isaurians; and his final

victory confounded the arms and predictions of the fanatics. His long

reign was distracted with clamor, sedition, conspiracy, and mutual

hatred, and sanguinary revenge; the persecution of images was the motive

or pretence, of his adversaries; and, if they missed a temporal diadem, they were rewarded by the Greeks with the crown of martyrdom. In every act of open and clandestine treason, the emperor felt the unforgiving enmity of the monks, the faithful slaves of the superstition to which they owed their riches and influence. They prayed, they preached, they absolved, they inflamed, they conspired; the solitude of Palestine

poured forth a torrent of invective; and the pen of St. John Damascenus, the last of the Greek fathers, devoted the tyrant's head, both in this world and the next. I am not at leisure to examine how far the monks

provoked, nor how much they have exaggerated, their real and pretended

sufferings, nor how many lost their lives or limbs, their eyes or their beards, by the cruelty of the emperor. From the chastisement of

individuals, he proceeded to the abolition of the order; and, as it was wealthy and useless, his resentment might be stimulated by avarice, and justified by patriotism. The formidable name and mission of the

\_Dragon\_, his visitor-general, excited the terror and abhorrence of the

\_black\_ nation: the religious communities were dissolved, the buildings were converted into magazines, or bar racks; the lands, movables, and cattle were confiscated; and our modern precedents will support the charge, that much wanton or malicious havoc was exercised against the relics, and even the books of the monasteries. With the habit and profession of monks, the public and private worship of images was

rigorously proscribed; and it should seem, that a solemn abjuration of

idolatry was exacted from the subjects, or at least from the clergy, of the Eastern empire.

the patient East abjured, with reluctance, her sacred images; they were fondly cherished, and vigorously defended, by the independent zeal of the Italians. In ecclesiastical rank and jurisdiction, the patriarch

of Constantinople and the pope of Rome were nearly equal. But the Greek

prelate was a domestic slave under the eye of his master, at whose

nod he alternately passed from the convent to the throne, and from the throne to the convent. A distant and dangerous station, amidst the barbarians of the West, excited the spirit and freedom of the Latin bishops. Their popular election endeared them to the Romans: the public and private indigence was relieved by their ample revenue; and the weakness or neglect of the emperors compelled them to consult, both

in peace and war, the temporal safety of the city. In the school of adversity the priest insensibly imbibed the virtues and the ambition of a prince; the same character was assumed, the same policy was adopted, by the Italian, the Greek, or the Syrian, who ascended the chair of St.

Peter; and, after the loss of her legions and provinces, the genius and fortune of the popes again restored the supremacy of Rome. It is agreed, that in the eighth century, their dominion was founded on rebellion, and that the rebellion was produced, and justified, by the heresy of the

Iconoclasts; but the conduct of the second and third Gregory, in this

memorable contest, is variously interpreted by the wishes of their friends and enemies. The Byzantine writers unanimously declare, that, after a fruitless admonition, they pronounced the separation of the east and West, and deprived the sacrilegious tyrant of the revenue and sovereignty of Italy. Their excommunication is still more clearly expressed by the Greeks, who beheld the accomplishment of the papal triumphs; and as they are more strongly attached to their religion than to their country, they praise, instead of blaming, the zeal and

orthodoxy of these apostolical men. The modern champions of Rome are eager to accept the praise and the precedent: this great and glorious example of the deposition of royal heretics is celebrated by the cardinals Baronius and Bellarmine; and if they are asked, why the same thunders were not hurled against the Neros and Julians of antiquity, they reply, that the weakness of the primitive church was the sole cause

of her patient loyalty. On this occasion the effects of love and hatred are the same; and the zealous Protestants, who seek to kindle the

indignation, and to alarm the fears, of princes and magistrates, expatiate on the insolence and treason of the two Gregories against their lawful sovereign. They are defended only by the moderate catholics, for the most part, of the Gallican church, who respect the

saint, without approving the sin. These common advocates of the crown and the mitre circumscribe the truth of facts by the rule of equity,

Scripture, and tradition, and appeal to the evidence of the Latins, and the lives and epistles of the popes themselves.

chapter XLIX: Conquest Of Italy By The Franks.--Part II.

two original epistles, from Gregory the Second to the emperor Leo, are

still extant; and if they cannot be praised as the most perfect models

of eloquence and logic, they exhibit the portrait, or at least the mask,

of the founder of the papal monarchy. "During ten pure and fortunate

years," says Gregory to the emperor, "we have tasted the annual comfort

of your royal letters, subscribed in purple ink, with your own hand, the

sacred pledges of your attachment to the orthodox creed of our fathers.

How deplorable is the change! how tremendous the scandal! You now accuse the Catholics of idolatry; and, by the accusation, you betray your own

impiety and ignorance. To this ignorance we are compelled to adapt the

grossness of our style and arguments: the first elements of holy

letters are sufficient for your confusion; and were you to enter a

grammar-school, and avow yourself the enemy of our worship, the simple and pious children would be provoked to cast their horn-books at

your head." After this decent salutation, the pope attempts the usual distinction between the idols of antiquity and the Christian images. the former were the fanciful representations of phantoms or dæmons, at a time when the true God had not manifested his person in any visible

likeness. The latter are the genuine forms of Christ, his mother, and

his saints, who had approved, by a crowd of miracles, the innocence and merit of this relative worship. He must indeed have trusted to the

ignorance of Leo, since he could assert the perpetual use of images, from the apostolic age, and their venerable presence in the six synods

of the Catholic church. A more specious argument is drawn from present

possession and recent practice the harmony of the Christian world

supersedes the demand of a general council; and Gregory frankly confesses, than such assemblies can only be useful under the reign of an orthodox prince. To the impudent and inhuman Leo, more guilty than a heretic, he recommends peace, silence, and implicit obedience to his

spiritual guides of Constantinople and Rome. The limits of civil and ecclesiastical powers are defined by the pontiff. To the former he appropriates the body; to the latter, the soul: the sword of justice

is in the hands of the magistrate: the more formidable weapon of excommunication is intrusted to the clergy; and in the exercise of their divine commission a zealous son will not spare his offending father: the successor of St. Peter may lawfully chastise the kings of the earth.

"You assault us, O tyrant! with a carnal and military hand: unarmed and

naked we can only implore the Christ, the prince of the heavenly host, that he will send unto you a devil, for the destruction of your body and the salvation of your soul. You declare, with foolish arrogance, I will despatch my orders to Rome: I will break in pieces the image of St.

Peter; and Gregory, like his predecessor Martin, shall be transported in chains, and in exile, to the foot of the Imperial throne. Would to God that I might be permitted to tread in the footsteps of the holy Martin! but may the fate of Constans serve as a warning to the persecutors of the church! After his just condemnation by the bishops of Sicily, the tyrant was cut off, in the fullness of his sins, by a domestic servant: the saint is still adored by the nations of Scythia, among whom he ended his banishment and his life. But it is our duty to live for the edification and support of the faithful people; nor are we reduced to risk our safety on the event of a combat. Incapable as you are of defending your Roman subjects, the maritime situation of the city may

perhaps expose it to your depredation but we can remove to the distance

of four-and-twenty \_stadia\_, to the first fortress of the Lombards, and then--you may pursue the winds. Are you ignorant that the popes are the bond of union, the mediators of peace, between the East and West? The eyes of the nations are fixed on our humility; and they revere, as a God

upon earth, the apostle St. Peter, whose image you threaten to destroy. the remote and interior kingdoms of the West present their homage to christ and his vicegerent; and we now prepare to visit one of their most

powerful monarchs, who desires to receive from our hands the sacrament

of baptism. The Barbarians have submitted to the yoke of the gospel, while you alone are deaf to the voice of the shepherd. These pious barbarians are kindled into rage: they thirst to avenge the persecution

of the East. Abandon your rash and fatal enterprise; reflect, tremble, and repent. If you persist, we are innocent of the blood that will be

spilt in the contest; may it fall on your own head!"

the first assault of Leo against the images of Constantinople had been witnessed by a crowd of strangers from Italy and the West, who related with grief and indignation the sacrilege of the emperor. But on the

reception of his proscriptive edict, they trembled for their domestic deities: the images of Christ and the Virgin, of the angels, martyrs, and saints, were abolished in all the churches of Italy; and a strong alternative was proposed to the Roman pontiff, the royal favor as the

price of his compliance, degradation and exile as the penalty of his disobedience. Neither zeal nor policy allowed him to hesitate; and the haughty strain in which Gregory addressed the emperor displays his confidence in the truth of his doctrine or the powers of resistance. without depending on prayers or miracles, he boldly armed against the

public enemy, and his pastoral letters admonished the Italians of their danger and their duty. At this signal, Ravenna, Venice, and the cities

of the Exarchate and Pentapolis, adhered to the cause of religion; their

military force by sea and land consisted, for the most part, of the

natives; and the spirit of patriotism and zeal was transfused into the

mercenary strangers. The Italians swore to live and die in the defence

of the pope and the holy images; the Roman people was devoted to their father, and even the Lombards were ambitious to share the merit and advantage of this holy war. The most treasonable act, but the most

obvious revenge, was the destruction of the statues of Leo himself: the

most effectual and pleasing measure of rebellion, was the withholding the tribute of Italy, and depriving him of a power which he had recently abused by the imposition of a new capitation. A form of administration was preserved by the election of magistrates and governors; and so high was the public indignation, that the Italians were prepared to create an

orthodox emperor, and to conduct him with a fleet and army to the palace

of Constantinople. In that palace, the Roman bishops, the second and third Gregory, were condemned as the authors of the revolt, and every attempt was made, either by fraud or force, to seize their persons, and to strike at their lives. The city was repeatedly visited or assaulted by captains of the guards, and dukes and exarchs of high dignity or

secret trust; they landed with foreign troops, they obtained some domestic aid, and the superstition of Naples may blush that her fathers were attached to the cause of heresy. But these clandestine or open attacks were repelled by the courage and vigilance of the Romans; the Greeks were overthrown and massacred, their leaders suffered an

ignominious death, and the popes, however inclined to mercy, refused to

intercede for these guilty victims. At Ravenna, the several quarters of the city had long exercised a bloody and hereditary feud; in religious controversy they found a new aliment of faction: but the votaries of

images were superior in numbers or spirit, and the exarch, who attempted to stem the torrent, lost his life in a popular sedition. To punish this flagitious deed, and restore his dominion in Italy, the emperor sent a fleet and army into the Adriatic Gulf. After suffering from the winds and waves much loss and delay, the Greeks made their descent in the

neighborhood of Ravenna: they threatened to depopulate the guilty capital, and to imitate, perhaps to surpass, the example of Justinian the Second, who had chastised a former rebellion by the choice and execution of fifty of the principal inhabitants. The women and clergy,

in sackcloth and ashes, lay prostrate in prayer: the men were in arms for the defence of their country; the common danger had united the factions, and the event of a battle was preferred to the slow miseries

of a siege. In a hard-fought day, as the two armies alternately yielded and advanced, a phantom was seen, a voice was heard, and Ravenna was

victorious by the assurance of victory. The strangers retreated to their

ships, but the populous sea-coast poured forth a multitude of boats; the waters of the Po were so deeply infected with blood, that during six

years the public prejudice abstained from the fish of the river; and the

institution of an annual feast perpetuated the worship of images, and the abhorrence of the Greek tyrant. Amidst the triumph of the Catholic arms, the Roman pontiff convened a synod of ninety-three bishops against the heresy of the Iconoclasts. With their consent, he pronounced a

general excommunication against all who by word or deed should attack the tradition of the fathers and the images of the saints: in this

sentence the emperor was tacitly involved, but the vote of a last and hopeless remonstrance may seem to imply that the anathema was yet

suspended over his guilty head. No sooner had they confirmed their own

safety, the worship of images, and the freedom of Rome and Italy, than the popes appear to have relaxed of their severity, and to have spared the relics of the Byzantine dominion. Their moderate councils delayed and prevented the election of a new emperor, and they exhorted the

Italians not to separate from the body of the Roman monarchy. The exarch was permitted to reside within the walls of Ravenna, a captive rather than a master; and till the Imperial coronation of Charlemagne, the

government of Rome and Italy was exercised in the name of the successors

of Constantine.

the liberty of Rome, which had been oppressed by the arms and arts of augustus, was rescued, after seven hundred and fifty years of servitude, from the persecution of Leo the Isaurian. By the Cæsars, the triumphs of the consuls had been annihilated: in the decline and fall of the empire, the god Terminus, the sacred boundary, had insensibly receded from the

ocean, the Rhine, the Danube, and the Euphrates; and Rome was reduced to

her ancient territory from Viterbo to Terracina, and from Narni to the

mouth of the Tyber. When the kings were banished, the republic reposed

on the firm basis which had been founded by their wisdom and virtue. their perpetual jurisdiction was divided between two annual magistrates: the senate continued to exercise the powers of administration and counsel; and the legislative authority was distributed in the assemblies

of the people, by a well-proportioned scale of property and service.

Ignorant of the arts of luxury, the primitive Romans had improved the

science of government and war: the will of the community was absolute: the rights of individuals were sacred: one hundred and thirty thousand citizens were armed for defence or conquest; and a band of robbers and

outlaws was moulded into a nation deserving of freedom and ambitious of

glory. When the sovereignty of the Greek emperors was extinguished, the

ruins of Rome presented the sad image of depopulation and decay:

her slavery was a habit, her liberty an accident; the effect of

superstition, and the object of her own amazement and terror. The last

vestige of the substance, or even the forms, of the constitution, was

obliterated from the practice and memory of the Romans; and they were devoid of knowledge, or virtue, again to build the fabric of a commonwealth. Their scanty remnant, the offspring of slaves and

strangers, was despicable in the eyes of the victorious Barbarians. As

often as the Franks or Lombards expressed their most bitter contempt

of a foe, they called him a Roman; "and in this name," says the bishop

Liutprand, "we include whatever is base, whatever is cowardly, whatever

is perfidious, the extremes of avarice and luxury, and every vice that can prostitute the dignity of human nature." By the necessity of their

situation, the inhabitants of Rome were cast into the rough model of a republican government: they were compelled to elect some judges in

peace, and some leaders in war: the nobles assembled to deliberate, and their resolves could not be executed without the union and consent of the multitude. The style of the Roman senate and people was revived, but the spirit was fled; and their new independence was disgraced by the tumultuous conflict of licentiousness and oppression. The want of laws could only be supplied by the influence of religion, and their foreign and domestic counsels were moderated by the authority of the bishop. His alms, his sermons, his correspondence with the kings and prelates of the West, his recent services, their gratitude, and oath, accustomed the

Romans to consider him as the first magistrate or prince of the city. the Christian humility of the popes was not offended by the name of

\_Dominus\_, or Lord; and their face and inscription are still apparent on the most ancient coins. Their temporal dominion is now confirmed by the reverence of a thousand years; and their noblest title is the free choice of a people, whom they had redeemed from slavery.

In the quarrels of ancient Greece, the holy people of Elis enjoyed a

perpetual peace, under the protection of Jupiter, and in the exercise of the Olympic games. Happy would it have been for the Romans, if a similar

privilege had guarded the patrimony of St. Peter from the calamities

of war; if the Christians, who visited the holy threshold, would have

sheathed their swords in the presence of the apostle and his successor. but this mystic circle could have been traced only by the wand of a

legislator and a sage: this pacific system was incompatible with the

zeal and ambition of the popes the Romans were not addicted, like the

inhabitants of Elis, to the innocent and placid labors of agriculture; and the Barbarians of Italy, though softened by the climate, were far below the Grecian states in the institutions of public and private life. a memorable example of repentance and piety was exhibited by Liutprand,

king of the Lombards. In arms, at the gate of the Vatican, the conqueror

listened to the voice of Gregory the Second, withdrew his troops,

resigned his conquests, respectfully visited the church of St. Peter, and after performing his devotions, offered his sword and dagger, his cuirass and mantle, his silver cross, and his crown of gold, on the tomb

of the apostle. But this religious fervor was the illusion, perhaps the artifice, of the moment; the sense of interest is strong and lasting; the love of arms and rapine was congenial to the Lombards; and both the

prince and people were irresistibly tempted by the disorders of Italy, the nakedness of Rome, and the unwarlike profession of her new chief. On the first edicts of the emperor, they declared themselves the champions

of the holy images: Liutprand invaded the province of Romagna, which

had already assumed that distinctive appellation; the Catholics of the exarchate yielded without reluctance to his civil and military

power; and a foreign enemy was introduced for the first time into the

impregnable fortress of Ravenna. That city and fortress were speedily

recovered by the active diligence and maritime forces of the Venetians; and those faithful subjects obeyed the exhortation of Gregory himself,

in separating the personal guilt of Leo from the general cause of the

Roman empire. The Greeks were less mindful of the service, than the

Lombards of the injury: the two nations, hostile in their faith, were

reconciled in a dangerous and unnatural alliance: the king and the exarch marched to the conquest of Spoleto and Rome: the storm evaporated without effect, but the policy of Liutprand alarmed Italy with a

vexatious alternative of hostility and truce. His successor Astolphus declared himself the equal enemy of the emperor and the pope: Ravenna was subdued by force or treachery, and this final conquest extinguished the series of the exarchs, who had reigned with a subordinate power

since the time of Justinian and the ruin of the Gothic kingdom. Rome was

summoned to acknowledge the victorious Lombard as her lawful sovereign; the annual tribute of a piece of gold was fixed as the ransom of each citizen, and the sword of destruction was unsheathed to exact the

penalty of her disobedience. The Romans hesitated; they entreated; they complained; and the threatening Barbarians were checked by arms and

negotiations, till the popes had engaged the friendship of an ally and avenger beyond the Alps.

In his distress, the first Gregory had implored the aid of the hero

of the age, of Charles Martel, who governed the French monarchy with the

humble title of mayor or duke; and who, by his signal victory over the

Saracens, had saved his country, and perhaps Europe, from the Mahometan

yoke. The ambassadors of the pope were received by Charles with decent

reverence; but the greatness of his occupations, and the shortness of

his life, prevented his interference in the affairs of Italy, except by a friendly and ineffectual mediation. His son Pepin, the heir of his

power and virtues, assumed the office of champion of the Roman church; and the zeal of the French prince appears to have been prompted by the love of glory and religion. But the danger was on the banks of the tyber, the succor on those of the Seine, and our sympathy is cold to the

relation of distant misery. Amidst the tears of the city, Stephen the third embraced the generous resolution of visiting in person the courts

of Lombardy and France, to deprecate the injustice of his enemy, or to excite the pity and indignation of his friend. After soothing the public despair by litanies and orations, he undertook this laborious journey with the ambassadors of the French monarch and the Greek emperor. The

king of the Lombards was inexorable; but his threats could not silence the complaints, nor retard the speed of the Roman pontiff, who traversed the Pennine Alps, reposed in the abbey of St. Maurice, and hastened to

grasp the right hand of his protector; a hand which was never lifted

in vain, either in war or friendship. Stephen was entertained as the

visible successor of the apostle; at the next assembly, the field of

March or of May, his injuries were exposed to a devout and warlike

nation, and he repassed the Alps, not as a suppliant, but as a conqueror, at the head of a French army, which was led by the king in

person. The Lombards, after a weak resistance, obtained an ignominious

peace, and swore to restore the possessions, and to respect the

sanctity, of the Roman church. But no sooner was Astolphus delivered from the presence of the French arms, than he forgot his promise and

resented his disgrace. Rome was again encompassed by his arms; and

Stephen, apprehensive of fatiguing the zeal of his Transalpine allies enforced his complaint and request by an eloquent letter in the name and

person of St. Peter himself. The apostle assures his adopted sons, the

king, the clergy, and the nobles of France, that, dead in the flesh,

he is still alive in the spirit; that they now hear, and must obey, the

voice of the founder and guardian of the Roman church; that the Virgin, the angels, the saints, and the martyrs, and all the host of heaven,

unanimously urge the request, and will confess the obligation; that

riches, victory, and paradise, will crown their pious enterprise, and that eternal damnation will be the penalty of their neglect, if they

suffer his tomb, his temple, and his people, to fall into the hands of the perfidious Lombards. The second expedition of Pepin was not less

rapid and fortunate than the first: St. Peter was satisfied, Rome was again saved, and Astolphus was taught the lessons of justice and sincerity by the scourge of a foreign master. After this double chastisement, the Lombards languished about twenty years in a state

of languor and decay. But their minds were not yet humbled to their condition; and instead of affecting the pacific virtues of the feeble, they peevishly harassed the Romans with a repetition of claims, evasions, and inroads, which they undertook without reflection, and terminated without glory. On either side, their expiring monarchy was

pressed by the zeal and prudence of Pope Adrian the First, the genius, the fortune, and greatness of Charlemagne, the son of Pepin; these

heroes of the church and state were united in public and domestic friendship, and while they trampled on the prostrate, they varnished their proceedings with the fairest colors of equity and moderation. The

passes of the Alps, and the walls of Pavia, were the only defence of the

Lombards; the former were surprised, the latter were invested, by the

son of Pepin; and after a blockade of two years, Desiderius, the last

of their native princes, surrendered his sceptre and his capital. Under the dominion of a foreign king, but in the possession of their national

laws, the Lombards became the brethren, rather than the subjects, of the Franks; who derived their blood, and manners, and language, from the

same Germanic origin.

chapter XLIX: Conquest Of Italy By The Franks.--Part III.

the mutual obligations of the popes and the Carlovingian family form the important link of ancient and modern, of civil and ecclesiastical,

history. In the conquest of Italy, the champions of the Roman church

obtained a favorable occasion, a specious title, the wishes of the

people, the prayers and intrigues of the clergy. But the most essential

gifts of the popes to the Carlovingian race were the dignities of king

of France, and of patrician of Rome. I. Under the sacerdotal monarchy of

St. Peter, the nations began to resume the practice of seeking, on the banks of the Tyber, their kings, their laws, and the oracles of their fate. The Franks were perplexed between the name and substance of their

government. All the powers of royalty were exercised by Pepin, mayor

of the palace; and nothing, except the regal title, was wanting to

his ambition. His enemies were crushed by his valor; his friends were multiplied by his liberality; his father had been the savior of christendom; and the claims of personal merit were repeated and ennobled

in a descent of four generations. The name and image of royalty was

still preserved in the last descendant of Clovis, the feeble Childeric; but his obsolete right could only be used as an instrument of sedition: the nation was desirous of restoring the simplicity of the constitution; and Pepin, a subject and a prince, was ambitious to ascertain his own

rank and the fortune of his family. The mayor and the nobles were bound, by an oath of fidelity, to the royal phantom: the blood of Clovis was

pure and sacred in their eyes; and their common ambassadors addressed the Roman pontiff, to dispel their scruples, or to absolve their

promise. The interest of Pope Zachary, the successor of the two

Gregories, prompted him to decide, and to decide in their favor: he

pronounced that the nation might lawfully unite in the same person the title and authority of king; and that the unfortunate Childeric, a

victim of the public safety, should be degraded, shaved, and confined

in a monastery for the remainder of his days. An answer so agreeable to their wishes was accepted by the Franks as the opinion of a casuist, the

sentence of a judge, or the oracle of a prophet: the Merovingian race disappeared from the earth; and Pepin was exalted on a buckler by the

suffrage of a free people, accustomed to obey his laws and to march

under his standard. His coronation was twice performed, with the

sanction of the popes, by their most faithful servant St. Boniface, the apostle of Germany, and by the grateful hands of Stephen the Third, who, in the monastery of St. Denys placed the diadem on the head of his benefactor. The royal unction of the kings of Israel was dexterously applied: the successor of St. Peter assumed the character of a divine ambassador: a German chieftain was transformed into the Lord's anointed; and this Jewish rite has been diffused and maintained by the

superstition and vanity of modern Europe. The Franks were absolved from their ancient oath; but a dire anathema was thundered against them and their posterity, if they should dare to renew the same freedom of choice, or to elect a king, except in the holy and meritorious race of the Carlovingian princes. Without apprehending the future danger, these

princes gloried in their present security: the secretary of Charlemagne affirms, that the French sceptre was transferred by the authority of the

popes; and in their boldest enterprises, they insist, with confidence,

on this signal and successful act of temporal jurisdiction.

II. In the change of manners and language the patricians of Rome were far removed from the senate of Romulus, on the palace of Constantine, from the free nobles of the republic, or the fictitious parents of the emperor. After the recovery of Italy and Africa by the arms of

Justinian, the importance and danger of those remote provinces required the presence of a supreme magistrate; he was indifferently styled the exarch or the patrician; and these governors of Ravenna, who fill their

place in the chronology of princes, extended their jurisdiction over the

Roman city. Since the revolt of Italy and the loss of the Exarchate, the distress of the Romans had exacted some sacrifice of their independence.

Yet, even in this act, they exercised the right of disposing of themselves; and the decrees of the senate and people successively

invested Charles Martel and his posterity with the honors of patrician

of Rome. The leaders of a powerful nation would have disdained a servile title and subordinate office; but the reign of the Greek emperors was suspended; and, in the vacancy of the empire, they derived a

more glorious commission from the pope and the republic. The Roman ambassadors presented these patricians with the keys of the shrine of

St. Peter, as a pledge and symbol of sovereignty; with a holy banner which it was their right and duty to unfurl in the defence of the church and city. In the time of Charles Martel and of Pepin, the interposition

of the Lombard kingdom covered the freedom, while it threatened the

safety, of Rome; and the \_patriciate\_ represented only the title, the

service, the alliance, of these distant protectors. The power and policy

of Charlemagne annihilated an enemy, and imposed a master. In his first

visit to the capital, he was received with all the honors which had formerly been paid to the exarch, the representative of the emperor; and these honors obtained some new decorations from the joy and gratitude of

Pope Adrian the First. No sooner was he informed of the sudden approach

of the monarch, than he despatched the magistrates and nobles of Rome to meet him, with the banner, about thirty miles from the city. At the distance of one mile, the Flaminian way was lined with the \_schools\_, or

national communities, of Greeks, Lombards, Saxons, &c.: the Roman youth were under arms; and the children of a more tender age, with palms and olive branches in their hands, chanted the praises of their great deliverer. At the aspect of the holy crosses, and ensigns of the saints,

he dismounted from his horse, led the procession of his nobles to the

Vatican, and, as he ascended the stairs, devoutly kissed each step of the threshold of the apostles. In the portico, Adrian expected him at the head of his clergy: they embraced, as friends and equals; but in their march to the altar, the king or patrician assumed the right

hand of the pope. Nor was the Frank content with these vain and empty demonstrations of respect. In the twenty-six years that elapsed between the conquest of Lombardy and his Imperial coronation, Rome, which had been delivered by the sword, was subject, as his own, to the sceptre of charlemagne. The people swore allegiance to his person and family:

in his name money was coined, and justice was administered; and the election of the popes was examined and confirmed by his authority. except an original and self-inherent claim of sovereignty, there was not any prerogative remaining, which the title of emperor could add to the

patrician of Rome.

the gratitude of the Carlovingians was adequate to these obligations, and their names are consecrated, as the saviors and benefactors of the

Roman church. Her ancient patrimony of farms and houses was transformed by their bounty into the temporal dominion of cities and provinces; and the donation of the Exarchate was the first-fruits of the conquests of

Pepin. Astolphus with a sigh relinquished his prey; the keys and the hostages of the principal cities were delivered to the French ambassador; and, in his master's name, he presented them before the tomb

of St. Peter. The ample measure of the Exarchate might comprise all the

provinces of Italy which had obeyed the emperor and his vicegerent; but its strict and proper limits were included in the territories

of Ravenna, Bologna, and Ferrara: its inseparable dependency was the

Pentapolis, which stretched along the Adriatic from Rimini to Ancona, and advanced into the midland-country as far as the ridges of the apennine. In this transaction, the ambition and avarice of the popes

have been severely condemned. Perhaps the humility of a Christian priest

should have rejected an earthly kingdom, which it was not easy for him to govern without renouncing the virtues of his profession. Perhaps a faithful subject, or even a generous enemy, would have been less

impatient to divide the spoils of the Barbarian; and if the emperor

had intrusted Stephen to solicit in his name the restitution of the exarchate, I will not absolve the pope from the reproach of treachery and falsehood. But in the rigid interpretation of the laws, every one

may accept, without injury, whatever his benefactor can bestow without

injustice. The Greek emperor had abdicated, or forfeited, his right to the Exarchate; and the sword of Astolphus was broken by the stronger

sword of the Carlovingian. It was not in the cause of the Iconoclast that Pepin has exposed his person and army in a double expedition beyond the Alps: he possessed, and might lawfully alienate, his conquests: and to the importunities of the Greeks he piously replied that no human consideration should tempt him to resume the gift which he had conferred

on the Roman Pontiff for the remission of his sins, and the salvation

of his soul. The splendid donation was granted in supreme and absolute dominion, and the world beheld for the first time a Christian bishop

invested with the prerogatives of a temporal prince; the choice of

magistrates, the exercise of justice, the imposition of taxes, and the wealth of the palace of Ravenna. In the dissolution of the Lombard

kingdom, the inhabitants of the duchy of Spoleto sought a refuge from the storm, shaved their heads after the Roman fashion, declared themselves the servants and subjects of St. Peter, and completed, by this voluntary surrender, the present circle of the ecclesiastical

state. That mysterious circle was enlarged to an indefinite extent, by the verbal or written donation of Charlemagne, who, in the first transports of his victory, despoiled himself and the Greek emperor of the cities and islands which had formerly been annexed to the Exarchate. but, in the cooler moments of absence and reflection, he viewed, with an eye of jealousy and envy, the recent greatness of his ecclesiastical ally. The execution of his own and his father's promises was

respectfully eluded: the king of the Franks and Lombards asserted the

inalienable rights of the empire; and, in his life and death, Ravenna, as well as Rome, was numbered in the list of his metropolitan cities. the sovereignty of the Exarchate melted away in the hands of the popes; they found in the archbishops of Ravenna a dangerous and domestic

rival: the nobles and people disdained the yoke of a priest; and in the disorders of the times, they could only retain the memory of an ancient claim, which, in a more prosperous age, they have revived and realized.

fraud is the resource of weakness and cunning; and the strong, though

ignorant, Barbarian was often entangled in the net of sacerdotal

policy. The Vatican and Lateran were an arsenal and manufacture, which, according to the occasion, have produced or concealed a various collection of false or genuine, of corrupt or suspicious, acts, as they tended to promote the interest of the Roman church. Before the end

of the eighth century, some apostolic scribe, perhaps the notorious

Isidore, composed the decretals, and the donation of Constantine, the two magic pillars of the spiritual and temporal monarchy of the popes. this memorable donation was introduced to the world by an epistle of adrian the First, who exhorts Charlemagne to imitate the liberality, and

revive the name, of the great Constantine. According to the legend, the first of the Christian emperors was healed of the leprosy, and purified

in the waters of baptism, by St. Silvester, the Roman bishop; and never was physician more gloriously recompensed. His royal proselyte withdrew from the seat and patrimony of St. Peter; declared his resolution of founding a new capital in the East; and resigned to the popes the free and perpetual sovereignty of Rome, Italy, and the provinces of the West. this fiction was productive of the most beneficial effects. The Greek

princes were convicted of the guilt of usurpation; and the revolt

of Gregory was the claim of his lawful inheritance. The popes were delivered from their debt of gratitude; and the nominal gifts of the carlovingians were no more than the just and irrevocable restitution of a scanty portion of the ecclesiastical state. The sovereignty of Rome no

longer depended on the choice of a fickle people; and the successors of

St. Peter and Constantine were invested with the purple and prerogatives

of the Cæsars. So deep was the ignorance and credulity of the times, that the most absurd of fables was received, with equal reverence, in

Greece and in France, and is still enrolled among the decrees of the canon law. The emperors, and the Romans, were incapable of discerning a forgery, that subverted their rights and freedom; and the only

opposition proceeded from a Sabine monastery, which, in the beginning of the twelfth century, disputed the truth and validity of the donation of constantine. In the revival of letters and liberty, this fictitious deed was transpierced by the pen of Laurentius Valla, the pen of an eloquent critic and a Roman patriot. His contemporaries of the fifteenth century were astonished at his sacrilegious boldness; yet such is the silent and

irresistible progress of reason, that, before the end of the next age, the fable was rejected by the contempt of historians and poets, and the tacit or modest censure of the advocates of the Roman church. The popes themselves have indulged a smile at the credulity of the vulgar; but a false and obsolete title still sanctifies their reign; and, by the same fortune which has attended the decretals and the Sibylline oracles, the edifice has subsisted after the foundations have been undermined.

while the popes established in Italy their freedom and dominion, the

images, the first cause of their revolt, were restored in the Eastern empire. Under the reign of Constantine the Fifth, the union of civil and ecclesiastical power had overthrown the tree, without extirpating the

root, of superstition. The idols (for such they were now held) were

secretly cherished by the order and the sex most prone to devotion; and the fond alliance of the monks and females obtained a final victory over the reason and authority of man. Leo the Fourth maintained with less

rigor the religion of his father and grandfather; but his wife, the fair and ambitious Irene, had imbibed the zeal of the Athenians, the heirs of the Idolatry, rather than the philosophy, of their ancestors. During the life of her husband, these sentiments were inflamed by danger and dissimulation, and she could only labor to protect and promote some favorite monks whom she drew from their caverns, and seated on the

metropolitan thrones of the East. But as soon as she reigned in her own

name and that of her son, Irene more seriously undertook the ruin of the

Iconoclasts; and the first step of her future persecution was a general edict for liberty of conscience. In the restoration of the monks, a thousand images were exposed to the public veneration; a thousand

legends were inverted of their sufferings and miracles. By the

opportunities of death or removal, the episcopal seats were judiciously filled the most eager competitors for earthly or celestial favor anticipated and flattered the judgment of their sovereign; and the

promotion of her secretary Tarasius gave Irene the patriarch of constantinople, and the command of the Oriental church. But the decrees

of a general council could only be repealed by a similar assembly: the

Iconoclasts whom she convened were bold in possession, and averse to debate; and the feeble voice of the bishops was reechoed by the more formidable clamor of the soldiers and people of Constantinople. The delay and intrigues of a year, the separation of the disaffected troops, and the choice of Nice for a second orthodox synod, removed these

obstacles; and the episcopal conscience was again, after the Greek fashion, in the hands of the prince. No more than eighteen days were allowed for the consummation of this important work: the Iconoclasts appeared, not as judges, but as criminals or penitents: the scene was decorated by the legates of Pope Adrian and the Eastern patriarchs, the decrees were framed by the president Taracius, and ratified by the acclamations and subscriptions of three hundred and fifty bishops. they unanimously pronounced, that the worship of images is agreeable to Scripture and reason, to the fathers and councils of the church: but they hesitate whether that worship be relative or direct; whether the

Godhead, and the figure of Christ, be entitled to the same mode of adoration. Of this second Nicene council the acts are still extant; a curious monument of superstition and ignorance, of falsehood and folly.

I shall only notice the judgment of the bishops on the comparative merit

of image-worship and morality. A monk had concluded a truce with the dæmon of fornication, on condition of interrupting his daily prayers to a picture that hung in his cell. His scruples prompted him to consult the abbot. "Rather than abstain from adoring Christ and his Mother in their holy images, it would be better for you," replied the casuist, "to enter every brothel, and visit every prostitute, in the city." For the

honor of orthodoxy, at least the orthodoxy of the Roman church, it is

somewhat unfortunate, that the two princes who convened the two councils

of Nice are both stained with the blood of their sons. The second of these assemblies was approved and rigorously executed by the despotism

of Irene, and she refused her adversaries the toleration which at first

she had granted to her friends. During the five succeeding reigns, a

period of thirty-eight years, the contest was maintained, with unabated

rage and various success, between the worshippers and the breakers of the images; but I am not inclined to pursue with minute diligence the

repetition of the same events. Nicephorus allowed a general liberty of

speech and practice; and the only virtue of his reign is accused by the

monks as the cause of his temporal and eternal perdition. Superstition and weakness formed the character of Michael the First, but the saints and images were incapable of supporting their votary on the throne. In the purple, Leo the Fifth asserted the name and religion of an Armenian; and the idols, with their seditious adherents, were condemned to a

second exile. Their applause would have sanctified the murder of an

impious tyrant, but his assassin and successor, the second Michael, was tainted from his birth with the Phrygian heresies: he attempted to

mediate between the contending parties; and the intractable spirit

of the Catholics insensibly cast him into the opposite scale. His

moderation was guarded by timidity; but his son Theophilus, alike

ignorant of fear and pity, was the last and most cruel of the

Iconoclasts. The enthusiasm of the times ran strongly against them; and the emperors who stemmed the torrent were exasperated and punished by the public hatred. After the death of Theophilus, the final victory of the images was achieved by a second female, his widow Theodora, whom he

left the guardian of the empire. Her measures were bold and decisive. the fiction of a tardy repentance absolved the fame and the soul of her deceased husband; the sentence of the Iconoclast patriarch was commuted from the loss of his eyes to a whipping of two hundred lashes: the bishops trembled, the monks shouted, and the festival of orthodoxy

preserves the annual memory of the triumph of the images. A single

question yet remained, whether they are endowed with any proper and

inherent sanctity; it was agitated by the Greeks of the eleventh century; and as this opinion has the strongest recommendation of absurdity, I am surprised that it was not more explicitly decided in the affirmative. In the West, Pope Adrian the First accepted and announced the decrees of the Nicene assembly, which is now revered by the catholics as the seventh in rank of the general councils. Rome and Italy were docile to the voice of their father; but the greatest part of the Latin Christians were far behind in the race of superstition. The churches of France, Germany, England, and Spain, steered a middle course between the adoration and the destruction of images, which they admitted

into their temples, not as objects of worship, but as lively and

useful memorials of faith and history. An angry book of controversy was composed and published in the name of Charlemagne: under his authority a synod of three hundred bishops was assembled at Frankfort: they blamed the fury of the Iconoclasts, but they pronounced a more severe censure against the superstition of the Greeks, and the decrees of their

pretended council, which was long despised by the Barbarians of the west. Among them the worship of images advanced with a silent and

insensible progress; but a large atonement is made for their hesitation and delay, by the gross idolatry of the ages which precede the

reformation, and of the countries, both in Europe and America, which are

still immersed in the gloom of superstition.

chapter XLIX: Conquest Of Italy By The Franks.--Part IV.

It was after the Nicene synod, and under the reign of the pious Irene, that the popes consummated the separation of Rome and Italy, by the translation of the empire to the less orthodox Charlemagne. They were compelled to choose between the rival nations: religion was not the sole

motive of their choice; and while they dissembled the failings of their friends, they beheld, with reluctance and suspicion, the Catholic

virtues of their foes. The difference of language and manners had

perpetuated the enmity of the two capitals; and they were alienated from each other by the hostile opposition of seventy years. In that schism the Romans had tasted of freedom, and the popes of sovereignty: their

submission would have exposed them to the revenge of a jealous tyrant; and the revolution of Italy had betrayed the impotence, as well as the tyranny, of the Byzantine court. The Greek emperors had restored the

images, but they had not restored the Calabrian estates and the Illyrian diocese, which the Iconoclasts had torn away from the successors of St.

Peter; and Pope Adrian threatens them with a sentence of excommunication

unless they speedily abjure this practical heresy. The Greeks were

now orthodox; but their religion might be tainted by the breath of the

reigning monarch: the Franks were now contumacious; but a discerning eye might discern their approaching conversion, from the use, to the adoration, of images. The name of Charlemagne was stained by the polemic acrimony of his scribes; but the conqueror himself conformed, with the temper of a statesman, to the various practice of France and Italy. In

his four pilgrimages or visits to the Vatican, he embraced the popes

in the communion of friendship and piety; knelt before the tomb, and consequently before the image, of the apostle; and joined, without

scruple, in all the prayers and processions of the Roman liturgy. Would

prudence or gratitude allow the pontiffs to renounce their benefactor?

Had they a right to alienate his gift of the Exarchate? Had they power to abolish his government of Rome? The title of patrician was below the merit and greatness of Charlemagne; and it was only by reviving the western empire that they could pay their obligations or secure their establishment. By this decisive measure they would finally eradicate the claims of the Greeks; from the debasement of a provincial town, the

majesty of Rome would be restored: the Latin Christians would be united,

under a supreme head, in their ancient metropolis; and the conquerors of the West would receive their crown from the successors of St. Peter. the Roman church would acquire a zealous and respectable advocate; and,

under the shadow of the Carlovingian power, the bishop might exercise, with honor and safety, the government of the city.

before the ruin of Paganism in Rome, the competition for a wealthy bishopric had often been productive of tumult and bloodshed. The people was less numerous, but the times were more savage, the prize more

important, and the chair of St. Peter was fiercely disputed by the

leading ecclesiastics who aspired to the rank of sovereign. The reign of adrian the First surpasses the measure of past or succeeding ages; the walls of Rome, the sacred patrimony, the ruin of the Lombards, and the friendship of Charlemagne, were the trophies of his fame: he secretly edified the throne of his successors, and displayed in a narrow space the virtues of a great prince. His memory was revered; but in the next election, a priest of the Lateran, Leo the Third, was preferred to the

nephew and the favorite of Adrian, whom he had promoted to the first dignities of the church. Their acquiescence or repentance disguised, above four years, the blackest intention of revenge, till the day of a

procession, when a furious band of conspirators dispersed the unarmed

multitude, and assaulted with blows and wounds the sacred person of the pope. But their enterprise on his life or liberty was disappointed,

perhaps by their own confusion and remorse. Leo was left for dead on the

ground: on his revival from the swoon, the effect of his loss of blood,

he recovered his speech and sight; and this natural event was improved to the miraculous restoration of his eyes and tongue, of which he had been deprived, twice deprived, by the knife of the assassins. From his

prison he escaped to the Vatican: the duke of Spoleto hastened to

his rescue, Charlemagne sympathized in his injury, and in his camp of

Paderborn in Westphalia accepted, or solicited, a visit from the Roman

pontiff. Leo repassed the Alps with a commission of counts and bishops, the guards of his safety and the judges of his innocence; and it was not without reluctance, that the conqueror of the Saxons delayed till the ensuing year the personal discharge of this pious office. In his fourth and last pilgrimage, he was received at Rome with the due honors of king and patrician: Leo was permitted to purge himself by oath of the crimes

imputed to his charge: his enemies were silenced, and the sacrilegious attempt against his life was punished by the mild and insufficient

penalty of exile. On the festival of Christmas, the last year of the eighth century, Charlemagne appeared in the church of St. Peter; and, to gratify the vanity of Rome, he had exchanged the simple dress of his country for the habit of a patrician. After the celebration of the holy

mysteries, Leo suddenly placed a precious crown on his head, and the dome resounded with the acclamations of the people, "Long life and

victory to Charles, the most pious Augustus, crowned by God the great and pacific emperor of the Romans!" The head and body of Charlemagne were consecrated by the royal unction: after the example of the Cæsars,

he was saluted or adored by the pontiff: his coronation oath represents a promise to maintain the faith and privileges of the church; and the first-fruits were paid in his rich offerings to the shrine of

his apostle. In his familiar conversation, the emperor protested the

ignorance of the intentions of Leo, which he would have disappointed by

his absence on that memorable day. But the preparations of the ceremony

must have disclosed the secret; and the journey of Charlemagne reveals

his knowledge and expectation: he had acknowledged that the Imperial title was the object of his ambition, and a Roman synod had pronounced, that it was the only adequate reward of his merit and services.

the appellation of \_great\_ has been often bestowed, and sometimes deserved; but Charlemagne is the only prince in whose favor the title

has been indissolubly blended with the name. That name, with the addition of \_saint\_, is inserted in the Roman calendar; and the saint, by a rare felicity, is crowned with the praises of the historians and philosophers of an enlightened age. His \_real\_ merit is doubtless enhanced by the barbarism of the nation and the times from which he emerged: but the \_apparent\_ magnitude of an object is likewise enlarged by an unequal comparison; and the ruins of Palmyra derive a casual

splendor from the nakedness of the surrounding desert. Without injustice to his fame, I may discern some blemishes in the sanctity and greatness

of the restorer of the Western empire. Of his moral virtues, chastity

is not the most conspicuous: but the public happiness could not be materially injured by his nine wives or concubines, the various

indulgence of meaner or more transient amours, the multitude of his bastards whom he bestowed on the church, and the long celibacy and

licentious manners of his daughters, whom the father was suspected

of loving with too fond a passion. I shall be scarcely permitted to accuse the ambition of a conqueror; but in a day of equal retribution, the sons of his brother Carloman, the Merovingian princes of Aquitain, and the four thousand five hundred Saxons who were beheaded on the same

spot, would have something to allege against the justice and humanity of charlemagne. His treatment of the vanquished Saxons was an abuse of the

right of conquest; his laws were not less sanguinary than his arms, and

in the discussion of his motives, whatever is subtracted from bigotry

must be imputed to temper. The sedentary reader is amazed by his

incessant activity of mind and body; and his subjects and enemies were

not less astonished at his sudden presence, at the moment when they believed him at the most distant extremity of the empire; neither peace

nor war, nor summer nor winter, were a season of repose; and our fancy cannot easily reconcile the annals of his reign with the geography

of his expeditions. But this activity was a national, rather than a

personal, virtue; the vagrant life of a Frank was spent in the chase, in

pilgrimage, in military adventures; and the journeys of Charlemagne were distinguished only by a more numerous train and a more important

purpose. His military renown must be tried by the scrutiny of his troops, his enemies, and his actions. Alexander conquered with the arms

of Philip, but the \_two\_ heroes who preceded Charlemagne bequeathed him their name, their examples, and the companions of their victories. At the head of his veteran and superior armies, he oppressed the savage or degenerate nations, who were incapable of confederating for their common

safety: nor did he ever encounter an equal antagonist in numbers, in discipline, or in arms The science of war has been lost and revived with the arts of peace; but his campaigns are not illustrated by any siege

or battle of singular difficulty and success; and he might behold, with envy, the Saracen trophies of his grandfather. After the Spanish expedition, his rear-guard was defeated in the Pyrenæan mountains; and the soldiers, whose situation was irretrievable, and whose valor was

useless, might accuse, with their last breath, the want of skill

or caution of their general. I touch with reverence the laws of charlemagne, so highly applauded by a respectable judge. They compose

not a system, but a series, of occasional and minute edicts, for the correction of abuses, the reformation of manners, the economy of his farms, the care of his poultry, and even the sale of his eggs. He wished to improve the laws and the character of the Franks; and his attempts,

however feeble and imperfect, are deserving of praise: the inveterate evils of the times were suspended or mollified by his government; but

in his institutions I can seldom discover the general views and the

immortal spirit of a legislator, who survives himself for the benefit of

posterity. The union and stability of his empire depended on the life

of a single man: he imitated the dangerous practice of dividing his

kingdoms among his sons; and after his numerous diets, the whole constitution was left to fluctuate between the disorders of anarchy and despotism. His esteem for the piety and knowledge of the clergy tempted

him to intrust that aspiring order with temporal dominion and civil

jurisdiction; and his son Lewis, when he was stripped and degraded by the bishops, might accuse, in some measure, the imprudence of his father. His laws enforced the imposition of tithes, because the dæmons

had proclaimed in the air that the default of payment had been the cause

of the last scarcity. The literary merits of Charlemagne are attested by the foundation of schools, the introduction of arts, the works which were published in his name, and his familiar connection with the

subjects and strangers whom he invited to his court to educate both the

prince and people. His own studies were tardy, laborious, and imperfect;

if he spoke Latin, and understood Greek, he derived the rudiments of

knowledge from conversation, rather than from books; and, in his mature age, the emperor strove to acquire the practice of writing, which every

peasant now learns in his infancy. The grammar and logic, the music and astronomy, of the times, were only cultivated as the handmaids of

superstition; but the curiosity of the human mind must ultimately tend to its improvement, and the encouragement of learning reflects the

purest and most pleasing lustre on the character of Charlemagne. The dignity of his person, the length of his reign, the prosperity of his arms, the vigor of his government, and the reverence of distant nations, distinguish him from the royal crowd; and Europe dates a new æra from

his restoration of the Western empire.

that empire was not unworthy of its title; and some of the fairest

kingdoms of Europe were the patrimony or conquest of a prince, who

reigned at the same time in France, Spain, Italy, Germany, and Hungary.

I. The Roman province of Gaul had been transformed into the name and

monarchy of France; but, in the decay of the Merovingian line, its

limits were contracted by the independence of the \_Britons\_ and the

revolt of \_Aquitain\_. Charlemagne pursued, and confined, the Britons

on the shores of the ocean; and that ferocious tribe, whose origin and language are so different from the French, was chastised by the

imposition of tribute, hostages, and peace. After a long and evasive contest, the rebellion of the dukes of Aquitain was punished by the forfeiture of their province, their liberty, and their lives. Harsh and

rigorous would have been such treatment of ambitious governors, who had too faithfully copied the mayors of the palace. But a recent discovery

has proved that these unhappy princes were the last and lawful heirs of the blood and sceptre of Clovis, and younger branch, from the brother of dagobert, of the Merovingian house. Their ancient kingdom was reduced to the duchy of Gascogne, to the counties of Fesenzac and Armagnac, at the foot of the Pyrenees: their race was propagated till the beginning of the sixteenth century; and after surviving their Carlovingian tyrants, they were reserved to feel the injustice, or the favors, of a third dynasty. By the reunion of Aquitain, France was enlarged to its present boundaries, with the additions of the Netherlands and Spain, as far as the Rhine. II. The Saracens had been expelled from France by the

grandfather and father of Charlemagne; but they still possessed the

greatest part of Spain, from the rock of Gibraltar to the Pyrenees. amidst their civil divisions, an Arabian emir of Saragossa implored

his protection in the diet of Paderborn. Charlemagne undertook the expedition, restored the emir, and, without distinction of faith,

impartially crushed the resistance of the Christians, and rewarded the

obedience and services of the Mahometans. In his absence he instituted the \_Spanish march\_, which extended from the Pyrenees to the River Ebro: barcelona was the residence of the French governor: he possessed the counties of \_Rousillon\_ and \_Catalonia\_; and the infant kingdoms of

\_Navarre\_ and \_Arragon\_ were subject to his jurisdiction. III. As king

of the Lombards, and patrician of Rome, he reigned over the greatest

part of Italy, a tract of a thousand miles from the Alps to the borders

of Calabria. The duchy of \_Beneventum\_, a Lombard fief, had spread, at the expense of the Greeks, over the modern kingdom of Naples. But arrechis, the reigning duke, refused to be included in the slavery of

his country; assumed the independent title of prince; and opposed his

sword to the Carlovingian monarchy. His defence was firm, his submission was not inglorious, and the emperor was content with an easy tribute, the demolition of his fortresses, and the acknowledgment, on his coins,

of a supreme lord. The artful flattery of his son Grimoald added the appellation of father, but he asserted his dignity with prudence, and benventum insensibly escaped from the French yoke. IV. Charlemagne was the first who united Germany under the same sceptre. The name of

\_Oriental France\_ is preserved in the circle of \_Franconia\_; and the

people of \_Hesse\_ and \_Thuringia\_ were recently incorporated with the

victors, by the conformity of religion and government. The \_Alemanni\_,

so formidable to the Romans, were the faithful vassals and confederates

of the Franks; and their country was inscribed within the modern limits

of \_Alsace\_, \_Swabia\_, and \_Switzerland\_. The \_Bavarians\_, with a

similar indulgence of their laws and manners, were less patient of a

master: the repeated treasons of Tasillo justified the abolition of their hereditary dukes; and their power was shared among the counts, who

judged and guarded that important frontier. But the north of Germany, from the Rhine and beyond the Elbe, was still hostile and Pagan; nor was

it till after a war of thirty-three years that the Saxons bowed under the yoke of Christ and of Charlemagne. The idols and their votaries were extirpated: the foundation of eight bishoprics, of Munster, Osnaburgh,

Paderborn, and Minden, of Bremen, Verden, Hildesheim, and Halberstadt, define, on either side of the Weser, the bounds of ancient Saxony these episcopal seats were the first schools and cities of that savage land; and the religion and humanity of the children atoned, in some degree, for the massacre of the parents. Beyond the Elbe, the \_Slavi\_, or

Sclavonians, of similar manners and various denominations, overspread the modern dominions of Prussia, Poland, and Bohemia, and some transient

marks of obedience have tempted the French historian to extend the empire to the Baltic and the Vistula. The conquest or conversion

of those countries is of a more recent age; but the first union of

\_Bohemia\_ with the Germanic body may be justly ascribed to the arms of charlemagne. V. He retaliated on the Avars, or Huns of Pannonia, the

same calamities which they had inflicted on the nations. Their rings, the wooden fortifications which encircled their districts and villages, were broken down by the triple effort of a French army, that was poured

into their country by land and water, through the Carpathian mountains and along the plain of the Danube. After a bloody conflict of eight

years, the loss of some French generals was avenged by the slaughter

of the most noble Huns: the relics of the nation submitted the

royal residence of the chagan was left desolate and unknown; and the treasures, the rapine of two hundred and fifty years, enriched the

victorious troops, or decorated the churches of Italy and Gaul. After the reduction of Pannonia, the empire of Charlemagne was bounded only by the conflux of the Danube with the Teyss and the Save: the provinces

of Istria, Liburnia, and Dalmatia, were an easy, though unprofitable, accession; and it was an effect of his moderation, that he left the

maritime cities under the real or nominal sovereignty of the Greeks. But these distant possessions added more to the reputation than to the power

of the Latin emperor; nor did he risk any ecclesiastical foundations to

reclaim the Barbarians from their vagrant life and idolatrous worship.

Some canals of communication between the rivers, the Saone and the

Meuse, the Rhine and the Danube, were faintly attempted. Their execution would have vivified the empire; and more cost and labor were often wasted in the structure of a cathedral.

chapter XLIX: Conquest Of Italy By The Franks.--Part V.

If we retrace the outlines of this geographical picture, it will be seen that the empire of the Franks extended, between east and west, from the ebro to the Elbe or Vistula; between the north and south, from the duchy

of Beneventum to the River Eyder, the perpetual boundary of Germany and Denmark. The personal and political importance of Charlemagne was magnified by the distress and division of the rest of Europe. The

islands of Great Britain and Ireland were disputed by a crowd of princes

of Saxon or Scottish origin: and, after the loss of Spain, the Christian and Gothic kingdom of Alphonso the Chaste was confined to the narrow

range of the Asturian mountains. These petty sovereigns revered the

power or virtue of the Carlovingian monarch, implored the honor and

support of his alliance, and styled him their common parent, the sole and supreme emperor of the West. He maintained a more equal intercourse with the caliph Harun al Rashid, whose dominion stretched from Africa to India, and accepted from his ambassadors a tent, a water-clock, an elephant, and the keys of the Holy Sepulchre. It is not easy to conceive the private friendship of a Frank and an Arab, who were strangers to each other's person, and language, and religion: but their public correspondence was founded on vanity, and their remote situation left no

room for a competition of interest. Two thirds of the Western empire of

Rome were subject to Charlemagne, and the deficiency was amply supplied by his command of the inaccessible or invincible nations of Germany. But

in the choice of his enemies, we may be reasonably surprised that he

so often preferred the poverty of the north to the riches of the south. the three-and-thirty campaigns laboriously consumed in the woods and

morasses of Germany would have sufficed to assert the amplitude of his title by the expulsion of the Greeks from Italy and the Saracens from

Spain. The weakness of the Greeks would have insured an easy victory; and the holy crusade against the Saracens would have been prompted by

glory and revenge, and loudly justified by religion and policy. Perhaps,

in his expeditions beyond the Rhine and the Elbe, he aspired to save

his monarchy from the fate of the Roman empire, to disarm the enemies of civilized society, and to eradicate the seed of future emigrations. but it has been wisely observed, that, in a light of precaution, all conquest must be ineffectual, unless it could be universal, since the

increasing circle must be involved in a larger sphere of hostility. The

subjugation of Germany withdrew the veil which had so long concealed the continent or islands of Scandinavia from the knowledge of Europe, and awakened the torpid courage of their barbarous natives. The fiercest of the Saxon idolaters escaped from the Christian tyrant to their brethren

of the North; the Ocean and Mediterranean were covered with their

piratical fleets; and Charlemagne beheld with a sigh the destructive

progress of the Normans, who, in less than seventy years, precipitated the fall of his race and monarchy.

Had the pope and the Romans revived the primitive constitution, the titles of emperor and Augustus were conferred on Charlemagne for the term of his life; and his successors, on each vacancy, must have ascended the throne by a formal or tacit election. But the association

of his son Lewis the Pious asserts the independent right of monarchy and conquest, and the emperor seems on this occasion to have foreseen and

prevented the latent claims of the clergy. The royal youth was commanded to take the crown from the altar, and with his own hands to place it on

his head, as a gift which he held from God, his father, and the

nation. The same ceremony was repeated, though with less energy, in the subsequent associations of Lothaire and Lewis the Second: the carlovingian sceptre was transmitted from father to son in a lineal descent of four generations; and the ambition of the popes was reduced to the empty honor of crowning and anointing these hereditary princes, who were already invested with their power and dominions. The

pious Lewis survived his brothers, and embraced the whole empire

of Charlemagne; but the nations and the nobles, his bishops and his children, quickly discerned that this mighty mass was no longer inspired by the same soul; and the foundations were undermined to the centre, while the external surface was yet fair and entire. After a war, or battle, which consumed one hundred thousand Franks, the empire was divided by treaty between his three sons, who had violated every filial and fraternal duty. The kingdoms of Germany and France were forever

separated; the provinces of Gaul, between the Rhone and the Alps, the

Meuse and the Rhine, were assigned, with Italy, to the Imperial dignity

of Lothaire. In the partition of his share, Lorraine and Arles, two

recent and transitory kingdoms, were bestowed on the younger children; and Lewis the Second, his eldest son, was content with the realm of

Italy, the proper and sufficient patrimony of a Roman emperor. On his death without any male issue, the vacant throne was disputed by his

uncles and cousins, and the popes most dexterously seized the occasion

of judging the claims and merits of the candidates, and of bestowing on the most obsequious, or most liberal, the Imperial office of advocate of the Roman church. The dregs of the Carlovingian race no longer exhibited any symptoms of virtue or power, and the ridiculous epithets of the

\_bard\_, the \_stammerer\_, the \_fat\_, and the \_simple\_, distinguished the tame and uniform features of a crowd of kings alike deserving

of oblivion. By the failure of the collateral branches, the whole

inheritance devolved to Charles the Fat, the last emperor of his family:

his insanity authorized the desertion of Germany, Italy, and France: he was deposed in a diet, and solicited his daily bread from the rebels by whose contempt his life and liberty had been spared. According to the

measure of their force, the governors, the bishops, and the lords,

usurped the fragments of the falling empire; and some preference was

shown to the female or illegitimate blood of Charlemagne. Of the greater

part, the title and possession were alike doubtful, and the merit was adequate to the contracted scale of their dominions. Those who could appear with an army at the gates of Rome were crowned emperors in the Vatican; but their modesty was more frequently satisfied with the appellation of kings of Italy: and the whole term of seventy-four years

may be deemed a vacancy, from the abdication of Charles the Fat to the establishment of Otho the First.

Otho was of the noble race of the dukes of Saxony; and if he truly descended from Witikind, the adversary and proselyte of Charlemagne, the posterity of a vanquished people was exalted to reign over their conquerors. His father, Henry the Fowler, was elected, by the suffrage

of the nation, to save and institute the kingdom of Germany. Its limits were enlarged on every side by his son, the first and greatest of the

Othos. A portion of Gaul, to the west of the Rhine, along the banks of the Meuse and the Moselle, was assigned to the Germans, by whose blood and language it has been tinged since the time of Cæsar and Tacitus. between the Rhine, the Rhone, and the Alps, the successors of Otho acquired a vain supremacy over the broken kingdoms of Burgundy and arles. In the North, Christianity was propagated by the sword of Otho, the conqueror and apostle of the Slavic nations of the Elbe and Oder: the marches of Brandenburgh and Sleswick were fortified with German colonies; and the king of Denmark, the dukes of Poland and Bohemia, confessed themselves his tributary vassals. At the head of a victorious army, he passed the Alps, subdued the kingdom of Italy, delivered the

pope, and forever fixed the Imperial crown in the name and nation of

Germany. From that memorable æra, two maxims of public jurisprudence were introduced by force and ratified by time. I. \_That\_ the prince, who was elected in the German diet, acquired, from that instant, the subject

kingdoms of Italy and Rome. II. But that he might not legally assume the titles of emperor and Augustus, till he had received the crown from the

hands of the Roman pontiff.

the Imperial dignity of Charlemagne was announced to the East by the alteration of his style; and instead of saluting his fathers, the Greek emperors, he presumed to adopt the more equal and familiar appellation

of brother. Perhaps in his connection with Irene he aspired to the name

of husband: his embassy to Constantinople spoke the language of peace and friendship, and might conceal a treaty of marriage with that ambitious princess, who had renounced the most sacred duties of a

mother. The nature, the duration, the probable consequences of such a

union between two distant and dissonant empires, it is impossible to conjecture; but the unanimous silence of the Latins may teach us to

suspect, that the report was invented by the enemies of Irene, to charge

her with the guilt of betraying the church and state to the strangers

of the West. The French ambassadors were the spectators, and had nearly been the victims, of the conspiracy of Nicephorus, and the national

hatred. Constantinople was exasperated by the treason and sacrilege

of ancient Rome: a proverb, "That the Franks were good friends and bad

neighbors," was in every one's mouth; but it was dangerous to provoke a

neighbor who might be tempted to reiterate, in the church of St. Sophia, the ceremony of his Imperial coronation. After a tedious journey of circuit and delay, the ambassadors of Nicephorus found him in his camp,

on the banks of the River Sala; and Charlemagne affected to confound their vanity by displaying, in a Franconian village, the pomp, or at

least the pride, of the Byzantine palace. The Greeks were successively

led through four halls of audience: in the first they were ready to fall prostrate before a splendid personage in a chair of state, till he

informed them that he was only a servant, the constable, or master of the horse, of the emperor. The same mistake, and the same answer, were

repeated in the apartments of the count palatine, the steward, and the chamberlain; and their impatience was gradually heightened, till the doors of the presence-chamber were thrown open, and they beheld the

genuine monarch, on his throne, enriched with the foreign luxury which

he despised, and encircled with the love and reverence of his victorious chiefs. A treaty of peace and alliance was concluded between the two empires, and the limits of the East and West were defined by the right

of present possession. But the Greeks soon forgot this humiliating equality, or remembered it only to hate the Barbarians by whom it was extorted. During the short union of virtue and power, they respectfully

saluted the \_august\_ Charlemagne, with the acclamations of \_basileus\_, and emperor of the Romans. As soon as these qualities were separated in the person of his pious son, the Byzantine letters were inscribed,

"To the king, or, as he styles himself, the emperor of the Franks and

Lombards." When both power and virtue were extinct, they despoiled Lewis the Second of his hereditary title, and with the barbarous appellation

of rex or \_rega\_, degraded him among the crowd of Latin princes. His

reply is expressive of his weakness: he proves, with some learning, that, both in sacred and profane history, the name of king is synonymous with the Greek word \_basileus\_: if, at Constantinople, it were assumed

in a more exclusive and imperial sense, he claims from his ancestors, and from the popes, a just participation of the honors of the Roman

purple. The same controversy was revived in the reign of the Othos; and their ambassador describes, in lively colors, the insolence of the Byzantine court. The Greeks affected to despise the poverty and

ignorance of the Franks and Saxons; and in their last decline refused to

prostitute to the kings of Germany the title of Roman emperors.

these emperors, in the election of the popes, continued to exercise the

powers which had been assumed by the Gothic and Grecian princes; and the

importance of this prerogative increased with the temporal estate and spiritual jurisdiction of the Roman church. In the Christian aristocracy, the principal members of the clergy still formed a senate to assist the administration, and to supply the vacancy, of the bishop.

Rome was divided into twenty-eight parishes, and each parish was

governed by a cardinal priest, or presbyter, a title which, however common or modest in its origin, has aspired to emulate the purple of

kings. Their number was enlarged by the association of the seven deacons

of the most considerable hospitals, the seven palatine judges of the

Lateran, and some dignitaries of the church. This ecclesiastical senate was directed by the seven cardinal-bishops of the Roman province, who were less occupied in the suburb dioceses of Ostia, Porto, Velitræ, tusculum, Præneste, Tibur, and the Sabines, than by their weekly service

in the Lateran, and their superior share in the honors and authority of the apostolic see. On the death of the pope, these bishops recommended a

successor to the suffrage of the college of cardinals, and their choice was ratified or rejected by the applause or clamor of the Roman people. but the election was imperfect; nor could the pontiff be legally consecrated till the emperor, the advocate of the church, had graciously

signified his approbation and consent. The royal commissioner examined,

on the spot, the form and freedom of the proceedings; nor was it till after a previous scrutiny into the qualifications of the candidates, that he accepted an oath of fidelity, and confirmed the donations which

had successively enriched the patrimony of St. Peter. In the frequent

schisms, the rival claims were submitted to the sentence of the emperor; and in a synod of bishops he presumed to judge, to condemn, and to

punish, the crimes of a guilty pontiff. Otho the First imposed a treaty

on the senate and people, who engaged to prefer the candidate most acceptable to his majesty: his successors anticipated or prevented their choice: they bestowed the Roman benefice, like the bishoprics of Cologne

or Bamberg, on their chancellors or preceptors; and whatever might be the merit of a Frank or Saxon, his name sufficiently attests the

interposition of foreign power. These acts of prerogative were most

speciously excused by the vices of a popular election. The competitor who had been excluded by the cardinals appealed to the passions or avarice of the multitude; the Vatican and the Lateran were stained with blood; and the most powerful senators, the marquises of Tuscany and the counts of Tusculum, held the apostolic see in a long and disgraceful

servitude. The Roman pontiffs, of the ninth and tenth centuries, were

insulted, imprisoned, and murdered, by their tyrants; and such was their indigence, after the loss and usurpation of the ecclesiastical

patrimonies, that they could neither support the state of a prince,

nor exercise the charity of a priest. The influence of two sister

prostitutes, Marozia and Theodora, was founded on their wealth and beauty, their political and amorous intrigues: the most strenuous of their lovers were rewarded with the Roman mitre, and their reign may

have suggested to the darker ages the fable of a female pope. The bastard son, the grandson, and the great-grandson of Marozia, a rare

genealogy, were seated in the chair of St. Peter, and it was at the age

of nineteen years that the second of these became the head of the Latin church. His youth and manhood were of a suitable complexion; and the

nations of pilgrims could bear testimony to the charges that were urged against him in a Roman synod, and in the presence of Otho the Great. As

John XII. had renounced the dress and decencies of his profession, the

\_soldier\_ may not perhaps be dishonored by the wine which he drank, the blood that he spilt, the flames that he kindled, or the licentious

pursuits of gaming and hunting. His open simony might be the consequence

of distress; and his blasphemous invocation of Jupiter and Venus, if it be true, could not possibly be serious. But we read, with some surprise, that the worthy grandson of Marozia lived in public adultery with the

matrons of Rome; that the Lateran palace was turned into a school for

prostitution, and that his rapes of virgins and widows had deterred the female pilgrims from visiting the tomb of St. Peter, lest, in the devout act, they should be violated by his successor. The Protestants have dwelt with malicious pleasure on these characters of Antichrist; but to a philosophic eye, the vices of the clergy are far less dangerous than their virtues. After a long series of scandal, the apostolic see was

reformed and exalted by the austerity and zeal of Gregory VII. That ambitious monk devoted his life to the execution of two projects. I. to fix in the college of cardinals the freedom and independence of election, and forever to abolish the right or usurpation of the emperors and the Roman people. II. To bestow and resume the Western empire as a fief or benefice of the church, and to extend his temporal dominion over the kings and kingdoms of the earth. After a contest of fifty years, the first of these designs was accomplished by the firm support of the ecclesiastical order, whose liberty was connected with that of their chief. But the second attempt, though it was crowned with some partial and apparent success, has been vigorously resisted by the secular power, and finally extinguished by the improvement of human reason.

In the revival of the empire of empire of Rome, neither the bishop nor the people could bestow on Charlemagne or Otho the provinces which were

lost, as they had been won, by the chance of arms. But the Romans were free to choose a master for themselves; and the powers which had been delegated to the patrician, were irrevocably granted to the French and

Saxon emperors of the West. The broken records of the times preserve

some remembrance of their palace, their mint, their tribunal, their edicts, and the sword of justice, which, as late as the thirteenth century, was derived from Cæsar to the præfect of the city. Between the arts of the popes and the violence of the people, this supremacy was crushed and annihilated. Content with the titles of emperor and augustus, the successors of Charlemagne neglected to assert this local

jurisdiction. In the hour of prosperity, their ambition was diverted by

more alluring objects; and in the decay and division of the empire, they were oppressed by the defence of their hereditary provinces. Amidst the

ruins of Italy, the famous Marozia invited one of the usurpers to assume the character of her third husband; and Hugh, king of Burgundy was

introduced by her faction into the mole of Hadrian or Castle of St. angelo, which commands the principal bridge and entrance of Rome. Her

son by the first marriage, Alberic, was compelled to attend at the

nuptial banquet; but his reluctant and ungraceful service was chastised with a blow by his new father. The blow was productive of a revolution.

"Romans," exclaimed the youth, "once you were the masters of the world, and these Burgundians the most abject of your slaves. They now reign, these voracious and brutal savages, and my injury is the commencement

of your servitude." The alarum bell rang to arms in every quarter of the city: the Burgundians retreated with haste and shame; Marozia was

imprisoned by her victorious son, and his brother, Pope John XI., was

reduced to the exercise of his spiritual functions. With the title of

prince, Alberic possessed above twenty years the government of Rome; and he is said to have gratified the popular prejudice, by restoring the

office, or at least the title, of consuls and tribunes. His son and heir

Octavian assumed, with the pontificate, the name of John XII.: like his

predecessor, he was provoked by the Lombard princes to seek a deliverer for the church and republic; and the services of Otho were rewarded with the Imperial dignity. But the Saxon was imperious, the Romans were

impatient, the festival of the coronation was disturbed by the secret conflict of prerogative and freedom, and Otho commanded his sword-bearer

not to stir from his person, lest he should be assaulted and murdered at the foot of the altar. Before he repassed the Alps, the emperor chastised the revolt of the people and the ingratitude of John XII. The

pope was degraded in a synod; the præfect was mounted on an ass, whipped through the city, and cast into a dungeon; thirteen of the most guilty were hanged, others were mutilated or banished; and this severe process was justified by the ancient laws of Theodosius and Justinian. The voice

of fame has accused the second Otho of a perfidious and bloody act, the

massacre of the senators, whom he had invited to his table under the fair semblance of hospitality and friendship. In the minority of his son

Otho the Third, Rome made a bold attempt to shake off the Saxon yoke, and the consul Crescentius was the Brutus of the republic. From the condition of a subject and an exile, he twice rose to the command of the city, oppressed, expelled, and created the popes, and formed a conspiracy for restoring the authority of the Greek emperors. In the fortress of St. Angelo, he maintained an obstinate siege, till the

unfortunate consul was betrayed by a promise of safety: his body was

suspended on a gibbet, and his head was exposed on the battlements of the castle. By a reverse of fortune, Otho, after separating his troops, was besieged three days, without food, in his palace; and a disgraceful escape saved him from the justice or fury of the Romans. The senator

Ptolemy was the leader of the people, and the widow of Crescentius enjoyed the pleasure or the fame of revenging her husband, by a poison which she administered to her Imperial lover. It was the design of Otho the Third to abandon the ruder countries of the North, to erect his throne in Italy, and to revive the institutions of the Roman monarchy. but his successors only once in their lives appeared on the banks of the Tyber, to receive their crown in the Vatican. Their absence was contemptible, their presence odious and formidable. They descended from the Alps, at the head of their barbarians, who were strangers and enemies to the country; and their transient visit was a scene of tumult and bloodshed. A faint remembrance of their ancestors still tormented the Romans; and they beheld with pious indignation the succession of

Saxons, Franks, Swabians, and Bohemians, who usurped the purple and

prerogatives of the Cæsars.

chapter XLIX: Conquest Of Italy By The Franks.--Part VI.

there is nothing perhaps more adverse to nature and reason than to hold

in obedience remote countries and foreign nations, in opposition to their inclination and interest. A torrent of Barbarians may pass over the earth, but an extensive empire must be supported by a refined system

of policy and oppression; in the centre, an absolute power, prompt in action and rich in resources; a swift and easy communication with the extreme parts; fortifications to check the first effort of rebellion; a regular administration to protect and punish; and a well-disciplined army to inspire fear, without provoking discontent and despair. Far different was the situation of the German Cæsars, who were ambitious to enslave the kingdom of Italy. Their patrimonial estates were stretched along the Rhine, or scattered in the provinces; but this ample domain was alienated by the imprudence or distress of successive princes; and their revenue, from minute and vexatious prerogative, was scarcely

sufficient for the maintenance of their household. Their troops were formed by the legal or voluntary service of their feudal vassals, who

passed the Alps with reluctance, assumed the license of rapine and disorder, and capriciously deserted before the end of the campaign. whole armies were swept away by the pestilential influence of the climate: the survivors brought back the bones of their princes and

nobles, and the effects of their own intemperance were often imputed to the treachery and malice of the Italians, who rejoiced at least in the calamities of the Barbarians. This irregular tyranny might contend on equal terms with the petty tyrants of Italy; nor can the people, or the reader, be much interested in the event of the quarrel. But in the eleventh and twelfth centuries, the Lombards rekindled the flame of

industry and freedom; and the generous example was at length imitated by the republics of Tuscany. In the Italian cities a municipal government

had never been totally abolished; and their first privileges were

granted by the favor and policy of the emperors, who were desirous of erecting a plebeian barrier against the independence of the nobles. but their rapid progress, the daily extension of their power and

pretensions, were founded on the numbers and spirit of these rising communities. Each city filled the measure of her diocese or district: the jurisdiction of the counts and bishops, of the marquises and counts, was banished from the land; and the proudest nobles were persuaded or compelled to desert their solitary castles, and to embrace the more

honorable character of freemen and magistrates. The legislative authority was inherent in the general assembly; but the executive powers were intrusted to three consuls, annually chosen from the three orders

of \_captains\_, \_valvassors\_, and commons, into which the republic was divided. Under the protection of equal law, the labors of agriculture and commerce were gradually revived; but the martial spirit of the

Lombards was nourished by the presence of danger; and as often as the bell was rung, or the standard erected, the gates of the city poured forth a numerous and intrepid band, whose zeal in their own cause was

soon guided by the use and discipline of arms. At the foot of these

popular ramparts, the pride of the Cæsars was overthrown; and the

invincible genius of liberty prevailed over the two Frederics, the

greatest princes of the middle age; the first, superior perhaps in

military prowess; the second, who undoubtedly excelled in the softer accomplishments of peace and learning.

ambitious of restoring the splendor of the purple, Frederic the First

invaded the republics of Lombardy, with the arts of a statesman, the

valor of a soldier, and the cruelty of a tyrant. The recent discovery of the Pandects had renewed a science most favorable to despotism; and his

venal advocates proclaimed the emperor the absolute master of the lives and properties of his subjects. His royal prerogatives, in a less odious

sense, were acknowledged in the diet of Roncaglia; and the revenue

of Italy was fixed at thirty thousand pounds of silver, which were

multiplied to an indefinite demand by the rapine of the fiscal officers. the obstinate cities were reduced by the terror or the force of his arms: his captives were delivered to the executioner, or shot from

his military engines; and after the siege and surrender of Milan, the buildings of that stately capital were razed to the ground, three

hundred hostages were sent into Germany, and the inhabitants were dispersed in four villages, under the yoke of the inflexible conqueror. but Milan soon rose from her ashes; and the league of Lombardy was cemented by distress: their cause was espoused by Venice, Pope alexander the Third, and the Greek emperor: the fabric of oppression was overturned in a day; and in the treaty of Constance, Frederic

subscribed, with some reservations, the freedom of four-and-twenty cities. His grandson contended with their vigor and maturity; but frederic the Second was endowed with some personal and peculiar advantages. His birth and education recommended him to the Italians; and in the implacable discord of the two factions, the Ghibelins were attached to the emperor, while the Guelfs displayed the banner of

liberty and the church. The court of Rome had slumbered, when his father

Henry the Sixth was permitted to unite with the empire the kingdoms of

Naples and Sicily; and from these hereditary realms the son derived an ample and ready supply of troops and treasure. Yet Frederic the Second was finally oppressed by the arms of the Lombards and the thunders of the Vatican: his kingdom was given to a stranger, and the last of his family was beheaded at Naples on a public scaffold. During sixty years,

no emperor appeared in Italy, and the name was remembered only by the

ignominious sale of the last relics of sovereignty.

the Barbarian conquerors of the West were pleased to decorate their chief with the title of emperor; but it was not their design to invest

him with the despotism of Constantine and Justinian. The persons of the

Germans were free, their conquests were their own, and their

national character was animated by a spirit which scorned the servile

jurisprudence of the new or the ancient Rome. It would have been a vain and dangerous attempt to impose a monarch on the armed freemen, who were impatient of a magistrate; on the bold, who refused to obey; on the

powerful, who aspired to command. The empire of Charlemagne and Otho was distributed among the dukes of the nations or provinces, the counts of the smaller districts, and the margraves of the marches or frontiers, who all united the civil and military authority as it had been delegated to the lieutenants of the first Cæsars. The Roman governors, who, for the most part, were soldiers of fortune, seduced their mercenary

legions, assumed the Imperial purple, and either failed or succeeded in their revolt, without wounding the power and unity of government. If the dukes, margraves, and counts of Germany, were less audacious in their claims, the consequences of their success were more lasting and

pernicious to the state. Instead of aiming at the supreme rank, they silently labored to establish and appropriate their provincial

independence. Their ambition was seconded by the weight of their estates and vassals, their mutual example and support, the common interest

of the subordinate nobility, the change of princes and families, the

minorities of Otho the Third and Henry the Fourth, the ambition of the

popes, and the vain pursuit of the fugitive crowns of Italy and Rome. all the attributes of regal and territorial jurisdiction were gradually

usurped by the commanders of the provinces; the right of peace and war,

of life and death, of coinage and taxation, of foreign alliance and domestic economy. Whatever had been seized by violence, was ratified by favor or distress, was granted as the price of a doubtful vote or a

voluntary service; whatever had been granted to one could not, without

injury, be denied to his successor or equal; and every act of local or temporary possession was insensibly moulded into the constitution of the

Germanic kingdom. In every province, the visible presence of the duke or count was interposed between the throne and the nobles; the subjects of the law became the vassals of a private chief; and the standard which

\_he\_ received from his sovereign, was often raised against him in the field. The temporal power of the clergy was cherished and exalted by the superstition or policy of the Carlovingian and Saxon dynasties, who blindly depended on their moderation and fidelity; and the bishoprics of

Germany were made equal in extent and privilege, superior in wealth and

population, to the most ample states of the military order. As long as the emperors retained the prerogative of bestowing on every vacancy these ecclesiastic and secular benefices, their cause was maintained by the gratitude or ambition of their friends and favorites. But in the

quarrel of the investitures, they were deprived of their influence over the episcopal chapters; the freedom of election was restored, and the

sovereign was reduced, by a solemn mockery, to his \_first prayers\_, the

recommendation, once in his reign, to a single prebend in each church. the secular governors, instead of being recalled at the will of a

superior, could be degraded only by the sentence of their peers. In the first age of the monarchy, the appointment of the son to the duchy

or county of his father, was solicited as a favor; it was gradually

obtained as a custom, and extorted as a right: the lineal succession was

often extended to the collateral or female branches; the states of the empire (their popular, and at length their legal, appellation) were divided and alienated by testament and sale; and all idea of a public trust was lost in that of a private and perpetual inheritance. The emperor could not even be enriched by the casualties of forfeiture and extinction: within the term of a year, he was obliged to dispose of the

vacant fief; and, in the choice of the candidate, it was his duty to consult either the general or the provincial diet.

after the death of Frederic the Second, Germany was left a monster with a hundred heads. A crowd of princes and prelates disputed the ruins of the empire: the lords of innumerable castles were less prone to obey, than to imitate, their superiors; and, according to the measure of their

strength, their incessant hostilities received the names of conquest

or robbery. Such anarchy was the inevitable consequence of the laws and

manners of Europe; and the kingdoms of France and Italy were shivered

into fragments by the violence of the same tempest. But the Italian cities and the French vassals were divided and destroyed, while the

union of the Germans has produced, under the name of an empire, a

great system of a federative republic. In the frequent and at last the

perpetual institution of diets, a national spirit was kept alive, and the powers of a common legislature are still exercised by the three branches or colleges of the electors, the princes, and the free and

Imperial cities of Germany. I. Seven of the most powerful feudatories were permitted to assume, with a distinguished name and rank, the exclusive privilege of choosing the Roman emperor; and these electors were the king of Bohemia, the duke of Saxony, the margrave of brandenburgh, the count palatine of the Rhine, and the three archbishops

of Mentz, of Treves, and of Cologne. II. The college of princes and

prelates purged themselves of a promiscuous multitude: they reduced to four representative votes the long series of independent counts, and excluded the nobles or equestrian order, sixty thousand of whom, as in the Polish diets, had appeared on horseback in the field of election.

III. The pride of birth and dominion, of the sword and the mitre, wisely adopted the commons as the third branch of the legislature, and, in the

progress of society, they were introduced about the same æra into the

national assemblies of France England, and Germany. The Hanseatic League commanded the trade and navigation of the north: the confederates of the Rhine secured the peace and intercourse of the inland country; the

influence of the cities has been adequate to their wealth and policy, and their negative still invalidates the acts of the two superior colleges of electors and princes.

It is in the fourteenth century that we may view in the strongest light the state and contrast of the Roman empire of Germany, which no longer

held, except on the borders of the Rhine and Danube, a single province

of Trajan or Constantine. Their unworthy successors were the counts of

Hapsburgh, of Nassau, of Luxemburgh, and Schwartzenburgh: the emperor

Henry the Seventh procured for his son the crown of Bohemia, and

his grandson Charles the Fourth was born among a people strange and barbarous in the estimation of the Germans themselves. After the excommunication of Lewis of Bavaria, he received the gift or promise

of the vacant empire from the Roman pontiffs, who, in the exile and captivity of Avignon, affected the dominion of the earth. The death

of his competitors united the electoral college, and Charles was

unanimously saluted king of the Romans, and future emperor; a title which, in the same age, was prostituted to the Cæsars of Germany and

Greece. The German emperor was no more than the elective and impotent

magistrate of an aristocracy of princes, who had not left him a village that he might call his own. His best prerogative was the right of

presiding and proposing in the national senate, which was convened at

his summons; and his native kingdom of Bohemia, less opulent than the adjacent city of Nuremberg, was the firmest seat of his power and the

richest source of his revenue. The army with which he passed the Alps consisted of three hundred horse. In the cathedral of St. Ambrose, charles was crowned with the \_iron\_ crown, which tradition ascribed to the Lombard monarchy; but he was admitted only with a peaceful train; the gates of the city were shut upon him; and the king of Italy was

held a captive by the arms of the Visconti, whom he confirmed in the

sovereignty of Milan. In the Vatican he was again crowned with the

\_golden\_ crown of the empire; but, in obedience to a secret treaty, the Roman emperor immediately withdrew, without reposing a single night within the walls of Rome. The eloquent Petrarch, whose fancy revived the

visionary glories of the Capitol, deplores and upbraids the ignominious flight of the Bohemian; and even his contemporaries could observe, that the sole exercise of his authority was in the lucrative sale of

privileges and titles. The gold of Italy secured the election of his

son; but such was the shameful poverty of the Roman emperor, that

his person was arrested by a butcher in the streets of Worms, and was detained in the public inn, as a pledge or hostage for the payment of

his expenses.

from this humiliating scene, let us turn to the apparent majesty of the

same Charles in the diets of the empire. The golden bull, which fixes the Germanic constitution, is promulgated in the style of a sovereign and legislator. A hundred princes bowed before his throne, and exalted their own dignity by the voluntary honors which they yielded to their chief or minister. At the royal banquet, the hereditary great officers, the seven electors, who in rank and title were equal to kings, performed their solemn and domestic service of the palace. The seals of the triple

kingdom were borne in state by the archbishops of Mentz, Cologne, and treves, the perpetual arch-chancellors of Germany, Italy, and Arles. the great marshal, on horseback, exercised his function with a silver

measure of oats, which he emptied on the ground, and immediately dismounted to regulate the order of the guests The great steward, the count palatine of the Rhine, place the dishes on the table. The great chamberlain, the margrave of Brandenburgh, presented, after the repast, the golden ewer and basin, to wash. The king of Bohemia, as great cup-bearer, was represented by the emperor's brother, the duke of

Luxemburgh and Brabant; and the procession was closed by the great

huntsmen, who introduced a boar and a stag, with a loud chorus of horns and hounds. Nor was the supremacy of the emperor confined to Germany alone: the hereditary monarchs of Europe confessed the preëminence of

his rank and dignity: he was the first of the Christian princes, the temporal head of the great republic of the West: to his person the title

of majesty was long appropriated; and he disputed with the pope the

sublime prerogative of creating kings and assembling councils. The

oracle of the civil law, the learned Bartolus, was a pensioner of charles the Fourth; and his school resounded with the doctrine, that the

Roman emperor was the rightful sovereign of the earth, from the rising to the setting sun. The contrary opinion was condemned, not as an error, but as a heresy, since even the gospel had pronounced, "And there went forth a decree from Cæsar Augustus, that \_all the world\_ should be taxed."

If we annihilate the interval of time and space between Augustus and charles, strong and striking will be the contrast between the two cæsars; the Bohemian who concealed his weakness under the mask of

ostentation, and the Roman, who disguised his strength under the

semblance of modesty. At the head of his victorious legions, in his

reign over the sea and land, from the Nile and Euphrates to the Atlantic

Ocean, Augustus professed himself the servant of the state and the equal

of his fellow-citizens. The conqueror of Rome and her provinces assumed a popular and legal form of a censor, a consul, and a tribune. His will was the law of mankind, but in the declaration of his laws he borrowed the voice of the senate and people; and from their decrees their

master accepted and renewed his temporary commission to administer the

republic. In his dress, his domestics, his titles, in all the offices of

social life, Augustus maintained the character of a private Roman; and

his most artful flatterers respected the secret of his absolute and

perpetual monarchy.

chapter L: Description Of Arabia And Its Inhabitants.--Part I.

Description Of Arabia And Its Inhabitants.--Birth,

Character, And Doctrine Of Mahomet.--He Preaches At Mecca.--

Flies To Medina.--Propagates His Religion By The Sword.--

Voluntary Or Reluctant Submission Of The Arabs.--His Death

And Successors.--The Claims And Fortunes Of All And His

Descendants.

after pursuing above six hundred years the fleeting Cæsars of constantinople and Germany, I now descend, in the reign of Heraclius, on the eastern borders of the Greek monarchy. While the state was exhausted by the Persian war, and the church was distracted by the Nestorian and

Monophysite sects, Mahomet, with the sword in one hand and the Koran in the other, erected his throne on the ruins of Christianity and of Rome. the genius of the Arabian prophet, the manners of his nation, and the

spirit of his religion, involve the causes of the decline and fall of the Eastern empire; and our eyes are curiously intent on one of the most

memorable revolutions, which have impressed a new and lasting character

on the nations of the globe.

In the vacant space between Persia, Syria, Egypt, and Æthiopia, the arabian peninsula may be conceived as a triangle of spacious but

irregular dimensions. From the northern point of Beles on the Euphrates, a line of fifteen hundred miles is terminated by the Straits of bebelmandel and the land of frankincense. About half this length may be allowed for the middle breadth, from east to west, from Bassora to Suez, from the Persian Gulf to the Red Sea. The sides of the triangle are

gradually enlarged, and the southern basis presents a front of a thousand miles to the Indian Ocean. The entire surface of the peninsula exceeds in a fourfold proportion that of Germany or France; but the far greater part has been justly stigmatized with the epithets of the

\_stony\_ and the \_sandy\_. Even the wilds of Tartary are decked, by the

hand of nature, with lofty trees and luxuriant herbage; and the lonesome traveller derives a sort of comfort and society from the presence of

vegetable life. But in the dreary waste of Arabia, a boundless level of

sand is intersected by sharp and naked mountains; and the face of the desert, without shade or shelter, is scorched by the direct and intense

rays of a tropical sun. Instead of refreshing breezes, the winds,

particularly from the south-west, diffuse a noxious and even deadly

vapor; the hillocks of sand which they alternately raise and scatter, are compared to the billows of the ocean, and whole caravans, whole armies, have been lost and buried in the whirlwind. The common benefits

of water are an object of desire and contest; and such is the scarcity

of wood, that some art is requisite to preserve and propagate the element of fire. Arabia is destitute of navigable rivers, which fertilize the soil, and convey its produce to the adjacent regions: the torrents that fall from the hills are imbibed by the thirsty earth: the

rare and hardy plants, the tamarind or the acacia, that strike their

roots into the clefts of the rocks, are nourished by the dews of the

night: a scanty supply of rain is collected in cisterns and aqueducts: the wells and springs are the secret treasure of the desert; and the

pilgrim of Mecca, after many a dry and sultry march, is disgusted by the taste of the waters which have rolled over a bed of sulphur or salt.

Such is the general and genuine picture of the climate of Arabia. the experience of evil enhances the value of any local or partial enjoyments. A shady grove, a green pasture, a stream of fresh water, are

sufficient to attract a colony of sedentary Arabs to the fortunate spots which can afford food and refreshment to themselves and their cattle, and which encourage their industry in the cultivation of the palmtree and the vine. The high lands that border on the Indian Ocean are distinguished by their superior plenty of wood and water; the air is

more temperate, the fruits are more delicious, the animals and the human

race more numerous: the fertility of the soil invites and rewards the toil of the husbandman; and the peculiar gifts of frankincense and coffee have attracted in different ages the merchants of the world. If

it be compared with the rest of the peninsula, this sequestered region

may truly deserve the appellation of the \_happy\_; and the splendid coloring of fancy and fiction has been suggested by contrast, and countenanced by distance. It was for this earthly paradise that Nature

had reserved her choicest favors and her most curious workmanship: the

incompatible blessings of luxury and innocence were ascribed to the

natives: the soil was impregnated with gold and gems, and both the

land and sea were taught to exhale the odors of aromatic sweets. This division of the \_sandy\_, the \_stony\_, and the \_happy\_, so familiar to the Greeks and Latins, is unknown to the Arabians themselves; and it

is singular enough, that a country, whose language and inhabitants have ever been the same, should scarcely retain a vestige of its ancient

geography. The maritime districts of \_Bahrein\_ and \_Oman\_ are opposite to the realm of Persia. The kingdom of \_Yemen\_ displays the limits, or at least the situation, of Arabia Felix: the name of \_Neged\_ is extended

over the inland space; and the birth of Mahomet has illustrated the

province of \_Hejaz\_ along the coast of the Red Sea.

the measure of population is regulated by the means of subsistence; and the inhabitants of this vast peninsula might be outnumbered by the

subjects of a fertile and industrious province. Along the shores of the

Persian Gulf, of the ocean, and even of the Red Sea, the \_Icthyophagi\_,

or fish eaters, continued to wander in quest of their precarious food.

In this primitive and abject state, which ill deserves the name of

society, the human brute, without arts or laws, almost without sense or

language, is poorly distinguished from the rest of the animal creation.

Generations and ages might roll away in silent oblivion, and the

helpless savage was restrained from multiplying his race by the wants and pursuits which confined his existence to the narrow margin of the

seacoast. But in an early period of antiquity the great body of the arabs had emerged from this scene of misery; and as the naked wilderness could not maintain a people of hunters, they rose at once to the more

secure and plentiful condition of the pastoral life. The same life

is uniformly pursued by the roving tribes of the desert; and in the

portrait of the modern \_Bedoweens\_, we may trace the features of their ancestors, who, in the age of Moses or Mahomet, dwelt under similar tents, and conducted their horses, and camels, and sheep, to the same

springs and the same pastures. Our toil is lessened, and our wealth

is increased, by our dominion over the useful animals; and the Arabian

shepherd had acquired the absolute possession of a faithful friend and a laborious slave. Arabia, in the opinion of the naturalist, is the genuine and original country of the \_horse\_; the climate most

propitious, not indeed to the size, but to the spirit and swiftness,

of that generous animal. The merit of the Barb, the Spanish, and the english breed, is derived from a mixture of Arabian blood: the Bedoweens

preserve, with superstitious care, the honors and the memory of the

purest race: the males are sold at a high price, but the females are

seldom alienated; and the birth of a noble foal was esteemed among the tribes, as a subject of joy and mutual congratulation. These horses are educated in the tents, among the children of the Arabs, with a tender familiarity, which trains them in the habits of gentleness and attachment. They are accustomed only to walk and to gallop: their

sensations are not blunted by the incessant abuse of the spur and the whip: their powers are reserved for the moments of flight and pursuit: but no sooner do they feel the touch of the hand or the stirrup, than they dart away with the swiftness of the wind; and if their friend be dismounted in the rapid career, they instantly stop till he has

recovered his seat. In the sands of Africa and Arabia, the \_camel\_ is a sacred and precious gift. That strong and patient beast of burden can

perform, without eating or drinking, a journey of several days; and a

reservoir of fresh water is preserved in a large bag, a fifth stomach

of the animal, whose body is imprinted with the marks of servitude: the

larger breed is capable of transporting a weight of a thousand pounds; and the dromedary, of a lighter and more active frame, outstrips the fleetest courser in the race. Alive or dead, almost every part of the camel is serviceable to man: her milk is plentiful and nutritious: the young and tender flesh has the taste of veal: a valuable salt is extracted from the urine: the dung supplies the deficiency of fuel; and the long hair, which falls each year and is renewed, is coarsely

manufactured into the garments, the furniture, and the tents of the bedoweens. In the rainy seasons, they consume the rare and insufficient

herbage of the desert: during the heats of summer and the scarcity of winter, they remove their encampments to the sea-coast, the hills of

Yemen, or the neighborhood of the Euphrates, and have often extorted the dangerous license of visiting the banks of the Nile, and the villages

of Syria and Palestine. The life of a wandering Arab is a life of danger and distress; and though sometimes, by rapine or exchange, he may appropriate the fruits of industry, a private citizen in Europe is in the possession of more solid and pleasing luxury than the proudest emir, who marches in the field at the head of ten thousand horse.

Yet an essential difference may be found between the hordes of Scythia and the Arabian tribes; since many of the latter were collected into towns, and employed in the labors of trade and agriculture. A part of their time and industry was still devoted to the management of their cattle: they mingled, in peace and war, with their brethren of the desert; and the Bedoweens derived from their useful intercourse some

supply of their wants, and some rudiments of art and knowledge. Among the forty-two cities of Arabia, enumerated by Abulfeda, the most ancient and populous were situate in the \_happy\_ Yemen: the towers of Saana, and the marvellous reservoir of Merab, were constructed by the kings of the Homerites; but their profane lustre was eclipsed by the prophetic

glories of Medina and Mecca, near the Red Sea, and at the distance from each other of two hundred and seventy miles. The last of these holy

places was known to the Greeks under the name of Macoraba; and the termination of the word is expressive of its greatness, which has

not, indeed, in the most flourishing period, exceeded the size and

populousness of Marseilles. Some latent motive, perhaps of superstition,

must have impelled the founders, in the choice of a most unpromising

situation. They erected their habitations of mud or stone, in a plain about two miles long and one mile broad, at the foot of three barren

mountains: the soil is a rock; the water even of the holy well of Zemzem

is bitter or brackish; the pastures are remote from the city; and grapes are transported above seventy miles from the gardens of Tayef. The fame and spirit of the Koreishites, who reigned in Mecca, were conspicuous among the Arabian tribes; but their ungrateful soil refused the labors

of agriculture, and their position was favorable to the enterprises of trade. By the seaport of Gedda, at the distance only of forty miles, they maintained an easy correspondence with Abyssinia; and that christian kingdom afforded the first refuge to the disciples of Mahomet. the treasures of Africa were conveyed over the Peninsula to Gerrha

or Katif, in the province of Bahrein, a city built, as it is said,

of rock-salt, by the Chaldæan exiles; and from thence with the native

pearls of the Persian Gulf, they were floated on rafts to the mouth of the Euphrates. Mecca is placed almost at an equal distance, a month's

journey, between Yemen on the right, and Syria on the left hand. The former was the winter, the latter the summer, station of her caravans; and their seasonable arrival relieved the ships of India from the tedious and troublesome navigation of the Red Sea. In the markets of

Saana and Merab, in the harbors of Oman and Aden, the camels of the

Koreishites were laden with a precious cargo of aromatics; a supply of corn and manufactures was purchased in the fairs of Bostra and Damascus; the lucrative exchange diffused plenty and riches in the streets of

Mecca; and the noblest of her sons united the love of arms with the

profession of merchandise.

the perpetual independence of the Arabs has been the theme of praise among strangers and natives; and the arts of controversy transform this

singular event into a prophecy and a miracle, in favor of the posterity

of Ismael. Some exceptions, that can neither be dismissed nor eluded,

render this mode of reasoning as indiscreet as it is superfluous; the

kingdom of Yemen has been successively subdued by the Abyssinians, the

Persians, the sultans of Egypt, and the Turks; the holy cities of Mecca and Medina have repeatedly bowed under a Scythian tyrant; and the Roman

province of Arabia embraced the peculiar wilderness in which Ismael and

his sons must have pitched their tents in the face of their brethren.

Yet these exceptions are temporary or local; the body of the nation has escaped the yoke of the most powerful monarchies: the arms of Sesostris and Cyrus, of Pompey and Trajan, could never achieve the conquest of arabia; the present sovereign of the Turks may exercise a shadow of

jurisdiction, but his pride is reduced to solicit the friendship of a

people, whom it is dangerous to provoke, and fruitless to attack. The

obvious causes of their freedom are inscribed on the character and country of the Arabs. Many ages before Mahomet, their intrepid valor had been severely felt by their neighbors in offensive and defensive war. the patient and active virtues of a soldier are insensibly nursed in the habits and discipline of a pastoral life. The care of the sheep and camels is abandoned to the women of the tribe; but the martial youth,

under the banner of the emir, is ever on horseback, and in the field, to

practise the exercise of the bow, the javelin, and the cimeter. The long

memory of their independence is the firmest pledge of its perpetuity and succeeding generations are animated to prove their descent, and to

maintain their inheritance. Their domestic feuds are suspended on the approach of a common enemy; and in their last hostilities against the turks, the caravan of Mecca was attacked and pillaged by fourscore thousand of the confederates. When they advance to battle, the hope of

victory is in the front; in the rear, the assurance of a retreat. Their

horses and camels, who, in eight or ten days, can perform a march of four or five hundred miles, disappear before the conqueror; the secret waters of the desert elude his search, and his victorious troops are consumed with thirst, hunger, and fatigue, in the pursuit of an

invisible foe, who scorns his efforts, and safely reposes in the heart

of the burning solitude. The arms and deserts of the Bedoweens are not

only the safeguards of their own freedom, but the barriers also of the

happy Arabia, whose inhabitants, remote from war, are enervated by the

luxury of the soil and climate. The legions of Augustus melted away

in disease and lassitude; and it is only by a naval power that the

reduction of Yemen has been successfully attempted. When Mahomet erected

his holy standard, that kingdom was a province of the Persian empire;

yet seven princes of the Homerites still reigned in the mountains; and the vicegerent of Chosroes was tempted to forget his distant country and

his unfortunate master. The historians of the age of Justinian represent the state of the independent Arabs, who were divided by interest or affection in the long quarrel of the East: the tribe of \_Gassan\_ was allowed to encamp on the Syrian territory: the princes of \_Hira\_ were

permitted to form a city about forty miles to the southward of the ruins

of Babylon. Their service in the field was speedy and vigorous; but their friendship was venal, their faith inconstant, their enmity capricious: it was an easier task to excite than to disarm these roving barbarians; and, in the familiar intercourse of war, they learned to

see, and to despise, the splendid weakness both of Rome and of Persia. from Mecca to the Euphrates, the Arabian tribes were confounded by the

Greeks and Latins, under the general appellation of Saracens, a name which every Christian mouth has been taught to pronounce with terror and abhorrence.

chapter L: Description Of Arabia And Its Inhabitants.--Part II.

the slaves of domestic tyranny may vainly exult in their national

independence: but the Arab is personally free; and he enjoys, in some degree, the benefits of society, without forfeiting the prerogatives

of nature. In every tribe, superstition, or gratitude, or fortune,

has exalted a particular family above the heads of their equals. The dignities of sheick and emir invariably descend in this chosen race; but the order of succession is loose and precarious; and the most worthy or aged of the noble kinsmen are preferred to the simple, though important,

office of composing disputes by their advice, and guiding valor by their example. Even a female of sense and spirit has been permitted to command the countrymen of Zenobia. The momentary junction of several tribes

produces an army: their more lasting union constitutes a nation; and the supreme chief, the emir of emirs, whose banner is displayed at their

head, may deserve, in the eyes of strangers, the honors of the kingly

name. If the Arabian princes abuse their power, they are quickly

punished by the desertion of their subjects, who had been accustomed to a mild and parental jurisdiction. Their spirit is free, their steps are

unconfined, the desert is open, and the tribes and families are held together by a mutual and voluntary compact. The softer natives of Yemen

supported the pomp and majesty of a monarch; but if he could not leave

his palace without endangering his life, the active powers of government

must have been devolved on his nobles and magistrates. The cities of

Mecca and Medina present, in the heart of Asia, the form, or rather the

substance, of a commonwealth. The grandfather of Mahomet, and his lineal ancestors, appear in foreign and domestic transactions as the princes of their country; but they reigned, like Pericles at Athens, or the

Medici at Florence, by the opinion of their wisdom and integrity; their influence was divided with their patrimony; and the sceptre was transferred from the uncles of the prophet to a younger branch of the tribe of Koreish. On solemn occasions they convened the assembly of the people; and, since mankind must be either compelled or persuaded to

obey, the use and reputation of oratory among the ancient Arabs is the clearest evidence of public freedom. But their simple freedom was of a

very different cast from the nice and artificial machinery of the Greek and Roman republics, in which each member possessed an undivided share

of the civil and political rights of the community. In the more simple

state of the Arabs, the nation is free, because each of her sons disdains a base submission to the will of a master. His breast is fortified by the austere virtues of courage, patience, and sobriety; the

love of independence prompts him to exercise the habits of self-command; and the fear of dishonor guards him from the meaner apprehension of

pain, of danger, and of death. The gravity and firmness of the mind is conspicuous in his outward demeanor; his speech is low, weighty, and concise; he is seldom provoked to laughter; his only gesture is that of

stroking his beard, the venerable symbol of manhood; and the sense of

his own importance teaches him to accost his equals without levity, and

his superiors without awe. The liberty of the Saracens survived their conquests: the first caliphs indulged the bold and familiar language

of their subjects; they ascended the pulpit to persuade and edify the congregation; nor was it before the seat of empire was removed to the tigris, that the Abbasides adopted the proud and pompous ceremonial of the Persian and Byzantine courts.

In the study of nations and men, we may observe the causes that render them hostile or friendly to each other, that tend to narrow or enlarge, to mollify or exasperate, the social character. The separation of the arabs from the rest of mankind has accustomed them to confound the ideas

of stranger and enemy; and the poverty of the land has introduced a

maxim of jurisprudence, which they believe and practise to the present

hour. They pretend, that, in the division of the earth, the rich and fertile climates were assigned to the other branches of the human family; and that the posterity of the outlaw Ismael might recover, by fraud or force, the portion of inheritance of which he had been unjustly deprived. According to the remark of Pliny, the Arabian tribes are equally addicted to theft and merchandise; the caravans that traverse the desert are ransomed or pillaged; and their neighbors, since the

remote times of Job and Sesostris, have been the victims of their

rapacious spirit. If a Bedoween discovers from afar a solitary traveller, he rides furiously against him, crying, with a loud voice,

"Undress thyself, thy aunt (\_my wife\_) is without a garment." A ready

submission entitles him to mercy; resistance will provoke the aggressor, and his own blood must expiate the blood which he presumes to shed in

legitimate defence. A single robber, or a few associates, are branded with their genuine name; but the exploits of a numerous band assume the character of lawful and honorable war. The temper of a people thus armed against mankind was doubly inflamed by the domestic license of rapine,

murder, and revenge. In the constitution of Europe, the right of peace and war is now confined to a small, and the actual exercise to a much

smaller, list of respectable potentates; but each Arab, with impunity and renown, might point his javelin against the life of his countrymen. the union of the nation consisted only in a vague resemblance of

language and manners; and in each community, the jurisdiction of the magistrate was mute and impotent. Of the time of ignorance which

preceded Mahomet, seventeen hundred battles are recorded by tradition:

hostility was imbittered with the rancor of civil faction; and the

recital, in prose or verse, of an obsolete feud, was sufficient to

rekindle the same passions among the descendants of the hostile tribes.

In private life every man, at least every family, was the judge and avenger of his own cause. The nice sensibility of honor, which weighs the insult rather than the injury, sheds its deadly venom on the

quarrels of the Arabs: the honor of their women, and of their \_beards\_,

is most easily wounded; an indecent action, a contemptuous word, can be expiated only by the blood of the offender; and such is their patient

inveteracy, that they expect whole months and years the opportunity of

revenge. A fine or compensation for murder is familiar to the Barbarians

of every age: but in Arabia the kinsmen of the dead are at liberty to accept the atonement, or to exercise with their own hands the law of

retaliation. The refined malice of the Arabs refuses even the head

of the murderer, substitutes an innocent for the guilty person, and transfers the penalty to the best and most considerable of the race by whom they have been injured. If he falls by their hands, they are exposed, in their turn, to the danger of reprisals, the interest and

principal of the bloody debt are accumulated: the individuals of either family lead a life of malice and suspicion, and fifty years may

sometimes elapse before the account of vengeance be finally settled. this sanguinary spirit, ignorant of pity or forgiveness, has been

moderated, however, by the maxims of honor, which require in every

private encounter some decent equality of age and strength, of numbers and weapons. An annual festival of two, perhaps of four, months, was

observed by the Arabs before the time of Mahomet, during which their

swords were religiously sheathed both in foreign and domestic hostility; and this partial truce is more strongly expressive of the habits of anarchy and warfare.

but the spirit of rapine and revenge was attempered by the milder

influence of trade and literature. The solitary peninsula is encompassed by the most civilized nations of the ancient world; the merchant is the friend of mankind; and the annual caravans imported the first seeds

of knowledge and politeness into the cities, and even the camps of the desert. Whatever may be the pedigree of the Arabs, their language is derived from the same original stock with the Hebrew, the Syriac, and the Chaldæan tongues; the independence of the tribes was marked by their

peculiar dialects; but each, after their own, allowed a just preference to the pure and perspicuous idiom of Mecca. In Arabia, as well as

in Greece, the perfection of language outstripped the refinement of

manners; and her speech could diversify the fourscore names of honey, the two hundred of a serpent, the five hundred of a lion, the thousand

of a sword, at a time when this copious dictionary was intrusted to the memory of an illiterate people. The monuments of the Homerites were inscribed with an obsolete and mysterious character; but the Cufic

letters, the groundwork of the present alphabet, were invented on the banks of the Euphrates; and the recent invention was taught at Mecca by a stranger who settled in that city after the birth of Mahomet. The arts of grammar, of metre, and of rhetoric, were unknown to the freeborn eloquence of the Arabians; but their penetration was sharp, their fancy

luxuriant, their wit strong and sententious, and their more elaborate compositions were addressed with energy and effect to the minds of their

hearers. The genius and merit of a rising poet was celebrated by the applause of his own and the kindred tribes. A solemn banquet was

prepared, and a chorus of women, striking their tymbals, and displaying the pomp of their nuptials, sung in the presence of their sons and

husbands the felicity of their native tribe; that a champion had now appeared to vindicate their rights; that a herald had raised his voice to immortalize their renown. The distant or hostile tribes resorted to an annual fair, which was abolished by the fanaticism of the first

Moslems; a national assembly that must have contributed to refine and

harmonize the Barbarians. Thirty days were employed in the exchange,

not only of corn and wine, but of eloquence and poetry. The prize was disputed by the generous emulation of the bards; the victorious

performance was deposited in the archives of princes and emirs; and we may read in our own language, the seven original poems which were

inscribed in letters of gold, and suspended in the temple of Mecca. The arabian poets were the historians and moralists of the age; and if they

sympathized with the prejudices, they inspired and crowned the virtues,

of their countrymen. The indissoluble union of generosity and valor was the darling theme of their song; and when they pointed their keenest

satire against a despicable race, they affirmed, in the bitterness of

reproach, that the men knew not how to give, nor the women to deny. the same hospitality, which was practised by Abraham, and celebrated by Homer, is still renewed in the camps of the Arabs. The ferocious bedoweens, the terror of the desert, embrace, without inquiry or

hesitation, the stranger who dares to confide in their honor and to enter their tent. His treatment is kind and respectful: he shares the wealth, or the poverty, of his host; and, after a needful repose, he

is dismissed on his way, with thanks, with blessings, and perhaps with

gifts. The heart and hand are more largely expanded by the wants of a brother or a friend; but the heroic acts that could deserve the public applause, must have surpassed the narrow measure of discretion and experience. A dispute had arisen, who, among the citizens of Mecca, was entitled to the prize of generosity; and a successive application was

made to the three who were deemed most worthy of the trial. Abdallah, the son of Abbas, had undertaken a distant journey, and his foot was in the stirrup when he heard the voice of a suppliant, "O son of the uncle

of the apostle of God, I am a traveller, and in distress!" He instantly dismounted to present the pilgrim with his camel, her rich caparison, and a purse of four thousand pieces of gold, excepting only the sword, either for its intrinsic value, or as the gift of an honored kinsman. the servant of Kais informed the second suppliant that his master was asleep: but he immediately added, "Here is a purse of seven thousand

pieces of gold, (it is all we have in the house,) and here is an order, that will entitle you to a camel and a slave;" the master, as soon as

he awoke, praised and enfranchised his faithful steward, with a gentle

reproof, that by respecting his slumbers he had stinted his bounty. the third of these heroes, the blind Arabah, at the hour of prayer, was

supporting his steps on the shoulders of two slaves. "Alas!" he replied,

"my coffers are empty! but these you may sell; if you refuse, I renounce them." At these words, pushing away the youths, he groped along the wall with his staff. The character of Hatem is the perfect model of Arabian

virtue: he was brave and liberal, an eloquent poet, and a successful

robber; forty camels were roasted at his hospitable feast; and at the

prayer of a suppliant enemy he restored both the captives and the

spoil. The freedom of his countrymen disdained the laws of justice; they

proudly indulged the spontaneous impulse of pity and benevolence.

the religion of the Arabs, as well as of the Indians, consisted in the worship of the sun, the moon, and the fixed stars; a primitive and

specious mode of superstition. The bright luminaries of the sky display the visible image of a Deity: their number and distance convey to a

philosophic, or even a vulgar, eye, the idea of boundless space: the character of eternity is marked on these solid globes, that seem

incapable of corruption or decay: the regularity of their motions may be ascribed to a principle of reason or instinct; and their real, or

imaginary, influence encourages the vain belief that the earth and

its inhabitants are the object of their peculiar care. The science of astronomy was cultivated at Babylon; but the school of the Arabs was a clear firmament and a naked plain. In their nocturnal marches, they

steered by the guidance of the stars: their names, and order, and daily

station, were familiar to the curiosity and devotion of the Bedoween; and he was taught by experience to divide, in twenty-eight parts, the

zodiac of the moon, and to bless the constellations who refreshed, with

salutary rains, the thirst of the desert. The reign of the heavenly orbs could not be extended beyond the visible sphere; and some metaphysical

powers were necessary to sustain the transmigration of souls and the

resurrection of bodies: a camel was left to perish on the grave, that he

might serve his master in another life; and the invocation of departed

spirits implies that they were still endowed with consciousness and

power. I am ignorant, and I am careless, of the blind mythology of the barbarians; of the local deities, of the stars, the air, and the earth,

of their sex or titles, their attributes or subordination. Each tribe, each family, each independent warrior, created and changed the rites and the object of his fantastic worship; but the nation, in every age, has bowed to the religion, as well as to the language, of Mecca. The genuine antiquity of the Caaba ascends beyond the Christian æra; in describing the coast of the Red Sea, the Greek historian Diodorus has remarked, between the Thamudites and the Sabæans, a famous temple, whose superior

sanctity was revered by \_all\_ the Arabians; the linen or silken veil, which is annually renewed by the Turkish emperor, was first offered by a

pious king of the Homerites, who reigned seven hundred years before the time of Mahomet. A tent, or a cavern, might suffice for the worship of the savages, but an edifice of stone and clay has been erected in its

place; and the art and power of the monarchs of the East have been confined to the simplicity of the original model. A spacious portico encloses the quadrangle of the Caaba; a square chapel, twenty-four cubits long, twenty-three broad, and twenty-seven high: a door and a window admit the light; the double roof is supported by three pillars

of wood; a spout (now of gold) discharges the rain-water, and the well

Zemzen is protected by a dome from accidental pollution. The tribe of

Koreish, by fraud and force, had acquired the custody of the Caaba: the sacerdotal office devolved through four lineal descents to the

grandfather of Mahomet; and the family of the Hashemites, from whence

he sprung, was the most respectable and sacred in the eyes of their country. The precincts of Mecca enjoyed the rights of sanctuary; and, in the last month of each year, the city and the temple were crowded with a long train of pilgrims, who presented their vows and offerings in the

house of God. The same rites which are now accomplished by the faithful

Mussulman, were invented and practised by the superstition of the

idolaters. At an awful distance they cast away their garments: seven times, with hasty steps, they encircled the Caaba, and kissed the black

stone: seven times they visited and adored the adjacent mountains; seven times they threw stones into the valley of Mina; and the pilgrimage was achieved, as at the present hour, by a sacrifice of sheep and camels, and the burial of their hair and nails in the consecrated ground. Each tribe either found or introduced in the Caaba their domestic worship: the temple was adorned, or defiled, with three hundred and sixty idols

of men, eagles, lions, and antelopes; and most conspicuous was the

statue of Hebal, of red agate, holding in his hand seven arrows, without

heads or feathers, the instruments and symbols of profane divination. but this statue was a monument of Syrian arts: the devotion of the ruder ages was content with a pillar or a tablet; and the rocks of the desert were hewn into gods or altars, in imitation of the black stone of Mecca, which is deeply tainted with the reproach of an idolatrous origin. From

Japan to Peru, the use of sacrifice has universally prevailed; and the

votary has expressed his gratitude, or fear, by destroying or consuming,

in honor of the gods, the dearest and most precious of their gifts. the life of a man is the most precious oblation to deprecate a public calamity: the altars of Phnicia and Egypt, of Rome and Carthage, have been polluted with human gore: the cruel practice was long preserved among the Arabs; in the third century, a boy was annually sacrificed by the tribe of the Dumatians; and a royal captive was piously slaughtered by the prince of the Saracens, the ally and soldier of the emperor

Justinian. A parent who drags his son to the altar, exhibits the most

painful and sublime effort of fanaticism: the deed, or the intention, was sanctified by the example of saints and heroes; and the father of

Mahomet himself was devoted by a rash vow, and hardly ransomed for the equivalent of a hundred camels. In the time of ignorance, the Arabs,

like the Jews and Egyptians, abstained from the taste of swine's flesh; they circumcised their children at the age of puberty: the same customs, without the censure or the precept of the Koran, have been silently transmitted to their posterity and proselytes. It has been sagaciously conjectured, that the artful legislator indulged the stubborn prejudices

of his countrymen. It is more simple to believe that he adhered to the

habits and opinions of his youth, without foreseeing that a practice congenial to the climate of Mecca might become useless or inconvenient

on the banks of the Danube or the Volga.

chapter L: Description Of Arabia And Its Inhabitants.--Part III.

arabia was free: the adjacent kingdoms were shaken by the storms of conquest and tyranny, and the persecuted sects fled to the happy land where they might profess what they thought, and practise what they

professed. The religions of the Sabians and Magians, of the Jews and christians, were disseminated from the Persian Gulf to the Red Sea. In a remote period of antiquity, Sabianism was diffused over Asia by the science of the Chaldæans and the arms of the Assyrians. From the

observations of two thousand years, the priests and astronomers of babylon deduced the eternal laws of nature and providence. They adored the seven gods or angels, who directed the course of the seven planets, and shed their irresistible influence on the earth. The attributes

of the seven planets, with the twelve signs of the zodiac, and the twenty-four constellations of the northern and southern hemisphere, were

represented by images and talismans; the seven days of the week were dedicated to their respective deities; the Sabians prayed thrice each day; and the temple of the moon at Haran was the term of their

pilgrimage. But the flexible genius of their faith was always ready either to teach or to learn: in the tradition of the creation, the deluge, and the patriarchs, they held a singular agreement with their

Jewish captives; they appealed to the secret books of Adam, Seth, and enoch; and a slight infusion of the gospel has transformed the last

remnant of the Polytheists into the Christians of St. John, in the territory of Bassora. The altars of Babylon were overturned by the

Magians; but the injuries of the Sabians were revenged by the sword of alexander; Persia groaned above five hundred years under a foreign yoke; and the purest disciples of Zoroaster escaped from the contagion of

idolatry, and breathed with their adversaries the freedom of the desert.

Seven hundred years before the death of Mahomet, the Jews were settled

in Arabia; and a far greater multitude was expelled from the Holy Land

in the wars of Titus and Hadrian. The industrious exiles aspired to

liberty and power: they erected synagogues in the cities, and castles

in the wilderness, and their Gentile converts were confounded with the children of Israel, whom they resembled in the outward mark of circumcision. The Christian missionaries were still more active and

successful: the Catholics asserted their universal reign; the sects whom they oppressed, successively retired beyond the limits of the

Roman empire; the Marcionites and Manichæans dispersed their \_fantastic\_

opinions and apocryphal gospels; the churches of Yemen, and the princes

of Hira and Gassan, were instructed in a purer creed by the Jacobite and

Nestorian bishops. The liberty of choice was presented to the tribes: each Arab was free to elect or to compose his private religion: and the

rude superstition of his house was mingled with the sublime theology of

saints and philosophers. A fundamental article of faith was inculcated by the consent of the learned strangers; the existence of one supreme

God who is exalted above the powers of heaven and earth, but who has

often revealed himself to mankind by the ministry of his angels and

prophets, and whose grace or justice has interrupted, by seasonable

miracles, the order of nature. The most rational of the Arabs acknowledged his power, though they neglected his worship; and it was

habit rather than conviction that still attached them to the relics of

idolatry. The Jews and Christians were the people of the \_Book\_; the bible was already translated into the Arabic language, and the volume

of the Old Testament was accepted by the concord of these implacable enemies. In the story of the Hebrew patriarchs, the Arabs were pleased to discover the fathers of their nation. They applauded the birth and

promises of Ismael; revered the faith and virtue of Abraham; traced his

pedigree and their own to the creation of the first man, and imbibed, with equal credulity, the prodigies of the holy text, and the dreams and traditions of the Jewish rabbis.

the base and plebeian origin of Mahomet is an unskilful calumny of the christians, who exalt instead of degrading the merit of their adversary.

His descent from Ismael was a national privilege or fable; but if the first steps of the pedigree are dark and doubtful, he could produce many

generations of pure and genuine nobility: he sprung from the tribe of

Koreish and the family of Hashem, the most illustrious of the Arabs, the princes of Mecca, and the hereditary guardians of the Caaba. The

grandfather of Mahomet was Abdol Motalleb, the son of Hashem, a wealthy and generous citizen, who relieved the distress of famine with the

supplies of commerce. Mecca, which had been fed by the liberality of the father, was saved by the courage of the son. The kingdom of Yemen was

subject to the Christian princes of Abyssinia; their vassal Abrahah was

provoked by an insult to avenge the honor of the cross; and the holy city was invested by a train of elephants and an army of Africans. A treaty was proposed; and, in the first audience, the grandfather of

Mahomet demanded the restitution of his cattle. "And why," said Abrahah,

"do you not rather implore my clemency in favor of your temple, which I

have threatened to destroy?" "Because," replied the intrepid chief, "the cattle is my own; the Caaba belongs to the gods, and \_they\_ will defend their house from injury and sacrilege." The want of provisions, or the valor of the Koreish, compelled the Abyssinians to a disgraceful

retreat: their discomfiture has been adorned with a miraculous flight

of birds, who showered down stones on the heads of the infidels; and the deliverance was long commemorated by the æra of the elephant. The glory

of Abdol Motalleb was crowned with domestic happiness; his life was

prolonged to the age of one hundred and ten years; and he became the father of six daughters and thirteen sons. His best beloved Abdallah was the most beautiful and modest of the Arabian youth; and in the first

night, when he consummated his marriage with Amina, of the noble race of the Zahrites, two hundred virgins are said to have expired of jealousy and despair. Mahomet, or more properly Mohammed, the only son of abdallah and Amina, was born at Mecca, four years after the death of

Justinian, and two months after the defeat of the Abyssinians, whose

victory would have introduced into the Caaba the religion of the christians. In his early infancy, he was deprived of his father, his

mother, and his grandfather; his uncles were strong and numerous; and,

in the division of the inheritance, the orphan's share was reduced to five camels and an Æthiopian maid-servant. At home and abroad, in peace and war, Abu Taleb, the most respectable of his uncles, was the guide and guardian of his youth; in his twenty-fifth year, he entered into the

service of Cadijah, a rich and noble widow of Mecca, who soon rewarded

his fidelity with the gift of her hand and fortune. The marriage contract, in the simple style of antiquity, recites the mutual love of

Mahomet and Cadijah; describes him as the most accomplished of the tribe

of Koreish; and stipulates a dowry of twelve ounces of gold and twenty camels, which was supplied by the liberality of his uncle. By this alliance, the son of Abdallah was restored to the station of his ancestors; and the judicious matron was content with his domestic

virtues, till, in the fortieth year of his age, he assumed the title of a prophet, and proclaimed the religion of the Koran.

according to the tradition of his companions, Mahomet was distinguished by the beauty of his person, an outward gift which is seldom despised, except by those to whom it has been refused. Before he spoke, the orator engaged on his side the affections of a public or private audience. They applauded his commanding presence, his majestic aspect, his piercing eye, his gracious smile, his flowing beard, his countenance that

painted every sensation of the soul, and his gestures that enforced each expression of the tongue. In the familiar offices of life he

scrupulously adhered to the grave and ceremonious politeness of his country: his respectful attention to the rich and powerful was dignified by his condescension and affability to the poorest citizens of Mecca: the frankness of his manner concealed the artifice of his views; and the habits of courtesy were imputed to personal friendship or universal benevolence. His memory was capacious and retentive; his wit easy and social; his imagination sublime; his judgment clear, rapid, and decisive. He possessed the courage both of thought and action; and, although his designs might gradually expand with his success, the first

idea which he entertained of his divine mission bears the stamp of an

original and superior genius. The son of Abdallah was educated in the bosom of the noblest race, in the use of the purest dialect of Arabia; and the fluency of his speech was corrected and enhanced by the practice

of discreet and seasonable silence. With these powers of eloquence,

Mahomet was an illiterate Barbarian: his youth had never been instructed

in the arts of reading and writing; the common ignorance exempted

him from shame or reproach, but he was reduced to a narrow circle of existence, and deprived of those faithful mirrors, which reflect to our

mind the minds of sages and heroes. Yet the book of nature and of man was open to his view; and some fancy has been indulged in the political and philosophical observations which are ascribed to the Arabian

\_traveller\_. He compares the nations and the regions of the earth; discovers the weakness of the Persian and Roman monarchies; beholds, with pity and indignation, the degeneracy of the times; and resolves to unite under one God and one king the invincible spirit and primitive

virtues of the Arabs. Our more accurate inquiry will suggest, that,

instead of visiting the courts, the camps, the temples, of the East, the two journeys of Mahomet into Syria were confined to the fairs of Bostra and Damascus; that he was only thirteen years of age when he accompanied the caravan of his uncle; and that his duty compelled him to return as

soon as he had disposed of the merchandise of Cadijah. In these hasty and superficial excursions, the eye of genius might discern some objects

invisible to his grosser companions; some seeds of knowledge might be cast upon a fruitful soil; but his ignorance of the Syriac language

must have checked his curiosity; and I cannot perceive, in the life

or writings of Mahomet, that his prospect was far extended beyond the

limits of the Arabian world. From every region of that solitary world, the pilgrims of Mecca were annually assembled, by the calls of devotion and commerce: in the free concourse of multitudes, a simple citizen, in

his native tongue, might study the political state and character of the tribes, the theory and practice of the Jews and Christians. Some

useful strangers might be tempted, or forced, to implore the rights of

hospitality; and the enemies of Mahomet have named the Jew, the Persian, and the Syrian monk, whom they accuse of lending their secret aid to the composition of the Koran. Conversation enriches the understanding, but

solitude is the school of genius; and the uniformity of a work denotes the hand of a single artist. From his earliest youth Mahomet was addicted to religious contemplation; each year, during the month of

Ramadan, he withdrew from the world, and from the arms of Cadijah: in the cave of Hera, three miles from Mecca, he consulted the spirit of fraud or enthusiasm, whose abode is not in the heavens, but in the mind

of the prophet. The faith which, under the name of \_Islam\_, he preached to his family and nation, is compounded of an eternal truth, and a

necessary fiction, That there is only one God, and that Mahomet is the apostle of God.

It is the boast of the Jewish apologists, that while the learned nations

of antiquity were deluded by the fables of polytheism, their simple ancestors of Palestine preserved the knowledge and worship of the true

God. The moral attributes of Jehovah may not easily be reconciled with the standard of \_human\_ virtue: his metaphysical qualities are darkly expressed; but each page of the Pentateuch and the Prophets is an evidence of his power: the unity of his name is inscribed on the first table of the law; and his sanctuary was never defiled by any visible

image of the invisible essence. After the ruin of the temple, the faith of the Hebrew exiles was purified, fixed, and enlightened, by the

spiritual devotion of the synagogue; and the authority of Mahomet will

not justify his perpetual reproach, that the Jews of Mecca or Medina adored Ezra as the son of God. But the children of Israel had ceased to be a people; and the religions of the world were guilty, at least in the eyes of the prophet, of giving sons, or daughters, or companions, to the

supreme God. In the rude idolatry of the Arabs, the crime is manifest and audacious: the Sabians are poorly excused by the preëminence of the first planet, or intelligence, in their celestial hierarchy; and in the Magian system the conflict of the two principles betrays the

imperfection of the conqueror. The Christians of the seventh century

had insensibly relapsed into a semblance of Paganism: their public and

private vows were addressed to the relics and images that disgraced the temples of the East: the throne of the Almighty was darkened by a cloud

of martyrs, and saints, and angels, the objects of popular veneration; and the Collyridian heretics, who flourished in the fruitful soil of arabia, invested the Virgin Mary with the name and honors of a goddess. the mysteries of the Trinity and Incarnation \_appear\_ to contradict the

principle of the divine unity. In their obvious sense, they introduce three equal deities, and transform the man Jesus into the substance of the Son of God: an orthodox commentary will satisfy only a believing

mind: intemperate curiosity and zeal had torn the veil of the sanctuary; and each of the Oriental sects was eager to confess that all, except themselves, deserved the reproach of idolatry and polytheism. The creed

of Mahomet is free from suspicion or ambiguity; and the Koran is a

glorious testimony to the unity of God. The prophet of Mecca rejected the worship of idols and men, of stars and planets, on the rational

principle that whatever rises must set, that whatever is born must die, that whatever is corruptible must decay and perish. In the Author of the

universe, his rational enthusiasm confessed and adored an infinite and eternal being, without form or place, without issue or similitude,

present to our most secret thoughts, existing by the necessity of

his own nature, and deriving from himself all moral and intellectual

perfection. These sublime truths, thus announced in the language of the

prophet, are firmly held by his disciples, and defined with metaphysical

precision by the interpreters of the Koran. A philosophic theist might

subscribe the popular creed of the Mahometans; a creed too sublime,

perhaps, for our present faculties. What object remains for the fancy,

or even the understanding, when we have abstracted from the unknown

substance all ideas of time and space, of motion and matter, of

sensation and reflection? The first principle of reason and revolution was confirmed by the voice of Mahomet: his proselytes, from India to

Morocco, are distinguished by the name of \_Unitarians\_; and the danger

of idolatry has been prevented by the interdiction of images. The doctrine of eternal decrees and absolute predestination is strictly embraced by the Mahometans; and they struggle, with the common difficulties, \_how\_ to reconcile the prescience of God with the freedom and responsibility of man; \_how\_ to explain the permission of evil under the reign of infinite power and infinite goodness.

the God of nature has written his existence on all his works, and his

law in the heart of man. To restore the knowledge of the one, and the practice of the other, has been the real or pretended aim of the prophets of every age: the liberality of Mahomet allowed to his

predecessors the same credit which he claimed for himself; and the chain

of inspiration was prolonged from the fall of Adam to the promulgation

of the Koran. During that period, some rays of prophetic light had been imparted to one hundred and twenty-four thousand of the elect, discriminated by their respective measure of virtue and grace; three

hundred and thirteen apostles were sent with a special commission to recall their country from idolatry and vice; one hundred and four

volumes have been dictated by the Holy Spirit; and six legislators of transcendent brightness have announced to mankind the six successive

revelations of various rites, but of one immutable religion. The authority and station of Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Christ, and

Mahomet, rise in just gradation above each other; but whosoever hates

or rejects any one of the prophets is numbered with the infidels. The writings of the patriarchs were extant only in the apocryphal copies of the Greeks and Syrians: the conduct of Adam had not entitled him to the

gratitude or respect of his children; the seven precepts of Noah were

observed by an inferior and imperfect class of the proselytes of the

synagogue; and the memory of Abraham was obscurely revered by the

Sabians in his native land of Chaldæa: of the myriads of prophets, Moses and Christ alone lived and reigned; and the remnant of the inspired writings was comprised in the books of the Old and the New Testament. the miraculous story of Moses is consecrated and embellished in the

Koran; and the captive Jews enjoy the secret revenge of imposing their

own belief on the nations whose recent creeds they deride. For the author of Christianity, the Mahometans are taught by the prophet to entertain a high and mysterious reverence. "Verily, Christ Jesus, the

son of Mary, is the apostle of God, and his word, which he conveyed unto

Mary, and a Spirit proceeding from him; honorable in this world, and in the world to come, and one of those who approach near to the presence

of God." The wonders of the genuine and apocryphal gospels are profusely

heaped on his head; and the Latin church has not disdained to borrow from the Koran the immaculate conception of his virgin mother. Yet Jesus was a mere mortal; and, at the day of judgment, his testimony will

serve to condemn both the Jews, who reject him as a prophet, and the christians, who adore him as the Son of God. The malice of his enemies aspersed his reputation, and conspired against his life; but their

intention only was guilty; a phantom or a criminal was substituted on the cross; and the innocent saint was translated to the seventh heaven. during six hundred years the gospel was the way of truth and salvation; but the Christians insensibly forgot both the laws and example of their founder; and Mahomet was instructed by the Gnostics to accuse the church, as well as the synagogue, of corrupting the integrity of the

sacred text. The piety of Moses and of Christ rejoiced in the assurance

of a future prophet, more illustrious than themselves: the evangelical

promise of the \_Paraclete\_, or Holy Ghost, was prefigured in the name, and accomplished in the person, of Mahomet, the greatest and the last of the apostles of God.

chapter L: Description Of Arabia And Its Inhabitants.--Part IV.

the communication of ideas requires a similitude of thought and

language: the discourse of a philosopher would vibrate without effect

on the ear of a peasant; yet how minute is the distance of \_their\_

understandings, if it be compared with the contact of an infinite and a finite mind, with the word of God expressed by the tongue or the pen of a mortal! The inspiration of the Hebrew prophets, of the apostles and evangelists of Christ, might not be incompatible with the exercise of their reason and memory; and the diversity of their genius is strongly

marked in the style and composition of the books of the Old and New testament. But Mahomet was content with a character, more humble, yet

more sublime, of a simple editor; the substance of the Koran, according to himself or his disciples, is uncreated and eternal; subsisting in the essence of the Deity, and inscribed with a pen of light on the table of

his everlasting decrees. A paper copy, in a volume of silk and gems, was brought down to the lowest heaven by the angel Gabriel, who, under the Jewish economy, had indeed been despatched on the most important errands; and this trusty messenger successively revealed the chapters and verses to the Arabian prophet. Instead of a perpetual and perfect

measure of the divine will, the fragments of the Koran were produced at the discretion of Mahomet; each revelation is suited to the emergencies

of his policy or passion; and all contradiction is removed by the

saving maxim, that any text of Scripture is abrogated or modified by any

subsequent passage. The word of God, and of the apostle, was diligently

recorded by his disciples on palm-leaves and the shoulder-bones of

mutton; and the pages, without order or connection, were cast into a domestic chest, in the custody of one of his wives. Two years after the death of Mahomet, the sacred volume was collected and published by

his friend and successor Abubeker: the work was revised by the caliph

Othman, in the thirtieth year of the Hegira; and the various editions

of the Koran assert the same miraculous privilege of a uniform and

incorruptible text. In the spirit of enthusiasm or vanity, the prophet

rests the truth of his mission on the merit of his book; audaciously challenges both men and angels to imitate the beauties of a single page; and presumes to assert that God alone could dictate this incomparable

performance. This argument is most powerfully addressed to a devout arabian, whose mind is attuned to faith and rapture; whose ear is delighted by the music of sounds; and whose ignorance is incapable of comparing the productions of human genius. The harmony and copiousness

of style will not reach, in a version, the European infidel: he will

peruse with impatience the endless incoherent rhapsody of fable, and

precept, and declamation, which seldom excites a sentiment or an idea, which sometimes crawls in the dust, and is sometimes lost in the clouds. the divine attributes exalt the fancy of the Arabian missionary; but

his loftiest strains must yield to the sublime simplicity of the book

of Job, composed in a remote age, in the same country, and in the same

language. If the composition of the Koran exceed the faculties of a man to what superior intelligence should we ascribe the Iliad of Homer, or the Philippics of Demosthenes? In all religions, the life of the founder

supplies the silence of his written revelation: the sayings of Mahomet were so many lessons of truth; his actions so many examples of virtue; and the public and private memorials were preserved by his wives and companions. At the end of two hundred years, the Sonna, or oral law, was fixed and consecrated by the labors of Al Bochari, who discriminated

seven thousand two hundred and seventy-five genuine traditions, from a

mass of three hundred thousand reports, of a more doubtful or spurious character. Each day the pious author prayed in the temple of Mecca, and performed his ablutions with the water of Zemzem: the pages were

successively deposited on the pulpit and the sepulchre of the apostle; and the work has been approved by the four orthodox sects of the

Sonnites.

the mission of the ancient prophets, of Moses and of Jesus had been confirmed by many splendid prodigies; and Mahomet was repeatedly urged, by the inhabitants of Mecca and Medina, to produce a similar evidence of

his divine legation; to call down from heaven the angel or the volume

of his revelation, to create a garden in the desert, or to kindle a conflagration in the unbelieving city. As often as he is pressed by the demands of the Koreish, he involves himself in the obscure boast of

vision and prophecy, appeals to the internal proofs of his doctrine, and

shields himself behind the providence of God, who refuses those signs and wonders that would depreciate the merit of faith, and aggravate the guilt of infidelity But the modest or angry tone of his apologies betrays his weakness and vexation; and these passages of scandal established, beyond suspicion, the integrity of the Koran. The votaries

of Mahomet are more assured than himself of his miraculous gifts; and their confidence and credulity increase as they are farther removed from the time and place of his spiritual exploits. They believe or affirm that trees went forth to meet him; that he was saluted by stones; that water gushed from his fingers; that he fed the hungry, cured the sick, and raised the dead; that a beam groaned to him; that a camel complained to him; that a shoulder of mutton informed him of its being poisoned; and that both animate and inanimate nature were equally subject to the apostle of God. His dream of a nocturnal journey is seriously described as a real and corporeal transaction. A mysterious animal, the Borak, conveyed him from the temple of Mecca to that of Jerusalem: with his companion Gabriel he successively ascended the seven heavens, and

received and repaid the salutations of the patriarchs, the prophets, and the angels, in their respective mansions. Beyond the seventh heaven,

Mahomet alone was permitted to proceed; he passed the veil of unity, approached within two bow-shots of the throne, and felt a cold that

pierced him to the heart, when his shoulder was touched by the hand

of God. After this familiar, though important conversation, he again descended to Jerusalem, remounted the Borak, returned to Mecca, and

performed in the tenth part of a night the journey of many thousand

years. According to another legend, the apostle confounded in a national assembly the malicious challenge of the Koreish. His resistless word

split asunder the orb of the moon: the obedient planet stooped from her

station in the sky, accomplished the seven revolutions round the Caaba,

saluted Mahomet in the Arabian tongue, and, suddenly contracting her dimensions, entered at the collar, and issued forth through the sleeve,

of his shirt. The vulgar are amused with these marvellous tales; but the

gravest of the Mussulman doctors imitate the modesty of their master, and indulge a latitude of faith or interpretation. They might speciously allege, that in preaching the religion it was needless to violate the

harmony of nature; that a creed unclouded with mystery may be excused from miracles; and that the sword of Mahomet was not less potent than the rod of Moses.

the polytheist is oppressed and distracted by the variety of

superstition: a thousand rites of Egyptian origin were interwoven with the essence of the Mosaic law; and the spirit of the gospel had evaporated in the pageantry of the church. The prophet of Mecca was tempted by prejudice, or policy, or patriotism, to sanctify the rites

of the Arabians, and the custom of visiting the holy stone of the caaba. But the precepts of Mahomet himself inculcates a more simple and

rational piety: prayer, fasting, and alms, are the religious duties of a

Mussulman; and he is encouraged to hope, that prayer will carry him half way to God, fasting will bring him to the door of his palace, and alms will gain him admittance. I. According to the tradition of the nocturnal

journey, the apostle, in his personal conference with the Deity, was commanded to impose on his disciples the daily obligation of fifty

prayers. By the advice of Moses, he applied for an alleviation of this

intolerable burden; the number was gradually reduced to five; without any dispensation of business or pleasure, or time or place: the devotion

of the faithful is repeated at daybreak, at noon, in the afternoon, in the evening, and at the first watch of the night; and in the present decay of religious fervor, our travellers are edified by the profound

humility and attention of the Turks and Persians. Cleanliness is the key

of prayer: the frequent lustration of the hands, the face, and the body, which was practised of old by the Arabs, is solemnly enjoined by the

Koran; and a permission is formally granted to supply with sand the

scarcity of water. The words and attitudes of supplication, as it is

performed either sitting, or standing, or prostrate on the ground, are

prescribed by custom or authority; but the prayer is poured forth in

short and fervent ejaculations; the measure of zeal is not exhausted by a tedious liturgy; and each Mussulman for his own person is invested with the character of a priest. Among the theists, who reject the use

of images, it has been found necessary to restrain the wanderings of the fancy, by directing the eye and the thought towards a \_kebla\_,

or visible point of the horizon. The prophet was at first inclined to

gratify the Jews by the choice of Jerusalem; but he soon returned to a more natural partiality; and five times every day the eyes of the

nations at Astracan, at Fez, at Delhi, are devoutly turned to the holy temple of Mecca. Yet every spot for the service of God is equally pure: the Mahometans indifferently pray in their chamber or in the street. As a distinction from the Jews and Christians, the Friday in each week is

set apart for the useful institution of public worship: the people is assembled in the mosch; and the imam, some respectable elder, ascends the pulpit, to begin the prayer and pronounce the sermon. But the

Mahometan religion is destitute of priesthood or sacrifice; and the

independent spirit of fanaticism looks down with contempt on the

ministers and the slaves of superstition. II. The voluntary penance

of the ascetics, the torment and glory of their lives, was odious to a prophet who censured in his companions a rash vow of abstaining from flesh, and women, and sleep; and firmly declared, that he would suffer

no monks in his religion. Yet he instituted, in each year, a fast of thirty days; and strenuously recommended the observance as a discipline which purifies the soul and subdues the body, as a salutary exercise

of obedience to the will of God and his apostle. During the month

of Ramadan, from the rising to the setting of the sun, the Mussulman abstains from eating, and drinking, and women, and baths, and perfumes; from all nourishment that can restore his strength, from all pleasure that can gratify his senses. In the revolution of the lunar year, the

Ramadan coincides, by turns, with the winter cold and the summer heat; and the patient martyr, without assuaging his thirst with a drop

of water, must expect the close of a tedious and sultry day. The

interdiction of wine, peculiar to some orders of priests or hermits,

is converted by Mahomet alone into a positive and general law; and a considerable portion of the globe has abjured, at his command, the use

of that salutary, though dangerous, liquor. These painful restraints are, doubtless, infringed by the libertine, and eluded by the hypocrite; but the legislator, by whom they are enacted, cannot surely be accused

of alluring his proselytes by the indulgence of their sensual appetites.

III. The charity of the Mahometans descends to the animal creation; and the Koran repeatedly inculcates, not as a merit, but as a strict and

indispensable duty, the relief of the indigent and unfortunate. Mahomet,

perhaps, is the only lawgiver who has defined the precise measure of charity: the standard may vary with the degree and nature of property, as it consists either in money, in corn or cattle, in fruits or

merchandise; but the Mussulman does not accomplish the law, unless he bestows a \_tenth\_ of his revenue; and if his conscience accuses him

of fraud or extortion, the tenth, under the idea of restitution, is enlarged to a \_fifth\_. Benevolence is the foundation of justice, since we are forbid to injure those whom we are bound to assist. A prophet may

reveal the secrets of heaven and of futurity; but in his moral precepts

he can only repeat the lessons of our own hearts.

the two articles of belief, and the four practical duties, of Islam, are

guarded by rewards and punishments; and the faith of the Mussulman

is devoutly fixed on the event of the judgment and the last day. the prophet has not presumed to determine the moment of that awful catastrophe, though he darkly announces the signs, both in heaven and earth, which will precede the universal dissolution, when life shall be destroyed, and the order of creation shall be confounded in the

primitive chaos. At the blast of the trumpet, new worlds will start into being: angels, genii, and men will arise from the dead, and the human

soul will again be united to the body. The doctrine of the resurrection was first entertained by the Egyptians; and their mummies were embalmed, their pyramids were constructed, to preserve the ancient mansion of the soul, during a period of three thousand years. But the attempt is

partial and unavailing; and it is with a more philosophic spirit that Mahomet relies on the omnipotence of the Creator, whose word can

reanimate the breathless clay, and collect the innumerable atoms, that

no longer retain their form or substance. The intermediate state of the soul it is hard to decide; and those who most firmly believe her

immaterial nature, are at a loss to understand how she can think or act without the agency of the organs of sense.

the reunion of the soul and body will be followed by the final judgment

of mankind; and in his copy of the Magian picture, the prophet has too faithfully represented the forms of proceeding, and even the slow and successive operations, of an earthly tribunal. By his intolerant adversaries he is upbraided for extending, even to themselves, the hope

of salvation, for asserting the blackest heresy, that every man who believes in God, and accomplishes good works, may expect in the last day a favorable sentence. Such rational indifference is ill adapted to the character of a fanatic; nor is it probable that a messenger from heaven

should depreciate the value and necessity of his own revelation. In the idiom of the Koran, the belief of God is inseparable from that of

Mahomet: the good works are those which he has enjoined, and the two

qualifications imply the profession of Islam, to which all nations and all sects are equally invited. Their spiritual blindness, though excused by ignorance and crowned with virtue, will be scourged with everlasting torments; and the tears which Mahomet shed over the tomb of his mother for whom he was forbidden to pray, display a striking contrast of

humanity and enthusiasm. The doom of the infidels is common: the measure

of their guilt and punishment is determined by the degree of evidence which they have rejected, by the magnitude of the errors which they

have entertained: the eternal mansions of the Christians, the Jews, the

Sabians, the Magians, and idolaters, are sunk below each other in the abyss; and the lowest hell is reserved for the faithless hypocrites who

have assumed the mask of religion. After the greater part of mankind

has been condemned for their opinions, the true believers only will be

judged by their actions. The good and evil of each Mussulman will be accurately weighed in a real or allegorical balance; and a singular

mode of compensation will be allowed for the payment of injuries: the aggressor will refund an equivalent of his own good actions, for the benefit of the person whom he has wronged; and if he should be destitute

of any moral property, the weight of his sins will be loaded with an adequate share of the demerits of the sufferer. According as the shares

of guilt or virtue shall preponderate, the sentence will be pronounced, and all, without distinction, will pass over the sharp and perilous bridge of the abyss; but the innocent, treading in the footsteps of

Mahomet, will gloriously enter the gates of paradise, while the guilty will fall into the first and mildest of the seven hells. The term of expiation will vary from nine hundred to seven thousand years; but the

prophet has judiciously promised, that all his disciples, whatever may be their sins, shall be saved, by their own faith and his intercession from eternal damnation. It is not surprising that superstition should act most powerfully on the fears of her votaries, since the human fancy can paint with more energy the misery than the bliss of a future life. with the two simple elements of darkness and fire, we create a sensation

of pain, which may be aggravated to an infinite degree by the idea of endless duration. But the same idea operates with an opposite effect on the continuity of pleasure; and too much of our present enjoyments is

obtained from the relief, or the comparison, of evil. It is natural enough that an Arabian prophet should dwell with rapture on the groves, the fountains, and the rivers of paradise; but instead of inspiring the blessed inhabitants with a liberal taste for harmony and science, conversation and friendship, he idly celebrates the pearls and diamonds, the robes of silk, palaces of marble, dishes of gold, rich wines, artificial dainties, numerous attendants, and the whole train of sensual and costly luxury, which becomes insipid to the owner, even in the short

period of this mortal life. Seventy-two \_Houris\_, or black-eyed girls,

of resplendent beauty, blooming youth, virgin purity, and exquisite

sensibility, will be created for the use of the meanest believer; a moment of pleasure will be prolonged to a thousand years; and his faculties will be increased a hundred fold, to render him worthy of his felicity. Notwithstanding a vulgar prejudice, the gates of heaven will be open to both sexes; but Mahomet has not specified the male companions

of the female elect, lest he should either alarm the jealousy of their former husbands, or disturb their felicity, by the suspicion of an everlasting marriage. This image of a carnal paradise has provoked the

indignation, perhaps the envy, of the monks: they declaim against the

impure religion of Mahomet; and his modest apologists are driven to the poor excuse of figures and allegories. But the sounder and more consistent party adhere without shame, to the literal interpretation of the Koran: useless would be the resurrection of the body, unless it were

restored to the possession and exercise of its worthiest faculties; and the union of sensual and intellectual enjoyment is requisite to complete the happiness of the double animal, the perfect man. Yet the joys of the

Mahometan paradise will not be confined to the indulgence of luxury and appetite; and the prophet has expressly declared that all meaner

happiness will be forgotten and despised by the saints and martyrs, who

shall be admitted to the beatitude of the divine vision.

the first and most arduous conquests of Mahomet were those of his wife,

his servant, his pupil, and his friend; since he presented himself as a

prophet to those who were most conversant with his infirmities as a man.

Yet Cadijah believed the words, and cherished the glory, of her husband; the obsequious and affectionate Zeid was tempted by the prospect

of freedom; the illustrious Ali, the son of Abu Taleb, embraced the

sentiments of his cousin with the spirit of a youthful hero; and the wealth, the moderation, the veracity of Abubeker confirmed the religion

of the prophet whom he was destined to succeed. By his persuasion, ten

of the most respectable citizens of Mecca were introduced to the private

lessons of Islam; they yielded to the voice of reason and enthusiasm; they repeated the fundamental creed, "There is but one God, and Mahomet

is the apostle of God;" and their faith, even in this life, was rewarded with riches and honors, with the command of armies and the government

of kingdoms. Three years were silently employed in the conversion of fourteen proselytes, the first-fruits of his mission; but in the fourth

year he assumed the prophetic office, and resolving to impart to his family the light of divine truth, he prepared a banquet, a lamb, as it

is said, and a bowl of milk, for the entertainment of forty guests of the race of Hashem. "Friends and kinsmen," said Mahomet to the assembly,

"I offer you, and I alone can offer, the most precious of gifts, the treasures of this world and of the world to come. God has commanded me to call you to his service. Who among you will support my burden? Who among you will be my companion and my vizier?" No answer was returned, till the silence of astonishment, and doubt, and contempt, was at length broken by the impatient courage of Ali, a youth in the fourteenth year

of his age. "O prophet, I am the man: whosoever rises against thee, I will dash out his teeth, tear out his eyes, break his legs, rip up his belly. O prophet, I will be thy vizier over them." Mahomet accepted his

offer with transport, and Abu Taled was ironically exhorted to respect the superior dignity of his son. In a more serious tone, the father of ali advised his nephew to relinquish his impracticable design. "Spare

your remonstrances," replied the intrepid fanatic to his uncle and benefactor; "if they should place the sun on my right hand, and the moon

on my left, they should not divert me from my course." He persevered ten years in the exercise of his mission; and the religion which has

overspread the East and the West advanced with a slow and painful

progress within the walls of Mecca. Yet Mahomet enjoyed the satisfaction

of beholding the increase of his infant congregation of Unitarians, who revered him as a prophet, and to whom he seasonably dispensed the

spiritual nourishment of the Koran. The number of proselytes may be esteemed by the absence of eighty-three men and eighteen women, who

retired to Æthiopia in the seventh year of his mission; and his party was fortified by the timely conversion of his uncle Hamza, and of the fierce and inflexible Omar, who signalized in the cause of Islam the

same zeal, which he had exerted for its destruction. Nor was the charity

of Mahomet confined to the tribe of Koreish, or the precincts of Mecca:

on solemn festivals, in the days of pilgrimage, he frequented the caaba, accosted the strangers of every tribe, and urged, both in private converse and public discourse, the belief and worship of a sole Deity. conscious of his reason and of his weakness, he asserted the liberty of conscience, and disclaimed the use of religious violence: but he called the Arabs to repentance, and conjured them to remember the ancient

idolaters of Ad and Thamud, whom the divine justice had swept away from the face of the earth.

chapter L: Description Of Arabia And Its Inhabitants.--Part V.

the people of Mecca were hardened in their unbelief by superstition and envy. The elders of the city, the uncles of the prophet, affected to despise the presumption of an orphan, the reformer of his country: the

pious orations of Mahomet in the Caaba were answered by the clamors of abu Taleb. "Citizens and pilgrims, listen not to the tempter, hearken

not to his impious novelties. Stand fast in the worship of Al Lâta and al Uzzah." Yet the son of Abdallah was ever dear to the aged chief: and

he protected the fame and person of his nephew against the assaults of the Koreishites, who had long been jealous of the preëminence of the family of Hashem. Their malice was colored with the pretence of

religion: in the age of Job, the crime of impiety was punished by the arabian magistrate; and Mahomet was guilty of deserting and denying the

national deities. But so loose was the policy of Mecca, that the leaders

of the Koreish, instead of accusing a criminal, were compelled to employ the measures of persuasion or violence. They repeatedly addressed Abu taleb in the style of reproach and menace. "Thy nephew reviles our

religion; he accuses our wise forefathers of ignorance and folly;

silence him quickly, lest he kindle tumult and discord in the city. If

he persevere, we shall draw our swords against him and his adherents, and thou wilt be responsible for the blood of thy fellow-citizens." the weight and moderation of Abu Taleb eluded the violence of religious faction; the most helpless or timid of the disciples retired to

Æthiopia, and the prophet withdrew himself to various places of strength

in the town and country. As he was still supported by his family, the rest of the tribe of Koreish engaged themselves to renounce all

intercourse with the children of Hashem, neither to buy nor sell,

neither to marry not to give in marriage, but to pursue them with

implacable enmity, till they should deliver the person of Mahomet to the

justice of the gods. The decree was suspended in the Caaba before the eyes of the nation; the messengers of the Koreish pursued the Mussulman exiles in the heart of Africa: they besieged the prophet and his most faithful followers, intercepted their water, and inflamed their mutual animosity by the retaliation of injuries and insults. A doubtful truce restored the appearances of concord till the death of Abu Taleb abandoned Mahomet to the power of his enemies, at the moment when he was deprived of his domestic comforts by the loss of his faithful and

generous Cadijah. Abu Sophian, the chief of the branch of Ommiyah,

succeeded to the principality of the republic of Mecca. A zealous

votary of the idols, a mortal foe of the line of Hashem, he convened an assembly of the Koreishites and their allies, to decide the fate of the apostle. His imprisonment might provoke the despair of his enthusiasm; and the exile of an eloquent and popular fanatic would diffuse the

mischief through the provinces of Arabia. His death was resolved; and they agreed that a sword from each tribe should be buried in his heart, to divide the guilt of his blood, and baffle the vengeance of the

Hashemites. An angel or a spy revealed their conspiracy; and flight was the only resource of Mahomet. At the dead of night, accompanied by

his friend Abubeker, he silently escaped from his house: the assassins watched at the door; but they were deceived by the figure of Ali, who

reposed on the bed, and was covered with the green vestment of the apostle. The Koreish respected the piety of the heroic youth; but some

verses of Ali, which are still extant, exhibit an interesting picture

of his anxiety, his tenderness, and his religious confidence. Three days

Mahomet and his companion were concealed in the cave of Thor, at the distance of a league from Mecca; and in the close of each evening, they received from the son and daughter of Abubeker a secret supply of

intelligence and food. The diligence of the Koreish explored every haunt

in the neighborhood of the city: they arrived at the entrance of the cavern; but the providential deceit of a spider's web and a pigeon's

nest is supposed to convince them that the place was solitary and

inviolate. "We are only two," said the trembling Abubeker. "There is a third," replied the prophet; "it is God himself." No sooner was the

pursuit abated than the two fugitives issued from the rock, and

mounted their camels: on the road to Medina, they were overtaken by the emissaries of the Koreish; they redeemed themselves with prayers and

promises from their hands. In this eventful moment, the lance of an Arab

might have changed the history of the world. The flight of the prophet from Mecca to Medina has fixed the memorable æra of the \_Hegira\_, which, at the end of twelve centuries, still discriminates the lunar years of the Mahometan nations.

the religion of the Koran might have perished in its cradle, had not

Medina embraced with faith and reverence the holy outcasts of Mecca.

Medina, or the \_city\_, known under the name of Yathreb, before it was

sanctified by the throne of the prophet, was divided between the tribes

of the Charegites and the Awsites, whose hereditary feud was rekindled by the slightest provocations: two colonies of Jews, who boasted a

sacerdotal race, were their humble allies, and without converting the Arabs, they introduced the taste of science and religion, which distinguished Medina as the city of the Book. Some of her noblest citizens, in a pilgrimage to the Caaba, were converted by the preaching

of Mahomet; on their return, they diffused the belief of God and his

prophet, and the new alliance was ratified by their deputies in two

secret and nocturnal interviews on a hill in the suburbs of Mecca. In the first, ten Charegites and two Awsites united in faith and love,

protested, in the name of their wives, their children, and their absent brethren, that they would forever profess the creed, and observe the

precepts, of the Koran. The second was a political association, the first vital spark of the empire of the Saracens. Seventy-three men and two women of Medina held a solemn conference with Mahomet, his kinsman, and his disciples; and pledged themselves to each other by a mutual oath

of fidelity. They promised, in the name of the city, that if he should be banished, they would receive him as a confederate, obey him as a

leader, and defend him to the last extremity, like their wives and children. "But if you are recalled by your country," they asked with a flattering anxiety, "will you not abandon your new allies?" "All things," replied Mahomet with a smile, "are now common between us your blood is as my blood, your ruin as my ruin. We are bound to each other by the ties of honor and interest. I am your friend, and the enemy of

your foes." "But if we are killed in your service, what," exclaimed the deputies of Medina, "will be our reward?" "Paradise," replied the

prophet. "Stretch forth thy hand." He stretched it forth, and they

reiterated the oath of allegiance and fidelity. Their treaty was

ratified by the people, who unanimously embraced the profession of

Islam; they rejoiced in the exile of the apostle, but they trembled for

his safety, and impatiently expected his arrival. After a perilous and

rapid journey along the sea-coast, he halted at Koba, two miles from the city, and made his public entry into Medina, sixteen days after his flight from Mecca. Five hundred of the citizens advanced to meet him;

he was hailed with acclamations of loyalty and devotion; Mahomet was

mounted on a she-camel, an umbrella shaded his head, and a turban was

unfurled before him to supply the deficiency of a standard. His bravest disciples, who had been scattered by the storm, assembled round

his person; and the equal, though various, merit of the Moslems was distinguished by the names of \_Mohagerians\_ and \_Ansars\_, the fugitives

of Mecca, and the auxiliaries of Medina. To eradicate the seeds of

jealousy, Mahomet judiciously coupled his principal followers with the

rights and obligations of brethren; and when Ali found himself without a peer, the prophet tenderly declared, that \_he\_ would be the companion and brother of the noble youth. The expedient was crowned with success; the holy fraternity was respected in peace and war, and the two parties

vied with each other in a generous emulation of courage and fidelity.

Once only the concord was slightly ruffled by an accidental quarrel: a

patriot of Medina arraigned the insolence of the strangers, but the

hint of their expulsion was heard with abhorrence; and his own son most eagerly offered to lay at the apostle's feet the head of his father.

from his establishment at Medina, Mahomet assumed the exercise of the

regal and sacerdotal office; and it was impious to appeal from a judge whose decrees were inspired by the divine wisdom. A small portion of

ground, the patrimony of two orphans, was acquired by gift or purchase;

on that chosen spot he built a house and a mosch, more venerable in their rude simplicity than the palaces and temples of the Assyrian caliphs. His seal of gold, or silver, was inscribed with the apostolic title; when he prayed and preached in the weekly assembly, he leaned against the trunk of a palm-tree; and it was long before he indulged

himself in the use of a chair or pulpit of rough timber. After a reign

of six years, fifteen hundred Moslems, in arms and in the field, renewed their oath of allegiance; and their chief repeated the assurance of

protection till the death of the last member, or the final dissolution

of the party. It was in the same camp that the deputy of Mecca was astonished by the attention of the faithful to the words and looks of the prophet, by the eagerness with which they collected his spittle, a

hair that dropped on the ground, the refuse water of his lustrations, as if they participated in some degree of the prophetic virtue. "I have

seen," said he, "the Chosroes of Persia and the Cæsar of Rome, but

never did I behold a king among his subjects like Mahomet among his companions." The devout fervor of enthusiasm acts with more energy and truth than the cold and formal servility of courts.

In the state of nature, every man has a right to defend, by force of arms, his person and his possessions; to repel, or even to prevent, the

violence of his enemies, and to extend his hostilities to a reasonable

measure of satisfaction and retaliation. In the free society of the arabs, the duties of subject and citizen imposed a feeble restraint; and

Mahomet, in the exercise of a peaceful and benevolent mission, had been despoiled and banished by the injustice of his countrymen. The choice of an independent people had exalted the fugitive of Mecca to the rank of a sovereign; and he was invested with the just prerogative of forming alliances, and of waging offensive or defensive war. The imperfection

of human rights was supplied and armed by the plenitude of divine power: the prophet of Medina assumed, in his new revelations, a fiercer and

more sanguinary tone, which proves that his former moderation was the effect of weakness: the means of persuasion had been tried, the season

of forbearance was elapsed, and he was now commanded to propagate

his religion by the sword, to destroy the monuments of idolatry, and, without regarding the sanctity of days or months, to pursue the unbelieving nations of the earth. The same bloody precepts, so

repeatedly inculcated in the Koran, are ascribed by the author to the

Pentateuch and the Gospel. But the mild tenor of the evangelic style may explain an ambiguous text, that Jesus did not bring peace on the earth, but a sword: his patient and humble virtues should not be confounded with the intolerant zeal of princes and bishops, who have disgraced the name of his disciples. In the prosecution of religious war, Mahomet

might appeal with more propriety to the example of Moses, of the Judges, and the kings of Israel. The military laws of the Hebrews are still more

rigid than those of the Arabian legislator. The Lord of hosts marched

in person before the Jews: if a city resisted their summons, the males, without distinction, were put to the sword: the seven nations of Canaan were devoted to destruction; and neither repentance nor conversion, could shield them from the inevitable doom, that no creature within their precincts should be left alive. The fair option of friendship,

or submission, or battle, was proposed to the enemies of Mahomet.

If they professed the creed of Islam, they were admitted to all the temporal and spiritual benefits of his primitive disciples, and marched

under the same banner to extend the religion which they had embraced. the clemency of the prophet was decided by his interest: yet he seldom trampled on a prostrate enemy; and he seems to promise, that on the

payment of a tribute, the least guilty of his unbelieving subjects might be indulged in their worship, or at least in their imperfect faith. In the first months of his reign he practised the lessons of holy warfare, and displayed his white banner before the gates of Medina: the

martial apostle fought in person at nine battles or sieges; and fifty enterprises of war were achieved in ten years by himself or his

lieutenants. The Arab continued to unite the professions of a merchant and a robber; and his petty excursions for the defence or the attack of a caravan insensibly prepared his troops for the conquest of Arabia. The distribution of the spoil was regulated by a divine law: the whole was faithfully collected in one common mass: a fifth of the gold and silver, the prisoners and cattle, the movables and immovables, was reserved by the prophet for pious and charitable uses; the remainder was shared

in adequate portions by the soldiers who had obtained the victory or

guarded the camp: the rewards of the slain devolved to their widows and

orphans; and the increase of cavalry was encouraged by the allotment of a double share to the horse and to the man. From all sides the roving arabs were allured to the standard of religion and plunder: the apostle

sanctified the license of embracing the female captives as their wives

or concubines, and the enjoyment of wealth and beauty was a feeble type

of the joys of paradise prepared for the valiant martyrs of the faith.

"The sword," says Mahomet, "is the key of heaven and of hell; a drop of blood shed in the cause of God, a night spent in arms, is of more avail than two months of fasting or prayer: whosoever falls in battle,

his sins are forgiven: at the day of judgment his wounds shall be

resplendent as vermilion, and odoriferous as musk; and the loss of

his limbs shall be supplied by the wings of angels and cherubim." The

intrepid souls of the Arabs were fired with enthusiasm: the picture of the invisible world was strongly painted on their imagination; and the death which they had always despised became an object of hope and desire. The Koran inculcates, in the most absolute sense, the tenets

of fate and predestination, which would extinguish both industry and

virtue, if the actions of man were governed by his speculative belief.

Yet their influence in every age has exalted the courage of the Saracens and Turks. The first companions of Mahomet advanced to battle with a fearless confidence: there is no danger where there is no chance: they were ordained to perish in their beds; or they were safe and

invulnerable amidst the darts of the enemy.

Perhaps the Koreish would have been content with the flight of Mahomet,

had they not been provoked and alarmed by the vengeance of an enemy, who could intercept their Syrian trade as it passed and repassed through the territory of Medina. Abu Sophian himself, with only thirty or forty followers, conducted a wealthy caravan of a thousand camels; the fortune

or dexterity of his march escaped the vigilance of Mahomet; but the chief of the Koreish was informed that the holy robbers were placed in ambush to await his return. He despatched a messenger to his brethren of

Mecca, and they were roused, by the fear of losing their merchandise and their provisions, unless they hastened to his relief with the military force of the city. The sacred band of Mahomet was formed of three

hundred and thirteen Moslems, of whom seventy-seven were fugitives, and the rest auxiliaries; they mounted by turns a train of seventy camels,

(the camels of Yathreb were formidable in war;) but such was the poverty

of his first disciples, that only two could appear on horseback in the field. In the fertile and famous vale of Beder, three stations from

Medina, he was informed by his scouts of the caravan that approached

on one side; of the Koreish, one hundred horse, eight hundred and fifty foot, who advanced on the other. After a short debate, he sacrificed the prospect of wealth to the pursuit of glory and revenge, and a slight

intrenchment was formed, to cover his troops, and a stream of fresh water, that glided through the valley. "O God," he exclaimed, as the

numbers of the Koreish descended from the hills, "O God, if these are destroyed, by whom wilt thou be worshipped on the earth?--Courage, my children; close your ranks; discharge your arrows, and the day is your

own." At these words he placed himself, with Abubeker, on a throne or

pulpit, and instantly demanded the succor of Gabriel and three thousand angels. His eye was fixed on the field of battle: the Mussulmans fainted and were pressed: in that decisive moment the prophet started from his throne, mounted his horse, and cast a handful of sand into the air: "Let their faces be covered with confusion." Both armies heard the thunder of

his voice: their fancy beheld the angelic warriors: the Koreish trembled and fled: seventy of the bravest were slain; and seventy captives adorned the first victory of the faithful. The dead bodies of the

Koreish were despoiled and insulted: two of the most obnoxious prisoners were punished with death; and the ransom of the others, four thousand drams of silver, compensated in some degree the escape of the caravan. but it was in vain that the camels of Abu Sophian explored a new road through the desert and along the Euphrates: they were overtaken by the diligence of the Mussulmans; and wealthy must have been the prize, if twenty thousand drams could be set apart for the fifth of the apostle. the resentment of the public and private loss stimulated Abu Sophian to collect a body of three thousand men, seven hundred of whom were armed with cuirasses, and two hundred were mounted on horseback; three thousand camels attended his march; and his wife Henda, with fifteen

matrons of Mecca, incessantly sounded their timbrels to animate the troops, and to magnify the greatness of Hobal, the most popular deity

of the Caaba. The standard of ven and Mahomet was upheld by nine hundred and fifty believers: the disproportion of numbers was not more alarming than in the field of Beder; and their presumption of victory prevailed against the divine and human sense of the apostle. The second battle was fought on Mount Ohud, six miles to the north of Medina; the Koreish advanced in the form of a crescent; and the right wing of cavalry was

led by Caled, the fiercest and most successful of the Arabian warriors. the troops of Mahomet were skilfully posted on the declivity of the

hill; and their rear was guarded by a detachment of fifty archers. The weight of their charge impelled and broke the centre of the idolaters: but in the pursuit they lost the advantage of their ground: the archers deserted their station: the Mussulmans were tempted by the spoil, disobeyed their general, and disordered their ranks. The intrepid Caled, wheeling his cavalry on their flank and rear, exclaimed, with a loud

voice, that Mahomet was slain. He was indeed wounded in the face with a

javelin: two of his teeth were shattered with a stone; yet, in the midst

of tumult and dismay, he reproached the infidels with the murder of a prophet; and blessed the friendly hand that stanched his blood, and conveyed him to a place of safety Seventy martyrs died for the sins

of the people; they fell, said the apostle, in pairs, each brother embracing his lifeless companion; their bodies were mangled by the

inhuman females of Mecca; and the wife of Abu Sophian tasted the entrails of Hamza, the uncle of Mahomet. They might applaud their

superstition, and satiate their fury; but the Mussulmans soon rallied in the field, and the Koreish wanted strength or courage to undertake the

siege of Medina. It was attacked the ensuing year by an army of ten thousand enemies; and this third expedition is variously named from the \_nations\_, which marched under the banner of Abu Sophian, from the

\_ditch\_ which was drawn before the city, and a camp of three thousand

Mussulmans. The prudence of Mahomet declined a general engagement: the

valor of Ali was signalized in single combat; and the war was protracted twenty days, till the final separation of the confederates. A tempest

of wind, rain, and hail, overturned their tents: their private quarrels were fomented by an insidious adversary; and the Koreish, deserted by their allies, no longer hoped to subvert the throne, or to check the conquests, of their invincible exile.

chapter L: Description Of Arabia And Its Inhabitants.--Part VI.

the choice of Jerusalem for the first kebla of prayer discovers the early propensity of Mahomet in favor of the Jews; and happy would it

have been for their temporal interest, had they recognized, in the arabian prophet, the hope of Israel and the promised Messiah. Their

obstinacy converted his friendship into implacable hatred, with which he

pursued that unfortunate people to the last moment of his life; and in the double character of an apostle and a conqueror, his persecution was extended to both worlds. The Kainoka dwelt at Medina under the

protection of the city; he seized the occasion of an accidental tumult, and summoned them to embrace his religion, or contend with him in battle. "Alas!" replied the trembling Jews, "we are ignorant of the use

of arms, but we persevere in the faith and worship of our fathers; why wilt thou reduce us to the necessity of a just defence?" The unequal conflict was terminated in fifteen days; and it was with extreme

reluctance that Mahomet yielded to the importunity of his allies, and consented to spare the lives of the captives. But their riches were confiscated, their arms became more effectual in the hands of the

Mussulmans; and a wretched colony of seven hundred exiles was driven, with their wives and children, to implore a refuge on the confines

of Syria. The Nadhirites were more guilty, since they conspired, in a friendly interview, to assassinate the prophet. He besieged their castle, three miles from Medina; but their resolute defence obtained an

honorable capitulation; and the garrison, sounding their trumpets and beating their drums, was permitted to depart with the honors of war. The

Jews had excited and joined the war of the Koreish: no sooner had the

\_nations\_ retired from the \_ditch\_, than Mahomet, without laying aside

his armor, marched on the same day to extirpate the hostile race of the children of Koraidha. After a resistance of twenty-five days, they

surrendered at discretion. They trusted to the intercession of their old allies of Medina; they could not be ignorant that fanaticism obliterates the feelings of humanity. A venerable elder, to whose judgment they appealed, pronounced the sentence of their death; seven hundred Jews were dragged in chains to the market-place of the city; they descended alive into the grave prepared for their execution and burial; and the apostle beheld with an inflexible eye the slaughter of his helpless enemies. Their sheep and camels were inherited by the Mussulmans: three

hundred cuirasses, five hundred piles, a thousand lances, composed the

most useful portion of the spoil. Six days' journey to the north-east

of Medina, the ancient and wealthy town of Chaibar was the seat of the

Jewish power in Arabia: the territory, a fertile spot in the desert, was covered with plantations and cattle, and protected by eight castles,

some of which were esteemed of impregnable strength. The forces of

Mahomet consisted of two hundred horse and fourteen hundred foot: in the succession of eight regular and painful sieges they were exposed to danger, and fatigue, and hunger; and the most undaunted chiefs despaired

of the event. The apostle revived their faith and courage by the example

of Ali, on whom he bestowed the surname of the Lion of God: perhaps we

may believe that a Hebrew champion of gigantic stature was cloven to the chest by his irresistible cimeter; but we cannot praise the modesty of

romance, which represents him as tearing from its hinges the gate of a fortress and wielding the ponderous buckler in his left hand. After the

reduction of the castles, the town of Chaibar submitted to the yoke. The chief of the tribe was tortured, in the presence of Mahomet, to force a confession of his hidden treasure: the industry of the shepherds and husbandmen was rewarded with a precarious toleration: they were

permitted, so long as it should please the conqueror, to improve their

patrimony, in equal shares, for \_his\_ emolument and their own. Under the

reign of Omar, the Jews of Chaibar were transported to Syria; and the caliph alleged the injunction of his dying master; that one and the true

religion should be professed in his native land of Arabia.

five times each day the eyes of Mahomet were turned towards Mecca, and

he was urged by the most sacred and powerful motives to revisit, as a conqueror, the city and the temple from whence he had been driven as an exile. The Caaba was present to his waking and sleeping fancy: an idle dream was translated into vision and prophecy; he unfurled the holy banner; and a rash promise of success too hastily dropped from the lips

of the apostle. His march from Medina to Mecca displayed the peaceful and solemn pomp of a pilgrimage: seventy camels, chosen and bedecked for

sacrifice, preceded the van; the sacred territory was respected; and the captives were dismissed without ransom to proclaim his clemency and devotion. But no sooner did Mahomet descend into the plain, within a day's journey of the city, than he exclaimed, "They have clothed themselves with the skins of tigers:" the numbers and resolution of the

Koreish opposed his progress; and the roving Arabs of the desert might desert or betray a leader whom they had followed for the hopes of spoil. the intrepid fanatic sunk into a cool and cautious politician: he waived

in the treaty his title of apostle of God; concluded with the Koreish and their allies a truce of ten years; engaged to restore the fugitives

of Mecca who should embrace his religion; and stipulated only, for the ensuing year, the humble privilege of entering the city as a friend, and of remaining three days to accomplish the rites of the pilgrimage. a cloud of shame and sorrow hung on the retreat of the Mussulmans, and their disappointment might justly accuse the failure of a prophet who

had so often appealed to the evidence of success. The faith and hope of the pilgrims were rekindled by the prospect of Mecca: their swords were

sheathed; seven times in the footsteps of the apostle they encompassed the Caaba: the Koreish had retired to the hills, and Mahomet, after the customary sacrifice, evacuated the city on the fourth day. The people was edified by his devotion; the hostile chiefs were awed, or divided,

or seduced; and both Kaled and Amrou, the future conquerors of Syria and egypt, most seasonably deserted the sinking cause of idolatry. The power

of Mahomet was increased by the submission of the Arabian tribes; ten thousand soldiers were assembled for the conquest of Mecca; and the

idolaters, the weaker party, were easily convicted of violating the truce. Enthusiasm and discipline impelled the march, and preserved the

secret till the blaze of ten thousand fires proclaimed to the astonished

Koreish the design, the approach, and the irresistible force of the enemy. The haughty Abu Sophian presented the keys of the city, admired the variety of arms and ensigns that passed before him in review;

observed that the son of Abdallah had acquired a mighty kingdom, and confessed, under the cimeter of Omar, that he was the apostle of the true God. The return of Marius and Scylla was stained with the blood of the Romans: the revenge of Mahomet was stimulated by religious zeal, and

his injured followers were eager to execute or to prevent the order of a massacre. Instead of indulging their passions and his own, the

victorious exile forgave the guilt, and united the factions, of Mecca.

His troops, in three divisions, marched into the city: eight-and-twenty

of the inhabitants were slain by the sword of Caled; eleven men and

six women were proscribed by the sentence of Mahomet; but he blamed the cruelty of his lieutenant; and several of the most obnoxious victims were indebted for their lives to his clemency or contempt. The chiefs of the Koreish were prostrate at his feet. "What mercy can you expect from the man whom you have wronged?" "We confide in the generosity of our

kinsman." "And you shall not confide in vain: begone! you are safe, you are free." The people of Mecca deserved their pardon by the profession

of Islam; and after an exile of seven years, the fugitive missionary was enthroned as the prince and prophet of his native country. But the three

hundred and sixty idols of the Caaba were ignominiously broken: the

house of God was purified and adorned: as an example to future times, the apostle again fulfilled the duties of a pilgrim; and a perpetual

law was enacted that no unbeliever should dare to set his foot on the territory of the holy city.

the conquest of Mecca determined the faith and obedience of the Arabian tribes; who, according to the vicissitudes of fortune, had obeyed, or disregarded, the eloquence or the arms of the prophet. Indifference for

rites and opinions still marks the character of the Bedoweens; and they

might accept, as loosely as they hold, the doctrine of the Koran. Yet an obstinate remnant still adhered to the religion and liberty of their ancestors, and the war of Honain derived a proper appellation from the

\_idols\_, whom Mahomet had vowed to destroy, and whom the confederates

of Tayef had sworn to defend. Four thousand Pagans advanced with secrecy and speed to surprise the conqueror: they pitied and despised the supine

negligence of the Koreish, but they depended on the wishes, and perhaps the aid, of a people who had so lately renounced their gods, and bowed beneath the yoke of their enemy. The banners of Medina and Mecca were displayed by the prophet; a crowd of Bedoweens increased the strength or

numbers of the army, and twelve thousand Mussulmans entertained a rash and sinful presumption of their invincible strength. They descended without precaution into the valley of Honain: the heights had been

occupied by the archers and slingers of the confederates; their numbers were oppressed, their discipline was confounded, their courage was appalled, and the Koreish smiled at their impending destruction. The

prophet, on his white mule, was encompassed by the enemies: he attempted to rush against their spears in search of a glorious death: ten of his faithful companions interposed their weapons and their breasts; three of these fell dead at his feet: "O my brethren," he repeatedly cried, with

sorrow and indignation, "I am the son of Abdallah, I am the apostle of truth! O man, stand fast in the faith! O God, send down thy succor!" His

uncle Abbas, who, like the heroes of Homer, excelled in the loudness

of his voice, made the valley resound with the recital of the gifts and

promises of God: the flying Moslems returned from all sides to the holy

standard; and Mahomet observed with pleasure that the furnace was again

rekindled: his conduct and example restored the battle, and he animated

his victorious troops to inflict a merciless revenge on the authors of their shame. From the field of Honain, he marched without delay to the

siege of Tayef, sixty miles to the south-east of Mecca, a fortress of

strength, whose fertile lands produce the fruits of Syria in the midst

of the Arabian desert. A friendly tribe, instructed (I know not how)

in the art of sieges, supplied him with a train of battering-rams and

military engines, with a body of five hundred artificers. But it was in

vain that he offered freedom to the slaves of Tayef; that he violated

his own laws by the extirpation of the fruit-trees; that the ground was

opened by the miners; that the breach was assaulted by the troops. After a siege of twenty-days, the prophet sounded a retreat; but he retreated with a song of devout triumph, and affected to pray for the repentance and safety of the unbelieving city. The spoils of this fortunate expedition amounted to six thousand captives, twenty-four thousand camels, forty thousand sheep, and four thousand ounces of silver: a tribe who had fought at Honain redeemed their prisoners by the sacrifice

of their idols; but Mahomet compensated the loss, by resigning to the

soldiers his fifth of the plunder, and wished, for their sake, that he

possessed as many head of cattle as there were trees in the province

of Tehama. Instead of chastising the disaffection of the Koreish, he endeavored to cut out their tongues, (his own expression,) and to secure their attachment by a superior measure of liberality: Abu Sophian alone was presented with three hundred camels and twenty ounces of silver; and

Mecca was sincerely converted to the profitable religion of the Koran.

the \_fugitives\_ and \_auxiliaries\_ complained, that they who had borne the burden were neglected in the season of victory "Alas!" replied their artful leader, "suffer me to conciliate these recent enemies, these doubtful proselytes, by the gift of some perishable goods. To your guard

I intrust my life and fortunes. You are the companions of my exile, of

my kingdom, of my paradise." He was followed by the deputies of Tayef, who dreaded the repetition of a siege. "Grant us, O apostle of God! a truce of three years, with the toleration of our ancient worship."

"Not a month, not an hour." "Excuse us at least from the obligation of

prayer." "Without prayer religion is of no avail." They submitted

in silence: their temples were demolished, and the same sentence of destruction was executed on all the idols of Arabia. His lieutenants,

on the shores of the Red Sea, the Ocean, and the Gulf of Persia, were

saluted by the acclamations of a faithful people; and the ambassadors, who knelt before the throne of Medina, were as numerous (says the arabian proverb) as the dates that fall from the maturity of a

palm-tree. The nation submitted to the God and the sceptre of Mahomet: the opprobrious name of tribute was abolished: the spontaneous or

reluctant oblations of arms and tithes were applied to the service of

religion; and one hundred and fourteen thousand Moslems accompanied the

last pilgrimage of the apostle.

when Heraclius returned in triumph from the Persian war, he entertained, at Emesa, one of the ambassadors of Mahomet, who invited the princes and

nations of the earth to the profession of Islam. On this foundation the

zeal of the Arabians has supposed the secret conversion of the Christian emperor: the vanity of the Greeks has feigned a personal visit of the

prince of Medina, who accepted from the royal bounty a rich domain, and a secure retreat, in the province of Syria. But the friendship of

Heraclius and Mahomet was of short continuance: the new religion had

inflamed rather than assuaged the rapacious spirit of the Saracens, and the murder of an envoy afforded a decent pretence for invading, with three thousand soldiers, the territory of Palestine, that extends to the eastward of the Jordan. The holy banner was intrusted to Zeid; and such was the discipline or enthusiasm of the rising sect, that the noblest chiefs served without reluctance under the slave of the prophet. On the event of his decease, Jaafar and Abdallah were successively substituted to the command; and if the three should perish in the war, the troops were authorized to elect their general. The three leaders were slain in the battle of Muta, the first military action, which tried the valor of the Moslems against a foreign enemy. Zeid fell, like a soldier, in the foremost ranks: the death of Jaafar was heroic and memorable: he lost

his right hand: he shifted the standard to his left: the left was

severed from his body: he embraced the standard with his bleeding

stumps, till he was transfixed to the ground with fifty honorable wounds. "Advance," cried Abdallah, who stepped into the vacant place,

"advance with confidence: either victory or paradise is our own." The

lance of a Roman decided the alternative; but the falling standard was

rescued by Caled, the proselyte of Mecca: nine swords were broken in his

hand; and his valor withstood and repulsed the superior numbers of the Christians. In the nocturnal council of the camp he was chosen to command: his skilful evolutions of the ensuing day secured either the

victory or the retreat of the Saracens; and Caled is renowned among his brethren and his enemies by the glorious appellation of the \_Sword of

God\_. In the pulpit, Mahomet described, with prophetic rapture, the crowns of the blessed martyrs; but in private he betrayed the feelings

of human nature: he was surprised as he wept over the daughter of Zeid:

"What do I see?" said the astonished votary. "You see," replied the apostle, "a friend who is deploring the loss of his most faithful friend." After the conquest of Mecca, the sovereign of Arabia affected to prevent the hostile preparations of Heraclius; and solemnly

proclaimed war against the Romans, without attempting to disguise the

hardships and dangers of the enterprise. The Moslems were discouraged: they alleged the want of money, or horses, or provisions; the season of

harvest, and the intolerable heat of the summer: "Hell is much hotter,"

said the indignant prophet. He disdained to compel their service: but on

his return he admonished the most guilty, by an excommunication of fifty days. Their desertion enhanced the merit of Abubeker, Othman, and the faithful companions who devoted their lives and fortunes; and Mahomet displayed his banner at the head of ten thousand horse and twenty thousand foot. Painful indeed was the distress of the march: lassitude and thirst were aggravated by the scorching and pestilential winds of the desert: ten men rode by turns on one camel; and they were reduced to the shameful necessity of drinking the water from the belly of that useful animal. In the mid-way, ten days' journey from Medina and damascus, they reposed near the grove and fountain of Tabuc. Beyond that

place Mahomet declined the prosecution of the war: he declared himself

satisfied with the peaceful intentions, he was more probably daunted by the martial array, of the emperor of the East. But the active and

intrepid Caled spread around the terror of his name; and the prophet

received the submission of the tribes and cities, from the Euphrates to ailah, at the head of the Red Sea. To his Christian subjects, Mahomet

readily granted the security of their persons, the freedom of their trade, the property of their goods, and the toleration of their worship. the weakness of their Arabian brethren had restrained them from opposing

his ambition; the disciples of Jesus were endeared to the enemy of the Jews; and it was the interest of a conqueror to propose a fair capitulation to the most powerful religion of the earth.

till the age of sixty-three years, the strength of Mahomet was equal to the temporal and spiritual fatigues of his mission. His epileptic fits, an absurd calumny of the Greeks, would be an object of pity rather than abhorrence; but he seriously believed that he was poisoned at Chaibar by the revenge of a Jewish female. During four years, the health of the

prophet declined; his infirmities increased; but his mortal disease was a fever of fourteen days, which deprived him by intervals of the use

of reason. As soon as he was conscious of his danger, he edified his brethren by the humility of his virtue or penitence. "If there be any

man," said the apostle from the pulpit, "whom I have unjustly scourged,

I submit my own back to the lash of retaliation. Have I aspersed the

reputation of a Mussulman? let him proclaim \_my\_ thoughts in the face

of the congregation. Has any one been despoiled of his goods? the little that I possess shall compensate the principal and the interest of the debt." "Yes," replied a voice from the crowd, "I am entitled to three drams of silver." Mahomet heard the complaint, satisfied the demand, and thanked his creditor for accusing him in this world rather than at the day of judgment. He beheld with temperate firmness the approach of death; enfranchised his slaves (seventeen men, as they are named, and eleven women;) minutely directed the order of his funeral, and moderated the lamentations of his weeping friends, on whom he bestowed the benediction of peace. Till the third day before his death, he regularly

performed the function of public prayer: the choice of Abubeker to

supply his place, appeared to mark that ancient and faithful friend as his successor in the sacerdotal and regal office; but he prudently declined the risk and envy of a more explicit nomination. At a moment when his faculties were visibly impaired, he called for pen and ink to write, or, more properly, to dictate, a divine book, the sum and accomplishment of all his revelations: a dispute arose in the chamber, whether he should be allowed to supersede the authority of the Koran; and the prophet was forced to reprove the indecent vehemence of his disciples. If the slightest credit may be afforded to the traditions of

his wives and companions, he maintained, in the bosom of his family, and to the last moments of his life, the dignity of an apostle, and the faith of an enthusiast; described the visits of Gabriel, who bade an everlasting farewell to the earth, and expressed his lively confidence,

not only of the mercy, but of the favor, of the Supreme Being. In a familiar discourse he had mentioned his special prerogative, that the angel of death was not allowed to take his soul till he had respectfully asked the permission of the prophet. The request was granted; and

Mahomet immediately fell into the agony of his dissolution: his head was reclined on the lap of Ayesha, the best beloved of all his wives; he fainted with the violence of pain; recovering his spirits, he raised his eyes towards the roof of the house, and, with a steady look, though a faltering voice, uttered the last broken, though articulate, words:

"O God!..... pardon my sins....... Yes,...... I come,...... among my fellow-citizens on high;" and thus peaceably expired on a carpet spread

upon the floor. An expedition for the conquest of Syria was stopped by this mournful event; the army halted at the gates of Medina; the chiefs were assembled round their dying master. The city, more especially the house, of the prophet, was a scene of clamorous sorrow of silent despair: fanaticism alone could suggest a ray of hope and consolation.

"How can he be dead, our witness, our intercessor, our mediator, with

God? By God he is not dead: like Moses and Jesus, he is wrapped in a

holy trance, and speedily will he return to his faithful people." The evidence of sense was disregarded; and Omar, unsheathing his cimeter, threatened to strike off the heads of the infidels, who should dare to affirm that the prophet was no more. The tumult was appeased by the weight and moderation of Abubeker. "Is it Mahomet," said he to Omar and the multitude, "or the God of Mahomet, whom you worship? The God of

Mahomet liveth forever; but the apostle was a mortal like ourselves, and according to his own prediction, he has experienced the common fate of

mortality." He was piously interred by the hands of his nearest kinsman,

on the same spot on which he expired: Medina has been sanctified by the death and burial of Mahomet; and the innumerable pilgrims of Mecca

often turn aside from the way, to bow, in voluntary devotion, before the

simple tomb of the prophet.

at the conclusion of the life of Mahomet, it may perhaps be expected, that I should balance his faults and virtues, that I should decide whether the title of enthusiast or impostor more properly belongs to that extraordinary man. Had I been intimately conversant with the son of abdallah, the task would still be difficult, and the success uncertain: at the distance of twelve centuries, I darkly contemplate his shade through a cloud of religious incense; and could I truly delineate the

portrait of an hour, the fleeting resemblance would not equally apply to the solitary of Mount Hera, to the preacher of Mecca, and to the conqueror of Arabia. The author of a mighty revolution appears to have been endowed with a pious and contemplative disposition: so soon as

marriage had raised him above the pressure of want, he avoided the

paths of ambition and avarice; and till the age of forty he lived with

innocence, and would have died without a name. The unity of God is an

idea most congenial to nature and reason; and a slight conversation with the Jews and Christians would teach him to despise and detest the

idolatry of Mecca. It was the duty of a man and a citizen to impart the doctrine of salvation, to rescue his country from the dominion of sin and error. The energy of a mind incessantly bent on the same object, would convert a general obligation into a particular call; the warm

suggestions of the understanding or the fancy would be felt as the

inspirations of Heaven; the labor of thought would expire in rapture and vision; and the inward sensation, the invisible monitor, would be described with the form and attributes of an angel of God. From enthusiasm to imposture, the step is perilous and slippery: the dæmon

of Socrates affords a memorable instance, how a wise man may deceive

himself, how a good man may deceive others, how the conscience may

slumber in a mixed and middle state between self-illusion and voluntary fraud. Charity may believe that the original motives of Mahomet were those of pure and genuine benevolence; but a human missionary is

incapable of cherishing the obstinate unbelievers who reject his claims despise his arguments, and persecute his life; he might forgive his

personal adversaries, he may lawfully hate the enemies of God; the stern

passions of pride and revenge were kindled in the bosom of Mahomet, and he sighed, like the prophet of Nineveh, for the destruction of the

rebels whom he had condemned. The injustice of Mecca and the choice of

Medina, transformed the citizen into a prince, the humble preacher into the leader of armies; but his sword was consecrated by the example of the saints; and the same God who afflicts a sinful world with pestilence and earthquakes, might inspire for their conversion or chastisement the

valor of his servants. In the exercise of political government, he was compelled to abate of the stern rigor of fanaticism, to comply in some

measure with the prejudices and passions of his followers, and to employ even the vices of mankind as the instruments of their salvation. The use

of fraud and perfidy, of cruelty and injustice, were often subservient to the propagation of the faith; and Mahomet commanded or approved the assassination of the Jews and idolaters who had escaped from the field

of battle. By the repetition of such acts, the character of Mahomet must

have been gradually stained; and the influence of such pernicious habits would be poorly compensated by the practice of the personal and social

virtues which are necessary to maintain the reputation of a prophet among his sectaries and friends. Of his last years, ambition was the

ruling passion; and a politician will suspect, that he secretly smiled

(the victorious impostor!) at the enthusiasm of his youth, and the credulity of his proselytes. A philosopher will observe, that \_their\_ credulity and \_his\_ success would tend more strongly to fortify the assurance of his divine mission, that his interest and religion were

inseparably connected, and that his conscience would be soothed by the

persuasion, that he alone was absolved by the Deity from the obligation

of positive and moral laws. If he retained any vestige of his native

innocence, the sins of Mahomet may be allowed as an evidence of his

sincerity. In the support of truth, the arts of fraud and fiction may be deemed less criminal; and he would have started at the foulness of the

means, had he not been satisfied of the importance and justice of the end. Even in a conqueror or a priest, I can surprise a word or action

of unaffected humanity; and the decree of Mahomet, that, in the sale of captives, the mothers should never be separated from their children, may

suspend, or moderate, the censure of the historian.

chapter L: Description Of Arabia And Its Inhabitants.--Part VII.

the good sense of Mahomet despised the pomp of royalty: the apostle of

God submitted to the menial offices of the family: he kindled the fire,

swept the floor, milked the ewes, and mended with his own hands his

shoes and his woollen garment. Disdaining the penance and merit of a

hermit, he observed, without effort or vanity, the abstemious diet of an arab and a soldier. On solemn occasions he feasted his companions with

rustic and hospitable plenty; but in his domestic life, many weeks would elapse without a tire being kindled on the hearth of the prophet. the interdiction of wine was confirmed by his example; his hunger was appeased with a sparing allowance of barley-bread: he delighted in the taste of milk and honey; but his ordinary food consisted of dates and water. Perfumes and women were the two sensual enjoyments which his

nature required, and his religion did not forbid; and Mahomet affirmed, that the fervor of his devotion was increased by these innocent

pleasures. The heat of the climate inflames the blood of the Arabs; and their libidinous complexion has been noticed by the writers of antiquity. Their incontinence was regulated by the civil and religious

laws of the Koran: their incestuous alliances were blamed; the boundless

license of polygamy was reduced to four legitimate wives or concubines; their rights both of bed and of dowry were equitably determined; the freedom of divorce was discouraged, adultery was condemned as a capital

offence; and fornication, in either sex, was punished with a hundred

stripes. Such were the calm and rational precepts of the legislator: but in his private conduct, Mahomet indulged the appetites of a man, and abused the claims of a prophet. A special revelation dispensed him from the laws which he had imposed on his nation: the female sex, without

reserve, was abandoned to his desires; and this singular prerogative excited the envy, rather than the scandal, the veneration, rather than the envy, of the devout Mussulmans. If we remember the seven hundred wives and three hundred concubines of the wise Solomon, we shall applaud the modesty of the Arabian, who espoused no more than seventeen or fifteen wives; eleven are enumerated who occupied at Medina their

separate apartments round the house of the apostle, and enjoyed in their turns the favor of his conjugal society. What is singular enough, they were all widows, excepting only Ayesha, the daughter of Abubeker. She was doubtless a virgin, since Mahomet consummated his nuptials (such is the premature ripeness of the climate) when she was only nine years of age. The youth, the beauty, the spirit of Ayesha, gave her a superior ascendant: she was beloved and trusted by the prophet; and, after his death, the daughter of Abubeker was long revered as the mother of the faithful. Her behavior had been ambiguous and indiscreet: in a nocturnal

march she was accidentally left behind; and in the morning Ayesha

returned to the camp with a man. The temper of Mahomet was inclined to jealousy; but a divine revelation assured him of her innocence: he chastised her accusers, and published a law of domestic peace, that no woman should be condemned unless four male witnesses had seen her in the act of adultery. In his adventures with Zeineb, the wife of Zeid, and with Mary, an Egyptian captive, the amorous prophet forgot the interest

of his reputation. At the house of Zeid, his freedman and adopted son,

he beheld, in a loose undress, the beauty of Zeineb, and burst forth

into an ejaculation of devotion and desire. The servile, or grateful, freedman understood the hint, and yielded without hesitation to the love

of his benefactor. But as the filial relation had excited some doubt and

scandal, the angel Gabriel descended from heaven to ratify the deed, to annul the adoption, and gently to reprove the apostle for distrusting the indulgence of his God. One of his wives, Hafna, the daughter of

Omar, surprised him on her own bed, in the embraces of his Egyptian captive: she promised secrecy and forgiveness, he swore that he would

renounce the possession of Mary. Both parties forgot their engagements; and Gabriel again descended with a chapter of the Koran, to absolve

him from his oath, and to exhort him freely to enjoy his captives and concubines, without listening to the clamors of his wives. In a solitary

retreat of thirty days, he labored, alone with Mary, to fulfil the commands of the angel. When his love and revenge were satiated, he

summoned to his presence his eleven wives, reproached their disobedience and indiscretion, and threatened them with a sentence of divorce, both

in this world and in the next; a dreadful sentence, since those who had ascended the bed of the prophet were forever excluded from the hope of a

second marriage. Perhaps the incontinence of Mahomet may be palliated by the tradition of his natural or preternatural gifts; he united the manly

virtue of thirty of the children of Adam: and the apostle might rival the thirteenth labor of the Grecian Hercules. A more serious and decent excuse may be drawn from his fidelity to Cadijah. During the twenty-four

years of their marriage, her youthful husband abstained from the right

of polygamy, and the pride or tenderness of the venerable matron was

never insulted by the society of a rival. After her death, he placed

her in the rank of the four perfect women, with the sister of Moses, the

mother of Jesus, and Fatima, the best beloved of his daughters. "Was she

not old?" said Ayesha, with the insolence of a blooming beauty; "has not

God given you a better in her place?" "No, by God," said Mahomet, with an effusion of honest gratitude, "there never can be a better! She believed in me when men despised me; she relieved my wants, when I was

poor and persecuted by the world."

In the largest indulgence of polygamy, the founder of a religion and empire might aspire to multiply the chances of a numerous posterity and a lineal succession. The hopes of Mahomet were fatally disappointed. The

virgin Ayesha, and his ten widows of mature age and approved fertility, were barren in his potent embraces. The four sons of Cadijah died in their infancy. Mary, his Egyptian concubine, was endeared to him by the birth of Ibrahim. At the end of fifteen months the prophet wept over his

grave; but he sustained with firmness the raillery of his enemies, and checked the adulation or credulity of the Moslems, by the assurance that an eclipse of the sun was not occasioned by the death of the infant. cadijah had likewise given him four daughters, who were married to the most faithful of his disciples: the three eldest died before their father; but Fatima, who possessed his confidence and love, became the wife of her cousin Ali, and the mother of an illustrious progeny. the merit and misfortunes of Ali and his descendants will lead me to anticipate, in this place, the series of the Saracen caliphs, a title which describes the commanders of the faithful as the vicars and

successors of the apostle of God.

the birth, the alliance, the character of Ali, which exalted him above the rest of his countrymen, might justify his claim to the vacant throne

of Arabia. The son of Abu Taleb was, in his own right, the chief of the family of Hashem, and the hereditary prince or guardian of the city and temple of Mecca. The light of prophecy was extinct; but the husband

of Fatima might expect the inheritance and blessing of her father: the Arabs had sometimes been patient of a female reign; and the two

grandsons of the prophet had often been fondled in his lap, and shown

in his pulpit as the hope of his age, and the chief of the youth of

paradise. The first of the true believers might aspire to march before them in this world and in the next; and if some were of a graver and

more rigid cast, the zeal and virtue of Ali were never outstripped by any recent proselyte. He united the qualifications of a poet, a soldier, and a saint: his wisdom still breathes in a collection of moral and

religious sayings; and every antagonist, in the combats of the tongue

or of the sword, was subdued by his eloquence and valor. From the first

hour of his mission to the last rites of his funeral, the apostle was

never forsaken by a generous friend, whom he delighted to name his brother, his vicegerent, and the faithful Aaron of a second Moses. The

son of Abu Taleb was afterwards reproached for neglecting to secure his

interest by a solemn declaration of his right, which would have silenced all competition, and sealed his succession by the decrees of Heaven. But the unsuspecting hero confided in himself: the jealousy of empire, and perhaps the fear of opposition, might suspend the resolutions of

Mahomet; and the bed of sickness was besieged by the artful Ayesha, the daughter of Abubeker, and the enemy of Ali.

the silence and death of the prophet restored the liberty of the people; and his companions convened an assembly to deliberate on the choice

of his successor. The hereditary claim and lofty spirit of Ali were

offensive to an aristocracy of elders, desirous of bestowing and

resuming the sceptre by a free and frequent election: the Koreish could

never be reconciled to the proud preëminence of the line of Hashem; the ancient discord of the tribes was rekindled, the \_fugitives\_ of Mecca and the \_auxiliaries\_ of Medina asserted their respective merits; and the rash proposal of choosing two independent caliphs would have crushed

in their infancy the religion and empire of the Saracens. The tumult was appeased by the disinterested resolution of Omar, who, suddenly

renouncing his own pretensions, stretched forth his hand, and declared

himself the first subject of the mild and venerable Abubeker. The

urgency of the moment, and the acquiescence of the people, might excuse this illegal and precipitate measure; but Omar himself confessed from the pulpit, that if any Mussulman should hereafter presume to anticipate the suffrage of his brethren, both the elector and the elected would be worthy of death. After the simple inauguration of Abubeker, he was

obeyed in Medina, Mecca, and the provinces of Arabia: the Hashemites alone declined the oath of fidelity; and their chief, in his own house,

maintained, above six months, a sullen and independent reserve; without

listening to the threats of Omar, who attempted to consume with fire the

habitation of the daughter of the apostle. The death of Fatima, and the decline of his party, subdued the indignant spirit of Ali: he condescended to salute the commander of the faithful, accepted his excuse of the necessity of preventing their common enemies, and wisely

rejected his courteous offer of abdicating the government of the arabians. After a reign of two years, the aged caliph was summoned by the angel of death. In his testament, with the tacit approbation of his companions, he bequeathed the sceptre to the firm and intrepid virtue of

Omar. "I have no occasion," said the modest candidate, "for the place."

"But the place has occasion for you," replied Abubeker; who expired with a fervent prayer, that the God of Mahomet would ratify his choice, and direct the Mussulmans in the way of concord and obedience. The prayer was not ineffectual, since Ali himself, in a life of privacy and prayer,

professed to revere the superior worth and dignity of his rival; who comforted him for the loss of empire, by the most flattering marks of confidence and esteem. In the twelfth year of his reign, Omar received a mortal wound from the hand of an assassin: he rejected with equal

impartiality the names of his son and of Ali, refused to load his conscience with the sins of his successor, and devolved on six of the

most respectable companions the arduous task of electing a commander of the faithful. On this occasion, Ali was again blamed by his friends for submitting his right to the judgment of men, for recognizing their

jurisdiction by accepting a place among the six electors. He might have

obtained their suffrage, had he deigned to promise a strict and servile conformity, not only to the Koran and tradition, but likewise to the determinations of two \_seniors\_. With these limitations, Othman, the

secretary of Mahomet, accepted the government; nor was it till after the third caliph, twenty-four years after the death of the prophet, that ali was invested, by the popular choice, with the regal and sacerdotal

office. The manners of the Arabians retained their primitive simplicity, and the son of Abu Taleb despised the pomp and vanity of this world. at the hour of prayer, he repaired to the mosch of Medina, clothed in a thin cotton gown, a coarse turban on his head, his slippers in one hand, and his bow in the other, instead of a walking-staff. The companions of the prophet, and the chiefs of the tribes, saluted their new sovereign, and gave him their right hands as a sign of fealty and allegiance.

the mischiefs that flow from the contests of ambition are usually confined to the times and countries in which they have been agitated. but the religious discord of the friends and enemies of Ali has been

renewed in every age of the Hegira, and is still maintained in the

immortal hatred of the Persians and Turks. The former, who are branded with the appellation of \_Shiites\_ or sectaries, have enriched the

Mahometan creed with a new article of faith; and if Mahomet be the apostle, his companion Ali is the vicar, of God. In their private converse, in their public worship, they bitterly execrate the three

usurpers who intercepted his indefeasible right to the dignity of Imam and Caliph; and the name of Omar expresses in their tongue the perfect accomplishment of wickedness and impiety. The \_Sonnites\_, who are

supported by the general consent and orthodox tradition of the

Mussulmans, entertain a more impartial, or at least a more decent,

opinion. They respect the memory of Abubeker, Omar, Othman, and Ali, the

holy and legitimate successors of the prophet. But they assign the last and most humble place to the husband of Fatima, in the persuasion that the order of succession was determined by the decrees of sanctity. an historian who balances the four caliphs with a hand unshaken by

superstition, will calmly pronounce that their manners were alike pure and exemplary; that their zeal was fervent, and probably sincere; and that, in the midst of riches and power, their lives were devoted to the practice of moral and religious duties. But the public virtues

of Abubeker and Omar, the prudence of the first, the severity of the

second, maintained the peace and prosperity of their reigns. The feeble temper and declining age of Othman were incapable of sustaining the weight of conquest and empire. He chose, and he was deceived; he trusted, and he was betrayed: the most deserving of the faithful became useless or hostile to his government, and his lavish bounty was

productive only of ingratitude and discontent. The spirit of discord went forth in the provinces: their deputies assembled at Medina; and the Charegites, the desperate fanatics who disclaimed the yoke of

subordination and reason, were confounded among the free-born Arabs, who demanded the redress of their wrongs and the punishment of their

oppressors. From Cufa, from Bassora, from Egypt, from the tribes of the desert, they rose in arms, encamped about a league from Medina, and despatched a haughty mandate to their sovereign, requiring him to execute justice, or to descend from the throne. His repentance began to disarm and disperse the insurgents; but their fury was rekindled by the arts of his enemies; and the forgery of a perfidious secretary was contrived to blast his reputation and precipitate his fall. The caliph

had lost the only guard of his predecessors, the esteem and confidence

of the Moslems: during a siege of six weeks his water and provisions were intercepted, and the feeble gates of the palace were protected only by the scruples of the more timorous rebels. Forsaken by those who had abused his simplicity, the hopeless and venerable caliph expected the approach of death: the brother of Ayesha marched at the head of the assassins; and Othman, with the Koran in his lap, was pierced with a

multitude of wounds. A tumultuous anarchy of five days was appeased by the inauguration of Ali: his refusal would have provoked a general

massacre. In this painful situation he supported the becoming pride

of the chief of the Hashemites; declared that he had rather serve than reign; rebuked the presumption of the strangers; and required the formal, if not the voluntary, assent of the chiefs of the nation. He

has never been accused of prompting the assassin of Omar; though Persia

indiscreetly celebrates the festival of that holy martyr. The quarrel between Othman and his subjects was assuaged by the early mediation of ali; and Hassan, the eldest of his sons, was insulted and wounded in the defence of the caliph. Yet it is doubtful whether the father of Hassan was strenuous and sincere in his opposition to the rebels; and it is certain that he enjoyed the benefit of their crime. The temptation was

indeed of such magnitude as might stagger and corrupt the most obdurate

virtue. The ambitious candidate no longer aspired to the barren sceptre

of Arabia; the Saracens had been victorious in the East and West; and the wealthy kingdoms of Persia, Syria, and Egypt were the patrimony of the commander of the faithful.

chapter L: Description Of Arabia And Its Inhabitants.--Part VIII.

a life of prayer and contemplation had not chilled the martial activity

of Ali; but in a mature age, after a long experience of mankind, he

still betrayed in his conduct the rashness and indiscretion of youth.

In the first days of his reign, he neglected to secure, either by gifts

or fetters, the doubtful allegiance of Telha and Zobeir, two of the most

powerful of the Arabian chiefs. They escaped from Medina to Mecca, and from thence to Bassora; erected the standard of revolt; and usurped the

government of Irak, or Assyria, which they had vainly solicited as the

reward of their services. The mask of patriotism is allowed to cover the

most glaring inconsistencies; and the enemies, perhaps the assassins,

of Othman now demanded vengeance for his blood. They were accompanied in their flight by Ayesha, the widow of the prophet, who cherished, to the

last hour of her life, an implacable hatred against the husband and the

posterity of Fatima. The most reasonable Moslems were scandalized, that the mother of the faithful should expose in a camp her person and character; but the superstitious crowd was confident that her presence would sanctify the justice, and assure the success, of their cause. at the head of twenty thousand of his loyal Arabs, and nine thousand

valiant auxiliaries of Cufa, the caliph encountered and defeated the superior numbers of the rebels under the walls of Bassora. Their

leaders, Telha and Zobeir, § were slain in the first battle that stained with civil blood the arms of the Moslems. || After passing through the ranks to animate the troops, Ayesha had chosen her post amidst the dangers of the field. In the heat of the action, seventy men, who held the bridle of her camel, were successively killed or wounded; and the cage or litter, in which she sat, was stuck with javelins and darts like the quills of a porcupine. The venerable captive sustained with firmness the reproaches of the conqueror, and was speedily dismissed to her

proper station at the tomb of Mahomet, with the respect and tenderness that was still due to the widow of the apostle. After this victory, which was styled the Day of the Camel, Ali marched against a more formidable adversary; against Moawiyah, the son of Abu Sophian, who had assumed the title of caliph, and whose claim was supported by the forces

of Syria and the interest of the house of Ommiyah. From the passage of thapsacus, the plain of Siffin extends along the western bank of the euphrates. On this spacious and level theatre, the two competitors waged a desultory war of one hundred and ten days. In the course of ninety actions or skirmishes, the loss of Ali was estimated at twenty-five, that of Moawiyah at forty-five, thousand soldiers; and the list of the

slain was dignified with the names of five-and-twenty veterans who

had fought at Beder under the standard of Mahomet. In this sanguinary contest the lawful caliph displayed a superior character of valor and

humanity. His troops were strictly enjoined to await the first onset of the enemy, to spare their flying brethren, and to respect the bodies

of the dead, and the chastity of the female captives. He generously

proposed to save the blood of the Moslems by a single combat; but his trembling rival declined the challenge as a sentence of inevitable death. The ranks of the Syrians were broken by the charge of a hero who was mounted on a piebald horse, and wielded with irresistible force his

ponderous and two-edged sword. As often as he smote a rebel, he shouted the Allah Acbar, "God is victorious!" and in the tumult of a nocturnal battle, he was heard to repeat four hundred times that tremendous exclamation. The prince of Damascus already meditated his flight; but the certain victory was snatched from the grasp of Ali by the disobedience and enthusiasm of his troops. Their conscience was awed by the solemn appeal to the books of the Koran which Moawiyah exposed on the foremost lances; and Ali was compelled to yield to a disgraceful truce and an insidious compromise. He retreated with sorrow and

indignation to Cufa; his party was discouraged; the distant provinces

of Persia, of Yemen, and of Egypt, were subdued or seduced by his crafty

rival; and the stroke of fanaticism, which was aimed against the three chiefs of the nation, was fatal only to the cousin of Mahomet. In the temple of Mecca, three Charegites or enthusiasts discoursed of the disorders of the church and state: they soon agreed, that the deaths of ali, of Moawiyah, and of his friend Amrou, the viceroy of Egypt, would

restore the peace and unity of religion. Each of the assassins chose his

victim, poisoned his dagger, devoted his life, and secretly repaired to the scene of action. Their resolution was equally desperate: but the first mistook the person of Amrou, and stabbed the deputy who occupied

his seat; the prince of Damascus was dangerously hurt by the second; the

lawful caliph, in the mosch of Cufa, received a mortal wound from the

hand of the third. He expired in the sixty-third year of his age, and

mercifully recommended to his children, that they would despatch the

murderer by a single stroke. The sepulchre of Ali was concealed from the tyrants of the house of Ommiyah; but in the fourth age of the

Hegira, a tomb, a temple, a city, arose near the ruins of Cufa. Many thousands of the Shiites repose in holy ground at the feet of the vicar

of God; and the desert is vivified by the numerous and annual visits of the Persians, who esteem their devotion not less meritorious than the

pilgrimage of Mecca.

the persecutors of Mahomet usurped the inheritance of his children; and the champions of idolatry became the supreme heads of his religion and empire. The opposition of Abu Sophian had been fierce and obstinate;

his conversion was tardy and reluctant; his new faith was fortified by

necessity and interest; he served, he fought, perhaps he believed; and the sins of the time of ignorance were expiated by the recent merits

of the family of Ommiyah. Moawiyah, the son of Abu Sophian, and of the cruel Henda, was dignified, in his early youth, with the office or title

of secretary of the prophet: the judgment of Omar intrusted him with the

government of Syria; and he administered that important province above forty years, either in a subordinate or supreme rank. Without renouncing the fame of valor and liberality, he affected the reputation of humanity and moderation: a grateful people was attached to their benefactor; and the victorious Moslems were enriched with the spoils of Cyprus and

Rhodes. The sacred duty of pursuing the assassins of Othman was the engine and pretence of his ambition. The bloody shirt of the martyr was exposed in the mosch of Damascus: the emir deplored the fate of his

injured kinsman; and sixty thousand Syrians were engaged in his service by an oath of fidelity and revenge. Amrou, the conqueror of Egypt,

himself an army, was the first who saluted the new monarch, and divulged the dangerous secret, that the Arabian caliphs might be created elsewhere than in the city of the prophet. The policy of Moawiyah eluded the valor of his rival; and, after the death of Ali, he negotiated the abdication of his son Hassan, whose mind was either above or below the

government of the world, and who retired without a sigh from the palace

of Cufa to an humble cell near the tomb of his grandfather. The aspiring wishes of the caliph were finally crowned by the important change of an elective to an hereditary kingdom. Some murmurs of freedom or fanaticism attested the reluctance of the Arabs, and four citizens of Medina

refused the oath of fidelity; but the designs of Moawiyah were conducted with vigor and address; and his son Yezid, a feeble and dissolute youth, was proclaimed as the commander of the faithful and the successor on the apostle of God.

a familiar story is related of the benevolence of one of the sons of ali. In serving at table, a slave had inadvertently dropped a dish of

scalding broth on his master: the heedless wretch fell prostrate, to deprecate his punishment, and repeated a verse of the Koran: "Paradise

is for those who command their anger: "--"I am not angry: "--"and for those who pardon offences: "--"I pardon your offence: "--"and for those who return good for evil: "--"I give you your liberty and four hundred

pieces of silver." With an equal measure of piety, Hosein, the younger brother of Hassan, inherited a remnant of his father's spirit, and

served with honor against the Christians in the siege of Constantinople. the primogeniture of the line of Hashem, and the holy character of

grandson of the apostle, had centred in his person, and he was at

liberty to prosecute his claim against Yezid, the tyrant of Damascus, whose vices he despised, and whose title he had never deigned to acknowledge. A list was secretly transmitted from Cufa to Medina, of one

hundred and forty thousand Moslems, who professed their attachment to

his cause, and who were eager to draw their swords so soon as he should appear on the banks of the Euphrates. Against the advice of his wisest friends, he resolved to trust his person and family in the hands of a

perfidious people. He traversed the desert of Arabia with a timorous

retinue of women and children; but as he approached the confines of

Irak he was alarmed by the solitary or hostile face of the country, and suspected either the defection or ruin of his party. His fears were just: Obeidollah, the governor of Cufa, had extinguished the first

sparks of an insurrection; and Hosein, in the plain of Kerbela, was encompassed by a body of five thousand horse, who intercepted his communication with the city and the river. He might still have escaped to a fortress in the desert, that had defied the power of Cæsar and chosroes, and confided in the fidelity of the tribe of Tai, which would

have armed ten thousand warriors in his defence. In a conference with the chief of the enemy, he proposed the option of three honorable conditions: that he should be allowed to return to Medina, or be

stationed in a frontier garrison against the Turks, or safely conducted to the presence of Yezid. But the commands of the caliph, or his

lieutenant, were stern and absolute; and Hosein was informed that he

must either submit as a captive and a criminal to the commander of the faithful, or expect the consequences of his rebellion. "Do you think,"

replied he, "to terrify me with death?" And, during the short respite of a night, he prepared with calm and solemn resignation to encounter his fate. He checked the lamentations of his sister Fatima, who deplored the

impending ruin of his house. "Our trust," said Hosein, "is in God alone. all things, both in heaven and earth, must perish and return to their creator. My brother, my father, my mother, were better than me, and every Mussulman has an example in the prophet." He pressed his friends to consult their safety by a timely flight: they unanimously refused to desert or survive their beloved master: and their courage was fortified by a fervent prayer and the assurance of paradise. On the morning of the fatal day, he mounted on horseback, with his sword in one hand and the Koran in the other: his generous band of martyrs consisted only of thirty-two horse and forty foot; but their flanks and rear were secured by the tent-ropes, and by a deep trench which they had filled with

lighted fagots, according to the practice of the Arabs. The enemy advanced with reluctance, and one of their chiefs deserted, with thirty followers, to claim the partnership of inevitable death. In every close

onset, or single combat, the despair of the Fatimites was invincible; but the surrounding multitudes galled them from a distance with a cloud

of arrows, and the horses and men were successively slain; a truce was allowed on both sides for the hour of prayer; and the battle at length expired by the death of the last companions of Hosein. Alone, weary, and wounded, he seated himself at the door of his tent. As he tasted a drop of water, he was pierced in the mouth with a dart; and his son and

nephew, two beautiful youths, were killed in his arms. He lifted his

hands to heaven; they were full of blood; and he uttered a funeral

prayer for the living and the dead. In a transport of despair his sister

issued from the tent, and adjured the general of the Cufians, that he would not suffer Hosein to be murdered before his eyes: a tear trickled down his venerable beard; and the boldest of his soldiers fell back on every side as the dying hero threw himself among them. The remorseless

Shamer, a name detested by the faithful, reproached their cowardice; and the grandson of Mahomet was slain with three-and-thirty strokes of

lances and swords. After they had trampled on his body, they carried his

head to the castle of Cufa, and the inhuman Obeidollah struck him on the

mouth with a cane: "Alas," exclaimed an aged Mussulman, "on these

lips have I seen the lips of the apostle of God!" In a distant age and climate, the tragic scene of the death of Hosein will awaken the sympathy of the coldest reader. On the annual festival of his

martyrdom, in the devout pilgrimage to his sepulchre, his Persian

votaries abandon their souls to the religious frenzy of sorrow and

indignation.

when the sisters and children of Ali were brought in chains to the throne of Damascus, the caliph was advised to extirpate the enmity of a popular and hostile race, whom he had injured beyond the hope of

reconciliation. But Yezid preferred the councils of mercy; and the

mourning family was honorably dismissed to mingle their tears with their kindred at Medina. The glory of martyrdom superseded the right of

primogeniture; and the twelve imams, or pontiffs, of the Persian creed, are Ali, Hassan, Hosein, and the lineal descendants of Hosein to the ninth generation. Without arms, or treasures, or subjects, they

successively enjoyed the veneration of the people, and provoked the

jealousy of the reigning caliphs: their tombs, at Mecca or Medina, on the banks of the Euphrates, or in the province of Chorasan, are still

visited by the devotion of their sect. Their names were often the

pretence of sedition and civil war; but these royal saints despised the

pomp of the world: submitted to the will of God and the injustice of

man; and devoted their innocent lives to the study and practice of

religion. The twelfth and last of the Imams, conspicuous by the title

of \_Mahadi\_, or the Guide, surpassed the solitude and sanctity of his

predecessors. He concealed himself in a cavern near Bagdad: the time and

place of his death are unknown; and his votaries pretend that he still

lives, and will appear before the day of judgment to overthrow the tyranny of Dejal, or the Antichrist. In the lapse of two or three centuries, the posterity of Abbas, the uncle of Mahomet, had multiplied to the number of thirty-three thousand: the race of Ali might be equally

prolific: the meanest individual was above the first and greatest of

princes; and the most eminent were supposed to excel the perfection of angels. But their adverse fortune, and the wide extent of the Mussulman empire, allowed an ample scope for every bold and artful imposture, who claimed affinity with the holy seed: the sceptre of the Almohades, in

Spain and Africa; of the Fatimites, in Egypt and Syria; of the Sultans

of Yemen; and of the Sophis of Persia; has been consecrated by this

vague and ambiguous title. Under their reigns it might be dangerous to dispute the legitimacy of their birth; and one of the Fatimite caliphs

silenced an indiscreet question by drawing his cimeter: "This," said

Moez, "is my pedigree; and these," casting a handful of gold to his

soldiers,--"and these are my kindred and my children." In the various conditions of princes, or doctors, or nobles, or merchants, or beggars, a swarm of the genuine or fictitious descendants of Mahomet and Ali is

honored with the appellation of sheiks, or sherifs, or emirs. In the

Ottoman empire they are distinguished by a green turban; receive a

stipend from the treasury; are judged only by their chief; and, however debased by fortune or character, still assert the proud preëminence of their birth. A family of three hundred persons, the pure and orthodox branch of the caliph Hassan, is preserved without taint or suspicion

in the holy cities of Mecca and Medina, and still retains, after the

revolutions of twelve centuries, the custody of the temple, and the

sovereignty of their native land. The fame and merit of Mahomet would ennoble a plebeian race, and the ancient blood of the Koreish transcends the recent majesty of the kings of the earth.

the talents of Mahomet are entitled to our applause; but his success

has, perhaps, too strongly attracted our admiration. Are we surprised that a multitude of proselytes should embrace the doctrine and the

passions of an eloquent fanatic? In the heresies of the church, the same

seduction has been tried and repeated from the time of the apostles to that of the reformers. Does it seem incredible that a private citizen

should grasp the sword and the sceptre, subdue his native country, and erect a monarchy by his victorious arms? In the moving picture of the dynasties of the East, a hundred fortunate usurpers have arisen from a baser origin, surmounted more formidable obstacles, and filled a larger

scope of empire and conquest. Mahomet was alike instructed to preach and to fight; and the union of these opposite qualities, while it enhanced

his merit, contributed to his success: the operation of force and

persuasion, of enthusiasm and fear, continually acted on each other, till every barrier yielded to their irresistible power. His voice

invited the Arabs to freedom and victory, to arms and rapine, to the

indulgence of their darling passions in this world and the other: the

restraints which he imposed were requisite to establish the credit of the prophet, and to exercise the obedience of the people; and the

only objection to his success was his rational creed of the unity and

perfections of God. It is not the propagation, but the permanency,

of his religion, that deserves our wonder: the same pure and perfect

impression which he engraved at Mecca and Medina, is preserved, after the revolutions of twelve centuries, by the Indian, the African, and the turkish proselytes of the Koran. If the Christian apostles, St. Peter or

St. Paul, could return to the Vatican, they might possibly inquire the

name of the Deity who is worshipped with such mysterious rites in that

magnificent temple: at Oxford or Geneva, they would experience less

surprise; but it might still be incumbent on them to peruse the catechism of the church, and to study the orthodox commentators on their

own writings and the words of their Master. But the Turkish dome of St.

Sophia, with an increase of splendor and size, represents the humble tabernacle erected at Medina by the hands of Mahomet. The Mahometans

have uniformly withstood the temptation of reducing the object of their faith and devotion to a level with the senses and imagination of man. "I believe in one God, and Mahomet the apostle of God," is the simple and

invariable profession of Islam. The intellectual image of the Deity has

never been degraded by any visible idol; the honors of the prophet have

never transgressed the measure of human virtue; and his living precepts

have restrained the gratitude of his disciples within the bounds of

reason and religion. The votaries of Ali have, indeed, consecrated the memory of their hero, his wife, and his children; and some of the

Persian doctors pretend that the divine essence was incarnate in the

person of the Imams; but their superstition is universally condemned by the Sonnites; and their impiety has afforded a seasonable warning against the worship of saints and martyrs. The metaphysical questions on the attributes of God, and the liberty of man, have been agitated in the

schools of the Mahometans, as well as in those of the Christians; but among the former they have never engaged the passions of the people,

or disturbed the tranquillity of the state. The cause of this important difference may be found in the separation or union of the regal and sacerdotal characters. It was the interest of the caliphs, the

successors of the prophet and commanders of the faithful, to repress and discourage all religious innovations: the order, the discipline, the temporal and spiritual ambition of the clergy, are unknown to the

Moslems; and the sages of the law are the guides of their conscience and the oracles of their faith. From the Atlantic to the Ganges, the Koran

is acknowledged as the fundamental code, not only of theology, but

of civil and criminal jurisprudence; and the laws which regulate the actions and the property of mankind are guarded by the infallible and

immutable sanction of the will of God. This religious servitude is attended with some practical disadvantage; the illiterate legislator had been often misled by his own prejudices and those of his country; and the institutions of the Arabian desert may be ill adapted to the wealth and numbers of Ispahan and Constantinople. On these occasions, the cadhi respectfully places on his head the holy volume, and substitutes a dexterous interpretation more apposite to the principles of equity, and the manners and policy of the times.

His beneficial or pernicious influence on the public happiness is the

last consideration in the character of Mahomet. The most bitter or

most bigoted of his Christian or Jewish foes will surely allow that

he assumed a false commission to inculcate a salutary doctrine, less

perfect only than their own. He piously supposed, as the basis of his

religion, the truth and sanctity of \_their\_ prior revolutions, the

virtues and miracles of their founders. The idols of Arabia were broken before the throne of God; the blood of human victims was expiated by prayer, and fasting, and alms, the laudable or innocent arts of devotion; and his rewards and punishments of a future life were painted by the images most congenial to an ignorant and carnal generation.

Mahomet was, perhaps, incapable of dictating a moral and political

system for the use of his countrymen: but he breathed among the faithful a spirit of charity and friendship; recommended the practice of the

social virtues; and checked, by his laws and precepts, the thirst of

revenge, and the oppression of widows and orphans. The hostile tribes were united in faith and obedience, and the valor which had been idly

spent in domestic quarrels was vigorously directed against a foreign enemy. Had the impulse been less powerful, Arabia, free at home and formidable abroad, might have flourished under a succession of her

native monarchs. Her sovereignty was lost by the extent and rapidity of conquest. The colonies of the nation were scattered over the East and west, and their blood was mingled with the blood of their converts and captives. After the reign of three caliphs, the throne was transported from Medina to the valley of Damascus and the banks of the Tigris; the

holy cities were violated by impious war; Arabia was ruled by the rod

of a subject, perhaps of a stranger; and the Bedoweens of the desert, awakening from their dream of dominion, resumed their old and solitary

independence.

chapter LI: Conquests By The Arabs.--Part I.

The Conquest Of Persia, Syria, Egypt, Africa, And Spain, By

The Arabs Or Saracens.--Empire Of The Caliphs, Or Successors

Of Mahomet.--State Of The Christians, &c., Under Their

Government.

the revolution of Arabia had not changed the character of the Arabs: the death of Mahomet was the signal of independence; and the hasty structure

of his power and religion tottered to its foundations. A small and faithful band of his primitive disciples had listened to his eloquence, and shared his distress; had fled with the apostle from the persecution

of Mecca, or had received the fugitive in the walls of Medina. The

increasing myriads, who acknowledged Mahomet as their king and prophet,

had been compelled by his arms, or allured by his prosperity. The

polytheists were confounded by the simple idea of a solitary and

invisible God; the pride of the Christians and Jews disdained the

yoke of a mortal and contemporary legislator. The habits of faith and

obedience were not sufficiently confirmed; and many of the new converts

regretted the venerable antiquity of the law of Moses, or the rites and mysteries of the Catholic church; or the idols, the sacrifices, the

joyous festivals, of their Pagan ancestors. The jarring interests and

hereditary feuds of the Arabian tribes had not yet coalesced in a system

of union and subordination; and the Barbarians were impatient of the

mildest and most salutary laws that curbed their passions, or violated their customs. They submitted with reluctance to the religious precepts

of the Koran, the abstinence from wine, the fast of the Ramadan, and the daily repetition of five prayers; and the alms and tithes, which were collected for the treasury of Medina, could be distinguished only by a name from the payment of a perpetual and ignominious tribute. The example of Mahomet had excited a spirit of fanaticism or imposture, and several of his rivals presumed to imitate the conduct, and defy the authority, of the living prophet. At the head of the \_fugitives\_ and

\_auxiliaries\_, the first caliph was reduced to the cities of Mecca,

Medina, and Tayef; and perhaps the Koreish would have restored the

idols of the Caaba, if their levity had not been checked by a seasonable

reproof. "Ye men of Mecca, will ye be the last to embrace, and the first to abandon, the religion of Islam?" After exhorting the Moslems to confide in the aid of God and his apostle, Abubeker resolved, by a

vigorous attack, to prevent the junction of the rebels. The women and children were safely lodged in the cavities of the mountains: the warriors, marching under eleven banners, diffused the terror of their arms; and the appearance of a military force revived and confirmed the

loyalty of the faithful. The inconstant tribes accepted, with humble

repentance, the duties of prayer, and fasting, and alms; and, after

some examples of success and severity, the most daring apostates fell

prostrate before the sword of the Lord and of Caled. In the fertile

province of Yemanah, between the Red Sea and the Gulf of Persia, in a city not inferior to Medina itself, a powerful chief (his name was

Moseilama) had assumed the character of a prophet, and the tribe of

Hanifa listened to his voice. A female prophetess was attracted by

his reputation; the decencies of words and actions were spurned by these favorites of Heaven; and they employed several days in mystic and amorous converse. An obscure sentence of his Koran, or book, is yet extant; and in the pride of his mission, Moseilama condescended to offer a partition of the earth. The proposal was answered by Mahomet with contempt; but the rapid progress of the impostor awakened the fears of

his successor: forty thousand Moslems were assembled under the standard

of Caled; and the existence of their faith was resigned to the event of a decisive battle. In the first action they were repulsed by the loss

of twelve hundred men; but the skill and perseverance of their general

prevailed; their defeat was avenged by the slaughter of ten thousand

infidels; and Moseilama himself was pierced by an Æthiopian slave with the same javelin which had mortally wounded the uncle of Mahomet. The

various rebels of Arabia without a chief or a cause, were speedily

suppressed by the power and discipline of the rising monarchy; and the whole nation again professed, and more steadfastly held, the religion

of the Koran. The ambition of the caliphs provided an immediate exercise for the restless spirit of the Saracens: their valor was united in the

prosecution of a holy war; and their enthusiasm was equally confirmed by

opposition and victory.

from the rapid conquests of the Saracens a presumption will naturally arise, that the caliphs commanded in person the armies of the faithful, and sought the crown of martyrdom in the foremost ranks of the battle. the courage of Abubeker, Omar, and Othman, had indeed been tried in the persecution and wars of the prophet; and the personal assurance of

paradise must have taught them to despise the pleasures and dangers of the present world. But they ascended the throne in a venerable or mature age; and esteemed the domestic cares of religion and justice the most

important duties of a sovereign. Except the presence of Omar at the siege of Jerusalem, their longest expeditions were the frequent

pilgrimage from Medina to Mecca; and they calmly received the tidings of

victory as they prayed or preached before the sepulchre of the prophet. the austere and frugal measure of their lives was the effect of

virtue or habit, and the pride of their simplicity insulted the vain

magnificence of the kings of the earth. When Abubeker assumed the office

of caliph, he enjoined his daughter Ayesha to take a strict account of

his private patrimony, that it might be evident whether he were enriched

or impoverished by the service of the state. He thought himself entitled to a stipend of three pieces of gold, with the sufficient maintenance

of a single camel and a black slave; but on the Friday of each week he distributed the residue of his own and the public money, first to the

most worthy, and then to the most indigent, of the Moslems. The remains

of his wealth, a coarse garment, and five pieces of gold, were delivered to his successor, who lamented with a modest sigh his own inability to equal such an admirable model. Yet the abstinence and humility of Omar were not inferior to the virtues of Abubeker: his food consisted of barley bread or dates; his drink was water; he preached in a gown that was torn or tattered in twelve places; and the Persian satrap, who paid

his homage to the conqueror, found him asleep among the beggars on the

steps of the mosch of Medina. Economy is the source of liberality, and the increase of the revenue enabled Omar to establish a just and

perpetual reward for the past and present services of the faithful. careless of his own emolument, he assigned to Abbas, the uncle of the

prophet, the first and most ample allowance of twenty-five thousand drachms or pieces of silver. Five thousand were allotted to each of the aged warriors, the relics of the field of Beder; and the last and

meanest of the companions of Mahomet was distinguished by the annual

reward of three thousand pieces. One thousand was the stipend of the

veterans who had fought in the first battles against the Greeks and

Persians; and the decreasing pay, as low as fifty pieces of silver, was adapted to the respective merit and seniority of the soldiers of Omar.

Under his reign, and that of his predecessor, the conquerors of the East were the trusty servants of God and the people; the mass of the public treasure was consecrated to the expenses of peace and war; a prudent

mixture of justice and bounty maintained the discipline of the Saracens, and they united, by a rare felicity, the despatch and execution of despotism with the equal and frugal maxims of a republican government. the heroic courage of Ali, the consummate prudence of Moawiyah, excited the emulation of their subjects; and the talents which had been exercised in the school of civil discord were more usefully applied to

propagate the faith and dominion of the prophet. In the sloth and

vanity of the palace of Damascus, the succeeding princes of the house of

Ommiyah were alike destitute of the qualifications of statesmen and of

saints. Yet the spoils of unknown nations were continually laid at the foot of their throne, and the uniform ascent of the Arabian greatness

must be ascribed to the spirit of the nation rather than the abilities

of their chiefs. A large deduction must be allowed for the weakness of their enemies. The birth of Mahomet was fortunately placed in the most degenerate and disorderly period of the Persians, the Romans, and the barbarians of Europe: the empires of Trajan, or even of Constantine or charlemagne, would have repelled the assault of the naked Saracens, and the torrent of fanaticism might have been obscurely lost in the sands of arabia.

In the victorious days of the Roman republic, it had been the aim of the senate to confine their councils and legions to a single war, and completely to suppress a first enemy before they provoked the

hostilities of a second. These timid maxims of policy were disdained by the magnanimity or enthusiasm of the Arabian caliphs. With the same

vigor and success they invaded the successors of Augustus and those of artaxerxes; and the rival monarchies at the same instant became the prey

of an enemy whom they had been so long accustomed to despise. In the ten years of the administration of Omar, the Saracens reduced to his

obedience thirty-six thousand cities or castles, destroyed four thousand churches or temples of the unbelievers, and edified fourteen hundred

moschs for the exercise of the religion of Mahomet. One hundred years after his flight from Mecca, the arms and the reign of his successors extended from India to the Atlantic Ocean, over the various and distant

provinces, which may be comprised under the names of, I. Persia;

II. Syria; III. Egypt; IV. Africa; and, V. Spain. Under this general division, I shall proceed to unfold these memorable transactions; despatching with brevity the remote and less interesting conquests of the East, and reserving a fuller narrative for those domestic countries which had been included within the pale of the Roman empire. Yet I

must excuse my own defects by a just complaint of the blindness and

insufficiency of my guides. The Greeks, so loquacious in controversy,

have not been anxious to celebrate the triumphs of their enemies. after a century of ignorance, the first annals of the Mussulmans were collected in a great measure from the voice of tradition. Among the

numerous productions of Arabic and Persian literature, our interpreters

have selected the imperfect sketches of a more recent age. The art and genius of history have ever been unknown to the Asiatics; they are

ignorant of the laws of criticism; and our monkish chronicle of the

same period may be compared to their most popular works, which are never

vivified by the spirit of philosophy and freedom. The \_Oriental library\_

of a Frenchman would instruct the most learned mufti of the East; and

perhaps the Arabs might not find in a single historian so clear and comprehensive a narrative of their own exploits as that which will be deduced in the ensuing sheets.

I. In the first year of the first caliph, his lieutenant Caled, the

Sword of God, and the scourge of the infidels, advanced to the banks of the Euphrates, and reduced the cities of Anbar and Hira. Westward of the

ruins of Babylon, a tribe of sedentary Arabs had fixed themselves on the

verge of the desert; and Hira was the seat of a race of kings who had embraced the Christian religion, and reigned above six hundred years

under the shadow of the throne of Persia. The last of the Mondars was defeated and slain by Caled; his son was sent a captive to Medina; his

nobles bowed before the successor of the prophet; the people was tempted by the example and success of their countrymen; and the caliph accepted as the first-fruits of foreign conquest an annual tribute of seventy thousand pieces of gold. The conquerors, and even their historians, were astonished by the dawn of their future greatness: "In the same year,"

says Elmacin, "Caled fought many signal battles: an immense multitude of the infidels was slaughtered; and spoils infinite and innumerable were acquired by the victorious Moslems." But the invincible Caled was soon transferred to the Syrian war: the invasion of the Persian frontier was conducted by less active or less prudent commanders: the Saracens were

repulsed with loss in the passage of the Euphrates; and, though they chastised the insolent pursuit of the Magians, their remaining forces

still hovered in the desert of Babylon.

the indignation and fears of the Persians suspended for a moment their

intestine divisions. By the unanimous sentence of the priests and

nobles, their queen Arzema was deposed; the sixth of the transient

usurpers, who had arisen and vanished in three or four years since the death of Chosroes, and the retreat of Heraclius. Her tiara was placed on the head of Yezdegerd, the grandson of Chosroes; and the same æra, which coincides with an astronomical period, has recorded the fall of the Sassanian dynasty and the religion of Zoroaster. The youth and

inexperience of the prince (he was only fifteen years of age) declined a perilous encounter: the royal standard was delivered into the hands of

his general Rustam; and a remnant of thirty thousand regular troops was swelled in truth, or in opinion, to one hundred and twenty thousand

subjects, or allies, of the great king. The Moslems, whose numbers were

reënforced from twelve to thirty thousand, had pitched their camp in the

plains of Cadesia: and their line, though it consisted of fewer \_men\_, could produce more \_soldiers\_, than the unwieldy host of the infidels.

I shall here observe, what I must often repeat, that the charge of the arabs was not, like that of the Greeks and Romans, the effort of a firm and compact infantry: their military force was chiefly formed of cavalry and archers; and the engagement, which was often interrupted and often

renewed by single combats and flying skirmishes, might be protracted without any decisive event to the continuance of several days. The

periods of the battle of Cadesia were distinguished by their peculiar appellations. The first, from the well-timed appearance of six thousand

of the Syrian brethren, was denominated the day of \_succor\_. The day of

\_concussion\_ might express the disorder of one, or perhaps of both,

of the contending armies. The third, a nocturnal tumult, received the whimsical name of the night of \_barking\_, from the discordant clamors, which were compared to the inarticulate sounds of the fiercest animals. the morning of the succeeding day determined the fate of Persia; and a seasonable whirlwind drove a cloud of dust against the faces of the

unbelievers. The clangor of arms was reechoed to the tent of Rustam, who, far unlike the ancient hero of his name, was gently reclining in a cool and tranquil shade, amidst the baggage of his camp, and the train

of mules that were laden with gold and silver. On the sound of danger he

started from his couch; but his flight was overtaken by a valiant Arab, who caught him by the foot, struck off his head, hoisted it on a lance, and instantly returning to the field of battle, carried slaughter and dismay among the thickest ranks of the Persians. The Saracens confess a loss of seven thousand five hundred men; and the battle of Cadesia

is justly described by the epithets of obstinate and atrocious. The

standard of the monarchy was overthrown and captured in the field--a

leathern apron of a blacksmith, who in ancient times had arisen the deliverer of Persia; but this badge of heroic poverty was disguised, and almost concealed, by a profusion of precious gems. After this victory, the wealthy province of Irak, or Assyria, submitted to the caliph, and his conquests were firmly established by the speedy foundation of bassora, a place which ever commands the trade and navigation of the Persians. As the distance of fourscore miles from the Gulf, the euphrates and Tigris unite in a broad and direct current, which is aptly

styled the river of the Arabs. In the midway, between the junction and the mouth of these famous streams, the new settlement was planted on the western bank: the first colony was composed of eight hundred Moslems; but the influence of the situation soon reared a flourishing and

populous capital. The air, though excessively hot, is pure and healthy: the meadows are filled with palm-trees and cattle; and one of the adjacent valleys has been celebrated among the four paradises or gardens

of Asia. Under the first caliphs the jurisdiction of this Arabian colony extended over the southern provinces of Persia: the city has been

sanctified by the tombs of the companions and martyrs; and the vessels

of Europe still frequent the port of Bassora, as a convenient station and passage of the Indian trade.

chapter LI: Conquests By The Arabs.--Part II.

after the defeat of Cadesia, a country intersected by rivers and canals

might have opposed an insuperable barrier to the victorious cavalry; and the walls of Ctesiphon or Madayn, which had resisted the battering-rams

of the Romans, would not have yielded to the darts of the Saracens. But the flying Persians were overcome by the belief, that the last day

of their religion and empire was at hand; the strongest posts were abandoned by treachery or cowardice; and the king, with a part of his family and treasures, escaped to Holwan at the foot of the Median hills.

In the third month after the battle, Said, the lieutenant of Omar,

passed the Tigris without opposition; the capital was taken by assault; and the disorderly resistance of the people gave a keener edge to the

sabres of the Moslems, who shouted with religious transport, "This is the white palace of Chosroes; this is the promise of the apostle of

God!" The naked robbers of the desert were suddenly enriched beyond the

measure of their hope or knowledge. Each chamber revealed a new treasure

secreted with art, or ostentatiously displayed; the gold and silver, the

various wardrobes and precious furniture, surpassed (says Abulfeda) the estimate of fancy or numbers; and another historian defines the untold and almost infinite mass, by the fabulous computation of three thousands

of thousands of thousands of pieces of gold. Some minute though curious facts represent the contrast of riches and ignorance. From the remote

islands of the Indian Ocean a large provision of camphire had been

imported, which is employed with a mixture of wax to illuminate the

palaces of the East. Strangers to the name and properties of that

odoriferous gum, the Saracens, mistaking it for salt, mingled the camphire in their bread, and were astonished at the bitterness of the taste. One of the apartments of the palace was decorated with a carpet

of silk, sixty cubits in length, and as many in breadth: a paradise or

garden was depictured on the ground: the flowers, fruits, and shrubs, were imitated by the figures of the gold embroidery, and the colors of the precious stones; and the ample square was encircled by a variegated and verdant border. The Arabian general persuaded his soldiers to

relinquish their claim, in the reasonable hope that the eyes of the caliph would be delighted with the splendid workmanship of nature and

industry. Regardless of the merit of art, and the pomp of royalty, the

rigid Omar divided the prize among his brethren of Medina: the picture was destroyed; but such was the intrinsic value of the materials, that the share of Ali alone was sold for twenty thousand drams. A mule that carried away the tiara and cuirass, the belt and bracelets of Chosroes, was overtaken by the pursuers; the gorgeous trophy was presented to the commander of the faithful; and the gravest of the companions condescended to smile when they beheld the white beard, the hairy arms, and uncouth figure of the veteran, who was invested with the spoils of the Great King. The sack of Ctesiphon was followed by its desertion and

gradual decay. The Saracens disliked the air and situation of the place, and Omar was advised by his general to remove the seat of government to the western side of the Euphrates. In every age, the foundation and ruin

of the Assyrian cities has been easy and rapid: the country is destitute

of stone and timber; and the most solid structures are composed of bricks baked in the sun, and joined by a cement of the native bitumen. the name of \_Cufa\_ describes a habitation of reeds and earth; but the

importance of the new capital was supported by the numbers, wealth, and

spirit, of a colony of veterans; and their licentiousness was indulged by the wisest caliphs, who were apprehensive of provoking the revolt

of a hundred thousand swords: "Ye men of Cufa," said Ali, who solicited their aid, "you have been always conspicuous by your valor. You conquered the Persian king, and scattered his forces, till you had taken

possession of his inheritance." This mighty conquest was achieved by the battles of Jalula and Nehavend. After the loss of the former, Yezdegerd fled from Holwan, and concealed his shame and despair in the mountains

of Farsistan, from whence Cyrus had descended with his equal and valiant companions. The courage of the nation survived that of the monarch: among the hills to the south of Ecbatana or Hamadan, one hundred and fifty thousand Persians made a third and final stand for their religion and country; and the decisive battle of Nehavend was styled by the Arabs the victory of victories. If it be true that the flying general of the

Persians was stopped and overtaken in a crowd of mules and camels laden with honey, the incident, however slight and singular, will denote the

luxurious impediments of an Oriental army.

the geography of Persia is darkly delineated by the Greeks and Latins; but the most illustrious of her cities appear to be more ancient than the invasion of the Arabs. By the reduction of Hamadan and Ispahan, of caswin, Tauris, and Rei, they gradually approached the shores of the caspian Sea: and the orators of Mecca might applaud the success and

spirit of the faithful, who had already lost sight of the northern bear, and had almost transcended the bounds of the habitable world. Again, turning towards the West and the Roman empire, they repassed the Tigris

over the bridge of Mosul, and, in the captive provinces of Armenia and

Mesopotamia, embraced their victorious brethren of the Syrian army. from the palace of Madayn their Eastern progress was not less rapid

or extensive. They advanced along the Tigris and the Gulf; penetrated through the passes of the mountains into the valley of Estachar or

Persepolis, and profaned the last sanctuary of the Magian empire. The

grandson of Chosroes was nearly surprised among the falling columns and mutilated figures; a sad emblem of the past and present fortune

of Persia: he fled with accelerated haste over the desert of Kirman,

implored the aid of the warlike Segestans, and sought an humble refuge

on the verge of the Turkish and Chinese power. But a victorious army is

insensible of fatigue: the Arabs divided their forces in the pursuit

of a timorous enemy; and the caliph Othman promised the government of chorasan to the first general who should enter that large and populous country, the kingdom of the ancient Bactrians. The condition was accepted; the prize was deserved; the standard of Mahomet was planted on the walls of Herat, Merou, and Balch; and the successful leader neither

halted nor reposed till his foaming cavalry had tasted the waters of the

Oxus. In the public anarchy, the independent governors of the cities and castles obtained their separate capitulations: the terms were granted or

imposed by the esteem, the prudence, or the compassion, of the victors; and a simple profession of faith established the distinction between a brother and a slave. After a noble defence, Harmozan, the prince or

satrap of Ahwaz and Susa, was compelled to surrender his person and his

state to the discretion of the caliph; and their interview exhibits a

portrait of the Arabian manners. In the presence, and by the command,

of Omar, the gay Barbarian was despoiled of his silken robes embroidered with gold, and of his tiara bedecked with rubies and emeralds: "Are you

now sensible," said the conqueror to his naked captive--"are you

now sensible of the judgment of God, and of the different rewards of

infidelity and obedience?" "Alas!" replied Harmozan, "I feel them too deeply. In the days of our common ignorance, we fought with the weapons

of the flesh, and my nation was superior. God was then neuter: since he

has espoused your quarrel, you have subverted our kingdom and

religion." Oppressed by this painful dialogue, the Persian complained of

intolerable thirst, but discovered some apprehension lest he should be

killed whilst he was drinking a cup of water. "Be of good courage,"

said the caliph; "your life is safe till you have drunk this water:" the crafty satrap accepted the assurance, and instantly dashed the

vase against the ground. Omar would have avenged the deceit, but

his companions represented the sanctity of an oath; and the speedy conversion of Harmozan entitled him not only to a free pardon, but even to a stipend of two thousand pieces of gold. The administration of

Persia was regulated by an actual survey of the people, the cattle, and the fruits of the earth; and this monument, which attests the vigilance

of the caliphs, might have instructed the philosophers of every age.

the flight of Yezdegerd had carried him beyond the Oxus, and as far as the Jaxartes, two rivers of ancient and modern renown, which descend from the mountains of India towards the Caspian Sea. He was hospitably entertained by Tarkhan, prince of Fargana, a fertile province on the

Jaxartes: the king of Samarcand, with the Turkish tribes of Sogdiana and Scythia, were moved by the lamentations and promises of the fallen

monarch; and he solicited, by a suppliant embassy, the more solid and

powerful friendship of the emperor of China. The virtuous Taitsong, the first of the dynasty of the Tang may be justly compared with the antonines of Rome: his people enjoyed the blessings of prosperity and

peace; and his dominion was acknowledged by forty-four hordes of the Barbarians of Tartary. His last garrisons of Cashgar and Khoten

maintained a frequent intercourse with their neighbors of the Jaxartes and Oxus; a recent colony of Persians had introduced into China the astronomy of the Magi; and Taitsong might be alarmed by the rapid

progress and dangerous vicinity of the Arabs. The influence, and perhaps the supplies, of China revived the hopes of Yezdegerd and the zeal

of the worshippers of fire; and he returned with an army of Turks to conquer the inheritance of his fathers. The fortunate Moslems, without

unsheathing their swords, were the spectators of his ruin and death. the grandson of Chosroes was betrayed by his servant, insulted by the

seditious inhabitants of Merou, and oppressed, defeated, and pursued by

his Barbarian allies. He reached the banks of a river, and offered his

rings and bracelets for an instant passage in a miller's boat. Ignorant

or insensible of royal distress, the rustic replied, that four drams of

silver were the daily profit of his mill, and that he would not suspend

his work unless the loss were repaid. In this moment of hesitation and delay, the last of the Sassanian kings was overtaken and slaughtered by the Turkish cavalry, in the nineteenth year of his unhappy reign. His

son Firuz, an humble client of the Chinese emperor, accepted the station

of captain of his guards; and the Magian worship was long preserved by a colony of loyal exiles in the province of Bucharia. His grandson

inherited the regal name; but after a faint and fruitless enterprise, he

returned to China, and ended his days in the palace of Sigan. The

male line of the Sassanides was extinct; but the female captives, the daughters of Persia, were given to the conquerors in servitude, or

marriage; and the race of the caliphs and imams was ennobled by the blood of their royal mothers.

after the fall of the Persian kingdom, the River Oxus divided the territories of the Saracens and of the Turks. This narrow boundary was

soon overleaped by the spirit of the Arabs; the governors of Chorasan extended their successive inroads; and one of their triumphs was adorned with the buskin of a Turkish queen, which she dropped in her precipitate flight beyond the hills of Bochara. But the final conquest of transoxiana, as well as of Spain, was reserved for the glorious reign of the inactive Walid; and the name of Catibah, the camel driver, declares the origin and merit of his successful lieutenant. While one of his colleagues displayed the first Mahometan banner on the banks of the

Indus, the spacious regions between the Oxus, the Jaxartes, and the caspian Sea, were reduced by the arms of Catibah to the obedience of the

prophet and of the caliph. A tribute of two millions of pieces of gold was imposed on the infidels; their idols were burnt or broken; the

Mussulman chief pronounced a sermon in the new mosch of Carizme; after

several battles, the Turkish hordes were driven back to the desert; and the emperors of China solicited the friendship of the victorious Arabs. to their industry, the prosperity of the province, the Sogdiana of the ancients, may in a great measure be ascribed; but the advantages of the

soil and climate had been understood and cultivated since the reign

of the Macedonian kings. Before the invasion of the Saracens, Carizme, bochara, and Samarcand were rich and populous under the yoke of the

shepherds of the north. These cities were surrounded with a double wall; and the exterior fortification, of a larger circumference, enclosed the fields and gardens of the adjacent district. The mutual wants of India and Europe were supplied by the diligence of the Sogdian

merchants; and the inestimable art of transforming linen into paper has been diffused from the manufacture of Samarcand over the western world.

II. No sooner had Abubeker restored the unity of faith and government, than he despatched a circular letter to the Arabian tribes. "In the name

of the most merciful God, to the rest of the true believers. Health and

happiness, and the mercy and blessing of God, be upon you. I praise the

most high God, and I pray for his prophet Mahomet. This is to acquaint

you, that I intend to send the true believers into Syria to take it

out of the hands of the infidels. And I would have you know, that the fighting for religion is an act of obedience to God." His messengers

returned with the tidings of pious and martial ardor which they had

kindled in every province; and the camp of Medina was successively filled with the intrepid bands of the Saracens, who panted for action, complained of the heat of the season and the scarcity of provisions, and accused with impatient murmurs the delays of the caliph. As soon as their numbers were complete, Abubeker ascended the hill, reviewed the

men, the horses, and the arms, and poured forth a fervent prayer for the

success of their undertaking. In person, and on foot, he accompanied the first day's march; and when the blushing leaders attempted to dismount, the caliph removed their scruples by a declaration, that those who

rode, and those who walked, in the service of religion, were equally

meritorious. His instructions to the chiefs of the Syrian army were

inspired by the warlike fanaticism which advances to seize, and affects to despise, the objects of earthly ambition. "Remember," said the

successor of the prophet, "that you are always in the presence of God,

on the verge of death, in the assurance of judgment, and the hope of

paradise. Avoid injustice and oppression; consult with your brethren, and study to preserve the love and confidence of your troops. When

you fight the battles of the Lord, acquit yourselves like men, without turning your backs; but let not your victory be stained with the blood

of women or children. Destroy no palm-trees, nor burn any fields of corn. Cut down no fruit-trees, nor do any mischief to cattle, only such as you kill to eat. When you make any covenant or article, stand to it, and be as good as your word. As you go on, you will find some religious

persons who live retired in monasteries, and propose to themselves to

serve God that way: let them alone, and neither kill them nor destroy their monasteries: And you will find another sort of people, that belong to the synagogue of Satan, who have shaven crowns; be sure you cleave their skulls, and give them no quarter till they either turn Mahometans

or pay tribute." All profane or frivolous conversation, all dangerous

recollection of ancient quarrels, was severely prohibited among the Arabs: in the tumult of a camp, the exercises of religion were assiduously practised; and the intervals of action were employed in

prayer, meditation, and the study of the Koran. The abuse, or even the

use, of wine was chastised by fourscore strokes on the soles of the feet, and in the fervor of their primitive zeal, many secret sinners

revealed their fault, and solicited their punishment. After some

hesitation, the command of the Syrian army was delegated to Abu Obeidah,

one of the fugitives of Mecca, and companions of Mahomet; whose zeal and devotion was assuaged, without being abated, by the singular mildness and benevolence of his temper. But in all the emergencies of war, the

soldiers demanded the superior genius of Caled; and whoever might be the choice of the prince, the \_Sword of God\_ was both in fact and fame the foremost leader of the Saracens. He obeyed without reluctance; he was consulted without jealousy; and such was the spirit of the man, or

rather of the times, that Caled professed his readiness to serve under the banner of the faith, though it were in the hands of a child or an enemy. Glory, and riches, and dominion, were indeed promised to the

victorious Mussulman; but he was carefully instructed, that if the goods

of this life were his only incitement, \_they\_ likewise would be his only

reward.

chapter LI: Conquests By The Arabs.--Part III.

One of the fifteen provinces of Syria, the cultivated lands to the eastward of the Jordan, had been decorated by Roman vanity with the name

of \_Arabia\_; and the first arms of the Saracens were justified by the

semblance of a national right. The country was enriched by the various benefits of trade; by the vigilance of the emperors it was covered with a line of forts; and the populous cities of Gerasa, Philadelphia, and bosra, were secure, at least from a surprise, by the solid structure of their walls. The last of these cities was the eighteenth station from

Medina: the road was familiar to the caravans of Hejaz and Irak, who annually visited this plenteous market of the province and the desert: the perpetual jealousy of the Arabs had trained the inhabitants to arms; and twelve thousand horse could sally from the gates of Bosra, an appellation which signifies, in the Syriac language, a strong tower of defence. Encouraged by their first success against the open towns and flying parties of the borders, a detachment of four thousand Moslems

presumed to summon and attack the fortress of Bosra. They were oppressed by the numbers of the Syrians; they were saved by the presence of Caled, with fifteen hundred horse: he blamed the enterprise, restored the battle, and rescued his friend, the venerable Serjabil, who had vainly

invoked the unity of God and the promises of the apostle. After a short

repose, the Moslems performed their ablutions with sand instead of water; and the morning prayer was recited by Caled before they mounted

on horseback. Confident in their strength, the people of Bosra threw

open their gates, drew their forces into the plain, and swore to die in the defence of their religion. But a religion of peace was incapable of withstanding the fanatic cry of "Fight, fight! Paradise, paradise!" that

reechoed in the ranks of the Saracens; and the uproar of the town, the ringing of bells, and the exclamations of the priests and monks

increased the dismay and disorder of the Christians. With the loss of two hundred and thirty men, the Arabs remained masters of the field; and the ramparts of Bosra, in expectation of human or divine aid, were crowded with holy crosses and consecrated banners. The governor Romanus

had recommended an early submission: despised by the people, and degraded from his office, he still retained the desire and opportunity

of revenge. In a nocturnal interview, he informed the enemy of a

subterraneous passage from his house under the wall of the city; the son

of the caliph, with a hundred volunteers, were committed to the faith of this new ally, and their successful intrepidity gave an easy entrance to their companions. After Caled had imposed the terms of servitude and tribute, the apostate or convert avowed in the assembly of the people

his meritorious treason: "I renounce your society," said Romanus, "both

in this world and the world to come. And I deny him that was crucified, and whosoever worships him. And I choose God for my Lord, Islam for my faith, Mecca for my temple, the Moslems for my brethren, and Mahomet for

my prophet; who was sent to lead us into the right way, and to exalt the true religion in spite of those who join partners with God."

the conquest of Bosra, four days' journey from Damascus, encouraged the arabs to besiege the ancient capital of Syria. At some distance from the walls, they encamped among the groves and fountains of that delicious territory, and the usual option of the Mahometan faith, of tribute or

of war, was proposed to the resolute citizens, who had been lately

strengthened by a reenforcement of five thousand Greeks. In the decline, as in the infancy, of the military art, a hostile defiance was frequently offered and accepted by the generals themselves: many a lance was shivered in the plain of Damascus, and the personal prowess of Caled was signalized in the first sally of the besieged. After an obstinate combat, he had overthrown and made prisoner one of the Christian

leaders, a stout and worthy antagonist. He instantly mounted a fresh

horse, the gift of the governor of Palmyra, and pushed forwards to the front of the battle. "Repose yourself for a moment," said his friend derar, "and permit me to supply your place: you are fatigued with fighting with this dog." "O Dear!" replied the indefatigable Saracen,

"we shall rest in the world to come. He that labors to-day shall rest to-morrow." With the same unabated ardor, Caled answered, encountered, and vanquished a second champion; and the heads of his two captives who

refused to abandon their religion were indignantly hurled into the midst

of the city. The event of some general and partial actions reduced the damascenes to a closer defence: but a messenger, whom they dropped from the walls, returned with the promise of speedy and powerful succor, and their tumultuous joy conveyed the intelligence to the camp of the Arabs. after some debate, it was resolved by the generals to raise, or rather to suspend, the siege of Damascus, till they had given battle to the forces of the emperor. In the retreat, Caled would have chosen the more

perilous station of the rear-guard; he modestly yielded to the wishes

of Abu Obeidah. But in the hour of danger he flew to the rescue of his companion, who was rudely pressed by a sally of six thousand horse and ten thousand foot, and few among the Christians could relate at Damascus the circumstances of their defeat. The importance of the contest

required the junction of the Saracens, who were dispersed on the frontiers of Syria and Palestine; and I shall transcribe one of the circular mandates which was addressed to Amrou, the future conqueror

of Egypt. "In the name of the most merciful God: from Caled to Amrou,

health and happiness. Know that thy brethren the Moslems design to march to Aiznadin, where there is an army of seventy thousand Greeks, who

purpose to come against us, \_that they may extinguish the light of

God with their mouths; but God preserveth his light in spite of the

infidels\_. As soon therefore as this letter of mine shall be delivered to thy hands, come with those that are with thee to Aiznadin, where thou shalt find us if it please the most high God." The summons was cheerfully obeyed, and the forty-five thousand Moslems, who met on the

same day, on the same spot ascribed to the blessing of Providence the effects of their activity and zeal.

about four years after the triumph of the Persian war, the repose of

Heraclius and the empire was again disturbed by a new enemy, the

power of whose religion was more strongly felt, than it was clearly understood, by the Christians of the East. In his palace of constantinople or Antioch, he was awakened by the invasion of Syria, the

loss of Bosra, and the danger of Damascus. An army of seventy thousand

veterans, or new levies, was assembled at Hems or Emesa, under the command of his general Werdan: and these troops consisting chiefly of cavalry, might be indifferently styled either Syrians, or Greeks, or

Romans: \_Syrians\_, from the place of their birth or warfare; \_Greeks\_ from the religion and language of their sovereign; and \_Romans\_, from the proud appellation which was still profaned by the successors of constantine. On the plain of Aiznadin, as Werdan rode on a white mule decorated with gold chains, and surrounded with ensigns and standards,

he was surprised by the near approach of a fierce and naked warrior, who

had undertaken to view the state of the enemy. The adventurous valor of derar was inspired, and has perhaps been adorned, by the enthusiasm of

his age and country. The hatred of the Christians, the love of spoil, and the contempt of danger, were the ruling passions of the audacious

Saracen; and the prospect of instant death could never shake his

religious confidence, or ruffle the calmness of his resolution, or even suspend the frank and martial pleasantry of his humor. In the most

hopeless enterprises, he was bold, and prudent, and fortunate: after

innumerable hazards, after being thrice a prisoner in the hands of the

infidels, he still survived to relate the achievements, and to enjoy the rewards, of the Syrian conquest. On this occasion, his single lance

maintained a flying fight against thirty Romans, who were detached by werdan; and, after killing or unhorsing seventeen of their number, Derar

returned in safety to his applauding brethren. When his rashness was

mildly censured by the general, he excused himself with the simplicity

of a soldier. "Nay," said Derar, "I did not begin first: but they came

out to take me, and I was afraid that God should see me turn my back: and indeed I fought in good earnest, and without doubt God assisted me against them; and had I not been apprehensive of disobeying your orders,

I should not have come away as I did; and I perceive already that they will fall into our hands." In the presence of both armies, a venerable

Greek advanced from the ranks with a liberal offer of peace; and the departure of the Saracens would have been purchased by a gift to each

soldier, of a turban, a robe, and a piece of gold; ten robes and a

hundred pieces to their leader; one hundred robes and a thousand pieces to the caliph. A smile of indignation expressed the refusal of Caled.

"Ye Christian dogs, you know your option; the Koran, the tribute, or the

sword. We are a people whose delight is in war, rather than in peace: and we despise your pitiful alms, since we shall be speedily masters

of your wealth, your families, and your persons." Notwithstanding this apparent disdain, he was deeply conscious of the public danger: those who had been in Persia, and had seen the armies of Chosroes confessed that they never beheld a more formidable array. From the superiority of the enemy, the artful Saracen derived a fresh incentive of courage: "You

see before you," said he, "the united force of the Romans; you cannot

hope to escape, but you may conquer Syria in a single day. The event depends on your discipline and patience. Reserve yourselves till the evening. It was in the evening that the Prophet was accustomed to

vanquish." During two successive engagements, his temperate firmness

sustained the darts of the enemy, and the murmurs of his troops. At

length, when the spirits and quivers of the adverse line were almost exhausted, Caled gave the signal of onset and victory. The remains of the Imperial army fled to Antioch, or Cæsarea, or Damascus; and the death of four hundred and seventy Moslems was compensated by the opinion that they had sent to hell above fifty thousand of the infidels. The

spoil was inestimable; many banners and crosses of gold and silver,

precious stones, silver and gold chains, and innumerable suits of the

richest armor and apparel. The general distribution was postponed till damascus should be taken; but the seasonable supply of arms became the

instrument of new victories. The glorious intelligence was transmitted to the throne of the caliph; and the Arabian tribes, the coldest or most

hostile to the prophet's mission, were eager and importunate to share the harvest of Syria.

the sad tidings were carried to Damascus by the speed of grief and terror; and the inhabitants beheld from their walls the return of the

heroes of Aiznadin. Amrou led the van at the head of nine thousand

horse: the bands of the Saracens succeeded each other in formidable

review; and the rear was closed by Caled in person, with the standard of the black eagle. To the activity of Derar he intrusted the commission

of patrolling round the city with two thousand horse, of scouring the

plain, and of intercepting all succor or intelligence. The rest of the arabian chiefs were fixed in their respective stations before the

seven gates of Damascus; and the siege was renewed with fresh vigor and confidence. The art, the labor, the military engines, of the Greeks and Romans are seldom to be found in the simple, though successful,

operations of the Saracens: it was sufficient for them to invest a city with arms, rather than with trenches; to repel the allies of the besieged; to attempt a stratagem or an assault; or to expect the

progress of famine and discontent. Damascus would have acquiesced in the trial of Aiznadin, as a final and peremptory sentence between the emperor and the caliph; her courage was rekindled by the example and authority of Thomas, a noble Greek, illustrious in a private condition by the alliance of Heraclius. The tumult and illumination of the night

proclaimed the design of the morning sally; and the Christian hero, who affected to despise the enthusiasm of the Arabs, employed the resource

of a similar superstition. At the principal gate, in the sight of both armies, a lofty crucifix was erected; the bishop, with his clergy, accompanied the march, and laid the volume of the New Testament before the image of Jesus; and the contending parties were scandalized or edified by a prayer that the Son of God would defend his servants and

vindicate his truth. The battle raged with incessant fury; and the dexterity of Thomas, an incomparable archer, was fatal to the boldest

Saracens, till their death was revenged by a female heroine. The wife

of Aban, who had followed him to the holy war, embraced her expiring

husband. "Happy," said she, "happy art thou, my dear: thou art gone to they Lord, who first joined us together, and then parted us asunder. I will revenge thy death, and endeavor to the utmost of my power to come to the place where thou art, because I love thee. Henceforth shall no

man ever touch me more, for I have dedicated myself to the service of

God." Without a groan, without a tear, she washed the corpse of her

husband, and buried him with the usual rites. Then grasping the manly weapons, which in her native land she was accustomed to wield, the

intrepid widow of Aban sought the place where his murderer fought in the thickest of the battle. Her first arrow pierced the hand of his

standard-bearer; her second wounded Thomas in the eye; and the fainting christians no longer beheld their ensign or their leader. Yet the

generous champion of Damascus refused to withdraw to his palace: his wound was dressed on the rampart; the fight was continued till the evening; and the Syrians rested on their arms. In the silence of the

night, the signal was given by a stroke on the great bell; the gates were thrown open, and each gate discharged an impetuous column on the

sleeping camp of the Saracens. Caled was the first in arms: at the

head of four hundred horse he flew to the post of danger, and the tears trickled down his iron cheeks, as he uttered a fervent ejaculation; "O

God, who never sleepest, look upon they servants, and do not deliver them into the hands of their enemies." The valor and victory of Thomas were arrested by the presence of the \_Sword of God\_; with the knowledge

of the peril, the Moslems recovered their ranks, and charged the assailants in the flank and rear. After the loss of thousands, the christian general retreated with a sigh of despair, and the pursuit of the Saracens was checked by the military engines of the rampart.

after a siege of seventy days, the patience, and perhaps the provisions,

of the Damascenes were exhausted; and the bravest of their chiefs

submitted to the hard dictates of necessity. In the occurrences of peace and war, they had been taught to dread the fierceness of Caled, and to

revere the mild virtues of Abu Obeidah. At the hour of midnight, one

hundred chosen deputies of the clergy and people were introduced to the tent of that venerable commander. He received and dismissed them with courtesy. They returned with a written agreement, on the faith of a companion of Mahomet, that all hostilities should cease; that the

voluntary emigrants might depart in safety, with as much as they could carry away of their effects; and that the tributary subjects of the caliph should enjoy their lands and houses, with the use and possession

of seven churches. On these terms, the most respectable hostages, and the gate nearest to his camp, were delivered into his hands: his

soldiers imitated the moderation of their chief; and he enjoyed the

submissive gratitude of a people whom he had rescued from destruction. but the success of the treaty had relaxed their vigilance, and in the

same moment the opposite quarter of the city was betrayed and taken by assault. A party of a hundred Arabs had opened the eastern gate to a

more inexorable foe. "No quarter," cried the rapacious and sanguinary caled, "no quarter to the enemies of the Lord:" his trumpets sounded, and a torrent of Christian blood was poured down the streets of damascus. When he reached the church of St. Mary, he was astonished and

provoked by the peaceful aspect of his companions; their swords were

in the scabbard, and they were surrounded by a multitude of priests and

monks. Abu Obeidah saluted the general: "God," said he, "has delivered the city into my hands by way of surrender, and has saved the believers the trouble of fighting." "And am I not," replied the indignant Caled,

"am I not the lieutenant of the commander of the faithful? Have I not taken the city by storm? The unbelievers shall perish by the sword. Fall

on." The hungry and cruel Arabs would have obeyed the welcome command; and Damascus was lost, if the benevolence of Abu Obeidah had not been

supported by a decent and dignified firmness. Throwing himself between the trembling citizens and the most eager of the Barbarians, he adjured them, by the holy name of God, to respect his promise, to suspend their fury, and to wait the determination of their chiefs. The chiefs

retired into the church of St. Mary; and after a vehement debate, Caled

submitted in some measure to the reason and authority of his colleague; who urged the sanctity of a covenant, the advantage as well as the honor which the Moslems would derive from the punctual performance of their word, and the obstinate resistance which they must encounter from the distrust and despair of the rest of the Syrian cities. It was agreed that the sword should be sheathed, that the part of Damascus which

had surrendered to Abu Obeidah, should be immediately entitled to the benefit of his capitulation, and that the final decision should be

referred to the justice and wisdom of the caliph. A large majority of the people accepted the terms of toleration and tribute; and Damascus is

still peopled by twenty thousand Christians. But the valiant Thomas, and the free-born patriots who had fought under his banner, embraced the alternative of poverty and exile. In the adjacent meadow, a numerous encampment was formed of priests and laymen, of soldiers and citizens,

of women and children: they collected, with haste and terror, their

most precious movables; and abandoned, with loud lamentations, or silent anguish, their native homes, and the pleasant banks of the Pharpar. the inflexible soul of Caled was not touched by the spectacle of their distress: he disputed with the Damascenes the property of a magazine of corn; endeavored to exclude the garrison from the benefit of the treaty; consented, with reluctance, that each of the fugitives should arm

himself with a sword, or a lance, or a bow; and sternly declared, that, after a respite of three days, they might be pursued and treated as the enemies of the Moslems.

the passion of a Syrian youth completed the ruin of the exiles of damascus. A nobleman of the city, of the name of Jonas, was betrothed to a wealthy maiden; but her parents delayed the consummation of his

nuptials, and their daughter was persuaded to escape with the man whom

she had chosen. They corrupted the nightly watchmen of the gate Keisan; the lover, who led the way, was encompassed by a squadron of Arabs; but

his exclamation in the Greek tongue, "The bird is taken," admonished his

mistress to hasten her return. In the presence of Caled, and of death, the unfortunate Jonas professed his belief in one God and his apostle

Mahomet; and continued, till the season of his martyrdom, to discharge the duties of a brave and sincere Mussulman. When the city was taken, he flew to the monastery, where Eudocia had taken refuge; but the lover was forgotten; the apostate was scorned; she preferred her religion to her country; and the justice of Caled, though deaf to mercy, refused to detain by force a male or female inhabitant of Damascus. Four days was the general confined to the city by the obligation of the treaty, and the urgent cares of his new conquest. His appetite for blood and rapine would have been extinguished by the hopeless computation of time and distance; but he listened to the importunities of Jonas, who assured

him that the weary fugitives might yet be overtaken. At the head of four thousand horse, in the disguise of Christian Arabs, Caled undertook the

pursuit. They halted only for the moments of prayer; and their guide had a perfect knowledge of the country. For a long way the footsteps of the damascenes were plain and conspicuous: they vanished on a sudden; but the Saracens were comforted by the assurance that the caravan had turned aside into the mountains, and must speedily fall into their hands.

In traversing the ridges of the Libanus, they endured intolerable

hardships, and the sinking spirits of the veteran fanatics were

supported and cheered by the unconquerable ardor of a lover. From a

peasant of the country, they were informed that the emperor had sent

orders to the colony of exiles to pursue without delay the road of the sea-coast, and of Constantinople, apprehensive, perhaps, that the

soldiers and people of Antioch might be discouraged by the sight and the story of their sufferings. The Saracens were conducted through the territories of Gabala and Laodicea, at a cautious distance from the walls of the cities; the rain was incessant, the night was dark, a

single mountain separated them from the Roman army; and Caled, ever anxious for the safety of his brethren, whispered an ominous dream

in the ear of his companion. With the dawn of day, the prospect again cleared, and they saw before them, in a pleasant valley, the tents of damascus. After a short interval of repose and prayer, Caled divided his cavalry into four squadrons, committing the first to his faithful Derar, and reserving the last for himself. They successively rushed on the

promiscuous multitude, insufficiently provided with arms, and already

vanquished by sorrow and fatigue. Except a captive, who was pardoned and dismissed, the Arabs enjoyed the satisfaction of believing that not a christian of either sex escaped the edge of their cimeters. The gold and

silver of Damascus was scattered over the camp, and a royal wardrobe of three hundred load of silk might clothe an army of naked Barbarians.

In the tumult of the battle, Jonas sought and found the object of his

pursuit: but her resentment was inflamed by the last act of his perfidy; and as Eudocia struggled in his hateful embraces, she struck a dagger to

her heart. Another female, the widow of Thomas, and the real or supposed daughter of Heraclius, was spared and released without a ransom; but the generosity of Caled was the effect of his contempt; and the haughty

Saracen insulted, by a message of defiance, the throne of the Cæsars. caled had penetrated above a hundred and fifty miles into the heart of the Roman province: he returned to Damascus with the same secrecy and

speed On the accession of Omar, the \_Sword of God\_ was removed from the command; but the caliph, who blamed the rashness, was compelled to applaud the vigor and conduct, of the enterprise.

chapter LI: Conquests By The Arabs.--Part IV.

another expedition of the conquerors of Damascus will equally display their avidity and their contempt for the riches of the present world. they were informed that the produce and manufactures of the country were annually collected in the fair of Abyla, about thirty miles from the city; that the cell of a devout hermit was visited at the same time by a multitude of pilgrims; and that the festival of trade and superstition would be ennobled by the nuptials of the daughter of the governor

of Tripoli. Abdallah, the son of Jaafar, a glorious and holy martyr,

undertook, with a banner of five hundred horse, the pious and profitable commission of despoiling the infidels. As he approached the fair of abyla, he was astonished by the report of this mighty concourse of

Jews and Christians, Greeks, and Armenians, of natives of Syria and of

strangers of Egypt, to the number of ten thousand, besides a guard of five thousand horse that attended the person of the bride. The Saracens

paused: "For my own part," said Abdallah, "I \_dare not\_ go back: our foes are many, our danger is great, but our reward is splendid and

secure, either in this life or in the life to come. Let every man, according to his inclination, advance or retire." Not a Mussulman deserted his standard. "Lead the way," said Abdallah to his Christian

guide, "and you shall see what the companions of the prophet can

perform." They charged in five squadrons; but after the first advantage

of the surprise, they were encompassed and almost overwhelmed by the multitude of their enemies; and their valiant band is fancifully compared to a white spot in the skin of a black camel. About the hour of

sunset, when their weapons dropped from their hands, when they panted

on the verge of eternity, they discovered an approaching cloud of dust; they heard the welcome sound of the \_tecbir\_, and they soon perceived the standard of Caled, who flew to their relief with the utmost speed of

his cavalry. The Christians were broken by his attack, and slaughtered

in their flight, as far as the river of Tripoli. They left behind them the various riches of the fair; the merchandises that were exposed for

sale, the money that was brought for purchase, the gay decorations of the nuptials, and the governor's daughter, with forty of her female attendants. The fruits, provisions, and furniture, the money, plate, and

jewels, were diligently laden on the backs of horses, asses, and mules; and the holy robbers returned in triumph to Damascus. The hermit, after a short and angry controversy with Caled, declined the crown

of martyrdom, and was left alive in the solitary scene of blood and devastation.

chapter LI: Conquests By The Arabs.--Part V.

Syria, one of the countries that have been improved by the most early cultivation, is not unworthy of the preference. The heat of the climate

is tempered by the vicinity of the sea and mountains, by the plenty

of wood and water; and the produce of a fertile soil affords the

subsistence, and encourages the propagation, of men and animals. From the age of David to that of Heraclius, the country was overspread with ancient and flourishing cities: the inhabitants were numerous and wealthy; and, after the slow ravage of despotism and superstition, after the recent calamities of the Persian war, Syria could still attract and reward the rapacious tribes of the desert. A plain, of ten days'

journey, from Damascus to Aleppo and Antioch, is watered, on the western

side, by the winding course of the Orontes. The hills of Libanus and anti-Libanus are planted from north to south, between the Orontes and the Mediterranean; and the epithet of \_hollow\_ (Clesyria) was applied to a long and fruitful valley, which is confined in the same direction, by the two ridges of snowy mountains. Among the cities, which are enumerated by Greek and Oriental names in the geography and conquest

of Syria, we may distinguish Emesa or Hems, Heliopolis or Baalbec, the former as the metropolis of the plain, the latter as the capital of the

valley. Under the last of the Cæsars, they were strong and populous; the turrets glittered from afar: an ample space was covered with public and

private buildings; and the citizens were illustrious by their spirit, or at least by their pride; by their riches, or at least by their luxury.

In the days of Paganism, both Emesa and Heliopolis were addicted to the worship of Baal, or the sun; but the decline of their superstition and

splendor has been marked by a singular variety of fortune. Not a vestige

remains of the temple of Emesa, which was equalled in poetic style to the summits of Mount Libanus, while the ruins of Baalbec, invisible to the writers of antiquity, excite the curiosity and wonder of the european traveller. The measure of the temple is two hundred feet in

length, and one hundred in breadth: the front is adorned with a double

portico of eight columns; fourteen may be counted on either side; and each column, forty-five feet in height, is composed of three massy blocks of stone or marble. The proportions and ornaments of the corinthian order express the architecture of the Greeks: but as Baalbec

has never been the seat of a monarch, we are at a loss to conceive how the expense of these magnificent structures could be supplied by private

or municipal liberality. From the conquest of Damascus the Saracens

proceeded to Heliopolis and Emesa: but I shall decline the repetition of the sallies and combats which have been already shown on a larger scale.

In the prosecution of the war, their policy was not less effectual than their sword. By short and separate truces they dissolved the union of the enemy; accustomed the Syrians to compare their friendship with their enmity; familiarized the idea of their language, religion, and manners; and exhausted, by clandestine purchase, the magazines and arsenals of the cities which they returned to besiege. They aggravated the ransom of the more wealthy, or the more obstinate; and Chalcis alone was taxed at five thousand ounces of gold, five thousand ounces of silver, two thousand robes of silk, and as many figs and olives as would load five thousand asses. But the terms of truce or capitulation were faithfully

observed; and the lieutenant of the caliph, who had promised not to enter the walls of the captive Baalbec, remained tranquil and immovable

in his tent till the jarring factions solicited the interposition of a foreign master. The conquest of the plain and valley of Syria was achieved in less than two years. Yet the commander of the faithful

reproved the slowness of their progress; and the Saracens, bewailing their fault with tears of rage and repentance, called aloud on their chiefs to lead them forth to fight the battles of the Lord. In a recent action, under the walls of Emesa, an Arabian youth, the cousin of Caled, was heard aloud to exclaim, "Methinks I see the black-eyed girls looking

upon me; one of whom, should she appear in this world, all mankind would die for love of her. And I see in the hand of one of them a handkerchief

of green silk, and a cap of precious stones, and she beckons me, and calls out, Come hither quickly, for I love thee." With these words, charging the Christians, he made havoc wherever he went, till, observed at length by the governor of Hems, he was struck through with a javelin.

It was incumbent on the Saracens to exert the full powers of their valor and enthusiasm against the forces of the emperor, who was taught, by

repeated losses, that the rovers of the desert had undertaken, and would

speedily achieve, a regular and permanent conquest. From the provinces

of Europe and Asia, fourscore thousand soldiers were transported by sea and land to Antioch and Cæsarea: the light troops of the army consisted

of sixty thousand Christian Arabs of the tribe of Gassan. Under the banner of Jabalah, the last of their princes, they marched in the

van; and it was a maxim of the Greeks, that for the purpose of cutting diamond, a diamond was the most effectual. Heraclius withheld his person from the dangers of the field; but his presumption, or perhaps his despondency, suggested a peremptory order, that the fate of the province and the war should be decided by a single battle. The Syrians were attached to the standard of Rome and of the cross: but the noble, the citizen, the peasant, were exasperated by the injustice and cruelty of a licentious host, who oppressed them as subjects, and despised them as

strangers and aliens. A report of these mighty preparations was conveyed to the Saracens in their camp of Emesa, and the chiefs, though resolved to fight, assembled a council: the faith of Abu Obeidah would have expected on the same spot the glory of martyrdom; the wisdom of Caled advised an honorable retreat to the skirts of Palestine and Arabia, where they might await the succors of their friends, and the attack of the unbelievers. A speedy messenger soon returned from the throne of

Medina, with the blessings of Omar and Ali, the prayers of the widows of the prophet, and a reënforcement of eight thousand Moslems. In their way they overturned a detachment of Greeks, and when they joined at Yermuk the camp of their brethren, they found the pleasing intelligence, that caled had already defeated and scattered the Christian Arabs of the tribe of Gassan. In the neighborhood of Bosra, the springs of Mount

Hermon descend in a torrent to the plain of Decapolis, or ten cities; and the Hieromax, a name which has been corrupted to Yermuk, is lost, after a short course, in the Lake of Tiberias. The banks of this obscure

stream were illustrated by a long and bloody encounter. On this

momentous occasion, the public voice, and the modesty of Abu Obeidah,

restored the command to the most deserving of the Moslems. Caled assumed

his station in the front, his colleague was posted in the rear, that the disorder of the fugitive might be checked by his venerable aspect, and the sight of the yellow banner which Mahomet had displayed before the walls of Chaibar. The last line was occupied by the sister of Derar, with the Arabian women who had enlisted in this holy war, who were accustomed to wield the bow and the lance, and who in a moment of captivity had defended, against the uncircumcised ravishers, their chastity and religion. The exhortation of the generals was brief and forcible: "Paradise is before you, the devil and hell-fire in your

rear." Yet such was the weight of the Roman cavalry, that the right wing

of the Arabs was broken and separated from the main body. Thrice did they retreat in disorder, and thrice were they driven back to the charge by the reproaches and blows of the women. In the intervals of action, abu Obeidah visited the tents of his brethren, prolonged their repose by repeating at once the prayers of two different hours, bound up their wounds with his own hands, and administered the comfortable reflection, that the infidels partook of their sufferings without partaking of their

reward. Four thousand and thirty of the Moslems were buried in the field

of battle; and the skill of the Armenian archers enabled seven hundred to boast that they had lost an eye in that meritorious service. The

veterans of the Syrian war acknowledged that it was the hardest and most doubtful of the days which they had seen. But it was likewise the most decisive: many thousands of the Greeks and Syrians fell by the swords

of the Arabs; many were slaughtered, after the defeat, in the woods and

mountains; many, by mistaking the ford, were drowned in the waters of the Yermuk; and however the loss may be magnified, the Christian writers confess and bewail the bloody punishment of their sins. Manuel, the

Roman general, was either killed at Damascus, or took refuge in the

monastery of Mount Sinai. An exile in the Byzantine court, Jabalah

lamented the manners of Arabia, and his unlucky preference of the christian cause. He had once inclined to the profession of Islam; but

in the pilgrimage of Mecca, Jabalah was provoked to strike one of his brethren, and fled with amazement from the stern and equal justice of the caliph These victorious Saracens enjoyed at Damascus a month of

pleasure and repose: the spoil was divided by the discretion of Abu

Obeidah: an equal share was allotted to a soldier and to his horse, and a double portion was reserved for the noble coursers of the Arabian breed.

after the battle of Yermuk, the Roman army no longer appeared in the field; and the Saracens might securely choose, among the fortified towns

of Syria, the first object of their attack. They consulted the caliph whether they should march to Cæsarea or Jerusalem; and the advice of ali determined the immediate siege of the latter. To a profane eye,

Jerusalem was the first or second capital of Palestine; but after Mecca and Medina, it was revered and visited by the devout Moslems, as the temple of the Holy Land which had been sanctified by the revelation of

Moses, of Jesus, and of Mahomet himself. The son of Abu Sophian was

sent with five thousand Arabs to try the first experiment of surprise

or treaty; but on the eleventh day, the town was invested by the whole force of Abu Obeidah. He addressed the customary summons to the chief commanders and people of \_Ælia\_.

"Health and happiness to every one that follows the right way! We

require of you to testify that there is but one God, and that Mahomet is

his apostle. If you refuse this, consent to pay tribute, and be under us forthwith. Otherwise I shall bring men against you who love death better than you do the drinking of wine or eating hog's flesh. Nor will I ever

stir from you, if it please God, till I have destroyed those that fight for you, and made slaves of your children." But the city was defended

on every side by deep valleys and steep ascents; since the invasion of

Syria, the walls and towers had been anxiously restored; the bravest of the fugitives of Yermuk had stopped in the nearest place of refuge; and

in the defence of the sepulchre of Christ, the natives and strangers

might feel some sparks of the enthusiasm, which so fiercely glowed in the bosoms of the Saracens. The siege of Jerusalem lasted four months;

not a day was lost without some action of sally or assault; the military engines incessantly played from the ramparts; and the inclemency of the winter was still more painful and destructive to the Arabs. The christians yielded at length to the perseverance of the besiegers. the patriarch Sophronius appeared on the walls, and by the voice of an

interpreter demanded a conference. After a vain attempt to dissuade the lieutenant of the caliph from his impious enterprise, he proposed,

in the name of the people, a fair capitulation, with this extraordinary clause, that the articles of security should be ratified by the authority and presence of Omar himself. The question was debated in the council of Medina; the sanctity of the place, and the advice of Ali,

persuaded the caliph to gratify the wishes of his soldiers and enemies; and the simplicity of his journey is more illustrious than the royal

pageants of vanity and oppression. The conqueror of Persia and Syria was mounted on a red camel, which carried, besides his person, a bag

of corn, a bag of dates, a wooden dish, and a leathern bottle of water. wherever he halted, the company, without distinction, was invited to

partake of his homely fare, and the repast was consecrated by the prayer and exhortation of the commander of the faithful. But in this expedition

or pilgrimage, his power was exercised in the administration of

justice: he reformed the licentious polygamy of the Arabs, relieved the tributaries from extortion and cruelty, and chastised the luxury of the

Saracens, by despoiling them of their rich silks, and dragging them on their faces in the dirt. When he came within sight of Jerusalem, the caliph cried with a loud voice, "God is victorious. O Lord, give us an easy conquest!" and, pitching his tent of coarse hair, calmly seated

himself on the ground. After signing the capitulation, he entered the city without fear or precaution; and courteously discoursed with the

patriarch concerning its religious antiquities. Sophronius bowed before

his new master, and secretly muttered, in the words of Daniel, "The abomination of desolation is in the holy place." At the hour of prayer they stood together in the church of the resurrection; but the caliph

refused to perform his devotions, and contented himself with praying on the steps of the church of Constantine. To the patriarch he disclosed

his prudent and honorable motive. "Had I yielded," said Omar, "to your

request, the Moslems of a future age would have infringed the treaty

under color of imitating my example." By his command the ground of the temple of Solomon was prepared for the foundation of a mosch; and, during a residence of ten days, he regulated the present and future

state of his Syrian conquests. Medina might be jealous, lest the caliph should be detained by the sanctity of Jerusalem or the beauty of damascus; her apprehensions were dispelled by his prompt and voluntary

return to the tomb of the apostle.

to achieve what yet remained of the Syrian war the caliph had formed two

separate armies; a chosen detachment, under Amrou and Yezid, was left in the camp of Palestine; while the larger division, under the standard

of Abu Obeidah and Caled, marched away to the north against Antioch and Aleppo. The latter of these, the Beræa of the Greeks, was not

yet illustrious as the capital of a province or a kingdom; and the

inhabitants, by anticipating their submission and pleading their

poverty, obtained a moderate composition for their lives and religion. but the castle of Aleppo, distinct from the city, stood erect on a lofty artificial mound the sides were sharpened to a precipice, and faced with free-stone; and the breadth of the ditch might be filled with water from the neighboring springs. After the loss of three thousand men, the

garrison was still equal to the defence; and Youkinna, their valiant and

hereditary chief, had murdered his brother, a holy monk, for daring to pronounce the name of peace. In a siege of four or five months, the

hardest of the Syrian war, great numbers of the Saracens were killed and wounded: their removal to the distance of a mile could not seduce the

vigilance of Youkinna; nor could the Christians be terrified by the execution of three hundred captives, whom they beheaded before the castle wall. The silence, and at length the complaints, of Abu Obeidah

informed the caliph that their hope and patience were consumed at the foot of this impregnable fortress. "I am variously affected," replied

Omar, "by the difference of your success; but I charge you by no means to raise the siege of the castle. Your retreat would diminish the

reputation of our arms, and encourage the infidels to fall upon you on all sides. Remain before Aleppo till God shall determine the event, and forage with your horse round the adjacent country." The exhortation of the commander of the faithful was fortified by a supply of volunteers from all the tribes of Arabia, who arrived in the camp on horses or camels. Among these was Dames, of a servile birth, but of gigantic

size and intrepid resolution. The forty-seventh day of his service he

proposed, with only thirty men, to make an attempt on the castle. The experience and testimony of Caled recommended his offer; and Abu Obeidah admonished his brethren not to despise the baser origin of Dames, since

he himself, could he relinquish the public care, would cheerfully serve

under the banner of the slave. His design was covered by the appearance

of a retreat; and the camp of the Saracens was pitched about a league from Aleppo. The thirty adventurers lay in ambush at the foot of the

hill; and Dames at length succeeded in his inquiries, though he was

provoked by the ignorance of his Greek captives. "God curse these dogs," said the illiterate Arab; "what a strange barbarous language they

speak!" At the darkest hour of the night, he scaled the most accessible

height, which he had diligently surveyed, a place where the stones were less entire, or the slope less perpendicular, or the guard less

vigilant. Seven of the stoutest Saracens mounted on each other's

shoulders, and the weight of the column was sustained on the broad and

sinewy back of the gigantic slave. The foremost in this painful ascent could grasp and climb the lowest part of the battlements; they silently

stabbed and cast down the sentinels; and the thirty brethren, repeating a pious ejaculation, "O apostle of God, help and deliver us!" were

successively drawn up by the long folds of their turbans. With bold and cautious footsteps, Dames explored the palace of the governor, who celebrated, in riotous merriment, the festival of his deliverance. From thence, returning to his companions, he assaulted on the inside the entrance of the castle. They overpowered the guard, unbolted the gate,

let down the drawbridge, and defended the narrow pass, till the arrival

of Caled, with the dawn of day, relieved their danger and assured their conquest. Youkinna, a formidable foe, became an active and useful

proselyte; and the general of the Saracens expressed his regard for the

most humble merit, by detaining the army at Aleppo till Dames was cured

of his honorable wounds. The capital of Syria was still covered by the castle of Aazaz and the iron bridge of the Orontes. After the loss of those important posts, and the defeat of the last of the Roman armies, the luxury of Antioch trembled and obeyed. Her safety was ransomed with three hundred thousand pieces of gold; but the throne of the successors

of Alexander, the seat of the Roman government of the East, which had been decorated by Cæsar with the titles of free, and holy, and inviolate was degraded under the yoke of the caliphs to the secondary rank of a

provincial town.

In the life of Heraclius, the glories of the Persian war are clouded on either hand by the disgrace and weakness of his more early and his later days. When the successors of Mahomet unsheathed the sword of war and

religion, he was astonished at the boundless prospect of toil and danger; his nature was indolent, nor could the infirm and frigid age of the emperor be kindled to a second effort. The sense of shame, and the

importunities of the Syrians, prevented the hasty departure from the

scene of action; but the hero was no more; and the loss of Damascus and

Jerusalem, the bloody fields of Aiznadin and Yermuk, may be imputed in

some degree to the absence or misconduct of the sovereign. Instead of defending the sepulchre of Christ, he involved the church and state in a

metaphysical controversy for the unity of his will; and while Heraclius crowned the offspring of his second nuptials, he was tamely stripped

of the most valuable part of their inheritance. In the cathedral of antioch, in the presence of the bishops, at the foot of the crucifix,

he bewailed the sins of the prince and people; but his confession

instructed the world, that it was vain, and perhaps impious, to resist the judgment of God. The Saracens were invincible in fact, since they were invincible in opinion; and the desertion of Youkinna, his false

repentance and repeated perfidy, might justify the suspicion of the emperor, that he was encompassed by traitors and apostates, who conspired to betray his person and their country to the enemies of christ. In the hour of adversity, his superstition was agitated by the omens and dreams of a falling crown; and after bidding an eternal farewell to Syria, he secretly embarked with a few attendants, and absolved the faith of his subjects. Constantine, his eldest son, had been stationed with forty thousand men at Cæsarea, the civil metropolis

of the three provinces of Palestine. But his private interest recalled

him to the Byzantine court; and, after the flight of his father, he felt himself an unequal champion to the united force of the caliph. His

vanguard was boldly attacked by three hundred Arabs and a thousand black

slaves, who, in the depth of winter, had climbed the snowy mountains of

Libanus, and who were speedily followed by the victorious squadrons

of Caled himself. From the north and south the troops of Antioch and

Jerusalem advanced along the sea-shore till their banners were joined

under the walls of the Phnician cities: Tripoli and Tyre were betrayed; and a fleet of fifty transports, which entered without distrust the captive harbors, brought a seasonable supply of arms and provisions to the camp of the Saracens. Their labors were terminated by the unexpected

surrender of Cæsarea: the Roman prince had embarked in the night; and the defenceless citizens solicited their pardon with an offering of two

hundred thousand pieces of gold. The remainder of the province, Ramlah,

Ptolemais or Acre, Sichem or Neapolis, Gaza, Ascalon, Berytus, Sidon,

Gabala, Laodicea, Apamea, Hierapolis, no longer presumed to dispute the will of the conqueror; and Syria bowed under the sceptre of the caliphs seven hundred years after Pompey had despoiled the last of the

Macedonian kings.

chapter LI: Conquests By The Arabs.--Part VI.

the sieges and battles of six campaigns had consumed many thousands

of the Moslems. They died with the reputation and the cheerfulness of

martyrs; and the simplicity of their faith may be expressed in the words

of an Arabian youth, when he embraced, for the last time, his sister and

mother: "It is not," said he, "the delicacies of Syria, or the fading delights of this world, that have prompted me to devote my life in the cause of religion. But I seek the favor of God and his apostle; and I

have heard, from one of the companions of the prophet, that the spirits

of the martyrs will be lodged in the crops of green birds, who shall taste the fruits, and drink of the rivers, of paradise. Farewell, we

shall meet again among the groves and fountains which God has provided for his elect." The faithful captives might exercise a passive and more arduous resolution; and a cousin of Mahomet is celebrated for refusing, after an abstinence of three days, the wine and pork, the only

nourishment that was allowed by the malice of the infidels. The frailty

of some weaker brethren exasperated the implacable spirit of fanaticism; and the father of Amer deplored, in pathetic strains, the apostasy and damnation of a son, who had renounced the promises of God, and the

intercession of the prophet, to occupy, with the priests and deacons, the lowest mansions of hell. The more fortunate Arabs, who survived the war and persevered in the faith, were restrained by their abstemious

leader from the abuse of prosperity. After a refreshment of three days, abu Obeidah withdrew his troops from the pernicious contagion of the

luxury of Antioch, and assured the caliph that their religion and virtue could only be preserved by the hard discipline of poverty and labor. But the virtue of Omar, however rigorous to himself, was kind and liberal to his brethren. After a just tribute of praise and thanksgiving, he dropped a tear of compassion; and sitting down on the ground, wrote an answer, in which he mildly censured the severity of his lieutenant:

"God," said the successor of the prophet, "has not forbidden the use

of the good things of this world to faithful men, and such as have

performed good works. Therefore you ought to have given them leave to rest themselves, and partake freely of those good things which the country affordeth. If any of the Saracens have no family in Arabia, they

may marry in Syria; and whosoever of them wants any female slaves, he

may purchase as many as he hath occasion for." The conquerors prepared to use, or to abuse, this gracious permission; but the year of their triumph was marked by a mortality of men and cattle; and twenty-five thousand Saracens were snatched away from the possession of Syria. the death of Abu Obeidah might be lamented by the Christians; but his brethren recollected that he was one of the ten elect whom the prophet

had named as the heirs of paradise. Caled survived his brethren about three years: and the tomb of the Sword of God is shown in the

neighborhood of Emesa. His valor, which founded in Arabia and Syria the empire of the caliphs, was fortified by the opinion of a special

providence; and as long as he wore a cap, which had been blessed by Mahomet, he deemed himself invulnerable amidst the darts of the

infidels.

the place of the first conquerors was supplied by a new generation of their children and countrymen: Syria became the seat and support of the house of Ommiyah; and the revenue, the soldiers, the ships of that

powerful kingdom were consecrated to enlarge on every side the empire of the caliphs. But the Saracens despise a superfluity of fame; and their

historians scarcely condescend to mention the subordinate conquests which are lost in the splendor and rapidity of their victorious career. to the \_north\_ of Syria, they passed Mount Taurus, and reduced to their

obedience the province of Cilicia, with its capital Tarsus, the ancient

monument of the Assyrian kings. Beyond a second ridge of the same

mountains, they spread the flame of war, rather than the light of

religion, as far as the shores of the Euxine, and the neighborhood of constantinople. To the \_east\_ they advanced to the banks and sources of the Euphrates and Tigris: the long disputed barrier of Rome and Persia was forever confounded the walls of Edessa and Amida, of Dara and

Nisibis, which had resisted the arms and engines of Sapor or Nushirvan, were levelled in the dust; and the holy city of Abgarus might vainly

produce the epistle or the image of Christ to an unbelieving conqueror. to the \_west\_ the Syrian kingdom is bounded by the sea: and the ruin of aradus, a small island or peninsula on the coast, was postponed during ten years. But the hills of Libanus abounded in timber; the trade of

Phnicia was populous in mariners; and a fleet of seventeen hundred barks was equipped and manned by the natives of the desert. The Imperial

navy of the Romans fled before them from the Pamphylian rocks to the

Hellespont; but the spirit of the emperor, a grandson of Heraclius, had been subdued before the combat by a dream and a pun. The Saracens rode

masters of the sea; and the islands of Cyprus, Rhodes, and the Cyclades, were successively exposed to their rapacious visits. Three hundred years before the Christian æra, the memorable though fruitless siege of Rhodes by Demetrius had furnished that maritime republic with the materials and the subject of a trophy. A gigantic statue of Apollo, or the sun,

seventy cubits in height, was erected at the entrance of the harbor, a

monument of the freedom and the arts of Greece. After standing fifty-six

years, the colossus of Rhodes was overthrown by an earthquake; but the

massy trunk, and huge fragments, lay scattered eight centuries on the

ground, and are often described as one of the wonders of the ancient world. They were collected by the diligence of the Saracens, and sold to a Jewish merchant of Edessa, who is said to have laden nine hundred camels with the weight of the brass metal; an enormous weight, though we should include the hundred colossal figures, and the three thousand

statues, which adorned the prosperity of the city of the sun.

II. The conquest of Egypt may be explained by the character of the

victorious Saracen, one of the first of his nation, in an age when the

meanest of the brethren was exalted above his nature by the spirit of enthusiasm. The birth of Amrou was at once base and illustrious; his

mother, a notorious prostitute, was unable to decide among five of the

Koreish; but the proof of resemblance adjudged the child to Aasi, the

oldest of her lovers. The youth of Amrou was impelled by the passions and prejudices of his kindred: his poetic genius was exercised in

satirical verses against the person and doctrine of Mahomet; his dexterity was employed by the reigning faction to pursue the religious exiles who had taken refuge in the court of the Æthiopian king. Yet

he returned from this embassy a secret proselyte; his reason or his

interest determined him to renounce the worship of idols; he escaped from Mecca with his friend Caled; and the prophet of Medina enjoyed at the same moment the satisfaction of embracing the two firmest champions

of his cause. The impatience of Amrou to lead the armies of the faithful was checked by the reproof of Omar, who advised him not to seek

power and dominion, since he who is a subject to-day, may be a prince to-morrow. Yet his merit was not overlooked by the two first successors

of Mahomet; they were indebted to his arms for the conquest of

Palestine; and in all the battles and sieges of Syria, he united with the temper of a chief the valor of an adventurous soldier. In a visit to Medina, the caliph expressed a wish to survey the sword which had cut down so many Christian warriors; the son of Aasi unsheathed a short and

ordinary cimeter; and as he perceived the surprise of Omar, "Alas," said the modest Saracen, "the sword itself, without the arm of its master, is

neither sharper nor more weighty than the sword of Pharezdak the poet." after the conquest of Egypt, he was recalled by the jealousy of the caliph Othman; but in the subsequent troubles, the ambition of a

soldier, a statesman, and an orator, emerged from a private station.

His powerful support, both in council and in the field, established the throne of the Ommiades; the administration and revenue of Egypt were

restored by the gratitude of Moawiyah to a faithful friend who had

raised himself above the rank of a subject; and Amrou ended his days in the palace and city which he had founded on the banks of the Nile. His dying speech to his children is celebrated by the Arabians as a model

of eloquence and wisdom: he deplored the errors of his youth but if the

penitent was still infected by the vanity of a poet, he might exaggerate the venom and mischief of his impious compositions.

from his camp in Palestine, Amrou had surprised or anticipated the caliph's leave for the invasion of Egypt. The magnanimous Omar trusted

in his God and his sword, which had shaken the thrones of Chosroes and cæsar: but when he compared the slender force of the Moslems with the

greatness of the enterprise, he condemned his own rashness, and listened to his timid companions. The pride and the greatness of Pharaoh were familiar to the readers of the Koran; and a tenfold repetition of

prodigies had been scarcely sufficient to effect, not the victory, but the flight, of six hundred thousand of the children of Israel: the cities of Egypt were many and populous; their architecture was

strong and solid; the Nile, with its numerous branches, was alone an

insuperable barrier; and the granary of the Imperial city would be

obstinately defended by the Roman powers. In this perplexity, the commander of the faithful resigned himself to the decision of chance,

or, in his opinion, of Providence. At the head of only four thousand arabs, the intrepid Amrou had marched away from his station of Gaza when

he was overtaken by the messenger of Omar. "If you are still in Syria,"

said the ambiguous mandate, "retreat without delay; but if, at the

receipt of this epistle, you have already reached the frontiers of egypt, advance with confidence, and depend on the succor of God and

of your brethren." The experience, perhaps the secret intelligence,

of Amrou had taught him to suspect the mutability of courts; and he continued his march till his tents were unquestionably pitched on egyptian ground. He there assembled his officers, broke the seal,

perused the epistle, gravely inquired the name and situation of the

place, and declared his ready obedience to the commands of the caliph. after a siege of thirty days, he took possession of Farmah or Pelusium; and that key of Egypt, as it has been justly named, unlocked the entrance of the country as far as the ruins of Heliopolis and the

neighborhood of the modern Cairo.

On the Western side of the Nile, at a small distance to the east of the

Pyramids, at a small distance to the south of the Delta, Memphis, one

hundred and fifty furlongs in circumference, displayed the magnificence

of ancient kings. Under the reign of the Ptolemies and Cæsars, the seat

of government was removed to the sea-coast; the ancient capital was eclipsed by the arts and opulence of Alexandria; the palaces, and at

length the temples, were reduced to a desolate and ruinous condition:

yet, in the age of Augustus, and even in that of Constantine, Memphis was still numbered among the greatest and most populous of the

provincial cities. The banks of the Nile, in this place of the breadth

of three thousand feet, were united by two bridges of sixty and of thirty boats, connected in the middle stream by the small island of

Rouda, which was covered with gardens and habitations. The eastern extremity of the bridge was terminated by the town of Babylon and the camp of a Roman legion, which protected the passage of the river and the

second capital of Egypt. This important fortress, which might fairly be described as a part of Memphis or \_Misrah\_, was invested by the arms of the lieutenant of Omar: a reënforcement of four thousand Saracens soon arrived in his camp; and the military engines, which battered the walls,

may be imputed to the art and labor of his Syrian allies. Yet the siege was protracted to seven months; and the rash invaders were encompassed and threatened by the inundation of the Nile. Their last assault was bold and successful: they passed the ditch, which had been fortified with iron spikes, applied their scaling ladders, entered the fortress with the shout of "God is victorious!" and drove the remnant of the

Greeks to their boats and the Isle of Rouda. The spot was afterwards

recommended to the conqueror by the easy communication with the gulf and the peninsula of Arabia; the remains of Memphis were deserted; the tents

of the Arabs were converted into permanent habitations; and the first

mosch was blessed by the presence of fourscore companions of Mahomet. A

new city arose in their camp, on the eastward bank of the Nile; and the contiguous quarters of Babylon and Fostat are confounded in their

present decay by the appellation of old Misrah, or Cairo, of which they form an extensive suburb. But the name of Cairo, the town of victory,

more strictly belongs to the modern capital, which was founded in the tenth century by the Fatimite caliphs. It has gradually receded from the

river; but the continuity of buildings may be traced by an attentive eye from the monuments of Sesostris to those of Saladin.

Yet the Arabs, after a glorious and profitable enterprise, must have

retreated to the desert, had they not found a powerful alliance in the

heart of the country. The rapid conquest of Alexander was assisted by the superstition and revolt of the natives: they abhorred their Persian

oppressors, the disciples of the Magi, who had burnt the temples of egypt, and feasted with sacrilegious appetite on the flesh of the god apis. After a period of ten centuries, the same revolution was renewed by a similar cause; and in the support of an incomprehensible creed, the zeal of the Coptic Christians was equally ardent. I have already explained the origin and progress of the Monophysite controversy, and the persecution of the emperors, which converted a sect into a nation, and alienated Egypt from their religion and government. The Saracens were received as the deliverers of the Jacobite church; and a secret and effectual treaty was opened during the siege of Memphis between a

victorious army and a people of slaves. A rich and noble Egyptian,

of the name of Mokawkas, had dissembled his faith to obtain the administration of his province: in the disorders of the Persian war

he aspired to independence: the embassy of Mahomet ranked him among

princes; but he declined, with rich gifts and ambiguous compliments, the

proposal of a new religion. The abuse of his trust exposed him to the

resentment of Heraclius: his submission was delayed by arrogance and fear; and his conscience was prompted by interest to throw himself on the favor of the nation and the support of the Saracens. In his first conference with Amrou, he heard without indignation the usual option of the Koran, the tribute, or the sword. "The Greeks," replied Mokawkas,

"are determined to abide the determination of the sword; but with the

Greeks I desire no communion, either in this world or in the next, and

I abjure forever the Byzantine tyrant, his synod of Chalcedon, and his

Melchite slaves. For myself and my brethren, we are resolved to live and die in the profession of the gospel and unity of Christ. It is

impossible for us to embrace the revelations of your prophet; but we are desirous of peace, and cheerfully submit to pay tribute and obedience to

his temporal successors." The tribute was ascertained at two pieces of

gold for the head of every Christian; but old men, monks, women, and children, of both sexes, under sixteen years of age, were exempted from this personal assessment: the Copts above and below Memphis swore allegiance to the caliph, and promised a hospitable entertainment of three days to every Mussulman who should travel through their country. by this charter of security, the ecclesiastical and civil tyranny of the

Melchites was destroyed: the anathemas of St. Cyril were thundered from every pulpit; and the sacred edifices, with the patrimony of the church, were restored to the national communion of the Jacobites, who enjoyed without moderation the moment of triumph and revenge. At the pressing

summons of Amrou, their patriarch Benjamin emerged from his desert; and after the first interview, the courteous Arab affected to declare that

he had never conversed with a Christian priest of more innocent manners and a more venerable aspect. In the march from Memphis to Alexandria, the lieutenant of Omar intrusted his safety to the zeal and gratitude

of the Egyptians: the roads and bridges were diligently repaired; and

in every step of his progress, he could depend on a constant supply of

provisions and intelligence. The Greeks of Egypt, whose numbers could

scarcely equal a tenth of the natives, were overwhelmed by the universal defection: they had ever been hated, they were no longer feared: the

magistrate fled from his tribunal, the bishop from his altar; and the distant garrisons were surprised or starved by the surrounding

multitudes. Had not the Nile afforded a safe and ready conveyance to the

sea, not an individual could have escaped, who by birth, or language, or

office, or religion, was connected with their odious name.

by the retreat of the Greeks from the provinces of Upper Egypt, a considerable force was collected in the Island of Delta; the natural and artificial channels of the Nile afforded a succession of strong and defensible posts; and the road to Alexandria was laboriously cleared by the victory of the Saracens in two-and-twenty days of general or partial combat. In their annals of conquest, the siege of Alexandria is perhaps the most arduous and important enterprise. The first trading city in the world was abundantly replenished with the means of subsistence and defence. Her numerous inhabitants fought for the dearest of human

rights, religion and property; and the enmity of the natives seemed to exclude them from the common benefit of peace and toleration. The sea was continually open; and if Heraclius had been awake to the public distress, fresh armies of Romans and Barbarians might have been

poured into the harbor to save the second capital of the empire. A circumference of ten miles would have scattered the forces of the

Greeks, and favored the stratagems of an active enemy; but the two sides

of an oblong square were covered by the sea and the Lake Maræotis, and each of the narrow ends exposed a front of no more than ten furlongs. the efforts of the Arabs were not inadequate to the difficulty of the attempt and the value of the prize. From the throne of Medina, the eyes

of Omar were fixed on the camp and city: his voice excited to arms the arabian tribes and the veterans of Syria; and the merit of a holy war was recommended by the peculiar fame and fertility of Egypt. Anxious for the ruin or expulsion of their tyrants, the faithful natives devoted their labors to the service of Amrou: some sparks of martial spirit were

perhaps rekindled by the example of their allies; and the sanguine

hopes of Mokawkas had fixed his sepulchre in the church of St. John of alexandria. Eutychius the patriarch observes, that the Saracens fought with the courage of lions: they repulsed the frequent and almost daily

sallies of the besieged, and soon assaulted in their turn the walls and towers of the city. In every attack, the sword, the banner of Amrou,

glittered in the van of the Moslems. On a memorable day, he was betrayed by his imprudent valor: his followers who had entered the citadel were driven back; and the general, with a friend and slave, remained a

prisoner in the hands of the Christians. When Amrou was conducted before the præfect, he remembered his dignity, and forgot his situation: a

lofty demeanor, and resolute language, revealed the lieutenant of the caliph, and the battle-axe of a soldier was already raised to strike off the head of the audacious captive. His life was saved by the readiness

of his slave, who instantly gave his master a blow on the face, and commanded him, with an angry tone, to be silent in the presence of his

superiors. The credulous Greek was deceived: he listened to the offer

of a treaty, and his prisoners were dismissed in the hope of a more

respectable embassy, till the joyful acclamations of the camp announced the return of their general, and insulted the folly of the infidels. at length, after a siege of fourteen months, and the loss of three-and-twenty thousand men, the Saracens prevailed: the Greeks embarked their dispirited and diminished numbers, and the standard

of Mahomet was planted on the walls of the capital of Egypt. "I have taken," said Amrou to the caliph, "the great city of the West. It is

impossible for me to enumerate the variety of its riches and beauty; and

I shall content myself with observing, that it contains four thousand

palaces, four thousand baths, four hundred theatres or places of amusement, twelve thousand shops for the sale of vegetable food, and forty thousand tributary Jews. The town has been subdued by force of arms, without treaty or capitulation, and the Moslems are impatient to seize the fruits of their victory." The commander of the faithful

rejected with firmness the idea of pillage, and directed his lieutenant to reserve the wealth and revenue of Alexandria for the public service and the propagation of the faith: the inhabitants were numbered; a tribute was imposed, the zeal and resentment of the Jacobites were curbed, and the Melchites who submitted to the Arabian yoke were

indulged in the obscure but tranquil exercise of their worship. The

intelligence of this disgraceful and calamitous event afflicted the declining health of the emperor; and Heraclius died of a dropsy about

seven weeks after the loss of Alexandria. Under the minority of his

grandson, the clamors of a people, deprived of their daily sustenance, compelled the Byzantine court to undertake the recovery of the capital

of Egypt. In the space of four years, the harbor and fortifications of alexandria were twice occupied by a fleet and army of Romans. They were twice expelled by the valor of Amrou, who was recalled by the domestic

peril from the distant wars of Tripoli and Nubia. But the facility of the attempt, the repetition of the insult, and the obstinacy of the

resistance, provoked him to swear, that if a third time he drove the

infidels into the sea, he would render Alexandria as accessible on all sides as the house of a prostitute. Faithful to his promise, he dismantled several parts of the walls and towers; but the people was

spared in the chastisement of the city, and the mosch of \_Mercy\_ was erected on the spot where the victorious general had stopped the fury of

his troops.

chapter LI: Conquests By The Arabs.--Part VII.

I should deceive the expectation of the reader, if I passed in silence the fate of the Alexandrian library, as it is described by the learned abulpharagius. The spirit of Amrou was more curious and liberal than that of his brethren, and in his leisure hours, the Arabian chief was

pleased with the conversation of John, the last disciple of Ammonius, and who derived the surname of \_Philoponus\_ from his laborious studies

of grammar and philosophy. Emboldened by this familiar intercourse,

Philoponus presumed to solicit a gift, inestimable in \_his\_ opinion, contemptible in that of the Barbarians--the royal library, which alone, among the spoils of Alexandria, had not been appropriated by the visit and the seal of the conqueror. Amrou was inclined to gratify the wish of the grammarian, but his rigid integrity refused to alienate the minutest

object without the consent of the caliph; and the well-known answer of

Omar was inspired by the ignorance of a fanatic. "If these writings of the Greeks agree with the book of God, they are useless, and need not be preserved: if they disagree, they are pernicious, and ought to be destroyed." The sentence was executed with blind obedience: the volumes

of paper or parchment were distributed to the four thousand baths of the city; and such was their incredible multitude, that six months were barely sufficient for the consumption of this precious fuel. Since the Dynasties of Abulpharagius have been given to the world in a Latin

version, the tale has been repeatedly transcribed; and every scholar, with pious indignation, has deplored the irreparable shipwreck of the

learning, the arts, and the genius, of antiquity. For my own part, I am

strongly tempted to deny both the fact and the consequences. The fact

is indeed marvellous. "Read and wonder!" says the historian himself: and the solitary report of a stranger who wrote at the end of six hundred

years on the confines of Media, is overbalanced by the silence of two annalist of a more early date, both Christians, both natives of Egypt, and the most ancient of whom, the patriarch Eutychius, has amply described the conquest of Alexandria. The rigid sentence of Omar is

repugnant to the sound and orthodox precept of the Mahometan casuists they expressly declare, that the religious books of the Jews and christians, which are acquired by the right of war, should never be committed to the flames; and that the works of profane science,

historians or poets, physicians or philosophers, may be lawfully applied to the use of the faithful. A more destructive zeal may perhaps be attributed to the first successors of Mahomet; yet in this instance, the conflagration would have speedily expired in the deficiency of

materials. I should not recapitulate the disasters of the Alexandrian

library, the involuntary flame that was kindled by Cæsar in his own defence, or the mischievous bigotry of the Christians, who studied to destroy the monuments of idolatry. But if we gradually descend from the age of the Antonines to that of Theodosius, we shall learn from a chain

of contemporary witnesses, that the royal palace and the temple of

Serapis no longer contained the four, or the seven, hundred thousand

volumes, which had been assembled by the curiosity and magnificence of the Ptolemies. Perhaps the church and seat of the patriarchs might be enriched with a repository of books; but if the ponderous mass of Arian and Monophysite controversy were indeed consumed in the public baths, a

philosopher may allow, with a smile, that it was ultimately devoted to the benefit of mankind. I sincerely regret the more valuable libraries which have been involved in the ruin of the Roman empire; but when I

seriously compute the lapse of ages, the waste of ignorance, and the calamities of war, our treasures, rather than our losses, are the

objects of my surprise. Many curious and interesting facts are buried

in oblivion: the three great historians of Rome have been transmitted to our hands in a mutilated state, and we are deprived of many pleasing compositions of the lyric, iambic, and dramatic poetry of the Greeks.

Yet we should gratefully remember, that the mischances of time and accident have spared the classic works to which the suffrage of antiquity had adjudged the first place of genius and glory: the teachers

of ancient knowledge, who are still extant, had perused and compared the writings of their predecessors; nor can it fairly be presumed that any important truth, any useful discovery in art or nature, has been

snatched away from the curiosity of modern ages.

In the administration of Egypt, Amrou balanced the demands of justice and policy; the interest of the people of the law, who were defended by

God; and of the people of the alliance, who were protected by man. In the recent tumult of conquest and deliverance, the tongue of the Copts and the sword of the Arabs were most adverse to the tranquillity of the province. To the former, Amrou declared, that faction and falsehood would be doubly chastised; by the punishment of the accusers, whom he

should detest as his personal enemies, and by the promotion of their

innocent brethren, whom their envy had labored to injure and supplant.

He excited the latter by the motives of religion and honor to sustain the dignity of their character, to endear themselves by a modest and temperate conduct to God and the caliph, to spare and protect a people who had trusted to their faith, and to content themselves with the

legitimate and splendid rewards of their victory. In the management

of the revenue, he disapproved the simple but oppressive mode of a capitation, and preferred with reason a proportion of taxes deducted on every branch from the clear profits of agriculture and commerce. A third

part of the tribute was appropriated to the annual repairs of the dikes and canals, so essential to the public welfare. Under his administration, the fertility of Egypt supplied the dearth of Arabia; and a string of camels, laden with corn and provisions, covered almost without an interval the long road from Memphis to Medina. But the

genius of Amrou soon renewed the maritime communication which had been attempted or achieved by the Pharaohs the Ptolemies, or the Cæsars; and a canal, at least eighty miles in length, was opened from the Nile to the Red Sea. This inland navigation, which would have joined the

Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean, was soon discontinued as useless and dangerous: the throne was removed from Medina to Damascus, and the Grecian fleets might have explored a passage to the holy cities of arabia.

Of his new conquest, the caliph Omar had an imperfect knowledge from the voice of fame and the legends of the Koran. He requested that his

lieutenant would place before his eyes the realm of Pharaoh and the amalekites; and the answer of Amrou exhibits a lively and not unfaithful

picture of that singular country. "O commander of the faithful, Egypt

is a compound of black earth and green plants, between a pulverized

mountain and a red sand. The distance from Syene to the sea is a month's

journey for a horseman. Along the valley descends a river, on which the blessing of the Most High reposes both in the evening and morning, and which rises and falls with the revolutions of the sun and moon. When the annual dispensation of Providence unlocks the springs and fountains that nourish the earth, the Nile rolls his swelling and sounding waters through the realm of Egypt: the fields are overspread by the salutary flood; and the villages communicate with each other in their painted barks. The retreat of the inundation deposits a fertilizing mud for the

reception of the various seeds: the crowds of husbandmen who blacken the

land may be compared to a swarm of industrious ants; and their native

indolence is quickened by the lash of the task-master, and the promise

of the flowers and fruits of a plentiful increase. Their hope is seldom deceived; but the riches which they extract from the wheat, the barley, and the rice, the legumes, the fruit-trees, and the cattle, are unequally shared between those who labor and those who possess. according to the vicissitudes of the seasons, the face of the country is adorned with a \_silver\_ wave, a verdant \_emerald\_, and the deep

yellow of a \_golden\_ harvest." Yet this beneficial order is sometimes

interrupted; and the long delay and sudden swell of the river in the first year of the conquest might afford some color to an edifying fable.

It is said, that the annual sacrifice of a virgin had been interdicted by the piety of Omar; and that the Nile lay sullen and inactive in his

shallow bed, till the mandate of the caliph was cast into the obedient

stream, which rose in a single night to the height of sixteen cubits. the admiration of the Arabs for their new conquest encouraged the

license of their romantic spirit. We may read, in the gravest authors, that Egypt was crowded with twenty thousand cities or villages: \_that\_, exclusive of the Greeks and Arabs, the Copts alone were found, on the assessment, six millions of tributary subjects, or twenty millions of either sex, and of every age: \_that\_ three hundred millions of gold or

silver were annually paid to the treasury of the caliphs. Our reason

must be startled by these extravagant assertions; and they will become

more palpable, if we assume the compass and measure the extent of

habitable ground: a valley from the tropic to Memphis seldom broader than twelve miles, and the triangle of the Delta, a flat surface of two thousand one hundred square leagues, compose a twelfth part of the magnitude of France. A more accurate research will justify a more

reasonable estimate. The three hundred millions, created by the error

of a scribe, are reduced to the decent revenue of four millions three

hundred thousand pieces of gold, of which nine hundred thousand were consumed by the pay of the soldiers. Two authentic lists, of the present and of the twelfth century, are circumscribed within the respectable

number of two thousand seven hundred villages and towns. After a long

residence at Cairo, a French consul has ventured to assign about four

millions of Mahometans, Christians, and Jews, for the ample, though not

incredible, scope of the population of Egypt.

IV. The conquest of Africa, from the Nile to the Atlantic Ocean, was first attempted by the arms of the caliph Othman. The pious design was approved by the companions of Mahomet and the chiefs of the tribes; and twenty thousand Arabs marched from Medina, with the gifts and the blessing of the commander of the faithful. They were joined in the camp

of Memphis by twenty thousand of their countrymen; and the conduct

of the war was intrusted to Abdallah, the son of Said and the foster-brother of the caliph, who had lately supplanted the conqueror and lieutenant of Egypt. Yet the favor of the prince, and the merit of

his favorite, could not obliterate the guilt of his apostasy. The early conversion of Abdallah, and his skilful pen, had recommended him to the

important office of transcribing the sheets of the Koran: he betrayed

his trust, corrupted the text, derided the errors which he had made, and fled to Mecca to escape the justice, and expose the ignorance, of the apostle. After the conquest of Mecca, he fell prostrate at the feet of

Mahomet; his tears, and the entreaties of Othman, extorted a reluctant

pardon; out the prophet declared that he had so long hesitated, to allow time for some zealous disciple to avenge his injury in the blood of the apostate. With apparent fidelity and effective merit, he served the

religion which it was no longer his interest to desert: his birth and talents gave him an honorable rank among the Koreish; and, in a nation

of cavalry, Abdallah was renowned as the boldest and most dexterous

horseman of Arabia. At the head of forty thousand Moslems, he advanced from Egypt into the unknown countries of the West. The sands of Barca

might be impervious to a Roman legion but the Arabs were attended by their faithful camels; and the natives of the desert beheld without terror the familiar aspect of the soil and climate. After a painful

march, they pitched their tents before the walls of Tripoli, a maritime city in which the name, the wealth, and the inhabitants of the province

had gradually centred, and which now maintains the third rank among the

states of Barbary. A reënforcement of Greeks was surprised and cut in

pieces on the sea-shore; but the fortifications of Tripoli resisted the first assaults; and the Saracens were tempted by the approach of the

præfect Gregory to relinquish the labors of the siege for the perils and the hopes of a decisive action. If his standard was followed by one

hundred and twenty thousand men, the regular bands of the empire must

have been lost in the naked and disorderly crowd of Africans and Moors, who formed the strength, or rather the numbers, of his host. He rejected with indignation the option of the Koran or the tribute; and during

several days the two armies were fiercely engaged from the dawn of light to the hour of noon, when their fatigue and the excessive heat compelled them to seek shelter and refreshment in their respective camps. The daughter of Gregory, a maid of incomparable beauty and spirit, is said to have fought by his side: from her earliest youth she was trained to

mount on horseback, to draw the bow, and to wield the cimeter; and the

richness of her arms and apparel were conspicuous in the foremost ranks

of the battle. Her hand, with a hundred thousand pieces of gold, was

offered for the head of the Arabian general, and the youths of Africa were excited by the prospect of the glorious prize. At the pressing

solicitation of his brethren, Abdallah withdrew his person from the field; but the Saracens were discouraged by the retreat of their leader, and the repetition of these equal or unsuccessful conflicts.

a noble Arabian, who afterwards became the adversary of Ali, and the father of a caliph, had signalized his valor in Egypt, and Zobeir was the first who planted the scaling-ladder against the walls of Babylon.

In the African war he was detached from the standard of Abdallah. On the

news of the battle, Zobeir, with twelve companions, cut his way through the camp of the Greeks, and pressed forwards, without tasting either food or repose, to partake of the dangers of his brethren. He cast his eyes round the field: "Where," said he, "is our general?" "In his tent." "Is the tent a station for the general of the Moslems?" Abdallah

represented with a blush the importance of his own life, and the temptation that was held forth by the Roman præfect. "Retort," said

Zobeir, "on the infidels their ungenerous attempt. Proclaim through the ranks that the head of Gregory shall be repaid with his captive daughter, and the equal sum of one hundred thousand pieces of gold." to the courage and discretion of Zobeir the lieutenant of the caliph

intrusted the execution of his own stratagem, which inclined the

long-disputed balance in favor of the Saracens. Supplying by activity and artifice the deficiency of numbers, a part of their forces lay concealed in their tents, while the remainder prolonged an irregular

skirmish with the enemy till the sun was high in the heavens. On both

sides they retired with fainting steps: their horses were unbridled, their armor was laid aside, and the hostile nations prepared, or seemed to prepare, for the refreshment of the evening, and the encounter of the ensuing day. On a sudden the charge was sounded; the Arabian camp poured forth a swarm of fresh and intrepid warriors; and the long line of the Greeks and Africans was surprised, assaulted, overturned, by new

squadrons of the faithful, who, to the eye of fanaticism, might appear as a band of angels descending from the sky. The præfect himself was

slain by the hand of Zobeir: his daughter, who sought revenge and death, was surrounded and made prisoner; and the fugitives involved in their disaster the town of Sufetula, to which they escaped from the sabres and

lances of the Arabs. Sufetula was built one hundred and fifty miles to the south of Carthage: a gentle declivity is watered by a running

stream, and shaded by a grove of juniper-trees; and, in the ruins of a triumphal arch, a portico, and three temples of the Corinthian order, curiosity may yet admire the magnificence of the Romans. After the fall

of this opulent city, the provincials and Barbarians implored on all

sides the mercy of the conqueror. His vanity or his zeal might be flattered by offers of tribute or professions of faith: but his losses,

his fatigues, and the progress of an epidemical disease, prevented a solid establishment; and the Saracens, after a campaign of fifteen

months, retreated to the confines of Egypt, with the captives and the wealth of their African expedition. The caliph's fifth was granted to a favorite, on the nominal payment of five hundred thousand pieces of

gold; but the state was doubly injured by this fallacious transaction,

if each foot-soldier had shared one thousand, and each horseman three thousand, pieces, in the real division of the plunder. The author of the death of Gregory was expected to have claimed the most precious reward

of the victory: from his silence it might be presumed that he had fallen

in the battle, till the tears and exclamations of the præfect's daughter at the sight of Zobeir revealed the valor and modesty of that gallant

soldier. The unfortunate virgin was offered, and almost rejected as a

slave, by her father's murderer, who coolly declared that his sword was consecrated to the service of religion; and that he labored for a

recompense far above the charms of mortal beauty, or the riches of this transitory life. A reward congenial to his temper was the honorable commission of announcing to the caliph Othman the success of his arms. the companions the chiefs, and the people, were assembled in the mosch

of Medina, to hear the interesting narrative of Zobeir; and as the

orator forgot nothing except the merit of his own counsels and actions, the name of Abdallah was joined by the Arabians with the heroic names of caled and Amrou.

chapter LI: Conquests By The Arabs.--Part VIII.

the Western conquests of the Saracens were suspended near twenty years, till their dissensions were composed by the establishment of the house

of Ommiyah; and the caliph Moawiyah was invited by the cries of the africans themselves. The successors of Heraclius had been informed of the tribute which they had been compelled to stipulate with the Arabs, but instead of being moved to pity and relieve their distress, they

imposed, as an equivalent or a fine, a second tribute of a similar amount. The ears of the Byzantine ministers were shut against the complaints of their poverty and ruin: their despair was reduced to

prefer the dominion of a single master; and the extortions of the

patriarch of Carthage, who was invested with civil and military power,

provoked the sectaries, and even the Catholics of the Roman province, to abjure the religion as well as the authority of their tyrants. The first

lieutenant of Moawiyah acquired a just renown, subdued an important city, defeated an army of thirty thousand Greeks, swept away fourscore thousand captives, and enriched with their spoils the bold adventures of

Syria and Egypt. But the title of conqueror of Africa is more justly due to his successor Akbah. He marched from Damascus at the head of ten thousand of the bravest Arabs; and the genuine force of the Moslems was enlarged by the doubtful aid and conversion of many thousand Barbarians.

It would be difficult, nor is it necessary, to trace the accurate line

of the progress of Akbah. The interior regions have been peopled by the

Orientals with fictitious armies and imaginary citadels. In the warlike

province of Zab, or Numidia, fourscore thousand of the natives might assemble in arms; but the number of three hundred and sixty towns

is incompatible with the ignorance or decay of husbandry; and a circumference of three leagues will not be justified by the ruins of erbe or Lambesa, the ancient metropolis of that inland country. As we approach the seacoast, the well-known cities of Bugia and Tangier define the more certain limits of the Saracen victories. A remnant of trade

still adheres to the commodious harbor of Bugia which, in a more

prosperous age, is said to have contained about twenty thousand houses; and the plenty of iron which is dug from the adjacent mountains might

have supplied a braver people with the instruments of defence. The

remote position and venerable antiquity of Tingi, or Tangier, have been decorated by the Greek and Arabian fables; but the figurative expressions of the latter, that the walls were constructed of brass, and that the roofs were covered with gold and silver, may be interpreted as the emblems of strength and opulence. The provinces of Mauritania tingitana, which assumed the name of the capital, had been imperfectly discovered and settled by the Romans; the five colonies were confined to a narrow pale, and the more southern parts were seldom explored except by the agents of luxury, who searched the forests for ivory and the citron-wood, and the shores of the ocean for the purple shell-fish. the fearless Akbah plunged into the heart of the country, traversed the wilderness in which his successors erected the splendid capitals of Fez and Morocco, and at length penetrated to the verge of the Atlantic and the great desert. The river Sus descends from the western sides of Mount atlas, fertilizes, like the Nile, the adjacent soil, and falls into the

sea at a moderate distance from the Canary, or Fortunate Islands.

Its banks were inhabited by the last of the Moors, a race of savages, without laws, or discipline, or religion; they were astonished by the

strange and irresistible terrors of the Oriental arms; and as they

possessed neither gold nor silver, the riches spoil was the beauty of the female captives, some of whom were afterwards sold for a thousand

pieces of gold. The career, though not the zeal, of Akbah was checked by the prospect of a boundless ocean. He spurred his horse into the waves, and raising his eyes to heaven, exclaimed with a tone of a fanatic,

"Great God! if my course were not stopped by this sea, I would still go

on, to the unknown kingdoms of the West, preaching the unity of thy holy

name, and putting to the sword the rebellious nations who worship any

other Gods than thee." Yet this Mahometan Alexander, who sighed for new worlds, was unable to preserve his recent conquests. By the universal defection of the Greeks and Africans, he was recalled from the shores of the Atlantic, and the surrounding multitudes left him only the resource

of an honorable death. The last scene was dignified by an example of

national virtue. An ambitious chief, who had disputed the command and failed in the attempt, was led about as a prisoner in the camp of the Arabian general. The insurgents had trusted to his discontent and

revenge; he disdained their offers, and revealed their designs. In the

hour of danger, the grateful Akbah unlocked his fetters, and advised him to retire; he chose to die under the banner of his rival. Embracing as friends and martyrs, they unsheathed their cimeters, broke their

scabbards, and maintained an obstinate combat, till they fell by each

other's side on the last of their slaughtered countrymen. The third

general or governor of Africa, Zuheir, avenged and encountered the fate

of his predecessor. He vanquished the natives in many battles; he was

overthrown by a powerful army, which Constantinople had sent to the

relief of Carthage.

It had been the frequent practice of the Moorish tribes to join the

invaders, to share the plunder, to profess the faith, and to revolt to their savage state of independence and idolatry, on the first retreat or

misfortune of the Moslems. The prudence of Akbah had proposed to found an Arabian colony in the heart of Africa; a citadel that might curb the levity of the Barbarians, a place of refuge to secure, against the accidents of war, the wealth and the families of the Saracens. With this

view, and under the modest title of the station of a caravan, he planted this colony in the fiftieth year of the Hegira. In the present decay, cairoan still holds the second rank in the kingdom of Tunis, from which

it is distant about fifty miles to the south: its inland situation, twelve miles westward of the sea, has protected the city from the Greek and Sicilian fleets. When the wild beasts and serpents were extirpated, when the forest, or rather wilderness, was cleared, the vestiges of a Roman town were discovered in a sandy plain: the vegetable food of cairoan is brought from afar; and the scarcity of springs constrains the

inhabitants to collect in cisterns and reservoirs a precarious supply

of rain-water. These obstacles were subdued by the industry of Akbah; he traced a circumference of three thousand and six hundred paces, which

he encompassed with a brick wall; in the space of five years, the

governor's palace was surrounded with a sufficient number of private

habitations; a spacious mosch was supported by five hundred columns of

granite, porphyry, and Numidian marble; and Cairoan became the seat of

learning as well as of empire. But these were the glories of a later age; the new colony was shaken by the successive defeats of Akbah and

Zuheir, and the western expeditions were again interrupted by the civil discord of the Arabian monarchy. The son of the valiant Zobeir

maintained a war of twelve years, a siege of seven months against the

house of Ommiyah. Abdallah was said to unite the fierceness of the lion with the subtlety of the fox; but if he inherited the courage, he was devoid of the generosity, of his father.

the return of domestic peace allowed the caliph Abdalmalek to resume the conquest of Africa; the standard was delivered to Hassan, governor of egypt, and the revenue of that kingdom, with an army of forty thousand

men, was consecrated to the important service. In the vicissitudes of war, the interior provinces had been alternately won and lost by the

Saracens. But the sea-coast still remained in the hands of the Greeks; the predecessors of Hassan had respected the name and fortifications of carthage; and the number of its defenders was recruited by the fugitives of Cabes and Tripoli. The arms of Hassan, were bolder and more fortunate: he reduced and pillaged the metropolis of Africa; and the mention of scaling-ladders may justify the suspicion that he anticipated, by a sudden assault, the more tedious operations of a

regular siege. But the joy of the conquerors was soon disturbed by the appearance of the Christian succors. The præfect and patrician John, a

general of experience and renown, embarked at Constantinople the forces

of the Eastern empire; they were joined by the ships and soldiers of

Sicily, and a powerful reenforcement of Goths was obtained from the fears and religion of the Spanish monarch. The weight of the confederate

navy broke the chain that guarded the entrance of the harbor; the Arabs

retired to Cairoan, or Tripoli; the Christians landed; the citizens

hailed the ensign of the cross, and the winter was idly wasted in the dream of victory or deliverance. But Africa was irrecoverably lost; the

zeal and resentment of the commander of the faithful prepared in the ensuing spring a more numerous armament by sea and land; and the patrician in his turn was compelled to evacuate the post and fortifications of Carthage. A second battle was fought in the

neighborhood of Utica: the Greeks and Goths were again defeated; and their timely embarkation saved them from the sword of Hassan, who had

invested the slight and insufficient rampart of their camp. Whatever yet

remained of Carthage was delivered to the flames, and the colony of Dido and Cæsar lay desolate above two hundred years, till a part, perhaps a twentieth, of the old circumference was repeopled by the first of the fatimite caliphs. In the beginning of the sixteenth century, the second capital of the West was represented by a mosch, a college without

students, twenty-five or thirty shops, and the huts of five hundred

peasants, who, in their abject poverty, displayed the arrogance of the

Punic senators. Even that paltry village was swept away by the Spaniards whom Charles the Fifth had stationed in the fortress of the Goletta. The

ruins of Carthage have perished; and the place might be unknown if

some broken arches of an aqueduct did not guide the footsteps of the

inquisitive traveller.

the Greeks were expelled, but the Arabians were not yet masters of the country. In the interior provinces the Moors or \_Berbers\_, so feeble

under the first Cæsars, so formidable to the Byzantine princes,

maintained a disorderly resistance to the religion and power of the

successors of Mahomet. Under the standard of their queen Cahina, the

independent tribes acquired some degree of union and discipline; and as the Moors respected in their females the character of a prophetess, they attacked the invaders with an enthusiasm similar to their own. The

veteran bands of Hassan were inadequate to the defence of Africa: the conquests of an age were lost in a single day; and the Arabian chief,

overwhelmed by the torrent, retired to the confines of Egypt, and expected, five years, the promised succors of the caliph. After the

retreat of the Saracens, the victorious prophetess assembled the Moorish chiefs, and recommended a measure of strange and savage policy.

"Our cities," said she, "and the gold and silver which they contain,

perpetually attract the arms of the Arabs. These vile metals are not the objects of our ambition; we content ourselves with the simple

productions of the earth. Let us destroy these cities; let us bury in their ruins those pernicious treasures; and when the avarice of our foes

shall be destitute of temptation, perhaps they will cease to disturb the tranquillity of a warlike people." The proposal was accepted with

unanimous applause. From Tangier to Tripoli, the buildings, or at least the fortifications, were demolished, the fruit-trees were cut down, the

means of subsistence were extirpated, a fertile and populous garden was changed into a desert, and the historians of a more recent period could discern the frequent traces of the prosperity and devastation of their ancestors. Such is the tale of the modern Arabians. Yet I strongly

suspect that their ignorance of antiquity, the love of the marvellous, and the fashion of extolling the philosophy of Barbarians, has induced them to describe, as one voluntary act, the calamities of three hundred

years since the first fury of the Donatists and Vandals. In the progress

of the revolt, Cahina had most probably contributed her share of destruction; and the alarm of universal ruin might terrify and alienate the cities that had reluctantly yielded to her unworthy yoke. They

no longer hoped, perhaps they no longer wished, the return of their byzantine sovereigns: their present servitude was not alleviated by the benefits of order and justice; and the most zealous Catholic must prefer the imperfect truths of the Koran to the blind and rude idolatry of the

Moors. The general of the Saracens was again received as the savior of the province: the friends of civil society conspired against the savages

of the land; and the royal prophetess was slain, in the first battle, which overturned the baseless fabric of her superstition and empire. the same spirit revived under the successor of Hassan: it was finally

quelled by the activity of Musa and his two sons; but the number of the

rebels may be presumed from that of three hundred thousand captives;

sixty thousand of whom, the caliph's fifth, were sold for the profit

of the public treasury. Thirty thousand of the Barbarian youth were enlisted in the troops; and the pious labors of Musa, to inculcate the

knowledge and practice of the Koran, accustomed the Africans to obey the apostle of God and the commander of the faithful. In their climate and

government, their diet and habitation, the wandering Moors resembled the bedoweens of the desert. With the religion they were proud to adopt the

language, name, and origin, of Arabs: the blood of the strangers and

natives was insensibly mingled; and from the Euphrates to the Atlantic, the same nation might seem to be diffused over the sandy plains of asia and Africa. Yet I will not deny that fifty thousand tents of pure arabians might be transported over the Nile, and scattered through the

Libyan desert: and I am not ignorant that five of the Moorish tribes

still retain their \_barbarous\_ idiom, with the appellation and character

of \_white\_ Africans.

V. In the progress of conquest from the north and south, the Goths and the Saracens encountered each other on the confines of Europe and africa. In the opinion of the latter, the difference of religion is a

reasonable ground of enmity and warfare.

as early as the time of Othman, their piratical squadrons had ravaged the coast of Andalusia; nor had they forgotten the relief of Carthage by the Gothic succors. In that age, as well as in the present, the kings

of Spain were possessed of the fortress of Ceuta; one of the columns of

Hercules, which is divided by a narrow strait from the opposite pillar

or point of Europe. A small portion of Mauritania was still wanting to the African conquest; but Musa, in the pride of victory, was repulsed from the walls of Ceuta, by the vigilance and courage of Count Julian, the general of the Goths. From his disappointment and perplexity,

Musa was relieved by an unexpected message of the Christian chief, who offered his place, his person, and his sword, to the successors of

Mahomet, and solicited the disgraceful honor of introducing their arms

into the heart of Spain. If we inquire into the cause of his treachery, the Spaniards will repeat the popular story of his daughter Cava; of a virgin who was seduced, or ravished, by her sovereign; of a father who sacrificed his religion and country to the thirst of revenge. The

passions of princes have often been licentious and destructive; but this well-known tale, romantic in itself, is indifferently supported by external evidence; and the history of Spain will suggest some motive of

interest and policy more congenial to the breast of a veteran statesman. after the decease or deposition of Witiza, his two sons were supplanted by the ambition of Roderic, a noble Goth, whose father, the duke or

governor of a province, had fallen a victim to the preceding tyranny. the monarchy was still elective; but the sons of Witiza, educated on the steps of the throne, were impatient of a private station. Their

resentment was the more dangerous, as it was varnished with the dissimulation of courts: their followers were excited by the remembrance

of favors and the promise of a revolution; and their uncle Oppas, archbishop of Toledo and Seville, was the first person in the church, and the second in the state. It is probable that Julian was involved in the disgrace of the unsuccessful faction; that he had little to hope and

much to fear from the new reign; and that the imprudent king could

not forget or forgive the injuries which Roderic and his family had

sustained. The merit and influence of the count rendered him a useful

or formidable subject: his estates were ample, his followers bold and

numerous; and it was too fatally shown, that, by his Andalusian and

Mauritanian commands, he held in his hand the keys of the Spanish

monarchy. Too feeble, however, to meet his sovereign in arms, he sought the aid of a foreign power; and his rash invitation of the Moors and arabs produced the calamities of eight hundred years. In his epistles,

or in a personal interview, he revealed the wealth and nakedness of

his country; the weakness of an unpopular prince; the degeneracy of an effeminate people. The Goths were no longer the victorious Barbarians, who had humbled the pride of Rome, despoiled the queen of nations, and

penetrated from the Danube to the Atlantic Ocean. Secluded from the world by the Pyrenæan mountains, the successors of Alaric had slumbered

in a long peace: the walls of the cities were mouldered into dust: the

youth had abandoned the exercise of arms; and the presumption of their ancient renown would expose them in a field of battle to the first assault of the invaders. The ambitious Saracen was fired by the ease and importance of the attempt; but the execution was delayed till he had consulted the commander of the faithful; and his messenger returned with the permission of Walid to annex the unknown kingdoms of the West to the

religion and throne of the caliphs. In his residence of Tangier, Musa, with secrecy and caution, continued his correspondence and hastened his

preparations. But the remorse of the conspirators was soothed by the fallacious assurance that he should content himself with the glory and

spoil, without aspiring to establish the Moslems beyond the sea that

separates Africa from Europe.

before Musa would trust an army of the faithful to the traitors and

infidels of a foreign land, he made a less dangerous trial of their

strength and veracity. One hundred Arabs, and four hundred Africans,

passed over, in four vessels, from Tangier or Ceuta: the place of their descent on the opposite shore of the strait is marked by the name of tarif their chief; and the date of this memorable event is fixed to the

month of Ramadan, of the ninety-first year of the Hegira, to the month

of July, seven hundred and forty-eight years from the Spanish æra of cæsar, seven hundred and ten after the birth of Christ. From their first

station, they marched eighteen miles through a hilly country to the castle and town of Julian: on which (it is still called Algezire) they bestowed the name of the Green Island, from a verdant cape that advances

into the sea. Their hospitable entertainment, the Christians who joined their standard, their inroad into a fertile and unguarded province, the

richness of their spoil, and the safety of their return, announced to their brethren and the most favorable omens of victory. In the ensuing

spring, five thousand veterans and volunteers were embarked under the command of Tarik, a dauntless and skilful soldier, who surpassed the expectation of his chief; and the necessary transports were provided by the industry of their too faithful ally. The Saracens landed at the pillar or point of Europe; the corrupt and familiar appellation of

Gibraltar (\_Gebel al Tarik\_) describes the mountain of Tarik; and the intrenchments of his camp were the first outline of those fortifications, which, in the hands of our countrymen, have resisted the art and power of the house of Bourbon. The adjacent governors informed the court of Toledo of the descent and progress of the Arabs; and the defeat of his lieutenant Edeco, who had been commanded to seize and bind the presumptuous strangers, admonished Roderic of the magnitude of the danger. At the royal summons, the dukes and counts, the bishops and

nobles of the Gothic monarchy, assembled at the head of their followers; and the title of King of the Romans, which is employed by an Arabic

historian, may be excused by the close affinity of language, religion, and manners, between the nations of Spain. His army consisted of ninety

or a hundred thousand men; a formidable power, if their fidelity and discipline had been adequate to their numbers. The troops of Tarik

had been augmented to twelve thousand Saracens; but the Christian

malecontents were attracted by the influence of Julian, and a crowd of africans most greedily tasted the temporal blessings of the Koran. In the neighborhood of Cadiz, the town of Xeres has been illustrated by the encounter which determined the fate of the kingdom; the stream of the

Guadalete, which falls into the bay, divided the two camps, and marked the advancing and retreating skirmishes of three successive and bloody days. On the fourth day, the two armies joined a more serious and decisive issue; but Alaric would have blushed at the sight of his

unworthy successor, sustaining on his head a diadem of pearls, encumbered with a flowing robe of gold and silken embroidery, and

reclining on a litter or car of ivory drawn by two white mules.

Notwithstanding the valor of the Saracens, they fainted under the weight of multitudes, and the plain of Xeres was overspread with

sixteen thousand of their dead bodies. "My brethren," said Tarik to

his surviving companions, "the enemy is before you, the sea is behind; whither would ye fly? Follow your genera: I am resolved either to lose

my life, or to trample on the prostrate king of the Romans." Besides the resource of despair, he confided in the secret correspondence and

nocturnal interviews of Count Julian with the sons and the brother of witiza. The two princes and the archbishop of Toledo occupied the

most important post: their well-timed defection broke the ranks of the christians; each warrior was prompted by fear or suspicion to consult

his personal safety; and the remains of the Gothic army were scattered

or destroyed in the flight and pursuit of the three following days. amidst the general disorder, Roderic started from his car, and mounted

Orelia, the fleetest of his horses; but he escaped from a soldier's death to perish more ignobly in the waters of the Btis or Guadalquivir.

His diadem, his robes, and his courser, were found on the bank; but as the body of the Gothic prince was lost in the waves, the pride and

ignorance of the caliph must have been gratified with some meaner head, which was exposed in triumph before the palace of Damascus. "And such," continues a valiant historian of the Arabs, "is the fate of those kings who withdraw themselves from a field of battle."

count Julian had plunged so deep into guilt and infamy, that his only

hope was in the ruin of his country. After the battle of Xeres, he

recommended the most effectual measures to the victorious Saracen. "The

king of the Goths is slain; their princes have fled before you, the army

is routed, the nation is astonished. Secure with sufficient detachments the cities of Btica; but in person, and without delay, march to the

royal city of Toledo, and allow not the distracted Christians either time or tranquillity for the election of a new monarch." Tarik listened to his advice. A Roman captive and proselyte, who had been enfranchised by the caliph himself, assaulted Cordova with seven hundred horse: he

swam the river, surprised the town, and drove the Christians into the

great church, where they defended themselves above three months. Another detachment reduced the sea-coast of Btica, which in the last period of the Moorish power has comprised in a narrow space the populous kingdom

of Grenada. The march of Tarik from the Btis to the Tagus was directed through the Sierra Morena, that separates Andalusia and Castille, till

he appeared in arms under the walls of Toledo. The most zealous of the catholics had escaped with the relics of their saints; and if the

gates were shut, it was only till the victor had subscribed a fair and

reasonable capitulation. The voluntary exiles were allowed to depart with their effects; seven churches were appropriated to the Christian worship; the archbishop and his clergy were at liberty to exercise their functions, the monks to practise or neglect their penance; and the Goths and Romans were left in all civil and criminal cases to the subordinate

jurisdiction of their own laws and magistrates. But if the justice of tarik protected the Christians, his gratitude and policy rewarded the

Jews, to whose secret or open aid he was indebted for his most important acquisitions. Persecuted by the kings and synods of Spain, who had often

pressed the alternative of banishment or baptism, that outcast nation embraced the moment of revenge: the comparison of their past and present

state was the pledge of their fidelity; and the alliance between the disciples of Moses and of Mahomet was maintained till the final æra

of their common expulsion. From the royal seat of Toledo, the Arabian

leader spread his conquests to the north, over the modern realms of castille and Leon; but it is needless to enumerate the cities that

yielded on his approach, or again to describe the table of emerald, transported from the East by the Romans, acquired by the Goths among the

spoils of Rome, and presented by the Arabs to the throne of Damascus. beyond the Asturian mountains, the maritime town of Gijon was the term of the lieutenant of Musa, who had performed, with the speed of a traveller, his victorious march, of seven hundred miles, from the rock

of Gibraltar to the Bay of Biscay. The failure of land compelled him to retreat; and he was recalled to Toledo, to excuse his presumption

of subduing a kingdom in the absence of his general. Spain, which, in a

more savage and disorderly state, had resisted, two hundred years, the arms of the Romans, was overrun in a few months by those of the

Saracens; and such was the eagerness of submission and treaty, that the governor of Cordova is recorded as the only chief who fell, without conditions, a prisoner into their hands. The cause of the Goths had been

irrevocably judged in the field of Xeres; and, in the national dismay, each part of the monarchy declined a contest with the antagonist who

had vanquished the united strength of the whole. That strength had been wasted by two successive seasons of famine and pestilence; and the governors, who were impatient to surrender, might exaggerate the difficulty of collecting the provisions of a siege. To disarm the christians, superstition likewise contributed her terrors: and the

subtle Arab encouraged the report of dreams, omens, and prophecies, and of the portraits of the destined conquerors of Spain, that were discovered on breaking open an apartment of the royal palace. Yet a

spark of the vital flame was still alive: some invincible fugitives

preferred a life of poverty and freedom in the Asturian valleys; the

hardy mountaineers repulsed the slaves of the caliph; and the sword of

Pelagius has been transformed into the sceptre of the Catholic kings.

chapter LI: Conquests By The Arabs.--Part IX.

On the intelligence of this rapid success, the applause of Musa degenerated into envy; and he began, not to complain, but to fear, that tarik would leave him nothing to subdue. At the head of ten thousand arabs and eight thousand Africans, he passed over in person from

Mauritania to Spain: the first of his companions were the noblest of the Koreish; his eldest son was left in the command of Africa; the three younger brethren were of an age and spirit to second the boldest enterprises of their father. At his landing in Algezire, he was

respectfully entertained by Count Julian, who stifled his inward

remorse, and testified, both in words and actions, that the victory of the Arabs had not impaired his attachment to their cause. Some enemies

yet remained for the sword of Musa. The tardy repentance of the Goths

had compared their own numbers and those of the invaders; the cities from which the march of Tarik had declined considered themselves as

impregnable; and the bravest patriots defended the fortifications of

Seville and Merida. They were successively besieged and reduced by the

labor of Musa, who transported his camp from the Btis to the Anas, from the Guadalquivir to the Guadiana. When he beheld the works of Roman

magnificence, the bridge, the aqueducts, the triumphal arches, and the theatre, of the ancient metropolis of Lusitania, "I should imagine,"

said he to his four companions, "that the human race must have united their art and power in the foundation of this city: happy is the man who shall become its master!" He aspired to that happiness, but the

\_Emeritans\_ sustained on this occasion the honor of their descent from the veteran legionaries of Augustus Disdaining the confinement of their walls, they gave battle to the Arabs on the plain; but an ambuscade

rising from the shelter of a quarry, or a ruin, chastised their

indiscretion, and intercepted their return. The wooden turrets of assault were rolled forwards to the foot of the rampart; but the defence

of Merida was obstinate and long; and the \_castle of the martyrs\_ was a

perpetual testimony of the losses of the Moslems. The constancy of the besieged was at length subdued by famine and despair; and the prudent

victor disguised his impatience under the names of clemency and esteem. the alternative of exile or tribute was allowed; the churches were divided between the two religions; and the wealth of those who had fallen in the siege, or retired to Gallicia, was confiscated as the

reward of the faithful. In the midway between Merida and Toledo, the

lieutenant of Musa saluted the vicegerent of the caliph, and conducted

him to the palace of the Gothic kings. Their first interview was cold and formal: a rigid account was exacted of the treasures of Spain: the character of Tarik was exposed to suspicion and obloquy; and the hero was imprisoned, reviled, and ignominiously scourged by the hand, or the command, of Musa. Yet so strict was the discipline, so pure the zeal,

or so tame the spirit, of the primitive Moslems, that, after this public

indignity, Tarik could serve and be trusted in the reduction of the Tarragonest province. A mosch was erected at Saragossa, by the

liberality of the Koreish: the port of Barcelona was opened to the

vessels of Syria; and the Goths were pursued beyond the Pyrenæan

mountains into their Gallic province of Septimania or Languedoc. In the church of St. Mary at Carcassone, Musa found, but it is improbable that

he left, seven equestrian statues of massy silver; and from his \_ter\_

or column of Narbonne, he returned on his footsteps to the Gallician and

Lusitanian shores of the ocean. During the absence of the father, his

son Abdelaziz chastised the insurgents of Seville, and reduced, from

Malaga to Valentia, the sea-coast of the Mediterranean: his original treaty with the discreet and valiant Theodemir will represent the

manners and policy of the times. "\_The conditions of peace agreed and sworn between Abdelaziz, the son of Musa, the son of Nassir, and theodemir prince of the Goths\_. In the name of the most merciful God, abdelaziz makes peace on these conditions: \_that\_ Theodemir shall not be disturbed in his principality; nor any injury be offered to the life

or property, the wives and children, the religion and temples, of the christians: \_that\_ Theodemir shall freely deliver his seven cities,

Orihuela, Valentola, Alicanti Mola, Vacasora, Bigerra, (now Bejar,)

Ora, (or Opta,) and Lorca: \_that\_ he shall not assist or entertain the enemies of the caliph, but shall faithfully communicate his knowledge

of their hostile designs: \_that\_ himself, and each of the Gothic nobles,

shall annually pay one piece of gold, four measures of wheat, as many of barley, with a certain proportion of honey, oil, and vinegar; and that each of their vassals shall be taxed at one moiety of the said

imposition. Given the fourth of Regeb, in the year of the Hegira

ninety-four, and subscribed with the names of four Mussulman witnesses." theodemir and his subjects were treated with uncommon lenity; but the

rate of tribute appears to have fluctuated from a tenth to a fifth, according to the submission or obstinacy of the Christians. In this

revolution, many partial calamities were inflicted by the carnal or

religious passions of the enthusiasts: some churches were profaned by the new worship: some relics or images were confounded with idols: the

rebels were put to the sword; and one town (an obscure place between cordova and Seville) was razed to its foundations. Yet if we compare the

invasion of Spain by the Goths, or its recovery by the kings of Castile and Arragon, we must applaud the moderation and discipline of the arabian conquerors.

the exploits of Musa were performed in the evening of life, though he affected to disguise his age by coloring with a red powder the whiteness

of his beard. But in the love of action and glory, his breast was

still fired with the ardor of youth; and the possession of Spain was considered only as the first step to the monarchy of Europe. With a powerful armament by sea and land, he was preparing to repass the

Pyrenees, to extinguish in Gaul and Italy the declining kingdoms of the franks and Lombards, and to preach the unity of God on the altar of the

Vatican. From thence, subduing the Barbarians of Germany, he proposed to follow the course of the Danube from its source to the Euxine Sea, to overthrow the Greek or Roman empire of Constantinople, and returning from Europe to Asia, to unite his new acquisitions with Antioch and the

provinces of Syria. But his vast enterprise, perhaps of easy execution,

must have seemed extravagant to vulgar minds; and the visionary conqueror was soon reminded of his dependence and servitude. The friends

of Tarik had effectually stated his services and wrongs: at the court

of Damascus, the proceedings of Musa were blamed, his intentions were

suspected, and his delay in complying with the first invitation was chastised by a harsher and more peremptory summons. An intrepid

messenger of the caliph entered his camp at Lugo in Gallicia, and in the presence of the Saracens and Christians arrested the bridle of his

horse. His own loyalty, or that of his troops, inculcated the duty of

obedience: and his disgrace was alleviated by the recall of his rival, and the permission of investing with his two governments his two

sons, Abdallah and Abdelaziz. His long triumph from Ceuta to Damascus displayed the spoils of Africa and the treasures of Spain: four hundred

Gothic nobles, with gold coronets and girdles, were distinguished in his train; and the number of male and female captives, selected for their birth or beauty, was computed at eighteen, or even at thirty, thousand

persons. As soon as he reached Tiberias in Palestine, he was apprised

of the sickness and danger of the caliph, by a private message from

Soliman, his brother and presumptive heir; who wished to reserve for his

own reign the spectacle of victory. Had Walid recovered, the delay of

Musa would have been criminal: he pursued his march, and found an enemy

on the throne. In his trial before a partial judge against a popular antagonist, he was convicted of vanity and falsehood; and a fine of two

hundred thousand pieces of gold either exhausted his poverty or proved

his rapaciousness. The unworthy treatment of Tarik was revenged by a

similar indignity; and the veteran commander, after a public whipping,

stood a whole day in the sun before the palace gate, till he obtained a decent exile, under the pious name of a pilgrimage to Mecca. The

resentment of the caliph might have been satiated with the ruin of Musa; but his fears demanded the extirpation of a potent and injured family. a sentence of death was intimated with secrecy and speed to the trusty

servants of the throne both in Africa and Spain; and the forms, if not the substance, of justice were superseded in this bloody execution. In the mosch or palace of Cordova, Abdelaziz was slain by the swords of the conspirators; they accused their governor of claiming the honors of

royalty; and his scandalous marriage with Egilona, the widow of Roderic,

offended the prejudices both of the Christians and Moslems. By a

refinement of cruelty, the head of the son was presented to the father, with an insulting question, whether he acknowledged the features of the

rebel? "I know his features," he exclaimed with indignation: "I assert

his innocence; and I imprecate the same, a juster fate, against the authors of his death." The age and despair of Musa raised him above the power of kings; and he expired at Mecca of the anguish of a broken

heart. His rival was more favorably treated: his services were forgiven; and Tarik was permitted to mingle with the crowd of slaves. I am

ignorant whether Count Julian was rewarded with the death which he deserved indeed, though not from the hands of the Saracens; but the tale of their ingratitude to the sons of Witiza is disproved by the most

unquestionable evidence. The two royal youths were reinstated in the

private patrimony of their father; but on the decease of Eba, the elder,

his daughter was unjustly despoiled of her portion by the violence of

her uncle Sigebut. The Gothic maid pleaded her cause before the caliph

Hashem, and obtained the restitution of her inheritance; but she was

given in marriage to a noble Arabian, and their two sons, Isaac and

Ibrahim, were received in Spain with the consideration that was due to their origin and riches.

a province is assimilated to the victorious state by the introduction of

strangers and the imitative spirit of the natives; and Spain, which had been successively tinctured with Punic, and Roman, and Gothic blood,

imbibed, in a few generations, the name and manners of the Arabs. The first conquerors, and the twenty successive lieutenants of the caliphs, were attended by a numerous train of civil and military followers, who

preferred a distant fortune to a narrow home: the private and public

interest was promoted by the establishment of faithful colonies; and the cities of Spain were proud to commemorate the tribe or country of their eastern progenitors. The victorious though motley bands of Tarik and

Musa asserted, by the name of \_Spaniards\_, their original claim of conquest; yet they allowed their brethren of Egypt to share their establishments of Murcia and Lisbon. The royal legion of Damascus was

planted at Cordova; that of Emesa at Seville; that of Kinnisrin or chalcis at Jaen; that of Palestine at Algezire and Medina Sidonia. The

natives of Yemen and Persia were scattered round Toledo and the inland country, and the fertile seats of Grenada were bestowed on ten thousand

horsemen of Syria and Irak, the children of the purest and most noble

of the Arabian tribes. A spirit of emulation, sometimes beneficial, more frequently dangerous, was nourished by these hereditary factions. Ten

years after the conquest, a map of the province was presented to the caliph: the seas, the rivers, and the harbors, the inhabitants and cities, the climate, the soil, and the mineral productions of the earth.

In the space of two centuries, the gifts of nature were improved by the agriculture, the manufactures, and the commerce, of an industrious

people; and the effects of their diligence have been magnified by the

idleness of their fancy. The first of the Ommiades who reigned in Spain

solicited the support of the Christians; and in his edict of peace and

protection, he contents himself with a modest imposition of ten thousand

ounces of gold, ten thousand pounds of silver, ten thousand horses, as

many mules, one thousand cuirasses, with an equal number of helmets and lances. The most powerful of his successors derived from the same

kingdom the annual tribute of twelve millions and forty-five thousand dinars or pieces of gold, about six millions of sterling money; a sum which, in the tenth century, most probably surpassed the united revenues

of the Christians monarchs. His royal seat of Cordova contained six

hundred moschs, nine hundred baths, and two hundred thousand houses; he

gave laws to eighty cities of the first, to three hundred of the second and third order; and the fertile banks of the Guadalquivir were adorned with twelve thousand villages and hamlets. The Arabs might exaggerate the truth, but they created and they describe the most prosperous æra of the riches, the cultivation, and the populousness of Spain.

the wars of the Moslems were sanctified by the prophet; but among the

various precepts and examples of his life, the caliphs selected the

lessons of toleration that might tend to disarm the resistance of the

unbelievers. Arabia was the temple and patrimony of the God of Mahomet; but he beheld with less jealousy and affection the nations of the earth. the polytheists and idolaters, who were ignorant of his name, might be lawfully extirpated by his votaries; but a wise policy supplied the obligation of justice; and after some acts of intolerant zeal, the

Mahometan conquerors of Hindostan have spared the pagods of that devout and populous country. The disciples of Abraham, of Moses, and of

Jesus, were solemnly invited to accept the more \_perfect\_ revelation of

Mahomet; but if they preferred the payment of a moderate tribute, they were entitled to the freedom of conscience and religious worship. In a field of battle the forfeit lives of the prisoners were redeemed by the

profession of \_Islam\_; the females were bound to embrace the religion of their masters, and a race of sincere proselytes was gradually multiplied by the education of the infant captives. But the millions of African and Asiatic converts, who swelled the native band of the faithful Arabs,

must have been allured, rather than constrained, to declare their belief

in one God and the apostle of God. By the repetition of a sentence and the loss of a foreskin, the subject or the slave, the captive or the criminal, arose in a moment the free and equal companion of the

victorious Moslems. Every sin was expiated, every engagement was dissolved: the vow of celibacy was superseded by the indulgence of

nature; the active spirits who slept in the cloister were awakened by the trumpet of the Saracens; and in the convulsion of the world, every

member of a new society ascended to the natural level of his capacity and courage. The minds of the multitude were tempted by the invisible as well as temporal blessings of the Arabian prophet; and charity will

hope that many of his proselytes entertained a serious conviction of the truth and sanctity of his revelation. In the eyes of an inquisitive

polytheist, it must appear worthy of the human and the divine nature.

More pure than the system of Zoroaster, more liberal than the law of

Moses, the religion of Mahomet might seem less inconsistent with reason than the creed of mystery and superstition, which, in the seventh century, disgraced the simplicity of the gospel.

In the extensive provinces of Persia and Africa, the national religion

has been eradicated by the Mahometan faith. The ambiguous theology

of the Magi stood alone among the sects of the East; but the profane writings of Zoroaster might, under the reverend name of Abraham, be dexterously connected with the chain of divine revelation. Their evil

principle, the dæmon Ahriman, might be represented as the rival, or as the creature, of the God of light. The temples of Persia were devoid of

images; but the worship of the sun and of fire might be stigmatized as a

gross and criminal idolatry. The milder sentiment was consecrated by the practice of Mahomet and the prudence of the caliphs; the Magians or

Ghebers were ranked with the Jews and Christians among the people of the written law; and as late as the third century of the Hegira, the city

of Herat will afford a lively contrast of private zeal and public toleration. Under the payment of an annual tribute, the Mahometan law

secured to the Ghebers of Herat their civil and religious liberties: but the recent and humble mosch was overshadowed by the antique splendor of the adjoining temple of fire. A fanatic Iman deplored, in his sermons, the scandalous neighborhood, and accused the weakness or indifference of the faithful. Excited by his voice, the people assembled in tumult; the two houses of prayer were consumed by the flames, but the vacant ground was immediately occupied by the foundations of a new mosch. The injured

Magi appealed to the sovereign of Chorasan; he promised justice and

relief; when, behold! four thousand citizens of Herat, of a grave character and mature age, unanimously swore that the idolatrous fane had

\_never\_ existed; the inquisition was silenced and their conscience was

satisfied (says the historian Mirchond ) with this holy and meritorious

perjury. But the greatest part of the temples of Persia were ruined by the insensible and general desertion of their votaries. It was

\_insensible\_, since it is not accompanied with any memorial of time or

place, of persecution or resistance. It was \_general\_, since the whole

realm, from Shiraz to Samarcand, imbibed the faith of the Koran; and the

preservation of the native tongue reveals the descent of the Mahometans

of Persia. In the mountains and deserts, an obstinate race of

unbelievers adhered to the superstition of their fathers; and a faint tradition of the Magian theology is kept alive in the province of

Kirman, along the banks of the Indus, among the exiles of Surat, and in the colony which, in the last century, was planted by Shaw Abbas at the gates of Ispahan. The chief pontiff has retired to Mount Elbourz, eighteen leagues from the city of Yezd: the perpetual fire (if it continues to burn) is inaccessible to the profane; but his residence is the school, the oracle, and the pilgrimage of the Ghebers, whose hard and uniform features attest the unmingled purity of their blood. Under the jurisdiction of their elders, eighty thousand families maintain an

innocent and industrious life: their subsistence is derived from some curious manufactures and mechanic trades; and they cultivate the earth with the fervor of a religious duty. Their ignorance withstood the despotism of Shaw Abbas, who demanded with threats and tortures the

prophetic books of Zoroaster; and this obscure remnant of the Magians is

spared by the moderation or contempt of their present sovereigns.

the Northern coast of Africa is the only land in which the light of the gospel, after a long and perfect establishment, has been totally extinguished. The arts, which had been taught by Carthage and Rome, were

involved in a cloud of ignorance; the doctrine of Cyprian and Augustin was no longer studied. Five hundred episcopal churches were overturned by the hostile fury of the Donatists, the Vandals, and the Moors. the zeal and numbers of the clergy declined; and the people, without discipline, or knowledge, or hope, submissively sunk under the yoke

of the Arabian prophet Within fifty years after the expulsion of the

Greeks, a lieutenant of Africa informed the caliph that the tribute of the infidels was abolished by their conversion; and, though he sought to disguise his fraud and rebellion, his specious pretence was drawn from the rapid and extensive progress of the Mahometan faith. In the

next age, an extraordinary mission of five bishops was detached from alexandria to Cairoan. They were ordained by the Jacobite patriarch to cherish and revive the dying embers of Christianity: but the

interposition of a foreign prelate, a stranger to the Latins, an enemy to the Catholics, supposes the decay and dissolution of the African

hierarchy. It was no longer the time when the successor of St. Cyprian, at the head of a numerous synod, could maintain an equal contest with the ambition of the Roman pontiff. In the eleventh century, the

unfortunate priest who was seated on the ruins of Carthage implored the arms and the protection of the Vatican; and he bitterly complains that

his naked body had been scourged by the Saracens, and that his authority was disputed by the four suffragans, the tottering pillars of his throne. Two epistles of Gregory the Seventh are destined to soothe the distress of the Catholics and the pride of a Moorish prince. The pope assures the sultan that they both worship the same God, and may hope to

meet in the bosom of Abraham; but the complaint that three bishops could

no longer be found to consecrate a brother, announces the speedy and

inevitable ruin of the episcopal order. The Christians of Africa and

Spain had long since submitted to the practice of circumcision and the legal abstinence from wine and pork; and the name of \_Mozarabe\_

(adoptive Arabs) was applied to their civil or religious conformity. about the middle of the twelfth century, the worship of Christ and the

succession of pastors were abolished along the coast of Barbary, and in the kingdoms of Cordova and Seville, of Valencia and Grenada. The throne

of the Almohades, or Unitarians, was founded on the blindest fanaticism, and their extraordinary rigor might be provoked or justified by the

recent victories and intolerant zeal of the princes of Sicily and castille, of Arragon and Portugal. The faith of the Mozarabes was

occasionally revived by the papal missionaries; and, on the landing of charles the Fifth, some families of Latin Christians were encouraged to

rear their heads at Tunis and Algiers. But the seed of the gospel was

quickly eradicated, and the long province from Tripoli to the Atlantic

has lost all memory of the language and religion of Rome.

after the revolution of eleven centuries, the Jews and Christians of the turkish empire enjoy the liberty of conscience which was granted by the arabian caliphs. During the first age of the conquest, they suspected the loyalty of the Catholics, whose name of Melchites betrayed their

secret attachment to the Greek emperor, while the Nestorians and

Jacobites, his inveterate enemies, approved themselves the sincere and

voluntary friends of the Mahometan government. Yet this partial jealousy was healed by time and submission; the churches of Egypt were shared with the Catholics; and all the Oriental sects were included in the common benefits of toleration. The rank, the immunities, the domestic

jurisdiction of the patriarchs, the bishops, and the clergy, were

protected by the civil magistrate: the learning of individuals

recommended them to the employments of secretaries and physicians: they were enriched by the lucrative collection of the revenue; and their

merit was sometimes raised to the command of cities and provinces. A caliph of the house of Abbas was heard to declare that the Christians were most worthy of trust in the administration of Persia. "The

Moslems," said he, "will abuse their present fortune; the Magians regret their fallen greatness; and the Jews are impatient for their approaching deliverance." But the slaves of despotism are exposed to the alternatives of favor and disgrace. The captive churches of the east have been afflicted in every age by the avarice or bigotry of their

rulers; and the ordinary and legal restraints must be offensive to the

pride, or the zeal, of the Christians. About two hundred years after

Mahomet, they were separated from their fellow-subjects by a turban or

girdle of a less honorable color; instead of horses or mules, they were condemned to ride on asses, in the attitude of women. Their public and

private building were measured by a diminutive standard; in the streets

or the baths it is their duty to give way or bow down before the meanest

of the people; and their testimony is rejected, if it may tend to the

prejudice of a true believer. The pomp of processions, the sound

of bells or of psalmody, is interdicted in their worship; a decent

reverence for the national faith is imposed on their sermons and conversations; and the sacrilegious attempt to enter a mosch, or to

seduce a Mussulman, will not be suffered to escape with impunity. In a time, however, of tranquillity and justice, the Christians have never been compelled to renounce the Gospel, or to embrace the Koran; but the

punishment of death is inflicted upon the apostates who have professed and deserted the law of Mahomet. The martyrs of Cordova provoked the

sentence of the cadhi, by the public confession of their inconstancy,

or their passionate invectives against the person and religion of the

prophet.

at the end of the first century of the Hegira, the caliphs were the most

potent and absolute monarchs of the globe. Their prerogative was not circumscribed, either in right or in fact, by the power of the nobles, the freedom of the commons, the privileges of the church, the votes of a senate, or the memory of a free constitution. The authority of the companions of Mahomet expired with their lives; and the chiefs or emirs

of the Arabian tribes left behind, in the desert, the spirit of equality and independence. The regal and sacerdotal characters were united in the

successors of Mahomet; and if the Koran was the rule of their actions, they were the supreme judges and interpreters of that divine book. They

reigned by the right of conquest over the nations of the East, to whom the name of liberty was unknown, and who were accustomed to applaud in their tyrants the acts of violence and severity that were exercised at their own expense. Under the last of the Ommiades, the Arabian empire extended two hundred days' journey from east to west, from the confines

of Tartary and India to the shores of the Atlantic Ocean. And if we

retrench the sleeve of the robe, as it is styled by their writers, the

long and narrow province of Africa, the solid and compact dominion from fargana to Aden, from Tarsus to Surat, will spread on every side to the measure of four or five months of the march of a caravan. We should

vainly seek the indissoluble union and easy obedience that pervaded the government of Augustus and the Antonines; but the progress of the

Mahometan religion diffused over this ample space a general resemblance

of manners and opinions. The language and laws of the Koran were studied with equal devotion at Samarcand and Seville: the Moor and the Indian embraced as countrymen and brothers in the pilgrimage of Mecca; and the arabian language was adopted as the popular idiom in all the provinces to the westward of the Tigris.

chapter LII: More Conquests By The Arabs.--Part I.

The Two Sieges Of Constantinople By The Arabs.--Their

Invasion Of France, And Defeat By Charles Martel.--Civil War

Of The Ommiades And Abbassides.--Learning Of The Arabs.--

Luxury Of The Caliphs.--Naval Enterprises On Crete, Sicily,

And Rome.--Decay And Division Of The Empire Of The Caliphs.--

Defeats And Victories Of The Greek Emperors.

when the Arabs first issued from the desert, they must have been

surprised at the ease and rapidity of their own success. But when they advanced in the career of victory to the banks of the Indus and the

summit of the Pyrenees; when they had repeatedly tried the edge of their cimeters and the energy of their faith, they might be equally astonished that any nation could resist their invincible arms; that any boundary

should confine the dominion of the successor of the prophet. The confidence of soldiers and fanatics may indeed be excused, since the calm historian of the present hour, who strives to follow the rapid course of the Saracens, must study to explain by what means the church and state were saved from this impending, and, as it should seem, from this inevitable, danger. The deserts of Scythia and Sarmatia might be

guarded by their extent, their climate, their poverty, and the courage

of the northern shepherds; China was remote and inaccessible; but the greatest part of the temperate zone was subject to the Mahometan conquerors, the Greeks were exhausted by the calamities of war and the

loss of their fairest provinces, and the Barbarians of Europe might

justly tremble at the precipitate fall of the Gothic monarchy. In this

inquiry I shall unfold the events that rescued our ancestors of Britain, and our neighbors of Gaul, from the civil and religious yoke of the

Koran; that protected the majesty of Rome, and delayed the servitude

of Constantinople; that invigorated the defence of the Christians, and

scattered among their enemies the seeds of division and decay.

forty-six years after the flight of Mahomet from Mecca, his disciples appeared in arms under the walls of Constantinople. They were animated by a genuine or fictitious saying of the prophet, that, to the first army which besieged the city of the Cæsars, their sins were forgiven: the long series of Roman triumphs would be meritoriously transferred to the conquerors of New Rome; and the wealth of nations was deposited in this well-chosen seat of royalty and commerce. No sooner had the caliph

Moawiyah suppressed his rivals and established his throne, than he aspired to expiate the guilt of civil blood, by the success and glory of this holy expedition; his preparations by sea and land were adequate to the importance of the object; his standard was intrusted to Sophian, a veteran warrior, but the troops were encouraged by the example and

presence of Yezid, the son and presumptive heir of the commander of the faithful. The Greeks had little to hope, nor had their enemies any

reason of fear, from the courage and vigilance of the reigning emperor, who disgraced the name of Constantine, and imitated only the inglorious

years of his grandfather Heraclius. Without delay or opposition, the

naval forces of the Saracens passed through the unguarded channel of the

Hellespont, which even now, under the feeble and disorderly government

of the Turks, is maintained as the natural bulwark of the capital. The arabian fleet cast anchor, and the troops were disembarked near the

palace of Hebdomon, seven miles from the city. During many days, from the dawn of light to the evening, the line of assault was extended from the golden gate to the eastern promontory and the foremost warriors were

impelled by the weight and effort of the succeeding columns. But the besiegers had formed an insufficient estimate of the strength and

resources of Constantinople. The solid and lofty walls were guarded by

numbers and discipline: the spirit of the Romans was rekindled by the last danger of their religion and empire: the fugitives from the conquered provinces more successfully renewed the defence of Damascus and Alexandria; and the Saracens were dismayed by the strange and

prodigious effects of artificial fire. This firm and effectual

resistance diverted their arms to the more easy attempt of plundering the European and Asiatic coasts of the Propontis; and, after keeping the sea from the month of April to that of September, on the approach of winter they retreated fourscore miles from the capital, to the Isle

of Cyzicus, in which they had established their magazine of spoil and

provisions. So patient was their perseverance, or so languid were their

operations, that they repeated in the six following summers the same attack and retreat, with a gradual abatement of hope and vigor, till the

mischances of shipwreck and disease, of the sword and of fire, compelled them to relinquish the fruitless enterprise. They might bewail the loss,

or commemorate the martyrdom, of thirty thousand Moslems, who fell in the siege of Constantinople; and the solemn funeral of Abu Ayub, or Job, excited the curiosity of the Christians themselves. That venerable Arab,

one of the last of the companions of Mahomet, was numbered among the

\_ansars\_, or auxiliaries, of Medina, who sheltered the head of the flying prophet. In his youth he fought, at Beder and Ohud, under the

holy standard: in his mature age he was the friend and follower of Ali; and the last remnant of his strength and life was consumed in a distant and dangerous war against the enemies of the Koran. His memory was

revered; but the place of his burial was neglected and unknown, during a period of seven hundred and eighty years, till the conquest of constantinople by Mahomet the Second. A seasonable vision (for such are the manufacture of every religion) revealed the holy spot at the foot of the walls and the bottom of the harbor; and the mosch of Ayub has been deservedly chosen for the simple and martial inauguration of the Turkish

sultans.

the event of the siege revived, both in the East and West, the

reputation of the Roman arms, and cast a momentary shade over the

glories of the Saracens. The Greek ambassador was favorably received at damascus, a general council of the emirs or Koreish: a peace, or truce, of thirty years was ratified between the two empires; and the

stipulation of an annual tribute, fifty horses of a noble breed, fifty

slaves, and three thousand pieces of gold, degraded the majesty of the commander of the faithful. The aged caliph was desirous of possessing

his dominions, and ending his days in tranquillity and repose: while the

Moors and Indians trembled at his name, his palace and city of Damascus was insulted by the Mardaites, or Maronites, of Mount Libanus, the firmest barrier of the empire, till they were disarmed and transplanted by the suspicious policy of the Greeks. After the revolt of Arabia and

Persia, the house of Ommiyah was reduced to the kingdoms of Syria and Egypt: their distress and fear enforced their compliance with the

pressing demands of the Christians; and the tribute was increased to a slave, a horse, and a thousand pieces of gold, for each of the three

hundred and sixty-five days of the solar year. But as soon as the empire was again united by the arms and policy of Abdalmalek, he disclaimed a badge of servitude not less injurious to his conscience than to his

pride; he discontinued the payment of the tribute; and the resentment

of the Greeks was disabled from action by the mad tyranny of the second

Justinian, the just rebellion of his subjects, and the frequent change

of his antagonists and successors. Till the reign of Abdalmalek, the

Saracens had been content with the free possession of the Persian and

Roman treasures, in the coins of Chosroes and Cæsar. By the command of that caliph, a national mint was established, both for silver and gold, and the inscription of the Dinar, though it might be censured by some timorous casuists, proclaimed the unity of the God of Mahomet. Under the reign of the caliph Walid, the Greek language and characters were excluded from the accounts of the public revenue. If this change was

productive of the invention or familiar use of our present numerals, the arabic or Indian ciphers, as they are commonly styled, a regulation

of office has promoted the most important discoveries of arithmetic, algebra, and the mathematical sciences.

whilst the caliph Walid sat idle on the throne of Damascus, whilst his

lieutenants achieved the conquest of Transoxiana and Spain, a third army

of Saracens overspread the provinces of Asia Minor, and approached the borders of the Byzantine capital. But the attempt and disgrace of the second siege was reserved for his brother Soliman, whose ambition appears to have been quickened by a more active and martial spirit. In the revolutions of the Greek empire, after the tyrant Justinian had been

punished and avenged, an humble secretary, Anastasius or Artemius, was

promoted by chance or merit to the vacant purple. He was alarmed by the sound of war; and his ambassador returned from Damascus with the tremendous news, that the Saracens were preparing an armament by sea and

land, such as would transcend the experience of the past, or the belief

of the present age. The precautions of Anastasius were not unworthy of

his station, or of the impending danger. He issued a peremptory mandate, that all persons who were not provided with the means of subsistence for a three years' siege should evacuate the city: the public granaries and arsenals were abundantly replenished; the walls were restored and

strengthened; and the engines for casting stones, or darts, or fire, were stationed along the ramparts, or in the brigantines of war, of which an additional number was hastily constructed. To prevent is safer, as well as more honorable, than to repel, an attack; and a design was

meditated, above the usual spirit of the Greeks, of burning the naval

stores of the enemy, the cypress timber that had been hewn in Mount

Libanus, and was piled along the sea-shore of Phnicia, for the service

of the Egyptian fleet. This generous enterprise was defeated by the cowardice or treachery of the troops, who, in the new language of the empire, were styled of the \_Obsequian Theme\_. They murdered their chief, deserted their standard in the Isle of Rhodes, dispersed themselves over the adjacent continent, and deserved pardon or reward by investing with the purple a simple officer of the revenue. The name of Theodosius might

recommend him to the senate and people; but, after some months, he sunk

into a cloister, and resigned, to the firmer hand of Leo the Isaurian, the urgent defence of the capital and empire. The most formidable of the

Saracens, Moslemah, the brother of the caliph, was advancing at the head

of one hundred and twenty thousand Arabs and Persians, the greater

part mounted on horses or camels; and the successful sieges of Tyana, amorium, and Pergamus, were of sufficient duration to exercise their

skill and to elevate their hopes. At the well-known passage of Abydus,

on the Hellespont, the Mahometan arms were transported, for the first time, from Asia to Europe. From thence, wheeling round the Thracian cities of the Propontis, Moslemah invested Constantinople on the land

side, surrounded his camp with a ditch and rampart, prepared and planted

his engines of assault, and declared, by words and actions, a patient

resolution of expecting the return of seed-time and harvest, should the obstinacy of the besieged prove equal to his own. The Greeks would

gladly have ransomed their religion and empire, by a fine or assessment

of a piece of gold on the head of each inhabitant of the city; but the

liberal offer was rejected with disdain, and the presumption of Moslemah was exalted by the speedy approach and invincible force of the natives

of Egypt and Syria. They are said to have amounted to eighteen hundred

ships: the number betrays their inconsiderable size; and of the twenty

stout and capacious vessels, whose magnitude impeded their progress, each was manned with no more than one hundred heavy-armed soldiers. This

huge armada proceeded on a smooth sea, and with a gentle gale, towards the mouth of the Bosphorus; the surface of the strait was overshadowed,

in the language of the Greeks, with a moving forest, and the same fatal

night had been fixed by the Saracen chief for a general assault by sea and land. To allure the confidence of the enemy, the emperor had thrown aside the chain that usually guarded the entrance of the harbor; but while they hesitated whether they should seize the opportunity, or apprehend the snare, the ministers of destruction were at hand. The fire-ships of the Greeks were launched against them; the Arabs, their arms, and vessels, were involved in the same flames; the disorderly fugitives were dashed against each other or overwhelmed in the waves; and I no longer find a vestige of the fleet, that had threatened to extirpate the Roman name. A still more fatal and irreparable loss was that of the caliph Soliman, who died of an indigestion, in his camp

near Kinnisrin or Chalcis in Syria, as he was preparing to lead against constantinople the remaining forces of the East. The brother of Moslemah was succeeded by a kinsman and an enemy; and the throne of an active and able prince was degraded by the useless and pernicious virtues of a bigot. While he started and satisfied the scruples of a blind conscience, the siege was continued through the winter by the neglect,

rather than by the resolution of the caliph Omar. The winter proved

uncommonly rigorous: above a hundred days the ground was covered with deep snow, and the natives of the sultry climes of Egypt and Arabia lay torpid and almost lifeless in their frozen camp. They revived on the

return of spring; a second effort had been made in their favor; and their distress was relieved by the arrival of two numerous fleets, laden with corn, and arms, and soldiers; the first from Alexandria, of four

hundred transports and galleys; the second of three hundred and sixty

vessels from the ports of Africa. But the Greek fires were again

kindled; and if the destruction was less complete, it was owing to the experience which had taught the Moslems to remain at a safe distance, or to the perfidy of the Egyptian mariners, who deserted with their ships to the emperor of the Christians. The trade and navigation of the capital were restored; and the produce of the fisheries supplied the wants, and even the luxury, of the inhabitants. But the calamities of famine and disease were soon felt by the troops of Moslemah, and as the former was miserably assuaged, so the latter was dreadfully propagated, by the pernicious nutriment which hunger compelled them to extract from the most unclean or unnatural food. The spirit of conquest, and even of enthusiasm, was extinct: the Saracens could no longer struggle, beyond their lines, either single or in small parties, without exposing themselves to the merciless retaliation of the Thracian peasants. an army of Bulgarians was attracted from the Danube by the gifts and

promises of Leo; and these savage auxiliaries made some atonement for the evils which they had inflicted on the empire, by the defeat and

slaughter of twenty-two thousand Asiatics. A report was dexterously

scattered, that the Franks, the unknown nations of the Latin world, were arming by sea and land in the defence of the Christian cause, and their formidable aid was expected with far different sensations in the camp and city. At length, after a siege of thirteen months, the hopeless

Moslemah received from the caliph the welcome permission of retreat.

\* The march of the Arabian cavalry over the Hellespont and through the

provinces of Asia, was executed without delay or molestation; but an army of their brethren had been cut in pieces on the side of Bithynia, and the remains of the fleet were so repeatedly damaged by tempest and fire, that only five galleys entered the port of Alexandria to relate the tale of their various and almost incredible disasters.

In the two sieges, the deliverance of Constantinople may be chiefly ascribed to the novelty, the terrors, and the real efficacy of the

\_Greek fire\_. The important secret of compounding and directing this artificial flame was imparted by Callinicus, a native of Heliopolis

in Syria, who deserted from the service of the caliph to that of the emperor. The skill of a chemist and engineer was equivalent to the

succor of fleets and armies; and this discovery or improvement of the

military art was fortunately reserved for the distressful period, when the degenerate Romans of the East were incapable of contending with the warlike enthusiasm and youthful vigor of the Saracens. The historian who

presumes to analyze this extraordinary composition should suspect

his own ignorance and that of his Byzantine guides, so prone to the

marvellous, so careless, and, in this instance, so jealous of the truth. from their obscure, and perhaps fallacious, hints it should seem that the principal ingredient of the Greek fire was the \_naphtha\_, or liquid bitumen, a light, tenacious, and inflammable oil, which springs from the earth, and catches fire as soon as it comes in contact with the air. The

naphtha was mingled, I know not by what methods or in what proportions, with sulphur and with the pitch that is extracted from evergreen firs. from this mixture, which produced a thick smoke and a loud explosion,

proceeded a fierce and obstinate flame, which not only rose in

perpendicular ascent, but likewise burnt with equal vehemence in descent

or lateral progress; instead of being extinguished, it was nourished and

quickened by the element of water; and sand, urine, or vinegar, were the

only remedies that could damp the fury of this powerful agent, which was

justly denominated by the Greeks the \_liquid\_, or the \_maritime\_, fire. for the annoyance of the enemy, it was employed with equal effect, by

sea and land, in battles or in sieges. It was either poured from the

rampart in large boilers, or launched in red-hot balls of stone and

iron, or darted in arrows and javelins, twisted round with flax and tow, which had deeply imbibed the inflammable oil; sometimes it was deposited

in fire-ships, the victims and instruments of a more ample revenge, and was most commonly blown through long tubes of copper which were planted

on the prow of a galley, and fancifully shaped into the mouths of savage

monsters, that seemed to vomit a stream of liquid and consuming fire. this important art was preserved at Constantinople, as the palladium of the state: the galleys and \_artillery\_ might occasionally be lent to the allies of Rome; but the composition of the Greek fire was concealed with the most jealous scruple, and the terror of the enemies was increased and prolonged by their ignorance and surprise. In the treaties of the administration of the empire, the royal author suggests the answers and excuses that might best elude the indiscreet curiosity and importunate demands of the Barbarians. They should be told that the mystery of the

Greek fire had been revealed by an angel to the first and greatest of the Constantines, with a sacred injunction, that this gift of Heaven, this peculiar blessing of the Romans, should never be communicated to any foreign nation; that the prince and the subject were alike bound to

religious silence under the temporal and spiritual penalties of treason and sacrilege; and that the impious attempt would provoke the sudden and supernatural vengeance of the God of the Christians. By these

precautions, the secret was confined, above four hundred years, to the

Romans of the East; and at the end of the eleventh century, the Pisans, to whom every sea and every art were familiar, suffered the effects, without understanding the composition, of the Greek fire. It was at

length either discovered or stolen by the Mahometans; and, in the holy wars of Syria and Egypt, they retorted an invention, contrived against themselves, on the heads of the Christians. A knight, who despised the

swords and lances of the Saracens, relates, with heartfelt sincerity,

his own fears, and those of his companions, at the sight and sound of the mischievous engine that discharged a torrent of the Greek fire, the

\_feu Gregeois\_, as it is styled by the more early of the French writers. It came flying through the air, says Joinville, like a winged

long-tailed dragon, about the thickness of a hogshead, with the report

of thunder and the velocity of lightning; and the darkness of the night was dispelled by this deadly illumination. The use of the Greek, or, as

it might now be called, of the Saracen fire, was continued to the middle

of the fourteenth century, when the scientific or casual compound of

nitre, sulphur, and charcoal, effected a new revolution in the art of war and the history of mankind.

chapter LII: More Conquests By The Arabs.--Part II.

constantinople and the Greek fire might exclude the Arabs from the eastern entrance of Europe; but in the West, on the side of the

Pyrenees, the provinces of Gaul were threatened and invaded by the conquerors of Spain. The decline of the French monarchy invited the attack of these insatiate fanatics. The descendants of Clovis had

lost the inheritance of his martial and ferocious spirit; and their

misfortune or demerit has affixed the epithet of \_lazy\_ to the last

kings of the Merovingian race. They ascended the throne without power, and sunk into the grave without a name. A country palace, in the

neighborhood of Compiegne was allotted for their residence or prison: but each year, in the month of March or May, they were conducted in a wagon drawn by oxen to the assembly of the Franks, to give audience to foreign ambassadors, and to ratify the acts of the mayor of the palace. that domestic officer was become the minister of the nation and the

master of the prince. A public employment was converted into the

patrimony of a private family: the elder Pepin left a king of mature

years under the guardianship of his own widow and her child; and these feeble regents were forcibly dispossessed by the most active of his bastards. A government, half savage and half corrupt, was almost dissolved; and the tributary dukes, and provincial counts, and the territorial lords, were tempted to despise the weakness of the monarch, and to imitate the ambition of the mayor. Among these independent chiefs, one of the boldest and most successful was Eudes, duke of aquitain, who in the southern provinces of Gaul usurped the authority, and even the title of king. The Goths, the Gascons, and the Franks, assembled under the standard of this Christian hero: he repelled the first invasion of the Saracens; and Zama, lieutenant of the caliph, lost

his army and his life under the walls of Thoulouse. The ambition of his

successors was stimulated by revenge; they repassed the Pyrenees with the means and the resolution of conquest. The advantageous situation which had recommended Narbonne as the first Roman colony, was again chosen by the Moslems: they claimed the province of Septimania or

Languedoc as a just dependence of the Spanish monarchy: the vineyards

of Gascony and the city of Bourdeaux were possessed by the sovereign of damascus and Samarcand; and the south of France, from the mouth of the Garonne to that of the Rhone, assumed the manners and religion of arabia.

but these narrow limits were scorned by the spirit of Abdalraman, or abderame, who had been restored by the caliph Hashem to the wishes of the soldiers and people of Spain. That veteran and daring commander adjudged to the obedience of the prophet whatever yet remained of France

or of Europe; and prepared to execute the sentence, at the head of a formidable host, in the full confidence of surmounting all opposition either of nature or of man. His first care was to suppress a domestic

rebel, who commanded the most important passes of the Pyrenees: Manuza, a Moorish chief, had accepted the alliance of the duke of Aquitain; and Eudes, from a motive of private or public interest, devoted his beauteous daughter to the embraces of the African misbeliever. But the

strongest fortresses of Cerdagne were invested by a superior force; the

rebel was overtaken and slain in the mountains; and his widow was sent a captive to Damascus, to gratify the desires, or more probably the

vanity, of the commander of the faithful. From the Pyrenees, Abderame

proceeded without delay to the passage of the Rhone and the siege of arles. An army of Christians attempted the relief of the city: the tombs

of their leaders were yet visible in the thirteenth century; and many thousands of their dead bodies were carried down the rapid stream into the Mediterranean Sea. The arms of Abderame were not less successful

on the side of the ocean. He passed without opposition the Garonne and dordogne, which unite their waters in the Gulf of Bourdeaux; but he found, beyond those rivers, the camp of the intrepid Eudes, who had formed a second army and sustained a second defeat, so fatal to the christians, that, according to their sad confession, God alone could

reckon the number of the slain. The victorious Saracen overran the

provinces of Aquitain, whose Gallic names are disguised, rather than

lost, in the modern appellations of Perigord, Saintonge, and Poitou: his

standards were planted on the walls, or at least before the gates,

of Tours and of Sens; and his detachments overspread the kingdom of burgundy as far as the well-known cities of Lyons and Besancon. The

memory of these devastations (for Abderame did not spare the country or the people) was long preserved by tradition; and the invasion of France by the Moors or Mahometans affords the groundwork of those fables, which have been so wildly disfigured in the romances of chivalry, and

so elegantly adorned by the Italian muse. In the decline of society and art, the deserted cities could supply a slender booty to the Saracens; their richest spoil was found in the churches and monasteries, which they stripped of their ornaments and delivered to the flames: and the tutelar saints, both Hilary of Poitiers and Martin of Tours, forgot their miraculous powers in the defence of their own sepulchres. A

victorious line of march had been prolonged above a thousand miles from the rock of Gibraltar to the banks of the Loire; the repetition of an equal space would have carried the Saracens to the confines of Poland and the Highlands of Scotland; the Rhine is not more impassable than the Nile or Euphrates, and the Arabian fleet might have sailed without a

naval combat into the mouth of the Thames. Perhaps the interpretation of the Koran would now be taught in the schools of Oxford, and her pulpits

might demonstrate to a circumcised people the sanctity and truth of the

revelation of Mahomet.

from such calamities was Christendom delivered by the genius and fortune

of one man. Charles, the illegitimate son of the elder Pepin, was content with the titles of mayor or duke of the Franks; but he deserved to become the father of a line of kings. In a laborious administration

of twenty-four years, he restored and supported the dignity of the throne, and the rebels of Germany and Gaul were successively crushed by the activity of a warrior, who, in the same campaign, could display

his banner on the Elbe, the Rhone, and the shores of the ocean. In the public danger he was summoned by the voice of his country; and his

rival, the duke of Aquitain, was reduced to appear among the fugitives and suppliants. "Alas!" exclaimed the Franks, "what a misfortune! what an indignity! We have long heard of the name and conquests of the arabs: we were apprehensive of their attack from the East; they have

now conquered Spain, and invade our country on the side of the West. Yet their numbers, and (since they have no buckler) their arms, are inferior to our own." "If you follow my advice," replied the prudent mayor of the palace, "you will not interrupt their march, nor precipitate your attack. They are like a torrent, which it is dangerous to stem in its career. The thirst of riches, and the consciousness of success, redouble their valor, and valor is of more avail than arms or numbers. Be patient till they have loaded themselves with the encumbrance of wealth. the possession of wealth will divide their councils and assure your

victory." This subtile policy is perhaps a refinement of the Arabian writers; and the situation of Charles will suggest a more narrow and

selfish motive of procrastination--the secret desire of humbling the

pride and wasting the provinces of the rebel duke of Aquitain. It is yet

more probable, that the delays of Charles were inevitable and reluctant. a standing army was unknown under the first and second race; more than

half the kingdom was now in the hands of the Saracens: according to their respective situation, the Franks of Neustria and Austrasia were to conscious or too careless of the impending danger; and the voluntary aids of the Gepidæ and Germans were separated by a long interval from the standard of the Christian general. No sooner had he collected his forces, than he sought and found the enemy in the centre of France, between Tours and Poitiers. His well-conducted march was covered with a range of hills, and Abderame appears to have been surprised by his

unexpected presence. The nations of Asia, Africa, and Europe, advanced with equal ardor to an encounter which would change the history of the world. In the six first days of desultory combat, the horsemen and archers of the East maintained their advantage: but in the closer onset

of the seventh day, the Orientals were oppressed by the strength and stature of the Germans, who, with stout hearts and \_iron\_ hands, asserted the civil and religious freedom of their posterity. The epithet

of \_Martel\_, the \_Hammer\_, which has been added to the name of Charles,

is expressive of his weighty and irresistible strokes: the valor of eudes was excited by resentment and emulation; and their companions, in the eye of history, are the true Peers and Paladins of French chivalry. after a bloody field, in which Abderame was slain, the Saracens, in the close of the evening, retired to their camp. In the disorder and despair

of the night, the various tribes of Yemen and Damascus, of Africa and

Spain, were provoked to turn their arms against each other: the remains

of their host were suddenly dissolved, and each \_emir\_ consulted his

safety by a hasty and separate retreat. At the dawn of the day, the

stillness of a hostile camp was suspected by the victorious Christians:

on the report of their spies, they ventured to explore the riches of the

vacant tents; but if we except some celebrated relics, a small portion

of the spoil was restored to the innocent and lawful owners. The joyful tidings were soon diffused over the Catholic world, and the monks of

Italy could affirm and believe that three hundred and fifty, or three

hundred and seventy-five, thousand of the Mahometans had been crushed by the hammer of Charles, while no more than fifteen hundred Christians were slain in the field of Tours. But this incredible tale is

sufficiently disproved by the caution of the French general, who apprehended the snares and accidents of a pursuit, and dismissed his

German allies to their native forests. The inactivity of a conqueror betrays the loss of strength and blood, and the most cruel execution

is inflicted, not in the ranks of battle, but on the backs of a flying enemy. Yet the victory of the Franks was complete and final; Aquitain was recovered by the arms of Eudes; the Arabs never resumed the conquest

of Gaul, and they were soon driven beyond the Pyrenees by Charles Martel and his valiant race. It might have been expected that the savior of christendom would have been canonized, or at least applauded, by the

gratitude of the clergy, who are indebted to his sword for their present existence. But in the public distress, the mayor of the palace had been compelled to apply the riches, or at least the revenues, of the bishops and abbots, to the relief of the state and the reward of the soldiers.

His merits were forgotten, his sacrilege alone was remembered, and, in an epistle to a Carlovingian prince, a Gallic synod presumes to declare that his ancestor was damned; that on the opening of his tomb, the

spectators were affrighted by a smell of fire and the aspect of a horrid dragon; and that a saint of the times was indulged with a pleasant

vision of the soul and body of Charles Martel, burning, to all eternity,

in the abyss of hell.

the loss of an army, or a province, in the Western world, was less

painful to the court of Damascus, than the rise and progress of a domestic competitor. Except among the Syrians, the caliphs of the house

of Ommiyah had never been the objects of the public favor. The life of

Mahomet recorded their perseverance in idolatry and rebellion: their conversion had been reluctant, their elevation irregular and factious, and their throne was cemented with the most holy and noble blood of arabia. The best of their race, the pious Omar, was dissatisfied with

his own title: their personal virtues were insufficient to justify a departure from the order of succession; and the eyes and wishes of the faithful were turned towards the line of Hashem, and the kindred of the apostle of God. Of these the Fatimites were either rash or

pusillanimous; but the descendants of Abbas cherished, with courage and discretion, the hopes of their rising fortunes. From an obscure

residence in Syria, they secretly despatched their agents and

missionaries, who preached in the Eastern provinces their hereditary

indefeasible right; and Mohammed, the son of Ali, the son of Abdallah, the son of Abbas, the uncle of the prophet, gave audience to the deputies of Chorasan, and accepted their free gift of four hundred thousand pieces of gold. After the death of Mohammed, the oath of allegiance was administered in the name of his son Ibrahim to a numerous band of votaries, who expected only a signal and a leader; and the

governor of Chorasan continued to deplore his fruitless admonitions and the deadly slumber of the caliphs of Damascus, till he himself, with all his adherents, was driven from the city and palace of Meru, by the

rebellious arms of Abu Moslem. That maker of kings, the author, as he is

named, of the \_call\_ of the Abbassides, was at length rewarded for his

presumption of merit with the usual gratitude of courts. A mean, perhaps a foreign, extraction could not repress the aspiring energy of Abu

Moslem. Jealous of his wives, liberal of his wealth, prodigal of his own blood and of that of others, he could boast with pleasure, and possibly with truth, that he had destroyed six hundred thousand of his enemies; and such was the intrepid gravity of his mind and countenance, that

he was never seen to smile except on a day of battle. In the visible

separation of parties, the \_green\_ was consecrated to the Fatimites; the

Ommiades were distinguished by the \_white\_; and the \_black\_, as the

most adverse, was naturally adopted by the Abbassides. Their turbans and

garments were stained with that gloomy color: two black standards, on

pike staves nine cubits long, were borne aloft in the van of Abu Moslem; and their allegorical names of the night and the shadow obscurely

represented the indissoluble union and perpetual succession of the line

of Hashem. From the Indus to the Euphrates, the East was convulsed by the quarrel of the white and the black factions: the Abbassides were

most frequently victorious; but their public success was clouded by the

personal misfortune of their chief. The court of Damascus, awakening from a long slumber, resolved to prevent the pilgrimage of Mecca, which

Ibrahim had undertaken with a splendid retinue, to recommend himself at once to the favor of the prophet and of the people. A detachment of cavalry intercepted his march and arrested his person; and the unhappy

Ibrahim, snatched away from the promise of untasted royalty, expired in

iron fetters in the dungeons of Haran. His two younger brothers, Saffah

\* and Almansor, eluded the search of the tyrant, and lay concealed at Cufa, till the zeal of the people and the approach of his Eastern friends allowed them to expose their persons to the impatient public.

On Friday, in the dress of a caliph, in the colors of the sect, Saffah

proceeded with religious and military pomp to the mosch: ascending the

pulpit, he prayed and preached as the lawful successor of Mahomet; and after his departure, his kinsmen bound a willing people by an oath of fidelity. But it was on the banks of the Zab, and not in the mosch of cufa, that this important controversy was determined. Every advantage appeared to be on the side of the white faction: the authority of established government; an army of a hundred and twenty thousand

soldiers, against a sixth part of that number; and the presence and

merit of the caliph Mervan, the fourteenth and last of the house of

Ommiyah. Before his accession to the throne, he had deserved, by his

Georgian warfare, the honorable epithet of the ass of Mesopotamia; and

he might have been ranked amongst the greatest princes, had not, says abulfeda, the eternal order decreed that moment for the ruin of his family; a decree against which all human fortitude and prudence must

struggle in vain. The orders of Mervan were mistaken, or disobeyed: the return of his horse, from which he had dismounted on a necessary

occasion, impressed the belief of his death; and the enthusiasm of the black squadrons was ably conducted by Abdallah, the uncle of his competitor. After an irretrievable defeat, the caliph escaped to Mosul; but the colors of the Abbassides were displayed from the rampart; he

suddenly repassed the Tigris, cast a melancholy look on his palace of

Haran, crossed the Euphrates, abandoned the fortifications of Damascus, and, without halting in Palestine, pitched his last and fatal camp at busir, on the banks of the Nile. His speed was urged by the incessant diligence of Abdallah, who in every step of the pursuit acquired

strength and reputation: the remains of the white faction were finally

vanquished in Egypt; and the lance, which terminated the life and anxiety of Mervan, was not less welcome perhaps to the unfortunate than to the victorious chief. The merciless inquisition of the conqueror eradicated the most distant branches of the hostile race: their bones were scattered, their memory was accursed, and the martyrdom of Hossein was abundantly revenged on the posterity of his tyrants. Fourscore of the Ommiades, who had yielded to the faith or clemency of their foes, were invited to a banquet at Damascus. The laws of hospitality were

violated by a promiscuous massacre: the board was spread over their fallen bodies; and the festivity of the guests was enlivened by the

music of their dying groans. By the event of the civil war, the dynasty

of the Abbassides was firmly established; but the Christians only could triumph in the mutual hatred and common loss of the disciples of

Mahomet.

Yet the thousands who were swept away by the sword of war might

have been speedily retrieved in the succeeding generation, if the consequences of the revolution had not tended to dissolve the power and unity of the empire of the Saracens. In the proscription of the

Ommiades, a royal youth of the name of Abdalrahman alone escaped the

rage of his enemies, who hunted the wandering exile from the banks

of the Euphrates to the valleys of Mount Atlas. His presence in the

neighborhood of Spain revived the zeal of the white faction. The name and cause of the Abbassides had been first vindicated by the Persians: the West had been pure from civil arms; and the servants of the abdicated family still held, by a precarious tenure, the inheritance

of their lands and the offices of government. Strongly prompted by

gratitude, indignation, and fear, they invited the grandson of the caliph Hashem to ascend the throne of his ancestors; and, in his desperate condition, the extremes of rashness and prudence were almost the same. The acclamations of the people saluted his landing on the coast of Andalusia: and, after a successful struggle, Abdalrahman established the throne of Cordova, and was the father of the Ommiades of

Spain, who reigned above two hundred and fifty years from the Atlantic to the Pyrenees. He slew in battle a lieutenant of the Abbassides, who

had invaded his dominions with a fleet and army: the head of Ala, in

salt and camphire, was suspended by a daring messenger before the palace

of Mecca; and the caliph Almansor rejoiced in his safety, that he was

removed by seas and lands from such a formidable adversary. Their mutual designs or declarations of offensive war evaporated without effect; but instead of opening a door to the conquest of Europe, Spain was dissevered from the trunk of the monarchy, engaged in perpetual

hostility with the East, and inclined to peace and friendship with the christian sovereigns of Constantinople and France. The example of the

Ommiades was imitated by the real or fictitious progeny of Ali, the edrissites of Mauritania, and the more powerful Fatimites of Africa and egypt. In the tenth century, the chair of Mahomet was disputed by three caliphs or commanders of the faithful, who reigned at Bagdad, Cairoan, and Cordova, excommunicating each other, and agreed only in a principle

of discord, that a sectary is more odious and criminal than an

unbeliever.

Mecca was the patrimony of the line of Hashem, yet the Abbassides were

never tempted to reside either in the birthplace or the city of the

prophet. Damascus was disgraced by the choice, and polluted with the blood, of the Ommiades; and, after some hesitation, Almansor, the brother and successor of Saffah, laid the foundations of Bagdad, the

Imperial seat of his posterity during a reign of five hundred years. The chosen spot is on the eastern bank of the Tigris, about fifteen miles above the ruins of Modain: the double wall was of a circular form; and

such was the rapid increase of a capital, now dwindled to a provincial town, that the funeral of a popular saint might be attended by eight

hundred thousand men and sixty thousand women of Bagdad and the adjacent

villages. In this \_city of peace\_, amidst the riches of the East, the abbassides soon disdained the abstinence and frugality of the first caliphs, and aspired to emulate the magnificence of the Persian kings. after his wars and buildings, Almansor left behind him in gold and

silver about thirty millions sterling: and this treasure was exhausted

in a few years by the vices or virtues of his children. His son Mahadi,

in a single pilgrimage to Mecca, expended six millions of dinars of

gold. A pious and charitable motive may sanctify the foundation of cisterns and caravanseras, which he distributed along a measured road

of seven hundred miles; but his train of camels, laden with snow, could

serve only to astonish the natives of Arabia, and to refresh the fruits and liquors of the royal banquet. The courtiers would surely praise the

liberality of his grandson Almamon, who gave away four fifths of the

income of a province, a sum of two millions four hundred thousand gold dinars, before he drew his foot from the stirrup. At the nuptials of the

same prince, a thousand pearls of the largest size were showered on the head of the bride, and a lottery of lands and houses displayed the capricious bounty of fortune. The glories of the court were brightened,

rather than impaired, in the decline of the empire, and a Greek ambassador might admire, or pity, the magnificence of the feeble

Moctader. "The caliph's whole army," says the historian Abulfeda,

"both horse and foot, was under arms, which together made a body of one

hundred and sixty thousand men. His state officers, the favorite slaves,

stood near him in splendid apparel, their belts glittering with gold and gems. Near them were seven thousand eunuchs, four thousand of them white, the remainder black. The porters or door-keepers were in number

seven hundred. Barges and boats, with the most superb decorations, were

seen swimming upon the Tigris. Nor was the palace itself less splendid,

in which were hung up thirty-eight thousand pieces of tapestry, twelve thousand five hundred of which were of silk embroidered with gold. The carpets on the floor were twenty-two thousand. A hundred lions were brought out, with a keeper to each lion. Among the other spectacles of

rare and stupendous luxury was a tree of gold and silver spreading

into eighteen large branches, on which, and on the lesser boughs, sat a

variety of birds made of the same precious metals, as well as the leaves

of the tree. While the machinery affected spontaneous motions, the

several birds warbled their natural harmony. Through this scene of

magnificence, the Greek ambassador was led by the vizier to the foot of the caliph's throne." In the West, the Ommiades of Spain supported, with equal pomp, the title of commander of the faithful. Three miles from cordova, in honor of his favorite sultana, the third and greatest of the Abdalrahmans constructed the city, palace, and gardens of Zehra. twenty-five years, and above three millions sterling, were employed by the founder: his liberal taste invited the artists of Constantinople, the most skilful sculptors and architects of the age; and the buildings were sustained or adorned by twelve hundred columns of Spanish and african, of Greek and Italian marble. The hall of audience was incrusted with gold and pearls, and a great basin in the centre was surrounded with the curious and costly figures of birds and quadrupeds. In a

lofty pavilion of the gardens, one of these basins and fountains, so delightful in a sultry climate, was replenished not with water, but with the purest quicksilver. The seraglio of Abdalrahman, his wives, concubines, and black eunuchs, amounted to six thousand three hundred

persons: and he was attended to the field by a guard of twelve thousand

horse, whose belts and cimeters were studded with gold.

chapter LII: More Conquests By The Arabs.--Part III.

In a private condition, our desires are perpetually repressed by poverty and subordination; but the lives and labors of millions are devoted to the service of a despotic prince, whose laws are blindly obeyed, and whose wishes are instantly gratified. Our imagination is dazzled by the

splendid picture; and whatever may be the cool dictates of reason, there are few among us who would obstinately refuse a trial of the comforts and the cares of royalty. It may therefore be of some use to borrow the experience of the same Abdalrahman, whose magnificence has perhaps excited our admiration and envy, and to transcribe an authentic memorial which was found in the closet of the deceased caliph. "I have now

reigned above fifty years in victory or peace; beloved by my subjects, dreaded by my enemies, and respected by my allies. Riches and honors,

power and pleasure, have waited on my call, nor does any earthly blessing appear to have been wanting to my felicity. In this situation,

I have diligently numbered the days of pure and genuine happiness which

have fallen to my lot: they amount to Fourteen:--O man! place not thy confidence in this present world!" The luxury of the caliphs, so useless to their private happiness, relaxed the nerves, and terminated the

progress, of the Arabian empire. Temporal and spiritual conquest had been the sole occupation of the first successors of Mahomet; and after

supplying themselves with the necessaries of life, the whole revenue was scrupulously devoted to that salutary work. The Abbassides were

impoverished by the multitude of their wants, and their contempt of economy. Instead of pursuing the great object of ambition, their leisure, their affections, the powers of their mind, were diverted by pomp and

pleasure: the rewards of valor were embezzled by women and eunuchs, and the royal camp was encumbered by the luxury of the palace. A similar temper was diffused among the subjects of the caliph. Their stern enthusiasm was softened by time and prosperity. They sought riches in the occupations of industry, fame in the pursuits of literature, and

happiness in the tranquillity of domestic life. War was no longer the

passion of the Saracens; and the increase of pay, the repetition of donatives, were insufficient to allure the posterity of those voluntary champions who had crowded to the standard of Abubeker and Omar for the

hopes of spoil and of paradise.

Under the reign of the Ommiades, the studies of the Moslems were confined to the interpretation of the Koran, and the eloquence and

poetry of their native tongue. A people continually exposed to the dangers of the field must esteem the healing powers of medicine, or

rather of surgery; but the starving physicians of Arabia murmured a complaint that exercise and temperance deprived them of the greatest

part of their practice. After their civil and domestic wars, the

subjects of the Abbassides, awakening from this mental lethargy, found

leisure and felt curiosity for the acquisition of profane science. This

spirit was first encouraged by the caliph Almansor, who, besides his

knowledge of the Mahometan law, had applied himself with success to the study of astronomy. But when the sceptre devolved to Almamon, the

seventh of the Abbassides, he completed the designs of his grandfather, and invited the muses from their ancient seats. His ambassadors at constantinople, his agents in Armenia, Syria, and Egypt, collected the

volumes of Grecian science at his command they were translated by the

most skilful interpreters into the Arabic language: his subjects were exhorted assiduously to peruse these instructive writings; and the successor of Mahomet assisted with pleasure and modesty at the assemblies and disputations of the learned. "He was not ignorant," says abulpharagius, "that they are the elect of God, his best and most useful

servants, whose lives are devoted to the improvement of their rational faculties. The mean ambition of the Chinese or the Turks may glory in the industry of their hands or the indulgence of their brutal appetites.

Yet these dexterous artists must view, with hopeless emulation, the

hexagons and pyramids of the cells of a beehive: these fortitudinous

heroes are awed by the superior fierceness of the lions and tigers; and

in their amorous enjoyments they are much inferior to the vigor of the

grossest and most sordid quadrupeds. The teachers of wisdom are the true

luminaries and legislators of a world, which, without their aid, would again sink in ignorance and barbarism." The zeal and curiosity of almamon were imitated by succeeding princes of the line of Abbas: their

rivals, the Fatimites of Africa and the Ommiades of Spain, were the

patrons of the learned, as well as the commanders of the faithful; the

same royal prerogative was claimed by their independent emirs of the

provinces; and their emulation diffused the taste and the rewards of

science from Samarcand and Bochara to Fez and Cordova. The vizier of a

sultan consecrated a sum of two hundred thousand pieces of gold to the foundation of a college at Bagdad, which he endowed with an annual

revenue of fifteen thousand dinars. The fruits of instruction were communicated, perhaps at different times, to six thousand disciples

of every degree, from the son of the noble to that of the mechanic: a

sufficient allowance was provided for the indigent scholars; and the

merit or industry of the professors was repaid with adequate stipends.

In every city the productions of Arabic literature were copied and collected by the curiosity of the studious and the vanity of the rich. A

private doctor refused the invitation of the sultan of Bochara, because the carriage of his books would have required four hundred camels. the royal library of the Fatimites consisted of one hundred thousand

manuscripts, elegantly transcribed and splendidly bound, which were

lent, without jealousy or avarice, to the students of Cairo. Yet this collection must appear moderate, if we can believe that the Ommiades of

Spain had formed a library of six hundred thousand volumes, forty-four

of which were employed in the mere catalogue. Their capital, Cordova, with the adjacent towns of Malaga, Almeria, and Murcia, had given birth to more than three hundred writers, and above seventy public libraries were opened in the cities of the Andalusian kingdom. The age of Arabian

learning continued about five hundred years, till the great eruption of the Moguls, and was coeval with the darkest and most slothful period of european annals; but since the sun of science has arisen in the West, it

should seem that the Oriental studies have languished and declined.

In the libraries of the Arabians, as in those of Europe, the far greater

part of the innumerable volumes were possessed only of local value or

imaginary merit. The shelves were crowded with orators and poets, whose

style was adapted to the taste and manners of their countrymen; with

general and partial histories, which each revolving generation supplied with a new harvest of persons and events; with codes and commentaries

of jurisprudence, which derived their authority from the law of the

prophet; with the interpreters of the Koran, and orthodox tradition; and with the whole theological tribe, polemics, mystics, scholastics, and

moralists, the first or the last of writers, according to the different estimates of sceptics or believers. The works of speculation or

science may be reduced to the four classes of philosophy, mathematics, astronomy, and physic. The sages of Greece were translated and

illustrated in the Arabic language, and some treatises, now lost in the original, have been recovered in the versions of the East, which

possessed and studied the writings of Aristotle and Plato, of Euclid and apollonius, of Ptolemy, Hippocrates, and Galen. Among the ideal systems which have varied with the fashion of the times, the Arabians adopted the philosophy of the Stagirite, alike intelligible or alike obscure for the readers of every age. Plato wrote for the Athenians, and his allegorical genius is too closely blended with the language and religion

of Greece. After the fall of that religion, the Peripatetics, emerging from their obscurity, prevailed in the controversies of the Oriental

sects, and their founder was long afterwards restored by the Mahometans

of Spain to the Latin schools. The physics, both of the Academy and the

Lycæum, as they are built, not on observation, but on argument, have

retarded the progress of real knowledge. The metaphysics of infinite,

or finite, spirit, have too often been enlisted in the service of

superstition. But the human faculties are fortified by the art and

practice of dialectics; the ten predicaments of Aristotle collect and

methodize our ideas, and his syllogism is the keenest weapon of dispute.

It was dexterously wielded in the schools of the Saracens, but as it is

more effectual for the detection of error than for the investigation

of truth, it is not surprising that new generations of masters and disciples should still revolve in the same circle of logical argument. the mathematics are distinguished by a peculiar privilege, that, in the course of ages, they may always advance, and can never recede. But the ancient geometry, if I am not misinformed, was resumed in the same state by the Italians of the fifteenth century; and whatever may be the

origin of the name, the science of algebra is ascribed to the Grecian diophantus by the modest testimony of the Arabs themselves. They cultivated with more success the sublime science of astronomy, which elevates the mind of man to disdain his diminutive planet and momentary existence. The costly instruments of observation were supplied by the caliph Almamon, and the land of the Chaldæans still afforded the same

spacious level, the same unclouded horizon. In the plains of Sinaar, and a second time in those of Cufa, his mathematicians accurately measured a degree of the great circle of the earth, and determined at twenty-four thousand miles the entire circumference of our globe. From the reign

of the Abbassides to that of the grandchildren of Tamerlane, the

stars, without the aid of glasses, were diligently observed; and the astronomical tables of Bagdad, Spain, and Samarcand, correct some minute errors, without daring to renounce the hypothesis of Ptolemy, without advancing a step towards the discovery of the solar system. In the eastern courts, the truths of science could be recommended only by

ignorance and folly, and the astronomer would have been disregarded,

had he not debased his wisdom or honesty by the vain predictions of astrology. But in the science of medicine, the Arabians have been deservedly applauded. The names of Mesua and Geber, of Razis and avicenna, are ranked with the Grecian masters; in the city of Bagdad, eight hundred and sixty physicians were licensed to exercise their

lucrative profession: in Spain, the life of the Catholic princes was

intrusted to the skill of the Saracens, and the school of Salerno, their

legitimate offspring, revived in Italy and Europe the precepts of the

healing art. The success of each professor must have been influenced by

personal and accidental causes; but we may form a less fanciful estimate

of their general knowledge of anatomy, botany, and chemistry, the threefold basis of their theory and practice. A superstitious reverence for the dead confined both the Greeks and the Arabians to the dissection

of apes and quadrupeds; the more solid and visible parts were known

in the time of Galen, and the finer scrutiny of the human frame was

reserved for the microscope and the injections of modern artists. Botany

is an active science, and the discoveries of the torrid zone might enrich the herbal of Dioscorides with two thousand plants. Some traditionary knowledge might be secreted in the temples and monasteries

of Egypt; much useful experience had been acquired in the practice of arts and manufactures; but the \_science\_ of chemistry owes its origin and improvement to the industry of the Saracens. They first invented and named the alembic for the purposes of distillation, analyzed the

substances of the three kingdoms of nature, tried the distinction and affinities of alcalis and acids, and converted the poisonous minerals

into soft and salutary medicines. But the most eager search of Arabian chemistry was the transmutation of metals, and the elixir of immortal

health: the reason and the fortunes of thousands were evaporated in the crucibles of alchemy, and the consummation of the great work was

promoted by the worthy aid of mystery, fable, and superstition.

but the Moslems deprived themselves of the principal benefits of a familiar intercourse with Greece and Rome, the knowledge of antiquity, the purity of taste, and the freedom of thought. Confident in the riches

of their native tongue, the Arabians disdained the study of any foreign idiom. The Greek interpreters were chosen among their Christian

subjects; they formed their translations, sometimes on the original text, more frequently perhaps on a Syriac version; and in the crowd of astronomers and physicians, there is no example of a poet, an orator, or even an historian, being taught to speak the language of the Saracens. the mythology of Homer would have provoked the abhorrence of those

stern fanatics: they possessed in lazy ignorance the colonies of the

Macedonians, and the provinces of Carthage and Rome: the heroes of

Plutarch and Livy were buried in oblivion; and the history of the world before Mahomet was reduced to a short legend of the patriarchs, the

prophets, and the Persian kings. Our education in the Greek and Latin

schools may have fixed in our minds a standard of exclusive taste; and

I am not forward to condemn the literature and judgment of nations, of whose language I am ignorant. Yet I \_know\_ that the classics have much to teach, and I \_believe\_ that the Orientals have much to learn; the temperate dignity of style, the graceful proportions of art, the forms

of visible and intellectual beauty, the just delineation of character and passion, the rhetoric of narrative and argument, the regular fabric

of epic and dramatic poetry. The influence of truth and reason is of a

less ambiguous complexion. The philosophers of Athens and Rome enjoyed the blessings, and asserted the rights, of civil and religious freedom. their moral and political writings might have gradually unlocked the fetters of Eastern despotism, diffused a liberal spirit of inquiry and toleration, and encouraged the Arabian sages to suspect that their caliph was a tyrant, and their prophet an impostor. The instinct of

superstition was alarmed by the introduction even of the abstract

sciences; and the more rigid doctors of the law condemned the rash and

pernicious curiosity of Almamon. To the thirst of martyrdom, the vision

of paradise, and the belief of predestination, we must ascribe the

invincible enthusiasm of the prince and people. And the sword of the

Saracens became less formidable when their youth was drawn away from the camp to the college, when the armies of the faithful presumed to read and to reflect. Yet the foolish vanity of the Greeks was jealous

of their studies, and reluctantly imparted the sacred fire to the barbarians of the East.

In the bloody conflict of the Ommiades and Abbassides, the Greeks had

stolen the opportunity of avenging their wrongs and enlarging their

limits. But a severe retribution was exacted by Mohadi, the third caliph

of the new dynasty, who seized, in his turn, the favorable opportunity, while a woman and a child, Irene and Constantine, were seated on the byzantine throne. An army of ninety-five thousand Persians and Arabs was sent from the Tigris to the Thracian Bosphorus, under the command

of Harun, or Aaron, the second son of the commander of the faithful. His encampment on the opposite heights of Chrysopolis, or Scutari, informed

Irene, in her palace of Constantinople, of the loss of her troops and provinces. With the consent or connivance of their sovereign, her

ministers subscribed an ignominious peace; and the exchange of some

royal gifts could not disguise the annual tribute of seventy thousand dinars of gold, which was imposed on the Roman empire. The Saracens had too rashly advanced into the midst of a distant and hostile land: their

retreat was solicited by the promise of faithful guides and plentiful

markets; and not a Greek had courage to whisper, that their weary forces

might be surrounded and destroyed in their necessary passage between a slippery mountain and the River Sangarius. Five years after this expedition, Harun ascended the throne of his father and his elder brother; the most powerful and vigorous monarch of his race, illustrious

in the West, as the ally of Charlemagne, and familiar to the most childish readers, as the perpetual hero of the Arabian tales. His title to the name of \_Al Rashid\_ (the \_Just\_) is sullied by the extirpation of the generous, perhaps the innocent, Barmecides; yet he could listen to the complaint of a poor widow who had been pillaged by his troops, and who dared, in a passage of the Koran, to threaten the inattentive despot with the judgment of God and posterity. His court was adorned with

luxury and science; but, in a reign of three-and-twenty years, Harun

repeatedly visited his provinces from Chorasan to Egypt; nine times

he performed the pilgrimage of Mecca; eight times he invaded the territories of the Romans; and as often as they declined the payment of the tribute, they were taught to feel that a month of depredation was

more costly than a year of submission. But when the unnatural mother

of Constantine was deposed and banished, her successor, Nicephorus,

resolved to obliterate this badge of servitude and disgrace. The epistle

of the emperor to the caliph was pointed with an allusion to the game

of chess, which had already spread from Persia to Greece. "The queen (he

spoke of Irene) considered you as a rook, and herself as a pawn. That

pusillanimous female submitted to pay a tribute, the double of which she

ought to have exacted from the Barbarians. Restore therefore the fruits

of your injustice, or abide the determination of the sword." At these words the ambassadors cast a bundle of swords before the foot of the throne. The caliph smiled at the menace, and drawing his cimeter,

\_samsamah\_, a weapon of historic or fabulous renown, he cut asunder the feeble arms of the Greeks, without turning the edge, or endangering the temper, of his blade. He then dictated an epistle of tremendous brevity:

"In the name of the most merciful God, Harun al Rashid, commander of the faithful, to Nicephorus, the Roman dog. I have read thy letter, O thou

son of an unbelieving mother. Thou shalt not hear, thou shalt behold, my

reply." It was written in characters of blood and fire on the plains of

Phrygia; and the warlike celerity of the Arabs could only be checked by the arts of deceit and the show of repentance. The triumphant caliph

retired, after the fatigues of the campaign, to his favorite palace of

Racca on the Euphrates: but the distance of five hundred miles, and the

inclemency of the season, encouraged his adversary to violate the peace.

Nicephorus was astonished by the bold and rapid march of the commander

of the faithful, who repassed, in the depth of winter, the snows of

Mount Taurus: his stratagems of policy and war were exhausted; and the perfidious Greek escaped with three wounds from a field of battle

overspread with forty thousand of his subjects. Yet the emperor was ashamed of submission, and the caliph was resolved on victory. One

hundred and thirty-five thousand regular soldiers received pay, and were

inscribed in the military roll; and above three hundred thousand

persons of every denomination marched under the black standard of the abbassides. They swept the surface of Asia Minor far beyond Tyana and ancyra, and invested the Pontic Heraclea, once a flourishing state, now a paltry town; at that time capable of sustaining, in her antique walls, a month's siege against the forces of the East. The ruin was complete, the spoil was ample; but if Harun had been conversant with Grecian

story, he would have regretted the statue of Hercules, whose attributes, the club, the bow, the quiver, and the lion's hide, were sculptured in

massy gold. The progress of desolation by sea and land, from the Euxine to the Isle of Cyprus, compelled the emperor Nicephorus to retract his

haughty defiance. In the new treaty, the ruins of Heraclea were left forever as a lesson and a trophy; and the coin of the tribute was marked with the image and superscription of Harun and his three sons. Yet this

plurality of lords might contribute to remove the dishonor of the Roman

name. After the death of their father, the heirs of the caliph were

involved in civil discord, and the conqueror, the liberal Almamon, was sufficiently engaged in the restoration of domestic peace and the

introduction of foreign science.

chapter LII: More Conquests By The Arabs.--Part IV.

Under the reign of Almamon at Bagdad, of Michael the Stammerer at constantinople, the islands of Crete and Sicily were subdued by the arabs. The former of these conquests is disdained by their own writers, who were ignorant of the fame of Jupiter and Minos, but it has not been

overlooked by the Byzantine historians, who now begin to cast a clearer light on the affairs of their own times. A band of Andalusian

volunteers, discontented with the climate or government of Spain, explored the adventures of the sea; but as they sailed in no more than ten or twenty galleys, their warfare must be branded with the name of

piracy. As the subjects and sectaries of the \_white\_ party, they might

lawfully invade the dominions of the \_black\_ caliphs. A rebellious faction introduced them into Alexandria; they cut in pieces both friends and foes, pillaged the churches and the moschs, sold above six thousand christian captives, and maintained their station in the capital of egypt, till they were oppressed by the forces and the presence of almamon himself. From the mouth of the Nile to the Hellespont, the

islands and sea-coasts both of the Greeks and Moslems were exposed to their depredations; they saw, they envied, they tasted the fertility of crete, and soon returned with forty galleys to a more serious attack. the Andalusians wandered over the land fearless and unmolested; but when they descended with their plunder to the sea-shore, their vessels were

in flames, and their chief, Abu Caab, confessed himself the author of the mischief. Their clamors accused his madness or treachery. "Of what do you complain?" replied the crafty emir. "I have brought you to a land flowing with milk and honey. Here is your true country; repose from your toils, and forget the barren place of your nativity." "And our wives and children?" "Your beauteous captives will supply the place of your wives, and in their embraces you will soon become the fathers of a new

progeny." The first habitation was their camp, with a ditch and rampart,

in the Bay of Suda; but an apostate monk led them to a more desirable

position in the eastern parts; and the name of Candax, their fortress and colony, has been extended to the whole island, under the corrupt and

modern appellation of \_Candia\_. The hundred cities of the age of

Minos were diminished to thirty; and of these, only one, most probably cydonia, had courage to retain the substance of freedom and the

profession of Christianity. The Saracens of Crete soon repaired the loss

of their navy; and the timbers of Mount Ida were launched into the

main. During a hostile period of one hundred and thirty-eight years, the princes of Constantinople attacked these licentious corsairs with fruitless curses and ineffectual arms.

the loss of Sicily was occasioned by an act of superstitious rigor. An amorous youth, who had stolen a nun from her cloister, was sentenced by the emperor to the amputation of his tongue. Euphemius appealed to the

reason and policy of the Saracens of Africa; and soon returned with the Imperial purple, a fleet of one hundred ships, and an army of seven

hundred horse and ten thousand foot. They landed at Mazara near the

ruins of the ancient Selinus; but after some partial victories, Syracuse was delivered by the Greeks, the apostate was slain before her walls, and his African friends were reduced to the necessity of feeding on the flesh of their own horses. In their turn they were relieved by a

powerful reënforcement of their brethren of Andalusia; the largest and western part of the island was gradually reduced, and the commodious

harbor of Palermo was chosen for the seat of the naval and military

power of the Saracens. Syracuse preserved about fifty years the faith which she had sworn to Christ and to Cæsar. In the last and fatal siege,

her citizens displayed some remnant of the spirit which had formerly

resisted the powers of Athens and Carthage. They stood above twenty days against the battering-rams and \_catapult\_, the mines and tortoises of the besiegers; and the place might have been relieved, if the mariners

of the Imperial fleet had not been detained at Constantinople in building a church to the Virgin Mary. The deacon Theodosius, with the bishop and clergy, was dragged in chains from the altar to Palermo, cast

into a subterraneous dungeon, and exposed to the hourly peril of death

or apostasy. His pathetic, and not inelegant, complaint may be read as the epitaph of his country. From the Roman conquest to this final calamity, Syracuse, now dwindled to the primitive Isle of Ortygea, had

insensibly declined. Yet the relics were still precious; the plate of the cathedral weighed five thousand pounds of silver; the entire spoil was computed at one million of pieces of gold, (about four hundred thousand pounds sterling,) and the captives must outnumber the seventeen thousand Christians, who were transported from the sack of Tauromenium

into African servitude. In Sicily, the religion and language of the Greeks were eradicated; and such was the docility of the rising

generation, that fifteen thousand boys were circumcised and clothed on the same day with the son of the Fatimite caliph. The Arabian squadrons

issued from the harbors of Palermo, Biserta, and Tunis; a hundred and fifty towns of Calabria and Campania were attacked and pillaged; nor could the suburbs of Rome be defended by the name of the Cæsars and apostles. Had the Mahometans been united, Italy must have fallen an easy and glorious accession to the empire of the prophet. But the caliphs of bagdad had lost their authority in the West; the Aglabites and Fatimites

usurped the provinces of Africa, their emirs of Sicily aspired to

independence; and the design of conquest and dominion was degraded to a

repetition of predatory inroads.

In the sufferings of prostrate Italy, the name of Rome awakens a solemn and mournful recollection. A fleet of Saracens from the African coast

presumed to enter the mouth of the Tyber, and to approach a city which even yet, in her fallen state, was revered as the metropolis of the christian world. The gates and ramparts were guarded by a trembling

people; but the tombs and temples of St. Peter and St. Paul were left exposed in the suburbs of the Vatican and of the Ostian way. Their

invisible sanctity had protected them against the Goths, the Vandals, and the Lombards; but the Arabs disdained both the gospel and the

legend; and their rapacious spirit was approved and animated by the

precepts of the Koran. The Christian \_idols\_ were stripped of their costly offerings; a silver altar was torn away from the shrine of

St. Peter; and if the bodies or the buildings were left entire, their deliverance must be imputed to the haste, rather than the scruples, of the Saracens. In their course along the Appian way, they pillaged Fundi and besieged Gayeta; but they had turned aside from the walls of Rome, and by their divisions, the Capitol was saved from the yoke of the

prophet of Mecca. The same danger still impended on the heads of the

Roman people; and their domestic force was unequal to the assault of an african emir. They claimed the protection of their Latin sovereign; but the Carlovingian standard was overthrown by a detachment of the barbarians: they meditated the restoration of the Greek emperors; but the attempt was treasonable, and the succor remote and precarious. Their distress appeared to receive some aggravation from the death of their

spiritual and temporal chief; but the pressing emergency superseded the forms and intrigues of an election; and the unanimous choice of Pope Leo the Fourth was the safety of the church and city. This pontiff was born a Roman; the courage of the first ages of the republic glowed in his breast; and, amidst the ruins of his country, he stood erect, like one

of the firm and lofty columns that rear their heads above the fragments

of the Roman forum. The first days of his reign were consecrated to the

purification and removal of relics, to prayers and processions, and to all the solemn offices of religion, which served at least to heal the

imagination, and restore the hopes, of the multitude. The public defence

had been long neglected, not from the presumption of peace, but from the distress and poverty of the times. As far as the scantiness of his means and the shortness of his leisure would allow, the ancient walls were

repaired by the command of Leo; fifteen towers, in the most accessible

stations, were built or renewed; two of these commanded on either side

of the Tyber; and an iron chain was drawn across the stream to impede the ascent of a hostile navy. The Romans were assured of a short respite by the welcome news, that the siege of Gayeta had been raised, and that a part of the enemy, with their sacrilegious plunder, had perished in the waves.

but the storm, which had been delayed, soon burst upon them with

redoubled violence. The Aglabite, who reigned in Africa, had inherited from his father a treasure and an army: a fleet of Arabs and Moors, after a short refreshment in the harbors of Sardinia, cast anchor before the mouth of the Tyber, sixteen miles from the city: and their discipline and numbers appeared to threaten, not a transient inroad, but a serious design of conquest and dominion. But the vigilance of Leo had formed an alliance with the vassals of the Greek empire, the free and maritime states of Gayeta, Naples, and Amalfi; and in the hour of danger, their galleys appeared in the port of Ostia under the command of cæsarius, the son of the Neapolitan duke, a noble and valiant youth, who

had already vanquished the fleets of the Saracens. With his principal companions, Cæsarius was invited to the Lateran palace, and the dexterous pontiff affected to inquire their errand, and to accept with

joy and surprise their providential succor. The city bands, in arms, attended their father to Ostia, where he reviewed and blessed his

generous deliverers. They kissed his feet, received the communion with

martial devotion, and listened to the prayer of Leo, that the same God who had supported St. Peter and St. Paul on the waves of the sea, would

strengthen the hands of his champions against the adversaries of his

holy name. After a similar prayer, and with equal resolution, the

Moslems advanced to the attack of the Christian galleys, which preserved their advantageous station along the coast. The victory inclined to the

side of the allies, when it was less gloriously decided in their favor by a sudden tempest, which confounded the skill and courage of the

stoutest mariners. The Christians were sheltered in a friendly harbor, while the Africans were scattered and dashed in pieces among the rocks and islands of a hostile shore. Those who escaped from shipwreck and hunger neither found, nor deserved, mercy at the hands of their

implacable pursuers. The sword and the gibbet reduced the dangerous

multitude of captives; and the remainder was more usefully employed, to restore the sacred edifices which they had attempted to subvert. the pontiff, at the head of the citizens and allies, paid his grateful devotion at the shrines of the apostles; and, among the spoils of this

naval victory, thirteen Arabian bows of pure and massy silver were

suspended round the altar of the fishermen of Galilee. The reign of Leo the Fourth was employed in the defence and ornament of the Roman state. the churches were renewed and embellished: near four thousand pounds

of silver were consecrated to repair the losses of St. Peter; and

his sanctuary was decorated with a plate of gold of the weight of two

hundred and sixteen pounds, embossed with the portraits of the pope and emperor, and encircled with a string of pearls. Yet this vain

magnificence reflects less glory on the character of Leo than the

paternal care with which he rebuilt the walls of Horta and Ameria; and transported the wandering inhabitants of Centumcellæ to his

new foundation of Leopolis, twelve miles from the sea-shore. By his

liberality, a colony of Corsicans, with their wives and children, was

planted in the station of Porto, at the mouth of the Tyber: the falling city was restored for their use, the fields and vineyards were divided among the new settlers: their first efforts were assisted by a gift of

horses and cattle; and the hardy exiles, who breathed revenge against the Saracens, swore to live and die under the standard of St. Peter. The

nations of the West and North who visited the threshold of the apostles

had gradually formed the large and populous suburb of the Vatican, and their various habitations were distinguished, in the language of the times, as the schools of the Greeks and Goths, of the Lombards and

Saxons. But this venerable spot was still open to sacrilegious insult: the design of enclosing it with walls and towers exhausted all that authority could command, or charity would supply: and the pious labor

of four years was animated in every season, and at every hour, by the

presence of the indefatigable pontiff. The love of fame, a generous but worldly passion, may be detected in the name of the \_Leonine city\_, which he bestowed on the Vatican; yet the pride of the dedication was tempered with Christian penance and humility. The boundary was trod by the bishop and his clergy, barefoot, in sackcloth and ashes; the

songs of triumph were modulated to psalms and litanies; the walls were besprinkled with holy water; and the ceremony was concluded with a

prayer, that, under the guardian care of the apostles and the angelic

host, both the old and the new Rome might ever be preserved pure,

prosperous, and impregnable.

the emperor Theophilus, son of Michael the Stammerer, was one of the

most active and high-spirited princes who reigned at Constantinople during the middle age. In offensive or defensive war, he marched in

person five times against the Saracens, formidable in his attack, esteemed by the enemy in his losses and defeats. In the last of these expeditions he penetrated into Syria, and besieged the obscure town of

Sozopetra; the casual birthplace of the caliph Motassem, whose father

Harun was attended in peace or war by the most favored of his wives and concubines. The revolt of a Persian impostor employed at that moment the arms of the Saracen, and he could only intercede in favor of a place for which he felt and acknowledged some degree of filial affection. These

solicitations determined the emperor to wound his pride in so sensible a

part. Sozopetra was levelled with the ground, the Syrian prisoners were

marked or mutilated with ignominious cruelty, and a thousand female captives were forced away from the adjacent territory. Among these a

matron of the house of Abbas invoked, in an agony of despair, the name

of Motassem; and the insults of the Greeks engaged the honor of her

kinsman to avenge his indignity, and to answer her appeal. Under the

reign of the two elder brothers, the inheritance of the youngest

had been confined to Anatolia, Armenia, Georgia, and Circassia; this frontier station had exercised his military talents; and among his accidental claims to the name of \_Octonary\_, the most meritorious are the \_eight\_ battles which he gained or fought against the enemies of the

Koran. In this personal quarrel, the troops of Irak, Syria, and Egypt, were recruited from the tribes of Arabia and the Turkish hordes; his cavalry might be numerous, though we should deduct some myriads from the

hundred and thirty thousand horses of the royal stables; and the expense

of the armament was computed at four millions sterling, or one hundred thousand pounds of gold. From Tarsus, the place of assembly, the Saracens advanced in three divisions along the high road of constantinople: Motassem himself commanded the centre, and the vanguard was given to his son Abbas, who, in the trial of the first adventures,

might succeed with the more glory, or fail with the least reproach. In the revenge of his injury, the caliph prepared to retaliate a similar affront. The father of Theophilus was a native of Amorium in Phrygia: the original seat of the Imperial house had been adorned with privileges and monuments; and, whatever might be the indifference of the people, constantinople itself was scarcely of more value in the eyes of the

sovereign and his court. The name of Amorium was inscribed on the

shields of the Saracens; and their three armies were again united

under the walls of the devoted city. It had been proposed by the wisest counsellors, to evacuate Amorium, to remove the inhabitants, and to abandon the empty structures to the vain resentment of the Barbarians. the emperor embraced the more generous resolution of defending, in a

siege and battle, the country of his ancestors. When the armies drew

near, the front of the Mahometan line appeared to a Roman eye more closely planted with spears and javelins; but the event of the action was not glorious on either side to the national troops. The Arabs were broken, but it was by the swords of thirty thousand Persians, who had

obtained service and settlement in the Byzantine empire. The Greeks were repulsed and vanquished, but it was by the arrows of the Turkish cavalry; and had not their bowstrings been damped and relaxed by the evening rain, very few of the Christians could have escaped with the emperor from the field of battle. They breathed at Dorylæum, at the distance of three days; and Theophilus, reviewing his trembling

squadrons, forgave the common flight both of the prince and people. after this discovery of his weakness, he vainly hoped to deprecate the fate of Amorium: the inexorable caliph rejected with contempt his

prayers and promises; and detained the Roman ambassadors to be the witnesses of his great revenge. They had nearly been the witnesses of

his shame. The vigorous assaults of fifty-five days were encountered by a faithful governor, a veteran garrison, and a desperate people; and the Saracens must have raised the siege, if a domestic traitor had not

pointed to the weakest part of the wall, a place which was decorated with the statues of a lion and a bull. The vow of Motassem was accomplished with unrelenting rigor: tired, rather than satiated, with destruction, he returned to his new palace of Samara, in the

neighborhood of Bagdad, while the \_unfortunate\_ Theophilus implored the tardy and doubtful aid of his Western rival the emperor of the Franks.

Yet in the siege of Amorium about seventy thousand Moslems had perished: their loss had been revenged by the slaughter of thirty thousand christians, and the sufferings of an equal number of captives, who were treated as the most atrocious criminals. Mutual necessity could

sometimes extort the exchange or ransom of prisoners: but in the

national and religious conflict of the two empires, peace was without confidence, and war without mercy. Quarter was seldom given in the field; those who escaped the edge of the sword were condemned to

hopeless servitude, or exquisite torture; and a Catholic emperor

relates, with visible satisfaction, the execution of the Saracens of crete, who were flayed alive, or plunged into caldrons of boiling oil. to a point of honor Motassem had sacrificed a flourishing city, two

hundred thousand lives, and the property of millions. The same caliph descended from his horse, and dirtied his robe, to relieve the distress

of a decrepit old man, who, with his laden ass, had tumbled into a ditch. On which of these actions did he reflect with the most pleasure, when he was summoned by the angel of death?

with Motassem, the eighth of the Abbassides, the glory of his family and

nation expired. When the Arabian conquerors had spread themselves over the East, and were mingled with the servile crowds of Persia, Syria, and Egypt, they insensibly lost the freeborn and martial virtues of the desert. The courage of the South is the artificial fruit of discipline and prejudice; the active power of enthusiasm had decayed, and the

mercenary forces of the caliphs were recruited in those climates of the

North, of which valor is the hardy and spontaneous production. Of the turks who dwelt beyond the Oxus and Jaxartes, the robust youths, either taken in war or purchased in trade, were educated in the exercises of the field, and the profession of the Mahometan faith. The Turkish guards

stood in arms round the throne of their benefactor, and their chiefs

usurped the dominion of the palace and the provinces. Motassem, the first author of this dangerous example, introduced into the capital above fifty thousand Turks: their licentious conduct provoked the public

indignation, and the quarrels of the soldiers and people induced the caliph to retire from Bagdad, and establish his own residence and the camp of his Barbarian favorites at Samara on the Tigris, about twelve

leagues above the city of Peace. His son Motawakkel was a jealous and cruel tyrant: odious to his subjects, he cast himself on the fidelity

of the strangers, and these strangers, ambitious and apprehensive, were tempted by the rich promise of a revolution. At the instigation, or at

least in the cause of his son, they burst into his apartment at the hour

of supper, and the caliph was cut into seven pieces by the same swords which he had recently distributed among the guards of his life and throne. To this throne, yet streaming with a father's blood, Montasser was triumphantly led; but in a reign of six months, he found only the

pangs of a guilty conscience. If he wept at the sight of an old tapestry which represented the crime and punishment of the son of Chosroes, if

his days were abridged by grief and remorse, we may allow some pity to a parricide, who exclaimed, in the bitterness of death, that he had lost both this world and the world to come. After this act of treason, the ensigns of royalty, the garment and walking-staff of Mahomet, were given and torn away by the foreign mercenaries, who in four years created, deposed, and murdered, three commanders of the faithful. As often as the Turks were inflamed by fear, or rage, or avarice, these caliphs were dragged by the feet, exposed naked to the scorching sun, beaten with

iron clubs, and compelled to purchase, by the abdication of their dignity, a short reprieve of inevitable fate. At length, however, the fury of the tempest was spent or diverted: the Abbassides returned to the less turbulent residence of Bagdad; the insolence of the Turks was curbed with a firmer and more skilful hand, and their numbers were divided and destroyed in foreign warfare. But the nations of the East

had been taught to trample on the successors of the prophet; and the blessings of domestic peace were obtained by the relaxation of strength and discipline. So uniform are the mischiefs of military despotism, that

I seem to repeat the story of the prætorians of Rome.

while the flame of enthusiasm was damped by the business, the pleasure, and the knowledge, of the age, it burnt with concentrated heat in the breasts of the chosen few, the congenial spirits, who were ambitious of

reigning either in this world or in the next. How carefully soever the book of prophecy had been sealed by the apostle of Mecca, the wishes, and (if we may profane the word) even the reason, of fanaticism might believe that, after the successive missions of Adam, Noah, Abraham,

Moses, Jesus, and Mahomet, the same God, in the fulness of time, would

reveal a still more perfect and permanent law. In the two hundred and

seventy-seventh year of the Hegira, and in the neighborhood of Cufa, an Arabian preacher, of the name of Carmath, assumed the lofty and

incomprehensible style of the Guide, the Director, the Demonstration, the Word, the Holy Ghost, the Camel, the Herald of the Messiah, who had conversed with him in a human shape, and the representative of Mohammed the son of Ali, of St. John the Baptist, and of the angel Gabriel. In

his mystic volume, the precepts of the Koran were refined to a more

spiritual sense: he relaxed the duties of ablution, fasting, and

pilgrimage; allowed the indiscriminate use of wine and forbidden food; and nourished the fervor of his disciples by the daily repetition of fifty prayers. The idleness and ferment of the rustic crowd awakened the attention of the magistrates of Cufa; a timid persecution assisted the progress of the new sect; and the name of the prophet became more

revered after his person had been withdrawn from the world. His twelve apostles dispersed themselves among the Bedoweens, "a race of men," says abulfeda, "equally devoid of reason and of religion;" and the success

of their preaching seemed to threaten Arabia with a new revolution. The carmathians were ripe for rebellion, since they disclaimed the title

of the house of Abbas, and abhorred the worldly pomp of the caliphs of bagdad. They were susceptible of discipline, since they vowed a blind and absolute submission to their Imam, who was called to the prophetic

office by the voice of God and the people. Instead of the legal tithes,

he claimed the fifth of their substance and spoil; the most flagitious

sins were no more than the type of disobedience; and the brethren were

united and concealed by an oath of secrecy. After a bloody conflict, they prevailed in the province of Bahrein, along the Persian Gulf: far and wide, the tribes of the desert were subject to the sceptre,

or rather to the sword of Abu Said and his son Abu Taher; and these

rebellious imams could muster in the field a hundred and seven thousand fanatics. The mercenaries of the caliph were dismayed at the approach

of an enemy who neither asked nor accepted quarter; and the difference between, them in fortitude and patience, is expressive of the change which three centuries of prosperity had effected in the character of the arabians. Such troops were discomfited in every action; the cities of

Racca and Baalbec, of Cufa and Bassora, were taken and pillaged; Bagdad was filled with consternation; and the caliph trembled behind the veils

of his palace. In a daring inroad beyond the Tigris, Abu Taher advanced to the gates of the capital with no more than five hundred horse. By the special order of Moctader, the bridges had been broken down, and the

person or head of the rebel was expected every hour by the commander of the faithful. His lieutenant, from a motive of fear or pity, apprised abu Taher of his danger, and recommended a speedy escape. "Your master,"

said the intrepid Carmathian to the messenger, "is at the head of thirty thousand soldiers: three such men as these are wanting in his host:" at the same instant, turning to three of his companions, he commanded the first to plunge a dagger into his breast, the second to leap into the tigris, and the third to cast himself headlong down a precipice. They

obeyed without a murmur. "Relate," continued the imam, "what you have

seen: before the evening your general shall be chained among my dogs." before the evening, the camp was surprised, and the menace was executed. the rapine of the Carmathians was sanctified by their aversion to the worship of Mecca: they robbed a caravan of pilgrims, and twenty thousand devout Moslems were abandoned on the burning sands to a death of hunger and thirst. Another year they suffered the pilgrims to proceed without

interruption; but, in the festival of devotion, Abu Taher stormed the

holy city, and trampled on the most venerable relics of the Mahometan faith. Thirty thousand citizens and strangers were put to the sword; the sacred precincts were polluted by the burial of three thousand dead bodies; the well of Zemzem overflowed with blood; the golden spout was forced from its place; the veil of the Caaba was divided among these

impious sectaries; and the black stone, the first monument of the

nation, was borne away in triumph to their capital. After this deed of

sacrilege and cruelty, they continued to infest the confines of Irak,

Syria, and Egypt: but the vital principle of enthusiasm had withered at the root. Their scruples, or their avarice, again opened the pilgrimage

of Mecca, and restored the black stone of the Caaba; and it is needless to inquire into what factions they were broken, or by whose swords they were finally extirpated. The sect of the Carmathians may be considered as the second visible cause of the decline and fall of the empire of the caliphs.

chapter LII: More Conquests By The Arabs.--Part V.

the third and most obvious cause was the weight and magnitude of the empire itself. The caliph Almamon might proudly assert, that it was easier for him to rule the East and the West, than to manage a chess-board of two feet square: yet I suspect that in both those games

he was guilty of many fatal mistakes; and I perceive, that in the distant provinces the authority of the first and most powerful of the abbassides was already impaired. The analogy of despotism invests the

representative with the full majesty of the prince; the division and balance of powers might relax the habits of obedience, might encourage the passive subject to inquire into the origin and administration of civil government. He who is born in the purple is seldom worthy to

reign; but the elevation of a private man, of a peasant, perhaps, or a slave, affords a strong presumption of his courage and capacity. the viceroy of a remote kingdom aspires to secure the property and

inheritance of his precarious trust; the nations must rejoice in the

presence of their sovereign; and the command of armies and treasures are at once the object and the instrument of his ambition. A change was

scarcely visible as long as the lieutenants of the caliph were content with their vicarious title; while they solicited for themselves or their

sons a renewal of the Imperial grant, and still maintained on the coin and in the public prayers the name and prerogative of the commander of the faithful. But in the long and hereditary exercise of power, they assumed the pride and attributes of royalty; the alternative of peace

or war, of reward or punishment, depended solely on their will; and the

revenues of their government were reserved for local services or

private magnificence. Instead of a regular supply of men and money, the

successors of the prophet were flattered with the ostentatious gift of an elephant, or a cast of hawks, a suit of silk hangings, or some pounds

of musk and amber.

after the revolt of Spain from the temporal and spiritual supremacy of the Abbassides, the first symptoms of disobedience broke forth in the

province of Africa. Ibrahim, the son of Aglab, the lieutenant of the

vigilant and rigid Harun, bequeathed to the dynasty of the \_Aglabite\_ the inheritance of his name and power. The indolence or policy of the caliphs dissembled the injury and loss, and pursued only with poison the founder of the \_Edrisites\_, who erected the kingdom and city of Fez on the shores of the Western ocean. In the East, the first dynasty was that of the \_Taherites\_; the posterity of the valiant Taher, who, in the civil wars of the sons of Harun, had served with too much zeal and

success the cause of Almamon, the younger brother. He was sent

into honorable exile, to command on the banks of the Oxus; and the

independence of his successors, who reigned in Chorasan till the fourth

generation, was palliated by their modest and respectful demeanor, the

happiness of their subjects and the security of their frontier. They were supplanted by one of those adventures so frequent in the annals

of the East, who left his trade of a brazier (from whence the name of

\_Soffarides\_) for the profession of a robber. In a nocturnal visit to the treasure of the prince of Sistan, Jacob, the son of Leith, stumbled

over a lump of salt, which he unwarily tasted with his tongue. Salt, among the Orientals, is the symbol of hospitality, and the pious robber

immediately retired without spoil or damage. The discovery of this

honorable behavior recommended Jacob to pardon and trust; he led an army at first for his benefactor, at last for himself, subdued Persia, and threatened the residence of the Abbassides. On his march towards Bagdad, the conqueror was arrested by a fever. He gave audience in bed to the ambassador of the caliph; and beside him on a table were exposed a naked cimeter, a crust of brown bread, and a bunch of onions. "If I die,"

said he, "your master is delivered from his fears. If I live, \_this\_ must determine between us. If I am vanquished, I can return without

reluctance to the homely fare of my youth." From the height where he

stood, the descent would not have been so soft or harmless: a timely death secured his own repose and that of the caliph, who paid with the

most lavish concessions the retreat of his brother Amrou to the palaces

of Shiraz and Ispahan. The Abbassides were too feeble to contend, too

proud to forgive: they invited the powerful dynasty of the \_Samanides\_, who passed the Oxus with ten thousand horse so poor, that their stirrups were of wood: so brave, that they vanquished the Soffarian army, eight times more numerous than their own. The captive Amrou was sent in chains, a grateful offering to the court of Bagdad; and as the victor was content with the inheritance of Transoxiana and Chorasan, the realms

of Persia returned for a while to the allegiance of the caliphs. The

provinces of Syria and Egypt were twice dismembered by their Turkish

slaves of the race of \_Toulon\_ and \_Ilkshid\_. These Barbarians, in

religion and manners the countrymen of Mahomet, emerged from the bloody factions of the palace to a provincial command and an independent throne: their names became famous and formidable in their time; but the founders of these two potent dynasties confessed, either in words or actions, the vanity of ambition. The first on his death-bed implored the

mercy of God to a sinner, ignorant of the limits of his own power: the second, in the midst of four hundred thousand soldiers and eight thousand slaves, concealed from every human eye the chamber where he attempted to sleep. Their sons were educated in the vices of kings; and both Egypt and Syria were recovered and possessed by the Abbassides during an interval of thirty years. In the decline of their empire,

Mesopotamia, with the important cities of Mosul and Aleppo, was occupied by the Arabian princes of the tribe of \_Hamadan\_. The poets of their court could repeat without a blush, that nature had formed their countenances for beauty, their tongues for eloquence, and their hands for liberality and valor: but the genuine tale of the elevation and

reign of the \_Hamadanites\_ exhibits a scene of treachery, murder, and

parricide. At the same fatal period, the Persian kingdom was again

usurped by the dynasty of the \_Bowides\_, by the sword of three brothers, who, under various names, were styled the support and columns of the

state, and who, from the Caspian Sea to the ocean, would suffer no tyrants but themselves. Under their reign, the language and genius of

Persia revived, and the Arabs, three hundred and four years after the death of Mahomet, were deprived of the sceptre of the East.

Rahadi, the twentieth of the Abbassides, and the thirty-ninth of the

successors of Mahomet, was the last who deserved the title of commander

of the faithful; the last (says Abulfeda) who spoke to the people,

or conversed with the learned; the last who, in the expense of his

household, represented the wealth and magnificence of the ancient caliphs. After him, the lords of the Eastern world were reduced to the

most abject misery, and exposed to the blows and insults of a servile condition. The revolt of the provinces circumscribed their dominions within the walls of Bagdad: but that capital still contained an

innumerable multitude, vain of their past fortune, discontented with their present state, and oppressed by the demands of a treasury which

had formerly been replenished by the spoil and tribute of nations. Their

idleness was exercised by faction and controversy. Under the mask of

piety, the rigid followers of Hanbal invaded the pleasures of domestic

life, burst into the houses of plebeians and princes, the wine, broke the instruments, beat the musicians, and dishonored, with infamous

suspicions, the associates of every handsome youth. In each profession, which allowed room for two persons, the one was a votary, the other an antagonist, of Ali; and the Abbassides were awakened by the clamorous

grief of the sectaries, who denied their title, and cursed their

progenitors. A turbulent people could only be repressed by a military force; but who could satisfy the avarice or assert the discipline of the

mercenaries themselves? The African and the Turkish guards drew their

swords against each other, and the chief commanders, the emirs al Omra,

imprisoned or deposed their sovereigns, and violated the sanctuary of the mosch and harem. If the caliphs escaped to the camp or court of any

neighboring prince, their deliverance was a change of servitude, till they were prompted by despair to invite the Bowides, the sultans of

Persia, who silenced the factions of Bagdad by their irresistible arms. the civil and military powers were assumed by Moezaldowlat, the second

of the three brothers, and a stipend of sixty thousand pounds sterling was assigned by his generosity for the private expense of the commander

of the faithful. But on the fortieth day, at the audience of the ambassadors of Chorasan, and in the presence of a trembling multitude, the caliph was dragged from his throne to a dungeon, by the command

of the stranger, and the rude hands of his Dilemites. His palace was

pillaged, his eyes were put out, and the mean ambition of the Abbassides aspired to the vacant station of danger and disgrace. In the school

of adversity, the luxurious caliphs resumed the grave and abstemious

virtues of the primitive times. Despoiled of their armor and silken

robes, they fasted, they prayed, they studied the Koran and the tradition of the Sonnites: they performed, with zeal and knowledge, the functions of their ecclesiastical character. The respect of nations

still waited on the successors of the apostle, the oracles of the law and conscience of the faithful; and the weakness or division of their tyrants sometimes restored the Abbassides to the sovereignty of bagdad. But their misfortunes had been imbittered by the triumph of the Fatimites, the real or spurious progeny of Ali. Arising from the extremity of Africa, these successful rivals extinguished, in Egypt and

Syria, both the spiritual and temporal authority of the Abbassides; and the monarch of the Nile insulted the humble pontiff on the banks of the tigris.

In the declining age of the caliphs, in the century which elapsed after the war of Theophilus and Motassem, the hostile transactions of the two

nations were confined to some inroads by sea and land, the fruits of their close vicinity and indelible hatred. But when the Eastern world was convulsed and broken, the Greeks were roused from their lethargy by the hopes of conquest and revenge. The Byzantine empire, since the accession of the Basilian race, had reposed in peace and dignity; and they might encounter with their entire strength the front of some petty emir, whose rear was assaulted and threatened by his national foes of the Mahometan faith. The lofty titles of the morning star, and the death

of the Saracens, were applied in the public acclamations to Nicephorus

Phocas, a prince as renowned in the camp, as he was unpopular in the city. In the subordinate station of great domestic, or general of the east, he reduced the Island of Crete, and extirpated the nest of pirates who had so long defied, with impunity, the majesty of the empire.

His military genius was displayed in the conduct and success of the enterprise, which had so often failed with loss and dishonor. The

Saracens were confounded by the landing of his troops on safe and level bridges, which he cast from the vessels to the shore. Seven months were consumed in the siege of Candia; the despair of the native Cretans was

stimulated by the frequent aid of their brethren of Africa and Spain; and after the massy wall and double ditch had been stormed by the Greeks a hopeless conflict was still maintained in the streets and houses

of the city. The whole island was subdued in the capital, and a

submissive people accepted, without resistance, the baptism of the conqueror. Constantinople applauded the long-forgotten pomp of a triumph; but the Imperial diadem was the sole reward that could repay the services, or satisfy the ambition, of Nicephorus.

after the death of the younger Romanus, the fourth in lineal descent of the Basilian race, his widow Theophania successively married Nicephorus

Phocas and his assassin John Zimisces, the two heroes of the age. They

reigned as the guardians and colleagues of her infant sons; and the twelve years of their military command form the most splendid period of the Byzantine annals. The subjects and confederates, whom they led to war, appeared, at least in the eyes of an enemy, two hundred thousand

strong; and of these about thirty thousand were armed with cuirasses: a train of four thousand mules attended their march; and their evening camp was regularly fortified with an enclosure of iron spikes. A series

of bloody and undecisive combats is nothing more than an anticipation

of what would have been effected in a few years by the course of nature; but I shall briefly prosecute the conquests of the two emperors from the

hills of Cappadocia to the desert of Bagdad. The sieges of Mopsuestia and Tarsus, in Cilicia, first exercised the skill and perseverance of their troops, on whom, at this moment, I shall not hesitate to bestow the name of Romans. In the double city of Mopsuestia, which is divided by the River Sarus, two hundred thousand Moslems were predestined to death or slavery, a surprising degree of population, which must at least

include the inhabitants of the dependent districts. They were surrounded and taken by assault; but Tarsus was reduced by the slow progress of famine; and no sooner had the Saracens yielded on honorable terms than they were mortified by the distant and unprofitable view of the naval

succors of Egypt. They were dismissed with a safe-conduct to the confines of Syria: a part of the old Christians had quietly lived under their dominion; and the vacant habitations were replenished by a new colony. But the mosch was converted into a stable; the pulpit was delivered to the flames; many rich crosses of gold and gems, the spoils

of Asiatic churches, were made a grateful offering to the piety or avarice of the emperor; and he transported the gates of Mopsuestia and tarsus, which were fixed in the walls of Constantinople, an eternal

monument of his victory. After they had forced and secured the narrow

passes of Mount Amanus, the two Roman princes repeatedly carried their arms into the heart of Syria. Yet, instead of assaulting the walls of antioch, the humanity or superstition of Nicephorus appeared to respect the ancient metropolis of the East: he contented himself with drawing

round the city a line of circumvallation; left a stationary army; and

instructed his lieutenant to expect, without impatience, the return

of spring. But in the depth of winter, in a dark and rainy night, an adventurous subaltern, with three hundred soldiers, approached the

rampart, applied his scaling-ladders, occupied two adjacent towers,

stood firm against the pressure of multitudes, and bravely maintained

his post till he was relieved by the tardy, though effectual, support of

his reluctant chief. The first tumult of slaughter and rapine subsided; the reign of Cæsar and of Christ was restored; and the efforts of a

hundred thousand Saracens, of the armies of Syria and the fleets of africa, were consumed without effect before the walls of Antioch. The

royal city of Aleppo was subject to Seifeddowlat, of the dynasty of

Hamadan, who clouded his past glory by the precipitate retreat which abandoned his kingdom and capital to the Roman invaders. In his stately

palace, that stood without the walls of Aleppo, they joyfully seized a well-furnished magazine of arms, a stable of fourteen hundred mules, and three hundred bags of silver and gold. But the walls of the city withstood the strokes of their battering-rams: and the besiegers pitched their tents on the neighboring mountain of Jaushan. Their retreat exasperated the quarrel of the townsmen and mercenaries; the guard of the gates and ramparts was deserted; and while they furiously charged each other in the market-place, they were surprised and destroyed by the

sword of a common enemy. The male sex was exterminated by the sword; ten thousand youths were led into captivity; the weight of the precious

spoil exceeded the strength and number of the beasts of burden; the

superfluous remainder was burnt; and, after a licentious possession of ten days, the Romans marched away from the naked and bleeding city. In their Syrian inroads they commanded the husbandmen to cultivate their

lands, that they themselves, in the ensuing season, might reap the benefit; more than a hundred cities were reduced to obedience; and eighteen pulpits of the principal moschs were committed to the flames to expiate the sacrilege of the disciples of Mahomet. The classic names

of Hierapolis, Apamea, and Emesa, revive for a moment in the list of conquest: the emperor Zimisces encamped in the paradise of Damascus, and accepted the ransom of a submissive people; and the torrent was

only stopped by the impregnable fortress of Tripoli, on the sea-coast of

Phnicia. Since the days of Heraclius, the Euphrates, below the passage

of Mount Taurus, had been impervious, and almost invisible, to the

Greeks. The river yielded a free passage to the victorious Zimisces; and the historian may imitate the speed with which he overran the once famous cities of Samosata, Edessa, Martyropolis, Amida, and Nisibis, the ancient limit of the empire in the neighborhood of the Tigris. His ardor was quickened by the desire of grasping the virgin treasures

of Ecbatana, a well-known name, under which the Byzantine writer has concealed the capital of the Abbassides. The consternation of the fugitives had already diffused the terror of his name; but the fancied

riches of Bagdad had already been dissipated by the avarice and

prodigality of domestic tyrants. The prayers of the people, and the

stern demands of the lieutenant of the Bowides, required the caliph to

provide for the defence of the city. The helpless Mothi replied, that

his arms, his revenues, and his provinces, had been torn from his hands, and that he was ready to abdicate a dignity which he was unable to

support. The emir was inexorable; the furniture of the palace was sold; and the paltry price of forty thousand pieces of gold was instantly consumed in private luxury. But the apprehensions of Bagdad were

relieved by the retreat of the Greeks: thirst and hunger guarded the desert of Mesopotamia; and the emperor, satiated with glory, and laden with Oriental spoils, returned to Constantinople, and displayed, in his triumph, the silk, the aromatics, and three hundred myriads of gold and

silver. Yet the powers of the East had been bent, not broken, by this transient hurricane. After the departure of the Greeks, the fugitive

princes returned to their capitals; the subjects disclaimed their

involuntary oaths of allegiance; the Moslems again purified their temples, and overturned the idols of the saints and martyrs; the

Nestorians and Jacobites preferred a Saracen to an orthodox master; and the numbers and spirit of the Melchites were inadequate to the support

of the church and state. Of these extensive conquests, Antioch, with the cities of Cilicia and the Isle of Cyprus, was alone restored, a

permanent and useful accession to the Roman empire.

chapter LIII: Fate Of The Eastern Empire.--Part I.

Fate Of The Eastern Empire In The Tenth Century.--Extent And

Division.--Wealth And Revenue.--Palace Of Constantinople.--

Titles And Offices.--Pride And Power Of The Emperors.--

Tactics Of The Greeks, Arabs, And Franks.--Loss Of The Latin

Tongue.--Studies And Solitude Of The Greeks.

a ray of historic light seems to beam from the darkness of the tenth century. We open with curiosity and respect the royal volumes of constantine Porphyrogenitus, which he composed at a mature age for the

instruction of his son, and which promise to unfold the state of the eastern empire, both in peace and war, both at home and abroad. In the first of these works he minutely describes the pompous ceremonies of the church and palace of Constantinople, according to his own practice, and that of his predecessors. In the second, he attempts an accurate survey

of the provinces, the \_themes\_, as they were then denominated, both of europe and Asia. The system of Roman tactics, the discipline and

order of the troops, and the military operations by land and sea, are explained in the third of these didactic collections, which may be ascribed to Constantine or his father Leo. In the fourth, of the administration of the empire, he reveals the secrets of the Byzantine

policy, in friendly or hostile intercourse with the nations of the earth. The literary labors of the age, the practical systems of law, agriculture, and history, might redound to the benefit of the subject and the honor of the Macedonian princes. The sixty books of the

\_Basilics\_, the code and pandects of civil jurisprudence, were gradually framed in the three first reigns of that prosperous dynasty. The art of agriculture had amused the leisure, and exercised the pens, of the best and wisest of the ancients; and their chosen precepts are comprised in the twenty books of the \_Geoponics\_ of Constantine. At his command, the

historical examples of vice and virtue were methodized in fifty-three books, and every citizen might apply, to his contemporaries or himself, the lesson or the warning of past times. From the august character of a

legislator, the sovereign of the East descends to the more humble office

of a teacher and a scribe; and if his successors and subjects were

regardless of his paternal cares, \_we\_ may inherit and enjoy the everlasting legacy.

a closer survey will indeed reduce the value of the gift, and the

gratitude of posterity: in the possession of these Imperial treasures we

may still deplore our poverty and ignorance; and the fading glories

of their authors will be obliterated by indifference or contempt. The basilics will sink to a broken copy, a partial and mutilated version, in the Greek language, of the laws of Justinian; but the sense of the

old civilians is often superseded by the influence of bigotry: and the absolute prohibition of divorce, concubinage, and interest for money, enslaves the freedom of trade and the happiness of private life. In the

historical book, a subject of Constantine might admire the inimitable

virtues of Greece and Rome: he might learn to what a pitch of energy and elevation the human character had formerly aspired. But a contrary effect must have been produced by a new edition of the lives of the

saints, which the great logothete, or chancellor of the empire, was directed to prepare; and the dark fund of superstition was enriched by the fabulous and florid legends of Simon the \_Metaphrast\_. The merits and miracles of the whole calendar are of less account in the eyes of a

sage, than the toil of a single husbandman, who multiplies the gifts

of the Creator, and supplies the food of his brethren. Yet the royal authors of the \_Geoponics\_ were more seriously employed in expounding the precepts of the destroying art, which had been taught since the days

of Xenophon, as the art of heroes and kings. But the \_Tactics\_ of Leo and Constantine are mingled with the baser alloy of the age in which they lived. It was destitute of original genius; they implicitly transcribe the rules and maxims which had been confirmed by victories.

It was unskilled in the propriety of style and method; they blindly confound the most distant and discordant institutions, the phalanx of

Sparta and that of Macedon, the legions of Cato and Trajan, of Augustus and Theodosius. Even the use, or at least the importance, of these

military rudiments may be fairly questioned: their general theory is dictated by reason; but the merit, as well as difficulty, consists

in the application. The discipline of a soldier is formed by exercise

rather than by study: the talents of a commander are appropriated to those calm, though rapid, minds, which nature produces to decide the fate of armies and nations: the former is the habit of a life, the

latter the glance of a moment; and the battles won by lessons of tactics

may be numbered with the epic poems created from the rules of criticism. the book of ceremonies is a recital, tedious yet imperfect, of the despicable pageantry which had infected the church and state since the

gradual decay of the purity of the one and the power of the other. a review of the themes or provinces might promise such authentic and

useful information, as the curiosity of government only can obtain,

instead of traditionary fables on the origin of the cities, and

malicious epigrams on the vices of their inhabitants. Such information the historian would have been pleased to record; nor should his silence be condemned if the most interesting objects, the population of the capital and provinces, the amount of the taxes and revenues, the numbers

of subjects and strangers who served under the Imperial standard, have been unnoticed by Leo the philosopher, and his son Constantine.

His treatise of the public administration is stained with the same blemishes; yet it is discriminated by peculiar merit; the antiquities of the nations may be doubtful or fabulous; but the geography and manners

of the Barbaric world are delineated with curious accuracy. Of these

nations, the Franks alone were qualified to observe in their turn, and to describe, the metropolis of the East. The ambassador of the great

Otho, a bishop of Cremona, has painted the state of Constantinople about the middle of the tenth century: his style is glowing, his narrative

lively, his observation keen; and even the prejudices and passions of

Liutprand are stamped with an original character of freedom and genius. from this scanty fund of foreign and domestic materials, I shall

investigate the form and substance of the Byzantine empire; the

provinces and wealth, the civil government and military force, the character and literature, of the Greeks in a period of six hundred

years, from the reign of Heraclius to his successful invasion of the franks or Latins.

after the final division between the sons of Theodosius, the swarms

of Barbarians from Scythia and Germany over-spread the provinces and extinguished the empire of ancient Rome. The weakness of Constantinople was concealed by extent of dominion: her limits were inviolate, or at

least entire; and the kingdom of Justinian was enlarged by the splendid acquisition of Africa and Italy. But the possession of these new conquests was transient and precarious; and almost a moiety of the eastern empire was torn away by the arms of the Saracens. Syria and egypt were oppressed by the Arabian caliphs; and, after the reduction of africa, their lieutenants invaded and subdued the Roman province which

had been changed into the Gothic monarchy of Spain. The islands of the

Mediterranean were not inaccessible to their naval powers; and it was from their extreme stations, the harbors of Crete and the fortresses of cilicia, that the faithful or rebel emirs insulted the majesty of the throne and capital. The remaining provinces, under the obedience of the emperors, were cast into a new mould; and the jurisdiction of the presidents, the consulars, and the counts were superseded by the

institution of the \_themes\_, or military governments, which prevailed

under the successors of Heraclius, and are described by the pen of the

royal author. Of the twenty-nine themes, twelve in Europe and seventeen

in Asia, the origin is obscure, the etymology doubtful or capricious: the limits were arbitrary and fluctuating; but some particular names, that sound the most strangely to our ear, were derived from the character and attributes of the troops that were maintained at the expense, and for the guard, of the respective divisions. The vanity of the Greek princes most eagerly grasped the shadow of conquest and the

memory of lost dominion. A new Mesopotamia was created on the western

side of the Euphrates: the appellation and prætor of Sicily were transferred to a narrow slip of Calabria; and a fragment of the duchy of beneventum was promoted to the style and title of the theme of Lombardy.

In the decline of the Arabian empire, the successors of Constantine

might indulge their pride in more solid advantages. The victories of

Nicephorus, John Zimisces, and Basil the Second, revived the fame, and enlarged the boundaries, of the Roman name: the province of Cilicia, the

metropolis of Antioch, the islands of Crete and Cyprus, were restored to the allegiance of Christ and Cæsar: one third of Italy was annexed to the throne of Constantinople: the kingdom of Bulgaria was destroyed; and the last sovereigns of the Macedonian dynasty extended their sway from the sources of the Tigris to the neighborhood of Rome. In the eleventh century, the prospect was again clouded by new enemies and new

misfortunes: the relics of Italy were swept away by the Norman adventures; and almost all the Asiatic branches were dissevered from the

Roman trunk by the Turkish conquerors. After these losses, the emperors of the Comnenian family continued to reign from the Danube to Peloponnesus, and from Belgrade to Nice, Trebizond, and the winding

stream of the Meander. The spacious provinces of Thrace, Macedonia, and Greece, were obedient to their sceptre; the possession of Cyprus,

Rhodes, and Crete, was accompanied by the fifty islands of the Ægean or

Holy Sea; and the remnant of their empire transcends the measure of the

largest of the European kingdoms.

the same princes might assert, with dignity and truth, that of all the

monarchs of Christendom they possessed the greatest city, the most ample

revenue, the most flourishing and populous state. With the decline and fall of the empire, the cities of the West had decayed and fallen; nor could the ruins of Rome, or the mud walls, wooden hovels, and narrow

precincts of Paris and London, prepare the Latin stranger to contemplate the situation and extent of Constantinople, her stately palaces and churches, and the arts and luxury of an innumerable people. Her treasures might attract, but her virgin strength had repelled, and still

promised to repel, the audacious invasion of the Persian and Bulgarian, the Arab and the Russian. The provinces were less fortunate and

impregnable; and few districts, few cities, could be discovered which

had not been violated by some fierce Barbarian, impatient to despoil, because he was hopeless to possess. From the age of Justinian the eastern empire was sinking below its former level; the powers of destruction were more active than those of improvement; and the calamities of war were imbittered by the more permanent evils of civil and ecclesiastical tyranny. The captive who had escaped from the barbarians was often stripped and imprisoned by the ministers of his

sovereign: the Greek superstition relaxed the mind by prayer, and emaciated the body by fasting; and the multitude of convents and festivals diverted many hands and many days from the temporal service

of mankind. Yet the subjects of the Byzantine empire were still the most dexterous and diligent of nations; their country was blessed by nature with every advantage of soil, climate, and situation; and, in the

support and restoration of the arts, their patient and peaceful temper was more useful than the warlike spirit and feudal anarchy of Europe. the provinces that still adhered to the empire were repeopled and enriched by the misfortunes of those which were irrecoverably lost. from the yoke of the caliphs, the Catholics of Syria, Egypt, and Africa

retired to the allegiance of their prince, to the society of their brethren: the movable wealth, which eludes the search of oppression, accompanied and alleviated their exile, and Constantinople received

into her bosom the fugitive trade of Alexandria and Tyre. The chiefs

of Armenia and Scythia, who fled from hostile or religious persecution, were hospitably entertained: their followers were encouraged to build

new cities and to cultivate waste lands; and many spots, both in Europe and Asia, preserved the name, the manners, or at least the memory, of these national colonies. Even the tribes of Barbarians, who had seated themselves in arms on the territory of the empire, were gradually

reclaimed to the laws of the church and state; and as long as they were

separated from the Greeks, their posterity supplied a race of faithful and obedient soldiers. Did we possess sufficient materials to survey the twenty-nine themes of the Byzantine monarchy, our curiosity might be satisfied with a chosen example: it is fortunate enough that the clearest light should be thrown on the most interesting province, and the name of Peloponnesus will awaken the attention of the classic

reader.

as early as the eighth century, in the troubled reign of the

Iconoclasts, Greece, and even Peloponnesus, were overrun by some

Sclavonian bands who outstripped the royal standard of Bulgaria. The

strangers of old, Cadmus, and Danaus, and Pelops, had planted in that fruitful soil the seeds of policy and learning; but the savages of the

north eradicated what yet remained of their sickly and withered roots.

In this irruption, the country and the inhabitants were transformed; the

Grecian blood was contaminated; and the proudest nobles of Peloponnesus were branded with the names of foreigners and \_slaves\_. By the diligence

of succeeding princes, the land was in some measure purified from the barbarians; and the humble remnant was bound by an oath of obedience, tribute, and military service, which they often renewed and often

violated. The siege of Patras was formed by a singular concurrence of the Sclavonians of Peloponnesus and the Saracens of Africa. In their

last distress, a pious fiction of the approach of the prætor of corinth revived the courage of the citizens. Their sally was bold and

successful; the strangers embarked, the rebels submitted, and the glory

of the day was ascribed to a phantom or a stranger, who fought in the foremost ranks under the character of St. Andrew the Apostle. The shrine which contained his relics was decorated with the trophies of victory, and the captive race was forever devoted to the service and vassalage

of the metropolitan church of Patras. By the revolt of two Sclavonian tribes, in the neighborhood of Helos and Lacedæmon, the peace of the

peninsula was often disturbed. They sometimes insulted the weakness, and

sometimes resisted the oppression, of the Byzantine government, till at

length the approach of their hostile brethren extorted a golden bull to define the rites and obligations of the Ezzerites and Milengi, whose annual tribute was defined at twelve hundred pieces of gold. From these strangers the Imperial geographer has accurately distinguished a domestic, and perhaps original, race, who, in some degree, might derive their blood from the much-injured Helots. The liberality of the Romans, and especially of Augustus, had enfranchised the maritime cities from the dominion of Sparta; and the continuance of the same benefit ennobled them with the title of \_Eleuthero\_, or Free-Laconians. In the time of constantine Porphyrogenitus, they had acquired the name of \_Mainotes\_,

under which they dishonor the claim of liberty by the inhuman pillage of all that is shipwrecked on their rocky shores. Their territory, barren

of corn, but fruitful of olives, extended to the Cape of Malea: they accepted a chief or prince from the Byzantine prætor, and a light tribute of four hundred pieces of gold was the badge of their immunity,

rather than of their dependence. The freemen of Laconia assumed the character of Romans, and long adhered to the religion of the Greeks. by the zeal of the emperor Basil, they were baptized in the faith of christ: but the altars of Venus and Neptune had been crowned by these

rustic votaries five hundred years after they were proscribed in the

Roman world. In the theme of Peloponnesus, forty cities were still

numbered, and the declining state of Sparta, Argos, and Corinth, may be

suspended in the tenth century, at an equal distance, perhaps, between their antique splendor and their present desolation. The duty of

military service, either in person or by substitute, was imposed on the

lands or benefices of the province; a sum of five pieces of gold was assessed on each of the substantial tenants; and the same capitation was

shared among several heads of inferior value. On the proclamation of an Italian war, the Peloponnesians excused themselves by a voluntary

oblation of one hundred pounds of gold, (four thousand pounds sterling,) and a thousand horses with their arms and trappings. The churches and monasteries furnished their contingent; a sacrilegious profit was extorted from the sale of ecclesiastical honors; and the indigent bishop

of Leucadia was made responsible for a pension of one hundred pieces of

gold.

but the wealth of the province, and the trust of the revenue, were founded on the fair and plentiful produce of trade and manufacturers; and some symptoms of liberal policy may be traced in a law which exempts from all personal taxes the mariners of Peloponnesus, and the workmen

in parchment and purple. This denomination may be fairly applied or extended to the manufacturers of linen, woollen, and more especially of

silk: the two former of which had flourished in Greece since the days

of Homer; and the last was introduced perhaps as early as the reign

of Justinian. These arts, which were exercised at Corinth, Thebes, and Argos, afforded food and occupation to a numerous people: the

men, women, and children were distributed according to their age and

strength; and, if many of these were domestic slaves, their masters, who directed the work and enjoyed the profit, were of a free and honorable condition. The gifts which a rich and generous matron of Peloponnesus

presented to the emperor Basil, her adopted son, were doubtless fabricated in the Grecian looms. Danielis bestowed a carpet of fine wool, of a pattern which imitated the spots of a peacock's tail, of a

magnitude to overspread the floor of a new church, erected in the triple

name of Christ, of Michael the archangel, and of the prophet Elijah.

She gave six hundred pieces of silk and linen, of various use and denomination: the silk was painted with the Tyrian dye, and adorned by the labors of the needle; and the linen was so exquisitely fine, that an entire piece might be rolled in the hollow of a cane. In his description

of the Greek manufactures, an historian of Sicily discriminates their

price, according to the weight and quality of the silk, the closeness

of the texture, the beauty of the colors, and the taste and materials of the embroidery. A single, or even a double or treble thread was thought

sufficient for ordinary sale; but the union of six threads composed a piece of stronger and more costly workmanship. Among the colors,

he celebrates, with affectation of eloquence, the fiery blaze of the

scarlet, and the softer lustre of the green. The embroidery was raised either in silk or gold: the more simple ornament of stripes or circles was surpassed by the nicer imitation of flowers: the vestments that were fabricated for the palace or the altar often glittered with precious

stones; and the figures were delineated in strings of Oriental pearls. till the twelfth century, Greece alone, of all the countries of christendom, was possessed of the insect who is taught by nature, and of the workmen who are instructed by art, to prepare this elegant luxury. but the secret had been stolen by the dexterity and diligence of the arabs: the caliphs of the East and West scorned to borrow from the

unbelievers their furniture and apparel; and two cities of Spain, almeria and Lisbon, were famous for the manufacture, the use, and,

perhaps, the exportation, of silk. It was first introduced into Sicily by the Normans; and this emigration of trade distinguishes the victory

of Roger from the uniform and fruitless hostilities of every age. After the sack of Corinth, Athens, and Thebes, his lieutenant embarked with a captive train of weavers and artificers of both sexes, a trophy glorious to their master, and disgraceful to the Greek emperor. The king of

Sicily was not insensible of the value of the present; and, in the

restitution of the prisoners, he excepted only the male and female

manufacturers of Thebes and Corinth, who labor, says the Byzantine

historian, under a barbarous lord, like the old Eretrians in the service

of Darius. A stately edifice, in the palace of Palermo, was erected for the use of this industrious colony; and the art was propagated by their children and disciples to satisfy the increasing demand of the western world. The decay of the looms of Sicily may be ascribed to the troubles

of the island, and the competition of the Italian cities. In the year thirteen hundred and fourteen, Lucca alone, among her sister republics, enjoyed the lucrative monopoly. A domestic revolution dispersed the manufacturers to Florence, Bologna, Venice, Milan, and even the countries beyond the Alps; and thirteen years after this event the

statutes of Modena enjoin the planting of mulberry-trees, and regulate the duties on raw silk. The northern climates are less propitious to the education of the silkworm; but the industry of France and England is

supplied and enriched by the productions of Italy and China.

chapter LIII: Fate Of The Eastern Empire.--Part II.

I must repeat the complaint that the vague and scanty memorials of the times will not afford any just estimate of the taxes, the revenue, and the resources of the Greek empire. From every province of Europe and asia the rivulets of gold and silver discharged into the Imperial

reservoir a copious and perennial stream. The separation of the branches from the trunk increased the relative magnitude of Constantinople; and the maxims of despotism contracted the state to the capital, the capital to the palace, and the palace to the royal person. A Jewish traveller, who visited the East in the twelfth century, is lost in his admiration

of the Byzantine riches. "It is here," says Benjamin of Tudela, "in the queen of cities, that the tributes of the Greek empire are annually deposited and the lofty towers are filled with precious magazines of

silk, purple, and gold. It is said, that Constantinople pays each day to her sovereign twenty thousand pieces of gold; which are levied on the

shops, taverns, and markets, on the merchants of Persia and Egypt, of

Russia and Hungary, of Italy and Spain, who frequent the capital by sea and land." In all pecuniary matters, the authority of a Jew is doubtless

respectable; but as the three hundred and sixty-five days would produce a yearly income exceeding seven millions sterling, I am tempted to

retrench at least the numerous festivals of the Greek calendar. The mass

of treasure that was saved by Theodora and Basil the Second will suggest a splendid, though indefinite, idea of their supplies and resources. The

mother of Michael, before she retired to a cloister, attempted to check

or expose the prodigality of her ungrateful son, by a free and faithful account of the wealth which he inherited; one hundred and nine thousand

pounds of gold, and three hundred thousand of silver, the fruits of her

own economy and that of her deceased husband. The avarice of Basil is

not less renowned than his valor and fortune: his victorious armies were

paid and rewarded without breaking into the mass of two hundred thousand

pounds of gold, (about eight millions sterling,) which he had buried in the subterraneous vaults of the palace. Such accumulation of treasure

is rejected by the theory and practice of modern policy; and we are more apt to compute the national riches by the use and abuse of the public credit. Yet the maxims of antiquity are still embraced by a monarch formidable to his enemies; by a republic respectable to her allies; and both have attained their respective ends of military power and domestic tranquillity.

whatever might be consumed for the present wants, or reserved for the future use, of the state, the first and most sacred demand was for the

pomp and pleasure of the emperor, and his discretion only could define the measure of his private expense. The princes of Constantinople were far removed from the simplicity of nature; yet, with the revolving

seasons, they were led by taste or fashion to withdraw to a purer air, from the smoke and tumult of the capital. They enjoyed, or affected to enjoy, the rustic festival of the vintage: their leisure was amused by the exercise of the chase and the calmer occupation of fishing, and in the summer heats, they were shaded from the sun, and refreshed by the cooling breezes from the sea. The coasts and islands of Asia and Europe were covered with their magnificent villas; but, instead of the modest art which secretly strives to hide itself and to decorate the scenery of

nature, the marble structure of their gardens served only to expose the riches of the lord, and the labors of the architect. The successive casualties of inheritance and forfeiture had rendered the sovereign

proprietor of many stately houses in the city and suburbs, of which twelve were appropriated to the ministers of state; but the great

palace, the centre of the Imperial residence, was fixed during eleven centuries to the same position, between the hippodrome, the cathedral

of St. Sophia, and the gardens, which descended by many a terrace to the

shores of the Propontis. The primitive edifice of the first Constantine was a copy, or rival, of ancient Rome; the gradual improvements of his

successors aspired to emulate the wonders of the old world, and in the tenth century, the Byzantine palace excited the admiration, at least

of the Latins, by an unquestionable preëminence of strength, size, and

magnificence. But the toil and treasure of so many ages had produced a vast and irregular pile: each separate building was marked with the character of the times and of the founder; and the want of space

might excuse the reigning monarch, who demolished, perhaps with secret

satisfaction, the works of his predecessors. The economy of the emperor theophilus allowed a more free and ample scope for his domestic luxury and splendor. A favorite ambassador, who had astonished the Abbassides themselves by his pride and liberality, presented on his return the

model of a palace, which the caliph of Bagdad had recently constructed

on the banks of the Tigris. The model was instantly copied and

surpassed: the new buildings of Theophilus were accompanied with

gardens, and with five churches, one of which was conspicuous for size and beauty: it was crowned with three domes, the roof of gilt brass

reposed on columns of Italian marble, and the walls were incrusted with

marbles of various colors. In the face of the church, a semicircular

portico, of the figure and name of the Greek \_sigma\_, was supported by fifteen columns of Phrygian marble, and the subterraneous vaults were of a similar construction. The square before the sigma was decorated with a fountain, and the margin of the basin was lined and encompassed with

plates of silver. In the beginning of each season, the basin, instead

of water, was replenished with the most exquisite fruits, which were abandoned to the populace for the entertainment of the prince. He enjoyed this tumultuous spectacle from a throne resplendent with gold and gems, which was raised by a marble staircase to the height of a

lofty terrace. Below the throne were seated the officers of his guards, the magistrates, the chiefs of the factions of the circus; the inferior

steps were occupied by the people, and the place below was covered with troops of dancers, singers, and pantomimes. The square was surrounded by the hall of justice, the arsenal, and the various offices of business and pleasure; and the \_purple\_ chamber was named from the annual distribution of robes of scarlet and purple by the hand of the empress

herself. The long series of the apartments was adapted to the seasons, and decorated with marble and porphyry, with painting, sculpture, and

mosaics, with a profusion of gold, silver, and precious stones. His fanciful magnificence employed the skill and patience of such artists as the times could afford: but the taste of Athens would have despised their frivolous and costly labors; a golden tree, with its leaves and branches, which sheltered a multitude of birds warbling their artificial

notes, and two lions of massy gold, and of natural size, who looked and

roared like their brethren of the forest. The successors of Theophilus,

of the Basilian and Comnenian dynasties, were not less ambitious of

leaving some memorial of their residence; and the portion of the palace

most splendid and august was dignified with the title of the golden

\_triclinium\_. With becoming modesty, the rich and noble Greeks aspired to imitate their sovereign, and when they passed through the streets on

horseback, in their robes of silk and embroidery, they were mistaken by the children for kings. A matron of Peloponnesus, who had cherished the

infant fortunes of Basil the Macedonian, was excited by tenderness or

vanity to visit the greatness of her adopted son. In a journey of five hundred miles from Patras to Constantinople, her age or indolence declined the fatigue of a horse or carriage: the soft litter or bed of danielis was transported on the shoulders of ten robust slaves; and as they were relieved at easy distances, a band of three hundred were

selected for the performance of this service. She was entertained in the byzantine palace with filial reverence, and the honors of a queen; and whatever might be the origin of her wealth, her gifts were not unworthy

of the regal dignity. I have already described the fine and curious

manufactures of Peloponnesus, of linen, silk, and woollen; but the most acceptable of her presents consisted in three hundred beautiful youths,

of whom one hundred were eunuchs; "for she was not ignorant," says the historian, "that the air of the palace is more congenial to such

insects, than a shepherd's dairy to the flies of the summer." During her

lifetime, she bestowed the greater part of her estates in Peloponnesus, and her testament instituted Leo, the son of Basil, her universal heir. after the payment of the legacies, fourscore villas or farms were added to the Imperial domain; and three thousand slaves of Danielis were enfranchised by their new lord, and transplanted as a colony to the

Italian coast. From this example of a private matron, we may estimate the wealth and magnificence of the emperors. Yet our enjoyments are confined by a narrow circle; and, whatsoever may be its value, the

luxury of life is possessed with more innocence and safety by the master

of his own, than by the steward of the public, fortune.

In an absolute government, which levels the distinctions of noble and

plebeian birth, the sovereign is the sole fountain of honor; and the

rank, both in the palace and the empire, depends on the titles and

offices which are bestowed and resumed by his arbitrary will. Above a thousand years, from Vespasian to Alexius Comnenus, the \_Cæsar\_ was the

second person, or at least the second degree, after the supreme title of

\_Augustus\_ was more freely communicated to the sons and brothers of the

reigning monarch. To elude without violating his promise to a powerful associate, the husband of his sister, and, without giving himself an equal, to reward the piety of his brother Isaac, the crafty Alexius

interposed a new and supereminent dignity. The happy flexibility of the

Greek tongue allowed him to compound the names of Augustus and Emperor

(Sebastos and Autocrator,) and the union produces the sonorous title of

\_Sebastocrator\_. He was exalted above the Cæsar on the first step of the throne: the public acclamations repeated his name; and he was only distinguished from the sovereign by some peculiar ornaments of the head and feet. The emperor alone could assume the purple or red buskins, and the close diadem or tiara, which imitated the fashion of the Persian

kings. It was a high pyramidal cap of cloth or silk, almost concealed by a profusion of pearls and jewels: the crown was formed by a horizontal circle and two arches of gold: at the summit, the point of their

intersection, was placed a globe or cross, and two strings or lappets

of pearl depended on either cheek. Instead of red, the buskins of the

Sebastocrator and Cæsar were green; and on their \_open\_ coronets or crowns, the precious gems were more sparingly distributed. Beside and below the Cæsar the fancy of Alexius created the \_Panhypersebasto\_ and the \_Protosebastos\_, whose sound and signification will satisfy a

Grecian ear. They imply a superiority and a priority above the simple

name of Augustus; and this sacred and primitive title of the Roman

prince was degraded to the kinsmen and servants of the Byzantine court. the daughter of Alexius applauds, with fond complacency, this artful

gradation of hopes and honors; but the science of words is accessible to the meanest capacity; and this vain dictionary was easily enriched by the pride of his successors. To their favorite sons or brothers, they imparted the more lofty appellation of Lord or \_Despot\_, which was

illustrated with new ornaments, and prerogatives, and placed immediately after the person of the emperor himself. The five titles of, 1. \_Despot\_;

2. \_Sebastocrator\_; 3. \_Cæsar\_; 4. \_Panhypersebastos\_; and,

5. \_Protosebastos\_; were usually confined to the princes of his blood: they were the emanations of his majesty; but as they exercised no regular functions, their existence was useless, and their authority precarious.

but in every monarchy the substantial powers of government must be divided and exercised by the ministers of the palace and treasury, the fleet and army. The titles alone can differ; and in the revolution

of ages, the counts and præfects, the prætor and quæstor, insensibly descended, while their servants rose above their heads to the first

honors of the state. 1. In a monarchy, which refers every object to the

person of the prince, the care and ceremonies of the palace form the

most respectable department. The \_Curopalata\_, so illustrious in the age of Justinian, was supplanted by the \_Protovestiare\_, whose primitive functions were limited to the custody of the wardrobe. From thence his

jurisdiction was extended over the numerous menials of pomp and luxury; and he presided with his silver wand at the public and private audience.

2. In the ancient system of Constantine, the name of \_Logothete\_, or accountant, was applied to the receivers of the finances: the principal

officers were distinguished as the Logothetes of the domain, of the

posts, the army, the private and public treasure; and the \_great

Logothete\_, the supreme guardian of the laws and revenues, is compared with the chancellor of the Latin monarchies. His discerning eye pervaded the civil administration; and he was assisted, in due subordination, by the eparch or præfect of the city, the first secretary, and the keepers

of the privy seal, the archives, and the red or purple ink which was

reserved for the sacred signature of the emperor alone. The introductor and interpreter of foreign ambassadors were the great \_Chiauss\_ and the

\_Dragoman\_, two names of Turkish origin, and which are still familiar to the Sublime Porte. 3. From the humble style and service of guards, the

\_Domestics\_ insensibly rose to the station of generals; the military themes of the East and West, the legions of Europe and Asia, were often divided, till the great Domestic was finally invested with the universal and absolute command of the land forces. The \_Protostrator\_, in his

original functions, was the assistant of the emperor when he mounted on

horseback: he gradually became the lieutenant of the great Domestic in the field; and his jurisdiction extended over the stables, the cavalry, and the royal train of hunting and hawking. The \_Stratopedarch\_ was the

great judge of the camp: the \_Protospathaire\_ commanded the guards; the

\_Constable\_, the \_great Æteriarch\_, and the \_Acolyth\_, were the separate chiefs of the Franks, the Barbarians, and the Varangi, or English, the

mercenary strangers, who, a the decay of the national spirit, formed the nerve of the Byzantine armies. 4. The naval powers were under the command of the \_great Duke\_; in his absence they obeyed the \_great drungaire\_ of the fleet; and, in \_his\_ place, the \_Emir\_, or \_Admiral\_, a name of Saracen extraction, but which has been naturalized in all the

modern languages of Europe. Of these officers, and of many more whom

it would be useless to enumerate, the civil and military hierarchy was framed. Their honors and emoluments, their dress and titles, their

mutual salutations and respective preëminence, were balanced with more exquisite labor than would have fixed the constitution of a free people; and the code was almost perfect when this baseless fabric, the monument

of pride and servitude, was forever buried in the ruins of the empire.

chapter LIII: Fate Of The Eastern Empire.--Part III.

the most lofty titles, and the most humble postures, which devotion has applied to the Supreme Being, have been prostituted by flattery and fear to creatures of the same nature with ourselves. The mode of \_adoration\_,

of falling prostrate on the ground, and kissing the feet of the emperor, was borrowed by Diocletian from Persian servitude; but it was continued and aggravated till the last age of the Greek monarchy. Excepting only

on Sundays, when it was waived, from a motive of religious pride, this humiliating reverence was exacted from all who entered the royal

presence, from the princes invested with the diadem and purple, and from the ambassadors who represented their independent sovereigns, the caliphs of Asia, Egypt, or Spain, the kings of France and Italy, and the Latin emperors of ancient Rome. In his transactions of business,

Liutprand, bishop of Cremona, asserted the free spirit of a Frank and the dignity of his master Otho. Yet his sincerity cannot disguise the abasement of his first audience. When he approached the throne, the birds of the golden tree began to warble their notes, which were accompanied by the roarings of the two lions of gold. With his two companions Liutprand was compelled to bow and to fall prostrate; and thrice to touch the ground with his forehead. He arose, but in the short

interval, the throne had been hoisted from the floor to the ceiling, the Imperial figure appeared in new and more gorgeous apparel, and the

interview was concluded in haughty and majestic silence. In this honest and curious narrative, the Bishop of Cremona represents the ceremonies

of the Byzantine court, which are still practised in the Sublime Porte, and which were preserved in the last age by the dukes of Muscovy

or Russia. After a long journey by sea and land, from Venice to constantinople, the ambassador halted at the golden gate, till he was conducted by the formal officers to the hospitable palace prepared for

his reception; but this palace was a prison, and his jealous keepers

prohibited all social intercourse either with strangers or natives. at his first audience, he offered the gifts of his master, slaves, and

golden vases, and costly armor. The ostentatious payment of the officers and troops displayed before his eyes the riches of the empire: he was entertained at a royal banquet, in which the ambassadors of the nations were marshalled by the esteem or contempt of the Greeks: from his own table, the emperor, as the most signal favor, sent the plates which he

had tasted; and his favorites were dismissed with a robe of honor. In the morning and evening of each day, his civil and military servants attended their duty in the palace; their labors were repaid by the

sight, perhaps by the smile, of their lord; his commands were signified by a nod or a sign: but all earthly greatness \_stood\_ silent and

submissive in his presence. In his regular or extraordinary processions through the capital, he unveiled his person to the public view: the

rites of policy were connected with those of religion, and his visits to the principal churches were regulated by the festivals of the Greek calendar. On the eve of these processions, the gracious or devout

intention of the monarch was proclaimed by the heralds. The streets were cleared and purified; the pavement was strewed with flowers; the most

precious furniture, the gold and silver plate, and silken hangings, were displayed from the windows and balconies, and a severe discipline

restrained and silenced the tumult of the populace. The march was opened by the military officers at the head of their troops: they were followed

in long order by the magistrates and ministers of the civil government: the person of the emperor was guarded by his eunuchs and domestics, and at the church door he was solemnly received by the patriarch and

his clergy. The task of applause was not abandoned to the rude and

spontaneous voices of the crowd. The most convenient stations were

occupied by the bands of the blue and green factions of the circus; and their furious conflicts, which had shaken the capital, were insensibly

sunk to an emulation of servitude. From either side they echoed in

responsive melody the praises of the emperor; their poets and musicians directed the choir, and long life and victory were the burden of every

song. The same acclamations were performed at the audience, the banquet, and the church; and as an evidence of boundless sway, they were repeated

in the Latin, Gothic, Persian, French, and even English language, by the mercenaries who sustained the real or fictitious character of those

nations. By the pen of Constantine Porphyrogenitus, this science of form and flattery has been reduced into a pompous and trifling volume, which the vanity of succeeding times might enrich with an ample supplement.

Yet the calmer reflection of a prince would surely suggest that the same acclamations were applied to every character and every reign: and if he

had risen from a private rank, he might remember, that his own voice had been the loudest and most eager in applause, at the very moment when he envied the fortune, or conspired against the life, of his predecessor.

the princes of the North, of the nations, says Constantine, without faith or fame, were ambitious of mingling their blood with the blood of the Cæsars, by their marriage with a royal virgin, or by the nuptials

of their daughters with a Roman prince. The aged monarch, in his

instructions to his son, reveals the secret maxims of policy and pride; and suggests the most decent reasons for refusing these insolent and

unreasonable demands. Every animal, says the discreet emperor, is

prompted by the distinction of language, religion, and manners. A just

regard to the purity of descent preserves the harmony of public and

private life; but the mixture of foreign blood is the fruitful source of disorder and discord. Such had ever been the opinion and practice of the

sage Romans: their jurisprudence proscribed the marriage of a citizen and a stranger: in the days of freedom and virtue, a senator would have

scorned to match his daughter with a king: the glory of Mark Antony was

sullied by an Egyptian wife: and the emperor Titus was compelled, by

popular censure, to dismiss with reluctance the reluctant Berenice. This

perpetual interdict was ratified by the fabulous sanction of the great constantine. The ambassadors of the nations, more especially of the

unbelieving nations, were solemnly admonished, that such strange alliances had been condemned by the founder of the church and city. the irrevocable law was inscribed on the altar of St. Sophia; and the

impious prince who should stain the majesty of the purple was excluded from the civil and ecclesiastical communion of the Romans. If the ambassadors were instructed by any false brethren in the Byzantine

history, they might produce three memorable examples of the violation

of this imaginary law: the marriage of Leo, or rather of his father constantine the Fourth, with the daughter of the king of the Chozars, the nuptials of the granddaughter of Romanus with a Bulgarian prince, and the union of Bertha of France or Italy with young Romanus, the

son of Constantine Porphyrogenitus himself. To these objections three answers were prepared, which solved the difficulty and established the law. I. The deed and the guilt of Constantine Copronymus were acknowledged. The Isaurian heretic, who sullied the baptismal font, and declared war against the holy images, had indeed embraced a Barbarian wife. By this impious alliance he accomplished the measure of his crimes, and was devoted to the just censure of the church and of

posterity. II. Romanus could not be alleged as a legitimate emperor;

he was a plebeian usurper, ignorant of the laws, and regardless of the

honor, of the monarchy. His son Christopher, the father of the bride, was the third in rank in the college of princes, at once the subject and the accomplice of a rebellious parent. The Bulgarians were sincere and devout Christians; and the safety of the empire, with the redemption of

many thousand captives, depended on this preposterous alliance. Yet no consideration could dispense from the law of Constantine: the clergy, the senate, and the people, disapproved the conduct of Romanus; and he was reproached, both in his life and death, as the author of the public disgrace. III. For the marriage of his own son with the daughter of

Hugo, king of Italy, a more honorable defence is contrived by the wise

Porphyrogenitus. Constantine, the great and holy, esteemed the fidelity and valor of the Franks; and his prophetic spirit beheld the vision

of their future greatness. They alone were excepted from the general

prohibition: Hugo, king of France, was the lineal descendant of charlemagne; and his daughter Bertha inherited the prerogatives of her family and nation. The voice of truth and malice insensibly betrayed the fraud or error of the Imperial court. The patrimonial estate of Hugo was reduced from the monarchy of France to the simple county of Arles; though it was not denied, that, in the confusion of the times, he had

usurped the sovereignty of Provence, and invaded the kingdom of Italy.

His father was a private noble; and if Bertha derived her female descent from the Carlovingian line, every step was polluted with illegitimacy

or vice. The grandmother of Hugo was the famous Valdrada, the concubine,

rather than the wife, of the second Lothair; whose adultery, divorce, and second nuptials, had provoked against him the thunders of the Vatican. His mother, as she was styled, the great Bertha, was

successively the wife of the count of Arles and of the marquis of tuscany: France and Italy were scandalized by her gallantries; and, till the age of threescore, her lovers, of every degree, were the zealous

servants of her ambition. The example of maternal incontinence was copied by the king of Italy; and the three favorite concubines of Hugo were decorated with the classic names of Venus, Juno, and Semele. The daughter of Venus was granted to the solicitations of the Byzantine court: her name of Bertha was changed to that of Eudoxia; and she was wedded, or rather betrothed, to young Romanus, the future heir of the empire of the East. The consummation of this foreign alliance was

suspended by the tender age of the two parties; and, at the end of five

years, the union was dissolved by the death of the virgin spouse. The

second wife of the emperor Romanus was a maiden of plebeian, but of

Roman, birth; and their two daughters, Theophano and Anne, were given

in marriage to the princes of the earth. The eldest was bestowed, as the

pledge of peace, on the eldest son of the great Otho, who had solicited this alliance with arms and embassies. It might legally be questioned

how far a Saxon was entitled to the privilege of the French nation; but every scruple was silenced by the fame and piety of a hero who had

restored the empire of the West. After the death of her father-in-law and husband, Theophano governed Rome, Italy, and Germany, during the

minority of her son, the third Otho; and the Latins have praised the

virtues of an empress, who sacrificed to a superior duty the remembrance

of her country. In the nuptials of her sister Anne, every prejudice was

lost, and every consideration of dignity was superseded, by the stronger argument of necessity and fear. A Pagan of the North, Wolodomir, great

prince of Russia, aspired to a daughter of the Roman purple; and his claim was enforced by the threats of war, the promise of conversion, and the offer of a powerful succor against a domestic rebel. A victim of her

religion and country, the Grecian princess was torn from the palace of

her fathers, and condemned to a savage reign, and a hopeless exile

on the banks of the Borysthenes, or in the neighborhood of the Polar circle. Yet the marriage of Anne was fortunate and fruitful: the daughter of her grandson Joroslaus was recommended by her Imperial descent; and the king of France, Henry I., sought a wife on the last borders of Europe and Christendom.

In the Byzantine palace, the emperor was the first slave of the ceremonies which he imposed, of the rigid forms which regulated each word and gesture, besieged him in the palace, and violated the leisure

of his rural solitude. But the lives and fortunes of millions hung on

his arbitrary will; and the firmest minds, superior to the allurements

of pomp and luxury, may be seduced by the more active pleasure of commanding their equals. The legislative and executive powers were centred in the person of the monarch, and the last remains of the authority of the senate were finally eradicated by Leo the philosopher. a lethargy of servitude had benumbed the minds of the Greeks: in the wildest tumults of rebellion they never aspired to the idea of a free constitution; and the private character of the prince was the only

source and measure of their public happiness. Superstition rivetted their chains; in the church of St. Sophia he was solemnly crowned by the patriarch; at the foot of the altar, they pledged their passive and

unconditional obedience to his government and family. On his side he engaged to abstain as much as possible from the capital punishments of death and mutilation; his orthodox creed was subscribed with his own

hand, and he promised to obey the decrees of the seven synods, and the canons of the holy church. But the assurance of mercy was loose and

indefinite: he swore, not to his people, but to an invisible judge; and except in the inexpiable guilt of heresy, the ministers of heaven were always prepared to preach the indefeasible right, and to absolve the

venial transgressions, of their sovereign. The Greek ecclesiastics were themselves the subjects of the civil magistrate: at the nod of a tyrant, the bishops were created, or transferred, or deposed, or punished with an ignominious death: whatever might be their wealth or influence, they could never succeed like the Latin clergy in the establishment of an

independent republic; and the patriarch of Constantinople condemned, what he secretly envied, the temporal greatness of his Roman brother.

Yet the exercise of boundless despotism is happily checked by the laws

of nature and necessity. In proportion to his wisdom and virtue, the

master of an empire is confined to the path of his sacred and laborious duty. In proportion to his vice and folly, he drops the sceptre too weighty for his hands; and the motions of the royal image are ruled by the imperceptible thread of some minister or favorite, who undertakes for his private interest to exercise the task of the public oppression.

In some fatal moment, the most absolute monarch may dread the reason

or the caprice of a nation of slaves; and experience has proved, that whatever is gained in the extent, is lost in the safety and solidity, of

regal power.

whatever titles a despot may assume, whatever claims he may assert, it

is on the sword that he must ultimately depend to guard him against his foreign and domestic enemies. From the age of Charlemagne to that of the crusades, the world (for I overlook the remote monarchy of China) was

occupied and disputed by the three great empires or nations of the

Greeks, the Saracens, and the Franks. Their military strength may be ascertained by a comparison of their courage, their arts and riches, and their obedience to a supreme head, who might call into action all the energies of the state. The Greeks, far inferior to their rivals in the first, were superior to the Franks, and at least equal to the Saracens,

in the second and third of these warlike qualifications.

the wealth of the Greeks enabled them to purchase the service of the

poorer nations, and to maintain a naval power for the protection of their coasts and the annoyance of their enemies. A commerce of

mutual benefit exchanged the gold of Constantinople for the blood

of Sclavonians and Turks, the Bulgarians and Russians: their valor contributed to the victories of Nicephorus and Zimisces; and if a

hostile people pressed too closely on the frontier, they were recalled to the defence of their country, and the desire of peace, by the well-managed attack of a more distant tribe. The command of the

Mediterranean, from the mouth of the Tanais to the columns of

Hercules, was always claimed, and often possessed, by the successors of constantine. Their capital was filled with naval stores and dexterous artificers: the situation of Greece and Asia, the long coasts, deep

gulfs, and numerous islands, accustomed their subjects to the exercise

of navigation; and the trade of Venice and Amalfi supplied a nursery of

seamen to the Imperial fleet. Since the time of the Peloponnesian and

Punic wars, the sphere of action had not been enlarged; and the science

of naval architecture appears to have declined. The art of constructing those stupendous machines which displayed three, or six, or ten, ranges

of oars, rising above, or falling behind, each other, was unknown to the ship-builders of Constantinople, as well as to the mechanicians of

modern days. The \_Dromones\_, or light galleys of the Byzantine empire, were content with two tier of oars; each tier was composed of five-and-twenty benches; and two rowers were seated on each bench, who

plied their oars on either side of the vessel. To these we must add the captain or centurion, who, in time of action, stood erect with his armor-bearer on the poop, two steersmen at the helm, and two officers at the prow, the one to manage the anchor, the other to point and play against the enemy the tube of liquid fire. The whole crew, as in the infancy of the art, performed the double service of mariners and

soldiers; they were provided with defensive and offensive arms, with bows and arrows, which they used from the upper deck, with long pikes, which they pushed through the portholes of the lower tier. Sometimes,

indeed, the ships of war were of a larger and more solid construction; and the labors of combat and navigation were more regularly divided between seventy soldiers and two hundred and thirty mariners. But for the most part they were of the light and manageable size; and as the Cape of Malea in Peloponnesus was still clothed with its ancient terrors, an Imperial fleet was transported five miles over land across the Isthmus of Corinth. The principles of maritime tactics had not

undergone any change since the time of Thucydides: a squadron of galleys

still advanced in a crescent, charged to the front, and strove to impel their sharp beaks against the feeble sides of their antagonists. A

machine for casting stones and darts was built of strong timbers, in the

midst of the deck; and the operation of boarding was effected by a crane that hoisted baskets of armed men. The language of signals, so clear and copious in the naval grammar of the moderns, was imperfectly expressed by the various positions and colors of a commanding flag. In the darkness of the night, the same orders to chase, to attack, to halt, to

retreat, to break, to form, were conveyed by the lights of the leading

galley. By land, the fire-signals were repeated from one mountain to another; a chain of eight stations commanded a space of five hundred

miles; and Constantinople in a few hours was apprised of the hostile

motions of the Saracens of Tarsus. Some estimate may be formed of the

power of the Greek emperors, by the curious and minute detail of the armament which was prepared for the reduction of Crete. A fleet of one

hundred and twelve galleys, and seventy-five vessels of the Pamphylian

style, was equipped in the capital, the islands of the Ægean Sea, and the seaports of Asia, Macedonia, and Greece. It carried thirty-four thousand mariners, seven thousand three hundred and forty soldiers,

seven hundred Russians, and five thousand and eighty-seven Mardaites, whose fathers had been transplanted from the mountains of Libanus. Their

pay, most probably of a month, was computed at thirty-four centenaries

of gold, about one hundred and thirty-six thousand pounds sterling. Our fancy is bewildered by the endless recapitulation of arms and engines,

of clothes and linen, of bread for the men and forage for the horses, and of stores and utensils of every description, inadequate to the conquest of a petty island, but amply sufficient for the establishment

of a flourishing colony.

the invention of the Greek fire did not, like that of gun powder,

produce a total revolution in the art of war. To these liquid combustibles the city and empire of Constantine owed their deliverance; and they were employed in sieges and sea-fights with terrible effect. but they were either less improved, or less susceptible of improvement: the engines of antiquity, the catapultæ, balistæ, and battering-rams, were still of most frequent and powerful use in the attack and defence

of fortifications; nor was the decision of battles reduced to the

quick and heavy \_fire\_ of a line of infantry, whom it were fruitless to

protect with armor against a similar fire of their enemies. Steel and

iron were still the common instruments of destruction and safety; and the helmets, cuirasses, and shields, of the tenth century did not, either in form or substance, essentially differ from those which

had covered the companions of Alexander or Achilles. But instead of accustoming the modern Greeks, like the legionaries of old, to the constant and easy use of this salutary weight, their armor was laid aside in light chariots, which followed the march, till, on the approach of an enemy, they resumed with haste and reluctance the unusual encumbrance. Their offensive weapons consisted of swords, battle-axes, and spears; but the Macedonian pike was shortened a fourth of its

length, and reduced to the more convenient measure of twelve cubits or feet. The sharpness of the Scythian and Arabian arrows had been severely felt; and the emperors lament the decay of archery as a cause of the

public misfortunes, and recommend, as an advice and a command, that the

military youth, till the age of forty, should assiduously practise the exercise of the bow. The \_bands\_, or regiments, were usually three

hundred strong; and, as a medium between the extremes of four and

sixteen, the foot soldiers of Leo and Constantine were formed eight deep; but the cavalry charged in four ranks, from the reasonable consideration, that the weight of the front could not be increased by any pressure of the hindmost horses. If the ranks of the infantry or cavalry were sometimes doubled, this cautious array betrayed a secret distrust of the courage of the troops, whose numbers might swell the appearance of the line, but of whom only a chosen band would dare to encounter the spears and swords of the Barbarians. The order of battle

must have varied according to the ground, the object, and the adversary; but their ordinary disposition, in two lines and a reserve, presented a

succession of hopes and resources most agreeable to the temper as well as the judgment of the Greeks. In case of a repulse, the first line fell back into the intervals of the second; and the reserve, breaking into two divisions, wheeled round the flanks to improve the victory or cover the retreat. Whatever authority could enact was accomplished, at least

in theory, by the camps and marches, the exercises and evolutions, the edicts and books, of the Byzantine monarch. Whatever art could produce from the forge, the loom, or the laboratory, was abundantly supplied by the riches of the prince, and the industry of his numerous workmen. But

neither authority nor art could frame the most important machine, the

soldier himself; and if the \_ceremonies\_ of Constantine always suppose the safe and triumphal return of the emperor, his \_tactics\_ seldom

soar above the means of escaping a defeat, and procrastinating the war.

Notwithstanding some transient success, the Greeks were sunk in their

own esteem and that of their neighbors. A cold hand and a loquacious tongue was the vulgar description of the nation: the author of the tactics was besieged in his capital; and the last of the Barbarians, who trembled at the name of the Saracens, or Franks, could proudly exhibit the medals of gold and silver which they had extorted from the feeble

sovereign of Constantinople. What spirit their government and character denied, might have been inspired in some degree by the influence of

religion; but the religion of the Greeks could only teach them to suffer and to yield. The emperor Nicephorus, who restored for a moment the discipline and glory of the Roman name, was desirous of bestowing the

honors of martyrdom on the Christians who lost their lives in a holy war against the infidels. But this political law was defeated by the

opposition of the patriarch, the bishops, and the principal senators; and they strenuously urged the canons of St. Basil, that all who were

polluted by the bloody trade of a soldier should be separated, during three years, from the communion of the faithful.

these scruples of the Greeks have been compared with the tears of the primitive Moslems when they were held back from battle; and this contrast of base superstition and high-spirited enthusiasm, unfolds to a philosophic eye the history of the rival nations. The subjects of the

last caliphs had undoubtedly degenerated from the zeal and faith of the companions of the prophet. Yet their martial creed still represented the deity as the author of war: the vital though latent spark of fanaticism

still glowed in the heart of their religion, and among the Saracens, who dwelt on the Christian borders, it was frequently rekindled to a lively and active flame. Their regular force was formed of the valiant slaves who had been educated to guard the person and accompany the standard of their lord: but the Mussulman people of Syria and Cilicia, of Africa and

Spain, was awakened by the trumpet which proclaimed a holy war against the infidels. The rich were ambitious of death or victory in the cause

of God; the poor were allured by the hopes of plunder; and the old, the

infirm, and the women, assumed their share of meritorious service by

sending their substitutes, with arms and horses, into the field. These

offensive and defensive arms were similar in strength and temper to those of the Romans, whom they far excelled in the management of the

horse and the bow: the massy silver of their belts, their bridles, and their swords, displayed the magnificence of a prosperous nation; and except some black archers of the South, the Arabs disdained the naked bravery of their ancestors. Instead of wagons, they were attended by a

long train of camels, mules, and asses: the multitude of these animals, whom they bedecked with flags and streamers, appeared to swell the pomp and magnitude of their host; and the horses of the enemy were often disordered by the uncouth figure and odious smell of the camels of the east. Invincible by their patience of thirst and heat, their spirits were frozen by a winter's cold, and the consciousness of their

propensity to sleep exacted the most rigorous precautions against the

surprises of the night. Their order of battle was a long square of two deep and solid lines; the first of archers, the second of cavalry. In their engagements by sea and land, they sustained with patient firmness the fury of the attack, and seldom advanced to the charge till they could discern and oppress the lassitude of their foes. But if they were

repulsed and broken, they knew not how to rally or renew the combat; and their dismay was heightened by the superstitious prejudice, that God had declared himself on the side of their enemies. The decline and fall of the caliphs countenanced this fearful opinion; nor were there wanting, among the Mahometans and Christians, some obscure prophecies which

prognosticated their alternate defeats. The unity of the Arabian empire was dissolved, but the independent fragments were equal to populous and

powerful kingdoms; and in their naval and military armaments, an emir of aleppo or Tunis might command no despicable fund of skill, and industry, and treasure. In their transactions of peace and war with the Saracens, the princes of Constantinople too often felt that these Barbarians had

nothing barbarous in their discipline; and that if they were destitute

of original genius, they had been endowed with a quick spirit of curiosity and imitation. The model was indeed more perfect than the copy; their ships, and engines, and fortifications, were of a less

skilful construction; and they confess, without shame, that the same God who has given a tongue to the Arabians, had more nicely fashioned the

hands of the Chinese, and the heads of the Greeks.

chapter LIII: Fate Of The Eastern Empire.--Part IV.

a name of some German tribes between the Rhine and the Weser had spread

its victorious influence over the greatest part of Gaul, Germany, and

Italy; and the common appellation of Franks was applied by the Greeks and Arabians to the Christians of the Latin church, the nations of the West, who stretched beyond \_their\_ knowledge to the shores of the atlantic Ocean. The vast body had been inspired and united by the

soul of Charlemagne; but the division and degeneracy of his race soon annihilated the Imperial power, which would have rivalled the Cæsars

of Byzantium, and revenged the indignities of the Christian name. The enemies no longer feared, nor could the subjects any longer trust, the application of a public revenue, the labors of trade and manufactures

in the military service, the mutual aid of provinces and armies, and the naval squadrons which were regularly stationed from the mouth of the elbe to that of the Tyber. In the beginning of the tenth century, the family of Charlemagne had almost disappeared; his monarchy was broken

into many hostile and independent states; the regal title was assumed by the most ambitious chiefs; their revolt was imitated in a long

subordination of anarchy and discord, and the nobles of every province disobeyed their sovereign, oppressed their vassals, and exercised

perpetual hostilities against their equals and neighbors. Their private wars, which overturned the fabric of government, fomented the martial

spirit of the nation. In the system of modern Europe, the power of the

sword is possessed, at least in fact, by five or six mighty potentates; their operations are conducted on a distant frontier, by an order of men who devote their lives to the study and practice of the military art: the rest of the country and community enjoys in the midst of war the tranquillity of peace, and is only made sensible of the change by the aggravation or decrease of the public taxes. In the disorders of the tenth and eleventh centuries, every peasant was a soldier, and every

village a fortification; each wood or valley was a scene of murder and rapine; and the lords of each castle were compelled to assume the character of princes and warriors. To their own courage and policy they boldly trusted for the safety of their family, the protection of their

lands, and the revenge of their injuries; and, like the conquerors of a

larger size, they were too apt to transgress the privilege of defensive war. The powers of the mind and body were hardened by the presence of danger and necessity of resolution: the same spirit refused to desert a friend and to forgive an enemy; and, instead of sleeping under the

guardian care of a magistrate, they proudly disdained the authority of the laws. In the days of feudal anarchy, the instruments of agriculture and art were converted into the weapons of bloodshed: the peaceful

occupations of civil and ecclesiastical society were abolished or corrupted; and the bishop who exchanged his mitre for a helmet, was more forcibly urged by the manners of the times than by the obligation of his tenure.

the love of freedom and of arms was felt, with conscious pride, by the franks themselves, and is observed by the Greeks with some degree of amazement and terror. "The Franks," says the emperor Constantine, "are bold and valiant to the verge of temerity; and their dauntless spirit is

supported by the contempt of danger and death. In the field and in close

onset, they press to the front, and rush headlong against the enemy, without deigning to compute either his numbers or their own. Their ranks are formed by the firm connections of consanguinity and friendship; and their martial deeds are prompted by the desire of saving or revenging their dearest companions. In their eyes, a retreat is a shameful flight; and flight is indelible infamy." A nation endowed with such high and

intrepid spirit, must have been secure of victory if these advantages

had not been counter-balanced by many weighty defects. The decay of their naval power left the Greeks and Saracens in possession of the sea, for every purpose of annoyance and supply. In the age which preceded the institution of knighthood, the Franks were rude and unskilful in the

service of cavalry; and in all perilous emergencies, their warriors were

so conscious of their ignorance, that they chose to dismount from their

horses and fight on foot. Unpractised in the use of pikes, or of missile weapons, they were encumbered by the length of their swords, the weight

of their armor, the magnitude of their shields, and, if I may repeat the satire of the meagre Greeks, by their unwieldy intemperance. Their

independent spirit disdained the yoke of subordination, and abandoned the standard of their chief, if he attempted to keep the field beyond the term of their stipulation or service. On all sides they were open to the snares of an enemy less brave but more artful than themselves. They

might be bribed, for the Barbarians were venal; or surprised in the

night, for they neglected the precautions of a close encampment or

vigilant sentinels. The fatigues of a summer's campaign exhausted their

strength and patience, and they sunk in despair if their voracious appetite was disappointed of a plentiful supply of wine and of food. this general character of the Franks was marked with some national and

local shades, which I should ascribe to accident rather than to climate, but which were visible both to natives and to foreigners. An ambassador

of the great Otho declared, in the palace of Constantinople, that the

Saxons could dispute with swords better than with pens, and that they

preferred inevitable death to the dishonor of turning their backs to an enemy. It was the glory of the nobles of France, that, in their humble dwellings, war and rapine were the only pleasure, the sole occupation,

of their lives. They affected to deride the palaces, the banquets, the polished manner of the Italians, who in the estimate of the Greeks themselves had degenerated from the liberty and valor of the ancient

Lombards.

by the well-known edict of Caracalla, his subjects, from Britain to egypt, were entitled to the name and privileges of Romans, and their

national sovereign might fix his occasional or permanent residence in any province of their common country. In the division of the East and west, an ideal unity was scrupulously observed, and in their titles,

laws, and statutes, the successors of Arcadius and Honorius announced themselves as the inseparable colleagues of the same office, as the

joint sovereigns of the Roman world and city, which were bounded by the

same limits. After the fall of the Western monarchy, the majesty of the

purple resided solely in the princes of Constantinople; and of these,

Justinian was the first who, after a divorce of sixty years, regained the dominion of ancient Rome, and asserted, by the right of conquest, the august title of Emperor of the Romans. A motive of vanity or discontent solicited one of his successors, Constans the Second, to abandon the Thracian Bosphorus, and to restore the pristine honors of the Tyber: an extravagant project, (exclaims the malicious Byzantine,) as if he had despoiled a beautiful and blooming virgin, to enrich, or

rather to expose, the deformity of a wrinkled and decrepit matron. But the sword of the Lombards opposed his settlement in Italy: he entered

Rome not as a conqueror, but as a fugitive, and, after a visit of twelve days, he pillaged, and forever deserted, the ancient capital of the world. The final revolt and separation of Italy was accomplished about two centuries after the conquests of Justinian, and from his reign we

may date the gradual oblivion of the Latin tongue. That legislator had composed his Institutes, his Code, and his Pandects, in a language which

he celebrates as the proper and public style of the Roman government, the consecrated idiom of the palace and senate of Constantinople, of the campus and tribunals of the East. But this foreign dialect was unknown to the people and soldiers of the Asiatic provinces, it was imperfectly

understood by the greater part of the interpreters of the laws and the ministers of the state. After a short conflict, nature and habit

prevailed over the obsolete institutions of human power: for the general benefit of his subjects, Justinian promulgated his novels in the two

languages: the several parts of his voluminous jurisprudence were

successively translated; the original was forgotten, the version was

studied, and the Greek, whose intrinsic merit deserved indeed the

preference, obtained a legal, as well as popular establishment in the Byzantine monarchy. The birth and residence of succeeding princes estranged them from the Roman idiom: Tiberius by the Arabs, and Maurice by the Italians, are distinguished as the first of the Greek Cæsars, as the founders of a new dynasty and empire: the silent revolution was accomplished before the death of Heraclius; and the ruins of the Latin

speech were darkly preserved in the terms of jurisprudence and the acclamations of the palace. After the restoration of the Western empire by Charlemagne and the Othos, the names of Franks and Latins acquired an equal signification and extent; and these haughty Barbarians asserted, with some justice, their superior claim to the language and dominion of

Rome. They insulted the alien of the East who had renounced the dress and idiom of Romans; and their reasonable practice will justify the frequent appellation of Greeks. But this contemptuous appellation was

indignantly rejected by the prince and people to whom it was applied. whatsoever changes had been introduced by the lapse of ages, they alleged a lineal and unbroken succession from Augustus and Constantine; and, in the lowest period of degeneracy and decay, the name of Romans adhered to the last fragments of the empire of Constantinople.

while the government of the East was transacted in Latin, the Greek was the language of literature and philosophy; nor could the masters of this rich and perfect idiom be tempted to envy the borrowed learning and

imitative taste of their Roman disciples. After the fall of Paganism, the loss of Syria and Egypt, and the extinction of the schools of alexandria and Athens, the studies of the Greeks insensibly retired to some regular monasteries, and above all, to the royal college of constantinople, which was burnt in the reign of Leo the Isaurian. In the

pompous style of the age, the president of that foundation was named the

Sun of Science: his twelve associates, the professors in the different arts and faculties, were the twelve signs of the zodiac; a library of thirty-six thousand five hundred volumes was open to their inquiries; and they could show an ancient manuscript of Homer, on a roll of

parchment one hundred and twenty feet in length, the intestines, as it was fabled, of a prodigious serpent. But the seventh and eight centuries were a period of discord and darkness: the library was burnt, the college was abolished, the Iconoclasts are represented as the foes of antiquity; and a savage ignorance and contempt of letters has disgraced the princes of the Heraclean and Isaurian dynasties.

In the ninth century we trace the first dawnings of the restoration of

science. After the fanaticism of the Arabs had subsided, the caliphs aspired to conquer the arts, rather than the provinces, of the empire: their liberal curiosity rekindled the emulation of the Greeks, brushed away the dust from their ancient libraries, and taught them to know and

reward the philosophers, whose labors had been hitherto repaid by the

pleasure of study and the pursuit of truth. The Cæsar Bardas, the uncle

of Michael the Third, was the generous protector of letters, a title which alone has preserved his memory and excused his ambition. A

particle of the treasures of his nephew was sometimes diverted from the indulgence of vice and folly; a school was opened in the palace

of Magnaura; and the presence of Bardas excited the emulation of the

masters and students. At their head was the philosopher Leo, archbishop

of Thessalonica: his profound skill in astronomy and the mathematics was admired by the strangers of the East; and this occult science was magnified by vulgar credulity, which modestly supposes that all

knowledge superior to its own must be the effect of inspiration or

magic. At the pressing entreaty of the Cæsar, his friend, the celebrated

Photius, renounced the freedom of a secular and studious life, ascended the patriarchal throne, and was alternately excommunicated and absolved by the synods of the East and West. By the confession even of priestly

hatred, no art or science, except poetry, was foreign to this universal

scholar, who was deep in thought, indefatigable in reading, and eloquent

in diction. Whilst he exercised the office of protospathaire or captain

of the guards, Photius was sent ambassador to the caliph of Bagdad. The tedious hours of exile, perhaps of confinement, were beguiled by the

hasty composition of his \_Library\_, a living monument of erudition and criticism. Two hundred and fourscore writers, historians, orators,

philosophers, theologians, are reviewed without any regular method:

he abridges their narrative or doctrine, appreciates their style and character, and judges even the fathers of the church with a discreet freedom, which often breaks through the superstition of the times. The emperor Basil, who lamented the defects of his own education, intrusted to the care of Photius his son and successor, Leo the philosopher; and the reign of that prince and of his son Constantine Porphyrogenitus forms one of the most prosperous æras of the Byzantine literature. by their munificence the treasures of antiquity were deposited in the

Imperial library; by their pens, or those of their associates, they were

imparted in such extracts and abridgments as might amuse the curiosity, without oppressing the indolence, of the public. Besides the \_Basilics\_,

or code of laws, the arts of husbandry and war, of feeding or destroying the human species, were propagated with equal diligence; and the history

of Greece and Rome was digested into fifty-three heads or titles, of which two only (of embassies, and of virtues and vices) have escaped the injuries of time. In every station, the reader might contemplate the

image of the past world, apply the lesson or warning of each page, and

learn to admire, perhaps to imitate, the examples of a brighter period.

I shall not expatiate on the works of the Byzantine Greeks, who, by the assiduous study of the ancients, have deserved, in some measure, the

remembrance and gratitude of the moderns. The scholars of the present age may still enjoy the benefit of the philosophical commonplace book of

Stobæus, the grammatical and historical lexicon of Suidas, the Chiliads

of Tzetzes, which comprise six hundred narratives in twelve thousand

verses, and the commentaries on Homer of Eustathius, archbishop of thessalonica, who, from his horn of plenty, has poured the names and authorities of four hundred writers. From these originals, and from the

numerous tribe of scholiasts and critics, some estimate may be formed

of the literary wealth of the twelfth century: Constantinople was enlightened by the genius of Homer and Demosthenes, of Aristotle and

Plato: and in the enjoyment or neglect of our present riches, we must envy the generation that could still peruse the history of Theopompus, the orations of Hyperides, the comedies of Menander, and the odes of alcæus and Sappho. The frequent labor of illustration attests not only the existence, but the popularity, of the Grecian classics: the general

knowledge of the age may be deduced from the example of two learned females, the empress Eudocia, and the princess Anna Comnena, who cultivated, in the purple, the arts of rhetoric and philosophy. The

vulgar dialect of the city was gross and barbarous: a more correct and elaborate style distinguished the discourse, or at least the compositions, of the church and palace, which sometimes affected to copy the purity of the Attic models.

In our modern education, the painful though necessary attainment of two

languages, which are no longer living, may consume the time and damp the ardor of the youthful student. The poets and orators were long

imprisoned in the barbarous dialects of our Western ancestors, devoid

of harmony or grace; and their genius, without precept or example, was abandoned to the rule and native powers of their judgment and fancy. But the Greeks of Constantinople, after purging away the impurities of their

vulgar speech, acquired the free use of their ancient language, the most

happy composition of human art, and a familiar knowledge of the sublime

masters who had pleased or instructed the first of nations. But these advantages only tend to aggravate the reproach and shame of a degenerate

people. They held in their lifeless hands the riches of their fathers, without inheriting the spirit which had created and improved that sacred

patrimony: they read, they praised, they compiled, but their languid

souls seemed alike incapable of thought and action. In the revolution of ten centuries, not a single discovery was made to exalt the dignity or

promote the happiness of mankind. Not a single idea has been added to the speculative systems of antiquity, and a succession of patient disciples became in their turn the dogmatic teachers of the next

servile generation. Not a single composition of history, philosophy, or

literature, has been saved from oblivion by the intrinsic beauties of

style or sentiment, of original fancy, or even of successful imitation.

In prose, the least offensive of the Byzantine writers are absolved from censure by their naked and unpresuming simplicity: but the orators, most eloquent in their own conceit, are the farthest removed from the models whom they affect to emulate. In every page our taste and reason are wounded by the choice of gigantic and obsolete words, a stiff and

intricate phraseology, the discord of images, the childish play of false

or unseasonable ornament, and the painful attempt to elevate themselves, to astonish the reader, and to involve a trivial meaning in the smoke

of obscurity and exaggeration. Their prose is soaring to the vicious affectation of poetry: their poetry is sinking below the flatness and

insipidity of prose. The tragic, epic, and lyric muses, were silent and

inglorious: the bards of Constantinople seldom rose above a riddle or epigram, a panegyric or tale; they forgot even the rules of prosody; and with the melody of Homer yet sounding in their ears, they confound all measure of feet and syllables in the impotent strains which have

received the name of \_political\_ or city verses. The minds of the Greek were bound in the fetters of a base and imperious superstition which extends her dominion round the circle of profane science. Their

understandings were bewildered in metaphysical controversy: in the belief of visions and miracles, they had lost all principles of moral evidence, and their taste was vitiates by the homilies of the monks, an absurd medley of declamation and Scripture. Even these contemptible

studies were no longer dignified by the abuse of superior talents: the

leaders of the Greek church were humbly content to admire and copy the

oracles of antiquity, nor did the schools of pulpit produce any rivals

of the fame of Athanasius and Chrysostom.

In all the pursuits of active and speculative life, the emulation of

states and individuals is the most powerful spring of the efforts and

improvements of mankind. The cities of ancient Greece were cast in the

happy mixture of union and independence, which is repeated on a larger

scale, but in a looser form, by the nations of modern Europe; the union

of language, religion, and manners, which renders them the spectators and judges of each other's merit; the independence of government and

interest, which asserts their separate freedom, and excites them to

strive for preëminence in the career of glory. The situation of the

Romans was less favorable; yet in the early ages of the republic, which fixed the national character, a similar emulation was kindled among the

states of Latium and Italy; and in the arts and sciences, they aspired to equal or surpass their Grecian masters. The empire of the Cæsars

undoubtedly checked the activity and progress of the human mind; its

magnitude might indeed allow some scope for domestic competition; but when it was gradually reduced, at first to the East and at last to

Greece and Constantinople, the Byzantine subjects were degraded to an abject and languid temper, the natural effect of their solitary and

insulated state. From the North they were oppressed by nameless tribes

of Barbarians, to whom they scarcely imparted the appellation of

men. The language and religion of the more polished Arabs were an

insurmountable bar to all social intercourse. The conquerors of Europe were their brethren in the Christian faith; but the speech of the Franks

or Latins was unknown, their manners were rude, and they were rarely connected, in peace or war, with the successors of Heraclius. Alone in the universe, the self-satisfied pride of the Greeks was not disturbed by the comparison of foreign merit; and it is no wonder if they fainted

in the race, since they had neither competitors to urge their speed,

nor judges to crown their victory. The nations of Europe and Asia were mingled by the expeditions to the Holy Land; and it is under the comnenian dynasty that a faint emulation of knowledge and military

virtue was rekindled in the Byzantine empire.

chapter LIV: Origin And Doctrine Of The Paulicians.--Part I.

Origin And Doctrine Of The Paulicians.--Their Persecution By

The Greek Emperors.--Revolt In Armenia &c.--Transplantation

Into Thrace.--Propagation In The West.--The Seeds,

Character, And Consequences Of The Reformation.

In the profession of Christianity, the variety of national characters

may be clearly distinguished. The natives of Syria and Egypt abandoned their lives to lazy and contemplative devotion: Rome again aspired to the dominion of the world; and the wit of the lively and loquacious

Greeks was consumed in the disputes of metaphysical theology. The

incomprehensible mysteries of the Trinity and Incarnation, instead

of commanding their silent submission, were agitated in vehement and

subtile controversies, which enlarged their faith at the expense,

perhaps, of their charity and reason. From the council of Nice to the end of the seventh century, the peace and unity of the church was

invaded by these spiritual wars; and so deeply did they affect the decline and fall of the empire, that the historian has too often been compelled to attend the synods, to explore the creeds, and to enumerate the sects, of this busy period of ecclesiastical annals. From the beginning of the eighth century to the last ages of the Byzantine empire, the sound of controversy was seldom heard: curiosity was exhausted, zeal was fatigued, and, in the decrees of six councils, the articles of the Catholic faith had been irrevocably defined. The spirit

of dispute, however vain and pernicious, requires some energy and exercise of the mental faculties; and the prostrate Greeks were content to fast, to pray, and to believe in blind obedience to the patriarch and his clergy. During a long dream of superstition, the Virgin and the Saints, their visions and miracles, their relics and images, were

preached by the monks, and worshipped by the people; and the appellation

of people might be extended, without injustice, to the first ranks

of civil society. At an unseasonable moment, the Isaurian emperors attempted somewhat rudely to awaken their subjects: under their

influence reason might obtain some proselytes, a far greater number was

swayed by interest or fear; but the Eastern world embraced or deplored their visible deities, and the restoration of images was celebrated as the feast of orthodoxy. In this passive and unanimous state the ecclesiastical rulers were relieved from the toil, or deprived of the

pleasure, of persecution. The Pagans had disappeared; the Jews were

silent and obscure; the disputes with the Latins were rare and remote

hostilities against a national enemy; and the sects of Egypt and Syria enjoyed a free toleration under the shadow of the Arabian caliphs. About the middle of the seventh century, a branch of Manichæans was selected as the victims of spiritual tyranny; their patience was at length exasperated to despair and rebellion; and their exile has scattered over the West the seeds of reformation. These important events will justify

some inquiry into the doctrine and story of the Paulicians; and, as they cannot plead for themselves, our candid criticism will magnify the \_good\_, and abate or suspect the \_evil\_, that is reported by their adversaries.

the Gnostics, who had distracted the infancy, were oppressed by the greatness and authority, of the church. Instead of emulating or

surpassing the wealth, learning, and numbers of the Catholics, their

obscure remnant was driven from the capitals of the East and West, and confined to the villages and mountains along the borders of the euphrates. Some vestige of the Marcionites may be detected in the fifth century; but the numerous sects were finally lost in the odious name

of the Manichæans; and these heretics, who presumed to reconcile the doctrines of Zoroaster and Christ, were pursued by the two religions with equal and unrelenting hatred. Under the grandson of Heraclius, in the neighborhood of Samosata, more famous for the birth of Lucian than for the title of a Syrian kingdom, a reformer arose, esteemed by the

\_Paulicians\_ as the chosen messenger of truth. In his humble dwelling

of Mananalis, Constantine entertained a deacon, who returned from Syrian captivity, and received the inestimable gift of the New Testament, which was already concealed from the vulgar by the prudence of the Greek, and

perhaps of the Gnostic, clergy. These books became the measure of his

studies and the rule of his faith; and the Catholics, who dispute his

interpretation, acknowledge that his text was genuine and sincere. But

he attached himself with peculiar devotion to the writings and character

of St. Paul: the name of the Paulicians is derived by their enemies from

some unknown and domestic teacher; but I am confident that they gloried

in their affinity to the apostle of the Gentiles. His disciples, Titus, timothy, Sylvanus, Tychicus, were represented by Constantine and his fellow-laborers: the names of the apostolic churches were applied to the congregations which they assembled in Armenia and Cappadocia; and this

innocent allegory revived the example and memory of the first ages.

In the Gospel, and the Epistles of St. Paul, his faithful follower

investigated the Creed of primitive Christianity; and, whatever might be the success, a Protestant reader will applaud the spirit, of the

inquiry. But if the Scriptures of the Paulicians were pure, they were

not perfect. Their founders rejected the two Epistles of St. Peter, the apostle of the circumcision, whose dispute with their favorite for the

observance of the law could not easily be forgiven. They agreed with their Gnostic brethren in the universal contempt for the Old Testament, the books of Moses and the prophets, which have been consecrated by the decrees of the Catholic church. With equal boldness, and doubtless with

more reason, Constantine, the new Sylvanus, disclaimed the visions, which, in so many bulky and splendid volumes, had been published by the

Oriental sects; the fabulous productions of the Hebrew patriarchs and the sages of the East; the spurious gospels, epistles, and acts, which

in the first age had overwhelmed the orthodox code; the theology

of Manes, and the authors of the kindred heresies; and the thirty

generations, or æons, which had been created by the fruitful fancy of

Valentine. The Paulicians sincerely condemned the memory and opinions of the Manichæan sect, and complained of the injustice which impressed that

invidious name on the simple votaries of St. Paul and of Christ.

Of the ecclesiastical chain, many links had been broken by the Paulician

reformers; and their liberty was enlarged, as they reduced the number of

masters, at whose voice profane reason must bow to mystery and miracle. the early separation of the Gnostics had preceded the establishment of the Catholic worship; and against the gradual innovations of discipline and doctrine they were as strongly guarded by habit and aversion, as by the silence of St. Paul and the evangelists. The objects which had been transformed by the magic of superstition, appeared to the eyes of the

Paulicians in their genuine and naked colors. An image made without

hands was the common workmanship of a mortal artist, to whose skill alone the wood and canvas must be indebted for their merit or value. The

miraculous relics were a heap of bones and ashes, destitute of life or

virtue, or of any relation, perhaps, with the person to whom they were ascribed. The true and vivifying cross was a piece of sound or rotten timber, the body and blood of Christ, a loaf of bread and a cup of wine, the gifts of nature and the symbols of grace. The mother of God was degraded from her celestial honors and immaculate virginity; and the

saints and angels were no longer solicited to exercise the laborious

office of meditation in heaven, and ministry upon earth. In the

practice, or at least in the theory, of the sacraments, the Paulicians were inclined to abolish all visible objects of worship, and the words

of the gospel were, in their judgment, the baptism and communion of the faithful. They indulged a convenient latitude for the interpretation of

Scripture: and as often as they were pressed by the literal sense, they could escape to the intricate mazes of figure and allegory. Their utmost diligence must have been employed to dissolve the connection between the

Old and the New Testament; since they adored the latter as the oracles

of God, and abhorred the former as the fabulous and absurd invention of

men or dæmons. We cannot be surprised, that they should have found

in the Gospel the orthodox mystery of the Trinity: but, instead of confessing the human nature and substantial sufferings of Christ, they amused their fancy with a celestial body that passed through the virgin

like water through a pipe; with a fantastic crucifixion, that eluded the

vain and important malice of the Jews. A creed thus simple and spiritual was not adapted to the genius of the times; and the rational Christian, who might have been contented with the light yoke and easy burden of

Jesus and his apostles, was justly offended, that the Paulicians should dare to violate the unity of God, the first article of natural and

revealed religion. Their belief and their trust was in the Father, of christ, of the human soul, and of the invisible world. But they likewise

held the eternity of matter; a stubborn and rebellious substance, the

origin of a second principle of an active being, who has created this visible world, and exercises his temporal reign till the final consummation of death and sin. The appearances of moral and physical evil had established the two principles in the ancient philosophy and

religion of the East; from whence this doctrine was transfused to the

various swarms of the Gnostics. A thousand shades may be devised in the

nature and character of \_Ahriman\_, from a rival god to a subordinate dæmon, from passion and frailty to pure and perfect malevolence: but, in

spite of our efforts, the goodness, and the power, of Ormusd are placed at the opposite extremities of the line; and every step that approaches the one must recede in equal proportion from the other.

the apostolic labors of Constantine Sylvanus soon multiplied the number

of his disciples, the secret recompense of spiritual ambition. The

remnant of the Gnostic sects, and especially the Manichæans of Armenia, were united under his standard; many Catholics were converted or seduced by his arguments; and he preached with success in the regions of Pontus and Cappadocia, which had long since imbibed the religion of Zoroaster. the Paulician teachers were distinguished only by their Scriptural

names, by the modest title of Fellow-pilgrims, by the austerity of their

lives, their zeal or knowledge, and the credit of some extraordinary

gifts of the Holy Spirit. But they were incapable of desiring, or at

least of obtaining, the wealth and honors of the Catholic prelacy; such anti-Christian pride they bitterly censured; and even the rank of elders

or presbyters was condemned as an institution of the Jewish synagogue. the new sect was loosely spread over the provinces of Asia Minor to the westward of the Euphrates; six of their principal congregations

represented the churches to which St. Paul had addressed his epistles; and their founder chose his residence in the neighborhood of Colonia, in the same district of Pontus which had been celebrated by the altars of bellona and the miracles of Gregory. After a mission of twenty-seven

years, Sylvanus, who had retired from the tolerating government of the arabs, fell a sacrifice to Roman persecution. The laws of the pious emperors, which seldom touched the lives of less odious heretics,

proscribed without mercy or disguise the tenets, the books, and the

persons of the Montanists and Manichæans: the books were delivered to the flames; and all who should presume to secrete such writings, or to

profess such opinions, were devoted to an ignominious death. A Greek

minister, armed with legal and military powers, appeared at Colonia to

strike the shepherd, and to reclaim, if possible, the lost sheep. By a

refinement of cruelty, Simeon placed the unfortunate Sylvanus before a

line of his disciples, who were commanded, as the price of their pardon and the proof of their repentance, to massacre their spiritual father. they turned aside from the impious office; the stones dropped from their filial hands, and of the whole number, only one executioner could be found, a new David, as he is styled by the Catholics, who boldly

overthrew the giant of heresy. This apostate (Justin was his name) again deceived and betrayed his unsuspecting brethren, and a new conformity to the acts of St. Paul may be found in the conversion of Simeon: like the apostle, he embraced the doctrine which he had been sent to persecute,

renounced his honors and fortunes, and required among the Paulicians the fame of a missionary and a martyr. They were not ambitious of martyrdom, but in a calamitous period of one hundred and fifty years, their

patience sustained whatever zeal could inflict; and power was

insufficient to eradicate the obstinate vegetation of fanaticism and

reason. From the blood and ashes of the first victims, a succession

of teachers and congregations repeatedly arose: amidst their foreign

hostilities, they found leisure for domestic quarrels: they preached, they disputed, they suffered; and the virtues, the apparent virtues,

of Sergius, in a pilgrimage of thirty-three years, are reluctantly confessed by the orthodox historians. The native cruelty of Justinian the Second was stimulated by a pious cause; and he vainly hoped to extinguish, in a single conflagration, the name and memory of the

Paulicians. By their primitive simplicity, their abhorrence of popular

superstition, the Iconoclast princes might have been reconciled to some erroneous doctrines; but they themselves were exposed to the calumnies

of the monks, and they chose to be the tyrants, lest they should be accused as the accomplices, of the Manichæans. Such a reproach has

sullied the clemency of Nicephorus, who relaxed in their favor the

severity of the penal statutes, nor will his character sustain the honor

of a more liberal motive. The feeble Michael the First, the rigid Leo the Armenian, were foremost in the race of persecution; but the prize

must doubtless be adjudged to the sanguinary devotion of Theodora, who

restored the images to the Oriental church. Her inquisitors explored the cities and mountains of the Lesser Asia, and the flatterers of the empress have affirmed that, in a short reign, one hundred thousand

Paulicians were extirpated by the sword, the gibbet, or the flames. Her

guilt or merit has perhaps been stretched beyond the measure of truth: but if the account be allowed, it must be presumed that many simple

Iconoclasts were punished under a more odious name; and that some who were driven from the church, unwillingly took refuge in the bosom of

heresy.

the most furious and desperate of rebels are the sectaries of a religion

long persecuted, and at length provoked. In a holy cause they are no

longer susceptible of fear or remorse: the justice of their arms hardens them against the feelings of humanity; and they revenge their fathers' wrongs on the children of their tyrants. Such have been the Hussites of bohemia and the Calvinists of France, and such, in the ninth century, were the Paulicians of Armenia and the adjacent provinces. They were first awakened to the massacre of a governor and bishop, who exercised the Imperial mandate of converting or destroying the heretics; and the deepest recesses of Mount Argæus protected their independence and revenge. A more dangerous and consuming flame was kindled by the

persecution of Theodora, and the revolt of Carbeas, a valiant Paulician, who commanded the guards of the general of the East. His father had been

impaled by the Catholic inquisitors; and religion, or at least nature,

might justify his desertion and revenge. Five thousand of his brethren were united by the same motives; they renounced the allegiance of anti-Christian Rome; a Saracen emir introduced Carbeas to the caliph; and the commander of the faithful extended his sceptre to the implacable enemy of the Greeks. In the mountains between Siwas and Trebizond he founded or fortified the city of Tephrice, which is still occupied by a fierce or licentious people, and the neighboring hills were covered with the Paulician fugitives, who now reconciled the use of the Bible and the sword. During more than thirty years, Asia was afflicted by the calamities of foreign and domestic war; in their hostile inroads, the disciples of St. Paul were joined with those of Mahomet; and the peaceful Christians, the aged parent and tender virgin, who were delivered into barbarous servitude, might justly accuse the intolerant

spirit of their sovereign. So urgent was the mischief, so intolerable the shame, that even the dissolute Michael, the son of Theodora, was compelled to march in person against the Paulicians: he was defeated

under the walls of Samosata; and the Roman emperor fled before the

heretics whom his mother had condemned to the flames. The Saracens fought under the same banners, but the victory was ascribed to Carbeas; and the captive generals, with more than a hundred tribunes, were either

released by his avarice, or tortured by his fanaticism. The valor and ambition of Chrysocheir, his successor, embraced a wider circle of

rapine and revenge. In alliance with his faithful Moslems, he boldly

penetrated into the heart of Asia; the troops of the frontier and the palace were repeatedly overthrown; the edicts of persecution were answered by the pillage of Nice and Nicomedia, of Ancyra and Ephesus;

nor could the apostle St. John protect from violation his city and

sepulchre. The cathedral of Ephesus was turned into a stable for mules and horses; and the Paulicians vied with the Saracens in their contempt and abhorrence of images and relics. It is not unpleasing to observe the triumph of rebellion over the same despotism which had disdained the prayers of an injured people. The emperor Basil, the Macedonian, was reduced to sue for peace, to offer a ransom for the captives, and to request, in the language of moderation and charity, that Chrysocheir would spare his fellow-Christians, and content himself with a royal donative of gold and silver and silk garments. "If the emperor," replied the insolent fanatic, "be desirous of peace, let him abdicate the East, and reign without molestation in the West. If he refuse, the servants

of the Lord will precipitate him from the throne." The reluctant Basil

suspended the treaty, accepted the defiance, and led his army into the

land of heresy, which he wasted with fire and sword. The open country

of the Paulicians was exposed to the same calamities which they had

inflicted; but when he had explored the strength of Tephrice, the

multitude of the Barbarians, and the ample magazines of arms and

provisions, he desisted with a sigh from the hopeless siege. On his

return to Constantinople, he labored, by the foundation of convents and churches, to secure the aid of his celestial patrons, of Michael the archangel and the prophet Elijah; and it was his daily prayer that he

might live to transpierce, with three arrows, the head of his impious adversary. Beyond his expectations, the wish was accomplished: after a

successful inroad, Chrysocheir was surprised and slain in his retreat; and the rebel's head was triumphantly presented at the foot of the throne. On the reception of this welcome trophy, Basil instantly called for his bow, discharged three arrows with unerring aim, and accepted the applause of the court, who hailed the victory of the royal archer. With chrysocheir, the glory of the Paulicians faded and withered: on the

second expedition of the emperor, the impregnable Tephrice, was deserted by the heretics, who sued for mercy or escaped to the borders. The city was ruined, but the spirit of independence survived in the mountains: the Paulicians defended, above a century, their religion and liberty,

infested the Roman limits, and maintained their perpetual alliance with the enemies of the empire and the gospel.

chapter LIV: Origin And Doctrine Of The Paulicians.--Part II.

about the middle of the eight century, Constantine, surnamed Copronymus by the worshippers of images, had made an expedition into Armenia, and found, in the cities of Melitene and Theodosiopolis, a great number

of Paulicians, his kindred heretics. As a favor, or punishment, he transplanted them from the banks of the Euphrates to Constantinople and Thrace; and by this emigration their doctrine was introduced and diffused in Europe. If the sectaries of the metropolis were soon mingled with the promiscuous mass, those of the country struck a deep root in a foreign soil. The Paulicians of Thrace resisted the storms of

persecution, maintained a secret correspondence with their Armenian brethren, and gave aid and comfort to their preachers, who solicited,

not without success, the infant faith of the Bulgarians. In the tenth century, they were restored and multiplied by a more powerful colony, which John Zimisces transported from the Chalybian hills to the valleys

of Mount Hæmus. The Oriental clergy who would have preferred the destruction, impatiently sighed for the absence, of the Manichæans: the warlike emperor had felt and esteemed their valor: their attachment to the Saracens was pregnant with mischief; but, on the side of the Danube, against the Barbarians of Scythia, their service might be useful, and their loss would be desirable. Their exile in a distant land was softened by a free toleration: the Paulicians held the city of

Philippopolis and the keys of Thrace; the Catholics were their subjects; the Jacobite emigrants their associates: they occupied a line of

villages and castles in Macedonia and Epirus; and many native Bulgarians were associated to the communion of arms and heresy. As long as they were awed by power and treated with moderation, their voluntary bands were distinguished in the armies of the empire; and the courage of these

\_dogs\_, ever greedy of war, ever thirsty of human blood, is noticed with astonishment, and almost with reproach, by the pusillanimous Greeks. The

same spirit rendered them arrogant and contumacious: they were easily

provoked by caprice or injury; and their privileges were often violated by the faithless bigotry of the government and clergy. In the midst

of the Norman war, two thousand five hundred Manichæans deserted the

standard of Alexius Comnenus, and retired to their native homes. He dissembled till the moment of revenge; invited the chiefs to a friendly conference; and punished the innocent and guilty by imprisonment, confiscation, and baptism. In an interval of peace, the emperor

undertook the pious office of reconciling them to the church and state:

his winter quarters were fixed at Philippopolis; and the thirteenth apostle, as he is styled by his pious daughter, consumed whole days and

nights in theological controversy. His arguments were fortified, their

obstinacy was melted, by the honors and rewards which he bestowed on the most eminent proselytes; and a new city, surrounded with gardens, enriched with immunities, and dignified with his own name, was founded by Alexius for the residence of his vulgar converts. The important

station of Philippopolis was wrested from their hands; the contumacious

leaders were secured in a dungeon, or banished from their country; and their lives were spared by the prudence, rather than the mercy, of an emperor, at whose command a poor and solitary heretic was burnt alive before the church of St. Sophia. But the proud hope of eradicating the

prejudices of a nation was speedily overturned by the invincible zeal

of the Paulicians, who ceased to dissemble or refused to obey. After the departure and death of Alexius, they soon resumed their civil and

religious laws. In the beginning of the thirteenth century, their pope

or primate (a manifest corruption) resided on the confines of Bulgaria, croatia, and Dalmatia, and governed, by his vicars, the filial congregations of Italy and France. From that æra, a minute scrutiny

might prolong and perpetuate the chain of tradition. At the end of the

last age, the sect or colony still inhabited the valleys of Mount Hæmus, where their ignorance and poverty were more frequently tormented by the

Greek clergy than by the Turkish government. The modern Paulicians have

lost all memory of their origin; and their religion is disgraced by the worship of the cross, and the practice of bloody sacrifice, which some captives have imported from the wilds of Tartary.

In the West, the first teachers of the Manichæan theology had been

repulsed by the people, or suppressed by the prince. The favor and

success of the Paulicians in the eleventh and twelfth centuries must be

imputed to the strong, though secret, discontent which armed the most

pious Christians against the church of Rome. Her avarice was oppressive,

her despotism odious; less degenerate perhaps than the Greeks in the worship of saints and images, her innovations were more rapid and

scandalous: she had rigorously defined and imposed the doctrine of transubstantiation: the lives of the Latin clergy were more corrupt, and the Eastern bishops might pass for the successors of the apostles, if they were compared with the lordly prelates, who wielded by turns the crosier, the sceptre, and the sword. Three different roads might

introduce the Paulicians into the heart of Europe. After the conversion

of Hungary, the pilgrims who visited Jerusalem might safely follow the course of the Danube: in their journey and return they passed through

Philippopolis; and the sectaries, disguising their name and heresy,

might accompany the French or German caravans to their respective countries. The trade and dominion of Venice pervaded the coast of the adriatic, and the hospitable republic opened her bosom to foreigners of every climate and religion. Under the Byzantine standard, the Paulicians were often transported to the Greek provinces of Italy and Sicily: in

peace and war, they freely conversed with strangers and natives, and their opinions were silently propagated in Rome, Milan, and the kingdoms beyond the Alps. It was soon discovered, that many thousand Catholics

of every rank, and of either sex, had embraced the Manichæan heresy; and the flames which consumed twelve canons of Orleans was the first act and

signal of persecution. The Bulgarians, a name so innocent in its origin,

so odious in its application, spread their branches over the face

of Europe. United in common hatred of idolatry and Rome, they were connected by a form of episcopal and presbyterian government; their

various sects were discriminated by some fainter or darker shades of theology; but they generally agreed in the two principles, the contempt

of the Old Testament and the denial of the body of Christ, either on the cross or in the eucharist. A confession of simple worship and blameless

manners is extorted from their enemies; and so high was their standard

of perfection, that the increasing congregations were divided into two classes of disciples, of those who practised, and of those who aspired.

It was in the country of the Albigeois, in the southern provinces of france, that the Paulicians were most deeply implanted; and the same

vicissitudes of martyrdom and revenge which had been displayed in the

neighborhood of the Euphrates, were repeated in the thirteenth century

on the banks of the Rhone. The laws of the Eastern emperors were revived by Frederic the Second. The insurgents of Tephrice were represented by the barons and cities of Languedoc: Pope Innocent III. surpassed the

sanguinary fame of Theodora. It was in cruelty alone that her soldiers could equal the heroes of the Crusades, and the cruelty of her priests was far excelled by the founders of the Inquisition; an office more adapted to confirm, than to refute, the belief of an evil principle. The

visible assemblies of the Paulicians, or Albigeois, were extirpated by fire and sword; and the bleeding remnant escaped by flight, concealment,

or Catholic conformity. But the invincible spirit which they had kindled

still lived and breathed in the Western world. In the state, in the church, and even in the cloister, a latent succession was preserved of the disciples of St. Paul; who protested against the tyranny of Rome, embraced the Bible as the rule of faith, and purified their creed from all the visions of the Gnostic theology. The struggles of Wickliff

in England, of Huss in Bohemia, were premature and ineffectual; but the

names of Zuinglius, Luther, and Calvin, are pronounced with gratitude as the deliverers of nations.

a philosopher, who calculates the degree of their merit and the value

of their reformation, will prudently ask from what articles of faith,

\_above\_ or \_against\_ our reason, they have enfranchised the Christians; for such enfranchisement is doubtless a benefit so far as it may be compatible with truth and piety. After a fair discussion, we shall

rather be surprised by the timidity, than scandalized by the freedom, of

our first reformers. With the Jews, they adopted the belief and defence

of all the Hebrew Scriptures, with all their prodigies, from the garden

of Eden to the visions of the prophet Daniel; and they were bound, like the Catholics, to justify against the Jews the abolition of a divine

law. In the great mysteries of the Trinity and Incarnation the reformers were severely orthodox: they freely adopted the theology of the four, or the six first councils; and with the Athanasian creed, they pronounced the eternal damnation of all who did not believe the Catholic faith. transubstantiation, the invisible change of the bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ, is a tenet that may defy the power of argument and pleasantry; but instead of consulting the evidence of their senses,

of their sight, their feeling, and their taste, the first Protestants were entangled in their own scruples, and awed by the words of Jesus in the institution of the sacrament. Luther maintained a \_corporeal\_, and calvin a \_real\_, presence of Christ in the eucharist; and the opinion

of Zuinglius, that it is no more than a spiritual communion, a simple

memorial, has slowly prevailed in the reformed churches. But the loss

of one mystery was amply compensated by the stupendous doctrines of

original sin, redemption, faith, grace, and predestination, which have been strained from the epistles of St. Paul. These subtile questions had

most assuredly been prepared by the fathers and schoolmen; but the final

improvement and popular use may be attributed to the first reformers, who enforced them as the absolute and essential terms of salvation.

Hitherto the weight of supernatural belief inclines against the

Protestants; and many a sober Christian would rather admit that a wafer

is God, than that God is a cruel and capricious tyrant.

Yet the services of Luther and his rivals are solid and important; and the philosopher must own his obligations to these fearless enthusiasts.

I. By their hands the lofty fabric of superstition, from the abuse of

indulgences to the intercession of the Virgin, has been levelled with the ground. Myriads of both sexes of the monastic profession were

restored to the liberty and labors of social life. A hierarchy of saints and angels, of imperfect and subordinate deities, were stripped of their temporal power, and reduced to the enjoyment of celestial happiness; their images and relics were banished from the church; and the credulity

of the people was no longer nourished with the daily repetition of

miracles and visions. The imitation of Paganism was supplied by a pure and spiritual worship of prayer and thanksgiving, the most worthy

of man, the least unworthy of the Deity. It only remains to observe, whether such sublime simplicity be consistent with popular devotion; whether the vulgar, in the absence of all visible objects, will not be inflamed by enthusiasm, or insensibly subside in languor and

indifference. II. The chain of authority was broken, which restrains the bigot from thinking as he pleases, and the slave from speaking as he thinks: the popes, fathers, and councils, were no longer the supreme and infallible judges of the world; and each Christian was taught to acknowledge no law but the Scriptures, no interpreter but his own conscience. This freedom, however, was the consequence, rather than the design, of the Reformation. The patriot reformers were ambitious of

succeeding the tyrants whom they had dethroned. They imposed with equal

rigor their creeds and confessions; they asserted the right of the

magistrate to punish heretics with death. The pious or personal animosity of Calvin proscribed in Servetus the guilt of his own

rebellion; and the flames of Smithfield, in which he was afterwards consumed, had been kindled for the Anabaptists by the zeal of Cranmer. the nature of the tiger was the same, but he was gradually deprived of

his teeth and fangs. A spiritual and temporal kingdom was possessed by the Roman pontiff; the Protestant doctors were subjects of an humble

rank, without revenue or jurisdiction. \_His\_ decrees were consecrated by the antiquity of the Catholic church: \_their\_ arguments and disputes were submitted to the people; and their appeal to private judgment was accepted beyond their wishes, by curiosity and enthusiasm. Since the days of Luther and Calvin, a secret reformation has been silently working in the bosom of the reformed churches; many weeds of prejudice were eradicated; and the disciples of Erasmus diffused a spirit of freedom and moderation. The liberty of conscience has been claimed as a common benefit, an inalienable right: the free governments of Holland and England introduced the practice of toleration; and the narrow allowance of the laws has been enlarged by the prudence and humanity of the times. In the exercise, the mind has understood the limits of its

powers, and the words and shadows that might amuse the child can

no longer satisfy his manly reason. The volumes of controversy are

overspread with cobwebs: the doctrine of a Protestant church is far

removed from the knowledge or belief of its private members; and the forms of orthodoxy, the articles of faith, are subscribed with a sigh,

or a smile, by the modern clergy. Yet the friends of Christianity are alarmed at the boundless impulse of inquiry and scepticism. The

predictions of the Catholics are accomplished: the web of mystery is

unravelled by the Arminians, Arians, and Socinians, whose number must

not be computed from their separate congregations; and the pillars of

Revelation are shaken by those men who preserve the name without the

substance of religion, who indulge the license without the temper of

philosophy.

chapter LV: The Bulgarians, The Hungarians And The Russians.--Part I.

The Bulgarians.--Origin, Migrations, And Settlement Of The

Hungarians.--Their Inroads In The East And West.--The

Monarchy Of Russia.--Geography And Trade.--Wars Of The

Russians Against The Greek Empire.--Conversion Of The

Barbarians.

Under the reign of Constantine the grandson of Heraclius, the ancient barrier of the Danube, so often violated and so often restored, was

irretrievably swept away by a new deluge of Barbarians. Their progress was favored by the caliphs, their unknown and accidental auxiliaries: the Roman legions were occupied in Asia; and after the loss of Syria, egypt, and Africa, the Cæsars were twice reduced to the danger and disgrace of defending their capital against the Saracens. If, in the account of this interesting people, I have deviated from the strict and

original line of my undertaking, the merit of the subject will hide my transgression, or solicit my excuse. In the East, in the West, in war,

in religion, in science, in their prosperity, and in their decay, the arabians press themselves on our curiosity: the first overthrow of the church and empire of the Greeks may be imputed to their arms; and the disciples of Mahomet still hold the civil and religious sceptre of the

Oriental world. But the same labor would be unworthily bestowed on the

swarms of savages, who, between the seventh and the twelfth century, descended from the plains of Scythia, in transient inroad or perpetual emigration. Their names are uncouth, their origins doubtful, their actions obscure, their superstition was blind, their valor brutal, and the uniformity of their public and private lives was neither softened by innocence nor refined by policy. The majesty of the Byzantine throne

repelled and survived their disorderly attacks; the greater part of these Barbarians has disappeared without leaving any memorial of their existence, and the despicable remnant continues, and may long continue, to groan under the dominion of a foreign tyrant. From the antiquities

of, I. \_Bulgarians\_, II. \_Hungarians\_, and, III. \_Russians\_, I

shall content myself with selecting such facts as yet deserve to be

remembered. The conquests of the, IV. Normans, and the monarchy of the,

V. Turks, will naturally terminate in the memorable Crusades to the Holy

Land, and the double fall of the city and empire of Constantine.

I. In his march to Italy, Theodoric the Ostrogoth had trampled on the arms of the Bulgarians. After this defeat, the name and the nation are

lost during a century and a half; and it may be suspected that the

same or a similar appellation was revived by strange colonies from the borysthenes, the Tanais, or the Volga. A king of the ancient Bulgaria bequeathed to his five sons a last lesson of moderation and concord.

It was received as youth has ever received the counsels of age and experience: the five princes buried their father; divided his subjects and cattle; forgot his advice; separated from each other; and wandered

in quest of fortune till we find the most adventurous in the heart of

Italy, under the protection of the exarch of Ravenna. But the stream

of emigration was directed or impelled towards the capital. The modern bulgaria, along the southern banks of the Danube, was stamped with the name and image which it has retained to the present hour: the new conquerors successively acquired, by war or treaty, the Roman provinces

of Dardania, Thessaly, and the two Epirus; the ecclesiastical supremacy was translated from the native city of Justinian; and, in their

prosperous age, the obscure town of Lychnidus, or Achrida, was honored with the throne of a king and a patriarch. The unquestionable evidence

of language attests the descent of the Bulgarians from the original

stock of the Sclavonian, or more properly Slavonian, race; and the

kindred bands of Servians, Bosnians, Rascians, Croatians, Walachians,

&c., followed either the standard or the example of the leading tribe. from the Euxine to the Adriatic, in the state of captives, or subjects,

or allies, or enemies, of the Greek empire, they overspread the land; and the national appellation of the slaves has been degraded by chance

or malice from the signification of glory to that of servitude. Among these colonies, the Chrobatians, or Croats, who now attend the motions

of an Austrian army, are the descendants of a mighty people, the conquerors and sovereigns of Dalmatia. The maritime cities, and of these the infant republic of Ragusa, implored the aid and instructions of the byzantine court: they were advised by the magnanimous Basil to reserve a small acknowledgment of their fidelity to the Roman empire, and to appease, by an annual tribute, the wrath of these irresistible barbarians. The kingdom of Croatia was shared by eleven \_Zoupans\_, or feudatory lords; and their united forces were numbered at sixty thousand

horse and one hundred thousand foot. A long sea-coast, indented with capacious harbors, covered with a string of islands, and almost in sight

of the Italian shores, disposed both the natives and strangers to the

practice of navigation. The boats or brigantines of the Croats were constructed after the fashion of the old Liburnians: one hundred and eighty vessels may excite the idea of a respectable navy; but our seamen will smile at the allowance of ten, or twenty, or forty, men for each of these ships of war. They were gradually converted to the more honorable

service of commerce; yet the Sclavonian pirates were still frequent and dangerous; and it was not before the close of the tenth century that the freedom and sovereignty of the Gulf were effectually vindicated by the

Venetian republic. The ancestors of these Dalmatian kings were equally

removed from the use and abuse of navigation: they dwelt in the White croatia, in the inland regions of Silesia and Little Poland, thirty days' journey, according to the Greek computation, from the sea of darkness.

the glory of the Bulgarians was confined to a narrow scope both of time and place. In the ninth and tenth centuries, they reigned to the south

of the Danube; but the more powerful nations that had followed their emigration repelled all return to the north and all progress to the west. Yet in the obscure catalogue of their exploits, they might boast an honor which had hitherto been appropriated to the Goths: that of

slaying in battle one of the successors of Augustus and Constantine. The emperor Nicephorus had lost his fame in the Arabian, he lost his life in the Sclavonian, war. In his first operations he advanced with boldness and success into the centre of Bulgaria, and burnt the \_royal court\_, which was probably no more than an edifice and village of timber. but while he searched the spoil and refused all offers of treaty, his enemies collected their spirits and their forces: the passes of retreat were insuperably barred; and the trembling Nicephorus was heard to exclaim, "Alas, alas! unless we could assume the wings of birds, we cannot hope to escape." Two days he waited his fate in the inactivity of despair; but, on the morning of the third, the Bulgarians surprised the camp, and the Roman prince, with the great officers of the empire, were slaughtered in their tents. The body of Valens had been saved from insult; but the head of Nicephorus was exposed on a spear, and

his skull, enchased with gold, was often replenished in the feasts

of victory. The Greeks bewailed the dishonor of the throne; but they acknowledged the just punishment of avarice and cruelty. This savage cup was deeply tinctured with the manners of the Scythian wilderness; but they were softened before the end of the same century by a peaceful

intercourse with the Greeks, the possession of a cultivated region, and the introduction of the Christian worship. The nobles of Bulgaria were educated in the schools and palace of Constantinople; and Simeon, a

youth of the royal line, was instructed in the rhetoric of Demosthenes and the logic of Aristotle. He relinquished the profession of a monk for that of a king and warrior; and in his reign of more than forty years, bulgaria assumed a rank among the civilized powers of the earth. The

Greeks, whom he repeatedly attacked, derived a faint consolation from

indulging themselves in the reproaches of perfidy and sacrilege. They

purchased the aid of the Pagan Turks; but Simeon, in a second battle,

redeemed the loss of the first, at a time when it was esteemed a

victory to elude the arms of that formidable nation. The Servians were overthrown, made captive and dispersed; and those who visited the country before their restoration could discover no more than fifty vagrants, without women or children, who extorted a precarious

subsistence from the chase. On classic ground, on the banks of Achelöus, the Greeks were defeated; their horn was broken by the strength of the barbaric Hercules. He formed the siege of Constantinople; and, in a

personal conference with the emperor, Simeon imposed the conditions of

peace. They met with the most jealous precautions: the royal gallery was drawn close to an artificial and well-fortified platform; and the

majesty of the purple was emulated by the pomp of the Bulgarian. "Are

you a Christian?" said the humble Romanus: "it is your duty to abstain from the blood of your fellow-Christians. Has the thirst of riches

seduced you from the blessings of peace? Sheathe your sword, open

your hand, and I will satiate the utmost measure of your desires." The

reconciliation was sealed by a domestic alliance; the freedom of trade was granted or restored; the first honors of the court were secured to the friends of Bulgaria, above the ambassadors of enemies or strangers; and her princes were dignified with the high and invidious title of

\_Basileus\_, or emperor. But this friendship was soon disturbed: after the death of Simeon, the nations were again in arms; his feeble

successors were divided and extinguished; and, in the beginning of the eleventh century, the second Basil, who was born in the purple, deserved the appellation of conqueror of the Bulgarians. His avarice was in

some measure gratified by a treasure of four hundred thousand pounds

sterling, (ten thousand pounds' weight of gold,) which he found in the palace of Lychnidus. His cruelty inflicted a cool and exquisite

vengeance on fifteen thousand captives who had been guilty of the defence of their country. They were deprived of sight; but to one of each hundred a single eye was left, that he might conduct his blind century to the presence of their king. Their king is said to have expired of grief and horror; the nation was awed by this terrible example; the Bulgarians were swept away from their settlements, and circumscribed within a narrow province; the surviving chiefs bequeathed to their children the advice of patience and the duty of revenge.

II. When the black swarm of Hungarians first hung over Europe, above

nine hundred years after the Christian æra, they were mistaken by fear and superstition for the Gog and Magog of the Scriptures, the signs and forerunners of the end of the world. Since the introduction of letters, they have explored their own antiquities with a strong and laudable

impulse of patriotic curiosity. Their rational criticism can no longer be amused with a vain pedigree of Attila and the Huns; but they complain that their primitive records have perished in the Tartar war; that the truth or fiction of their rustic songs is long since forgotten; and that the fragments of a rude chronicle must be painfully reconciled with the contemporary though foreign intelligence of the imperial geographer.

\_Magiar\_ is the national and oriental denomination of the Hungarians; but, among the tribes of Scythia, they are distinguished by the Greeks

under the proper and peculiar name of \_Turks\_, as the descendants of that mighty people who had conquered and reigned from China to the

Volga. The Pannonian colony preserved a correspondence of trade and amity with the eastern Turks on the confines of Persia and after a

separation of three hundred and fifty years, the missionaries of the

king of Hungary discovered and visited their ancient country near the banks of the Volga. They were hospitably entertained by a people of

Pagans and Savages who still bore the name of Hungarians; conversed

in their native tongue, recollected a tradition of their long-lost brethren, and listened with amazement to the marvellous tale of their

new kingdom and religion. The zeal of conversion was animated by the

interest of consanguinity; and one of the greatest of their princes

had formed the generous, though fruitless, design of replenishing the

solitude of Pannonia by this domestic colony from the heart of Tartary. from this primitive country they were driven to the West by the tide of war and emigration, by the weight of the more distant tribes, who at the

same time were fugitives and conquerors. Reason or fortune directed their course towards the frontiers of the Roman empire: they halted

in the usual stations along the banks of the great rivers; and in the territories of Moscow, Kiow, and Moldavia, some vestiges have been discovered of their temporary residence. In this long and various

peregrination, they could not always escape the dominion of the

stronger; and the purity of their blood was improved or sullied by the mixture of a foreign race: from a motive of compulsion, or choice,

several tribes of the Chazars were associated to the standard of their ancient vassals; introduced the use of a second language; and obtained by their superior renown the most honorable place in the front of battle. The military force of the Turks and their allies marched in

seven equal and artificial divisions; each division was formed of thirty thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven warriors, and the proportion of women, children, and servants, supposes and requires at least a million

of emigrants. Their public counsels were directed by seven \_vayvods\_,

or hereditary chiefs; but the experience of discord and weakness

recommended the more simple and vigorous administration of a single

person. The sceptre, which had been declined by the modest Lebedias, was granted to the birth or merit of Almus and his son Arpad, and the authority of the supreme khan of the Chazars confirmed the engagement of the prince and people; of the people to obey his commands, of the prince to consult their happiness and glory.

with this narrative we might be reasonably content, if the penetration

of modern learning had not opened a new and larger prospect of the antiquities of nations. The Hungarian language stands alone, and as it were insulated, among the Sclavonian dialects; but it bears a close and clear affinity to the idioms of the Fennic race, of an obsolete and

savage race, which formerly occupied the northern regions of Asia and europe. The genuine appellation of \_Ugri\_ or \_Igours\_ is found on the western confines of China; their migration to the banks of the Irtish is attested by Tartar evidence; a similar name and language are detected in the southern parts of Siberia; and the remains of the Fennic tribes are widely, though thinly scattered from the sources of the Oby to the

shores of Lapland. The consanguinity of the Hungarians and Laplanders would display the powerful energy of climate on the children of a common parent; the lively contrast between the bold adventurers who are

intoxicated with the wines of the Danube, and the wretched fugitives who are immersed beneath the snows of the polar circle. Arms and freedom

have ever been the ruling, though too often the unsuccessful, passion of the Hungarians, who are endowed by nature with a vigorous constitution

of soul and body. Extreme cold has diminished the stature and congealed the faculties of the Laplanders; and the arctic tribes, alone among the sons of men, are ignorant of war, and unconscious of human blood; a

happy ignorance, if reason and virtue were the guardians of their peace!

chapter LV: The Bulgarians, The Hungarians And The Russians.--Part II.

It is the observation of the Imperial author of the Tactics, that all the Scythian hordes resembled each other in their pastoral and military

life, that they all practised the same means of subsistence, and employed the same instruments of destruction. But he adds, that the two

nations of Bulgarians and Hungarians were superior to their brethren, and similar to each other in the improvements, however rude, of their discipline and government: their visible likeness determines Leo to confound his friends and enemies in one common description; and the

picture may be heightened by some strokes from their contemporaries of the tenth century. Except the merit and fame of military prowess, all that is valued by mankind appeared vile and contemptible to these barbarians, whose native fierceness was stimulated by the consciousness

of numbers and freedom. The tents of the Hungarians were of leather, their garments of fur; they shaved their hair, and scarified their faces: in speech they were slow, in action prompt, in treaty perfidious; and they shared the common reproach of Barbarians, too ignorant to conceive the importance of truth, too proud to deny or palliate the breach of their most solemn engagements. Their simplicity has been

praised; yet they abstained only from the luxury they had never known; whatever they saw they coveted; their desires were insatiate, and their

sole industry was the hand of violence and rapine. By the definition of a pastoral nation, I have recalled a long description of the economy, the warfare, and the government that prevail in that state of society;

I may add, that to fishing, as well as to the chase, the Hungarians were indebted for a part of their subsistence; and since they \_seldom\_ cultivated the ground, they must, at least in their new settlements,

have sometimes practised a slight and unskilful husbandry. In their emigrations, perhaps in their expeditions, the host was accompanied by thousands of sheep and oxen which increased the cloud of formidable dust, and afforded a constant and wholesale supply of milk and animal food. A plentiful command of forage was the first care of the general, and if the flocks and herds were secure of their pastures, the hardy warrior was alike insensible of danger and fatigue. The confusion of men and cattle that overspread the country exposed their camp to a nocturnal

surprise, had not a still wider circuit been occupied by their light cavalry, perpetually in motion to discover and delay the approach of the enemy. After some experience of the Roman tactics, they adopted the

use of the sword and spear, the helmet of the soldier, and the iron breastplate of his steed: but their native and deadly weapon was the tartar bow: from the earliest infancy their children and servants were exercised in the double science of archery and horsemanship; their arm was strong; their aim was sure; and in the most rapid career, they were taught to throw themselves backwards, and to shoot a volley of arrows

into the air. In open combat, in secret ambush, in flight, or pursuit, they were equally formidable; an appearance of order was maintained

in the foremost ranks, but their charge was driven forwards by the

impatient pressure of succeeding crowds. They pursued, headlong and

rash, with loosened reins and horrific outcries; but, if they fled, with

real or dissembled fear, the ardor of a pursuing foe was checked and chastised by the same habits of irregular speed and sudden evolution.

In the abuse of victory, they astonished Europe, yet smarting from the wounds of the Saracen and the Dane: mercy they rarely asked, and more

rarely bestowed: both sexes were accused is equally inaccessible to

pity, and their appetite for raw flesh might countenance the popular tale, that they drank the blood, and feasted on the hearts of the slain.

Yet the Hungarians were not devoid of those principles of justice and

humanity, which nature has implanted in every bosom. The license of

public and private injuries was restrained by laws and punishments; and

in the security of an open camp, theft is the most tempting and

most dangerous offence. Among the Barbarians there were many, whose

spontaneous virtue supplied their laws and corrected their manners, who

performed the duties, and sympathized with the affections, of social

life.

after a long pilgrimage of flight or victory, the Turkish hordes approached the common limits of the French and Byzantine empires. Their first conquests and final settlements extended on either side of the danube above Vienna, below Belgrade, and beyond the measure of the Roman

province of Pannonia, or the modern kingdom of Hungary. That ample and fertile land was loosely occupied by the Moravians, a Sclavonian name and tribe, which were driven by the invaders into the compass of a

narrow province. Charlemagne had stretched a vague and nominal empire as far as the edge of Transylvania; but, after the failure of his

legitimate line, the dukes of Moravia forgot their obedience and tribute to the monarchs of Oriental France. The bastard Arnulph was provoked to

invite the arms of the Turks: they rushed through the real or figurative wall, which his indiscretion had thrown open; and the king of Germany

has been justly reproached as a traitor to the civil and ecclesiastical

society of the Christians. During the life of Arnulph, the Hungarians were checked by gratitude or fear; but in the infancy of his son Lewis they discovered and invaded Bavaria; and such was their Scythian speed, that in a single day a circuit of fifty miles was stripped and consumed.

In the battle of Augsburgh the Christians maintained their advantage till the seventh hour of the day, they were deceived and vanquished by the flying stratagems of the Turkish cavalry. The conflagration spread

over the provinces of Bavaria, Swabia, and Franconia; and the Hungarians

promoted the reign of anarchy, by forcing the stoutest barons to discipline their vassals and fortify their castles. The origin of walled towns is ascribed to this calamitous period; nor could any distance be

secure against an enemy, who, almost at the same instant, laid in ashes the Helvetian monastery of St. Gall, and the city of Bremen, on the

shores of the northern ocean. Above thirty years the Germanic empire,

or kingdom, was subject to the ignominy of tribute; and resistance was disarmed by the menace, the serious and effectual menace of dragging the women and children into captivity, and of slaughtering the males above the age of ten years. I have neither power nor inclination to follow the

Hungarians beyond the Rhine; but I must observe with surprise, that the southern provinces of France were blasted by the tempest, and that

Spain, behind her Pyrenees, was astonished at the approach of these formidable strangers. The vicinity of Italy had tempted their early

inroads; but from their camp on the Brenta, they beheld with some terror the apparent strength and populousness of the new discovered country. they requested leave to retire; their request was proudly rejected by the Italian king; and the lives of twenty thousand Christians paid the forfeit of his obstinacy and rashness. Among the cities of the West, the

royal Pavia was conspicuous in fame and splendor; and the preëminence

of Rome itself was only derived from the relics of the apostles. The

Hungarians appeared; Pavia was in flames; forty-three churches were consumed; and, after the massacre of the people, they spared about two

hundred wretches who had gathered some bushels of gold and silver (a

vague exaggeration) from the smoking ruins of their country. In these annual excursions from the Alps to the neighborhood of Rome and Capua, the churches, that yet escaped, resounded with a fearful litany: "O,

save and deliver us from the arrows of the Hungarians!" But the saints were deaf or inexorable; and the torrent rolled forwards, till it was

stopped by the extreme land of Calabria. A composition was offered and accepted for the head of each Italian subject; and ten bushels of silver were poured forth in the Turkish camp. But falsehood is the natural antagonist of violence; and the robbers were defrauded both in the

numbers of the assessment and the standard of the metal. On the side of the East, the Hungarians were opposed in doubtful conflict by the equal arms of the Bulgarians, whose faith forbade an alliance with the Pagans, and whose situation formed the barrier of the Byzantine empire. The barrier was overturned; the emperor of Constantinople beheld the waving banners of the Turks; and one of their boldest warriors presumed to

strike a battle-axe into the golden gate. The arts and treasures of the

Greeks diverted the assault; but the Hungarians might boast, in their

retreat, that they had imposed a tribute on the spirit of Bulgaria and the majesty of the Cæsars. The remote and rapid operations of the same campaign appear to magnify the power and numbers of the Turks; but their courage is most deserving of praise, since a light troop of three or four hundred horse would often attempt and execute the most daring

inroads to the gates of Thessalonica and Constantinople. At this disastrous æra of the ninth and tenth centuries, Europe was afflicted by a triple scourge from the North, the East, and the South: the Norman, the Hungarian, and the Saracen, sometimes trod the same ground of desolation; and these savage foes might have been compared by Homer to the two lions growling over the carcass of a mangled stag.

the deliverance of Germany and Christendom was achieved by the Saxon

princes, Henry the Fowler and Otho the Great, who, in two memorable battles, forever broke the power of the Hungarians. The valiant Henry was roused from a bed of sickness by the invasion of his country; but

his mind was vigorous and his prudence successful. "My companions," said

he, on the morning of the combat, "maintain your ranks, receive on

your bucklers the first arrows of the Pagans, and prevent their second discharge by the equal and rapid career of your lances." They obeyed and conquered: and the historical picture of the castle of Merseburgh expressed the features, or at least the character, of Henry, who, in an age of ignorance, intrusted to the finer arts the perpetuity of his

name. At the end of twenty years, the children of the Turks who had fallen by his sword invaded the empire of his son; and their force is defined, in the lowest estimate, at one hundred thousand horse. they were invited by domestic faction; the gates of Germany were treacherously unlocked; and they spread, far beyond the Rhine and the

Meuse, into the heart of Flanders. But the vigor and prudence of Otho dispelled the conspiracy; the princes were made sensible that

unless they were true to each other, their religion and country were

irrecoverably lost; and the national powers were reviewed in the plains

of Augsburgh. They marched and fought in eight legions, according to the division of provinces and tribes; the first, second, and third, were composed of Bavarians; the fourth, of Franconians; the fifth, of Saxons,

under the immediate command of the monarch; the sixth and seventh consisted of Swabians; and the eighth legion, of a thousand Bohemians, closed the rear of the host. The resources of discipline and valor were fortified by the arts of superstition, which, on this occasion, may deserve the epithets of generous and salutary. The soldiers were

purified with a fast; the camp was blessed with the relics of saints and martyrs; and the Christian hero girded on his side the sword of constantine, grasped the invincible spear of Charlemagne, and waved the banner of St. Maurice, the præfect of the Thebæan legion. But

his firmest confidence was placed in the holy lance, whose point was fashioned of the nails of the cross, and which his father had extorted from the king of Burgundy, by the threats of war, and the gift of a

province. The Hungarians were expected in the front; they secretly

passed the Lech, a river of Bavaria that falls into the Danube; turned the rear of the Christian army; plundered the baggage, and disordered the legion of Bohemia and Swabia. The battle was restored by the franconians, whose duke, the valiant Conrad, was pierced with an arrow as he rested from his fatigues: the Saxons fought under the eyes of their king; and his victory surpassed, in merit and importance, the triumphs of the last two hundred years. The loss of the Hungarians was

still greater in the flight than in the action; they were encompassed by the rivers of Bavaria; and their past cruelties excluded them from the hope of mercy. Three captive princes were hanged at Ratisbon, the

multitude of prisoners was slain or mutilated, and the fugitives, who

presumed to appear in the face of their country, were condemned to everlasting poverty and disgrace. Yet the spirit of the nation was

humbled, and the most accessible passes of Hungary were fortified with a ditch and rampart. Adversity suggested the counsels of moderation and

peace: the robbers of the West acquiesced in a sedentary life; and the

next generation was taught, by a discerning prince, that far more might be gained by multiplying and exchanging the produce of a fruitful soil. the native race, the Turkish or Fennic blood, was mingled with new colonies of Scythian or Sclavonian origin; many thousands of robust and

industrious captives had been imported from all the countries of Europe; and after the marriage of Geisa with a Bavarian princess, he bestowed

honors and estates on the nobles of Germany. The son of Geisa was

invested with the regal title, and the house of Arpad reigned three

hundred years in the kingdom of Hungary. But the freeborn Barbarians were not dazzled by the lustre of the diadem, and the people asserted their indefeasible right of choosing, deposing, and punishing the

hereditary servant of the state.

III. The name of Russians was first divulged, in the ninth century, by an embassy of Theophilus, emperor of the East, to the emperor of the west, Lewis, the son of Charlemagne. The Greeks were accompanied by the envoys of the great duke, or chagan, or \_czar\_, of the Russians.

In their journey to Constantinople, they had traversed many hostile

nations; and they hoped to escape the dangers of their return, by

requesting the French monarch to transport them by sea to their native country. A closer examination detected their origin: they were the brethren of the Swedes and Normans, whose name was already odious and formidable in France; and it might justly be apprehended, that these

Russian strangers were not the messengers of peace, but the emissaries

of war. They were detained, while the Greeks were dismissed; and Lewis expected a more satisfactory account, that he might obey the laws of

hospitality or prudence, according to the interest of both empires. This

Scandinavian origin of the people, or at least the princes, of Russia,

may be confirmed and illustrated by the national annals and the general

history of the North. The Normans, who had so long been concealed by a veil of impenetrable darkness, suddenly burst forth in the spirit

of naval and military enterprise. The vast, and, as it is said, the

populous regions of Denmark, Sweden, and Norway, were crowded with

independent chieftains and desperate adventurers, who sighed in the

laziness of peace, and smiled in the agonies of death. Piracy was the exercise, the trade, the glory, and the virtue, of the Scandinavian

youth. Impatient of a bleak climate and narrow limits, they started from the banquet, grasped their arms, sounded their horn, ascended their vessels, and explored every coast that promised either spoil or

settlement. The Baltic was the first scene of their naval achievements they visited the eastern shores, the silent residence of Fennic and

Sclavonic tribes, and the primitive Russians of the Lake Ladoga paid a tribute, the skins of white squirrels, to these strangers, whom they

saluted with the title of \_Varangians\_ or Corsairs. Their superiority

in arms, discipline, and renown, commanded the fear and reverence of the

natives. In their wars against the more inland savages, the Varangians condescended to serve as friends and auxiliaries, and gradually, by choice or conquest, obtained the dominion of a people whom they were

qualified to protect. Their tyranny was expelled, their valor was again

recalled, till at length Ruric, a Scandinavian chief, became the father

of a dynasty which reigned above seven hundred years. His brothers extended his influence: the example of service and usurpation was

imitated by his companions in the southern provinces of Russia; and their establishments, by the usual methods of war and assassination, were cemented into the fabric of a powerful monarchy.

as long as the descendants of Ruric were considered as aliens and conquerors, they ruled by the sword of the Varangians, distributed estates and subjects to their faithful captains, and supplied their

numbers with fresh streams of adventurers from the Baltic coast. But when the Scandinavian chiefs had struck a deep and permanent root

into the soil, they mingled with the Russians in blood, religion, and language, and the first Waladimir had the merit of delivering his country from these foreign mercenaries. They had seated him on the throne; his riches were insufficient to satisfy their demands; but they listened to his pleasing advice, that they should seek, not a

more grateful, but a more wealthy, master; that they should embark for

Greece, where, instead of the skins of squirrels, silk and gold would be the recompense of their service. At the same time, the Russian prince admonished his Byzantine ally to disperse and employ, to recompense and

restrain, these impetuous children of the North. Contemporary writers have recorded the introduction, name, and character, of the

\_Varangians\_: each day they rose in confidence and esteem; the whole body was assembled at Constantinople to perform the duty of guards; and their strength was recruited by a numerous band of their countrymen from the Island of Thule. On this occasion, the vague appellation of Thule is applied to England; and the new Varangians were a colony of English and Danes who fled from the yoke of the Norman conqueror. The habits of

pilgrimage and piracy had approximated the countries of the earth; these exiles were entertained in the Byzantine court; and they preserved, till the last age of the empire, the inheritance of spotless loyalty, and the

use of the Danish or English tongue. With their broad and double-edged battle-axes on their shoulders, they attended the Greek emperor to the temple, the senate, and the hippodrome; he slept and feasted under their trusty guard; and the keys of the palace, the treasury, and the capital, were held by the firm and faithful hands of the Varangians.

In the tenth century, the geography of Scythia was extended far beyond the limits of ancient knowledge; and the monarchy of the Russians

obtains a vast and conspicuous place in the map of Constantine. The sons

of Ruric were masters of the spacious province of Wolodomir, or Moscow; and, if they were confined on that side by the hordes of the East, their western frontier in those early days was enlarged to the Baltic Sea and the country of the Prussians. Their northern reign ascended above the

sixtieth degree of latitude over the Hyperborean regions, which fancy

had peopled with monsters, or clouded with eternal darkness. To the

south they followed the course of the Borysthenes, and approached with that river the neighborhood of the Euxine Sea. The tribes that dwelt, or wandered, in this ample circuit were obedient to the same conqueror, and insensibly blended into the same nation. The language of Russia is a dialect of the Sclavonian; but in the tenth century, these two modes of

speech were different from each other; and, as the Sclavonian prevailed

in the South, it may be presumed that the original Russians of the

North, the primitive subjects of the Varangian chief, were a portion

of the Fennic race. With the emigration, union, or dissolution, of the wandering tribes, the loose and indefinite picture of the Scythian desert has continually shifted. But the most ancient map of Russia affords some places which still retain their name and position; and the two capitals, Novogorod and Kiow, are coeval with the first age of the

monarchy. Novogorod had not yet deserved the epithet of great, nor the alliance of the Hanseatic League, which diffused the streams of opulence and the principles of freedom. Kiow could not yet boast of three hundred churches, an innumerable people, and a degree of greatness and splendor which was compared with Constantinople by those who had never seen the

residence of the Cæsars. In their origin, the two cities were no

more than camps or fairs, the most convenient stations in which the barbarians might assemble for the occasional business of war or trade.

Yet even these assemblies announce some progress in the arts of society; a new breed of cattle was imported from the southern provinces; and the spirit of commercial enterprise pervaded the sea and land, from the Baltic to the Euxine, from the mouth of the Oder to the port of constantinople. In the days of idolatry and barbarism, the Sclavonic city of Julin was frequented and enriched by the Normans, who had

prudently secured a free mart of purchase and exchange. From this

harbor, at the entrance of the Oder, the corsair, or merchant, sailed in forty-three days to the eastern shores of the Baltic, the most distant

nations were intermingled, and the holy groves of Curland \_are said\_ to

have been decorated with \_Grecian\_ and Spanish gold. Between the sea and

Novogorod an easy intercourse was discovered; in the summer, through a

gulf, a lake, and a navigable river; in the winter season, over the

hard and level surface of boundless snows. From the neighborhood of that city, the Russians descended the streams that fall into the Borysthenes; their canoes, of a single tree, were laden with slaves of every age, furs of every species, the spoil of their beehives, and the hides of their cattle; and the whole produce of the North was collected and discharged in the magazines of Kiow. The month of June was the ordinary

season of the departure of the fleet: the timber of the canoes was framed into the oars and benches of more solid and capacious boats; and they proceeded without obstacle down the Borysthenes, as far as the seven or thirteen ridges of rocks, which traverse the bed, and

precipitate the waters, of the river. At the more shallow falls it was sufficient to lighten the vessels; but the deeper cataracts were

impassable; and the mariners, who dragged their vessels and their

slaves six miles over land, were exposed in this toilsome journey to the

robbers of the desert. At the first island below the falls, the Russians celebrated the festival of their escape: at a second, near the mouth of the river, they repaired their shattered vessels for the longer and more

perilous voyage of the Black Sea. If they steered along the coast, the danube was accessible; with a fair wind they could reach in thirty-six

or forty hours the opposite shores of Anatolia; and Constantinople admitted the annual visit of the strangers of the North. They returned at the stated season with a rich cargo of corn, wine, and oil, the manufactures of Greece, and the spices of India. Some of their countrymen resided in the capital and provinces; and the national treaties protected the persons, effects, and privileges, of the Russian

merchant.

chapter LV: The Bulgarians, The Hungarians And The Russians.--Part III.

but the same communication which had been opened for the benefit, was

soon abused for the injury, of mankind. In a period of one hundred and

ninety years, the Russians made four attempts to plunder the treasures

of Constantinople: the event was various, but the motive, the means, and the object, were the same in these naval expeditions. The Russian traders had seen the magnificence, and tasted the luxury of the city of the Cæsars. A marvellous tale, and a scanty supply, excited the desires

of their savage countrymen: they envied the gifts of nature which their climate denied; they coveted the works of art, which they were too lazy to imitate and too indigent to purchase; the Varangian princes unfurled the banners of piratical adventure, and their bravest soldiers were drawn from the nations that dwelt in the northern isles of the ocean. the image of their naval armaments was revived in the last century,

in the fleets of the Cossacks, which issued from the Borysthenes, to

navigate the same seas for a similar purpose. The Greek appellation of

\_monoxyla\_, or single canoes, might justly be applied to the bottom of their vessels. It was scooped out of the long stem of a beech or willow, but the slight and narrow foundation was raised and continued on either

side with planks, till it attained the length of sixty, and the height

of about twelve, feet. These boats were built without a deck, but with two rudders and a mast; to move with sails and oars; and to contain from forty to seventy men, with their arms, and provisions of fresh water and salt fish. The first trial of the Russians was made with two hundred boats; but when the national force was exerted, they might arm against constantinople a thousand or twelve hundred vessels. Their fleet was not

much inferior to the royal navy of Agamemnon, but it was magnified in the eyes of fear to ten or fifteen times the real proportion of its

strength and numbers. Had the Greek emperors been endowed with foresight to discern, and vigor to prevent, perhaps they might have sealed with a

maritime force the mouth of the Borysthenes. Their indolence abandoned the coast of Anatolia to the calamities of a piratical war, which, after an interval of six hundred years, again infested the Euxine; but as

long as the capital was respected, the sufferings of a distant province escaped the notice both of the prince and the historian. The storm which

had swept along from the Phasis and Trebizond, at length burst on the Bosphorus of Thrace; a strait of fifteen miles, in which the rude

vessels of the Russians might have been stopped and destroyed by a more

skilful adversary. In their first enterprise under the princes of Kiow, they passed without opposition, and occupied the port of Constantinople

in the absence of the emperor Michael, the son of Theophilus. Through a crowd of perils, he landed at the palace-stairs, and immediately

repaired to a church of the Virgin Mary. By the advice of the patriarch,

her garment, a precious relic, was drawn from the sanctuary and dipped

in the sea; and a seasonable tempest, which determined the retreat of the Russians, was devoutly ascribed to the mother of God. The silence

of the Greeks may inspire some doubt of the truth, or at least of the

importance, of the second attempt by Oleg, the guardian of the sons

of Ruric. A strong barrier of arms and fortifications defended the bosphorus: they were eluded by the usual expedient of drawing the boats

over the isthmus; and this simple operation is described in the national chronicles, as if the Russian fleet had sailed over dry land with a brisk and favorable gale. The leader of the third armament, Igor, the

son of Ruric, had chosen a moment of weakness and decay, when the naval

powers of the empire were employed against the Saracens. But if courage be not wanting, the instruments of defence are seldom deficient. Fifteen broken and decayed galleys were boldly launched against the enemy; but

instead of the single tube of Greek fire usually planted on the prow, the sides and stern of each vessel were abundantly supplied with that

liquid combustible. The engineers were dexterous; the weather was

propitious; many thousand Russians, who chose rather to be drowned than burnt, leaped into the sea; and those who escaped to the Thracian shore were inhumanly slaughtered by the peasants and soldiers. Yet one third

of the canoes escaped into shallow water; and the next spring Igor was again prepared to retrieve his disgrace and claim his revenge. After a long peace, Jaroslaus, the great grandson of Igor, resumed the same

project of a naval invasion. A fleet, under the command of his son, was

repulsed at the entrance of the Bosphorus by the same artificial flames. But in the rashness of pursuit, the vanguard of the Greeks was encompassed by an irresistible multitude of boats and men; their

provision of fire was probably exhausted; and twenty-four galleys were either taken, sunk, or destroyed.

Yet the threats or calamities of a Russian war were more frequently diverted by treaty than by arms. In these naval hostilities, every disadvantage was on the side of the Greeks; their savage enemy afforded

no mercy: his poverty promised no spoil; his impenetrable retreat deprived the conqueror of the hopes of revenge; and the pride or weakness of empire indulged an opinion, that no honor could be gained

or lost in the intercourse with Barbarians. At first their demands were

high and inadmissible, three pounds of gold for each soldier or mariner

of the fleet: the Russian youth adhered to the design of conquest and

glory; but the counsels of moderation were recommended by the hoary

sages. "Be content," they said, "with the liberal offers of Cæsar; it

is not far better to obtain without a combat the possession of gold,

silver, silks, and all the objects of our desires? Are we sure of

victory? Can we conclude a treaty with the sea? We do not tread on the

land; we float on the abyss of water, and a common death hangs over our

heads." The memory of these Arctic fleets that seemed to descend from the polar circle left deep impression of terror on the Imperial city. by the vulgar of every rank, it was asserted and believed, that an equestrian statue in the square of Taurus was secretly inscribed with a

prophecy, how the Russians, in the last days, should become masters of constantinople. In our own time, a Russian armament, instead of sailing from the Borysthenes, has circumnavigated the continent of Europe; and the Turkish capital has been threatened by a squadron of strong and

lofty ships of war, each of which, with its naval science and thundering artillery, could have sunk or scattered a hundred canoes, such as those

of their ancestors. Perhaps the present generation may yet behold the accomplishment of the prediction, of a rare prediction, of which the

style is unambiguous and the date unquestionable.

by land the Russians were less formidable than by sea; and as they fought for the most part on foot, their irregular legions must often

have been broken and overthrown by the cavalry of the Scythian hordes.

Yet their growing towns, however slight and imperfect, presented a

shelter to the subject, and a barrier to the enemy: the monarchy of

Kiow, till a fatal partition, assumed the dominion of the North; and the nations from the Volga to the Danube were subdued or repelled by the arms of Swatoslaus, the son of Igor, the son of Oleg, the son of Ruric. the vigor of his mind and body was fortified by the hardships of a

military and savage life. Wrapped in a bear-skin, Swatoslaus usually

slept on the ground, his head reclining on a saddle; his diet was coarse and frugal, and, like the heroes of Homer, his meat (it was often

horse-flesh) was broiled or roasted on the coals. The exercise of war

gave stability and discipline to his army; and it may be presumed, that

no soldier was permitted to transcend the luxury of his chief. By an embassy from Nicephorus, the Greek emperor, he was moved to undertake the conquest of Bulgaria; and a gift of fifteen hundred pounds of gold was laid at his feet to defray the expense, or reward the toils, of the expedition. An army of sixty thousand men was assembled and embarked; they sailed from the Borysthenes to the Danube; their landing was effected on the Mæsian shore; and, after a sharp encounter, the swords

of the Russians prevailed against the arrows of the Bulgarian horse. The

vanquished king sunk into the grave; his children were made captive; and his dominions, as far as Mount Hæmus, were subdued or ravaged by the

northern invaders. But instead of relinquishing his prey, and performing

his engagements, the Varangian prince was more disposed to advance than to retire; and, had his ambition been crowned with success, the seat

of empire in that early period might have been transferred to a more temperate and fruitful climate. Swatoslaus enjoyed and acknowledged the advantages of his new position, in which he could unite, by exchange or

rapine, the various productions of the earth. By an easy navigation

he might draw from Russia the native commodities of furs, wax, and

hydromel: Hungary supplied him with a breed of horses and the spoils

of the West; and Greece abounded with gold, silver, and the foreign

luxuries, which his poverty had affected to disdain. The bands of

Patzinacites, Chozars, and Turks, repaired to the standard of victory; and the ambassador of Nicephorus betrayed his trust, assumed the purple, and promised to share with his new allies the treasures of the Eastern world. From the banks of the Danube the Russian prince pursued his march as far as Adrianople; a formal summons to evacuate the Roman province was dismissed with contempt; and Swatoslaus fiercely replied, that constantinople might soon expect the presence of an enemy and a master.

Nicephorus could no longer expel the mischief which he had introduced; but his throne and wife were inherited by John Zimisces, who, in a diminutive body, possessed the spirit and abilities of a hero. The first victory of his lieutenants deprived the Russians of their foreign allies, twenty thousand of whom were either destroyed by the sword,

or provoked to revolt, or tempted to desert. Thrace was delivered, but

seventy thousand Barbarians were still in arms; and the legions that had been recalled from the new conquests of Syria, prepared, with the return

of the spring, to march under the banners of a warlike prince, who declared himself the friend and avenger of the injured Bulgaria. The

passes of Mount Hæmus had been left unguarded; they were instantly

occupied; the Roman vanguard was formed of the \_immortals\_, (a proud

imitation of the Persian style;) the emperor led the main body of ten thousand five hundred foot; and the rest of his forces followed in slow and cautious array, with the baggage and military engines. The first exploit of Zimisces was the reduction of Marcianopolis, or Peristhlaba,

in two days; the trumpets sounded; the walls were scaled; eight thousand five hundred Russians were put to the sword; and the sons of the bulgarian king were rescued from an ignominious prison, and invested with a nominal diadem. After these repeated losses, Swatoslaus retired to the strong post of Drista, on the banks of the Danube, and was

pursued by an enemy who alternately employed the arms of celerity and delay. The Byzantine galleys ascended the river, the legions completed a line of circumvallation; and the Russian prince was encompassed, assaulted, and famished, in the fortifications of the camp and city.

Many deeds of valor were performed; several desperate sallies were attempted; nor was it till after a siege of sixty-five days that

Swatoslaus yielded to his adverse fortune. The liberal terms which he

obtained announce the prudence of the victor, who respected the valor, and apprehended the despair, of an unconquered mind. The great duke of

Russia bound himself, by solemn imprecations, to relinquish all hostile designs; a safe passage was opened for his return; the liberty of trade and navigation was restored; a measure of corn was distributed to each

of his soldiers; and the allowance of twenty-two thousand measures attests the loss and the remnant of the Barbarians. After a painful

voyage, they again reached the mouth of the Borysthenes; but their

provisions were exhausted; the season was unfavorable; they passed the winter on the ice; and, before they could prosecute their march,

Swatoslaus was surprised and oppressed by the neighboring tribes with whom the Greeks entertained a perpetual and useful correspondence. Far different was the return of Zimisces, who was received in his capital

like Camillus or Marius, the saviors of ancient Rome. But the merit of the victory was attributed by the pious emperor to the mother of God; and the image of the Virgin Mary, with the divine infant in her arms, was placed on a triumphal car, adorned with the spoils of war, and the ensigns of Bulgarian royalty. Zimisces made his public entry on

horseback; the diadem on his head, a crown of laurel in his hand; and constantinople was astonished to applaud the martial virtues of her

sovereign.

Photius of Constantinople, a patriarch, whose ambition was equal to his curiosity, congratulates himself and the Greek church on the conversion

of the Russians. Those fierce and bloody Barbarians had been persuaded, by the voice of reason and religion, to acknowledge Jesus for their God, the Christian missionaries for their teachers, and the Romans for their friends and brethren. His triumph was transient and premature. In the

various fortune of their piratical adventures, some Russian chiefs might allow themselves to be sprinkled with the waters of baptism; and a Greek bishop, with the name of metropolitan, might administer the sacraments

in the church of Kiow, to a congregation of slaves and natives. But the

seed of the gospel was sown on a barren soil: many were the apostates, the converts were few; and the baptism of Olga may be fixed as the æra

of Russian Christianity. A female, perhaps of the basest origin, who could revenge the death, and assume the sceptre, of her husband Igor,

must have been endowed with those active virtues which command the fear and obedience of Barbarians. In a moment of foreign and domestic peace,

she sailed from Kiow to Constantinople; and the emperor Constantine

Porphyrogenitus has described, with minute diligence, the ceremonial

of her reception in his capital and palace. The steps, the titles, the

salutations, the banquet, the presents, were exquisitely adjusted to

gratify the vanity of the stranger, with due reverence to the superior

majesty of the purple. In the sacrament of baptism, she received the

venerable name of the empress Helena; and her conversion might be

preceded or followed by her uncle, two interpreters, sixteen damsels

of a higher, and eighteen of a lower rank, twenty-two domestics or

ministers, and forty-four Russian merchants, who composed the retinue

of the great princess Olga. After her return to Kiow and Novogorod, she firmly persisted in her new religion; but her labors in the propagation

of the gospel were not crowned with success; and both her family and

nation adhered with obstinacy or indifference to the gods of their fathers. Her son Swatoslaus was apprehensive of the scorn and ridicule

of his companions; and her grandson Wolodomir devoted his youthful zeal to multiply and decorate the monuments of ancient worship. The savage deities of the North were still propitiated with human sacrifices:

in the choice of the victim, a citizen was preferred to a stranger, a christian to an idolater; and the father, who defended his son from the

sacerdotal knife, was involved in the same doom by the rage of a fanatic tumult. Yet the lessons and example of the pious Olga had made a deep, though secret, impression in the minds of the prince and people: the

Greek missionaries continued to preach, to dispute, and to baptize: and the ambassadors or merchants of Russia compared the idolatry of the woods with the elegant superstition of Constantinople. They had gazed with admiration on the dome of St. Sophia: the lively pictures of saints and martyrs, the riches of the altar, the number and vestments of the

priests, the pomp and order of the ceremonies; they were edified by the alternate succession of devout silence and harmonious song; nor was it difficult to persuade them, that a choir of angels descended each day from heaven to join in the devotion of the Christians. But the conversion of Wolodomir was determined, or hastened, by his desire of a

Roman bride. At the same time, and in the city of Cherson, the rites of baptism and marriage were celebrated by the Christian pontiff: the city

he restored to the emperor Basil, the brother of his spouse; but the brazen gates were transported, as it is said, to Novogorod, and erected before the first church as a trophy of his victory and faith. At his despotic command, Peround, the god of thunder, whom he had so long adored, was dragged through the streets of Kiow; and twelve sturdy barbarians battered with clubs the misshapen image, which was

indignantly cast into the waters of the Borysthenes. The edict of wolodomir had proclaimed, that all who should refuse the rites of baptism would be treated as the enemies of God and their prince; and the

rivers were instantly filled with many thousands of obedient Russians, who acquiesced in the truth and excellence of a doctrine which had been embraced by the great duke and his boyars. In the next generation, the

relics of Paganism were finally extirpated; but as the two brothers

of Wolodomir had died without baptism, their bones were taken from the

grave, and sanctified by an irregular and posthumous sacrament.

In the ninth, tenth, and eleventh centuries of the Christian æra, the reign of the gospel and of the church was extended over Bulgaria,

Hungary, Bohemia, Saxony, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Poland, and Russia. the triumphs of apostolic zeal were repeated in the iron age of christianity; and the northern and eastern regions of Europe submitted to a religion, more different in theory than in practice, from the worship of their native idols. A laudable ambition excited the

monks both of Germany and Greece, to visit the tents and huts of the barbarians: poverty, hardships, and dangers, were the lot of the first

missionaries; their courage was active and patient; their motive pure and meritorious; their present reward consisted in the testimony of their conscience and the respect of a grateful people; but the fruitful

harvest of their toils was inherited and enjoyed by the proud and wealthy prelates of succeeding times. The first conversions were free and spontaneous: a holy life and an eloquent tongue were the only arms

of the missionaries; but the domestic fables of the Pagans were silenced by the miracles and visions of the strangers; and the favorable temper

of the chiefs was accelerated by the dictates of vanity and interest. the leaders of nations, who were saluted with the titles of kings and

saints, held it lawful and pious to impose the Catholic faith on their

subjects and neighbors; the coast of the Baltic, from Holstein to the

Gulf of Finland, was invaded under the standard of the cross; and the

reign of idolatry was closed by the conversion of Lithuania in the fourteenth century. Yet truth and candor must acknowledge, that the conversion of the North imparted many temporal benefits both to the old and the new Christians. The rage of war, inherent to the human species, could not be healed by the evangelic precepts of charity and peace; and the ambition of Catholic princes has renewed in every age the calamities

of hostile contention. But the admission of the Barbarians into the

pale of civil and ecclesiastical society delivered Europe from the depredations, by sea and land, of the Normans, the Hungarians, and the Russians, who learned to spare their brethren and cultivate their

possessions. The establishment of law and order was promoted by the

influence of the clergy; and the rudiments of art and science were

introduced into the savage countries of the globe. The liberal piety

of the Russian princes engaged in their service the most skilful of the

Greeks, to decorate the cities and instruct the inhabitants: the dome and the paintings of St. Sophia were rudely copied in the churches of

Kiow and Novogorod: the writings of the fathers were translated into the Sclavonic idiom; and three hundred noble youths were invited or compelled to attend the lessons of the college of Jaroslaus. It should appear that Russia might have derived an early and rapid improvement from her peculiar connection with the church and state of constantinople, which at that age so justly despised the ignorance of the Latins. But the Byzantine nation was servile, solitary, and verging to a hasty decline: after the fall of Kiow, the navigation of the borysthenes was forgotten; the great princes of Wolodomir and Moscow were separated from the sea and Christendom; and the divided monarchy was oppressed by the ignominy and blindness of Tartar servitude. The

Sclavonic and Scandinavian kingdoms, which had been converted by the Latin missionaries, were exposed, it is true, to the spiritual

jurisdiction and temporal claims of the popes; but they were united in

language and religious worship, with each other, and with Rome; they

imbibed the free and generous spirit of the European republic, and

gradually shared the light of knowledge which arose on the western world.

chapter LVI: The Saracens, The Franks And The Normans.--Part I.

The Saracens, Franks, And Greeks, In Italy.--First

Adventures And Settlement Of The Normans.--Character And

Conquest Of Robert Guiscard, Duke Of Apulia--Deliverance Of

Sicily By His Brother Roger.--Victories Of Robert Over The

Emperors Of The East And West.--Roger, King Of Sicily,

Invades Africa And Greece.--The Emperor Manuel Comnenus.--

Wars Of The Greeks And Normans.--Extinction Of The Normans.

the three great nations of the world, the Greeks, the Saracens, and the franks, encountered each other on the theatre of Italy. The southern

provinces, which now compose the kingdom of Naples, were subject, for the most part, to the Lombard dukes and princes of Beneventum;

so powerful in war, that they checked for a moment the genius of charlemagne; so liberal in peace, that they maintained in their capital an academy of thirty-two philosophers and grammarians. The division of this flourishing state produced the rival principalities of Benevento,

Salerno, and Capua; and the thoughtless ambition or revenge of the competitors invited the Saracens to the ruin of their common

inheritance. During a calamitous period of two hundred years, Italy was exposed to a repetition of wounds, which the invaders were not capable

of healing by the union and tranquility of a perfect conquest. Their frequent and almost annual squadrons issued from the port of Palermo, and were entertained with too much indulgence by the Christians of

Naples: the more formidable fleets were prepared on the African coast; and even the Arabs of Andalusia were sometimes tempted to assist or

oppose the Moslems of an adverse sect. In the revolution of human events, a new ambuscade was concealed in the Caudine Forks, the fields

of Cannæ were bedewed a second time with the blood of the Africans, and the sovereign of Rome again attacked or defended the walls of Capua and tarentum. A colony of Saracens had been planted at Bari, which commands the entrance of the Adriatic Gulf; and their impartial depredations

provoked the resentment, and conciliated the union of the two emperors. an offensive alliance was concluded between Basil the Macedonian, the first of his race, and Lewis the great-grandson of Charlemagne; and each

party supplied the deficiencies of his associate. It would have been

imprudent in the Byzantine monarch to transport his stationary troops

of Asia to an Italian campaign; and the Latin arms would have been

insufficient if his superior navy had not occupied the mouth of the

Gulf. The fortress of Bari was invested by the infantry of the Franks, and by the cavalry and galleys of the Greeks; and, after a defence of four years, the Arabian emir submitted to the clemency of Lewis, who commanded in person the operations of the siege. This important conquest

had been achieved by the concord of the East and West; but their recent amity was soon imbittered by the mutual complaints of jealousy and

pride. The Greeks assumed as their own the merit of the conquest and the pomp of the triumph; extolled the greatness of their powers, and affected to deride the intemperance and sloth of the handful of barbarians who appeared under the banners of the Carlovingian prince.

His reply is expressed with the eloquence of indignation and truth: "We confess the magnitude of your preparation," says the great-grandson of charlemagne. "Your armies were indeed as numerous as a cloud of summer

locusts, who darken the day, flap their wings, and, after a short flight, tumble weary and breathless to the ground. Like them, ye sunk after a feeble effort; ye were vanquished by your own cowardice; and withdrew from the scene of action to injure and despoil our Christian

subjects of the Sclavonian coast. We were few in number, and why were we few? Because, after a tedious expectation of your arrival, I had dismissed my host, and retained only a chosen band of warriors to continue the blockade of the city. If they indulged their hospitable feasts in the face of danger and death, did these feasts abate the vigor

of their enterprise? Is it by your fasting that the walls of Bari have been overturned? Did not these valiant Franks, diminished as they were by languor and fatigue, intercept and vanish the three most powerful emirs of the Saracens? and did not their defeat precipitate the fall

of the city? Bari is now fallen; Tarentum trembles; Calabria will be delivered; and, if we command the sea, the Island of Sicily may be

rescued from the hands of the infidels. My brother," accelerate (a

name most offensive to the vanity of the Greek,) "accelerate your naval

succors, respect your allies, and distrust your flatterers."

these lofty hopes were soon extinguished by the death of Lewis, and the decay of the Carlovingian house; and whoever might deserve the honor, the Greek emperors, Basil, and his son Leo, secured the advantage, of the reduction of Bari The Italians of Apulia and Calabria were persuaded

or compelled to acknowledge their supremacy, and an ideal line from

Mount Garganus to the Bay of Salerno, leaves the far greater part of the

kingdom of Naples under the dominion of the Eastern empire. Beyond that line, the dukes or republics of Amalfi and Naples, who had never forfeited their voluntary allegiance, rejoiced in the neighborhood of their lawful sovereign; and Amalfi was enriched by supplying Europe with the produce and manufactures of Asia. But the Lombard princes of benevento, Salerno, and Capua, were reluctantly torn from the communion

of the Latin world, and too often violated their oaths of servitude and tribute. The city of Bari rose to dignity and wealth, as the metropolis

of the new theme or province of Lombardy: the title of patrician, and afterwards the singular name of \_Catapan\_, was assigned to the supreme

governor; and the policy both of the church and state was modelled in exact subordination to the throne of Constantinople. As long as the

sceptre was disputed by the princes of Italy, their efforts were feeble and adverse; and the Greeks resisted or eluded the forces of Germany, which descended from the Alps under the Imperial standard of the

Othos. The first and greatest of those Saxon princes was compelled to

relinquish the siege of Bari: the second, after the loss of his stoutest bishops and barons, escaped with honor from the bloody field of Crotona.

On that day the scale of war was turned against the Franks by the valor

of the Saracens. These corsairs had indeed been driven by the Byzantine fleets from the fortresses and coasts of Italy; but a sense of interest was more prevalent than superstition or resentment, and the caliph of egypt had transported forty thousand Moslems to the aid of his Christian ally. The successors of Basil amused themselves with the belief, that the conquest of Lombardy had been achieved, and was still preserved by the justice of their laws, the virtues of their ministers, and the

gratitude of a people whom they had rescued from anarchy and oppression. a series of rebellions might dart a ray of truth into the palace of constantinople; and the illusions of flattery were dispelled by the easy and rapid success of the Norman adventurers.

the revolution of human affairs had produced in Apulia and Calabria a

melancholy contrast between the age of Pythagoras and the tenth century

of the Christian æra. At the former period, the coast of Great Greece

(as it was then styled) was planted with free and opulent cities: these cities were peopled with soldiers, artists, and philosophers; and the

military strength of Tarentum; Sybaris, or Crotona, was not inferior to that of a powerful kingdom. At the second æra, these once flourishing

provinces were clouded with ignorance impoverished by tyranny, and depopulated by Barbarian war nor can we severely accuse the exaggeration

of a contemporary, that a fair and ample district was reduced to the

same desolation which had covered the earth after the general deluge. among the hostilities of the Arabs, the Franks, and the Greeks, in the

southern Italy, I shall select two or three anecdotes expressive of their national manners. \_1.\_ It was the amusement of the Saracens to

profane, as well as to pillage, the monasteries and churches. At the siege of Salerno, a Mussulman chief spread his couch on the communion-table, and on that altar sacrificed each night the virginity

of a Christian nun. As he wrestled with a reluctant maid, a beam in the

roof was accidentally or dexterously thrown down on his head; and the death of the lustful emir was imputed to the wrath of Christ, which was at length awakened to the defence of his faithful spouse. \_2.\_ the Saracens besieged the cities of Beneventum and Capua: after a vain appeal to the successors of Charlemagne, the Lombards implored the clemency and aid of the Greek emperor. A fearless citizen dropped from the walls, passed the intrenchments, accomplished his commission, and fell into the hands of the Barbarians as he was returning with the welcome news. They commanded him to assist their enterprise, and deceive

his countrymen, with the assurance that wealth and honors should be the

reward of his falsehood, and that his sincerity would be punished with

immediate death. He affected to yield, but as soon as he was conducted within hearing of the Christians on the rampart, "Friends and brethren,"

he cried with a loud voice, "be bold and patient, maintain the city;

your sovereign is informed of your distress, and your deliverers are at hand. I know my doom, and commit my wife and children to your

gratitude." The rage of the Arabs confirmed his evidence; and the

self-devoted patriot was transpierced with a hundred spears. He deserves to live in the memory of the virtuous, but the repetition of the same

story in ancient and modern times, may sprinkle some doubts on the

reality of this generous deed. \_3.\_ The recital of a third incident may

provoke a smile amidst the horrors of war. Theobald, marquis of Camerino and Spoleto, supported the rebels of Beneventum; and his wanton cruelty was not incompatible in that age with the character of a hero. His captives of the Greek nation or party were castrated without mercy, and the outrage was aggravated by a cruel jest, that he wished to present the emperor with a supply of eunuchs, the most precious ornaments of the byzantine court. The garrison of a castle had been defeated in a sally, and the prisoners were sentenced to the customary operation. But the

sacrifice was disturbed by the intrusion of a frantic female, who, with bleeding cheeks dishevelled hair, and importunate clamors, compelled the marquis to listen to her complaint. "Is it thus," she cried, "ye

magnanimous heroes, that ye wage war against women, against women who

have never injured ye, and whose only arms are the distaff and the

loom?" Theobald denied the charge, and protested that, since the amazons, he had never heard of a female war. "And how," she furiously exclaimed, "can you attack us more directly, how can you wound us in a more vital part, than by robbing our husbands of what we most dearly cherish, the source of our joys, and the hope of our posterity? The

plunder of our flocks and herds I have endured without a murmur, but this fatal injury, this irreparable loss, subdues my patience, and calls aloud on the justice of heaven and earth." A general laugh applauded her eloquence; the savage Franks, inaccessible to pity, were moved by

her ridiculous, yet rational despair; and with the deliverance of the captives, she obtained the restitution of her effects. As she returned

in triumph to the castle, she was overtaken by a messenger, to inquire,

in the name of Theobald, what punishment should be inflicted on her

husband, were he again taken in arms. "Should such," she answered without hesitation, "be his guilt and misfortune, he has eyes, and a

nose, and hands, and feet. These are his own, and these he may deserve to forfeit by his personal offences. But let my lord be pleased to spare what his little handmaid presumes to claim as her peculiar and lawful

property."

the establishment of the Normans in the kingdoms of Naples and Sicily

is an event most romantic in its origin, and in its consequences most

important both to Italy and the Eastern empire. The broken provinces of the Greeks, Lombards, and Saracens, were exposed to every invader, and every sea and land were invaded by the adventurous spirit of the

Scandinavian pirates. After a long indulgence of rapine and slaughter, a fair and ample territory was accepted, occupied, and named, by the Normans of France: they renounced their gods for the God of the christians; and the dukes of Normandy acknowledged themselves the

vassals of the successors of Charlemagne and Capet. The savage fierceness which they had brought from the snowy mountains of Norway was

refined, without being corrupted, in a warmer climate; the companions

of Rollo insensibly mingled with the natives; they imbibed the manners,

language, and gallantry, of the French nation; and in a martial age, the

Normans might claim the palm of valor and glorious achievements. Of the fashionable superstitions, they embraced with ardor the pilgrimages of

Rome, Italy, and the Holy Land. In this active devotion, the minds and bodies were invigorated by exercise: danger was the incentive, novelty the recompense; and the prospect of the world was decorated by wonder, credulity, and ambitious hope. They confederated for their mutual defence; and the robbers of the Alps, who had been allured by the garb

of a pilgrim, were often chastised by the arm of a warrior. In one of these pious visits to the cavern of Mount Garganus in Apulia, which had been sanctified by the apparition of the archangel Michael, they were accosted by a stranger in the Greek habit, but who soon revealed himself as a rebel, a fugitive, and a mortal foe of the Greek empire. His name was Melo; a noble citizen of Bari, who, after an unsuccessful revolt, was compelled to seek new allies and avengers of his country. The bold appearance of the Normans revived his hopes and solicited his confidence: they listened to the complaints, and still more to the

promises, of the patriot. The assurance of wealth demonstrated the

justice of his cause; and they viewed, as the inheritance of the brave, the fruitful land which was oppressed by effeminate tyrants. On their

return to Normandy, they kindled a spark of enterprise, and a small but

intrepid band was freely associated for the deliverance of Apulia. They

passed the Alps by separate roads, and in the disguise of pilgrims; but

in the neighborhood of Rome they were saluted by the chief of Bari, who

supplied the more indigent with arms and horses, and instantly led them to the field of action. In the first conflict, their valor prevailed; but in the second engagement they were overwhelmed by the numbers and

military engines of the Greeks, and indignantly retreated with their faces to the enemy. The unfortunate Melo ended his life a suppliant at the court of Germany: his Norman followers, excluded from their native and their promised land, wandered among the hills and valleys of Italy, and earned their daily subsistence by the sword. To that formidable

sword the princes of Capua, Beneventum, Salerno, and Naples, alternately appealed in their domestic quarrels; the superior spirit and discipline

of the Normans gave victory to the side which they espoused; and their cautious policy observed the balance of power, lest the preponderance

of any rival state should render their aid less important, and their

service less profitable. Their first asylum was a strong camp in the depth of the marshes of Campania: but they were soon endowed by the

liberality of the duke of Naples with a more plentiful and permanent

seat. Eight miles from his residence, as a bulwark against Capua, the town of Aversa was built and fortified for their use; and they enjoyed as their own the corn and fruits, the meadows and groves, of that fertile district. The report of their success attracted every year new

swarms of pilgrims and soldiers: the poor were urged by necessity; the

rich were excited by hope; and the brave and active spirits of Normandy were impatient of ease and ambitious of renown. The independent standard

of Aversa afforded shelter and encouragement to the outlaws of the

province, to every fugitive who had escaped from the injustice or

justice of his superiors; and these foreign associates were quickly assimilated in manners and language to the Gallic colony. The first

leader of the Normans was Count Rainulf; and, in the origin of society,

preëminence of rank is the reward and the proof of superior merit.

Since the conquest of Sicily by the Arabs, the Grecian emperors had been anxious to regain that valuable possession; but their efforts, however

strenuous, had been opposed by the distance and the sea. Their costly armaments, after a gleam of success, added new pages of calamity and disgrace to the Byzantine annals: twenty thousand of their best troops were lost in a single expedition; and the victorious Moslems derided the

policy of a nation which intrusted eunuchs not only with the custody

of their women, but with the command of their men After a reign of two

hundred years, the Saracens were ruined by their divisions. The emir disclaimed the authority of the king of Tunis; the people rose against the emir; the cities were usurped by the chiefs; each meaner rebel was independent in his village or castle; and the weaker of two rival brothers implored the friendship of the Christians. In every service of danger the Normans were prompt and useful; and five hundred \_knights\_,

or warriors on horseback, were enrolled by Arduin, the agent and

interpreter of the Greeks, under the standard of Maniaces, governor of

Lombardy. Before their landing, the brothers were reconciled; the union

of Sicily and Africa was restored; and the island was guarded to the water's edge. The Normans led the van and the Arabs of Messina felt the

valor of an untried foe. In a second action the emir of Syracuse was

unhorsed and transpierced by the \_iron arm\_ of William of Hauteville.

In a third engagement, his intrepid companions discomfited the host of

sixty thousand Saracens, and left the Greeks no more than the labor of the pursuit: a splendid victory; but of which the pen of the historian

may divide the merit with the lance of the Normans. It is, however, true, that they essentially promoted the success of Maniaces, who

reduced thirteen cities, and the greater part of Sicily, under the obedience of the emperor. But his military fame was sullied by

ingratitude and tyranny. In the division of the spoils, the deserts

of his brave auxiliaries were forgotten; and neither their avarice nor their pride could brook this injurious treatment. They complained by the mouth of their interpreter: their complaint was disregarded; their

interpreter was scourged; the sufferings were \_his\_; the insult and

resentment belonged to \_those\_ whose sentiments he had delivered. Yet they dissembled till they had obtained, or stolen, a safe passage to the Italian continent: their brethren of Aversa sympathized in their

indignation, and the province of Apulia was invaded as the forfeit of the debt. Above twenty years after the first emigration, the Normans took the field with no more than seven hundred horse and five hundred foot; and after the recall of the Byzantine legions from the Sicilian war, their numbers are magnified to the amount of threescore thousand

men. Their herald proposed the option of battle or retreat; "of battle," was the unanimous cry of the Normans; and one of their stoutest warriors, with a stroke of his fist, felled to the ground the horse of the Greek messenger. He was dismissed with a fresh horse; the insult was concealed from the Imperial troops; but in two successive battles they were more fatally instructed of the prowess of their adversaries. In the

plains of Cannæ, the Asiatics fled before the adventurers of France; the duke of Lombardy was made prisoner; the Apulians acquiesced in a

new dominion; and the four places of Bari, Otranto, Brundusium, and tarentum, were alone saved in the shipwreck of the Grecian fortunes. from this æra we may date the establishment of the Norman power, which

soon eclipsed the infant colony of Aversa. Twelve counts were chosen by the popular suffrage; and age, birth, and merit, were the motives of their choice. The tributes of their peculiar districts were appropriated to their use; and each count erected a fortress in the midst of his

lands, and at the head of his vassals. In the centre of the province, the common habitation of Melphi was reserved as the metropolis and citadel of the republic; a house and separate quarter was allotted to each of the twelve counts: and the national concerns were regulated by this military senate. The first of his peers, their president and

general, was entitled count of Apulia; and this dignity was conferred

on William of the iron arm, who, in the language of the age, is styled a

lion in battle, a lamb in society, and an angel in council. The manners

of his countrymen are fairly delineated by a contemporary and national

historian. "The Normans," says Malaterra, "are a cunning and revengeful

people; eloquence and dissimulation appear to be their hereditary

qualities: they can stoop to flatter; but unless they are curbed by the

restraint of law, they indulge the licentiousness of nature and passion. their princes affect the praises of popular munificence; the people

observe the medium, or rather blond the extremes, of avarice and

prodigality; and in their eager thirst of wealth and dominion, they despise whatever they possess, and hope whatever they desire. Arms and

horses, the luxury of dress, the exercises of hunting and hawking are the delight of the Normans; but, on pressing occasions, they can endure with incredible patience the inclemency of every climate, and the toil and absence of a military life."

chapter LVI: The Saracens, The Franks And The Normans.--Part II.

the Normans of Apulia were seated on the verge of the two empires; and, according to the policy of the hour, they accepted the investiture of their lands, from the sovereigns of Germany or Constantinople. But the firmest title of these adventurers was the right of conquest: they

neither loved nor trusted; they were neither trusted nor beloved: the contempt of the princes was mixed with fear, and the fear of the natives was mingled with hatred and resentment. Every object of desire, a

horse, a woman, a garden, tempted and gratified the rapaciousness of the

strangers; and the avarice of their chiefs was only colored by the more

specious names of ambition and glory. The twelve counts were sometimes

joined in the league of injustice: in their domestic quarrels they disputed the spoils of the people: the virtues of William were buried in

his grave; and Drogo, his brother and successor, was better qualified to

lead the valor, than to restrain the violence, of his peers. Under the

reign of Constantine Monomachus, the policy, rather than benevolence,

of the Byzantine court, attempted to relieve Italy from this adherent

mischief, more grievous than a flight of Barbarians; and Argyrus, the

son of Melo, was invested for this purpose with the most lofty titles and the most ample commission. The memory of his father might recommend

him to the Normans; and he had already engaged their voluntary service to quell the revolt of Maniaces, and to avenge their own and the public

injury. It was the design of Constantine to transplant the warlike colony from the Italian provinces to the Persian war; and the son of

Melo distributed among the chiefs the gold and manufactures of Greece, as the first-fruits of the Imperial bounty. But his arts were baffled by the sense and spirit of the conquerors of Apulia: his gifts, or at least

his proposals, were rejected; and they unanimously refused to relinquish their possessions and their hopes for the distant prospect of Asiatic fortune. After the means of persuasion had failed, Argyrus resolved to compel or to destroy: the Latin powers were solicited against the common enemy; and an offensive alliance was formed of the pope and the two emperors of the East and West. The throne of St. Peter was occupied by

Leo the Ninth, a simple saint, of a temper most apt to deceive himself and the world, and whose venerable character would consecrate with the name of piety the measures least compatible with the practice of

religion. His humanity was affected by the complaints, perhaps the calumnies, of an injured people: the impious Normans had interrupted the

payment of tithes; and the temporal sword might be lawfully unsheathed against the sacrilegious robbers, who were deaf to the censures of the church. As a German of noble birth and royal kindred, Leo had free access to the court and confidence of the emperor Henry the Third; and in search of arms and allies, his ardent zeal transported him from apulia to Saxony, from the Elbe to the Tyber. During these hostile

preparations, Argyrus indulged himself in the use of secret and guilty weapons: a crowd of Normans became the victims of public or private

revenge; and the valiant Drogo was murdered in a church. But his

spirit survived in his brother Humphrey, the third count of Apulia. The assassins were chastised; and the son of Melo, overthrown and wounded, was driven from the field, to hide his shame behind the walls of Bari, and to await the tardy succor of his allies.

but the power of Constantine was distracted by a Turkish war; the mind

of Henry was feeble and irresolute; and the pope, instead of repassing the Alps with a German army, was accompanied only by a guard of seven

hundred Swabians and some volunteers of Lorraine. In his long progress from Mantua to Beneventum, a vile and promiscuous multitude of Italians was enlisted under the holy standard: the priest and the robber slept in the same tent; the pikes and crosses were intermingled in the front; and the martial saint repeated the lessons of his youth in the order of

march, of encampment, and of combat. The Normans of Apulia could muster

in the field no more than three thousand horse, with a handful of

infantry: the defection of the natives intercepted their provisions and

retreat; and their spirit, incapable of fear, was chilled for a moment by superstitious awe. On the hostile approach of Leo, they knelt without disgrace or reluctance before their spiritual father. But the pope was

inexorable; his lofty Germans affected to deride the diminutive stature

of their adversaries; and the Normans were informed that death or exile was their only alternative. Flight they disdained, and, as many of them

had been three days without tasting food, they embraced the assurance

of a more easy and honorable death. They climbed the hill of Civitella, descended into the plain, and charged in three divisions the army of the pope. On the left, and in the centre, Richard count of Aversa, and

Robert the famous Guiscard, attacked, broke, routed, and pursued the

Italian multitudes, who fought without discipline, and fled without

shame. A harder trial was reserved for the valor of Count Humphrey, who

led the cavalry of the right wing. The Germans have been described as

unskillful in the management of the horse and the lance, but on foot they formed a strong and impenetrable phalanx; and neither man, nor

steed, nor armor, could resist the weight of their long and two-handed

swords. After a severe conflict, they were encompassed by the squadrons

returning from the pursuit; and died in the ranks with the esteem of their foes, and the satisfaction of revenge. The gates of Civitella were shut against the flying pope, and he was overtaken by the pious conquerors, who kissed his feet, to implore his blessing and the absolution of their sinful victory. The soldiers beheld in their enemy and captive the vicar of Christ; and, though we may suppose the policy

of the chiefs, it is probable that they were infected by the popular

superstition. In the calm of retirement, the well-meaning pope deplored the effusion of Christian blood, which must be imputed to his account:

he felt, that he had been the author of sin and scandal; and as his

undertaking had failed, the indecency of his military character was

universally condemned. With these dispositions, he listened to the

offers of a beneficial treaty; deserted an alliance which he had

preached as the cause of God; and ratified the past and future conquests

of the Normans. By whatever hands they had been usurped, the provinces

of Apulia and Calabria were a part of the donation of Constantine and the patrimony of St. Peter: the grant and the acceptance confirmed the mutual claims of the pontiff and the adventurers. They promised to support each other with spiritual and temporal arms; a tribute or

quitrent of twelve pence was afterwards stipulated for every ploughland; and since this memorable transaction, the kingdom of Naples has remained above seven hundred years a fief of the Holy See.

the pedigree of Robert of Guiscard is variously deduced from the

peasants and the dukes of Normandy: from the peasants, by the pride and

ignorance of a Grecian princess; from the dukes, by the ignorance and flattery of the Italian subjects. His genuine descent may be ascribed to the second or middle order of private nobility. He sprang from a race of

\_valvassors\_ or \_bannerets\_, of the diocese of Coutances, in the Lower

Normandy: the castle of Hauteville was their honorable seat: his father tancred was conspicuous in the court and army of the duke; and

his military service was furnished by ten soldiers or knights. Two

marriages, of a rank not unworthy of his own, made him the father of twelve sons, who were educated at home by the impartial tenderness

of his second wife. But a narrow patrimony was insufficient for this

numerous and daring progeny; they saw around the neighborhood the

mischiefs of poverty and discord, and resolved to seek in foreign wars a

more glorious inheritance. Two only remained to perpetuate the race, and cherish their father's age: their ten brothers, as they successfully attained the vigor of manhood, departed from the castle, passed the alps, and joined the Apulian camp of the Normans. The elder were

prompted by native spirit; their success encouraged their younger brethren, and the three first in seniority, William, Drogo, and

Humphrey, deserved to be the chiefs of their nation and the founders of the new republic. Robert was the eldest of the seven sons of the second

marriage; and even the reluctant praise of his foes has endowed him with the heroic qualities of a soldier and a statesman. His lofty stature

surpassed the tallest of his army: his limbs were cast in the true

proportion of strength and gracefulness; and to the decline of life, he

maintained the patient vigor of health and the commanding dignity of his form. His complexion was ruddy, his shoulders were broad, his hair and beard were long and of a flaxen color, his eyes sparkled with fire, and

his voice, like that of Achilles, could impress obedience and terror amidst the tumult of battle. In the ruder ages of chivalry, such

qualifications are not below the notice of the poet or historians: they

may observe that Robert, at once, and with equal dexterity, could wield

in the right hand his sword, his lance in the left; that in the battle

of Civitella he was thrice unhorsed; and that in the close of that

memorable day he was adjudged to have borne away the prize of valor from the warriors of the two armies. His boundless ambition was founded on the consciousness of superior worth: in the pursuit of greatness, he was never arrested by the scruples of justice, and seldom moved by the feelings of humanity: though not insensible of fame, the choice of open

or clandestine means was determined only by his present advantage. The

surname of \_Guiscard\_ was applied to this master of political wisdom, which is too often confounded with the practice of dissimulation and deceit; and Robert is praised by the Apulian poet for excelling the cunning of Ulysses and the eloquence of Cicero. Yet these arts were disguised by an appearance of military frankness: in his highest fortune, he was accessible and courteous to his fellow-soldiers; and while he indulged the prejudices of his new subjects, he affected in

his dress and manners to maintain the ancient fashion of his country. He

grasped with a rapacious, that he might distribute with a liberal, hand:

his primitive indigence had taught the habits of frugality; the gain of a merchant was not below his attention; and his prisoners were tortured with slow and unfeeling cruelty, to force a discovery of their secret treasure. According to the Greeks, he departed from Normandy with only five followers on horseback and thirty on foot; yet even this allowance appears too bountiful: the sixth son of Tancred of Hauteville passed the Alps as a pilgrim; and his first military band was levied among the adventurers of Italy. His brothers and countrymen had divided the fertile lands of Apulia; but they guarded their shares with the jealousy

of avarice; the aspiring youth was driven forwards to the mountains of calabria, and in his first exploits against the Greeks and the natives,

it is not easy to discriminate the hero from the robber. To surprise a castle or a convent, to ensnare a wealthy citizen, to plunder the adjacent villages for necessary food, were the obscure labors which formed and exercised the powers of his mind and body. The volunteers of

Normandy adhered to his standard; and, under his command, the peasants

of Calabria assumed the name and character of Normans.

as the genius of Robert expanded with his fortune, he awakened the

jealousy of his elder brother, by whom, in a transient quarrel, his life was threatened and his liberty restrained. After the death of Humphrey, the tender age of his sons excluded them from the command; they were

reduced to a private estate, by the ambition of their guardian and

uncle; and Guiscard was exalted on a buckler, and saluted count of apulia and general of the republic. With an increase of authority and of force, he resumed the conquest of Calabria, and soon aspired to a rank that should raise him forever above the heads of his equals. By some acts of rapine or sacrilege, he had incurred a papal excommunication; but Nicholas the Second was easily persuaded that the divisions of friends could terminate only in their mutual prejudice; that the Normans were the faithful champions of the Holy See; and it was safer to trust the alliance of a prince than the caprice of an aristocracy. A synod of

one hundred bishops was convened at Melphi; and the count interrupted an

important enterprise to guard the person and execute the decrees of the Roman pontiff. His gratitude and policy conferred on Robert and his

posterity the ducal title, with the investiture of Apulia, Calabria, and all the lands, both in Italy and Sicily, which his sword could rescue from the schismatic Greeks and the unbelieving Saracens. This apostolic

sanction might justify his arms; but the obedience of a free and

victorious people could not be transferred without their consent; and

Guiscard dissembled his elevation till the ensuing campaign had been

illustrated by the conquest of Consenza and Reggio. In the hour of triumph, he assembled his troops, and solicited the Normans to confirm by their suffrage the judgment of the vicar of Christ: the soldiers

hailed with joyful acclamations their valiant duke; and the counts, his former equals, pronounced the oath of fidelity with hollow smiles and

secret indignation. After this inauguration, Robert styled himself, "By the grace of God and St. Peter, duke of Apulia, Calabria, and hereafter

of Sicily;" and it was the labor of twenty years to deserve and realize these lofty appellations. Such tardy progress, in a narrow space,

may seem unworthy of the abilities of the chief and the spirit of the

nation; but the Normans were few in number; their resources were scanty; their service was voluntary and precarious. The bravest designs of the duke were sometimes opposed by the free voice of his parliament

of barons: the twelve counts of popular election conspired against his authority; and against their perfidious uncle, the sons of Humphrey demanded justice and revenge. By his policy and vigor, Guiscard discovered their plots, suppressed their rebellions, and punished the

guilty with death or exile: but in these domestic feuds, his years, and the national strength, were unprofitably consumed. After the defeat of

his foreign enemies, the Greeks, Lombards, and Saracens, their broken forces retreated to the strong and populous cities of the sea-coast. they excelled in the arts of fortification and defence; the Normans were accustomed to serve on horseback in the field, and their rude attempts could only succeed by the efforts of persevering courage. The resistance

of Salerno was maintained above eight months; the siege or blockade of bari lasted near four years. In these actions the Norman duke was the foremost in every danger; in every fatigue the last and most patient. as he pressed the citadel of Salerno, a huge stone from the rampart

shattered one of his military engines; and by a splinter he was wounded

in the breast. Before the gates of Bari, he lodged in a miserable hut or barrack, composed of dry branches, and thatched with straw; a perilous

station, on all sides open to the inclemency of the winter and the

spears of the enemy.

the Italian conquests of Robert correspond with the limits of the

present kingdom of Naples; and the countries united by his arms have not been dissevered by the revolutions of seven hundred years. The monarchy

has been composed of the Greek provinces of Calabria and Apulia, of the

Lombard principality of Salerno, the republic of Amalphi, and the

inland dependencies of the large and ancient duchy of Beneventum. Three districts only were exempted from the common law of subjection; the first forever, the two last till the middle of the succeeding century. the city and immediate territory of Benevento had been transferred, by gift or exchange, from the German emperor to the Roman pontiff; and although this holy land was sometimes invaded, the name of St. Peter was finally more potent than the sword of the Normans. Their first colony of aversa subdued and held the state of Capua; and her princes were reduced to beg their bread before the palace of their fathers. The dukes of

Naples, the present metropolis, maintained the popular freedom, under the shadow of the Byzantine empire. Among the new acquisitions of

Guiscard, the science of Salerno, and the trade of Amalphi, may detain for a moment the curiosity of the reader. I. Of the learned faculties,

jurisprudence implies the previous establishment of laws and property; and theology may perhaps be superseded by the full light of religion and

reason. But the savage and the sage must alike implore the assistance

of physic; and, if our diseases are inflamed by luxury, the mischiefs

of blows and wounds would be more frequent in the ruder ages of society. the treasures of Grecian medicine had been communicated to the Arabian colonies of Africa, Spain, and Sicily; and in the intercourse of peace and war, a spark of knowledge had been kindled and cherished at

Salerno, an illustrious city, in which the men were honest and the women beautiful. A school, the first that arose in the darkness of Europe, was consecrated to the healing art: the conscience of monks and bishops was

reconciled to that salutary and lucrative profession; and a crowd of

patients, of the most eminent rank, and most distant climates, invited

or visited the physicians of Salerno. They were protected by the Norman conquerors; and Guiscard, though bred in arms, could discern the merit and value of a philosopher. After a pilgrimage of thirty-nine years, constantine, an African Christian, returned from Bagdad, a master of the

language and learning of the Arabians; and Salerno was enriched by the

practice, the lessons, and the writings of the pupil of Avicenna. The

school of medicine has long slept in the name of a university; but her

precepts are abridged in a string of aphorisms, bound together in the

Leonine verses, or Latin rhymes, of the twelfth century. II. Seven miles to the west of Salerno, and thirty to the south of Naples, the obscure town of Amalphi displayed the power and rewards of industry. The land,

however fertile, was of narrow extent; but the sea was accessible and

open: the inhabitants first assumed the office of supplying the western world with the manufactures and productions of the East; and this useful traffic was the source of their opulence and freedom. The government was popular, under the administration of a duke and the supremacy of the Greek emperor. Fifty thousand citizens were numbered in the walls

of Amalphi; nor was any city more abundantly provided with gold, silver, and the objects of precious luxury. The mariners who swarmed in her

port, excelled in the theory and practice of navigation and astronomy: and the discovery of the compass, which has opened the globe, is owing to their ingenuity or good fortune. Their trade was extended to the coasts, or at least to the commodities, of Africa, Arabia, and India: and their settlements in Constantinople, Antioch, Jerusalem, and alexandria, acquired the privileges of independent colonies. After three

hundred years of prosperity, Amalphi was oppressed by the arms of the

Normans, and sacked by the jealousy of Pisa; but the poverty of one thousand fisherman is yet dignified by the remains of an arsenal, a cathedral, and the palaces of royal merchants.

chapter LVI: The Saracens, The Franks And The Normans.--Part III.

Roger, the twelfth and last of the sons of Tancred, had been long detained in Normandy by his own and his father' age. He accepted the welcome summons; hastened to the Apulian camp; and deserved at first the esteem, and afterwards the envy, of his elder brother. Their valor and ambition were equal; but the youth, the beauty, the elegant manners,

of Roger engaged the disinterested love of the soldiers and people.

So scanty was his allowance for himself and forty followers, that he descended from conquest to robbery, and from robbery to domestic theft; and so loose were the notions of property, that, by his own historian, at his special command, he is accused of stealing horses from a stable at Melphi. His spirit emerged from poverty and disgrace: from these base

practices he rose to the merit and glory of a holy war; and the invasion

of Sicily was seconded by the zeal and policy of his brother Guiscard. after the retreat of the Greeks, the \_idolaters\_, a most audacious

reproach of the Catholics, had retrieved their losses and possessions; but the deliverance of the island, so vainly undertaken by the forces

of the Eastern empire, was achieved by a small and private band of adventurers. In the first attempt, Roger braved, in an open boat, the

real and fabulous dangers of Scylla and Charybdis; landed with only

sixty soldiers on a hostile shore; drove the Saracens to the gates of

Messina and safely returned with the spoils of the adjacent country.

In the fortress of Trani, his active and patient courage were equally conspicuous. In his old age he related with pleasure, that, by the distress of the siege, himself, and the countess his wife, had been

reduced to a single cloak or mantle, which they wore alternately; that

in a sally his horse had been slain, and he was dragged away by the

Saracens; but that he owed his rescue to his good sword, and had

retreated with his saddle on his back, lest the meanest trophy might be left in the hands of the miscreants. In the siege of Trani, three

hundred Normans withstood and repulsed the forces of the island. In the field of Ceramio, fifty thousand horse and foot were overthrown by one

hundred and thirty-six Christian soldiers, without reckoning St. George, who fought on horseback in the foremost ranks. The captive banners, with four camels, were reserved for the successor of St. Peter; and had these barbaric spoils been exposed, not in the Vatican, but in the Capitol, they might have revived the memory of the Punic triumphs. These

insufficient numbers of the Normans most probably denote their knights, the soldiers of honorable and equestrian rank, each of whom was attended by five or six followers in the field; yet, with the aid of this

interpretation, and after every fair allowance on the side of valor, arms, and reputation, the discomfiture of so many myriads will reduce the prudent reader to the alternative of a miracle or a fable. The Arabs

of Sicily derived a frequent and powerful succor from their countrymen

of Africa: in the siege of Palermo, the Norman cavalry was assisted by the galleys of Pisa; and, in the hour of action, the envy of the two brothers was sublimed to a generous and invincible emulation. After a war of thirty years, Roger, with the title of great count, obtained the sovereignty of the largest and most fruitful island of the

Mediterranean; and his administration displays a liberal and enlightened

mind, above the limits of his age and education. The Moslems were

maintained in the free enjoyment of their religion and property: a

philosopher and physician of Mazara, of the race of Mahomet, harangued the conqueror, and was invited to court; his geography of the seven climates was translated into Latin; and Roger, after a diligent perusal,

preferred the work of the Arabian to the writings of the Grecian

Ptolemy. A remnant of Christian natives had promoted the success of the

Normans: they were rewarded by the triumph of the cross. The island was restored to the jurisdiction of the Roman pontiff; new bishops were planted in the principal cities; and the clergy was satisfied by a liberal endowment of churches and monasteries. Yet the Catholic hero asserted the rights of the civil magistrate. Instead of resigning the

investiture of benefices, he dexterously applied to his own profit the

papal claims: the supremacy of the crown was secured and enlarged, by the singular bull, which declares the princes of Sicily hereditary and

perpetual legates of the Holy See.

to Robert Guiscard, the conquest of Sicily was more glorious than beneficial: the possession of Apulia and Calabria was inadequate to his ambition; and he resolved to embrace or create the first occasion of

invading, perhaps of subduing, the Roman empire of the East. From his first wife, the partner of his humble fortune, he had been divorced

under the pretence of consanguinity; and her son Bohemond was destined to imitate, rather than to succeed, his illustrious father. The second wife of Guiscard was the daughter of the princes of Salerno; the

Lombards acquiesced in the lineal succession of their son Roger; their five daughters were given in honorable nuptials, and one of them was betrothed, in a tender age, to Constantine, a beautiful youth, the son and heir of the emperor Michael. But the throne of Constantinople was

shaken by a revolution: the Imperial family of Ducas was confined to the

palace or the cloister; and Robert deplored, and resented, the disgrace

of his daughter and the expulsion of his ally. A Greek, who styled

himself the father of Constantine, soon appeared at Salerno, and related the adventures of his fall and flight. That unfortunate friend was acknowledged by the duke, and adorned with the pomp and titles of

Imperial dignity: in his triumphal progress through Apulia and Calabria,

Michael was saluted with the tears and acclamations of the people; and Pope Gregory the Seventh exhorted the bishops to preach, and the Catholics to fight, in the pious work of his restoration. His conversations with Robert were frequent and familiar; and their mutual

promises were justified by the valor of the Normans and the treasures of the East. Yet this Michael, by the confession of the Greeks and Latins, was a pageant and an impostor; a monk who had fled from his convent, or a domestic who had served in the palace. The fraud had been contrived by the subtle Guiscard; and he trusted, that after this pretender had given a decent color to his arms, he would sink, at the nod of the conqueror,

into his primitive obscurity. But victory was the only argument that could determine the belief of the Greeks; and the ardor of the Latins was much inferior to their credulity: the Norman veterans wished to enjoy the harvest of their toils, and the unwarlike Italians trembled at the known and unknown dangers of a transmarine expedition. In his new

levies, Robert exerted the influence of gifts and promises, the terrors

of civil and ecclesiastical authority; and some acts of violence

might justify the reproach, that age and infancy were pressed without distinction into the service of their unrelenting prince. After two

years' incessant preparations the land and naval forces were assembled at Otranto, at the heel, or extreme promontory, of Italy; and Robert was accompanied by his wife, who fought by his side, his son Bohemond, and the representative of the emperor Michael. Thirteen hundred knights of

Norman race or discipline, formed the sinews of the army, which might be

swelled to thirty thousand followers of every denomination. The men, the horses, the arms, the engines, the wooden towers, covered with

raw hides, were embarked on board one hundred and fifty vessels: the transports had been built in the ports of Italy, and the galleys were

supplied by the alliance of the republic of Ragusa.

at the mouth of the Adriatic Gulf, the shores of Italy and Epirus

incline towards each other. The space between Brundusium and Durazzo, the Roman passage, is no more than one hundred miles; at the last

station of Otranto, it is contracted to fifty; and this narrow distance

had suggested to Pyrrhus and Pompey the sublime or extravagant idea of a bridge. Before the general embarkation, the Norman duke despatched bohemond with fifteen galleys to seize or threaten the Isle of Corfu, to

survey the opposite coast, and to secure a harbor in the neighborhood

of Vallona for the landing of the troops. They passed and landed without

perceiving an enemy; and this successful experiment displayed the

neglect and decay of the naval power of the Greeks. The islands of epirus and the maritime towns were subdued by the arms or the name

of Robert, who led his fleet and army from Corfu (I use the modern appellation) to the siege of Durazzo. That city, the western key of the empire, was guarded by ancient renown, and recent fortifications, by

George Palæologus, a patrician, victorious in the Oriental wars, and a

numerous garrison of Albanians and Macedonians, who, in every age,

have maintained the character of soldiers. In the prosecution of his enterprise, the courage of Guiscard was assailed by every form of danger and mischance. In the most propitious season of the year, as his fleet

passed along the coast, a storm of wind and snow unexpectedly arose: the Adriatic was swelled by the raging blast of the south, and a new

shipwreck confirmed the old infamy of the Acroceraunian rocks. The

sails, the masts, and the oars, were shattered or torn away; the sea and shore were covered with the fragments of vessels, with arms and dead bodies; and the greatest part of the provisions were either drowned or damaged. The ducal galley was laboriously rescued from the waves, and

Robert halted seven days on the adjacent cape, to collect the relics of

his loss, and revive the drooping spirits of his soldiers. The Normans were no longer the bold and experienced mariners who had explored the

ocean from Greenland to Mount Atlas, and who smiled at the petty dangers

of the Mediterranean. They had wept during the tempest; they were alarmed by the hostile approach of the Venetians, who had been solicited by the prayers and promises of the Byzantine court. The first day's action was not disadvantageous to Bohemond, a beardless youth, who led the naval powers of his father. All night the galleys of the republic

lay on their anchors in the form of a crescent; and the victory of the

second day was decided by the dexterity of their evolutions, the station

of their archers, the weight of their javelins, and the borrowed aid

of the Greek fire. The Apulian and Ragusian vessels fled to the shore,

several were cut from their cables, and dragged away by the conqueror; and a sally from the town carried slaughter and dismay to the tents of the Norman duke. A seasonable relief was poured into Durazzo, and as

soon as the besiegers had lost the command of the sea, the islands and maritime towns withdrew from the camp the supply of tribute and

provision. That camp was soon afflicted with a pestilential disease; five hundred knights perished by an inglorious death; and the list of burials (if all could obtain a decent burial) amounted to ten thousand

persons. Under these calamities, the mind of Guiscard alone was firm and

invincible; and while he collected new forces from Apulia and Sicily, he battered, or scaled, or sapped, the walls of Durazzo. But his industry and valor were encountered by equal valor and more perfect industry. A

movable turret, of a size and capacity to contain five hundred soldiers,

had been rolled forwards to the foot of the rampart: but the descent of the door or drawbridge was checked by an enormous beam, and the wooden

structure was constantly consumed by artificial flames.

while the Roman empire was attacked by the Turks in the East, east, and the Normans in the West, the aged successor of Michael surrendered the

sceptre to the hands of Alexius, an illustrious captain, and the founder

of the Comnenian dynasty. The princess Anne, his daughter and historian,

observes, in her affected style, that even Hercules was unequal to a double combat; and, on this principle, she approves a hasty peace with the Turks, which allowed her father to undertake in person the relief of durazzo. On his accession, Alexius found the camp without soldiers, and the treasury without money; yet such were the vigor and activity of his

measures, that in six months he assembled an army of seventy thousand

men, and performed a march of five hundred miles. His troops were levied

in Europe and Asia, from Peloponnesus to the Black Sea; his majesty was displayed in the silver arms and rich trappings of the companies

of Horse-guards; and the emperor was attended by a train of nobles and

princes, some of whom, in rapid succession, had been clothed with the purple, and were indulged by the lenity of the times in a life of affluence and dignity. Their youthful ardor might animate the multitude; but their love of pleasure and contempt of subordination were pregnant with disorder and mischief; and their importunate clamors for speedy and decisive action disconcerted the prudence of Alexius, who might have

surrounded and starved the besieging army. The enumeration of provinces

recalls a sad comparison of the past and present limits of the Roman world: the raw levies were drawn together in haste and terror; and the garrisons of Anatolia, or Asia Minor, had been purchased by the evacuation of the cities which were immediately occupied by the turks. The strength of the Greek army consisted in the Varangians, the

Scandinavian guards, whose numbers were recently augmented by a colony

of exiles and volunteers from the British Island of Thule. Under the

yoke of the Norman conqueror, the Danes and English were oppressed and united; a band of adventurous youths resolved to desert a land

of slavery; the sea was open to their escape; and, in their long

pilgrimage, they visited every coast that afforded any hope of liberty and revenge. They were entertained in the service of the Greek emperor; and their first station was in a new city on the Asiatic shore: but alexius soon recalled them to the defence of his person and palace; and bequeathed to his successors the inheritance of their faith and valor. the name of a Norman invader revived the memory of their wrongs: they

marched with alacrity against the national foe, and panted to regain

in Epirus the glory which they had lost in the battle of Hastings. The

Varangians were supported by some companies of Franks or Latins; and the rebels, who had fled to Constantinople from the tyranny of Guiscard, were eager to signalize their zeal and gratify their revenge. In this emergency, the emperor had not disdained the impure aid of the

Paulicians or Manichæans of Thrace and Bulgaria; and these heretics

united with the patience of martyrdom the spirit and discipline of active valor. The treaty with the sultan had procured a supply of some thousand Turks; and the arrows of the Scythian horse were opposed to the lances of the Norman cavalry. On the report and distant prospect of these formidable numbers, Robert assembled a council of his principal

officers. "You behold," said he, "your danger: it is urgent and

inevitable. The hills are covered with arms and standards; and the emperor of the Greeks is accustomed to wars and triumphs. Obedience and

union are our only safety; and I am ready to yield the command to a more worthy leader." The vote and acclamation even of his secret enemies, assured him, in that perilous moment, of their esteem and confidence; and the duke thus continued: "Let us trust in the rewards of victory, and deprive cowardice of the means of escape. Let us burn our vessels and our baggage, and give battle on this spot, as if it were the

place of our nativity and our burial." The resolution was unanimously approved; and, without confining himself to his lines, Guiscard awaited

in battle-array the nearer approach of the enemy. His rear was covered by a small river; his right wing extended to the sea; his left to the

hills: nor was he conscious, perhaps, that on the same ground Cæsar and

Pompey had formerly disputed the empire of the world.

against the advice of his wisest captains, Alexius resolved to risk the event of a general action, and exhorted the garrison of Durazzo to assist their own deliverance by a well-timed sally from the town. He

marched in two columns to surprise the Normans before daybreak on two different sides: his light cavalry was scattered over the plain; the archers formed the second line; and the Varangians claimed the honors of the vanguard. In the first onset, the battle-axes of the strangers made a deep and bloody impression on the army of Guiscard, which was

now reduced to fifteen thousand men. The Lombards and Calabrians

ignominiously turned their backs; they fled towards the river and the

sea; but the bridge had been broken down to check the sally of the

garrison, and the coast was lined with the Venetian galleys, who played their engines among the disorderly throng. On the verge of ruin, they were saved by the spirit and conduct of their chiefs. Gaita, the wife of

Robert, is painted by the Greeks as a warlike Amazon, a second Pallas;

less skilful in arts, but not less terrible in arms, than the Athenian

goddess: though wounded by an arrow, she stood her ground, and strove, by her exhortation and example, to rally the flying troops. Her female

voice was seconded by the more powerful voice and arm of the Norman duke, as calm in action as he was magnanimous in council: "Whither," he cried aloud, "whither do ye fly? Your enemy is implacable; and death

is less grievous than servitude." The moment was decisive: as the

Varangians advanced before the line, they discovered the nakedness of their flanks: the main battle of the duke, of eight hundred knights,

stood firm and entire; they couched their lances, and the Greeks deplore the furious and irresistible shock of the French cavalry. Alexius was

not deficient in the duties of a soldier or a general; but he no sooner beheld the slaughter of the Varangians, and the flight of the Turks, than he despised his subjects, and despaired of his fortune. The

princess Anne, who drops a tear on this melancholy event, is reduced to praise the strength and swiftness of her father's horse, and his

vigorous struggle when he was almost overthrown by the stroke of a

lance, which had shivered the Imperial helmet. His desperate valor broke through a squadron of Franks who opposed his flight; and after wandering two days and as many nights in the mountains, he found some repose,

of body, though not of mind, in the walls of Lychnidus. The victorious

Robert reproached the tardy and feeble pursuit which had suffered the escape of so illustrious a prize: but he consoled his disappointment by the trophies and standards of the field, the wealth and luxury of the byzantine camp, and the glory of defeating an army five times more

numerous than his own. A multitude of Italians had been the victims

of their own fears; but only thirty of his knights were slain in this memorable day. In the Roman host, the loss of Greeks, Turks, and english, amounted to five or six thousand: the plain of Durazzo was

stained with noble and royal blood; and the end of the impostor Michael was more honorable than his life.

It is more than probable that Guiscard was not afflicted by the loss of a costly pageant, which had merited only the contempt and derision of the Greeks. After their defeat, they still persevered in the defence

of Durazzo; and a Venetian commander supplied the place of George

Palæologus, who had been imprudently called away from his station. The tents of the besiegers were converted into barracks, to sustain the

inclemency of the winter; and in answer to the defiance of the garrison,

Robert insinuated, that his patience was at least equal to their

obstinacy. Perhaps he already trusted to his secret correspondence with a Venetian noble, who sold the city for a rich and honorable marriage. at the dead of night, several rope-ladders were dropped from the walls; the light Calabrians ascended in silence; and the Greeks were awakened by the name and trumpets of the conqueror. Yet they defended the streets three days against an enemy already master of the rampart; and near

seven months elapsed between the first investment and the final

surrender of the place. From Durazzo, the Norman duke advanced into the

heart of Epirus or Albania; traversed the first mountains of Thessaly;

surprised three hundred English in the city of Castoria; approached thessalonica; and made Constantinople tremble. A more pressing duty

suspended the prosecution of his ambitious designs. By shipwreck,

pestilence, and the sword, his army was reduced to a third of the

original numbers; and instead of being recruited from Italy, he was

informed, by plaintive epistles, of the mischiefs and dangers which had been produced by his absence: the revolt of the cities and barons of apulia; the distress of the pope; and the approach or invasion of Henry

king of Germany. Highly presuming that his person was sufficient for the

public safety, he repassed the sea in a single brigantine, and left the

remains of the army under the command of his son and the Norman counts, exhorting Bohemond to respect the freedom of his peers, and the counts to obey the authority of their leader. The son of Guiscard trod in the footsteps of his father; and the two destroyers are compared, by the

Greeks, to the caterpillar and the locust, the last of whom devours whatever has escaped the teeth of the former. After winning two battles against the emperor, he descended into the plain of Thessaly, and besieged Larissa, the fabulous realm of Achilles, which contained the treasure and magazines of the Byzantine camp. Yet a just praise must

not be refused to the fortitude and prudence of Alexius, who bravely

struggled with the calamities of the times. In the poverty of the state,

he presumed to borrow the superfluous ornaments of the churches: the desertion of the Manichæans was supplied by some tribes of Moldavia: a

reënforcement of seven thousand Turks replaced and revenged the loss of their brethren; and the Greek soldiers were exercised to ride, to draw the bow, and to the daily practice of ambuscades and evolutions. Alexius

had been taught by experience, that the formidable cavalry of the franks on foot was unfit for action, and almost incapable of motion; his archers were directed to aim their arrows at the horse rather than the

man; and a variety of spikes and snares were scattered over the ground

on which he might expect an attack. In the neighborhood of Larissa the events of war were protracted and balanced. The courage of Bohemond was always conspicuous, and often successful; but his camp was pillaged by a stratagem of the Greeks; the city was impregnable; and the venal or discontented counts deserted his standard, betrayed their trusts, and enlisted in the service of the emperor. Alexius returned to constantinople with the advantage, rather than the honor, of victory. after evacuating the conquests which he could no longer defend, the

son of Guiscard embarked for Italy, and was embraced by a father who esteemed his merit, and sympathized in his misfortune.

chapter LVI: The Saracens, The Franks And The Normans.--Part IV.

Of the Latin princes, the allies of Alexius and enemies of Robert, the

most prompt and powerful was Henry the Third or Fourth, king of Germany and Italy, and future emperor of the West. The epistle of the Greek

monarch to his brother is filled with the warmest professions of friendship, and the most lively desire of strengthening their alliance by every public and private tie. He congratulates Henry on his success

in a just and pious war; and complains that the prosperity of his own empire is disturbed by the audacious enterprises of the Norman Robert. the lists of his presents expresses the manners of the age--a radiated crown of gold, a cross set with pearls to hang on the breast, a case of

relics, with the names and titles of the saints, a vase of crystal, a

vase of sardonyx, some balm, most probably of Mecca, and one hundred

pieces of purple. To these he added a more solid present, of one hundred and forty-four thousand Byzantines of gold, with a further assurance of two hundred and sixteen thousand, so soon as Henry should have entered

in arms the Apulian territories, and confirmed by an oath the league against the common enemy. The German, who was already in Lombardy at the head of an army and a faction, accepted these liberal offers, and

marched towards the south: his speed was checked by the sound of the battle of Durazzo; but the influence of his arms, or name, in the hasty

return of Robert, was a full equivalent for the Grecian bribe. Henry was the severe adversary of the Normans, the allies and vassals of Gregory the Seventh, his implacable foe. The long quarrel of the throne and

mitre had been recently kindled by the zeal and ambition of that haughty

priest: the king and the pope had degraded each other; and each had

seated a rival on the temporal or spiritual throne of his antagonist. after the defeat and death of his Swabian rebel, Henry descended into

Italy, to assume the Imperial crown, and to drive from the Vatican the tyrant of the church. But the Roman people adhered to the cause of

Gregory: their resolution was fortified by supplies of men and money from Apulia; and the city was thrice ineffectually besieged by the

king of Germany. In the fourth year he corrupted, as it is said, with byzantine gold, the nobles of Rome, whose estates and castles had been

ruined by the war. The gates, the bridges, and fifty hostages, were delivered into his hands: the anti-pope, Clement the Third, was consecrated in the Lateran: the grateful pontiff crowned his protector

in the Vatican; and the emperor Henry fixed his residence in the capitol, as the lawful successor of Augustus and Charlemagne. The ruins

of the Septizonium were still defended by the nephew of Gregory: the

pope himself was invested in the castle of St. Angelo; and his last hope was in the courage and fidelity of his Norman vassal. Their friendship

had been interrupted by some reciprocal injuries and complaints; but,

on this pressing occasion, Guiscard was urged by the obligation of his

oath, by his interest, more potent than oaths, by the love of fame, and

his enmity to the two emperors. Unfurling the holy banner, he resolved to fly to the relief of the prince of the apostles: the most numerous of

his armies, six thousand horse, and thirty thousand foot, was instantly assembled; and his march from Salerno to Rome was animated by the public applause and the promise of the divine favor. Henry, invincible

in sixty-six battles, trembled at his approach; recollected some

indispensable affairs that required his presence in Lombardy; exhorted the Romans to persevere in their allegiance; and hastily retreated three days before the entrance of the Normans. In less than three years, the

son of Tancred of Hauteville enjoyed the glory of delivering the pope, and of compelling the two emperors, of the East and West, to fly before

his victorious arms. But the triumph of Robert was clouded by the calamities of Rome. By the aid of the friends of Gregory, the walls had been perforated or scaled; but the Imperial faction was still powerful and active; on the third day, the people rose in a furious tumult; and a hasty word of the conqueror, in his defence or revenge, was the signal

of fire and pillage. The Saracens of Sicily, the subjects of Roger, and auxiliaries of his brother, embraced this fair occasion of rifling and profaning the holy city of the Christians: many thousands of the citizens, in the sight, and by the allies, of their spiritual father were exposed to violation, captivity, or death; and a spacious quarter

of the city, from the Lateran to the Coliseum, was consumed by the flames, and devoted to perpetual solitude. From a city, where he was now

hated, and might be no longer feared, Gregory retired to end his days

in the palace of Salerno. The artful pontiff might flatter the vanity of

Guiscard with the hope of a Roman or Imperial crown; but this dangerous

measure, which would have inflamed the ambition of the Norman, must forever have alienated the most faithful princes of Germany.

the deliverer and scourge of Rome might have indulged himself in a

season of repose; but in the same year of the flight of the German emperor, the indefatigable Robert resumed the design of his eastern conquests. The zeal or gratitude of Gregory had promised to his valor the kingdoms of Greece and Asia; his troops were assembled in arms, flushed with success, and eager for action. Their numbers, in the

language of Homer, are compared by Anna to a swarm of bees; yet the

utmost and moderate limits of the powers of Guiscard have been already defined; they were contained on this second occasion in one hundred and twenty vessels; and as the season was far advanced, the harbor

of Brundusium was preferred to the open road of Otranto. Alexius, apprehensive of a second attack, had assiduously labored to restore the

naval forces of the empire; and obtained from the republic of Venice an

important succor of thirty-six transports, fourteen galleys, and

nine galiots or ships of extra-ordinary strength and magnitude. Their

services were liberally paid by the license or monopoly of trade, a

profitable gift of many shops and houses in the port of Constantinople, and a tribute to St. Mark, the more acceptable, as it was the produce

of a tax on their rivals at Amalphi. By the union of the Greeks and

Venetians, the Adriatic was covered with a hostile fleet; but their

own neglect, or the vigilance of Robert, the change of a wind, or the

shelter of a mist, opened a free passage; and the Norman troops were

safely disembarked on the coast of Epirus. With twenty strong and well-appointed galleys, their intrepid duke immediately sought the enemy, and though more accustomed to fight on horseback, he trusted his

own life, and the lives of his brother and two sons, to the event of a

naval combat. The dominion of the sea was disputed in three engagements,

in sight of the Isle of Corfu: in the two former, the skill and numbers

of the allies were superior; but in the third, the Normans obtained a final and complete victory. The light brigantines of the Greeks were

scattered in ignominious flight: the nine castles of the Venetians

maintained a more obstinate conflict; seven were sunk, two were taken; two thousand five hundred captives implored in vain the mercy of the

victor; and the daughter of Alexius deplores the loss of thirteen thousand of his subjects or allies. The want of experience had been

supplied by the genius of Guiscard; and each evening, when he had

sounded a retreat, he calmly explored the causes of his repulse, and

invented new methods how to remedy his own defects, and to baffle the advantages of the enemy. The winter season suspended his progress: with the return of spring he again aspired to the conquest of Constantinople; but, instead of traversing the hills of Epirus, he turned his arms against Greece and the islands, where the spoils would repay the labor, and where the land and sea forces might pursue their joint operations with vigor and effect. But, in the Isle of Cephalonia, his projects were fatally blasted by an epidemical disease: Robert himself, in the

seventieth year of his age, expired in his tent; and a suspicion of

poison was imputed, by public rumor, to his wife, or to the Greek emperor. This premature death might allow a boundless scope for the

imagination of his future exploits; and the event sufficiently declares, that the Norman greatness was founded on his life. Without the appearance of an enemy, a victorious army dispersed or retreated

in disorder and consternation; and Alexius, who had trembled for his empire, rejoiced in his deliverance. The galley which transported the

remains of Guiscard was ship-wrecked on the Italian shore; but the duke's body was recovered from the sea, and deposited in the sepulchre

of Venusia, a place more illustrious for the birth of Horace than for the burial of the Norman heroes. Roger, his second son and successor,

immediately sunk to the humble station of a duke of Apulia: the esteem

or partiality of his father left the valiant Bohemond to the inheritance

of his sword. The national tranquillity was disturbed by his claims, till the first crusade against the infidels of the East opened a more

splendid field of glory and conquest.

Of human life, the most glorious or humble prospects are alike and

soon bounded by the sepulchre. The male line of Robert Guiscard was extinguished, both in Apulia and at Antioch, in the second generation; but his younger brother became the father of a line of kings; and the

son of the great count was endowed with the name, the conquests, and the

spirit, of the first Roger. The heir of that Norman adventurer was born in Sicily; and, at the age of only four years, he succeeded to the sovereignty of the island, a lot which reason might envy, could she

indulge for a moment the visionary, though virtuous wish of dominion.

Had Roger been content with his fruitful patrimony, a happy and grateful

people might have blessed their benefactor; and if a wise administration could have restored the prosperous times of the Greek colonies, the

opulence and power of Sicily alone might have equalled the widest

scope that could be acquired and desolated by the sword of war. But the ambition of the great count was ignorant of these noble pursuits; it was gratified by the vulgar means of violence and artifice. He sought to

obtain the undivided possession of Palermo, of which one moiety had been ceded to the elder branch; struggled to enlarge his Calabrian limits beyond the measure of former treaties; and impatiently watched the declining health of his cousin William of Apulia, the grandson of

Robert. On the first intelligence of his premature death, Roger sailed from Palermo with seven galleys, cast anchor in the Bay of Salerno,

received, after ten days' negotiation, an oath of fidelity from the

Norman capital, commanded the submission of the barons, and extorted a

legal investiture from the reluctant popes, who could not long endure either the friendship or enmity of a powerful vassal. The sacred spot

of Benevento was respectfully spared, as the patrimony of St. Peter; but the reduction of Capua and Naples completed the design of his uncle

Guiscard; and the sole inheritance of the Norman conquests was possessed by the victorious Roger. A conscious superiority of power and merit

prompted him to disdain the titles of duke and of count; and the Isle of

Sicily, with a third perhaps of the continent of Italy, might form the basis of a kingdom which would only yield to the monarchies of France and England. The chiefs of the nation who attended his coronation at

Palermo might doubtless pronounce under what name he should reign

over them; but the example of a Greek tyrant or a Saracen emir was

insufficient to justify his regal character; and the nine kings of the Latin world might disclaim their new associate, unless he were consecrated by the authority of the supreme pontiff. The pride of anacletus was pleased to confer a title, which the pride of the Norman

had stooped to solicit; but his own legitimacy was attacked by the adverse election of Innocent the Second; and while Anacletus sat in the Vatican, the successful fugitive was acknowledged by the nations of europe. The infant monarchy of Roger was shaken, and almost overthrown, by the unlucky choice of an ecclesiastical patron; and the sword of

Lothaire the Second of Germany, the excommunications of Innocent, the fleets of Pisa, and the zeal of St. Bernard, were united for the ruin of the Sicilian robber. After a gallant resistance, the Norman prince was driven from the continent of Italy: a new duke of Apulia was invested by the pope and the emperor, each of whom held one end of the \_gonfanon\_,

or flagstaff, as a token that they asserted their right, and suspended their quarrel. But such jealous friendship was of short and precarious duration: the German armies soon vanished in disease and desertion: the apulian duke, with all his adherents, was exterminated by a conqueror who seldom forgave either the dead or the living; like his predecessor

Leo the Ninth, the feeble though haughty pontiff became the captive and friend of the Normans; and their reconciliation was celebrated by the eloquence of Bernard, who now revered the title and virtues of the king

of Sicily.

as a penance for his impious war against the successor of St. Peter, that monarch might have promised to display the banner of the cross, and he accomplished with ardor a vow so propitious to his interest and

revenge. The recent injuries of Sicily might provoke a just retaliation

on the heads of the Saracens: the Normans, whose blood had been mingled with so many subject streams, were encouraged to remember and emulate the naval trophies of their fathers, and in the maturity of their

strength they contended with the decline of an African power. When the fatimite caliph departed for the conquest of Egypt, he rewarded the real

merit and apparent fidelity of his servant Joseph with a gift of his

royal mantle, and forty Arabian horses, his palace with its sumptuous furniture, and the government of the kingdoms of Tunis and Algiers. the Zeirides, the descendants of Joseph, forgot their allegiance and

gratitude to a distant benefactor, grasped and abused the fruits of

prosperity; and after running the little course of an Oriental dynasty, were now fainting in their own weakness. On the side of the land, they were pressed by the Almohades, the fanatic princes of Morocco, while the sea-coast was open to the enterprises of the Greeks and Franks, who, before the close of the eleventh century, had extorted a ransom of two

hundred thousand pieces of gold. By the first arms of Roger, the island

or rock of Malta, which has been since ennobled by a military and

religious colony, was inseparably annexed to the crown of Sicily. tripoli, a strong and maritime city, was the next object of his attack; and the slaughter of the males, the captivity of the females, might be justified by the frequent practice of the Moslems themselves. The capital of the Zeirides was named Africa from the country, and Mahadia from the Arabian founder: it is strongly built on a neck of land, but the imperfection of the harbor is not compensated by the fertility of the adjacent plain. Mahadia was besieged by George the Sicilian admiral, with a fleet of one hundred and fifty galleys, amply provided with men and the instruments of mischief: the sovereign had fled, the Moorish

governor refused to capitulate, declined the last and irresistible assault, and secretly escaping with the Moslem inhabitants abandoned the place and its treasures to the rapacious Franks. In successive expeditions, the king of Sicily or his lieutenants reduced the cities

of Tunis, Safax, Capsia, Bona, and a long tract of the sea-coast; the fortresses were garrisoned, the country was tributary, and a boast that

it held Africa in subjection might be inscribed with some flattery on the sword of Roger. After his death, that sword was broken; and these transmarine possessions were neglected, evacuated, or lost, under the troubled reign of his successor. The triumphs of Scipio and Belisarius

have proved, that the African continent is neither inaccessible nor

invincible; yet the great princes and powers of Christendom have

repeatedly failed in their armaments against the Moors, who may still

glory in the easy conquest and long servitude of Spain.

Since the decease of Robert Guiscard, the Normans had relinquished, above sixty years, their hostile designs against the empire of the East. the policy of Roger solicited a public and private union with the Greek

princes, whose alliance would dignify his regal character: he demanded

in marriage a daughter of the Comnenian family, and the first steps of the treaty seemed to promise a favorable event. But the contemptuous treatment of his ambassadors exasperated the vanity of the new monarch; and the insolence of the Byzantine court was expiated, according to the

laws of nations, by the sufferings of a guiltless people. With the fleet of seventy galleys, George, the admiral of Sicily, appeared before corfu; and both the island and city were delivered into his hands by the disaffected inhabitants, who had yet to learn that a siege is still

more calamitous than a tribute. In this invasion, of some moment in the annals of commerce, the Normans spread themselves by sea, and over the provinces of Greece; and the venerable age of Athens, Thebes, and corinth, was violated by rapine and cruelty. Of the wrongs of Athens,

no memorial remains. The ancient walls, which encompassed, without

guarding, the opulence of Thebes, were scaled by the Latin Christians; but their sole use of the gospel was to sanctify an oath, that the

lawful owners had not secreted any relic of their inheritance or

industry. On the approach of the Normans, the lower town of Corinth was evacuated; the Greeks retired to the citadel, which was seated on a

lofty eminence, abundantly watered by the classic fountain of Pirene; an impregnable fortress, if the want of courage could be balanced by any advantages of art or nature. As soon as the besiegers had surmounted the

labor (their sole labor) of climbing the hill, their general, from the commanding eminence, admired his own victory, and testified his

gratitude to Heaven, by tearing from the altar the precious image of theodore, the tutelary saint. The silk weavers of both sexes, whom

George transported to Sicily, composed the most valuable part of the

spoil; and in comparing the skilful industry of the mechanic with the

sloth and cowardice of the soldier, he was heard to exclaim that the distaff and loom were the only weapons which the Greeks were capable of

using. The progress of this naval armament was marked by two conspicuous events, the rescue of the king of France, and the insult of the byzantine capital. In his return by sea from an unfortunate crusade,

Louis the Seventh was intercepted by the Greeks, who basely violated the

laws of honor and religion. The fortunate encounter of the Norman fleet delivered the royal captive; and after a free and honorable entertainment in the court of Sicily, Louis continued his journey to

Rome and Paris. In the absence of the emperor, Constantinople and the Hellespont were left without defence and without the suspicion

of danger. The clergy and people (for the soldiers had followed the standard of Manuel) were astonished and dismayed at the hostile appearance of a line of galleys, which boldly cast anchor in the front

of the Imperial city. The forces of the Sicilian admiral were inadequate to the siege or assault of an immense and populous metropolis; but

George enjoyed the glory of humbling the Greek arrogance, and of marking the path of conquest to the navies of the West. He landed some soldiers to rifle the fruits of the royal gardens, and pointed with silver, or

most probably with fire, the arrows which he discharged against the

palace of the Cæsars. This playful outrage of the pirates of Sicily, who

had surprised an unguarded moment, Manuel affected to despise, while his

martial spirit, and the forces of the empire, were awakened to revenge. the Archipelago and Ionian Sea were covered with his squadrons and those

of Venice; but I know not by what favorable allowance of transports,

victuallers, and pinnaces, our reason, or even our fancy, can be

reconciled to the stupendous account of fifteen hundred vessels, which

is proposed by a Byzantine historian. These operations were directed with prudence and energy: in his homeward voyage George lost nineteen of

his galleys, which were separated and taken: after an obstinate defence, corfu implored the clemency of her lawful sovereign; nor could a ship, a

soldier, of the Norman prince, be found, unless as a captive, within the limits of the Eastern empire. The prosperity and the health of Roger were already in a declining state: while he listened in his palace of

Palermo to the messengers of victory or defeat, the invincible Manuel, the foremost in every assault, was celebrated by the Greeks and Latins as the Alexander or the Hercules of the age.

chapter LVI: The Saracens, The Franks And The Normans.--Part V.

a prince of such a temper could not be satisfied with having repelled the insolence of a Barbarian. It was the right and duty, it might be the interest and glory, of Manuel to restore the ancient majesty of the empire, to recover the provinces of Italy and Sicily, and to chastise this pretended king, the grandson of a Norman vassal. The natives of calabria were still attached to the Greek language and worship, which

had been inexorably proscribed by the Latin clergy: after the loss of

her dukes, Apulia was chained as a servile appendage to the crown of

Sicily; the founder of the monarchy had ruled by the sword; and his death had abated the fear, without healing the discontent, of his

subjects: the feudal government was always pregnant with the seeds of

rebellion; and a nephew of Roger himself invited the enemies of his family and nation. The majesty of the purple, and a series of Hungarian and Turkish wars, prevented Manuel from embarking his person in the

Italian expedition. To the brave and noble Palæologus, his lieutenant, the Greek monarch intrusted a fleet and army: the siege of Bari was his first exploit; and, in every operation, gold as well as steel was the

instrument of victory. Salerno, and some places along the western coast, maintained their fidelity to the Norman king; but he lost in two campaigns the greater part of his continental possessions; and the

modest emperor, disdaining all flattery and falsehood, was content with the reduction of three hundred cities or villages of Apulia and calabria, whose names and titles were inscribed on all the walls of the palace. The prejudices of the Latins were gratified by a genuine

or fictitious donation under the seal of the German Cæsars; but the

successor of Constantine soon renounced this ignominious pretence, claimed the indefeasible dominion of Italy, and professed his design of chasing the Barbarians beyond the Alps. By the artful speeches, liberal

gifts, and unbounded promises, of their Eastern ally, the free cities were encouraged to persevere in their generous struggle against the despotism of Frederic Barbarossa: the walls of Milan were rebuilt by the contributions of Manuel; and he poured, says the historian, a river

of gold into the bosom of Ancona, whose attachment to the Greeks was fortified by the jealous enmity of the Venetians. The situation and trade of Ancona rendered it an important garrison in the heart of Italy:

it was twice besieged by the arms of Frederic; the imperial forces were twice repulsed by the spirit of freedom; that spirit was animated by the ambassador of Constantinople; and the most intrepid patriots, the

most faithful servants, were rewarded by the wealth and honors of the byzantine court. The pride of Manuel disdained and rejected a Barbarian colleague; his ambition was excited by the hope of stripping the purple from the German usurpers, and of establishing, in the West, as in the east, his lawful title of sole emperor of the Romans. With this view, he

solicited the alliance of the people and the bishop of Rome. Several

of the nobles embraced the cause of the Greek monarch; the splendid

nuptials of his niece with Odo Frangipani secured the support of that

powerful family, and his royal standard or image was entertained with due reverence in the ancient metropolis. During the quarrel between frederic and Alexander the Third, the pope twice received in the Vatican the ambassadors of Constantinople. They flattered his piety by the

long-promised union of the two churches, tempted the avarice of

his venal court, and exhorted the Roman pontiff to seize the just

provocation, the favorable moment, to humble the savage insolence of the alemanni and to acknowledge the true representative of Constantine and augustus.

but these Italian conquests, this universal reign, soon escaped from the

hand of the Greek emperor. His first demands were eluded by the

prudence of Alexander the Third, who paused on this deep and momentous

revolution; nor could the pope be seduced by a personal dispute to

renounce the perpetual inheritance of the Latin name. After the reunion with Frederic, he spoke a more peremptory language, confirmed the acts of his predecessors, excommunicated the adherents of Manuel, and pronounced the final separation of the churches, or at least the empires, of Constantinople and Rome. The free cities of Lombardy no

longer remembered their foreign benefactor, and without preserving the friendship of Ancona, he soon incurred the enmity of Venice. By his

own avarice, or the complaints of his subjects, the Greek emperor was

provoked to arrest the persons, and confiscate the effects, of the

Venetian merchants. This violation of the public faith exasperated a free and commercial people: one hundred galleys were launched and armed

in as many days; they swept the coasts of Dalmatia and Greece: but after

some mutual wounds, the war was terminated by an agreement, inglorious to the empire, insufficient for the republic; and a complete vengeance

of these and of fresh injuries was reserved for the succeeding

generation. The lieutenant of Manuel had informed his sovereign that he was strong enough to quell any domestic revolt of Apulia and Calabria; but that his forces were inadequate to resist the impending attack

of the king of Sicily. His prophecy was soon verified: the death of

Palæologus devolved the command on several chiefs, alike eminent in

rank, alike defective in military talents; the Greeks were oppressed by land and sea; and a captive remnant that escaped the swords of the

Normans and Saracens, abjured all future hostility against the person

or dominions of their conqueror. Yet the king of Sicily esteemed the courage and constancy of Manuel, who had landed a second army on the

Italian shore; he respectfully addressed the new Justinian; solicited a

peace or truce of thirty years, accepted as a gift the regal title; and acknowledged himself the military vassal of the Roman empire. the Byzantine Cæsars acquiesced in this shadow of dominion, without expecting, perhaps without desiring, the service of a Norman army; and the truce of thirty years was not disturbed by any hostilities between

Sicily and Constantinople. About the end of that period, the throne of

Manuel was usurped by an inhuman tyrant, who had deserved the abhorrence

of his country and mankind: the sword of William the Second, the

grandson of Roger, was drawn by a fugitive of the Comnenian race; and the subjects of Andronicus might salute the strangers as friends,

since they detested their sovereign as the worst of enemies. The Latin

historians expatiate on the rapid progress of the four counts who

invaded Romania with a fleet and army, and reduced many castles and cities to the obedience of the king of Sicily. The Greeks accuse and

magnify the wanton and sacrilegious cruelties that were perpetrated

in the sack of Thessalonica, the second city of the empire. The former deplore the fate of those invincible but unsuspecting warriors who were destroyed by the arts of a vanquished foe. The latter applaud, in songs

of triumph, the repeated victories of their countrymen on the Sea of

Marmora or Propontis, on the banks of the Strymon, and under the walls

of Durazzo. A revolution which punished the crimes of Andronicus,

had united against the Franks the zeal and courage of the successful

insurgents: ten thousand were slain in battle, and Isaac Angelus, the

new emperor, might indulge his vanity or vengeance in the treatment of four thousand captives. Such was the event of the last contest between the Greeks and Normans: before the expiration of twenty years, the rival

nations were lost or degraded in foreign servitude; and the successors

of Constantine did not long survive to insult the fall of the Sicilian

monarchy.

the sceptre of Roger successively devolved to his son and grandson: they might be confounded under the name of William: they are strongly discriminated by the epithets of the \_bad\_ and the \_good\_; but these epithets, which appear to describe the perfection of vice and virtue, cannot strictly be applied to either of the Norman princes. When he was

roused to arms by danger and shame, the first William did not degenerate from the valor of his race; but his temper was slothful; his manners were dissolute; his passions headstrong and mischievous; and the monarch

is responsible, not only for his personal vices, but for those of Majo, the great admiral, who abused the confidence, and conspired against the

life, of his benefactor. From the Arabian conquest, Sicily had imbibed a deep tincture of Oriental manners; the despotism, the pomp, and even the

harem, of a sultan; and a Christian people was oppressed and insulted by the ascendant of the eunuchs, who openly professed, or secretly cherished, the religion of Mahomet. An eloquent historian of the times

has delineated the misfortunes of his country: the ambition and fall

of the ungrateful Majo; the revolt and punishment of his assassins; the

imprisonment and deliverance of the king himself; the private feuds that arose from the public confusion; and the various forms of calamity and discord which afflicted Palermo, the island, and the continent, during the reign of William the First, and the minority of his son. The youth,

innocence, and beauty of William the Second, endeared him to the nation: the factions were reconciled; the laws were revived; and from the

manhood to the premature death of that amiable prince, Sicily enjoyed a

short season of peace, justice, and happiness, whose value was enhanced by the remembrance of the past and the dread of futurity. The legitimate

male posterity of Tancred of Hauteville was extinct in the person of the second William; but his aunt, the daughter of Roger, had married the most powerful prince of the age; and Henry the Sixth, the son of frederic Barbarossa, descended from the Alps to claim the Imperial crown and the inheritance of his wife. Against the unanimous wish of a free

people, this inheritance could only be acquired by arms; and I am

pleased to transcribe the style and sense of the historian Falcandus, who writes at the moment, and on the spot, with the feelings of a

patriot, and the prophetic eye of a statesman. "Constantia, the daughter

of Sicily, nursed from her cradle in the pleasures and plenty, and educated in the arts and manners, of this fortunate isle, departed long

since to enrich the Barbarians with our treasures, and now returns, with

her savage allies, to contaminate the beauties of her venerable parent. already I behold the swarms of angry Barbarians: our opulent cities, the

places flourishing in a long peace, are shaken with fear, desolated by

slaughter, consumed by rapine, and polluted by intemperance and lust. I

see the massacre or captivity of our citizens, the rapes of our virgins and matrons. In this extremity (he interrogates a friend) how must the Sicilians act? By the unanimous election of a king of valor and experience, Sicily and Calabria might yet be preserved; for in the

levity of the Apulians, ever eager for new revolutions, I can repose

neither confidence nor hope. Should Calabria be lost, the lofty towers, the numerous youth, and the naval strength, of Messina, might guard the

passage against a foreign invader. If the savage Germans coalesce with the pirates of Messina; if they destroy with fire the fruitful region,

so often wasted by the fires of Mount Ætna, what resource will be left for the interior parts of the island, these noble cities which should

never be violated by the hostile footsteps of a Barbarian? Catana has again been overwhelmed by an earthquake: the ancient virtue of Syracuse expires in poverty and solitude; but Palermo is still crowned with a diadem, and her triple walls enclose the active multitudes of Christians and Saracens. If the two nations, under one king, can unite for their common safety, they may rush on the Barbarians with invincible arms. But

if the Saracens, fatigued by a repetition of injuries, should now

retire and rebel; if they should occupy the castles of the mountains and

sea-coast, the unfortunate Christians, exposed to a double attack, and placed as it were between the hammer and the anvil, must resign themselves to hopeless and inevitable servitude." We must not forget, that a priest here prefers his country to his religion; and that the

Moslems, whose alliance he seeks, were still numerous and powerful in the state of Sicily.

the hopes, or at least the wishes, of Falcandus were at first gratified by the free and unanimous election of Tancred, the grandson of the first

king, whose birth was illegitimate, but whose civil and military virtues

shone without a blemish. During four years, the term of his life and

reign, he stood in arms on the farthest verge of the Apulian frontier, against the powers of Germany; and the restitution of a royal captive,

of Constantia herself, without injury or ransom, may appear to surpass the most liberal measure of policy or reason. After his decease, the

kingdom of his widow and infant son fell without a struggle; and Henry

pursued his victorious march from Capua to Palermo. The political balance of Italy was destroyed by his success; and if the pope and the free cities had consulted their obvious and real interest, they would

have combined the powers of earth and heaven to prevent the dangerous

union of the German empire with the kingdom of Sicily. But the subtle

policy, for which the Vatican has so often been praised or arraigned, was on this occasion blind and inactive; and if it were true that celestine the Third had kicked away the Imperial crown from the head of the prostrate Henry, such an act of impotent pride could serve only to cancel an obligation and provoke an enemy. The Genoese, who enjoyed a beneficial trade and establishment in Sicily, listened to the promise of

his boundless gratitude and speedy departure: their fleet commanded the

straits of Messina, and opened the harbor of Palermo; and the first act of his government was to abolish the privileges, and to seize the

property, of these imprudent allies. The last hope of Falcandus was defeated by the discord of the Christians and Mahometans: they fought

in the capital; several thousands of the latter were slain; but their

surviving brethren fortified the mountains, and disturbed above thirty

years the peace of the island. By the policy of Frederic the Second,

sixty thousand Saracens were transplanted to Nocera in Apulia. In their wars against the Roman church, the emperor and his son Mainfroy were

strengthened and disgraced by the service of the enemies of Christ; and this national colony maintained their religion and manners in the

heart of Italy, till they were extirpated, at the end of the thirteenth century, by the zeal and revenge of the house of Anjou. All the calamities which the prophetic orator had deplored were surpassed by the cruelty and avarice of the German conqueror. He violated the royal

sepulchres, and explored the secret treasures of the palace, Palermo, and the whole kingdom: the pearls and jewels, however precious, might be easily removed; but one hundred and sixty horses were laden with the

gold and silver of Sicily. The young king, his mother and sisters, and the nobles of both sexes, were separately confined in the fortresses of the Alps; and, on the slightest rumor of rebellion, the captives were deprived of life, of their eyes, or of the hope of posterity. Constantia

herself was touched with sympathy for the miseries of her country; and the heiress of the Norman line might struggle to check her despotic

husband, and to save the patrimony of her new-born son, of an emperor so famous in the next age under the name of Frederic the Second. Ten years after this revolution, the French monarchs annexed to their crown the duchy of Normandy: the sceptre of her ancient dukes had been transmitted, by a granddaughter of William the Conqueror, to the house

of Plantagenet; and the adventurous Normans, who had raised so many trophies in France, England, and Ireland, in Apulia, Sicily, and the east, were lost, either in victory or servitude, among the vanquished

nations.

chapter LVII: The Turks.--Part I.

The Turks Of The House Of Seljuk.--Their Revolt Against

Mahmud Conqueror Of Hindostan.--Togrul Subdues Persia, And

Protects The Caliphs.--Defeat And Captivity Of The Emperor

Romanus Diogenes By Alp Arslan.--Power And Magnificence Of

Malek Shah.--Conquest Of Asia Minor And Syria.--State And

Oppression Of Jerusalem.--Pilgrimages To The Holy Sepulchre.

from the Isle of Sicily, the reader must transport himself beyond the caspian Sea, to the original seat of the Turks or Turkmans, against whom the first crusade was principally directed. Their Scythian empire of the

sixth century was long since dissolved; but the name was still famous among the Greeks and Orientals; and the fragments of the nation, each a powerful and independent people, were scattered over the desert from china to the Oxus and the Danube: the colony of Hungarians was admitted

into the republic of Europe, and the thrones of Asia were occupied by

slaves and soldiers of Turkish extraction. While Apulia and Sicily were subdued by the Norman lance, a swarm of these northern shepherds

overspread the kingdoms of Persia; their princes of the race of Seljuk erected a splendid and solid empire from Samarcand to the confines of

Greece and Egypt; and the Turks have maintained their dominion in Asia

Minor, till the victorious crescent has been planted on the dome of St.

Sophia.

One of the greatest of the Turkish princes was Mahmood or Mahmud, the

Gaznevide, who reigned in the eastern provinces of Persia, one thousand

years after the birth of Christ. His father Sebectagi was the slave of the slave of the slave of the commander of the faithful. But in this descent of servitude, the first degree was merely titular, since it was filled by the sovereign of Transoxiana and Chorasan, who still paid a

nominal allegiance to the caliph of Bagdad. The second rank was that of a minister of state, a lieutenant of the Samanides, who broke, by his

revolt, the bonds of political slavery. But the third step was a state

of real and domestic servitude in the family of that rebel; from which

Sebectagi, by his courage and dexterity, ascended to the supreme command

of the city and provinces of Gazna, as the son-in-law and successor of

his grateful master. The falling dynasty of the Samanides was at first

protected, and at last overthrown, by their servants; and, in the public disorders, the fortune of Mahmud continually increased. From him the title of \_Sultan\_ was first invented; and his kingdom was enlarged from Transoxiana to the neighborhood of Ispahan, from the shores of the caspian to the mouth of the Indus. But the principal source of his fame and riches was the holy war which he waged against the Gentoos of

Hindostan. In this foreign narrative I may not consume a page; and a

volume would scarcely suffice to recapitulate the battles and sieges

of his twelve expeditions. Never was the Mussulman hero dismayed by the

inclemency of the seasons, the height of the mountains, the breadth of the rivers, the barrenness of the desert, the multitudes of the enemy,

or the formidable array of their elephants of war. The sultan of Gazna

surpassed the limits of the conquests of Alexander: after a march of three months, over the hills of Cashmir and Thibet, he reached the famous city of Kinnoge, on the Upper Ganges; and, in a naval combat on

one of the branches of the Indus, he fought and vanquished four thousand boats of the natives. Delhi, Lahor, and Multan, were compelled to open their gates: the fertile kingdom of Guzarat attracted his ambition and tempted his stay; and his avarice indulged the fruitless project of discovering the golden and aromatic isles of the Southern Ocean. On the payment of a tribute, the \_rajahs\_ preserved their dominions; the

people, their lives and fortunes; but to the religion of Hindostan the

zealous Mussulman was cruel and inexorable: many hundred temples,

or pagodas, were levelled with the ground; many thousand idols were demolished; and the servants of the prophet were stimulated and rewarded by the precious materials of which they were composed. The pagoda of

Sumnat was situate on the promontory of Guzarat, in the neighborhood

of Diu, one of the last remaining possessions of the Portuguese. It was endowed with the revenue of two thousand villages; two thousand Brahmins were consecrated to the service of the Deity, whom they washed each

morning and evening in water from the distant Ganges: the subordinate

ministers consisted of three hundred musicians, three hundred barbers, and five hundred dancing girls, conspicuous for their birth or beauty. three sides of the temple were protected by the ocean, the narrow

isthmus was fortified by a natural or artificial precipice; and the city and adjacent country were peopled by a nation of fanatics. They confessed the sins and the punishment of Kinnoge and Delhi; but if the

impious stranger should presume to approach \_their\_ holy precincts, he would surely be overwhelmed by a blast of the divine vengeance. By this challenge, the faith of Mahmud was animated to a personal trial of the

strength of this Indian deity. Fifty thousand of his worshippers were pierced by the spear of the Moslems; the walls were scaled; the

sanctuary was profaned; and the conqueror aimed a blow of his iron mace at the head of the idol. The trembling Brahmins are said to have offered ten millions sterling for his ransom; and it was urged by the wisest counsellors, that the destruction of a stone image would not change the

hearts of the Gentoos; and that such a sum might be dedicated to the

relief of the true believers. "Your reasons," replied the sultan, "are

specious and strong; but never in the eyes of posterity shall Mahmud appear as a merchant of idols." He repeated his blows, and a treasure

of pearls and rubies, concealed in the belly of the statue, explained in

some degree the devout prodigality of the Brahmins. The fragments of the

idol were distributed to Gazna, Mecca, and Medina. Bagdad listened to the edifying tale; and Mahmud was saluted by the caliph with the title

of guardian of the fortune and faith of Mahomet.

from the paths of blood (and such is the history of nations) I cannot

refuse to turn aside to gather some flowers of science or virtue. the name of Mahmud the Gaznevide is still venerable in the East: his

subjects enjoyed the blessings of prosperity and peace; his vices were concealed by the veil of religion; and two familiar examples will testify his justice and magnanimity. I. As he sat in the Divan, an

unhappy subject bowed before the throne to accuse the insolence of a turkish soldier who had driven him from his house and bed. "Suspend

your clamors," said Mahmud; "inform me of his next visit, and ourself

in person will judge and punish the offender." The sultan followed

his guide, invested the house with his guards, and extinguishing the torches, pronounced the death of the criminal, who had been seized in the act of rapine and adultery. After the execution of his sentence, the

lights were rekindled, Mahmud fell prostrate in prayer, and rising from the ground, demanded some homely fare, which he devoured with the

voraciousness of hunger. The poor man, whose injury he had avenged, was

unable to suppress his astonishment and curiosity; and the courteous

monarch condescended to explain the motives of this singular behavior.

"I had reason to suspect that none, except one of my sons, could dare to perpetrate such an outrage; and I extinguished the lights, that my

justice might be blind and inexorable. My prayer was a thanksgiving on the discovery of the offender; and so painful was my anxiety, that I

had passed three days without food since the first moment of your complaint." II. The sultan of Gazna had declared war against the dynasty

of the Bowides, the sovereigns of the western Persia: he was disarmed by an epistle of the sultana mother, and delayed his invasion till the

manhood of her son. "During the life of my husband," said the artful

regent, "I was ever apprehensive of your ambition: he was a prince and a

soldier worthy of your arms. He is now no more his sceptre has passed to a woman and a child, and you \_dare not\_ attack their infancy and weakness. How inglorious would be your conquest, how shameful your defeat! and yet the event of war is in the hand of the Almighty." avarice was the only defect that tarnished the illustrious character

of Mahmud; and never has that passion been more richly satiated. The

Orientals exceed the measure of credibility in the account of millions

of gold and silver, such as the avidity of man has never accumulated; in the magnitude of pearls, diamonds, and rubies, such as have never been

produced by the workmanship of nature. Yet the soil of Hindostan

is impregnated with precious minerals: her trade, in every age, has attracted the gold and silver of the world; and her virgin spoils were

rifled by the first of the Mahometan conquerors. His behavior, in the

last days of his life, evinces the vanity of these possessions, so

laboriously won, so dangerously held, and so inevitably lost. He

surveyed the vast and various chambers of the treasury of Gazna, burst

into tears, and again closed the doors, without bestowing any portion of the wealth which he could no longer hope to preserve. The following day

he reviewed the state of his military force; one hundred thousand foot, fifty-five thousand horse, and thirteen hundred elephants of battle.

He again wept the instability of human greatness; and his grief was imbittered by the hostile progress of the Turkmans, whom he had

introduced into the heart of his Persian kingdom.

In the modern depopulation of Asia, the regular operation of government and agriculture is confined to the neighborhood of cities; and the distant country is abandoned to the pastoral tribes of Arabs, Curds, and \_Turkmans\_. Of the last-mentioned people, two considerable branches extend on either side of the Caspian Sea: the western colony can muster forty thousand soldiers; the eastern, less obvious to the traveller, but more strong and populous, has increased to the number of one hundred thousand families. In the midst of civilized nations, they preserve the

manners of the Scythian desert, remove their encampments with a change

of seasons, and feed their cattle among the ruins of palaces and temples. Their flocks and herds are their only riches; their tents, either black or white, according to the color of the banner, are covered with felt, and of a circular form; their winter apparel is a sheep-skin; a robe of cloth or cotton their summer garment: the features of the

men are harsh and ferocious; the countenance of their women is soft and pleasing. Their wandering life maintains the spirit and exercise

of arms; they fight on horseback; and their courage is displayed in frequent contests with each other and with their neighbors. For the

license of pasture they pay a slight tribute to the sovereign of the

land; but the domestic jurisdiction is in the hands of the chiefs and elders. The first emigration of the Eastern Turkmans, the most ancient

of the race, may be ascribed to the tenth century of the Christian æra.

In the decline of the caliphs, and the weakness of their lieutenants, the barrier of the Jaxartes was often violated; in each invasion, after the victory or retreat of their countrymen, some wandering tribe, embracing the Mahometan faith, obtained a free encampment in the

spacious plains and pleasant climate of Transoxiana and Carizme. The turkish slaves who aspired to the throne encouraged these emigrations which recruited their armies, awed their subjects and rivals, and

protected the frontier against the wilder natives of Turkestan; and this

policy was abused by Mahmud the Gaznevide beyond the example of former times. He was admonished of his error by the chief of the race of

Seljuk, who dwelt in the territory of Bochara. The sultan had inquired what supply of men he could furnish for military service. "If you send,"

replied Ismael, "one of these arrows into our camp, fifty thousand of

your servants will mount on horseback."--"And if that number," continued

Mahmud, "should not be sufficient?"--"Send this second arrow to the

horde of Balik, and you will find fifty thousand more."--"But," said the

Gaznevide, dissembling his anxiety, "if I should stand in need of the whole force of your kindred tribes?"--"Despatch my bow," was the last

reply of Ismael, "and as it is circulated around, the summons will be obeyed by two hundred thousand horse." The apprehension of such formidable friendship induced Mahmud to transport the most obnoxious tribes into the heart of Chorasan, where they would be separated from their brethren of the River Oxus, and enclosed on all sides by the walls of obedient cities. But the face of the country was an object of temptation rather than terror; and the vigor of government was relaxed by the absence and death of the sultan of Gazna. The shepherds were converted into robbers; the bands of robbers were collected into an army

of conquerors: as far as Ispahan and the Tigris, Persia was afflicted by their predatory inroads; and the Turkmans were not ashamed or afraid to

measure their courage and numbers with the proudest sovereigns of Asia.

Massoud, the son and successor of Mahmud, had too long neglected the advice of his wisest Omrahs. "Your enemies," they repeatedly urged,

"were in their origin a swarm of ants; they are now little snakes; and, unless they be instantly crushed, they will acquire the venom and

magnitude of serpents." After some alternatives of truce and hostility, after the repulse or partial success of his lieutenants, the sultan

marched in person against the Turkmans, who attacked him on all sides with barbarous shouts and irregular onset. "Massoud," says the Persian

historian, "plunged singly to oppose the torrent of gleaming arms, exhibiting such acts of gigantic force and valor as never king had before displayed. A few of his friends, roused by his words and actions, and that innate honor which inspires the brave, seconded their lord so well, that wheresoever he turned his fatal sword, the enemies were mowed down, or retreated before him. But now, when victory seemed to blow on

his standard, misfortune was active behind it; for when he looked round,

he beheld almost his whole army, excepting that body he commanded in

person, devouring the paths of flight." The Gaznevide was abandoned by the cowardice or treachery of some generals of Turkish race; and this

memorable day of Zendecan founded in Persia the dynasty of the shepherd

kings.

the victorious Turkmans immediately proceeded to the election of a king; and, if the probable tale of a Latin historian deserves any credit, they determined by lot the choice of their new master. A number of arrows were successively inscribed with the name of a tribe, a family, and a candidate; they were drawn from the bundle by the hand of a child; and the important prize was obtained by Togrul Beg, the son of Michael the

son of Seljuk, whose surname was immortalized in the greatness of

his posterity. The sultan Mahmud, who valued himself on his skill in

national genealogy, professed his ignorance of the family of Seljuk;

yet the father of that race appears to have been a chief of power and

renown. For a daring intrusion into the harem of his prince. Seljuk was banished from Turkestan: with a numerous tribe of his friends and vassals, he passed the Jaxartes, encamped in the neighborhood of

Samarcand, embraced the religion of Mahomet, and acquired the crown of

martyrdom in a war against the infidels. His age, of a hundred and seven

years, surpassed the life of his son, and Seljuk adopted the care of

his two grandsons, Togrul and Jaafar; the eldest of whom, at the age of forty-five, was invested with the title of Sultan, in the royal city of

Nishabur. The blind determination of chance was justified by the virtues

of the successful candidate. It would be superfluous to praise the valor

of a Turk; and the ambition of Togrul was equal to his valor. By his arms, the Gasnevides were expelled from the eastern kingdoms of Persia, and gradually driven to the banks of the Indus, in search of a softer and more wealthy conquest. In the West he annihilated the dynasty of the bowides; and the sceptre of Irak passed from the Persian to the Turkish

nation. The princes who had felt, or who feared, the Seljukian arrows, bowed their heads in the dust; by the conquest of Aderbijan, or Media,

he approached the Roman confines; and the shepherd presumed to despatch an ambassador, or herald, to demand the tribute and obedience of the emperor of Constantinople. In his own dominions, Togrul was the father

of his soldiers and people; by a firm and equal administration, Persia was relieved from the evils of anarchy; and the same hands which had been imbrued in blood became the guardians of justice and the public

peace. The more rustic, perhaps the wisest, portion of the Turkmans continued to dwell in the tents of their ancestors; and, from the Oxus to the Euphrates, these military colonies were protected and propagated by their native princes. But the Turks of the court and city were

refined by business and softened by pleasure: they imitated the dress,

language, and manners of Persia; and the royal palaces of Nishabur and

Rei displayed the order and magnificence of a great monarchy. The most deserving of the Arabians and Persians were promoted to the honors

of the state; and the whole body of the Turkish nation embraced, with fervor and sincerity, the religion of Mahomet. The northern swarms

of Barbarians, who overspread both Europe and Asia, have been

irreconcilably separated by the consequences of a similar conduct. Among the Moslems, as among the Christians, their vague and local traditions

have yielded to the reason and authority of the prevailing system, to the fame of antiquity, and the consent of nations. But the triumph of the Koran is more pure and meritorious, as it was not assisted by any visible splendor of worship which might allure the Pagans by

some resemblance of idolatry. The first of the Seljukian sultans was conspicuous by his zeal and faith: each day he repeated the five prayers which are enjoined to the true believers; of each week, the two first days were consecrated by an extraordinary fast; and in every city a

mosch was completed, before Togrul presumed to lay the foundations of a

palace.

with the belief of the Koran, the son of Seljuk imbibed a lively

reverence for the successor of the prophet. But that sublime character was still disputed by the caliphs of Bagdad and Egypt, and each of the

rivals was solicitous to prove his title in the judgment of the strong, though illiterate Barbarians. Mahmud the Gaznevide had declared himself

in favor of the line of Abbas; and had treated with indignity the

robe of honor which was presented by the Fatimite ambassador. Yet the ungrateful Hashemite had changed with the change of fortune; he applauded the victory of Zendecan, and named the Seljukian sultan

his temporal vicegerent over the Moslem world. As Togrul executed and enlarged this important trust, he was called to the deliverance of the caliph Cayem, and obeyed the holy summons, which gave a new kingdom to

his arms. In the palace of Bagdad, the commander of the faithful still

slumbered, a venerable phantom. His servant or master, the prince of the Bowides, could no longer protect him from the insolence of meaner tyrants; and the Euphrates and Tigris were oppressed by the revolt of the Turkish and Arabian emirs. The presence of a conqueror was implored as a blessing; and the transient mischiefs of fire and sword were excused as the sharp but salutary remedies which alone could restore the

health of the republic. At the head of an irresistible force, the sultan

of Persia marched from Hamadan: the proud were crushed, the prostrate were spared; the prince of the Bowides disappeared; the heads of the

most obstinate rebels were laid at the feet of Togrul; and he inflicted a lesson of obedience on the people of Mosul and Bagdad. After the chastisement of the guilty, and the restoration of peace, the royal

shepherd accepted the reward of his labors; and a solemn comedy

represented the triumph of religious prejudice over Barbarian power. The turkish sultan embarked on the Tigris, landed at the gate of Racca, and

made his public entry on horseback. At the palace-gate he respectfully dismounted, and walked on foot, preceded by his emirs without arms. the caliph was seated behind his black veil: the black garment of the abbassides was cast over his shoulders, and he held in his hand the

staff of the apostle of God. The conqueror of the East kissed the

ground, stood some time in a modest posture, and was led towards the throne by the vizier and interpreter. After Togrul had seated himself on another throne, his commission was publicly read, which declared him the temporal lieutenant of the vicar of the prophet. He was successively

invested with seven robes of honor, and presented with seven slaves, the

natives of the seven climates of the Arabian empire. His mystic veil was

perfumed with musk; two crowns were placed on his head; two cimeters were girded to his side, as the symbols of a double reign over the east and West. After this inauguration, the sultan was prevented from

prostrating himself a second time; but he twice kissed the hand of the commander of the faithful, and his titles were proclaimed by the voice

of heralds and the applause of the Moslems. In a second visit to Bagdad, the Seljukian prince again rescued the caliph from his enemies and devoutly, on foot, led the bridle of his mule from the prison to the

palace. Their alliance was cemented by the marriage of Togrul's sister with the successor of the prophet. Without reluctance he had introduced a Turkish virgin into his harem; but Cayem proudly refused his daughter to the sultan, disdained to mingle the blood of the Hashemites with the blood of a Scythian shepherd; and protracted the negotiation many

months, till the gradual diminution of his revenue admonished him that

he was still in the hands of a master. The royal nuptials were followed by the death of Togrul himself; as he left no children, his nephew Alp arslan succeeded to the title and prerogatives of sultan; and his name, after that of the caliph, was pronounced in the public prayers of the Moslems. Yet in this revolution, the Abbassides acquired a larger

measure of liberty and power. On the throne of Asia, the Turkish

monarchs were less jealous of the domestic administration of Bagdad; and the commanders of the faithful were relieved from the ignominious

vexations to which they had been exposed by the presence and poverty of the Persian dynasty.

chapter LVII: The Turks.--Part II.

Since the fall of the caliphs, the discord and degeneracy of the

Saracens respected the Asiatic provinces of Rome; which, by the

victories of Nicephorus, Zimisces, and Basil, had been extended as far as Antioch and the eastern boundaries of Armenia. Twenty-five years after the death of Basil, his successors were suddenly assaulted by an unknown race of Barbarians, who united the Scythian valor with the fanaticism of new proselytes, and the art and riches of a powerful

monarchy. The myriads of Turkish horse overspread a frontier of six

hundred miles from Tauris to Arzeroum, and the blood of one hundred and thirty thousand Christians was a grateful sacrifice to the Arabian

prophet. Yet the arms of Togrul did not make any deep or lasting

impression on the Greek empire. The torrent rolled away from the open country; the sultan retired without glory or success from the siege of an Armenian city; the obscure hostilities were continued or suspended with a vicissitude of events; and the bravery of the Macedonian legions

renewed the fame of the conqueror of Asia. The name of Alp Arslan, the

valiant lion, is expressive of the popular idea of the perfection of

man; and the successor of Togrul displayed the fierceness and generosity

of the royal animal. He passed the Euphrates at the head of the Turkish cavalry, and entered Cæsarea, the metropolis of Cappadocia, to which he

had been attracted by the fame and wealth of the temple of St. Basil. the solid structure resisted the destroyer: but he carried away the doors of the shrine incrusted with gold and pearls, and profaned the

relics of the tutelar saint, whose mortal frailties were now covered by the venerable rust of antiquity. The final conquest of Armenia and

Georgia was achieved by Alp Arslan. In Armenia, the title of a

kingdom, and the spirit of a nation, were annihilated: the artificial fortifications were yielded by the mercenaries of Constantinople; by

strangers without faith, veterans without pay or arms, and recruits without experience or discipline. The loss of this important frontier was the news of a day; and the Catholics were neither surprised nor displeased, that a people so deeply infected with the Nestorian and eutychian errors had been delivered by Christ and his mother into the

hands of the infidels. The woods and valleys of Mount Caucasus were

more strenuously defended by the native Georgians or Iberians; but the turkish sultan and his son Malek were indefatigable in this holy war: their captives were compelled to promise a spiritual, as well as temporal, obedience; and, instead of their collars and bracelets, an

iron horseshoe, a badge of ignominy, was imposed on the infidels who

still adhered to the worship of their fathers. The change, however, was

not sincere or universal; and, through ages of servitude, the Georgians

have maintained the succession of their princes and bishops. But a race

of men, whom nature has cast in her most perfect mould, is degraded by

poverty, ignorance, and vice; their profession, and still more their

practice, of Christianity is an empty name; and if they have emerged from heresy, it is only because they are too illiterate to remember a

metaphysical creed.

the false or genuine magnanimity of Mahmud the Gaznevide was not

imitated by Alp Arslan; and he attacked without scruple the Greek empress Eudocia and her children. His alarming progress compelled her to give herself and her sceptre to the hand of a soldier; and Romanus diogenes was invested with the Imperial purple. His patriotism, and

perhaps his pride, urged him from Constantinople within two months after

his accession; and the next campaign he most scandalously took the field during the holy festival of Easter. In the palace, Diogenes was no more than the husband of Eudocia: in the camp, he was the emperor of the

Romans, and he sustained that character with feeble resources and

invincible courage. By his spirit and success the soldiers were taught to act, the subjects to hope, and the enemies to fear. The Turks

had penetrated into the heart of Phrygia; but the sultan himself had

resigned to his emirs the prosecution of the war; and their numerous detachments were scattered over Asia in the security of conquest. Laden with spoil, and careless of discipline, they were separately surprised and defeated by the Greeks: the activity of the emperor seemed to

multiply his presence: and while they heard of his expedition to antioch, the enemy felt his sword on the hills of Trebizond. In three

laborious campaigns, the Turks were driven beyond the Euphrates; in the fourth and last, Romanus undertook the deliverance of Armenia. The desolation of the land obliged him to transport a supply of two months'

provisions; and he marched forwards to the siege of Malazkerd, an

important fortress in the midway between the modern cities of Arzeroum and Van. His army amounted, at the least, to one hundred thousand

men. The troops of Constantinople were reënforced by the disorderly

multitudes of Phrygia and Cappadocia; but the real strength was composed

of the subjects and allies of Europe, the legions of Macedonia, and the

squadrons of Bulgaria; the Uzi, a Moldavian horde, who were themselves

of the Turkish race; and, above all, the mercenary and adventurous bands

of French and Normans. Their lances were commanded by the valiant Ursel

of Baliol, the kinsman or father of the Scottish kings, and were allowed to excel in the exercise of arms, or, according to the Greek style, in the practice of the Pyrrhic dance.

On the report of this bold invasion, which threatened his hereditary dominions, Alp Arslan flew to the scene of action at the head of forty thousand horse. His rapid and skilful evolutions distressed and dismayed the superior numbers of the Greeks; and in the defeat of Basilacius, one

of their principal generals, he displayed the first example of his valor and clemency. The imprudence of the emperor had separated his forces after the reduction of Malazkerd. It was in vain that he attempted to recall the mercenary Franks: they refused to obey his summons; he disdained to await their return: the desertion of the Uzi filled his

mind with anxiety and suspicion; and against the most salutary advice

he rushed forwards to speedy and decisive action. Had he listened to the fair proposals of the sultan, Romanus might have secured a retreat,

perhaps a peace; but in these overtures he supposed the fear or weakness

of the enemy, and his answer was conceived in the tone of insult and defiance. "If the Barbarian wishes for peace, let him evacuate the

ground which he occupies for the encampment of the Romans, and surrender

his city and palace of Rei as a pledge of his sincerity." Alp Arslan

smiled at the vanity of the demand, but he wept the death of so

many faithful Moslems; and, after a devout prayer, proclaimed a free

permission to all who were desirous of retiring from the field. With his

own hands he tied up his horse's tail, exchanged his bow and arrows for a mace and cimeter, clothed himself in a white garment, perfumed his body with musk, and declared that if he were vanquished, that spot

should be the place of his burial. The sultan himself had affected to cast away his missile weapons: but his hopes of victory were placed

in the arrows of the Turkish cavalry, whose squadrons were loosely distributed in the form of a crescent. Instead of the successive lines and reserves of the Grecian tactics, Romulus led his army in a single and solid phalanx, and pressed with vigor and impatience the artful and

yielding resistance of the Barbarians. In this desultory and fruitless combat he spent the greater part of a summer's day, till prudence and fatigue compelled him to return to his camp. But a retreat is always

perilous in the face of an active foe; and no sooner had the standard been turned to the rear than the phalanx was broken by the base cowardice, or the baser jealousy, of Andronicus, a rival prince, who disgraced his birth and the purple of the Cæsars. The Turkish squadrons

poured a cloud of arrows on this moment of confusion and lassitude; and the horns of their formidable crescent were closed in the rear of the

Greeks. In the destruction of the army and pillage of the camp, it would be needless to mention the number of the slain or captives. The byzantine writers deplore the loss of an inestimable pearl: they forgot to mention, that in this fatal day the Asiatic provinces of Rome were

irretrievably sacrificed.

as long as a hope survived, Romanus attempted to rally and save the

relics of his army. When the centre, the Imperial station, was left

naked on all sides, and encompassed by the victorious Turks, he still, with desperate courage, maintained the fight till the close of day, at the head of the brave and faithful subjects who adhered to his standard. they fell around him; his horse was slain; the emperor was wounded;

yet he stood alone and intrepid, till he was oppressed and bound by the

strength of multitudes. The glory of this illustrious prize was disputed by a slave and a soldier; a slave who had seen him on the throne of constantinople, and a soldier whose extreme deformity had been excused

on the promise of some signal service. Despoiled of his arms, his

jewels, and his purple, Romanus spent a dreary and perilous night on the field of battle, amidst a disorderly crowd of the meaner Barbarians. In the morning the royal captive was presented to Alp Arslan, who doubted

of his fortune, till the identity of the person was ascertained by the report of his ambassadors, and by the more pathetic evidence of basilacius, who embraced with tears the feet of his unhappy sovereign. the successor of Constantine, in a plebeian habit, was led into the turkish divan, and commanded to kiss the ground before the lord of Asia.

He reluctantly obeyed; and Alp Arslan, starting from his throne, is said to have planted his foot on the neck of the Roman emperor. But the fact

is doubtful; and if, in this moment of insolence, the sultan complied with the national custom, the rest of his conduct has extorted the

praise of his bigoted foes, and may afford a lesson to the most civilized ages. He instantly raised the royal captive from the ground; and thrice clasping his hand with tender sympathy, assured him, that his

life and dignity should be inviolate in the hands of a prince who had

learned to respect the majesty of his equals and the vicissitudes of fortune. From the divan, Romanus was conducted to an adjacent tent, where he was served with pomp and reverence by the officers of the

sultan, who, twice each day, seated him in the place of honor at his own table. In a free and familiar conversation of eight days, not a word,

not a look, of insult escaped from the conqueror; but he severely censured the unworthy subjects who had deserted their valiant prince in the hour of danger, and gently admonished his antagonist of some errors which he had committed in the management of the war. In the

preliminaries of negotiation, Alp Arslan asked him what treatment he expected to receive, and the calm indifference of the emperor displays the freedom of his mind. "If you are cruel," said he, "you will take my

life; if you listen to pride, you will drag me at your chariot-wheels;

if you consult your interest, you will accept a ransom, and restore me to my country." "And what," continued the sultan, "would have been your

own behavior, had fortune smiled on your arms?" The reply of the Greek betrays a sentiment, which prudence, and even gratitude, should have taught him to suppress. "Had I vanquished," he fiercely said, "I would

have inflicted on thy body many a stripe." The Turkish conqueror

smiled at the insolence of his captive observed that the Christian law

inculcated the love of enemies and forgiveness of injuries; and nobly declared, that he would not imitate an example which he condemned. After

mature deliberation, Alp Arslan dictated the terms of liberty and peace, a ransom of a million, an annual tribute of three hundred and sixty thousand pieces of gold, the marriage of the royal children, and the deliverance of all the Moslems, who were in the power of the Greeks.

Romanus, with a sigh, subscribed this treaty, so disgraceful to the

majesty of the empire; he was immediately invested with a Turkish robe

of honor; his nobles and patricians were restored to their sovereign; and the sultan, after a courteous embrace, dismissed him with rich

presents and a military guard. No sooner did he reach the confines

of the empire, than he was informed that the palace and provinces had disclaimed their allegiance to a captive: a sum of two hundred thousand

pieces was painfully collected; and the fallen monarch transmitted this

part of his ransom, with a sad confession of his impotence and disgrace. the generosity, or perhaps the ambition, of the sultan, prepared to espouse the cause of his ally; but his designs were prevented by the defeat, imprisonment, and death, of Romanus Diogenes.

In the treaty of peace, it does not appear that Alp Arslan extorted any

province or city from the captive emperor; and his revenge was satisfied with the trophies of his victory, and the spoils of Anatolia, from antioch to the Black Sea. The fairest part of Asia was subject to his

laws: twelve hundred princes, or the sons of princes, stood before his throne; and two hundred thousand soldiers marched under his banners. the sultan disdained to pursue the fugitive Greeks; but he meditated the

more glorious conquest of Turkestan, the original seat of the house

of Seljuk. He moved from Bagdad to the banks of the Oxus; a bridge was thrown over the river; and twenty days were consumed in the passage

of his troops. But the progress of the great king was retarded by the

governor of Berzem; and Joseph the Carizmian presumed to defend his fortress against the powers of the East. When he was produced a captive

in the royal tent, the sultan, instead of praising his valor, severely

reproached his obstinate folly: and the insolent replies of the rebel

provoked a sentence, that he should be fastened to four stakes, and

left to expire in that painful situation. At this command, the desperate carizmian, drawing a dagger, rushed headlong towards the throne: the

guards raised their battle-axes; their zeal was checked by Alp Arslan, the most skilful archer of the age: he drew his bow, but his foot

slipped, the arrow glanced aside, and he received in his breast the dagger of Joseph, who was instantly cut in pieces. The wound was mortal; and the Turkish prince bequeathed a dying admonition to the pride of

kings. "In my youth," said Alp Arslan, "I was advised by a sage to

humble myself before God; to distrust my own strength; and never to despise the most contemptible foe. I have neglected these lessons; and

my neglect has been deservedly punished. Yesterday, as from an eminence

I beheld the numbers, the discipline, and the spirit, of my armies, the earth seemed to tremble under my feet; and I said in my heart, Surely thou art the king of the world, the greatest and most invincible of warriors. These armies are no longer mine; and, in the confidence of my

personal strength, I now fall by the hand of an assassin." Alp Arslan

possessed the virtues of a Turk and a Mussulman; his voice and stature commanded the reverence of mankind; his face was shaded with long whiskers; and his ample turban was fashioned in the shape of a crown. the remains of the sultan were deposited in the tomb of the Seljukian dynasty; and the passenger might read and meditate this useful

inscription: "O ye who have seen the glory of Alp Arslan exalted to the

heavens, repair to Maru, and you will behold it buried in the dust." the annihilation of the inscription, and the tomb itself, more forcibly

proclaims the instability of human greatness.

during the life of Alp Arslan, his eldest son had been acknowledged as the future sultan of the Turks. On his father's death the inheritance was disputed by an uncle, a cousin, and a brother: they drew their cimeters, and assembled their followers; and the triple victory of Malek

Shah established his own reputation and the right of primogeniture. In every age, and more especially in Asia, the thirst of power has inspired the same passions, and occasioned the same disorders; but, from the long

series of civil war, it would not be easy to extract a sentiment more

pure and magnanimous than is contained in the saying of the Turkish

prince. On the eve of the battle, he performed his devotions at Thous, before the tomb of the Imam Riza. As the sultan rose from the ground,

he asked his vizier Nizam, who had knelt beside him, what had been the object of his secret petition: "That your arms may be crowned with

victory," was the prudent, and most probably the sincere, answer of the

minister. "For my part," replied the generous Malek, "I implored the

Lord of Hosts that he would take from me my life and crown, if my brother be more worthy than myself to reign over the Moslems." The favorable judgment of heaven was ratified by the caliph; and for the first time, the sacred title of Commander of the Faithful was communicated to a Barbarian. But this Barbarian, by his personal merit, and the extent of his empire, was the greatest prince of his age. after the settlement of Persia and Syria, he marched at the head of

innumerable armies to achieve the conquest of Turkestan, which had been

undertaken by his father. In his passage of the Oxus, the boatmen, who

had been employed in transporting some troops, complained, that their

payment was assigned on the revenues of Antioch. The sultan frowned at this preposterous choice; but he smiled at the artful flattery of his

vizier. "It was not to postpone their reward, that I selected those

remote places, but to leave a memorial to posterity, that, under your

reign, Antioch and the Oxus were subject to the same sovereign." But this description of his limits was unjust and parsimonious: beyond the

Oxus, he reduced to his obedience the cities of Bochara, Carizme, and

Samarcand, and crushed each rebellious slave, or independent savage, who dared to resist. Malek passed the Sihon or Jaxartes, the last boundary

of Persian civilization: the hordes of Turkestan yielded to his

supremacy: his name was inserted on the coins, and in the prayers of cashgar, a Tartar kingdom on the extreme borders of China. From the chinese frontier, he stretched his immediate jurisdiction or feudatory

sway to the west and south, as far as the mountains of Georgia, the

neighborhood of Constantinople, the holy city of Jerusalem, and the

spicy groves of Arabia Felix. Instead of resigning himself to the luxury

of his harem, the shepherd king, both in peace and war, was in action and in the field. By the perpetual motion of the royal camp, each

province was successively blessed with his presence; and he is said to

have perambulated twelve times the wide extent of his dominions, which surpassed the \_Asiatic\_ reign of Cyrus and the caliphs. Of these expeditions, the most pious and splendid was the pilgrimage of Mecca: the freedom and safety of the caravans were protected by his arms; the citizens and pilgrims were enriched by the profusion of his alms; and the desert was cheered by the places of relief and refreshment, which

he instituted for the use of his brethren. Hunting was the pleasure, and even the passion, of the sultan, and his train consisted of forty-seven thousand horses; but after the massacre of a Turkish chase, for each

piece of game, he bestowed a piece of gold on the poor, a slight atonement, at the expense of the people, for the cost and mischief of the amusement of kings. In the peaceful prosperity of his reign, the cities of Asia were adorned with palaces and hospitals with moschs and colleges; few departed from his Divan without reward, and none without

justice. The language and literature of Persia revived under the house

of Seljuk; and if Malek emulated the liberality of a Turk less potent than himself, his palace might resound with the songs of a hundred

poets. The sultan bestowed a more serious and learned care on the

reformation of the calendar, which was effected by a general assembly

of the astronomers of the East. By a law of the prophet, the Moslems are confined to the irregular course of the lunar months; in Persia, since the age of Zoroaster, the revolution of the sun has been known and celebrated as an annual festival; but after the fall of the Magian empire, the intercalation had been neglected; the fractions of minutes and hours were multiplied into days; and the date of the springs was

removed from the sign of Aries to that of Pisces. The reign of Malek was

illustrated by the \_Gelalan\_ æra; and all errors, either past or future, were corrected by a computation of time, which surpasses the Julian, and approaches the accuracy of the Gregorian, style.

In a period when Europe was plunged in the deepest barbarism, the light and splendor of Asia may be ascribed to the docility rather than the

knowledge of the Turkish conquerors. An ample share of their wisdom and

virtue is due to a Persian vizier, who ruled the empire under the reigns

of Alp Arslan and his son. Nizam, one of the most illustrious ministers

of the East, was honored by the caliph as an oracle of religion and

science; he was trusted by the sultan as the faithful vicegerent of his

power and justice. After an administration of thirty years, the fame

of the vizier, his wealth, and even his services, were transformed into crimes. He was overthrown by the insidious arts of a woman and a rival; and his fall was hastened by a rash declaration, that his cap and

ink-horn, the badges of his office, were connected by the divine decree with the throne and diadem of the sultan. At the age of ninety-three

years, the venerable statesman was dismissed by his master, accused by his enemies, and murdered by a fanatic: the last words of Nizam attested his innocence, and the remainder of Malek's life was short and

inglorious. From Ispahan, the scene of this disgraceful transaction, the

sultan moved to Bagdad, with the design of transplanting the caliph, and of fixing his own residence in the capital of the Moslem world. The feeble successor of Mahomet obtained a respite of ten days; and before the expiration of the term, the Barbarian was summoned by the angel of death. His ambassadors at Constantinople had asked in marriage a Roman

princess; but the proposal was decently eluded; and the daughter

of Alexius, who might herself have been the victim, expresses her abhorrence of his unnatural conjunction. The daughter of the sultan was bestowed on the caliph Moctadi, with the imperious condition, that,

renouncing the society of his wives and concubines, he should forever confine himself to this honorable alliance.

chapter LVII: The Turks.--Part III.

the greatness and unity of the Turkish empire expired in the person of

Malek Shah. His vacant throne was disputed by his brother and his four

sons; and, after a series of civil wars, the treaty which reconciled the surviving candidates confirmed a lasting separation in the \_Persia\_ dynasty, the eldest and principal branch of the house of Seljuk. The three younger dynasties were those of \_Kerman\_, of \_Syria\_, and of

\_Roum\_: the first of these commanded an extensive, though obscure, dominion on the shores of the Indian Ocean: the second expelled the arabian princes of Aleppo and Damascus; and the third, our peculiar care, invaded the Roman provinces of Asia Minor. The generous policy

of Malek contributed to their elevation: he allowed the princes of

his blood, even those whom he had vanquished in the field, to seek

new kingdoms worthy of their ambition; nor was he displeased that they

should draw away the more ardent spirits, who might have disturbed the tranquillity of his reign. As the supreme head of his family and nation, the great sultan of Persia commanded the obedience and tribute of his

royal brethren: the thrones of Kerman and Nice, of Aleppo and Damascus; the Atabeks, and emirs of Syria and Mesopotamia, erected their standards

under the shadow of his sceptre: and the hordes of Turkmans overspread the plains of the Western Asia. After the death of Malek, the bands

of union and subordination were relaxed and finally dissolved: the

indulgence of the house of Seljuk invested their slaves with the

inheritance of kingdoms; and, in the Oriental style, a crowd of princes arose from the dust of their feet.

a prince of the royal line, Cutulmish, the son of Izrail, the son of

Seljuk, had fallen in a battle against Alp Arslan and the humane victor

had dropped a tear over his grave. His five sons, strong in arms, ambitious of power, and eager for revenge, unsheathed their cimeters against the son of Alp Arslan. The two armies expected the signal when the caliph, forgetful of the majesty which secluded him from vulgar eyes, interposed his venerable mediation. "Instead of shedding the blood

of your brethren, your brethren both in descent and faith, unite your forces in a holy war against the Greeks, the enemies of God and his apostle." They listened to his voice; the sultan embraced his rebellious

kinsmen; and the eldest, the valiant Soliman, accepted the royal

standard, which gave him the free conquest and hereditary command of the

provinces of the Roman empire, from Arzeroum to Constantinople, and the

unknown regions of the West. Accompanied by his four brothers, he passed the Euphrates; the Turkish camp was soon seated in the neighborhood of

Kutaieh in Phrygia; and his flying cavalry laid waste the country as far as the Hellespont and the Black Sea. Since the decline of the empire, the peninsula of Asia Minor had been exposed to the transient, though destructive, inroads of the Persians and Saracens; but the fruits of a

lasting conquest were reserved for the Turkish sultan; and his arms were

introduced by the Greeks, who aspired to reign on the ruins of their country. Since the captivity of Romanus, six years the feeble son of eudocia had trembled under the weight of the Imperial crown, till the

provinces of the East and West were lost in the same month by a double

rebellion: of either chief Nicephorus was the common name; but the

surnames of Bryennius and Botoniates distinguish the European and asiatic candidates. Their reasons, or rather their promises, were weighed in the Divan; and, after some hesitation, Soliman declared

himself in favor of Botoniates, opened a free passage to his troops in their march from Antioch to Nice, and joined the banner of the Crescent to that of the Cross. After his ally had ascended the throne of constantinople, the sultan was hospitably entertained in the suburb of chrysopolis or Scutari; and a body of two thousand Turks was transported

into Europe, to whose dexterity and courage the new emperor was indebted for the defeat and captivity of his rival, Bryennius. But the conquest

of Europe was dearly purchased by the sacrifice of Asia: Constantinople was deprived of the obedience and revenue of the provinces beyond the bosphorus and Hellespont; and the regular progress of the Turks, who fortified the passes of the rivers and mountains, left not a hope of their retreat or expulsion. Another candidate implored the aid of the

sultan: Melissenus, in his purple robes and red buskins, attended the

motions of the Turkish camp; and the desponding cities were tempted by the summons of a Roman prince, who immediately surrendered them into the

hands of the Barbarians. These acquisitions were confirmed by a treaty

of peace with the emperor Alexius: his fear of Robert compelled him to

seek the friendship of Soliman; and it was not till after the sultan's death that he extended as far as Nicomedia, about sixty miles from constantinople, the eastern boundary of the Roman world. Trebizond alone, defended on either side by the sea and mountains, preserved at the extremity of the Euxine the ancient character of a Greek colony, and the future destiny of a Christian empire.

Since the first conquests of the caliphs, the establishment of the Turks

in Anatolia or Asia Minor was the most deplorable loss which the church and empire had sustained. By the propagation of the Moslem faith,

Soliman deserved the name of \_Gazi\_, a holy champion; and his new

kingdoms, of the Romans, or of \_Roum\_, was added to the tables of

Oriental geography. It is described as extending from the Euphrates to constantinople, from the Black Sea to the confines of Syria; pregnant with mines of silver and iron, of alum and copper, fruitful in corn and wine, and productive of cattle and excellent horses. The wealth of

Lydia, the arts of the Greeks, the splendor of the Augustan age, existed

only in books and ruins, which were equally obscure in the eyes of the

Scythian conquerors. Yet, in the present decay, Anatolia still contains

\_some\_ wealthy and populous cities; and, under the Byzantine empire, they were far more flourishing in numbers, size, and opulence. By the choice of the sultan, Nice, the metropolis of Bithynia, was preferred for his palace and fortress: the seat of the Seljukian dynasty of Roum was planted one hundred miles from Constantinople; and the divinity of christ was denied and derided in the same temple in which it had been

pronounced by the first general synod of the Catholics. The unity

of God, and the mission of Mahomet, were preached in the moschs; the arabian learning was taught in the schools; the Cadhis judged according to the law of the Koran; the Turkish manners and language prevailed

in the cities; and Turkman camps were scattered over the plains and

mountains of Anatolia. On the hard conditions of tribute and servitude, the Greek Christians might enjoy the exercise of their religion; but their most holy churches were profaned; their priests and bishops were

insulted; they were compelled to suffer the triumph of the \_Pagans\_, and the apostasy of their brethren; many thousand children were marked by the knife of circumcision; and many thousand captives were devoted to the service or the pleasures of their masters. After the loss of Asia, antioch still maintained her primitive allegiance to Christ and cæsar; but the solitary province was separated from all Roman aid, and surrounded on all sides by the Mahometan powers. The despair of

Philaretus the governor prepared the sacrifice of his religion and

loyalty, had not his guilt been prevented by his son, who hastened to the Nicene palace, and offered to deliver this valuable prize into the

hands of Soliman. The ambitious sultan mounted on horseback, and in twelve nights (for he reposed in the day) performed a march of six

hundred miles. Antioch was oppressed by the speed and secrecy of

his enterprise; and the dependent cities, as far as Laodicea and the confines of Aleppo, obeyed the example of the metropolis. From Laodicea to the Thracian Bosphorus, or arm of St. George, the conquests and reign

of Soliman extended thirty days' journey in length, and in breadth about ten or fifteen, between the rocks of Lycia and the Black Sea. The turkish ignorance of navigation protected, for a while, the inglorious

safety of the emperor; but no sooner had a fleet of two hundred ships been constructed by the hands of the captive Greeks, than Alexius trembled behind the walls of his capital. His plaintive epistles were dispersed over Europe, to excite the compassion of the Latins, and to paint the danger, the weakness, and the riches of the city of constantine.

but the most interesting conquest of the Seljukian Turks was that

of Jerusalem, which soon became the theatre of nations. In their capitulation with Omar, the inhabitants had stipulated the assurance

of their religion and property; but the articles were interpreted by a

master against whom it was dangerous to dispute; and in the four hundred

years of the reign of the caliphs, the political climate of Jerusalem was exposed to the vicissitudes of storm and sunshine. By the increase

of proselytes and population, the Mahometans might excuse the usurpation

of three fourths of the city: but a peculiar quarter was resolved for the patriarch with his clergy and people; a tribute of two pieces of

gold was the price of protection; and the sepulchre of Christ, with the church of the Resurrection, was still left in the hands of his votaries.

Of these votaries, the most numerous and respectable portion were

strangers to Jerusalem: the pilgrimages to the Holy Land had been

stimulated, rather than suppressed, by the conquest of the Arabs; and the enthusiasm which had always prompted these perilous journeys, was

nourished by the congenial passions of grief and indignation. A crowd of

pilgrims from the East and West continued to visit the holy sepulchre, and the adjacent sanctuaries, more especially at the festival of Easter; and the Greeks and Latins, the Nestorians and Jacobites, the Copts and abyssinians, the Armenians and Georgians, maintained the chapels, the clergy, and the poor of their respective communions. The harmony of

prayer in so many various tongues, the worship of so many nations in the common temple of their religion, might have afforded a spectacle

of edification and peace; but the zeal of the Christian sects was

imbittered by hatred and revenge; and in the kingdom of a suffering

Messiah, who had pardoned his enemies, they aspired to command and

persecute their spiritual brethren. The preëminence was asserted by the spirit and numbers of the Franks; and the greatness of Charlemagne

protected both the Latin pilgrims and the Catholics of the East. The

poverty of Carthage, Alexandria, and Jerusalem, was relieved by the alms

of that pious emperor; and many monasteries of Palestine were founded

or restored by his liberal devotion. Harun Alrashid, the greatest of the Abbassides, esteemed in his Christian brother a similar supremacy

of genius and power: their friendship was cemented by a frequent

intercourse of gifts and embassies; and the caliph, without resigning the substantial dominion, presented the emperor with the keys of the

holy sepulchre, and perhaps of the city of Jerusalem. In the decline of the Carlovingian monarchy, the republic of Amalphi promoted the interest

of trade and religion in the East. Her vessels transported the Latin

pilgrims to the coasts of Egypt and Palestine, and deserved, by their

useful imports, the favor and alliance of the Fatimite caliphs: an annual fair was instituted on Mount Calvary: and the Italian merchants founded the convent and hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, the cradle of the monastic and military order, which has since reigned in the isles of

Rhodes and of Malta. Had the Christian pilgrims been content to revere the tomb of a prophet, the disciples of Mahomet, instead of blaming, would have imitated, their piety: but these rigid \_Unitarians\_ were

scandalized by a worship which represents the birth, death, and

resurrection, of a God; the Catholic images were branded with the name

of idols; and the Moslems smiled with indignation at the miraculous flame which was kindled on the eve of Easter in the holy sepulchre. This

pious fraud, first devised in the ninth century, was devoutly cherished by the Latin crusaders, and is annually repeated by the clergy of the Greek, Armenian, and Coptic sects, who impose on the credulous

spectators for their own benefit, and that of their tyrants. In every age, a principle of toleration has been fortified by a sense of

interest: and the revenue of the prince and his emir was increased each

year, by the expense and tribute of so many thousand strangers.

the revolution which transferred the sceptre from the Abbassides to the Fatimites was a benefit, rather than an injury, to the Holy Land. a sovereign resident in Egypt was more sensible of the importance of christian trade; and the emirs of Palestine were less remote from the

justice and power of the throne. But the third of these Fatimite caliphs was the famous Hakem, a frantic youth, who was delivered by his impiety and despotism from the fear either of God or man; and whose reign was a wild mixture of vice and folly. Regardless of the most ancient customs

of Egypt, he imposed on the women an absolute confinement; the restraint excited the clamors of both sexes; their clamors provoked his fury; a part of Old Cairo was delivered to the flames and the guards and citizens were engaged many days in a bloody conflict. At first the caliph declared himself a zealous Mussulman, the founder or benefactor

of moschs and colleges: twelve hundred and ninety copies of the Koran were transcribed at his expense in letters of gold; and his edict extirpated the vineyards of the Upper Egypt. But his vanity was soon flattered by the hope of introducing a new religion; he aspired above the fame of a prophet, and styled himself the visible image of the Most

High God, who, after nine apparitions on earth, was at length manifest

in his royal person. At the name of Hakem, the lord of the living and the dead, every knee was bent in religious adoration: his mysteries were

performed on a mountain near Cairo: sixteen thousand converts had signed

his profession of faith; and at the present hour, a free and warlike

people, the Druses of Mount Libanus, are persuaded of the life and divinity of a madman and tyrant. In his divine character, Hakem hated the Jews and Christians, as the servants of his rivals; while some

remains of prejudice or prudence still pleaded in favor of the law of

Mahomet. Both in Egypt and Palestine, his cruel and wanton persecution

made some martyrs and many apostles: the common rights and special

privileges of the sectaries were equally disregarded; and a general

interdict was laid on the devotion of strangers and natives. The temple

of the Christian world, the church of the Resurrection, was demolished to its foundations; the luminous prodigy of Easter was interrupted, and

much profane labor was exhausted to destroy the cave in the rock which properly constitutes the holy sepulchre. At the report of this

sacrilege, the nations of Europe were astonished and afflicted: but

instead of arming in the defence of the Holy Land, they contented themselves with burning, or banishing, the Jews, as the secret advisers

of the impious Barbarian. Yet the calamities of Jerusalem were in some

measure alleviated by the inconstancy or repentance of Hakem himself; and the royal mandate was sealed for the restitution of the churches, when the tyrant was assassinated by the emissaries of his sister. The

succeeding caliphs resumed the maxims of religion and policy: a free toleration was again granted; with the pious aid of the emperor of constantinople, the holy sepulchre arose from its ruins; and, after a

short abstinence, the pilgrims returned with an increase of appetite to the spiritual feast. In the sea-voyage of Palestine, the dangers were frequent, and the opportunities rare: but the conversion of Hungary

opened a safe communication between Germany and Greece. The charity

of St. Stephen, the apostle of his kingdom, relieved and conducted his

itinerant brethren; and from Belgrade to Antioch, they traversed fifteen

hundred miles of a Christian empire. Among the Franks, the zeal of

pilgrimage prevailed beyond the example of former times: and the roads were covered with multitudes of either sex, and of every rank, who

professed their contempt of life, so soon as they should have kissed the tomb of their Redeemer. Princes and prelates abandoned the care of their dominions; and the numbers of these pious caravans were a prelude to the armies which marched in the ensuing age under the banner of the cross. about thirty years before the first crusade, the arch bishop of Mentz, with the bishops of Utrecht, Bamberg, and Ratisbon, undertook this

laborious journey from the Rhine to the Jordan; and the multitude of their followers amounted to seven thousand persons. At Constantinople, they were hospitably entertained by the emperor; but the ostentation

of their wealth provoked the assault of the wild Arabs: they drew their

swords with scrupulous reluctance, and sustained siege in the village

of Capernaum, till they were rescued by the venal protection of the fatimite emir. After visiting the holy places, they embarked for Italy, but only a remnant of two thousand arrived in safety in their native

land. Ingulphus, a secretary of William the Conqueror, was a companion

of this pilgrimage: he observes that they sailed from Normandy, thirty

stout and well-appointed horsemen; but that they repassed the Alps, twenty miserable palmers, with the staff in their hand, and the wallet at their back.

after the defeat of the Romans, the tranquillity of the Fatimite caliphs was invaded by the Turks. One of the lieutenants of Malek Shah, Atsiz the Carizmian, marched into Syria at the head of a powerful army, and

reduced Damascus by famine and the sword. Hems, and the other cities

of the province, acknowledged the caliph of Bagdad and the sultan of

Persia; and the victorious emir advanced without resistance to the banks

of the Nile: the Fatimite was preparing to fly into the heart of africa; but the negroes of his guard and the inhabitants of Cairo made a desperate sally, and repulsed the Turk from the confines of Egypt. In

his retreat he indulged the license of slaughter and rapine: the judge and notaries of Jerusalem were invited to his camp; and their execution was followed by the massacre of three thousand citizens. The cruelty or the defeat of Atsiz was soon punished by the sultan Toucush, the brother

of Malek Shah, who, with a higher title and more formidable powers, asserted the dominion of Syria and Palestine. The house of Seljuk

reigned about twenty years in Jerusalem; but the hereditary command

of the holy city and territory was intrusted or abandoned to the emir

Ortok, the chief of a tribe of Turkmans, whose children, after their expulsion from Palestine, formed two dynasties on the borders of Armenia and Assyria. The Oriental Christians and the Latin pilgrims deplored a

revolution, which, instead of the regular government and old alliance

of the caliphs, imposed on their necks the iron yoke of the strangers

of the North. In his court and camp the great sultan had adopted in

some degree the arts and manners of Persia; but the body of the Turkish

nation, and more especially the pastoral tribes, still breathed the fierceness of the desert. From Nice to Jerusalem, the western countries

of Asia were a scene of foreign and domestic hostility; and the

shepherds of Palestine, who held a precarious sway on a doubtful frontier, had neither leisure nor capacity to await the slow profits of commercial and religious freedom. The pilgrims, who, through innumerable

perils, had reached the gates of Jerusalem, were the victims of private

rapine or public oppression, and often sunk under the pressure of famine and disease, before they were permitted to salute the holy sepulchre. a spirit of native barbarism, or recent zeal, prompted the Turkmans to

insult the clergy of every sect: the patriarch was dragged by the hair along the pavement, and cast into a dungeon, to extort a ransom from the sympathy of his flock; and the divine worship in the church of the

Resurrection was often disturbed by the savage rudeness of its masters. the pathetic tale excited the millions of the West to march under the standard of the cross to the relief of the Holy Land; and yet how trifling is the sum of these accumulated evils, if compared with the

single act of the sacrilege of Hakem, which had been so patiently endured by the Latin Christians! A slighter provocation inflamed the

more irascible temper of their descendants: a new spirit had arisen of

religious chivalry and papal dominion; a nerve was touched of exquisite feeling; and the sensation vibrated to the heart of Europe.

chapter LVIII: The First Crusade.--Part I.

Origin And Numbers Of The First Crusade.--Characters Of The

Latin Princes.--Their March To Constantinople.--Policy Of

The Greek Emperor Alexius.--Conquest Of Nice, Antioch, And

Jerusalem, By The Franks.--Deliverance Of The Holy

Sepulchre.--Godfrey Of Bouillon, First King Of Jerusalem.--

Institutions Of The French Or Latin Kingdom.

about twenty years after the conquest of Jerusalem by the Turks, the

holy sepulchre was visited by a hermit of the name of Peter, a native

of Amiens, in the province of Picardy in France. His resentment and

sympathy were excited by his own injuries and the oppression of the christian name; he mingled his tears with those of the patriarch, and earnestly inquired, if no hopes of relief could be entertained from the

Greek emperors of the East. The patriarch exposed the vices and weakness

of the successors of Constantine. "I will rouse," exclaimed the hermit,

"the martial nations of Europe in your cause;" and Europe was obedient to the call of the hermit. The astonished patriarch dismissed him with epistles of credit and complaint; and no sooner did he land at Bari, than Peter hastened to kiss the feet of the Roman pontiff. His stature was small, his appearance contemptible; but his eye was keen and lively; and he possessed that vehemence of speech, which seldom fails to impart the persuasion of the soul. He was born of a gentleman's family, (for we

must now adopt a modern idiom,) and his military service was under the

neighboring counts of Boulogne, the heroes of the first crusade. But he

soon relinquished the sword and the world; and if it be true, that his wife, however noble, was aged and ugly, he might withdraw, with the less

reluctance, from her bed to a convent, and at length to a hermitage.

\* In this austere solitude, his body was emaciated, his fancy was

inflamed; whatever he wished, he believed; whatever he believed, he

saw in dreams and revelations. From Jerusalem the pilgrim returned an accomplished fanatic; but as he excelled in the popular madness of the times, Pope Urban the Second received him as a prophet, applauded

his glorious design, promised to support it in a general council, and encouraged him to proclaim the deliverance of the Holy Land. Invigorated by the approbation of the pontiff, his zealous missionary traversed. with speed and success, the provinces of Italy and France. His diet was abstemious, his prayers long and fervent, and the alms which he received with one hand, he distributed with the other: his head was bare, his feet naked, his meagre body was wrapped in a coarse garment; he bore and displayed a weighty crucifix; and the ass on which he rode was

sanctified, in the public eye, by the service of the man of God. He

preached to innumerable crowds in the churches, the streets, and the

highways: the hermit entered with equal confidence the palace and the cottage; and the people (for all was people) was impetuously moved by

his call to repentance and arms. When he painted the sufferings of the

natives and pilgrims of Palestine, every heart was melted to compassion; every breast glowed with indignation, when he challenged the warriors of the age to defend their brethren, and rescue their Savior: his

ignorance of art and language was compensated by sighs, and tears, and ejaculations; and Peter supplied the deficiency of reason by loud and frequent appeals to Christ and his mother, to the saints and angels of

paradise, with whom he had personally conversed. The most perfect orator

of Athens might have envied the success of his eloquence; the rustic enthusiast inspired the passions which he felt, and Christendom expected with impatience the counsels and decrees of the supreme pontiff.

the magnanimous spirit of Gregory the Seventh had already embraced the design of arming Europe against Asia; the ardor of his zeal and ambition

still breathes in his epistles: from either side of the Alps, fifty thousand Catholics had enlisted under the banner of St. Peter; and his

successor reveals his intention of marching at their head against the

impious sectaries of Mahomet. But the glory or reproach of executing, though not in person, this holy enterprise, was reserved for Urban the

Second, the most faithful of his disciples. He undertook the conquest of the East, whilst the larger portion of Rome was possessed and fortified by his rival Guibert of Ravenna, who contended with Urban for the name and honors of the pontificate. He attempted to unite the powers of the west, at a time when the princes were separated from the church, and the

people from their princes, by the excommunication which himself and his

predecessors had thundered against the emperor and the king of France.

Philip the First, of France, supported with patience the censures which

he had provoked by his scandalous life and adulterous marriage.

Henry the Fourth, of Germany, asserted the right of investitures, the

prerogative of confirming his bishops by the delivery of the ring and crosier. But the emperor's party was crushed in Italy by the arms of the Normans and the Countess Mathilda; and the long quarrel had been

recently envenomed by the revolt of his son Conrad and the shame of

his wife, who, in the synods of Constance and Placentia, confessed the manifold prostitutions to which she had been exposed by a husband

regardless of her honor and his own. So popular was the cause of Urban,

so weighty was his influence, that the council which he summoned at Placentia was composed of two hundred bishops of Italy, France, burgandy, Swabia, and Bavaria. Four thousand of the clergy, and thirty thousand of the laity, attended this important meeting; and, as the

most spacious cathedral would have been inadequate to the multitude, the session of seven days was held in a plain adjacent to the city. The ambassadors of the Greek emperor, Alexius Comnenus, were introduced to

plead the distress of their sovereign, and the danger of Constantinople, which was divided only by a narrow sea from the victorious Turks, the common enemies of the Christian name. In their suppliant address they flattered the pride of the Latin princes; and, appealing at once to their policy and religion, exhorted them to repel the Barbarians on the confines of Asia, rather than to expect them in the heart of Europe. at the sad tale of the misery and perils of their Eastern brethren, the assembly burst into tears; the most eager champions declared their

readiness to march; and the Greek ambassadors were dismissed with the assurance of a speedy and powerful succor. The relief of Constantinople was included in the larger and most distant project of the deliverance

of Jerusalem; but the prudent Urban adjourned the final decision to a

second synod, which he proposed to celebrate in some city of France in the autumn of the same year. The short delay would propagate the flame

of enthusiasm; and his firmest hope was in a nation of soldiers still

proud of the preëminence of their name, and ambitious to emulate their

hero Charlemagne, who, in the popular romance of Turpin, had achieved the conquest of the Holy Land. A latent motive of affection or vanity

might influence the choice of Urban: he was himself a native of France, a monk of Clugny, and the first of his countrymen who ascended the throne of St. Peter. The pope had illustrated his family and province;

nor is there perhaps a more exquisite gratification than to revisit, in a conspicuous dignity, the humble and laborious scenes of our youth.

It may occasion some surprise that the Roman pontiff should erect, in the heart of France, the tribunal from whence he hurled his anathemas against the king; but our surprise will vanish so soon as we form a just estimate of a king of France of the eleventh century. Philip the First was the great-grandson of Hugh Capet, the founder of the present race, who, in the decline of Charlemagne's posterity, added the regal title to

his patrimonial estates of Paris and Orleans. In this narrow compass,

he was possessed of wealth and jurisdiction; but in the rest of France,

Hugh and his first descendants were no more than the feudal lords of about sixty dukes and counts, of independent and hereditary power, who disdained the control of laws and legal assemblies, and whose disregard

of their sovereign was revenged by the disobedience of their inferior

vassals. At Clermont, in the territories of the count of Auvergne, the

pope might brave with impunity the resentment of Philip; and the council which he convened in that city was not less numerous or respectable than the synod of Placentia. Besides his court and council of Roman cardinals, he was supported by thirteen archbishops and two hundred and twenty-five bishops: the number of mitred prelates was computed at four

hundred; and the fathers of the church were blessed by the saints and enlightened by the doctors of the age. From the adjacent kingdoms, a

martial train of lords and knights of power and renown attended the council, in high expectation of its resolves; and such was the ardor of

zeal and curiosity, that the city was filled, and many thousands, in the month of November, erected their tents or huts in the open field. a session of eight days produced some useful or edifying canons for the reformation of manners; a severe censure was pronounced against the

license of private war; the Truce of God was confirmed, a suspension of

hostilities during four days of the week; women and priests were placed

under the safeguard of the church; and a protection of three years was extended to husbandmen and merchants, the defenceless victims of

military rapine. But a law, however venerable be the sanction, cannot

suddenly transform the temper of the times; and the benevolent efforts

of Urban deserve the less praise, since he labored to appease some domestic quarrels that he might spread the flames of war from the atlantic to the Euphrates. From the synod of Placentia, the rumor of

his great design had gone forth among the nations: the clergy on their return had preached in every diocese the merit and glory of the deliverance of the Holy Land; and when the pope ascended a lofty

scaffold in the market-place of Clermont, his eloquence was addressed to a well-prepared and impatient audience. His topics were obvious,

his exhortation was vehement, his success inevitable. The orator was

interrupted by the shout of thousands, who with one voice, and in their

rustic idiom, exclaimed aloud, "God wills it, God wills it." "It is

indeed the will of God," replied the pope; "and let this memorable word, the inspiration surely of the Holy Spirit, be forever adopted as your cry of battle, to animate the devotion and courage of the champions of christ. His cross is the symbol of your salvation; wear it, a red, a bloody cross, as an external mark, on your breasts or shoulders, as a pledge of your sacred and irrevocable engagement." The proposal was joyfully accepted; great numbers, both of the clergy and laity,

impressed on their garments the sign of the cross, and solicited the

pope to march at their head. This dangerous honor was declined by the

more prudent successor of Gregory, who alleged the schism of the church, and the duties of his pastoral office, recommending to the faithful, who were disqualified by sex or profession, by age or infirmity, to aid, with their prayers and alms, the personal service of their robust brethren. The name and powers of his legate he devolved on Adhemar bishop of Puy, the first who had received the cross at his hands. The foremost of the temporal chiefs was Raymond count of Thoulouse, whose ambassadors in the council excused the absence, and pledged the honor,

of their master. After the confession and absolution of their sins, the champions of the cross were dismissed with a superfluous admonition to

invite their countrymen and friends; and their departure for the Holy

Land was fixed to the festival of the Assumption, the fifteenth of august, of the ensuing year.

So familiar, and as it were so natural to man, is the practice of

violence, that our indulgence allows the slightest provocation, the most disputable right, as a sufficient ground of national hostility. But the

name and nature of a \_holy war\_ demands a more rigorous scrutiny; nor can we hastily believe, that the servants of the Prince of Peace would

unsheathe the sword of destruction, unless the motive were pure, the

quarrel legitimate, and the necessity inevitable. The policy of an action may be determined from the tardy lessons of experience; but, before we act, our conscience should be satisfied of the justice and

propriety of our enterprise. In the age of the crusades, the Christians, both of the East and West, were persuaded of their lawfulness and merit; their arguments are clouded by the perpetual abuse of Scripture and

rhetoric; but they seem to insist on the right of natural and religious defence, their peculiar title to the Holy Land, and the impiety of their

Pagan and Mahometan foes. I. The right of a just defence may fairly

include our civil and spiritual allies: it depends on the existence of danger; and that danger must be estimated by the twofold consideration

of the malice, and the power, of our enemies. A pernicious tenet has been imputed to the Mahometans, the duty of \_extirpating\_ all other

religions by the sword. This charge of ignorance and bigotry is refuted by the Koran, by the history of the Mussulman conquerors, and by their

public and legal toleration of the Christian worship. But it cannot be denied, that the Oriental churches are depressed under their iron yoke; that, in peace and war, they assert a divine and indefeasible claim of

universal empire; and that, in their orthodox creed, the unbelieving

nations are continually threatened with the loss of religion or liberty.

In the eleventh century, the victorious arms of the Turks presented a

real and urgent apprehension of these losses. They had subdued, in less than thirty years, the kingdoms of Asia, as far as Jerusalem and the

Hellespont; and the Greek empire tottered on the verge of destruction. besides an honest sympathy for their brethren, the Latins had a right and interest in the support of Constantinople, the most important barrier of the West; and the privilege of defence must reach to prevent, as well as to repel, an impending assault. But this salutary purpose

might have been accomplished by a moderate succor; and our calmer

reason must disclaim the innumerable hosts, and remote operations, which overwhelmed Asia and depopulated Europe. II. Palestine could add

nothing to the strength or safety of the Latins; and fanaticism alone could pretend to justify the conquest of that distant and narrow

province. The Christians affirmed that their inalienable title to the

promised land had been sealed by the blood of their divine Savior; it was their right and duty to rescue their inheritance from the unjust

possessors, who profaned his sepulchre, and oppressed the pilgrimage

of his disciples. Vainly would it be alleged that the preëminence of

Jerusalem, and the sanctity of Palestine, have been abolished with the

Mosaic law; that the God of the Christians is not a local deity, and that the recovery of Bethlem or Calvary, his cradle or his tomb, will

not atone for the violation of the moral precepts of the gospel. Such arguments glance aside from the leaden shield of superstition; and the

religious mind will not easily relinquish its hold on the sacred ground

of mystery and miracle. III. But the holy wars which have been waged

in every climate of the globe, from Egypt to Livonia, and from Peru to

Hindostan, require the support of some more general and flexible tenet.

It has been often supposed, and sometimes affirmed, that a difference of

religion is a worthy cause of hostility; that obstinate unbelievers may be slain or subdued by the champions of the cross; and that grace is the sole fountain of dominion as well as of mercy. Above four hundred

years before the first crusade, the eastern and western provinces of the Roman empire had been acquired about the same time, and in the same

manner, by the Barbarians of Germany and Arabia. Time and treaties had

legitimated the conquest of the \_Christian\_ Franks; but in the eyes of their subjects and neighbors, the Mahometan princes were still tyrants and usurpers, who, by the arms of war or rebellion, might be lawfully driven from their unlawful possession.

as the manners of the Christians were relaxed, their discipline of

penance was enforced; and with the multiplication of sins, the

remedies were multiplied. In the primitive church, a voluntary and

open confession prepared the work of atonement. In the middle ages, the bishops and priests interrogated the criminal; compelled him to account for his thoughts, words, and actions; and prescribed the terms of

his reconciliation with God. But as this discretionary power might alternately be abused by indulgence and tyranny, a rule of discipline was framed, to inform and regulate the spiritual judges. This mode

of legislation was invented by the Greeks; their \_penitentials\_ were translated, or imitated, in the Latin church; and, in the time of charlemagne, the clergy of every diocese were provided with a code, which they prudently concealed from the knowledge of the vulgar. In this dangerous estimate of crimes and punishments, each case was supposed, each difference was remarked, by the experience or penetration of the monks; some sins are enumerated which innocence could not have

suspected, and others which reason cannot believe; and the more ordinary

offences of fornication and adultery, of perjury and sacrilege, of

rapine and murder, were expiated by a penance, which, according to the

various circumstances, was prolonged from forty days to seven years. during this term of mortification, the patient was healed, the criminal was absolved, by a salutary regimen of fasts and prayers: the disorder

of his dress was expressive of grief and remorse; and he humbly abstained from all the business and pleasure of social life. But the

rigid execution of these laws would have depopulated the palace, the camp, and the city; the Barbarians of the West believed and trembled; but nature often rebelled against principle; and the magistrate labored without effect to enforce the jurisdiction of the priest. A literal accomplishment of penance was indeed impracticable: the guilt of adultery was multiplied by daily repetition; that of homicide might

involve the massacre of a whole people; each act was separately

numbered; and, in those times of anarchy and vice, a modest sinner might easily incur a debt of three hundred years. His insolvency was relieved by a commutation, or \_indulgence\_: a year of penance was appreciated at twenty-six \_solidi\_ of silver, about four pounds sterling, for the rich; at three solidi, or nine shillings, for the indigent: and these alms were soon appropriated to the use of the church, which derived, from the

redemption of sins, an inexhaustible source of opulence and dominion. a debt of three hundred years, or twelve hundred pounds, was enough to impoverish a plentiful fortune; the scarcity of gold and silver was

supplied by the alienation of land; and the princely donations of Pepin and Charlemagne are expressly given for the \_remedy\_ of their soul. It

is a maxim of the civil law, that whosoever cannot pay with his purse,

must pay with his body; and the practice of flagellation was adopted by the monks, a cheap, though painful equivalent. By a fantastic arithmetic, a year of penance was taxed at three thousand lashes; and

such was the skill and patience of a famous hermit, St. Dominic of the

iron Cuirass, that in six days he could discharge an entire century, by a whipping of three hundred thousand stripes. His example was followed by many penitents of both sexes; and, as a vicarious sacrifice was accepted, a sturdy disciplinarian might expiate on his own back the

sins of his benefactors. These compensations of the purse and the

person introduced, in the eleventh century, a more honorable mode of

satisfaction. The merit of military service against the Saracens of africa and Spain had been allowed by the predecessors of Urban the

Second. In the council of Clermont, that pope proclaimed a \_plenary

indulgence\_ to those who should enlist under the banner of the cross; the absolution of all their sins, and a full receipt for \_all\_ that

might be due of canonical penance. The cold philosophy of modern times

is incapable of feeling the impression that was made on a sinful and fanatic world. At the voice of their pastor, the robber, the incendiary, the homicide, arose by thousands to redeem their souls, by repeating

on the infidels the same deeds which they had exercised against their christian brethren; and the terms of atonement were eagerly embraced by offenders of every rank and denomination. None were pure; none were exempt from the guilt and penalty of sin; and those who were the least amenable to the justice of God and the church were the best entitled to the temporal and eternal recompense of their pious courage. If they fell, the spirit of the Latin clergy did not hesitate to adorn their tomb with the crown of martyrdom; and should they survive, they could expect without impatience the delay and increase of their heavenly

reward. They offered their blood to the Son of God, who had laid down

his life for their salvation: they took up the cross, and entered with confidence into the way of the Lord. His providence would watch over their safety; perhaps his visible and miraculous power would smooth the difficulties of their holy enterprise. The cloud and pillar of Jehovah

had marched before the Israelites into the promised land. Might not the christians more reasonably hope that the rivers would open for their

passage; that the walls of their strongest cities would fall at the

sound of their trumpets; and that the sun would be arrested in his mid career, to allow them time for the destruction of the infidels?

chapter LVIII: The First Crusade.--Part II.

Of the chiefs and soldiers who marched to the holy sepulchre, I will dare to affirm, that \_all\_ were prompted by the spirit of enthusiasm; the belief of merit, the hope of reward, and the assurance of divine aid. But I am equally persuaded, that in many it was not the sole, that

in \_some\_ it was not the leading, principle of action. The use and abuse

of religion are feeble to stem, they are strong and irresistible to

impel, the stream of national manners. Against the private wars of the barbarians, their bloody tournaments, licentious love, and judicial duels, the popes and synods might ineffectually thunder. It is a more easy task to provoke the metaphysical disputes of the Greeks, to drive

into the cloister the victims of anarchy or despotism, to sanctify the

patience of slaves and cowards, or to assume the merit of the humanity and benevolence of modern Christians. War and exercise were the reigning

passions of the Franks or Latins; they were enjoined, as a penance, to

gratify those passions, to visit distant lands, and to draw their swords against the nation of the East. Their victory, or even their attempt, would immortalize the names of the intrepid heroes of the cross; and the

purest piety could not be insensible to the most splendid prospect of

military glory. In the petty quarrels of Europe, they shed the blood of their friends and countrymen, for the acquisition perhaps of a castle

or a village. They could march with alacrity against the distant and

hostile nations who were devoted to their arms; their fancy already

grasped the golden sceptres of Asia; and the conquest of Apulia and

Sicily by the Normans might exalt to royalty the hopes of the most

private adventurer. Christendom, in her rudest state, must have yielded to the climate and cultivation of the Mahometan countries; and their

natural and artificial wealth had been magnified by the tales of

pilgrims, and the gifts of an imperfect commerce. The vulgar, both the

great and small, were taught to believe every wonder, of lands flowing with milk and honey, of mines and treasures, of gold and diamonds, of

palaces of marble and jasper, and of odoriferous groves of cinnamon and frankincense. In this earthly paradise, each warrior depended on

his sword to carve a plenteous and honorable establishment, which he

measured only by the extent of his wishes. Their vassals and soldiers trusted their fortunes to God and their master: the spoils of a Turkish emir might enrich the meanest follower of the camp; and the flavor

of the wines, the beauty of the Grecian women, were temptations more adapted to the nature, than to the profession, of the champions of the cross. The love of freedom was a powerful incitement to the multitudes who were oppressed by feudal or ecclesiastical tyranny. Under this holy

sign, the peasants and burghers, who were attached to the servitude of the glebe, might escape from a haughty lord, and transplant themselves and their families to a land of liberty. The monk might release himself from the discipline of his convent: the debtor might suspend the accumulation of usury, and the pursuit of his creditors; and outlaws and

malefactors of every cast might continue to brave the laws and elude the

punishment of their crimes.

these motives were potent and numerous: when we have singly computed their weight on the mind of each individual, we must add the infinite

series, the multiplying powers, of example and fashion. The first

proselytes became the warmest and most effectual missionaries of the cross: among their friends and countrymen they preached the duty, the

merit, and the recompense, of their holy vow; and the most reluctant

hearers were insensibly drawn within the whirlpool of persuasion and authority. The martial youths were fired by the reproach or suspicion

of cowardice; the opportunity of visiting with an army the sepulchre of christ was embraced by the old and infirm, by women and children, who consulted rather their zeal than their strength; and those who in the evening had derided the folly of their companions, were the most eager, the ensuing day, to tread in their footsteps. The ignorance, which

magnified the hopes, diminished the perils, of the enterprise. Since the turkish conquest, the paths of pilgrimage were obliterated; the chiefs themselves had an imperfect notion of the length of the way and the

state of their enemies; and such was the stupidity of the people, that, at the sight of the first city or castle beyond the limits of their

knowledge, they were ready to ask whether that was not the Jerusalem, the term and object of their labors. Yet the more prudent of the crusaders, who were not sure that they should be fed from heaven with a shower of quails or manna, provided themselves with those precious

metals, which, in every country, are the representatives of every commodity. To defray, according to their rank, the expenses of the

road, princes alienated their provinces, nobles their lands and castles,

peasants their cattle and the instruments of husbandry. The value of

property was depreciated by the eager competition of multitudes; while the price of arms and horses was raised to an exorbitant height by the wants and impatience of the buyers. Those who remained at home, with

sense and money, were enriched by the epidemical disease: the sovereigns acquired at a cheap rate the domains of their vassals; and the ecclesiastical purchasers completed the payment by the assurance of their prayers. The cross, which was commonly sewed on the garment, in cloth or silk, was inscribed by some zealots on their skin: a hot iron,

or indelible liquor, was applied to perpetuate the mark; and a crafty

monk, who showed the miraculous impression on his breast was repaid with the popular veneration and the richest benefices of Palestine.

the fifteenth of August had been fixed in the council of Clermont for the departure of the pilgrims; but the day was anticipated by the thoughtless and needy crowd of plebeians, and I shall briefly despatch the calamities which they inflicted and suffered, before I enter on the more serious and successful enterprise of the chiefs. Early in the

spring, from the confines of France and Lorraine, above sixty thousand

of the populace of both sexes flocked round the first missionary of the crusade, and pressed him with clamorous importunity to lead them to the

holy sepulchre. The hermit, assuming the character, without the talents

or authority, of a general, impelled or obeyed the forward impulse of

his votaries along the banks of the Rhine and Danube. Their wants and

numbers soon compelled them to separate, and his lieutenant, Walter the Penniless, a valiant though needy soldier, conducted a van guard of

pilgrims, whose condition may be determined from the proportion of eight

horsemen to fifteen thousand foot. The example and footsteps of Peter were closely pursued by another fanatic, the monk Godescal, whose

sermons had swept away fifteen or twenty thousand peasants from the

villages of Germany. Their rear was again pressed by a herd of two

hundred thousand, the most stupid and savage refuse of the people, who

mingled with their devotion a brutal license of rapine, prostitution, and drunkenness. Some counts and gentlemen, at the head of three thousand horse, attended the motions of the multitude to partake in the spoil; but their genuine leaders (may we credit such folly?) were a goose and a goat, who were carried in the front, and to whom these worthy Christians ascribed an infusion of the divine spirit. Of these, and of other bands of enthusiasts, the first and most easy warfare was against the Jews, the murderers of the Son of God. In the trading cities

of the Moselle and the Rhine, their colonies were numerous and rich; and they enjoyed, under the protection of the emperor and the bishops, the free exercise of their religion. At Verdun, Treves, Mentz,

Spires, Worms, many thousands of that unhappy people were pillaged and

massacred: nor had they felt a more bloody stroke since the persecution

of Hadrian. A remnant was saved by the firmness of their bishops, who accepted a feigned and transient conversion; but the more obstinate

Jews opposed their fanaticism to the fanaticism of the Christians, barricadoed their houses, and precipitating themselves, their families, and their wealth, into the rivers or the flames, disappointed the

malice, or at least the avarice, of their implacable foes.

between the frontiers of Austria and the seat of the Byzan tine

monarchy, the crusaders were compelled to traverse as interval of six

hundred miles; the wild and desolate countries of Hungary and Bulgaria. the soil is fruitful, and intersected with rivers; but it was then covered with morasses and forests, which spread to a boundless extent, whenever man has ceased to exercise his dominion over the earth. Both

nations had imbibed the rudiments of Christianity; the Hungarians were

ruled by their native princes; the Bulgarians by a lieutenant of the

Greek emperor; but, on the slightest provocation, their ferocious nature was rekindled, and ample provocation was afforded by the disorders of the first pilgrims Agriculture must have been unskilful and languid among a people, whose cities were built of reeds and timber, which were deserted in the summer season for the tents of hunters and shepherds. a scanty supply of provisions was rudely demanded, forcibly seized, and

greedily consumed; and on the first quarrel, the crusaders gave a loose to indignation and revenge. But their ignorance of the country, of war, and of discipline, exposed them to every snare. The Greek præfect of bulgaria commanded a regular force; at the trumpet of the Hungarian

king, the eighth or the tenth of his martial subjects bent their bows and mounted on horseback; their policy was insidious, and their

retaliation on these pious robbers was unrelenting and bloody. About a third of the naked fugitives (and the hermit Peter was of the number) escaped to the Thracian mountains; and the emperor, who respected the

pilgrimage and succor of the Latins, conducted them by secure and easy

journeys to Constantinople, and advised them to await the arrival of their brethren. For a while they remembered their faults and losses; but

no sooner were they revived by the hospitable entertainment, than their

venom was again inflamed; they stung their benefactor, and neither

gardens, nor palaces, nor churches, were safe from their depredations. for his own safety, Alexius allured them to pass over to the Asiatic

side of the Bosphorus; but their blind impetuosity soon urged them to desert the station which he had assigned, and to rush headlong against the Turks, who occupied the road to Jerusalem. The hermit, conscious

of his shame, had withdrawn from the camp to Constantinople; and his

lieutenant, Walter the Penniless, who was worthy of a better command, attempted without success to introduce some order and prudence among the

herd of savages. They separated in quest of prey, and themselves fell an easy prey to the arts of the sultan. By a rumor that their foremost companions were rioting in the spoils of his capital, Soliman tempted the main body to descend into the plain of Nice: they were overwhelmed by the Turkish arrows; and a pyramid of bones informed their companions

of the place of their defeat. Of the first crusaders, three hundred thousand had already perished, before a single city was rescued from the

infidels, before their graver and more noble brethren had completed the

preparations of their enterprise.

"To save time and space, I shall represent, in a short table, the

particular references to the great events of the first crusade."

[See Table 1.: Events Of The First Crusade.]

None of the great sovereigns of Europe embarked their persons in the first crusade. The emperor Henry the Fourth was not disposed to obey the summons of the pope: Philip the First of France was occupied by his

pleasures; William Rufus of England by a recent conquest; the kings of

Spain were engaged in a domestic war against the Moors; and the northern

monarchs of Scotland, Denmark, Sweden, and Poland, were yet strangers to the passions and interests of the South. The religious ardor was more

strongly felt by the princes of the second order, who held an important

place in the feudal system. Their situation will naturally cast under four distinct heads the review of their names and characters; but I may escape some needless repetition, by observing at once, that courage and the exercise of arms are the common attribute of these Christian adventurers. I. The first rank both in war and council is justly due to

Godfrey of Bouillon; and happy would it have been for the crusaders,

if they had trusted themselves to the sole conduct of that accomplished

hero, a worthy representative of Charlemagne, from whom he was descended

in the female line. His father was of the noble race of the counts of boulogne: Brabant, the lower province of Lorraine, was the inheritance

of his mother; and by the emperor's bounty he was himself invested with that ducal title, which has been improperly transferred to his lordship

of Bouillon in the Ardennes. In the service of Henry the Fourth, he bore the great standard of the empire, and pierced with his lance the breast

of Rodolph, the rebel king: Godfrey was the first who ascended the walls

of Rome; and his sickness, his vow, perhaps his remorse for bearing arms against the pope, confirmed an early resolution of visiting the holy

sepulchre, not as a pilgrim, but a deliverer. His valor was matured by

prudence and moderation; his piety, though blind, was sincere; and, in the tumult of a camp, he practised the real and fictitious virtues of a convent. Superior to the private factions of the chiefs, he reserved his enmity for the enemies of Christ; and though he gained a kingdom by the attempt, his pure and disinterested zeal was acknowledged by his rivals.

Godfrey of Bouillon was accompanied by his two brothers, by Eustace the elder, who had succeeded to the county of Boulogne, and by the younger, baldwin, a character of more ambiguous virtue. The duke of Lorraine, was alike celebrated on either side of the Rhine: from his birth and education, he was equally conversant with the French and Teutonic

languages: the barons of France, Germany, and Lorraine, assembled their

vassals; and the confederate force that marched under his banner was composed of fourscore thousand foot and about ten thousand horse. II. In the parliament that was held at Paris, in the king's presence, about two

months after the council of Clermont, Hugh, count of Vermandois, was the most conspicuous of the princes who assumed the cross. But the appellation of \_the Great\_ was applied, not so much to his merit or

possessions, (though neither were contemptible,) as to the royal birth

of the brother of the king of France. Robert, duke of Normandy, was the eldest son of William the Conqueror; but on his father's death he was deprived of the kingdom of England, by his own indolence and the activity of his brother Rufus. The worth of Robert was degraded by an excessive levity and easiness of temper: his cheerfulness seduced him to the indulgence of pleasure; his profuse liberality impoverished the

prince and people; his indiscriminate clemency multiplied the number

of offenders; and the amiable qualities of a private man became the essential defects of a sovereign. For the trifling sum of ten thousand

marks, he mortgaged Normandy during his absence to the English usurper; but his engagement and behavior in the holy war announced in Robert a

reformation of manners, and restored him in some degree to the public esteem. Another Robert was count of Flanders, a royal province, which,

in this century, gave three queens to the thrones of France, England, and Denmark: he was surnamed the Sword and Lance of the Christians; but in the exploits of a soldier he sometimes forgot the duties of a

general. Stephen, count of Chartres, of Blois, and of Troyes, was one of the richest princes of the age; and the number of his castles has been compared to the three hundred and sixty-five days of the year. His

mind was improved by literature; and, in the council of the chiefs, the eloquent Stephen was chosen to discharge the office of their president. these four were the principal leaders of the French, the Normans, and the pilgrims of the British isles: but the list of the barons who were

possessed of three or four towns would exceed, says a contemporary, the catalogue of the Trojan war. III. In the south of France, the command was assumed by Adhemar bishop of Puy, the pope legate, and by Raymond count of St. Giles and Thoulouse who added the prouder titles of duke of

Narbonne and marquis of Provence. The former was a respectable prelate, alike qualified for this world and the next. The latter was a veteran warrior, who had fought against the Saracens of Spain, and who consecrated his declining age, not only to the deliverance, but to the

perpetual service, of the holy sepulchre. His experience and riches

gave him a strong ascendant in the Christian camp, whose distress he was

often able, and sometimes willing, to relieve. But it was easier for him to extort the praise of the Infidels, than to preserve the love of his

subjects and associates. His eminent qualities were clouded by a temper

haughty, envious, and obstinate; and, though he resigned an ample

patrimony for the cause of God, his piety, in the public opinion, was not exempt from avarice and ambition. A mercantile, rather than a

martial, spirit prevailed among his \_provincials\_, a common name, which

included the natives of Auvergne and Languedoc, the vassals of the

kingdom of Burgundy or Arles. From the adjacent frontier of Spain he drew a band of hardy adventurers; as he marched through Lombardy, a crowd of Italians flocked to his standard, and his united force consisted of one hundred thousand horse and foot. If Raymond was the first to enlist and the last to depart, the delay may be excused by the

greatness of his preparation and the promise of an everlasting farewell.

IV. The name of Bohemond, the son of Robert Guiscard, was already famous by his double victory over the Greek emperor; but his father's will had

reduced him to the principality of Tarentum, and the remembrance of his eastern trophies, till he was awakened by the rumor and passage of the french pilgrims. It is in the person of this Norman chief that we

may seek for the coolest policy and ambition, with a small allay of

religious fanaticism. His conduct may justify a belief that he had

secretly directed the design of the pope, which he affected to second with astonishment and zeal: at the siege of Amalphi, his example and discourse inflamed the passions of a confederate army; he instantly tore

his garment to supply crosses for the numerous candidates, and prepared to visit Constantinople and Asia at the head of ten thousand horse and twenty thousand foot. Several princes of the Norman race accompanied this veteran general; and his cousin Tancred was the partner, rather than the servant, of the war. In the accomplished character of Tancred we discover all the virtues of a perfect knight, the true spirit of chivalry, which inspired the generous sentiments and social offices of

man far better than the base philosophy, or the baser religion, of the times.

chapter LVIII: The First Crusade.--Part III.

between the age of Charlemagne and that of the crusades, a revolution

had taken place among the Spaniards, the Normans, and the French, which was gradually extended to the rest of Europe. The service of the

infantry was degraded to the plebeians; the cavalry formed the strength

of the armies, and the honorable name of \_miles\_, or soldier, was confined to the gentlemen who served on horseback, and were invested with the character of knighthood. The dukes and counts, who had usurped the rights of sovereignty, divided the provinces among their faithful barons: the barons distributed among their vassals the fiefs or benefices of their jurisdiction; and these military tenants, the peers

of each other and of their lord, composed the noble or equestrian

order, which disdained to conceive the peasant or burgher as of the same

species with themselves. The dignity of their birth was preserved by

pure and equal alliances; their sons alone, who could produce four

quarters or lines of ancestry without spot or reproach, might legally

pretend to the honor of knighthood; but a valiant plebeian was sometimes enriched and ennobled by the sword, and became the father of a new race. a single knight could impart, according to his judgment, the character which he received; and the warlike sovereigns of Europe derived more

glory from this personal distinction than from the lustre of their diadem. This ceremony, of which some traces may be found in Tacitus and the woods of Germany, was in its origin simple and profane; the candidate, after some previous trial, was invested with the sword and

spurs; and his cheek or shoulder was touched with a slight blow, as an emblem of the last affront which it was lawful for him to endure. But

superstition mingled in every public and private action of life: in the holy wars, it sanctified the profession of arms; and the order of chivalry was assimilated in its rights and privileges to the sacred

orders of priesthood. The bath and white garment of the novice were an indecent copy of the regeneration of baptism: his sword, which he

offered on the altar, was blessed by the ministers of religion: his

solemn reception was preceded by fasts and vigils; and he was created a knight in the name of God, of St. George, and of St. Michael the archangel. He swore to accomplish the duties of his profession; and education, example, and the public opinion, were the inviolable

guardians of his oath. As the champion of God and the ladies, (I blush to unite such discordant names,) he devoted himself to speak the truth; to maintain the right; to protect the distressed; to practise

\_courtesy\_, a virtue less familiar to the ancients; to pursue the

infidels; to despise the allurements of ease and safety; and to

vindicate in every perilous adventure the honor of his character. The abuse of the same spirit provoked the illiterate knight to disdain the arts of industry and peace; to esteem himself the sole judge and avenger

of his own injuries; and proudly to neglect the laws of civil society and military discipline. Yet the benefits of this institution, to

refine the temper of Barbarians, and to infuse some principles of faith,

justice, and humanity, were strongly felt, and have been often observed. the asperity of national prejudice was softened; and the community of

religion and arms spread a similar color and generous emulation over the face of Christendom. Abroad in enterprise and pilgrimage, at home

in martial exercise, the warriors of every country were perpetually associated; and impartial taste must prefer a Gothic tournament to the

Olympic games of classic antiquity. Instead of the naked spectacles which corrupted the manners of the Greeks, and banished from the stadium the virgins and matrons, the pompous decoration of the lists was crowned with the presence of chaste and high-born beauty, from whose hands the conqueror received the prize of his dexterity and courage. The skill and

strength that were exerted in wrestling and boxing bear a distant and doubtful relation to the merit of a soldier; but the tournaments, as they were invented in France, and eagerly adopted both in the East and west, presented a lively image of the business of the field. The single combats, the general skirmish, the defence of a pass, or castle, were

rehearsed as in actual service; and the contest, both in real and mimic war, was decided by the superior management of the horse and lance. The

lance was the proper and peculiar weapon of the knight: his horse was

of a large and heavy breed; but this charger, till he was roused by the approaching danger, was usually led by an attendant, and he quietly rode a pad or palfrey of a more easy pace. His helmet and sword, his greaves and buckler, it would be superfluous to describe; but I may remark, that, at the period of the crusades, the armor was less ponderous than

in later times; and that, instead of a massy cuirass, his breast was defended by a hauberk or coat of mail. When their long lances were fixed

in the rest, the warriors furiously spurred their horses against the foe; and the light cavalry of the Turks and Arabs could seldom stand against the direct and impetuous weight of their charge. Each knight was attended to the field by his faithful squire, a youth of equal birth and

similar hopes; he was followed by his archers and men at arms, and four,

or five, or six soldiers were computed as the furniture of a complete

\_lance\_. In the expeditions to the neighboring kingdoms or the Holy

Land, the duties of the feudal tenure no longer subsisted; the voluntary

service of the knights and their followers were either prompted by zeal

or attachment, or purchased with rewards and promises; and the numbers

of each squadron were measured by the power, the wealth, and the fame,

of each independent chieftain. They were distinguished by his banner,

his armorial coat, and his cry of war; and the most ancient families

of Europe must seek in these achievements the origin and proof of their nobility. In this rapid portrait of chivalry I have been urged to anticipate on the story of the crusades, at once an effect and a cause,

of this memorable institution.

Such were the troops, and such the leaders, who assumed the cross for the deliverance of the holy sepulchre. As soon as they were relieved by the absence of the plebeian multitude, they encouraged each other, by interviews and messages, to accomplish their vow, and hasten their departure. Their wives and sisters were desirous of partaking the danger and merit of the pilgrimage: their portable treasures were conveyed in bars of silver and gold; and the princes and barons were attended by their equipage of hounds and hawks to amuse their leisure and to supply their table. The difficulty of procuring subsistence for so many myriads

of men and horses engaged them to separate their forces: their choice

or situation determined the road; and it was agreed to meet in the neighborhood of Constantinople, and from thence to begin their

operations against the Turks. From the banks of the Meuse and the

Moselle, Godfrey of Bouillon followed the direct way of Germany,

Hungary, and Bulgaria; and, as long as he exercised the sole command every step afforded some proof of his prudence and virtue. On the confines of Hungary he was stopped three weeks by a Christian people, to whom the name, or at least the abuse, of the cross was justly odious. the Hungarians still smarted with the wounds which they had received from the first pilgrims: in their turn they had abused the right of defence and retaliation; and they had reason to apprehend a severe

revenge from a hero of the same nation, and who was engaged in the same cause. But, after weighing the motives and the events, the virtuous duke was content to pity the crimes and misfortunes of his worthless brethren; and his twelve deputies, the messengers of peace, requested in

his name a free passage and an equal market. To remove their suspicions,

Godfrey trusted himself, and afterwards his brother, to the faith

of Carloman, king of Hungary, who treated them with a simple but

hospitable entertainment: the treaty was sanctified by their common

gospel; and a proclamation, under pain of death, restrained the animosity and license of the Latin soldiers. From Austria to Belgrade, they traversed the plains of Hungary, without enduring or offering an

injury; and the proximity of Carloman, who hovered on their flanks with

his numerous cavalry, was a precaution not less useful for their safety than for his own. They reached the banks of the Save; and no sooner had they passed the river, than the king of Hungary restored the hostages, and saluted their departure with the fairest wishes for the success of their enterprise. With the same conduct and discipline, Godfrey

pervaded the woods of Bulgaria and the frontiers of Thrace; and might congratulate himself that he had almost reached the first term of his

pilgrimage, without drawing his sword against a Christian adversary. after an easy and pleasant journey through Lombardy, from Turin to aquileia, Raymond and his provincials marched forty days through the

savage country of Dalmatia and Sclavonia. The weather was a perpetual fog; the land was mountainous and desolate; the natives were either fugitive or hostile: loose in their religion and government, they

refused to furnish provisions or guides; murdered the stragglers; and exercised by night and day the vigilance of the count, who derived

more security from the punishment of some captive robbers than from

his interview and treaty with the prince of Scodra. His march between durazzo and Constantinople was harassed, without being stopped, by the peasants and soldiers of the Greek emperor; and the same faint and ambiguous hostility was prepared for the remaining chiefs, who passed the Adriatic from the coast of Italy. Bohemond had arms and vessels, and foresight and discipline; and his name was not forgotten in the

provinces of Epirus and Thessaly. Whatever obstacles he encountered were

surmounted by his military conduct and the valor of Tancred; and if the

Norman prince affected to spare the Greeks, he gorged his soldiers with the full plunder of an heretical castle. The nobles of France pressed forwards with the vain and thoughtless ardor of which their nation has been sometimes accused. From the Alps to Apulia the march of Hugh the

Great, of the two Roberts, and of Stephen of Chartres, through a wealthy country, and amidst the applauding Catholics, was a devout or triumphant

progress: they kissed the feet of the Roman pontiff; and the golden

standard of St. Peter was delivered to the brother of the French

monarch. But in this visit of piety and pleasure, they neglected to

secure the season, and the means of their embarkation: the winter was

insensibly lost: their troops were scattered and corrupted in the towns

of Italy. They separately accomplished their passage, regardless

of safety or dignity; and within nine months from the feast of the assumption, the day appointed by Urban, all the Latin princes had

reached Constantinople. But the count of Vermandois was produced as a captive; his foremost vessels were scattered by a tempest; and his

person, against the law of nations, was detained by the lieutenants of alexius. Yet the arrival of Hugh had been announced by four-and-twenty

knights in golden armor, who commanded the emperor to revere the general

of the Latin Christians, the brother of the king of kings.

In some oriental tale I have read the fable of a shepherd, who was

ruined by the accomplishment of his own wishes: he had prayed for water; the Ganges was turned into his grounds, and his flock and cottage were

swept away by the inundation. Such was the fortune, or at least the apprehension of the Greek emperor Alexius Comnenus, whose name has already appeared in this history, and whose conduct is so differently

represented by his daughter Anne, and by the Latin writers. In the council of Placentia, his ambassadors had solicited a moderate succor,

perhaps of ten thousand soldiers, but he was astonished by the approach

of so many potent chiefs and fanatic nations. The emperor fluctuated between hope and fear, between timidity and courage; but in the crooked

policy which he mistook for wisdom, I cannot believe, I cannot discern, that he maliciously conspired against the life or honor of the French

heroes. The promiscuous multitudes of Peter the Hermit were savage beasts, alike destitute of humanity and reason: nor was it possible for alexius to prevent or deplore their destruction. The troops of Godfrey and his peers were less contemptible, but not less suspicious, to the

Greek emperor. Their motives \_might\_ be pure and pious: but he was equally alarmed by his knowledge of the ambitious Bohemond, and his

ignorance of the Transalpine chiefs: the courage of the French was blind and headstrong; they might be tempted by the luxury and wealth of

Greece, and elated by the view and opinion of their invincible strength: and Jerusalem might be forgotten in the prospect of Constantinople. after a long march and painful abstinence, the troops of Godfrey encamped in the plains of Thrace; they heard with indignation, that their brother, the count of Vermandois, was imprisoned by the Greeks; and their reluctant duke was compelled to indulge them in some freedom

of retaliation and rapine. They were appeased by the submission of alexius: he promised to supply their camp; and as they refused, in the

midst of winter, to pass the Bosphorus, their quarters were assigned among the gardens and palaces on the shores of that narrow sea. But an

incurable jealousy still rankled in the minds of the two nations, who despised each other as slaves and Barbarians. Ignorance is the ground of

suspicion, and suspicion was inflamed into daily provocations: prejudice

is blind, hunger is deaf; and Alexius is accused of a design to starve

or assault the Latins in a dangerous post, on all sides encompassed with the waters. Godfrey sounded his trumpets, burst the net, overspread the

plain, and insulted the suburbs; but the gates of Constantinople were

strongly fortified; the ramparts were lined with archers; and, after a doubtful conflict, both parties listened to the voice of peace and

religion. The gifts and promises of the emperor insensibly soothed the fierce spirit of the western strangers; as a Christian warrior, he

rekindled their zeal for the prosecution of their holy enterprise, which

he engaged to second with his troops and treasures. On the return of

spring, Godfrey was persuaded to occupy a pleasant and plentiful camp in asia; and no sooner had he passed the Bosphorus, than the Greek vessels were suddenly recalled to the opposite shore. The same policy was

repeated with the succeeding chiefs, who were swayed by the example, and weakened by the departure, of their foremost companions. By his skill and diligence, Alexius prevented the union of any two of the confederate armies at the same moment under the walls of Constantinople; and before the feast of the Pentecost not a Latin pilgrim was left on the coast of europe.

the same arms which threatened Europe might deliver Asia, and repel the turks from the neighboring shores of the Bosphorus and Hellespont. The fair provinces from Nice to Antioch were the recent patrimony of the

Roman emperor; and his ancient and perpetual claim still embraced the

kingdoms of Syria and Egypt. In his enthusiasm, Alexius indulged, or affected, the ambitious hope of leading his new allies to subvert the thrones of the East; but the calmer dictates of reason and temper dissuaded him from exposing his royal person to the faith of unknown and lawless Barbarians. His prudence, or his pride, was content with extorting from the French princes an oath of homage and fidelity, and a

solemn promise, that they would either restore, or hold, their Asiatic conquests as the humble and loyal vassals of the Roman empire. Their

independent spirit was fired at the mention of this foreign and

voluntary servitude: they successively yielded to the dexterous application of gifts and flattery; and the first proselytes became the

most eloquent and effectual missionaries to multiply the companions of their shame. The pride of Hugh of Vermandois was soothed by the honors

of his captivity; and in the brother of the French king, the example of

submission was prevalent and weighty. In the mind of Godfrey of Bouillon every human consideration was subordinate to the glory of God and the success of the crusade. He had firmly resisted the temptations

of Bohemond and Raymond, who urged the attack and conquest of constantinople. Alexius esteemed his virtues, deservedly named him the champion of the empire, and dignified his homage with the filial name and the rights of adoption. The hateful Bohemond was received as a true and ancient ally; and if the emperor reminded him of former hostilities,

it was only to praise the valor that he had displayed, and the glory that he had acquired, in the fields of Durazzo and Larissa. The son of

Guiscard was lodged and entertained, and served with Imperial pomp:

one day, as he passed through the gallery of the palace, a door was carelessly left open to expose a pile of gold and silver, of silk and

gems, of curious and costly furniture, that was heaped, in seeming disorder, from the floor to the roof of the chamber. "What conquests," exclaimed the ambitious miser, "might not be achieved by the possession

of such a treasure!"--"It is your own," replied a Greek attendant, who watched the motions of his soul; and Bohemond, after some hesitation, condescended to accept this magnificent present. The Norman was flattered by the assurance of an independent principality; and Alexius eluded, rather than denied, his daring demand of the office of great domestic, or general of the East. The two Roberts, the son of the conqueror of England, and the kinsmen of three queens, bowed in their turn before the Byzantine throne. A private letter of Stephen of chartres attests his admiration of the emperor, the most excellent and

liberal of men, who taught him to believe that he was a favorite, and

promised to educate and establish his youngest son. In his southern

province, the count of St. Giles and Thoulouse faintly recognized the supremacy of the king of France, a prince of a foreign nation and

language. At the head of a hundred thousand men, he declared that he was the soldier and servant of Christ alone, and that the Greek might be

satisfied with an equal treaty of alliance and friendship. His obstinate

resistance enhanced the value and the price of his submission; and he

shone, says the princess Anne, among the Barbarians, as the sun amidst the stars of heaven. His disgust of the noise and insolence of the french, his suspicions of the designs of Bohemond, the emperor imparted to his faithful Raymond; and that aged statesman might clearly discern, that however false in friendship, he was sincere in his enmity. The

spirit of chivalry was last subdued in the person of Tancred; and

none could deem themselves dishonored by the imitation of that gallant

knight. He disdained the gold and flattery of the Greek monarch; assaulted in his presence an insolent patrician; escaped to Asia in the

habit of a private soldier; and yielded with a sigh to the authority

of Bohemond, and the interest of the Christian cause. The best and

most ostensible reason was the impossibility of passing the sea and accomplishing their vow, without the license and the vessels of alexius; but they cherished a secret hope, that as soon as they trod the continent of Asia, their swords would obliterate their shame, and dissolve the engagement, which on his side might not be very faithfully

performed. The ceremony of their homage was grateful to a people who

had long since considered pride as the substitute of power. High on his throne, the emperor sat mute and immovable: his majesty was adored by the Latin princes; and they submitted to kiss either his feet or his

knees, an indignity which their own writers are ashamed to confess and

unable to deny.

Private or public interest suppressed the murmurs of the dukes and counts; but a French baron (he is supposed to be Robert of Paris )

presumed to ascend the throne, and to place himself by the side of alexius. The sage reproof of Baldwin provoked him to exclaim, in his barbarous idiom, "Who is this rustic, that keeps his seat, while so many

valiant captains are standing round him?" The emperor maintained his

silence, dissembled his indignation, and questioned his interpreter concerning the meaning of the words, which he partly suspected from the

universal language of gesture and countenance. Before the departure

of the pilgrims, he endeavored to learn the name and condition of the audacious baron. "I am a Frenchman," replied Robert, "of the purest and

most ancient nobility of my country. All that I know is, that there is a church in my neighborhood, the resort of those who are desirous of approving their valor in single combat. Till an enemy appears, they address their prayers to God and his saints. That church I have frequently visited. But never have I found an antagonist who dared to accept my defiance." Alexius dismissed the challenger with some prudent advice for his conduct in the Turkish warfare; and history repeats with

pleasure this lively example of the manners of his age and country.

the conquest of Asia was undertaken and achieved by Alexander, with thirty-five thousand Macedonians and Greeks; and his best hope was in the strength and discipline of his phalanx of infantry. The principal force of the crusaders consisted in their cavalry; and when that force was mustered in the plains of Bithynia, the knights and their martial attendants on horseback amounted to one hundred thousand fighting men, completely armed with the helmet and coat of mail. The value of these

soldiers deserved a strict and authentic account; and the flower of european chivalry might furnish, in a first effort, this formidable body

of heavy horse. A part of the infantry might be enrolled for the service

of scouts, pioneers, and archers; but the promiscuous crowd were lost in their own disorder; and we depend not on the eyes and knowledge, but on the belief and fancy, of a chaplain of Count Baldwin, in the estimate of

six hundred thousand pilgrims able to bear arms, besides the priests and

monks, the women and children of the Latin camp. The reader starts; and before he is recovered from his surprise, I shall add, on the same testimony, that if all who took the cross had accomplished their vow, above six millions would have migrated from Europe to Asia. Under this

oppression of faith, I derive some relief from a more sagacious and thinking writer, who, after the same review of the cavalry, accuses the credulity of the priest of Chartres, and even doubts whether the

\_Cisalpine\_ regions (in the geography of a Frenchman) were sufficient to produce and pour forth such incredible multitudes. The coolest

scepticism will remember, that of these religious volunteers great

numbers never beheld Constantinople and Nice. Of enthusiasm the

influence is irregular and transient: many were detained at home by

reason or cowardice, by poverty or weakness; and many were repulsed by the obstacles of the way, the more insuperable as they were unforeseen, to these ignorant fanatics. The savage countries of Hungary and Bulgaria were whitened with their bones: their vanguard was cut in pieces by the turkish sultan; and the loss of the first adventure, by the sword, or climate, or fatigue, has already been stated at three hundred thousand

men. Yet the myriads that survived, that marched, that pressed forwards

on the holy pilgrimage, were a subject of astonishment to themselves and to the Greeks. The copious energy of her language sinks under the efforts of the princess Anne: the images of locusts, of leaves and flowers, of the sands of the sea, or the stars of heaven, imperfectly

represent what she had seen and heard; and the daughter of Alexius exclaims, that Europe was loosened from its foundations, and hurled against Asia. The ancient hosts of Darius and Xerxes labor under the

same doubt of a vague and indefinite magnitude; but I am inclined to believe, that a larger number has never been contained within the lines

of a single camp, than at the siege of Nice, the first operation of the

Latin princes. Their motives, their characters, and their arms, have been already displayed. Of their troops the most numerous portion were natives of France: the Low Countries, the banks of the Rhine, and apulia, sent a powerful reënforcement: some bands of adventurers were drawn from Spain, Lombardy, and England; and from the distant bogs and

mountains of Ireland or Scotland issued some naked and savage fanatics, ferocious at home but unwarlike abroad. Had not superstition condemned the sacrilegious prudence of depriving the poorest or weakest Christian

of the merit of the pilgrimage, the useless crowd, with mouths but without hands, might have been stationed in the Greek empire, till their companions had opened and secured the way of the Lord. A small remnant

of the pilgrims, who passed the Bosphorus, was permitted to visit the

holy sepulchre. Their northern constitution was scorched by the rays, and infected by the vapors, of a Syrian sun. They consumed, with

heedless prodigality, their stores of water and provision: their numbers exhausted the inland country: the sea was remote, the Greeks were

unfriendly, and the Christians of every sect fled before the voracious and cruel rapine of their brethren. In the dire necessity of famine, they sometimes roasted and devoured the flesh of their infant or adult captives. Among the Turks and Saracens, the idolaters of Europe were

rendered more odious by the name and reputation of Cannibals; the spies, who introduced themselves into the kitchen of Bohemond, were shown

several human bodies turning on the spit: and the artful Norman encouraged a report, which increased at the same time the abhorrence and the terror of the infidels.

chapter LVIII: The First Crusade.--Part IV.

I have expiated with pleasure on the first steps of the crusaders, as they paint the manners and character of Europe: but I shall abridge the tedious and uniform narrative of their blind achievements, which were

performed by strength and are described by ignorance. From their first

station in the neighborhood of Nicomedia, they advanced in successive divisions; passed the contracted limit of the Greek empire; opened a

road through the hills, and commenced, by the siege of his capital, their pious warfare against the Turkish sultan. His kingdom of Roum extended from the Hellespont to the confines of Syria, and barred the

pilgrimage of Jerusalem, his name was Kilidge-Arslan, or Soliman, of the

race of Seljuk, and son of the first conqueror; and in the defence of a

land which the Turks considered as their own, he deserved the praise

of his enemies, by whom alone he is known to posterity. Yielding to the first impulse of the torrent, he deposited his family and treasure in

Nice; retired to the mountains with fifty thousand horse; and twice descended to assault the camps or quarters of the Christian besiegers, which formed an imperfect circle of above six miles. The lofty and solid walls of Nice were covered by a deep ditch, and flanked by three hundred and seventy towers; and on the verge of Christendom, the Moslems were trained in arms, and inflamed by religion. Before this city, the French

princes occupied their stations, and prosecuted their attacks without correspondence or subordination: emulation prompted their valor; but their valor was sullied by cruelty, and their emulation degenerated into envy and civil discord. In the siege of Nice, the arts and engines of antiquity were employed by the Latins; the mine and the battering-ram, the tortoise, and the belfrey or movable turret, artificial fire, and the \_catapult\_ and \_balist\_, the sling, and the crossbow for the casting

of stones and darts. In the space of seven weeks much labor and blood were expended, and some progress, especially by Count Raymond, was

made on the side of the besiegers. But the Turks could protract their

resistance and secure their escape, as long as they were masters of the Lake Ascanius, which stretches several miles to the westward of the city. The means of conquest were supplied by the prudence and industry

of Alexius; a great number of boats was transported on sledges from the sea to the lake; they were filled with the most dexterous of his archers; the flight of the sultana was intercepted; Nice was invested by

land and water; and a Greek emissary persuaded the inhabitants to accept

his master's protection, and to save themselves, by a timely surrender, from the rage of the savages of Europe. In the moment of victory, or at

least of hope, the crusaders, thirsting for blood and plunder, were awed by the Imperial banner that streamed from the citadel; and Alexius

guarded with jealous vigilance this important conquest. The murmurs of the chiefs were stifled by honor or interest; and after a halt of nine days, they directed their march towards Phrygia under the guidance of a Greek general, whom they suspected of a secret connivance with the

sultan. The consort and the principal servants of Soliman had been

honorably restored without ransom; and the emperor's generosity to the

\_miscreants\_ was interpreted as treason to the Christian cause.

Soliman was rather provoked than dismayed by the loss of his capital:

he admonished his subjects and allies of this strange invasion of the western Barbarians; the Turkish emirs obeyed the call of loyalty or

religion; the Turkman hordes encamped round his standard; and his whole force is loosely stated by the Christians at two hundred, or even three

hundred and sixty thousand horse. Yet he patiently waited till they had

left behind them the sea and the Greek frontier; and hovering on the flanks, observed their careless and confident progress in two columns beyond the view of each other. Some miles before they could reach dorylæum in Phrygia, the left, and least numerous, division was

surprised, and attacked, and almost oppressed, by the Turkish cavalry. the heat of the weather, the clouds of arrows, and the barbarous onset,

overwhelmed the crusaders; they lost their order and confidence, and the fainting fight was sustained by the personal valor, rather than by the

military conduct, of Bohemond, Tancred, and Robert of Normandy. They were revived by the welcome banners of Duke Godfrey, who flew to their

succor, with the count of Vermandois, and sixty thousand horse; and was followed by Raymond of Tholouse, the bishop of Puy, and the remainder of the sacred army. Without a moment's pause, they formed in new order, and advanced to a second battle. They were received with equal resolution; and, in their common disdain for the unwarlike people of Greece and asia, it was confessed on both sides, that the Turks and the Franks were the only nations entitled to the appellation of soldiers. their encounter was varied, and balanced by the contrast of arms and discipline; of the direct charge, and wheeling evolutions; of the couched lance, and the brandished javelin; of a weighty broadsword, and a crooked sabre; of cumbrous armor, and thin flowing robes; and of the

long Tartar bow, and the \_arbalist\_ or crossbow, a deadly weapon, yet

unknown to the Orientals. As long as the horses were fresh, and the

quivers full, Soliman maintained the advantage of the day; and four thousand Christians were pierced by the Turkish arrows. In the evening,

swiftness yielded to strength: on either side, the numbers were equal

or at least as great as any ground could hold, or any generals could

manage; but in turning the hills, the last division of Raymond and

his \_provincials\_ was led, perhaps without design on the rear of an exhausted enemy; and the long contest was determined. Besides a nameless and unaccounted multitude, three thousand \_Pagan\_ knights were slain

in the battle and pursuit; the camp of Soliman was pillaged; and in the

variety of precious spoil, the curiosity of the Latins was amused with foreign arms and apparel, and the new aspect of dromedaries and camels. the importance of the victory was proved by the hasty retreat of the

sultan: reserving ten thousand guards of the relics of his army, Soliman evacuated the kingdom of Roum, and hastened to implore the aid, and

kindle the resentment, of his Eastern brethren. In a march of five

hundred miles, the crusaders traversed the Lesser Asia, through a wasted

land and deserted towns, without finding either a friend or an enemy. the geographer may trace the position of Dorylæum, Antioch of Pisidia,

Iconium, Archelais, and Germanicia, and may compare those classic appellations with the modern names of Eskishehr the old city, Akshehr the white city, Cogni, Erekli, and Marash. As the pilgrims passed over a desert, where a draught of water is exchanged for silver, they were tormented by intolerable thirst; and on the banks of the first

rivulet, their haste and intemperance were still more pernicious to the disorderly throng. They climbed with toil and danger the steep and

slippery sides of Mount Taurus; many of the soldiers cast away their arms to secure their footsteps; and had not terror preceded their van, the long and trembling file might have been driven down the precipice by a handful of resolute enemies. Two of their most respectable chiefs, the duke of Lorraine and the count of Tholouse, were carried in litters:

Raymond was raised, as it is said by miracle, from a hopeless malady; and Godfrey had been torn by a bear, as he pursued that rough and

perilous chase in the mountains of Pisidia.

to improve the general consternation, the cousin of Bohemond and the brother of Godfrey were detached from the main army with their

respective squadrons of five, and of seven, hundred knights. They

overran in a rapid career the hills and sea-coast of Cilicia, from Cogni to the Syrian gates: the Norman standard was first planted on the walls

of Tarsus and Malmistra; but the proud injustice of Baldwin at length

provoked the patient and generous Italian; and they turned their consecrated swords against each other in a private and profane quarrel.

Honor was the motive, and fame the reward, of Tancred; but fortune

smiled on the more selfish enterprise of his rival. He was called to the assistance of a Greek or Armenian tyrant, who had been suffered under the Turkish yoke to reign over the Christians of Edessa. Baldwin accepted the character of his son and champion: but no sooner was he

introduced into the city, than he inflamed the people to the massacre

of his father, occupied the throne and treasure, extended his conquests

over the hills of Armenia and the plain of Mesopotamia, and founded the first principality of the Franks or Latins, which subsisted fifty-four

years beyond the Euphrates.

before the Franks could enter Syria, the summer, and even the autumn, were completely wasted: the siege of Antioch, or the separation and

repose of the army during the winter season, was strongly debated in their council: the love of arms and the holy sepulchre urged them to advance; and reason perhaps was on the side of resolution, since every

hour of delay abates the fame and force of the invader, and multiplies the resources of defensive war. The capital of Syria was protected by the River Orontes; and the \_iron bridge\_, of nine arches, derives its

name from the massy gates of the two towers which are constructed at either end. They were opened by the sword of the duke of Normandy: his

victory gave entrance to three hundred thousand crusaders, an account which may allow some scope for losses and desertion, but which clearly detects much exaggeration in the review of Nice. In the description

of Antioch, it is not easy to define a middle term between her ancient

magnificence, under the successors of Alexander and Augustus, and the

modern aspect of Turkish desolation. The Tetrapolis, or four cities, if they retained their name and position, must have left a large vacuity in a circumference of twelve miles; and that measure, as well as the number

of four hundred towers, are not perfectly consistent with the five

gates, so often mentioned in the history of the siege. Yet Antioch must

have still flourished as a great and populous capital. At the head of the Turkish emirs, Baghisian, a veteran chief, commanded in the place:

his garrison was composed of six or seven thousand horse, and fifteen

or twenty thousand foot: one hundred thousand Moslems are said to have fallen by the sword; and their numbers were probably inferior to the

Greeks, Armenians, and Syrians, who had been no more than fourteen

years the slaves of the house of Seljuk. From the remains of a solid and

stately wall, it appears to have arisen to the height of threescore feet

in the valleys; and wherever less art and labor had been applied, the

ground was supposed to be defended by the river, the morass, and the

mountains. Notwithstanding these fortifications, the city had been

repeatedly taken by the Persians, the Arabs, the Greeks, and the Turks;

so large a circuit must have yielded many pervious points of attack; and

in a siege that was formed about the middle of October, the vigor of the execution could alone justify the boldness of the attempt. Whatever

strength and valor could perform in the field was abundantly discharged by the champions of the cross: in the frequent occasions of sallies,

of forage, of the attack and defence of convoys, they were often

victorious; and we can only complain, that their exploits are sometimes enlarged beyond the scale of probability and truth. The sword of Godfrey divided a Turk from the shoulder to the haunch; and one half of the

infidel fell to the ground, while the other was transported by his horse to the city gate. As Robert of Normandy rode against his antagonist,

"I devote thy head," he piously exclaimed, "to the dæmons of hell;" and that head was instantly cloven to the breast by the resistless stroke of

his descending falchion. But the reality or the report of such gigantic

prowess must have taught the Moslems to keep within their walls: and against those walls of earth or stone, the sword and the lance were

unavailing weapons. In the slow and successive labors of a siege, the crusaders were supine and ignorant, without skill to contrive, or money to purchase, or industry to use, the artificial engines and implements

of assault. In the conquest of Nice, they had been powerfully assisted by the wealth and knowledge of the Greek emperor: his absence was poorly

supplied by some Genoese and Pisan vessels, that were attracted by

religion or trade to the coast of Syria: the stores were scanty, the

return precarious, and the communication difficult and dangerous.

Indolence or weakness had prevented the Franks from investing the entire circuit; and the perpetual freedom of two gates relieved the wants and

recruited the garrison of the city. At the end of seven months, after the ruin of their cavalry, and an enormous loss by famine, desertion and fatigue, the progress of the crusaders was imperceptible, and their

success remote, if the Latin Ulysses, the artful and ambitious Bohemond,

had not employed the arms of cunning and deceit. The Christians of antioch were numerous and discontented: Phirouz, a Syrian renegado, had acquired the favor of the emir and the command of three towers; and the

merit of his repentance disguised to the Latins, and perhaps to himself, the foul design of perfidy and treason. A secret correspondence, for their mutual interest, was soon established between Phirouz and the

prince of Tarento; and Bohemond declared in the council of the chiefs, that he could deliver the city into their hands. But he claimed the

sovereignty of Antioch as the reward of his service; and the proposal which had been rejected by the envy, was at length extorted from the distress, of his equals. The nocturnal surprise was executed by the french and Norman princes, who ascended in person the scaling-ladders that were thrown from the walls: their new proselyte, after the murder

of his too scrupulous brother, embraced and introduced the servants of christ; the army rushed through the gates; and the Moslems soon found, that although mercy was hopeless, resistance was impotent. But the citadel still refused to surrender; and the victims themselves were

speedily encompassed and besieged by the innumerable forces of Kerboga,

prince of Mosul, who, with twenty-eight Turkish emirs, advanced to the deliverance of Antioch. Five-and-twenty days the Christians spent on the verge of destruction; and the proud lieutenant of the caliph and the sultan left them only the choice of servitude or death. In this extremity they collected the relics of their strength, sallied from the town, and in a single memorable day, annihilated or dispersed the host

of Turks and Arabians, which they might safely report to have consisted

of six hundred thousand men. Their supernatural allies I shall proceed to consider: the human causes of the victory of Antioch were the fearless despair of the Franks; and the surprise, the discord, perhaps the errors, of their unskilful and presumptuous adversaries. The battle

is described with as much disorder as it was fought; but we may observe the tent of Kerboga, a movable and spacious palace, enriched with the

luxury of Asia, and capable of holding above two thousand persons; we

may distinguish his three thousand guards, who were cased, the horse as well as the men, in complete steel.

In the eventful period of the siege and defence of Antioch, the crusaders were alternately exalted by victory or sunk in despair; either

swelled with plenty or emaciated with hunger. A speculative reasoner

might suppose, that their faith had a strong and serious influence on their practice; and that the soldiers of the cross, the deliverers of the holy sepulchre, prepared themselves by a sober and virtuous life for the daily contemplation of martyrdom. Experience blows away this charitable illusion; and seldom does the history of profane war display

such scenes of intemperance and prostitution as were exhibited under the walls of Antioch. The grove of Daphne no longer flourished; but the

Syrian air was still impregnated with the same vices; the Christians were seduced by every temptation that nature either prompts or

reprobates; the authority of the chiefs was despised; and sermons and edicts were alike fruitless against those scandalous disorders, not less

pernicious to military discipline, than repugnant to evangelic purity.

In the first days of the siege and the possession of Antioch, the Franks consumed with wanton and thoughtless prodigality the frugal subsistence

of weeks and months: the desolate country no longer yielded a supply; and from that country they were at length excluded by the arms of the besieging Turks. Disease, the faithful companion of want, was envenomed by the rains of the winter, the summer heats, unwholesome food, and the close imprisonment of multitudes. The pictures of famine and pestilence are always the same, and always disgustful; and our imagination may

suggest the nature of their sufferings and their resources. The remains

of treasure or spoil were eagerly lavished in the purchase of the vilest

nourishment; and dreadful must have been the calamities of the poor,

since, after paying three marks of silver for a goat and fifteen for a

lean camel, the count of Flanders was reduced to beg a dinner, and Duke

Godfrey to borrow a horse. Sixty thousand horse had been reviewed in the camp: before the end of the siege they were diminished to two thousand, and scarcely two hundred fit for service could be mustered on the day

of battle. Weakness of body and terror of mind extinguished the ardent enthusiasm of the pilgrims; and every motive of honor and religion was

subdued by the desire of life. Among the chiefs, three heroes may be found without fear or reproach: Godfrey of Bouillon was supported by

his magnanimous piety; Bohemond by ambition and interest; and Tancred declared, in the true spirit of chivalry, that as long as he was at the head of forty knights, he would never relinquish the enterprise of

Palestine. But the count of Tholouse and Provence was suspected of a

voluntary indisposition; the duke of Normandy was recalled from the

sea-shore by the censures of the church: Hugh the Great, though he

led the vanguard of the battle, embraced an ambiguous opportunity of

returning to France and Stephen, count of Chartres, basely deserted the standard which he bore, and the council in which he presided. The

soldiers were discouraged by the flight of William, viscount of Melun,

surnamed the \_Carpenter\_, from the weighty strokes of his axe; and the

saints were scandalized by the fall of Peter the Hermit, who, after arming Europe against Asia, attempted to escape from the penance of a

necessary fast. Of the multitude of recreant warriors, the names (says an historian) are blotted from the book of life; and the opprobrious epithet of the rope-dancers was applied to the deserters who dropped in the night from the walls of Antioch. The emperor Alexius, who seemed to advance to the succor of the Latins, was dismayed by the assurance of their hopeless condition. They expected their fate in silent despair;

oaths and punishments were tried without effect; and to rouse the

soldiers to the defence of the walls, it was found necessary to set fire to their quarters.

for their salvation and victory, they were indebted to the same fanaticism which had led them to the brink of ruin. In such a cause, and

in such an army, visions, prophecies, and miracles, were frequent and familiar. In the distress of Antioch, they were repeated with unusual energy and success: St. Ambrose had assured a pious ecclesiastic, that two years of trial must precede the season of deliverance and grace; the deserters were stopped by the presence and reproaches of Christ himself; the dead had promised to arise and combat with their brethren; the

Virgin had obtained the pardon of their sins; and their confidence was

revived by a visible sign, the seasonable and splendid discovery of the holy lance. The policy of their chiefs has on this occasion been admired, and might surely be excused; but a pious baud is seldom

produced by the cool conspiracy of many persons; and a voluntary

impostor might depend on the support of the wise and the credulity of the people. Of the diocese of Marseilles, there was a priest of low cunning and loose manners, and his name was Peter Bartholemy. He

presented himself at the door of the council-chamber, to disclose an apparition of St. Andrew, which had been thrice reiterated in his sleep with a dreadful menace, if he presumed to suppress the commands of

Heaven. "At Antioch," said the apostle, "in the church of my brother

St. Peter, near the high altar, is concealed the steel head of the lance that pierced the side of our Redeemer. In three days that instrument

of eternal, and now of temporal, salvation, will be manifested to his disciples. Search, and ye shall find: bear it aloft in battle; and that

mystic weapon shall penetrate the souls of the miscreants." The

pope's legate, the bishop of Puy, affected to listen with coldness and distrust; but the revelation was eagerly accepted by Count Raymond, whom

his faithful subject, in the name of the apostle, had chosen for the

guardian of the holy lance. The experiment was resolved; and on the third day after a due preparation of prayer and fasting, the priest

of Marseilles introduced twelve trusty spectators, among whom were the count and his chaplain; and the church doors were barred against the

impetuous multitude. The ground was opened in the appointed place; but the workmen, who relieved each other, dug to the depth of twelve feet without discovering the object of their search. In the evening, when count Raymond had withdrawn to his post, and the weary assistants began to murmur, Bartholemy, in his shirt, and without his shoes, boldly descended into the pit; the darkness of the hour and of the place enabled him to secrete and deposit the head of a Saracen lance; and the first sound, the first gleam, of the steel was saluted with a devout

rapture. The holy lance was drawn from its recess, wrapped in a veil

of silk and gold, and exposed to the veneration of the crusaders; their anxious suspense burst forth in a general shout of joy and hope, and the desponding troops were again inflamed with the enthusiasm of valor. whatever had been the arts, and whatever might be the sentiments of the chiefs, they skilfully improved this fortunate revolution by every aid that discipline and devotion could afford. The soldiers were dismissed to their quarters with an injunction to fortify their minds and bodies for the approaching conflict, freely to bestow their last pittance on themselves and their horses, and to expect with the dawn of day the

signal of victory. On the festival of St. Peter and St. Paul, the gates

of Antioch were thrown open: a martial psalm, "Let the Lord arise, and

let his enemies be scattered!" was chanted by a procession of priests and monks; the battle array was marshalled in twelve divisions, in honor

of the twelve apostles; and the holy lance, in the absence of Raymond, was intrusted to the hands of his chaplain. The influence of his relic

or trophy, was felt by the servants, and perhaps by the enemies,

of Christ; and its potent energy was heightened by an accident, a

stratagem, or a rumor, of a miraculous complexion. Three knights, in white garments and resplendent arms, either issued, or seemed to issue, from the hills: the voice of Adhemar, the pope's legate, proclaimed them as the martyrs St. George, St. Theodore, and St. Maurice: the tumult of battle allowed no time for doubt or scrutiny; and the welcome apparition dazzled the eyes or the imagination of a fanatic army. In the season

of danger and triumph, the revelation of Bartholemy of Marseilles was unanimously asserted; but as soon as the temporary service was accomplished, the personal dignity and liberal arms which the count of tholouse derived from the custody of the holy lance, provoked the envy, and awakened the reason, of his rivals. A Norman clerk presumed to sift, with a philosophic spirit, the truth of the legend, the circumstances of the discovery, and the character of the prophet; and the pious Bohemond ascribed their deliverance to the merits and intercession of Christ alone. For a while, the Provincials defended their national palladium with clamors and arms and new visions condemned to death and hell the

profane sceptics who presumed to scrutinize the truth and merit of the discovery. The prevalence of incredulity compelled the author to submit

his life and veracity to the judgment of God. A pile of dry fagots, four feet high and fourteen long, was erected in the midst of the camp; the flames burnt fiercely to the elevation of thirty cubits; and a narrow

path of twelve inches was left for the perilous trial. The unfortunate

priest of Marseilles traversed the fire with dexterity and speed; but the thighs and belly were scorched by the intense heat; he expired the

next day; and the logic of believing minds will pay some regard to his dying protestations of innocence and truth. Some efforts were made by the Provincials to substitute a cross, a ring, or a tabernacle, in the

place of the holy lance, which soon vanished in contempt and oblivion.

Yet the revelation of Antioch is gravely asserted by succeeding

historians: and such is the progress of credulity, that miracles most doubtful on the spot, and at the moment, will be received with implicit faith at a convenient distance of time and space.

the prudence or fortune of the Franks had delayed their invasion till the decline of the Turkish empire. Under the manly government of the three first sultans, the kingdoms of Asia were united in peace and

justice; and the innumerable armies which they led in person were equal

in courage, and superior in discipline, to the Barbarians of the West. but at the time of the crusade, the inheritance of Malek Shaw was disputed by his four sons; their private ambition was insensible of the public danger; and, in the vicissitudes of their fortune, the

royal vassals were ignorant, or regardless, of the true object of their allegiance. The twenty-eight emirs who marched with the standard or

Kerboga were his rivals or enemies: their hasty levies were drawn from the towns and tents of Mesopotamia and Syria; and the Turkish veterans were employed or consumed in the civil wars beyond the Tigris. The caliph of Egypt embraced this opportunity of weakness and discord to recover his ancient possessions; and his sultan Aphdal besieged

Jerusalem and Tyre, expelled the children of Ortok, and restored in

Palestine the civil and ecclesiastical authority of the Fatimites. They

heard with astonishment of the vast armies of Christians that had passed from Europe to Asia, and rejoiced in the sieges and battles which broke the power of the Turks, the adversaries of their sect and monarchy. but the same Christians were the enemies of the prophet; and from the

overthrow of Nice and Antioch, the motive of their enterprise, which was gradually understood, would urge them forwards to the banks of the Jordan, or perhaps of the Nile. An intercourse of epistles and embassies, which rose and fell with the events of war, was maintained between the throne of Cairo and the camp of the Latins; and their adverse pride was the result of ignorance and enthusiasm. The ministers

of Egypt declared in a haughty, or insinuated in a milder, tone, that their sovereign, the true and lawful commander of the faithful, had

rescued Jerusalem from the Turkish yoke; and that the pilgrims, if they would divide their numbers, and lay aside their arms, should find a safe and hospitable reception at the sepulchre of Jesus. In the belief

of their lost condition, the caliph Mostali despised their arms and

imprisoned their deputies: the conquest and victory of Antioch prompted

him to solicit those formidable champions with gifts of horses and silk

robes, of vases, and purses of gold and silver; and in his estimate of their merit or power, the first place was assigned to Bohemond, and the

second to Godfrey. In either fortune, the answer of the crusaders was firm and uniform: they disdained to inquire into the private claims

or possessions of the followers of Mahomet; whatsoever was his name

or nation, the usurper of Jerusalem was their enemy; and instead of

prescribing the mode and terms of their pilgrimage, it was only by a timely surrender of the city and province, their sacred right, that

he could deserve their alliance, or deprecate their impending and

irresistible attack.

Yet this attack, when they were within the view and reach of their

glorious prize, was suspended above ten months after the defeat of

Kerboga. The zeal and courage of the crusaders were chilled in the

moment of victory; and instead of marching to improve the consternation, they hastily dispersed to enjoy the luxury, of Syria. The causes of this

strange delay may be found in the want of strength and subordination. In the painful and various service of Antioch, the cavalry was annihilated;

many thousands of every rank had been lost by famine, sickness, and desertion: the same abuse of plenty had been productive of a third famine; and the alternative of intemperance and distress had generated a pestilence, which swept away above fifty thousand of the pilgrims. Few were able to command, and none were willing to obey; the domestic feuds, which had been stifled by common fear, were again renewed in acts, or at

least in sentiments, of hostility; the fortune of Baldwin and Bohemond excited the envy of their companions; the bravest knights were enlisted for the defence of their new principalities; and Count Raymond exhausted

his troops and treasures in an idle expedition into the heart of Syria.

\* The winter was consumed in discord and disorder; a sense of honor and

religion was rekindled in the spring; and the private soldiers, less

susceptible of ambition and jealousy, awakened with angry clamors the

indolence of their chiefs. In the month of May, the relics of this

mighty host proceeded from Antioch to Laodicea: about forty thousand

Latins, of whom no more than fifteen hundred horse, and twenty thousand foot, were capable of immediate service. Their easy march was continued between Mount Libanus and the sea-shore: their wants were liberally

supplied by the coasting traders of Genoa and Pisa; and they drew large contributions from the emirs of Tripoli, Tyre, Sidon, Acre, and Cæsarea, who granted a free passage, and promised to follow the example of

Jerusalem. From Cæsarea they advanced into the midland country; their clerks recognized the sacred geography of Lydda, Ramla, Emmaus, and bethlem, and as soon as they descried the holy city, the crusaders forgot their toils and claimed their reward.

chapter LVIII: The First Crusade.--Part V.

Jerusalem has derived some reputation from the number and importance of

her memorable sieges. It was not till after a long and obstinate contest that Babylon and Rome could prevail against the obstinacy of the people, the craggy ground that might supersede the necessity of fortifications, and the walls and towers that would have fortified the most accessible

plain. These obstacles were diminished in the age of the crusades. The bulwarks had been completely destroyed and imperfectly restored: the

Jews, their nation, and worship, were forever banished; but nature is

less changeable than man, and the site of Jerusalem, though somewhat

softened and somewhat removed, was still strong against the assaults

of an enemy. By the experience of a recent siege, and a three years'

possession, the Saracens of Egypt had been taught to discern, and in

some degree to remedy, the defects of a place, which religion as well as honor forbade them to resign. Aladin, or Iftikhar, the caliph's

lieutenant, was intrusted with the defence: his policy strove to

restrain the native Christians by the dread of their own ruin and that of the holy sepulchre; to animate the Moslems by the assurance of temporal and eternal rewards. His garrison is said to have consisted

of forty thousand Turks and Arabians; and if he could muster twenty thousand of the inhabitants, it must be confessed that the besieged were

more numerous than the besieging army. Had the diminished strength and

numbers of the Latins allowed them to grasp the whole circumference

of four thousand yards, (about two English miles and a half, ) to what

useful purpose should they have descended into the valley of Ben Hinnom and torrent of Cedron, or approach the precipices of the south and east, from whence they had nothing either to hope or fear? Their siege was

more reasonably directed against the northern and western sides of the city. Godfrey of Bouillon erected his standard on the first swell of

Mount Calvary: to the left, as far as St. Stephen's gate, the line of attack was continued by Tancred and the two Roberts; and Count Raymond established his quarters from the citadel to the foot of Mount Sion, which was no longer included within the precincts of the city. On the fifth day, the crusaders made a general assault, in the fanatic hope of battering down the walls without engines, and of scaling them without

ladders. By the dint of brutal force, they burst the first barrier; but they were driven back with shame and slaughter to the camp: the

influence of vision and prophecy was deadened by the too frequent abuse

of those pious stratagems; and time and labor were found to be the only

means of victory. The time of the siege was indeed fulfilled in forty days, but they were forty days of calamity and anguish. A repetition

of the old complaint of famine may be imputed in some degree to the

voracious or disorderly appetite of the Franks; but the stony soil of

Jerusalem is almost destitute of water; the scanty springs and hasty torrents were dry in the summer season; nor was the thirst of the besiegers relieved, as in the city, by the artificial supply of cisterns and aqueducts. The circumjacent country is equally destitute of trees for the uses of shade or building, but some large beams were discovered

in a cave by the crusaders: a wood near Sichem, the enchanted grove of tasso, was cut down: the necessary timber was transported to the camp by the vigor and dexterity of Tancred; and the engines were framed by some

Genoese artists, who had fortunately landed in the harbor of Jaffa. Two

movable turrets were constructed at the expense, and in the stations, of the duke of Lorraine and the count of Tholouse, and rolled forwards with devout labor, not to the most accessible, but to the most neglected,

parts of the fortification. Raymond's Tower was reduced to ashes by the fire of the besieged, but his colleague was more vigilant and

successful; the enemies were driven by his archers from the rampart; the draw-bridge was let down; and on a Friday, at three in the afternoon, the day and hour of the passion, Godfrey of Bouillon stood

victorious on the walls of Jerusalem. His example was followed on every

side by the emulation of valor; and about four hundred and sixty years after the conquest of Omar, the holy city was rescued from the Mahometan

yoke. In the pillage of public and private wealth, the adventurers had agreed to respect the exclusive property of the first occupant; and the

spoils of the great mosque, seventy lamps and massy vases of gold and silver, rewarded the diligence, and displayed the generosity, of tancred. A bloody sacrifice was offered by his mistaken votaries to the

God of the Christians: resistance might provoke but neither age nor sex could mollify, their implacable rage: they indulged themselves three days in a promiscuous massacre; and the infection of the dead bodies

produced an epidemical disease. After seventy thousand Moslems had been put to the sword, and the harmless Jews had been burnt in their

synagogue, they could still reserve a multitude of captives, whom

interest or lassitude persuaded them to spare. Of these savage heroes of the cross, Tancred alone betrayed some sentiments of compassion; yet we may praise the more selfish lenity of Raymond, who granted a capitulation and safe-conduct to the garrison of the citadel. The holy

sepulchre was now free; and the bloody victors prepared to accomplish their vow. Bareheaded and barefoot, with contrite hearts, and in an

humble posture, they ascended the hill of Calvary, amidst the loud anthems of the clergy; kissed the stone which had covered the Savior of the world; and bedewed with tears of joy and penitence the monument of their redemption. This union of the fiercest and most tender passions

has been variously considered by two philosophers; by the one, as easy and natural; by the other, as absurd and incredible. Perhaps it is too

rigorously applied to the same persons and the same hour; the example

of the virtuous Godfrey awakened the piety of his companions; while they cleansed their bodies, they purified their minds; nor shall I believe that the most ardent in slaughter and rapine were the foremost in the

procession to the holy sepulchre.

eight days after this memorable event, which Pope Urban did not live to

hear, the Latin chiefs proceeded to the election of a king, to guard and govern their conquests in Palestine. Hugh the Great, and Stephen of chartres, had retired with some loss of reputation, which they strove to regain by a second crusade and an honorable death. Baldwin was established at Edessa, and Bohemond at Antioch; and two Roberts, the duke of Normandy and the count of Flanders, preferred their fair

inheritance in the West to a doubtful competition or a barren sceptre. the jealousy and ambition of Raymond were condemned by his own followers, and the free, the just, the unanimous voice of the army

proclaimed Godfrey of Bouillon the first and most worthy of the champions of Christendom. His magnanimity accepted a trust as full of danger as of glory; but in a city where his Savior had been crowned with thorns, the devout pilgrim rejected the name and ensigns of royalty; and the founder of the kingdom of Jerusalem contented himself with the

modest title of Defender and Baron of the Holy Sepulchre. His government

of a single year, too short for the public happiness, was interrupted

in the first fortnight by a summons to the field, by the approach of the

vizier or sultan of Egypt, who had been too slow to prevent, but who was

impatient to avenge, the loss of Jerusalem. His total overthrow in the battle of Ascalon sealed the establishment of the Latins in Syria, and

signalized the valor of the French princes who in this action bade a

long farewell to the holy wars. Some glory might be derived from the

prodigious inequality of numbers, though I shall not count the myriads

of horse and foot on the side of the Fatimites; but, except three thousand Ethiopians or Blacks, who were armed with flails or scourges of

iron, the Barbarians of the South fled on the first onset, and afforded a pleasing comparison between the active valor of the Turks and the

sloth and effeminacy of the natives of Egypt. After suspending before the holy sepulchre the sword and standard of the sultan, the new king

(he deserves the title) embraced his departing companions, and could

retain only with the gallant Tancred three hundred knights, and two thousand foot-soldiers for the defence of Palestine. His sovereignty was

soon attacked by a new enemy, the only one against whom Godfrey was a coward. Adhemar, bishop of Puy, who excelled both in council and action, had been swept away in the last plague at Antioch: the remaining ecclesiastics preserved only the pride and avarice of their character; and their seditious clamors had required that the choice of a bishop

should precede that of a king. The revenue and jurisdiction of the

lawful patriarch were usurped by the Latin clergy: the exclusion of the

Greeks and Syrians was justified by the reproach of heresy or schism; and, under the iron yoke of their deliverers, the Oriental Christians

regretted the tolerating government of the Arabian caliphs. Daimbert, archbishop of Pisa, had long been trained in the secret policy of Rome:

he brought a fleet at his countrymen to the succor of the Holy Land, and was installed, without a competitor, the spiritual and temporal head of the church. The new patriarch immediately grasped the sceptre which

had been acquired by the toil and blood of the victorious pilgrims; and both Godfrey and Bohemond submitted to receive at his hands the

investiture of their feudal possessions. Nor was this sufficient; daimbert claimed the immediate property of Jerusalem and Jaffa; instead

of a firm and generous refusal, the hero negotiated with the priest; a

quarter of either city was ceded to the church; and the modest bishop was satisfied with an eventual reversion of the rest, on the death of

Godfrey without children, or on the future acquisition of a new seat at cairo or Damascus.

without this indulgence, the conqueror would have almost been stripped

of his infant kingdom, which consisted only of Jerusalem and Jaffa, with about twenty villages and towns of the adjacent country. Within this

narrow verge, the Mahometans were still lodged in some impregnable castles: and the husbandman, the trader, and the pilgrim, were exposed to daily and domestic hostility. By the arms of Godfrey himself, and of the two Baldwins, his brother and cousin, who succeeded to the throne, the Latins breathed with more ease and safety; and at length they equalled, in the extent of their dominions, though not in the millions

of their subjects, the ancient princes of Judah and Israel. After the reduction of the maritime cities of Laodicea, Tripoli, Tyre, and ascalon, which were powerfully assisted by the fleets of Venice, Genoa, and Pisa, and even of Flanders and Norway, the range of sea-coast from Scanderoon to the borders of Egypt was possessed by the Christian

pilgrims. If the prince of Antioch disclaimed his supremacy, the counts

of Edessa and Tripoli owned themselves the vassals of the king of

Jerusalem: the Latins reigned beyond the Euphrates; and the four cities

of Hems, Hamah, Damascus, and Aleppo, were the only relics of the

Mahometan conquests in Syria. The laws and language, the manners and titles, of the French nation and Latin church, were introduced into these transmarine colonies. According to the feudal jurisprudence, the

principal states and subordinate baronies descended in the line of

male and female succession: but the children of the first conquerors, a

motley and degenerate race, were dissolved by the luxury of the climate; the arrival of new crusaders from Europe was a doubtful hope and a casual event. The service of the feudal tenures was performed by six

hundred and sixty-six knights, who might expect the aid of two hundred

more under the banner of the count of Tripoli; and each knight was attended to the field by four squires or archers on horseback. Five thousand and seventy sergeants, most probably foot-soldiers, were

supplied by the churches and cities; and the whole legal militia of the

kingdom could not exceed eleven thousand men, a slender defence against the surrounding myriads of Saracens and Turks. But the firmest bulwark

of Jerusalem was founded on the knights of the Hospital of St. John, and

of the temple of Solomon; on the strange association of a monastic and

military life, which fanaticism might suggest, but which policy must approve. The flower of the nobility of Europe aspired to wear the cross, and to profess the vows, of these respectable orders; their spirit and discipline were immortal; and the speedy donation of twenty-eight thousand farms, or manors, enabled them to support a regular force of cavalry and infantry for the defence of Palestine. The austerity of the convent soon evaporated in the exercise of arms; the world was

scandalized by the pride, avarice, and corruption of these Christian

soldiers; their claims of immunity and jurisdiction disturbed the

harmony of the church and state; and the public peace was endangered by their jealous emulation. But in their most dissolute period, the knights

of their hospital and temple maintained their fearless and fanatic character: they neglected to live, but they were prepared to die, in the

service of Christ; and the spirit of chivalry, the parent and offspring

of the crusades, has been transplanted by this institution from the holy

sepulchre to the Isle of Malta.

the spirit of freedom, which pervades the feudal institutions, was felt

in its strongest energy by the volunteers of the cross, who elected for their chief the most deserving of his peers. Amidst the slaves of Asia,

unconscious of the lesson or example, a model of political liberty was

introduced; and the laws of the French kingdom are derived from the

purest source of equality and justice. Of such laws, the first and

indispensable condition is the assent of those whose obedience they

require, and for whose benefit they are designed. No sooner had Godfrey

of Bouillon accepted the office of supreme magistrate, than he solicited the public and private advice of the Latin pilgrims, who were the best

skilled in the statutes and customs of Europe. From these materials, with the counsel and approbation of the patriarch and barons, of the clergy and laity, Godfrey composed the Assise of Jerusalem, a precious

monument of feudal jurisprudence. The new code, attested by the seals of the king, the patriarch, and the viscount of Jerusalem, was deposited in the holy sepulchre, enriched with the improvements of succeeding times, and respectfully consulted as often as any doubtful question arose in the tribunals of Palestine. With the kingdom and city all was lost: the fragments of the written law were preserved by jealous tradition and

variable practice till the middle of the thirteenth century: the code was restored by the pen of John d'Ibelin, count of Jaffa, one of the

principal feudatories; and the final revision was accomplished in the

year thirteen hundred and sixty-nine, for the use of the Latin kingdom

of Cyprus.

the justice and freedom of the constitution were maintained by two tribunals of unequal dignity, which were instituted by Godfrey of bouillon after the conquest of Jerusalem. The king, in person, presided

in the upper court, the court of the barons. Of these the four most conspicuous were the prince of Galilee, the lord of Sidon and Cæsarea, and the counts of Jaffa and Tripoli, who, perhaps with the constable and

marshal, were in a special manner the compeers and judges of each other. but all the nobles, who held their lands immediately of the crown, were entitled and bound to attend the king's court; and each baron exercised a similar jurisdiction on the subordinate assemblies of his own feudatories. The connection of lord and vassal was honorable and

voluntary: reverence was due to the benefactor, protection to the dependant; but they mutually pledged their faith to each other; and the

obligation on either side might be suspended by neglect or dissolved by injury. The cognizance of marriages and testaments was blended with

religion, and usurped by the clergy: but the civil and criminal causes

of the nobles, the inheritance and tenure of their fiefs, formed the

proper occupation of the supreme court. Each member was the judge and

guardian both of public and private rights. It was his duty to assert with his tongue and sword the lawful claims of the lord; but if an

unjust superior presumed to violate the freedom or property of a vassal, the confederate peers stood forth to maintain his quarrel by word and deed. They boldly affirmed his innocence and his wrongs; demanded the

restitution of his liberty or his lands; suspended, after a fruitless demand, their own service; rescued their brother from prison; and employed every weapon in his defence, without offering direct violence to the person of their lord, which was ever sacred in their eyes. In their pleadings, replies, and rejoinders, the advocates of the court were subtle and copious; but the use of argument and evidence was often

superseded by judicial combat; and the Assise of Jerusalem admits in

many cases this barbarous institution, which has been slowly abolished by the laws and manners of Europe.

the trial by battle was established in all criminal cases which affected the life, or limb, or honor, of any person; and in all civil transactions, of or above the value of one mark of silver. It appears that in criminal cases the combat was the privilege of the accuser, who, except in a charge of treason, avenged his personal injury, or the death

of those persons whom he had a right to represent; but wherever, from the nature of the charge, testimony could be obtained, it was necessary for him to produce witnesses of the fact. In civil cases, the combat was

not allowed as the means of establishing the claim of the demandant; but he was obliged to produce witnesses who had, or assumed to have,

knowledge of the fact. The combat was then the privilege of the defendant; because he charged the witness with an attempt by perjury to take away his right. He came therefore to be in the same situation as the appellant in criminal cases. It was not then as a mode of proof that the combat was received, nor as making negative evidence, (according to the supposition of Montesquieu; ) but in every case the right to offer battle was founded on the right to pursue by arms the redress of an

injury; and the judicial combat was fought on the same principle, and with the same spirit, as a private duel. Champions were only allowed to women, and to men maimed or past the age of sixty. The consequence of a defeat was death to the person accused, or to the champion or witness, as well as to the accuser himself: but in civil cases, the demandant was punished with infamy and the loss of his suit, while his witness and champion suffered ignominious death. In many cases it was in the option

of the judge to award or to refuse the combat: but two are specified,

in which it was the inevitable result of the challenge; if a faithful

vassal gave the lie to his compeer, who unjustly claimed any portion of their lord's demesnes; or if an unsuccessful suitor presumed to impeach the judgment and veracity of the court. He might impeach them, but the terms were severe and perilous: in the same day he successively fought

\_all\_ the members of the tribunal, even those who had been absent; a

single defeat was followed by death and infamy; and where none could

hope for victory, it is highly probable that none would adventure the trial. In the Assise of Jerusalem, the legal subtlety of the count

of Jaffa is more laudably employed to elude, than to facilitate, the

judicial combat, which he derives from a principle of honor rather than

of superstition.

among the causes which enfranchised the plebeians from the yoke of feudal tyranny, the institution of cities and corporations is one of the most powerful; and if those of Palestine are coeval with the first crusade, they may be ranked with the most ancient of the Latin world.

Many of the pilgrims had escaped from their lords under the banner of the cross; and it was the policy of the French princes to tempt their

stay by the assurance of the rights and privileges of freemen. It is expressly declared in the Assise of Jerusalem, that after instituting, for his knights and barons, the court of peers, in which he presided

himself, Godfrey of Bouillon established a second tribunal, in which

his person was represented by his viscount. The jurisdiction of this

inferior court extended over the burgesses of the kingdom; and it was composed of a select number of the most discreet and worthy citizens, who were sworn to judge, according to the laws of the actions and fortunes of their equals. In the conquest and settlement of new cities, the example of Jerusalem was imitated by the kings and their great

vassals; and above thirty similar corporations were founded before the loss of the Holy Land. Another class of subjects, the Syrians,

or Oriental Christians, were oppressed by the zeal of the clergy, and

protected by the toleration of the state. Godfrey listened to their

reasonable prayer, that they might be judged by their own national laws. a third court was instituted for their use, of limited and domestic

jurisdiction: the sworn members were Syrians, in blood, language, and

religion; but the office of the president (in Arabic, of the \_rais\_) was sometimes exercised by the viscount of the city. At an immeasurable distance below the \_nobles\_, the \_burgesses\_, and the \_strangers\_, the assise of Jerusalem condescends to mention the \_villains\_ and \_slaves\_, the peasants of the land and the captives of war, who were almost equally considered as the objects of property. The relief or protection

of these unhappy men was not esteemed worthy of the care of the

legislator; but he diligently provides for the recovery, though not

indeed for the punishment, of the fugitives. Like hounds, or hawks, who

had strayed from the lawful owner, they might be lost and claimed: the

slave and falcon were of the same value; but three slaves, or twelve

oxen, were accumulated to equal the price of the war-horse; and a sum of three hundred pieces of gold was fixed, in the age of chivalry, as the equivalent of the more noble animal.

end of Volume V.

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Produced by David Reed and Dale R. Fredrickson

HISTORY OF THE DECLINE AND FALL OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE

edward Gibbon, Esq.

with notes by the Rev. H. H. Milman

Vol. 6 (complete)

1782 (Written), 1845 (Revised)

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This is the sixth volume of the six volumes of Edward Gibbon's History

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Especially Dale R. Fredrickson who has hand entered the Greek characters

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hope you enjoy this.

David Reed

chapter LIX: The Crusades.--Part I.

Preservation Of The Greek Empire.--Numbers, Passage, And

Event, Of The Second And Third Crusades.--St. Bernard.--

Reign Of Saladin In Egypt And Syria.--His Conquest Of

Jerusalem.--Naval Crusades.--Richard The First Of England.--

Pope Innocent The Third; And The Fourth And Fifth Crusades.--

The Emperor Frederic The Second.--Louis The Ninth Of

France; And The Two Last Crusades.--Expulsion Of The Latins

Or Franks By The Mamelukes.

In a style less grave than that of history, I should perhaps compare the emperor Alexius [1] to the jackal, who is said to follow the steps, and to devour the leavings, of the lion. Whatever had been his fears and toils in the passage of the first crusade, they were amply recompensed by the subsequent benefits which he derived from the exploits of the franks. His dexterity and vigilance secured their first conquest of

Nice; and from this threatening station the Turks were compelled to evacuate the neighborhood of Constantinople. While the crusaders, with blind valor, advanced into the midland countries of Asia, the crafty

Greek improved the favorable occasion when the emirs of the sea-coast were recalled to the standard of the sultan. The Turks were driven from the Isles of Rhodes and Chios: the cities of Ephesus and Smyrna, of

Sardes, Philadelphia, and Laodicea, were restored to the empire, which alexius enlarged from the Hellespont to the banks of the Mæander, and the rocky shores of Pamphylia. The churches resumed their splendor: the towns were rebuilt and fortified; and the desert country was peopled with colonies of Christians, who were gently removed from the more distant and dangerous frontier. In these paternal cares, we may forgive alexius, if he forgot the deliverance of the holy sepulchre; but, by the Latins, he was stigmatized with the foul reproach of treason and desertion. They had sworn fidelity and obedience to his throne; but \_he\_

had promised to assist their enterprise in person, or, at least, with

his troops and treasures: his base retreat dissolved their obligations; and the sword, which had been the instrument of their victory, was the

pledge and title of their just independence. It does not appear that the emperor attempted to revive his obsolete claims over the kingdom of

Jerusalem; [2] but the borders of Cilicia and Syria were more recent in

his possession, and more accessible to his arms. The great army of the crusaders was annihilated or dispersed; the principality of Antioch was left without a head, by the surprise and captivity of Bohemond; his

ransom had oppressed him with a heavy debt; and his Norman followers were insufficient to repel the hostilities of the Greeks and Turks. In this distress, Bohemond embraced a magnanimous resolution, of leaving the defence of Antioch to his kinsman, the faithful Tancred; of arming the West against the Byzantine empire; and of executing the design which

he inherited from the lessons and example of his father Guiscard.

His embarkation was clandestine: and, if we may credit a tale of the

princess Anne, he passed the hostile sea closely secreted in a coffin.

[3] But his reception in France was dignified by the public applause, and

his marriage with the king's daughter: his return was glorious, since the bravest spirits of the age enlisted under his veteran command; and

he repassed the Adriatic at the head of five thousand horse and forty thousand foot, assembled from the most remote climates of Europe. [4] The

strength of Durazzo, and prudence of Alexius, the progress of famine and approach of winter, eluded his ambitious hopes; and the venal confederates were seduced from his standard. A treaty of peace [5]

suspended the fears of the Greeks; and they were finally delivered by the death of an adversary, whom neither oaths could bind, nor dangers could appal, nor prosperity could satiate. His children succeeded to the

principality of Antioch; but the boundaries were strictly defined, the

homage was clearly stipulated, and the cities of Tarsus and Malmistra were restored to the Byzantine emperors. Of the coast of Anatolia, they

possessed the entire circuit from Trebizond to the Syrian gates. The

Seljukian dynasty of Roum [6] was separated on all sides from the sea and their Mussulman brethren; the power of the sultan was shaken by the victories and even the defeats of the Franks; and after the loss of

Nice, they removed their throne to Cogni or Iconium, an obscure and in

land town above three hundred miles from Constantinople. [7] Instead of trembling for their capital, the Comnenian princes waged an offensive war against the Turks, and the first crusade prevented the fall of the declining empire.

[Footnote 1: Anna Comnena relates her father's conquests in Asia Minor alexiad, l. xi. p. 321--325, l. xiv. p. 419; his Cilician war against tancred and Bohemond, p. 328--324; the war of Epirus, with tedious

prolixity, l. xii. xiii. p. 345--406; the death of Bohemond, l. xiv. p.

419.]

[Footnote 2: The kings of Jerusalem submitted, however, to a nominal dependence, and in the dates of their inscriptions, (one is still

legible in the church of Bethlem,) they respectfully placed before their own the name of the reigning emperor, (Ducange, Dissertations sur

Joinville xxvii. p. 319.)]

[Footnote 3: Anna Comnena adds, that, to complete the imitation, he was

shut up with a dead cock; and condescends to wonder how the Barbarian could endure the confinement and putrefaction. This absurd tale is

unknown to the Latins. \* Note: The Greek writers, in general, Zonaras,

p. 2, 303, and Glycas, p. 334 agree in this story with the princess anne, except in the absurd addition of the dead cock. Ducange has already quoted some instances where a similar stratagem had been adopted by \_Norman\_ princes. On this authority Wilken inclines to believe the fact. Appendix to vol. ii. p. 14.--M.]

[Footnote 4: 'Apo QulhV in the Byzantine geography, must mean England;

yet we are more credibly informed, that our Henry I. would not suffer

him to levy any troops in his kingdom, (Ducange, Not. ad Alexiad. p.

41.)]

[Footnote 5: The copy of the treaty (Alexiad. l. xiii. p. 406--416) is an original and curious piece, which would require, and might afford, a

good map of the principality of Antioch.]

[Footnote 6: See, in the learned work of M. De Guignes, (tom. ii. part

ii.,) the history of the Seljukians of Iconium, Aleppo, and Damascus, as far as it may be collected from the Greeks, Latins, and Arabians. The

last are ignorant or regardless of the affairs of \_Roum\_.]

[Footnote 7: Iconium is mentioned as a station by Xenophon, and by

Strabo, with an ambiguous title of KwmopoliV, (Cellarius, tom. ii. p.

121.) Yet St. Paul found in that place a multitude (plhqoV) of Jews and Gentiles. under the corrupt name of \_Kunijah\_, it is described as a

great city, with a river and garden, three leagues from the mountains, and decorated (I know not why) with Plato's tomb, (Abulfeda, tabul.

xvii. p. 303 vers. Reiske; and the Index Geographicus of Schultens from

Ibn Said.)]

In the twelfth century, three great emigrations marched by land from the west for the relief of Palestine. The soldiers and pilgrims of Lombardy, france, and Germany were excited by the example and success of the first crusade. [8] Forty-eight years after the deliverance of the holy

sepulchre, the emperor, and the French king, Conrad the Third and

Louis the Seventh, undertook the second crusade to support the falling fortunes of the Latins. [9] A grand division of the third crusade was

led by the emperor Frederic Barbarossa, [10] who sympathized with his brothers of France and England in the common loss of Jerusalem. These three expeditions may be compared in their resemblance of the greatness

of numbers, their passage through the Greek empire, and the nature and event of their Turkish warfare, and a brief parallel may save the

repetition of a tedious narrative. However splendid it may seem, a

regular story of the crusades would exhibit the perpetual return of the

same causes and effects; and the frequent attempts for the defence or

recovery of the Holy Land would appear so many faint and unsuccessful copies of the original.

[Footnote 8: For this supplement to the first crusade, see Anna Comnena,

(Alexias, l. xi. p. 331, &c., and the viiith book of Albert Aquensis.)]

[Footnote 9: For the second crusade, of Conrad III. and Louis VII.,

see William of Tyre, (l. xvi. c. 18--19,) Otho of Frisingen, (l. i. c.

34--45 59, 60,) Matthew Paris, (Hist. Major. p. 68,) Struvius, (Corpus

Hist Germanicæ, p. 372, 373,) Scriptores Rerum Francicarum à Duchesne tom. iv.: Nicetas, in Vit. Manuel, l. i. c. 4, 5, 6, p. 41--48, Cinnamus

l. ii. p. 41--49.]

[Footnote 10: For the third crusade, of Frederic Barbarossa, see Nicetas

in Isaac Angel. l. ii. c. 3--8, p. 257--266. Struv. (Corpus. Hist. Germ.

p. 414,) and two historians, who probably were spectators, Tagino, (in

Scriptor. Freher. tom. i. p. 406--416, edit Struv.,) and the Anonymus de expeditione Asiaticâ Fred. I. (in Canisii Antiq. Lection. tom. iii. p.

ii. p. 498--526, edit. Basnage.)]

I. Of the swarms that so closely trod in the footsteps of the first

pilgrims, the chiefs were equal in rank, though unequal in fame and

merit, to Godfrey of Bouillon and his fellow-adventurers. At their

head were displayed the banners of the dukes of Burgundy, Bavaria, and aquitain; the first a descendant of Hugh Capet, the second, a father

of the Brunswick line: the archbishop of Milan, a temporal prince, transported, for the benefit of the Turks, the treasures and ornaments

of his church and palace; and the veteran crusaders, Hugh the Great and

Stephen of Chartres, returned to consummate their unfinished vow. The

huge and disorderly bodies of their followers moved forward in two columns; and if the first consisted of two hundred and sixty thousand

persons, the second might possibly amount to sixty thousand horse and

one hundred thousand foot. [11] [111] The armies of the second crusade might

have claimed the conquest of Asia; the nobles of France and Germany were animated by the presence of their sovereigns; and both the rank and

personal character of Conrad and Louis gave a dignity to their cause, and a discipline to their force, which might be vainly expected from the feudatory chiefs. The cavalry of the emperor, and that of the king, was each composed of seventy thousand knights, and their immediate attendants in the field; [12] and if the light-armed troops, the peasant

infantry, the women and children, the priests and monks, be rigorously excluded, the full account will scarcely be satisfied with four hundred thousand souls. The West, from Rome to Britain, was called into action; the kings of Poland and Bohemia obeyed the summons of Conrad; and it is affirmed by the Greeks and Latins, that, in the passage of a strait

or river, the Byzantine agents, after a tale of nine hundred thousand, desisted from the endless and formidable computation. [13] In the third crusade, as the French and English preferred the navigation of the

Mediterranean, the host of Frederic Barbarossa was less numerous. fifteen thousand knights, and as many squires, were the flower of the

German chivalry: sixty thousand horse, and one hundred thousand foot, were mustered by the emperor in the plains of Hungary; and after such

repetitions, we shall no longer be startled at the six hundred thousand

pilgrims, which credulity has ascribed to this last emigration. [14] Such extravagant reckonings prove only the astonishment of contemporaries; but their astonishment most strongly bears testimony to the existence

of an enormous, though indefinite, multitude. The Greeks might applaud their superior knowledge of the arts and stratagems of war, but they confessed the strength and courage of the French cavalry, and the

infantry of the Germans; [15] and the strangers are described as an iron

race, of gigantic stature, who darted fire from their eyes, and spilt blood like water on the ground. Under the banners of Conrad, a troop of females rode in the attitude and armor of men; and the chief of these amazons, from her gilt spurs and buskins, obtained the epithet of the

Golden-footed Dame.

[Footnote 11: Anne, who states these later swarms at 40,000 horse and

100,000 foot, calls them Normans, and places at their head two brothers

of Flanders. The Greeks were strangely ignorant of the names, families, and possessions of the Latin princes.]

[Footnote 111: It was this army of pilgrims, the first body of which was

headed by the archbishop of Milan and Count Albert of Blandras, which

set forth on the wild, yet, with a more disciplined army, not impolitic, enterprise of striking at the heart of the Mahometan power, by attacking the sultan in Bagdad. For their adventures and fate, see Wilken, vol.

ii. p. 120, &c., Michaud, book iv.--M.]

[Footnote 12: William of Tyre, and Matthew Paris, reckon 70,000 loricati

in each of the armies.]

[Footnote 13: The imperfect enumeration is mentioned by Cinnamus,

(ennenhkonta muriadeV,) and confirmed by Odo de Diogilo apud Ducange ad cinnamum, with the more precise sum of 900,556. Why must therefore the

version and comment suppose the modest and insufficient reckoning of

90,000? Does not Godfrey of Viterbo (Pantheon, p. xix. in Muratori, tom.

vii. p. 462) exclaim?

----Numerum si poscere quæras,

Millia millena militis agmen erat.]

[Footnote 14: This extravagant account is given by Albert of Stade,

(apud Struvium, p. 414;) my calculation is borrowed from Godfrey of

Viterbo, Arnold of Lubeck, apud eundem, and Bernard Thesaur. (c. 169, p.

804.) The original writers are silent. The Mahometans gave him 200,000,

or 260,000, men, (Bohadin, in Vit. Saladin, p. 110.)]

[Footnote 15: I must observe, that, in the second and third crusades, the subjects of Conrad and Frederic are styled by the Greeks and

Orientals \_Alamanni\_. The Lechi and Tzechi of Cinnamus are the Poles and Bohemians; and it is for the French that he reserves the ancient appellation of Germans. He likewise names the Brittioi, or Britannoi. \*

Note: \* He names both--Brittioi te kai Britanoi.--M.]

II. The number and character of the strangers was an object of terror to the effeminate Greeks, and the sentiment of fear is nearly allied to that of hatred. This aversion was suspended or softened by the apprehension of the Turkish power; and the invectives of the Latins will

not bias our more candid belief, that the emperor Alexius dissembled their insolence, eluded their hostilities, counselled their rashness, and opened to their ardor the road of pilgrimage and conquest. But when the Turks had been driven from Nice and the sea-coast, when the byzantine princes no longer dreaded the distant sultans of Cogni, they felt with purer indignation the free and frequent passage of the western barbarians, who violated the majesty, and endangered the safety, of the empire. The second and third crusades were undertaken under the reign

of Manuel Comnenus and Isaac Angelus. Of the former, the passions were always impetuous, and often malevolent; and the natural union of a cowardly and a mischievous temper was exemplified in the latter, who, without merit or mercy, could punish a tyrant, and occupy his throne. It was secretly, and perhaps tacitly, resolved by the prince and people to destroy, or at least to discourage, the pilgrims, by every species

of injury and oppression; and their want of prudence and discipline continually afforded the pretence or the opportunity. The Western

monarchs had stipulated a safe passage and fair market in the country

of their Christian brethren; the treaty had been ratified by oaths and

hostages; and the poorest soldier of Frederic's army was furnished with three marks of silver to defray his expenses on the road. But every engagement was violated by treachery and injustice; and the complaints

of the Latins are attested by the honest confession of a Greek

historian, who has dared to prefer truth to his country. [16] Instead

of a hospitable reception, the gates of the cities, both in Europe and asia, were closely barred against the crusaders; and the scanty pittance

of food was let down in baskets from the walls. Experience or foresight

might excuse this timid jealousy; but the common duties of humanity

prohibited the mixture of chalk, or other poisonous ingredients, in the bread; and should Manuel be acquitted of any foul connivance, he

is guilty of coining base money for the purpose of trading with the

pilgrims. In every step of their march they were stopped or misled: the

governors had private orders to fortify the passes and break down the bridges against them: the stragglers were pillaged and murdered: the soldiers and horses were pierced in the woods by arrows from an

invisible hand; the sick were burnt in their beds; and the dead bodies were hung on gibbets along the highways. These injuries exasperated the champions of the cross, who were not endowed with evangelical patience; and the Byzantine princes, who had provoked the unequal conflict,

promoted the embarkation and march of these formidable guests. On the

verge of the Turkish frontier Barbarossa spared the guilty Philadelphia,

[17] rewarded the hospitable Laodicea, and deplored the hard necessity that had stained his sword with any drops of Christian blood. In their

intercourse with the monarchs of Germany and France, the pride of the

Greeks was exposed to an anxious trial. They might boast that on the first interview the seat of Louis was a low stool, beside the throne

of Manuel; [18] but no sooner had the French king transported his army beyond the Bosphorus, than he refused the offer of a second conference,

unless his brother would meet him on equal terms, either on the sea or

land. With Conrad and Frederic, the ceremonial was still nicer and more difficult: like the successors of Constantine, they styled themselves emperors of the Romans; [19] and firmly maintained the purity of their title and dignity. The first of these representatives of Charlemagne would only converse with Manuel on horseback in the open field; the

second, by passing the Hellespont rather than the Bosphorus, declined the view of Constantinople and its sovereign. An emperor, who had been crowned at Rome, was reduced in the Greek epistles to the humble appellation of \_Rex\_, or prince, of the Alemanni; and the vain and feeble Angelus affected to be ignorant of the name of one of the

greatest men and monarchs of the age. While they viewed with hatred and

suspicion the Latin pilgrims the Greek emperors maintained a strict, though secret, alliance with the Turks and Saracens. Isaac Angelus complained, that by his friendship for the great Saladin he had incurred the enmity of the Franks; and a mosque was founded at Constantinople for the public exercise of the religion of Mahomet. [20]

[Footnote 16: Nicetas was a child at the second crusade, but in the third he commanded against the Franks the important post of

Philippopolis. Cinnamus is infected with national prejudice and pride.]

[Footnote 17: The conduct of the Philadelphians is blamed by Nicetas, while the anonymous German accuses the rudeness of his countrymen,

(culpâ nostrâ.) History would be pleasant, if we were embarrassed only by \_such\_ contradictions. It is likewise from Nicetas, that we learn the

pious and humane sorrow of Frederic.]

[Footnote 18: Cqamalh edra, which Cinnamus translates into Latin by the word Sellion. Ducange works very hard to save his king and country from

such ignominy, (sur Joinville, dissertat. xxvii. p. 317--320.) Louis afterwards insisted on a meeting in mari ex æquo, not ex equo, according to the laughable readings of some MSS.]

[Footnote 19: Ego Romanorum imperator sum, ille Romaniorum, (Anonym canis. p. 512.) The public and historical style of the Greeks was

Rhx... \_princeps\_. Yet Cinnamus owns, that 'Imperatwr is synonymous to basileuV.]

[Footnote 20: In the Epistles of Innocent III., (xiii. p. 184,) and the

History of Bohadin, (p. 129, 130,) see the views of a pope and a cadhi

on this \_singular\_toleration.]

III. The swarms that followed the first crusade were destroyed in anatolia by famine, pestilence, and the Turkish arrows; and the princes

only escaped with some squadrons of horse to accomplish their lamentable

pilgrimage. A just opinion may be formed of their knowledge and

humanity; of their knowledge, from the design of subduing Persia and chorasan in their way to Jerusalem; [201] of their humanity, from the

massacre of the Christian people, a friendly city, who came out to meet them with palms and crosses in their hands. The arms of Conrad and Louis were less cruel and imprudent; but the event of the second crusade was

still more ruinous to Christendom; and the Greek Manuel is accused by

his own subjects of giving seasonable intelligence to the sultan, and treacherous guides to the Latin princes. Instead of crushing the common foe, by a double attack at the same time but on different sides, the Germans were urged by emulation, and the French were retarded by

jealousy. Louis had scarcely passed the Bosphorus when he was met by the returning emperor, who had lost the greater part of his army in

glorious, but unsuccessful, actions on the banks of the Mæander. The contrast of the pomp of his rival hastened the retreat of Conrad: [202] the desertion of his independent vassals reduced him to his hereditary troops; and he borrowed some Greek vessels to execute by sea the

pilgrimage of Palestine. Without studying the lessons of experience,

or the nature of the war, the king of France advanced through the same country to a similar fate. The vanguard, which bore the royal banner and the oriflamme of St. Denys, [21] had doubled their march with rash and

inconsiderate speed; and the rear, which the king commanded in person,

no longer found their companions in the evening camp. In darkness and disorder, they were encompassed, assaulted, and overwhelmed, by the

innumerable host of Turks, who, in the art of war, were superior to the christians of the twelfth century. [211] Louis, who climbed a tree in the

general discomfiture, was saved by his own valor and the ignorance of

his adversaries; and with the dawn of day he escaped alive, but almost alone, to the camp of the vanguard. But instead of pursuing his expedition by land, he was rejoiced to shelter the relics of his army

in the friendly seaport of Satalia. From thence he embarked for Antioch; but so penurious was the supply of Greek vessels, that they could

only afford room for his knights and nobles; and the plebeian crowd of

infantry was left to perish at the foot of the Pamphylian hills. The emperor and the king embraced and wept at Jerusalem; their martial trains, the remnant of mighty armies, were joined to the Christian

powers of Syria, and a fruitless siege of Damascus was the final effort

of the second crusade. Conrad and Louis embarked for Europe with the

personal fame of piety and courage; but the Orientals had braved these

potent monarchs of the Franks, with whose names and military forces they

had been so often threatened. [22] Perhaps they had still more to fear from the veteran genius of Frederic the First, who in his youth had

served in Asia under his uncle Conrad. Forty campaigns in Germany and

Italy had taught Barbarossa to command; and his soldiers, even the

princes of the empire, were accustomed under his reign to obey. As soon as he lost sight of Philadelphia and Laodicea, the last cities of the

Greek frontier, he plunged into the salt and barren desert, a land (says the historian) of horror and tribulation. [23] During twenty days, every

step of his fainting and sickly march was besieged by the innumerable

hordes of Turkmans, [24] whose numbers and fury seemed after each defeat to multiply and inflame. The emperor continued to struggle and to

suffer; and such was the measure of his calamities, that when he reached the gates of Iconium, no more than one thousand knights were able to

serve on horseback. By a sudden and resolute assault he defeated the

guards, and stormed the capital of the sultan, [25] who humbly sued for

pardon and peace. The road was now open, and Frederic advanced in a career of triumph, till he was unfortunately drowned in a petty torrent

of Cilicia. [26] The remainder of his Germans was consumed by sickness and desertion: and the emperor's son expired with the greatest part

of his Swabian vassals at the siege of Acre. Among the Latin heroes,

Godfrey of Bouillon and Frederic Barbarossa could alone achieve the

passage of the Lesser Asia; yet even their success was a warning; and

in the last and most experienced age of the crusades, every nation

preferred the sea to the toils and perils of an inland expedition. [27]

[Footnote 201: This was the design of the pilgrims under the archbishop of

Milan. See note, p. 102.--M.]

[Footnote 202: Conrad had advanced with part of his army along a central

road, between that on the coast and that which led to Iconium. He

had been betrayed by the Greeks, his army destroyed without a battle. wilken, vol. iii. p. 165. Michaud, vol. ii. p. 156. Conrad advanced again with Louis as far as Ephesus, and from thence, at the invitation

of Manuel, returned to Constantinople. It was Louis who, at the passage

of the Mæander, was engaged in a "glorious action." Wilken, vol. iii. p.

179. Michaud vol. ii. p. 160. Gibbon followed Nicetas.--M.]

[Footnote 21: As counts of Vexin, the kings of France were the vassals and advocates of the monastery of St. Denys. The saint's peculiar banner, which they received from the abbot, was of a square form, and a red or \_flaming\_ color. The \_oriflamme\_ appeared at the head of the French armies from the xiith to the xvth century, (Ducange sur

Joinville, Dissert. xviii. p. 244--253.)]

[Footnote 211: They descended the heights to a beautiful valley which by beneath them. The Turks seized the heights which separated the two divisions of the army. The modern historians represent differently the act to which Louis owed his safety, which Gibbon has described by the

undignified phrase, "he climbed a tree." According to Michaud, vol.

ii. p. 164, the king got upon a rock, with his back against a tree; according to Wilken, vol. iii., he dragged himself up to the top of the rock by the roots of a tree, and continued to defend himself till

nightfall.--M.]

[Footnote 22: The original French histories of the second crusade are the Gesta Ludovici VII. published in the ivth volume of Duchesne's collection. The same volume contains many original letters of the king,

of Suger his minister, &c., the best documents of authentic history.]

[Footnote 23: Terram horroris et salsuginis, terram siccam sterilem,

inamnam. Anonym. Canis. p. 517. The emphatic language of a sufferer.]

[Footnote 24: Gens innumera, sylvestris, indomita, prædones sine ductore. The sultan of Cogni might sincerely rejoice in their defeat. anonym. Canis. p. 517, 518.]

[Footnote 25: See, in the anonymous writer in the Collection of canisius, Tagino and Bohadin, (Vit. Saladin. p. 119, 120,) the ambiguous conduct of Kilidge Arslan, sultan of Cogni, who hated and feared both

Saladin and Frederic.]

[Footnote 26: The desire of comparing two great men has tempted many writers to drown Frederic in the River Cydnus, in which Alexander so

imprudently bathed, (Q. Curt. l. iii c. 4, 5.) But, from the march of the emperor, I rather judge, that his Saleph is the Calycadnus, a stream

of less fame, but of a longer course. \* Note: It is now called the

Girama: its course is described in M'Donald Kinneir's Travels.--M.]

[Footnote 27: Marinus Sanutus, A.D. 1321, lays it down as a precept,

Quod stolus ecclesiæ per terram nullatenus est ducenda. He resolves, by the divine aid, the objection, or rather exception, of the first crusade, (Secreta Fidelium Crucis, l. ii. pars ii. c. i. p. 37.)]

the enthusiasm of the first crusade is a natural and simple event, while

hope was fresh, danger untried, and enterprise congenial to the spirit

of the times. But the obstinate perseverance of Europe may indeed excite

our pity and admiration; that no instruction should have been drawn from constant and adverse experience; that the same confidence should have

repeatedly grown from the same failures; that six succeeding generations

should have rushed headlong down the precipice that was open before them; and that men of every condition should have staked their public and private fortunes on the desperate adventure of possessing or

recovering a tombstone two thousand miles from their country. In a

period of two centuries after the council of Clermont, each spring and

summer produced a new emigration of pilgrim warriors for the defence of the Holy Land; but the seven great armaments or crusades were excited by some impending or recent calamity: the nations were moved by the authority of their pontiffs, and the example of their kings: their zeal was kindled, and their reason was silenced, by the voice of their holy

orators; and among these, Bernard, [28] the monk, or the saint, may claim the most honorable place. [281] About eight years before the first conquest

of Jerusalem, he was born of a noble family in Burgundy; at the age of three-and-twenty he buried himself in the monastery of Citeaux, then in the primitive fervor of the institution; at the end of two years he led forth her third colony, or daughter, to the valley of Clairvaux [29] in champagne; and was content, till the hour of his death, with the humble

station of abbot of his own community. A philosophic age has abolished, with too liberal and indiscriminate disdain, the honors of these

spiritual heroes. The meanest among them are distinguished by some energies of the mind; they were at least superior to their votaries and disciples; and, in the race of superstition, they attained the prize for which such numbers contended. In speech, in writing, in action, Bernard

stood high above his rivals and contemporaries; his compositions are

not devoid of wit and eloquence; and he seems to have preserved as much

reason and humanity as may be reconciled with the character of a saint.

In a secular life, he would have shared the seventh part of a private

inheritance; by a vow of poverty and penance, by closing his eyes against the visible world, [30] by the refusal of all ecclesiastical dignities, the abbot of Clairvaux became the oracle of Europe, and the founder of one hundred and sixty convents. Princes and pontiffs trembled at the freedom of his apostolical censures: France, England, and Milan, consulted and obeyed his judgment in a schism of the church: the debt was repaid by the gratitude of Innocent the Second; and his successor, eugenius the Third, was the friend and disciple of the holy Bernard.

It was in the proclamation of the second crusade that he shone as the

missionary and prophet of God, who called the nations to the defence of

his holy sepulchre. [31] At the parliament of Vezelay he spoke before the king; and Louis the Seventh, with his nobles, received their crosses from his hand. The abbot of Clairvaux then marched to the less easy conquest of the emperor Conrad: [311] a phlegmatic people, ignorant of

his language, was transported by the pathetic vehemence of his tone and

gestures; and his progress, from Constance to Cologne, was the triumph of eloquence and zeal. Bernard applauds his own success in the depopulation of Europe; affirms that cities and castles were emptied of their inhabitants; and computes, that only one man was left behind for the consolation of seven widows. [32] The blind fanatics were desirous of electing him for their general; but the example of the hermit Peter was before his eyes; and while he assured the crusaders of the divine favor,

he prudently declined a military command, in which failure and victory would have been almost equally disgraceful to his character. [33] Yet, after the calamitous event, the abbot of Clairvaux was loudly accused as a false prophet, the author of the public and private mourning;

his enemies exulted, his friends blushed, and his apology was slow and

unsatisfactory. He justifies his obedience to the commands of the pope; expatiates on the mysterious ways of Providence; imputes the misfortunes

of the pilgrims to their own sins; and modestly insinuates, that his

mission had been approved by signs and wonders. [34] Had the fact been certain, the argument would be decisive; and his faithful disciples, who enumerate twenty or thirty miracles in a day, appeal to the public assemblies of France and Germany, in which they were performed. [35] at the present hour, such prodigies will not obtain credit beyond the

precincts of Clairvaux; but in the preternatural cures of the blind, the lame, and the sick, who were presented to the man of God, it is

impossible for us to ascertain the separate shares of accident, of fancy, of imposture, and of fiction.

[Footnote 28: The most authentic information of St. Bernard must be drawn from his own writings, published in a correct edition by Père

Mabillon, and reprinted at Venice, 1750, in six volumes in folio. whatever friendship could recollect, or superstition could add, is contained in the two lives, by his disciples, in the vith volume: whatever learning and criticism could ascertain, may be found in the

prefaces of the Benedictine editor.]

[Footnote 281: Gibbon, whose account of the crusades is perhaps the least accurate and satisfactory chapter in his History, has here failed in that lucid arrangement, which in general gives perspicuity to his most condensed and crowded narratives. He has unaccountably, and to the great

perplexity of the reader, placed the preaching of St Bernard after the

second crusade to which i led.--M.]

[Footnote 29: Clairvaux, surnamed the valley of Absynth, is situate among the woods near Bar sur Aube in Champagne. St. Bernard would blush at the pomp of the church and monastery; he would ask for the library, and I know not whether he would be much edified by a tun of 800 muids,

(914 1-7 hogsheads,) which almost rivals that of Heidelberg, (Mélanges tirés d'une Grande Bibliothèque, tom. xlvi. p. 15--20.)]

[Footnote 30: The disciples of the saint (Vit. ima, l. iii. c. 2, p.

1232. Vit. iida, c. 16, No. 45, p. 1383) record a marvellous example

of his pious apathy. Juxta lacum etiam Lausannensem totius diei itinere

pergens, penitus non attendit aut se videre non vidit. Cum enim vespere facto de eodem lacû socii colloquerentur, interrogabat eos ubi lacus

ille esset, et mirati sunt universi. To admire or despise St. Bernard as

he ought, the reader, like myself, should have before the windows of his

library the beauties of that incomparable landscape.]

[Footnote 31: Otho Frising. l. i. c. 4. Bernard. Epist. 363, ad Francos

Orientales Opp. tom. i. p. 328. Vit. ima, l. iii. c. 4, tom. vi. p.

1235.]

[Footnote 311: Bernard had a nobler object in his expedition into

Germany--to arrest the fierce and merciless persecution of the Jews, which was preparing, under the monk Radulph, to renew the frightful

scenes which had preceded the first crusade, in the flourishing cities on the banks of the Rhine. The Jews acknowledge the Christian

intervention of St. Bernard. See the curious extract from the History of

Joseph ben Meir. Wilken, vol. iii. p. 1. and p. 63.--M.]

[Footnote 32: Mandastis et obedivi.... multiplicati sunt super

numerum; vacuantur urbes et castella; et \_pene\_ jam non inveniunt

quem apprehendant septem mulieres unum virum; adeo ubique viduæ vivis

remanent viris. Bernard. Epist. p. 247. We must be careful not to construe \_pene\_ as a substantive.]

[Footnote 33: Quis ego sum ut disponam acies, ut egrediar ante facies armatorum, aut quid tam remotum a professione meâ, si vires, si peritia,

&c. Epist. 256, tom. i. p. 259. He speaks with contempt of the hermit

Peter, vir quidam, Epist. 363.]

[Footnote 34: Sic dicunt forsitan isti, unde scimus quòd a Domino sermo egressus sit? Quæ signa tu facis ut credamus tibi? Non est quod ad ista

ipse respondeam; parcendum verecundiæ meæ, responde tu pro me, et pro te

ipso, secundum quæ vidisti et audisti, et secundum quod te inspiraverit deus. Consolat. l. ii. c. 1. Opp. tom. ii. p. 421--423.]

[Footnote 35: See the testimonies in Vita ima, l. iv. c. 5, 6. Opp. tom.

vi. p. 1258--1261, l. vi. c. 1--17, p. 1286--1314.]

Omnipotence itself cannot escape the murmurs of its discordant votaries;

since the same dispensation which was applauded as a deliverance in europe, was deplored, and perhaps arraigned, as a calamity in Asia. after the loss of Jerusalem, the Syrian fugitives diffused their consternation and sorrow; Bagdad mourned in the dust; the cadhi

Zeineddin of Damascus tore his beard in the caliph's presence; and the whole divan shed tears at his melancholy tale. [36] But the commanders of the faithful could only weep; they were themselves captives in the hands

of the Turks: some temporal power was restored to the last age of the abbassides; but their humble ambition was confined to Bagdad and the adjacent province. Their tyrants, the Seljukian sultans, had followed the common law of the Asiatic dynasties, the unceasing round of valor,

greatness, discord, degeneracy, and decay; their spirit and power were

unequal to the defence of religion; and, in his distant realm of Persia, the Christians were strangers to the name and the arms of Sangiar, the

last hero of his race. [37] While the sultans were involved in the silken web of the harem, the pious task was undertaken by their slaves, the atabeks, [38] a Turkish name, which, like the Byzantine patricians, may be translated by Father of the Prince. Ascansar, a valiant Turk, had been the favorite of Malek Shaw, from whom he received the privilege of

standing on the right hand of the throne; but, in the civil wars that ensued on the monarch's death, he lost his head and the government of aleppo. His domestic emirs persevered in their attachment to his son

Zenghi, who proved his first arms against the Franks in the defeat

of Antioch: thirty campaigns in the service of the caliph and sultan established his military fame; and he was invested with the command of

Mosul, as the only champion that could avenge the cause of the prophet. the public hope was not disappointed: after a siege of twenty-five days, he stormed the city of Edessa, and recovered from the Franks their conquests beyond the Euphrates: [39] the martial tribes of Curdistan were

subdued by the independent sovereign of Mosul and Aleppo: his soldiers were taught to behold the camp as their only country; they trusted to his liberality for their rewards; and their absent families were

protected by the vigilance of Zenghi. At the head of these veterans,

his son Noureddin gradually united the Mahometan powers; [391] added the

kingdom of Damascus to that of Aleppo, and waged a long and successful war against the Christians of Syria; he spread his ample reign from the tigris to the Nile, and the Abbassides rewarded their faithful servant with all the titles and prerogatives of royalty. The Latins themselves were compelled to own the wisdom and courage, and even the justice and

piety, of this implacable adversary. [40] In his life and government the

holy warrior revived the zeal and simplicity of the first caliphs.

Gold and silk were banished from his palace; the use of wine from his dominions; the public revenue was scrupulously applied to the public

service; and the frugal household of Noureddin was maintained from

his legitimate share of the spoil which he vested in the purchase of a

private estate. His favorite sultana sighed for some female object of expense. "Alas," replied the king, "I fear God, and am no more than the treasurer of the Moslems. Their property I cannot alienate; but I still

possess three shops in the city of Hems: these you may take; and these alone can I bestow." His chamber of justice was the terror of the great and the refuge of the poor. Some years after the sultan's death, an

oppressed subject called aloud in the streets of Damascus, "O Noureddin,

Noureddin, where art thou now? Arise, arise, to pity and protect us!" A tumult was apprehended, and a living tyrant blushed or trembled at the

name of a departed monarch.

[Footnote 36: Abulmahasen apud de Guignes, Hist. des Huns, tom. ii. p.

ii. p. 99.]

[Footnote 37: See his \_article\_ in the Bibliothèque Orientale of d'Herbelot, and De Guignes, tom. ii. p. i. p. 230--261. Such was his

valor, that he was styled the second Alexander; and such the extravagant

love of his subjects, that they prayed for the sultan a year after his decease. Yet Sangiar might have been made prisoner by the Franks, as well as by the Uzes. He reigned near fifty years, (A.D. 1103--1152,) and was a munificent patron of Persian poetry.]

[Footnote 38: See the Chronology of the Atabeks of Irak and Syria, in De

Guignes, tom. i. p. 254; and the reigns of Zenghi and Noureddin in the

same writer, (tom. ii. p. ii. p. 147--221,) who uses the Arabic text of benelathir, Ben Schouna and Abulfeda; the Bibliothèque Orientale,

under the articles \_Atabeks\_ and \_Noureddin\_, and the Dynasties of abulpharagius, p. 250--267, vers. Pocock.]

[Footnote 39: William of Tyre (l. xvi. c. 4, 5, 7) describes the loss

of Edessa, and the death of Zenghi. The corruption of his name

into \_Sanguin\_, afforded the Latins a comfortable allusion to his

\_sanguinary\_ character and end, fit sanguine sanguinolentus.]

[Footnote 391: On Noureddin's conquest of Damascus, see extracts from arabian writers prefixed to the second part of the third volume of wilken.--M.]

[Footnote 40: Noradinus (says William of Tyre, l. xx. 33) maximus

nominis et fidei Christianæ persecutor; princeps tamen justus, vafer,

providus' et secundum gentis suæ traditiones religiosus. To this catholic witness we may add the primate of the Jacobites, (Abulpharag.

p. 267,) quo non alter erat inter reges vitæ ratione magis laudabili, aut quæ pluribus justitiæ experimentis abundaret. The true praise of

kings is after their death, and from the mouth of their enemies.]

chapter LIX: The Crusades.--Part II.

by the arms of the Turks and Franks, the Fatimites had been deprived

of Syria. In Egypt the decay of their character and influence was still

more essential. Yet they were still revered as the descendants and

successors of the prophet; they maintained their invisible state in the

palace of Cairo; and their person was seldom violated by the profane eyes of subjects or strangers. The Latin ambassadors [41] have described their own introduction, through a series of gloomy passages, and

glittering porticos: the scene was enlivened by the warbling of birds and the murmur of fountains: it was enriched by a display of rich furniture and rare animals; of the Imperial treasures, something was

shown, and much was supposed; and the long order of unfolding doors was

guarded by black soldiers and domestic eunuchs. The sanctuary of the presence chamber was veiled with a curtain; and the vizier, who conducted the ambassadors, laid aside the cimeter, and prostrated

himself three times on the ground; the veil was then removed; and they beheld the commander of the faithful, who signified his pleasure to the first slave of the throne. But this slave was his master: the viziers or

sultans had usurped the supreme administration of Egypt; the claims

of the rival candidates were decided by arms; and the name of the most worthy, of the strongest, was inserted in the royal patent of command. the factions of Dargham and Shawer alternately expelled each other from the capital and country; and the weaker side implored the dangerous

protection of the sultan of Damascus, or the king of Jerusalem, the

perpetual enemies of the sect and monarchy of the Fatimites. By his arms and religion the Turk was most formidable; but the Frank, in an easy, direct march, could advance from Gaza to the Nile; while the

intermediate situation of his realm compelled the troops of Noureddin to wheel round the skirts of Arabia, a long and painful circuit, which exposed them to thirst, fatigue, and the burning winds of the desert. the secret zeal and ambition of the Turkish prince aspired to reign

in Egypt under the name of the Abbassides; but the restoration of the

suppliant Shawer was the ostensible motive of the first expedition; and the success was intrusted to the emir Shiracouh, a valiant and veteran commander. Dargham was oppressed and slain; but the ingratitude, the

jealousy, the just apprehensions, of his more fortunate rival, soon

provoked him to invite the king of Jerusalem to deliver Egypt from

his insolent benefactors. To this union the forces of Shiracouh were

unequal: he relinquished the premature conquest; and the evacuation of belbeis or Pelusium was the condition of his safe retreat. As the Turks defiled before the enemy, and their general closed the rear, with a

vigilant eye, and a battle axe in his hand, a Frank presumed to ask him

if he were not afraid of an attack. "It is doubtless in your power to begin the attack," replied the intrepid emir; "but rest assured, that

not one of my soldiers will go to paradise till he has sent an infidel to hell." His report of the riches of the land, the effeminacy of the

natives, and the disorders of the government, revived the hopes

of Noureddin; the caliph of Bagdad applauded the pious design; and

Shiracouh descended into Egypt a second time with twelve thousand Turks and eleven thousand Arabs. Yet his forces were still inferior to the confederate armies of the Franks and Saracens; and I can discern an

unusual degree of military art, in his passage of the Nile, his retreat

into Thebais, his masterly evolutions in the battle of Babain, the

surprise of Alexandria, and his marches and countermarches in the flats and valley of Egypt, from the tropic to the sea. His conduct was seconded by the courage of his troops, and on the eve of action a

Mamaluke [42] exclaimed, "If we cannot wrest Egypt from the Christian dogs, why do we not renounce the honors and rewards of the sultan, and

retire to labor with the peasants, or to spin with the females of the

harem?" Yet, after all his efforts in the field, [43] after the

obstinate defence of Alexandria [44] by his nephew Saladin, an honorable capitulation and retreat [441] concluded the second enterprise of

Shiracouh; and Noureddin reserved his abilities for a third and more

propitious occasion. It was soon offered by the ambition and avarice

of Amalric or Amaury, king of Jerusalem, who had imbibed the pernicious

maxim, that no faith should be kept with the enemies of God. [442] A

religious warrior, the great master of the hospital, encouraged him to

proceed; the emperor of Constantinople either gave, or promised, a fleet to act with the armies of Syria; and the perfidious Christian,

unsatisfied with spoil and subsidy, aspired to the conquest of Egypt.

In this emergency, the Moslems turned their eyes towards the sultan of damascus; the vizier, whom danger encompassed on all sides, yielded to their unanimous wishes, and Noureddin seemed to be tempted by the fair offer of one third of the revenue of the kingdom. The Franks were already at the gates of Cairo; but the suburbs, the old city, were burnt

on their approach; they were deceived by an insidious negotiation, and their vessels were unable to surmount the barriers of the Nile. They

prudently declined a contest with the Turks in the midst of a hostile country; and Amaury retired into Palestine with the shame and reproach that always adhere to unsuccessful injustice. After this deliverance,

Shiracouh was invested with a robe of honor, which he soon stained with the blood of the unfortunate Shawer. For a while, the Turkish emirs condescended to hold the office of vizier; but this foreign conquest

precipitated the fall of the Fatimites themselves; and the bloodless change was accomplished by a message and a word. The caliphs had been degraded by their own weakness and the tyranny of the viziers: their

subjects blushed, when the descendant and successor of the prophet

presented his naked hand to the rude gripe of a Latin ambassador; they wept when he sent the hair of his women, a sad emblem of their grief and terror, to excite the pity of the sultan of Damascus. By the command of

Noureddin, and the sentence of the doctors, the holy names of Abubeker,

Omar, and Othman, were solemnly restored: the caliph Mosthadi, of bagdad, was acknowledged in the public prayers as the true commander of the faithful; and the green livery of the sons of Ali was exchanged for the black color of the Abbassides. The last of his race, the caliph adhed, who survived only ten days, expired in happy ignorance of his fate; his treasures secured the loyalty of the soldiers, and silenced the murmurs of the sectaries; and in all subsequent revolutions, Egypt

has never departed from the orthodox tradition of the Moslems. [45]

[Footnote 41: From the ambassador, William of Tyre (l. xix. c. 17, 18,) describes the palace of Cairo. In the caliph's treasure were found a

pearl as large as a pigeon's egg, a ruby weighing seventeen Egyptian drams, an emerald a palm and a half in length, and many vases of crystal and porcelain of China, (Renaudot, p. 536.)]

[Footnote 42: \_Mamluc\_, plur. \_Mamalic\_, is defined by Pocock,

(Prolegom. ad Abulpharag. p. 7,) and D'Herbelot, (p. 545,) servum emptitium, seu qui pretio numerato in domini possessionem cedit. They frequently occur in the wars of Saladin, (Bohadin, p. 236, &c.;) and it was only the \_Bahartie\_ Mamalukes that were first introduced into Egypt by his descendants.]

[Footnote 43: Jacobus à Vitriaco (p. 1116) gives the king of Jerusalem

no more than 374 knights. Both the Franks and the Moslems report the

superior numbers of the enemy; a difference which may be solved by counting or omitting the unwarlike Egyptians.]

[Footnote 44: It was the Alexandria of the Arabs, a middle term in extent and riches between the period of the Greeks and Romans, and that

of the Turks, (Savary, Lettres sur l'Egypte, tom. i. p. 25, 26.)]

[Footnote 441: The treaty stipulated that both the Christians and the Arabs should withdraw from Egypt. Wilken, vol. iii. part ii. p.

113.--M.]

[Footnote 442: The Knights Templars, abhorring the perfidious breach of treaty partly, perhaps, out of jealousy of the Hospitallers, refused to

join in this enterprise. Will. Tyre c. xx. p. 5. Wilken, vol. iii. part

ii. p. 117.--M.]

[Footnote 45: For this great revolution of Egypt, see William of Tyre,

(l. xix. 5, 6, 7, 12--31, xx. 5--12,) Bohadin, (in Vit. Saladin, p.

30--39,) Abulfeda, (in Excerpt. Schultens, p. 1--12,) D'Herbelot,

(Bibliot. Orient. \_Adhed\_, \_Fathemah\_, but very incorrect,) Renaudot,

(Hist. Patriarch. Alex. p. 522--525, 532--537,) Vertot, (Hist. des chevaliers de Malthe, tom. i. p. 141--163, in 4to.,) and M. de Guignes,

(tom. ii. p. 185--215.)]

the hilly country beyond the Tigris is occupied by the pastoral tribes

of the Curds; [46] a people hardy, strong, savage impatient of the yoke, addicted to rapine, and tenacious of the government of their national chiefs. The resemblance of name, situation, and manners, seems to

identify them with the Carduchians of the Greeks; [47] and they still defend against the Ottoman Porte the antique freedom which they asserted against the successors of Cyrus. Poverty and ambition prompted them to embrace the profession of mercenary soldiers: the service of his father and uncle prepared the reign of the great Saladin; [48] and the son of

Job or Ayud, a simple Curd, magnanimously smiled at his pedigree, which flattery deduced from the Arabian caliphs. [49] So unconscious was

Noureddin of the impending ruin of his house, that he constrained the

reluctant youth to follow his uncle Shiracouh into Egypt: his military character was established by the defence of Alexandria; and, if we may believe the Latins, he solicited and obtained from the Christian general the \_profane\_honors of knighthood. [50] On the death of Shiracouh, the

office of grand vizier was bestowed on Saladin, as the youngest and

least powerful of the emirs; but with the advice of his father, whom he

invited to Cairo, his genius obtained the ascendant over his equals, and attached the army to his person and interest. While Noureddin

lived, these ambitious Curds were the most humble of his slaves; and the

indiscreet murmurs of the divan were silenced by the prudent Ayub, who

loudly protested that at the command of the sultan he himself would lead

his sons in chains to the foot of the throne. "Such language," he added

in private, "was prudent and proper in an assembly of your rivals; but we are now above fear and obedience; and the threats of Noureddin shall

not extort the tribute of a sugar-cane." His seasonable death relieved them from the odious and doubtful conflict: his son, a minor of eleven

years of age, was left for a while to the emirs of Damascus; and the

new lord of Egypt was decorated by the caliph with every title [51] that could sanctify his usurpation in the eyes of the people. Nor was Saladin

long content with the possession of Egypt; he despoiled the Christians

of Jerusalem, and the Atabeks of Damascus, Aleppo, and Diarbekir: Mecca and Medina acknowledged him for their temporal protector: his brother

subdued the distant regions of Yemen, or the happy Arabia; and at the

hour of his death, his empire was spread from the African Tripoli to the tigris, and from the Indian Ocean to the mountains of Armenia. In the

judgment of his character, the reproaches of treason and ingratitude

strike forcibly on \_our\_ minds, impressed, as they are, with the

principle and experience of law and loyalty. But his ambition may in

some measure be excused by the revolutions of Asia, [52] which had erased every notion of legitimate succession; by the recent example of the atabeks themselves; by his reverence to the son of his benefactor; his

humane and generous behavior to the collateral branches; by \_their\_

incapacity and \_his\_ merit; by the approbation of the caliph, the

sole source of all legitimate power; and, above all, by the wishes and interest of the people, whose happiness is the first object of

government. In \_his\_ virtues, and in those of his patron, they admired the singular union of the hero and the saint; for both Noureddin and Saladin are ranked among the Mahometan saints; and the constant

meditation of the holy war appears to have shed a serious and sober color over their lives and actions. The youth of the latter [53] was addicted to wine and women: but his aspiring spirit soon renounced the temptations of pleasure for the graver follies of fame and dominion: the

garment of Saladin was of coarse woollen; water was his only drink; and, while he emulated the temperance, he surpassed the chastity, of his arabian prophet. Both in faith and practice he was a rigid Mussulman:

he ever deplored that the defence of religion had not allowed him to accomplish the pilgrimage of Mecca; but at the stated hours, five times each day, the sultan devoutly prayed with his brethren: the involuntary

omission of fasting was scrupulously repaid; and his perusal of the

Koran, on horseback between the approaching armies, may be quoted as a

proof, however ostentatious, of piety and courage. [54] The superstitious doctrine of the sect of Shafei was the only study that he deigned to encourage: the poets were safe in his contempt; but all profane science was the object of his aversion; and a philosopher, who had invented some

speculative novelties, was seized and strangled by the command of the

royal saint. The justice of his divan was accessible to the meanest

suppliant against himself and his ministers; and it was only for a

kingdom that Saladin would deviate from the rule of equity. While the descendants of Seljuk and Zenghi held his stirrup and smoothed his

garments, he was affable and patient with the meanest of his servants.

So boundless was his liberality, that he distributed twelve thousand

horses at the siege of Acre; and, at the time of his death, no more than forty-seven drams of silver and one piece of gold coin were found in the treasury; yet, in a martial reign, the tributes were diminished, and the wealthy citizens enjoyed, without fear or danger, the fruits of their industry. Egypt, Syria, and Arabia, were adorned by the royal foundations of hospitals, colleges, and mosques; and Cairo was fortified with a wall and citadel; but his works were consecrated to public use:

[55] nor did the sultan indulge himself in a garden or palace of private

luxury. In a fanatic age, himself a fanatic, the genuine virtues of

Saladin commanded the esteem of the Christians; the emperor of Germany

gloried in his friendship; [56] the Greek emperor solicited his alliance;

[57] and the conquest of Jerusalem diffused, and perhaps magnified, his fame both in the East and West.

[Footnote 46: For the Curds, see De Guignes, tom. ii. p. 416, 417, the

Index Geographicus of Schultens and Tavernier, Voyages, p. i. p. 308,

309. The Ayoubites descended from the tribe of the Rawadiæi, one of the noblest; but as \_they\_ were infected with the heresy of the

Metempsychosis, the orthodox sultans insinuated that their descent was

only on the mother's side, and that their ancestor was a stranger who

settled among the Curds.]

[Footnote 47: See the ivth book of the Anabasis of Xenophon. The ten thousand suffered more from the arrows of the free Carduchians, than from the splendid weakness of the great king.]

[Footnote 48: We are indebted to the professor Schultens (Lugd. Bat,

1755, in folio) for the richest and most authentic materials, a life

of Saladin by his friend and minister the Cadhi Bohadin, and copious extracts from the history of his kinsman the prince Abulfeda of Hamah. to these we may add, the article of \_Salaheddin\_ in the Bibliothèque

Orientale, and all that may be gleaned from the Dynasties of abulpharagius.]

[Footnote 49: Since Abulfeda was himself an Ayoubite, he may share the

praise, for imitating, at least tacitly, the modesty of the founder.]

[Footnote 50: Hist. Hierosol. in the Gesta Dei per Francos, p. 1152. A

similar example may be found in Joinville, (p. 42, edition du Louvre;) but the pious St. Louis refused to dignify infidels with the order of christian knighthood, (Ducange, Observations, p 70.)]

[Footnote 51: In these Arabic titles, \_religionis\_ must always be

understood; \_Noureddin\_, lumen r.; \_Ezzodin\_, decus; \_Amadoddin\_, columen: our hero's proper name was Joseph, and he was styled

\_Salahoddin\_, salus; \_Al Malichus\_, \_Al Nasirus\_, rex defensor; \_Abu

Modaffer\_, pater victoriæ, Schultens, Præfat.]

[Footnote 52: Abulfeda, who descended from a brother of Saladin,

observes, from many examples, that the founders of dynasties took the

guilt for themselves, and left the reward to their innocent collaterals,

(Excerpt p. 10.)]

[Footnote 53: See his life and character in Renaudot, p. 537--548.]

[Footnote 54: His civil and religious virtues are celebrated in the first chapter of Bohadin, (p. 4--30,) himself an eye-witness, and an

honest bigot.]

[Footnote 55: In many works, particularly Joseph's well in the castle

of Cairo, the Sultan and the Patriarch have been confounded by the

ignorance of natives and travellers.]

[Footnote 56: Anonym. Canisii, tom. iii. p. ii. p. 504.]

[Footnote 57: Bohadin, p. 129, 130.]

during his short existence, the kingdom of Jerusalem [58] was supported by the discord of the Turks and Saracens; and both the Fatimite caliphs and the sultans of Damascus were tempted to sacrifice the cause of their

religion to the meaner considerations of private and present advantage. but the powers of Egypt, Syria, and Arabia, were now united by a hero, whom nature and fortune had armed against the Christians. All without

now bore the most threatening aspect; and all was feeble and hollow

in the internal state of Jerusalem. After the two first Baldwins, the brother and cousin of Godfrey of Bouillon, the sceptre devolved by female succession to Melisenda, daughter of the second Baldwin, and her

husband Fulk, count of Anjou, the father, by a former marriage, of our english Plantagenets. Their two sons, Baldwin the Third, and Amaury, waged a strenuous, and not unsuccessful, war against the infidels; but the son of Amaury, Baldwin the Fourth, was deprived, by the leprosy, a

gift of the crusades, of the faculties both of mind and body. His sister

Sybilla, the mother of Baldwin the Fifth, was his natural heiress: after the suspicious death of her child, she crowned her second husband, Guy

of Lusignan, a prince of a handsome person, but of such base renown, that his own brother Jeffrey was heard to exclaim, "Since they have made

\_him\_ a king, surely they would have made \_me\_ a god!" The choice was generally blamed; and the most powerful vassal, Raymond count

of Tripoli, who had been excluded from the succession and regency, entertained an implacable hatred against the king, and exposed his honor and conscience to the temptations of the sultan. Such were the guardians

of the holy city; a leper, a child, a woman, a coward, and a traitor:

yet its fate was delayed twelve years by some supplies from Europe, by the valor of the military orders, and by the distant or domestic avocations of their great enemy. At length, on every side, the sinking

state was encircled and pressed by a hostile line: and the truce was

violated by the Franks, whose existence it protected. A soldier of fortune, Reginald of Chatillon, had seized a fortress on the edge of the desert, from whence he pillaged the caravans, insulted Mahomet, and threatened the cities of Mecca and Medina. Saladin condescended to complain; rejoiced in the denial of justice, and at the head of fourscore thousand horse and foot invaded the Holy Land. The choice of tiberias for his first siege was suggested by the count of Tripoli, to whom it belonged; and the king of Jerusalem was persuaded to drain his

garrison, and to arm his people, for the relief of that important

place. [59] By the advice of the perfidious Raymond, the Christians were betrayed into a camp destitute of water: he fled on the first onset, with the curses of both nations: [60] Lusignan was overthrown, with the

loss of thirty thousand men; and the wood of the true cross (a dire

misfortune!) was left in the power of the infidels. [601] The royal captive was conducted to the tent of Saladin; and as he fainted with thirst and terror, the generous victor presented him with a cup of sherbet, cooled

in snow, without suffering his companion, Reginald of Chatillon, to

partake of this pledge of hospitality and pardon. "The person and dignity of a king," said the sultan, "are sacred, but this impious

robber must instantly acknowledge the prophet, whom he has blasphemed,

or meet the death which he has so often deserved." On the proud or conscientious refusal of the Christian warrior, Saladin struck him on the head with his cimeter, and Reginald was despatched by the guards.

[61] The trembling Lusignan was sent to Damascus, to an honorable prison and speedy ransom; but the victory was stained by the execution of two

hundred and thirty knights of the hospital, the intrepid champions and

martyrs of their faith. The kingdom was left without a head; and of the two grand masters of the military orders, the one was slain and the

other was a prisoner. From all the cities, both of the sea-coast and the

inland country, the garrisons had been drawn away for this fatal field: tyre and Tripoli alone could escape the rapid inroad of Saladin; and three months after the battle of Tiberias, he appeared in arms before the gates of Jerusalem. [62]

[Footnote 58: For the Latin kingdom of Jerusalem, see William of Tyre, from the ixth to the xxiid book. Jacob a Vitriaco, Hist. Hierosolem l

i., and Sanutus Secreta Fidelium Crucis, l. iii. p. vi. vii. viii. ix.]

[Footnote 59: Templarii ut apes bombabant et Hospitalarii ut venti

stridebant, et barones se exitio offerebant, et Turcopuli (the Christian

light troops) semet ipsi in ignem injiciebant, (Ispahani de Expugnatione

Kudsiticâ, p. 18, apud Schultens;) a specimen of Arabian eloquence,

somewhat different from the style of Xenophon!]

[Footnote 60: The Latins affirm, the Arabians insinuate, the treason of

Raymond; but had he really embraced their religion, he would have been a

saint and a hero in the eyes of the latter.]

[Footnote 601: Raymond's advice would have prevented the abandonment of a

secure camp abounding with water near Sepphoris. The rash and insolent

valor of the master of the order of Knights Templars, which had before exposed the Christians to a fatal defeat at the brook Kishon, forced the feeble king to annul the determination of a council of war, and advance to a camp in an enclosed valley among the mountains, near Hittin, without water. Raymond did not fly till the battle was irretrievably

lost, and then the Saracens seem to have opened their ranks to allow

him free passage. The charge of suggesting the siege of Tiberias appears

ungrounded Raymond, no doubt, played a double part: he was a man of

strong sagacity, who foresaw the desperate nature of the contest with

Saladin, endeavored by every means to maintain the treaty, and, though

he joined both his arms and his still more valuable counsels to the christian army, yet kept up a kind of amicable correspondence with the

Mahometans. See Wilken, vol. iii. part ii. p. 276, et seq. Michaud, vol.

ii. p. 278, et seq. M. Michaud is still more friendly than Wilken to the

memory of Count Raymond, who died suddenly, shortly after the battle of

Hittin. He quotes a letter written in the name of Saladin by the caliph alfdel, to show that Raymond was considered by the Mahometans their

most dangerous and detested enemy. "No person of distinction among the christians escaped, except the count, (of Tripoli) whom God curse. God

made him die shortly afterwards, and sent him from the kingdom of death to hell."--M.]

[Footnote 61: Benaud, Reginald, or Arnold de Chatillon, is celebrated by the Latins in his life and death; but the circumstances of the latter are more distinctly related by Bohadin and Abulfeda; and Joinville

(Hist. de St. Louis, p. 70) alludes to the practice of Saladin, of never

putting to death a prisoner who had tasted his bread and salt. Some of the companions of Arnold had been slaughtered, and almost sacrificed, in a valley of Mecca, ubi sacrificia mactantur, (Abulfeda, p. 32.)]

[Footnote 62: Vertot, who well describes the loss of the kingdom and city (Hist. des Chevaliers de Malthe, tom. i. l. ii. p. 226--278,)

inserts two original epistles of a Knight Templar.]

He might expect that the siege of a city so venerable on earth and

in heaven, so interesting to Europe and Asia, would rekindle the last

sparks of enthusiasm; and that, of sixty thousand Christians, every man would be a soldier, and every soldier a candidate for martyrdom. But

Queen Sybilla trembled for herself and her captive husband; and the barons and knights, who had escaped from the sword and chains of the turks, displayed the same factious and selfish spirit in the public

ruin. The most numerous portion of the inhabitants was composed of the

Greek and Oriental Christians, whom experience had taught to prefer the

Mahometan before the Latin yoke; [63] and the holy sepulchre attracted a base and needy crowd, without arms or courage, who subsisted only on the charity of the pilgrims. Some feeble and hasty efforts were made for the defence of Jerusalem: but in the space of fourteen days, a victorious army drove back the sallies of the besieged, planted their engines,

opened the wall to the breadth of fifteen cubits, applied their

scaling-ladders, and erected on the breach twelve banners of the prophet and the sultan. It was in vain that a barefoot procession of the queen, the women, and the monks, implored the Son of God to save his tomb and

his inheritance from impious violation. Their sole hope was in the mercy

of the conqueror, and to their first suppliant deputation that mercy was

sternly denied. "He had sworn to avenge the patience and long-suffering

of the Moslems; the hour of forgiveness was elapsed, and the moment was now arrived to expiate, in blood, the innocent blood which had been spilt by Godfrey and the first crusaders." But a desperate and

successful struggle of the Franks admonished the sultan that his triumph was not yet secure; he listened with reverence to a solemn adjuration

in the name of the common Father of mankind; and a sentiment of human

sympathy mollified the rigor of fanaticism and conquest. He consented to accept the city, and to spare the inhabitants. The Greek and Oriental christians were permitted to live under his dominion, but it was

stipulated, that in forty days all the Franks and Latins should evacuate

Jerusalem, and be safely conducted to the seaports of Syria and Egypt; that ten pieces of gold should be paid for each man, five for each woman, and one for every child; and that those who were unable to

purchase their freedom should be detained in perpetual slavery. Of some writers it is a favorite and invidious theme to compare the humanity of

Saladin with the massacre of the first crusade. The difference would be merely personal; but we should not forget that the Christians had

offered to capitulate, and that the Mahometans of Jerusalem sustained the last extremities of an assault and storm. Justice is indeed due to the fidelity with which the Turkish conqueror fulfilled the conditions

of the treaty; and he may be deservedly praised for the glance of pity which he cast on the misery of the vanquished. Instead of a rigorous exaction of his debt, he accepted a sum of thirty thousand byzants, for the ransom of seven thousand poor; two or three thousand more were dismissed by his gratuitous clemency; and the number of slaves was

reduced to eleven or fourteen thousand persons. In this interview with the queen, his words, and even his tears suggested the kindest consolations; his liberal alms were distributed among those who had been

made orphans or widows by the fortune of war; and while the knights

of the hospital were in arms against him, he allowed their more pious brethren to continue, during the term of a year, the care and service

of the sick. In these acts of mercy the virtue of Saladin deserves our admiration and love: he was above the necessity of dissimulation, and

his stern fanaticism would have prompted him to dissemble, rather than to affect, this profane compassion for the enemies of the Koran. After

Jerusalem had been delivered from the presence of the strangers, the

sultan made his triumphal entry, his banners waving in the wind, and to the harmony of martial music. The great mosque of Omar, which had been converted into a church, was again consecrated to one God and his

prophet Mahomet: the walls and pavement were purified with rose-water; and a pulpit, the labor of Noureddin, was erected in the sanctuary. but when the golden cross that glittered on the dome was cast down, and dragged through the streets, the Christians of every sect uttered a lamentable groan, which was answered by the joyful shouts of the

Moslems. In four ivory chests the patriarch had collected the crosses, the images, the vases, and the relics of the holy place; they were

seized by the conqueror, who was desirous of presenting the caliph with the trophies of Christian idolatry. He was persuaded, however, to intrust them to the patriarch and prince of Antioch; and the pious

pledge was redeemed by Richard of England, at the expense of fifty-two thousand byzants of gold. [64]

[Footnote 63: Renaudot, Hist. Patriarch. Alex. p. 545.]

[Footnote 64: For the conquest of Jerusalem, Bohadin (p. 67--75) and abulfeda (p. 40--43) are our Moslem witnesses. Of the Christian, Bernard thesaurarius (c. 151--167) is the most copious and authentic; see

likewise Matthew Paris, (p. 120--124.)]

the nations might fear and hope the immediate and final expulsion of the

Latins from Syria; which was yet delayed above a century after the death

of Saladin. [65] In the career of victory, he was first checked by the

resistance of Tyre; the troops and garrisons, which had capitulated, were imprudently conducted to the same port: their numbers were adequate to the defence of the place; and the arrival of Conrad of Montferrat

inspired the disorderly crowd with confidence and union. His father, a

venerable pilgrim, had been made prisoner in the battle of Tiberias; but that disaster was unknown in Italy and Greece, when the son was urged by ambition and piety to visit the inheritance of his royal nephew, the infant Baldwin. The view of the Turkish banners warned him from the

hostile coast of Jaffa; and Conrad was unanimously hailed as the prince and champion of Tyre, which was already besieged by the conqueror of

Jerusalem. The firmness of his zeal, and perhaps his knowledge of a

generous foe, enabled him to brave the threats of the sultan, and to declare, that should his aged parent be exposed before the walls, he

himself would discharge the first arrow, and glory in his descent from a christian martyr. [66] The Egyptian fleet was allowed to enter the harbor

of Tyre; but the chain was suddenly drawn, and five galleys were either

sunk or taken: a thousand Turks were slain in a sally; and Saladin, after burning his engines, concluded a glorious campaign by a disgraceful retreat to Damascus. He was soon assailed by a more formidable tempest. The pathetic narratives, and even the pictures, that

represented in lively colors the servitude and profanation of Jerusalem, awakened the torpid sensibility of Europe: the emperor Frederic barbarossa, and the kings of France and England, assumed the cross; and the tardy magnitude of their armaments was anticipated by the maritime

states of the Mediterranean and the Ocean. The skilful and provident

Italians first embarked in the ships of Genoa, Pisa, and Venice. They were speedily followed by the most eager pilgrims of France, Normandy, and the Western Isles. The powerful succor of Flanders, Frise, and denmark, filled near a hundred vessels: and the Northern warriors were distinguished in the field by a lofty stature and a ponderous battle-axe. [67] Their increasing multitudes could no longer be confined within the walls of Tyre, or remain obedient to the voice of Conrad. they pitied the misfortunes, and revered the dignity, of Lusignan, who was released from prison, perhaps, to divide the army of the Franks. He

proposed the recovery of Ptolemais, or Acre, thirty miles to the south

of Tyre; and the place was first invested by two thousand horse and thirty thousand foot under his nominal command. I shall not expatiate

on the story of this memorable siege; which lasted near two years, and consumed, in a narrow space, the forces of Europe and Asia. Never did the flame of enthusiasm burn with fiercer and more destructive rage; nor could the true believers, a common appellation, who consecrated their

own martyrs, refuse some applause to the mistaken zeal and courage of their adversaries. At the sound of the holy trumpet, the Moslems of egypt, Syria, Arabia, and the Oriental provinces, assembled under the

servant of the prophet: [68] his camp was pitched and removed within a few miles of Acre; and he labored, night and day, for the relief of his brethren and the annoyance of the Franks. Nine battles, not unworthy

of the name, were fought in the neighborhood of Mount Carmel, with such

vicissitude of fortune, that in one attack, the sultan forced his way

into the city; that in one sally, the Christians penetrated to the royal tent. By the means of divers and pigeons, a regular correspondence was

maintained with the besieged; and, as often as the sea was left open, the exhausted garrison was withdrawn, and a fresh supply was poured

into the place. The Latin camp was thinned by famine, the sword and the climate; but the tents of the dead were replenished with new pilgrims, who exaggerated the strength and speed of their approaching countrymen. the vulgar was astonished by the report, that the pope himself, with an

innumerable crusade, was advanced as far as Constantinople. The march

of the emperor filled the East with more serious alarms: the obstacles which he encountered in Asia, and perhaps in Greece, were raised by the

policy of Saladin: his joy on the death of Barbarossa was measured by

his esteem; and the Christians were rather dismayed than encouraged at the sight of the duke of Swabia and his way-worn remnant of five thousand Germans. At length, in the spring of the second year, the royal fleets of France and England cast anchor in the Bay of Acre, and the

siege was more vigorously prosecuted by the youthful emulation of the two kings, Philip Augustus and Richard Plantagenet. After every resource

had been tried, and every hope was exhausted, the defenders of Acre

submitted to their fate; a capitulation was granted, but their lives and

liberties were taxed at the hard conditions of a ransom of two hundred thousand pieces of gold, the deliverance of one hundred nobles, and fifteen hundred inferior captives, and the restoration of the wood of the holy cross. Some doubts in the agreement, and some delay in the execution, rekindled the fury of the Franks, and three thousand Moslems, almost in the sultan's view, were beheaded by the command of the

sanguinary Richard. [69] By the conquest of Acre, the Latin powers acquired a strong town and a convenient harbor; but the advantage was

most dearly purchased. The minister and historian of Saladin computes, from the report of the enemy, that their numbers, at different periods, amounted to five or six hundred thousand; that more than one hundred thousand Christians were slain; that a far greater number was lost by disease or shipwreck; and that a small portion of this mighty host could

return in safety to their native countries. [70]

[Footnote 65: The sieges of Tyre and Acre are most copiously described by Bernard Thesaurarius, (de Acquisitione Terræ Sanctæ, c. 167--179,) the author of the Historia Hierosolymitana, (p. 1150--1172, in bongarsius,) Abulfeda, (p. 43--50,) and Bohadin, (p. 75--179.)]

[Footnote 66: I have followed a moderate and probable representation of the fact; by Vertot, who adopts without reluctance a romantic tale the

old marquis is actually exposed to the darts of the besieged.]

[Footnote 67: Northmanni et Gothi, et cæteri populi insularum quæ

inter occidentem et septentrionem sitæ sunt, gentes bellicosæ, corporis

proceri mortis intrepidæ, bipennibus armatæ, navibus rotundis, quæ

Ysnachiæ dicuntur, advectæ.]

[Footnote 68: The historian of Jerusalem (p. 1108) adds the nations of the East from the Tigris to India, and the swarthy tribes of Moors and

Getulians, so that Asia and Africa fought against Europe.]

[Footnote 69: Bohadin, p. 180; and this massacre is neither denied nor blamed by the Christian historians. Alacriter jussa complentes, (the english soldiers,) says Galfridus à Vinesauf, (l. iv. c. 4, p. 346,) who fixes at 2700 the number of victims; who are multiplied to 5000 by Roger

Hoveden, (p. 697, 698.) The humanity or avarice of Philip Augustus was

persuaded to ransom his prisoners, (Jacob à Vitriaco, l. i. c. 98, p.

1122.)]

[Footnote 70: Bohadin, p. 14. He quotes the judgment of Balianus, and the prince of Sidon, and adds, ex illo mundo quasi hominum paucissimi

redierunt. Among the Christians who died before St. John d'Acre, I find the English names of De Ferrers earl of Derby, (Dugdale, Baronage, part

i. p. 260,) Mowbray, (idem, p. 124,) De Mandevil, De Fiennes, St. John,

Scrope, Bigot, Talbot, &c.]

chapter LIX: The Crusades.--Part III.

Philip Augustus, and Richard the First, are the only kings of France and england who have fought under the same banners; but the holy service

in which they were enlisted was incessantly disturbed by their national

jealousy; and the two factions, which they protected in Palestine, were

more averse to each other than to the common enemy. In the eyes of the

Orientals; the French monarch was superior in dignity and power; and, in the emperor's absence, the Latins revered him as their temporal chief.

[71] His exploits were not adequate to his fame. Philip was brave, but the statesman predominated in his character; he was soon weary of

sacrificing his health and interest on a barren coast: the surrender

of Acre became the signal of his departure; nor could he justify this

unpopular desertion, by leaving the duke of Burgundy with five hundred

knights and ten thousand foot, for the service of the Holy Land. The

king of England, though inferior in dignity, surpassed his rival in wealth and military renown; [72] and if heroism be confined to brutal and ferocious valor, Richard Plantagenet will stand high among the heroes

of the age. The memory of \_Cur de Lion\_, of the lion-hearted prince, was

long dear and glorious to his English subjects; and, at the distance of

sixty years, it was celebrated in proverbial sayings by the grandsons of the Turks and Saracens, against whom he had fought: his tremendous name was employed by the Syrian mothers to silence their infants; and if a horse suddenly started from the way, his rider was wont to exclaim,

"Dost thou think King Richard is in that bush?" [73] His cruelty to the

Mahometans was the effect of temper and zeal; but I cannot believe that a soldier, so free and fearless in the use of his lance, would have descended to whet a dagger against his valiant brother Conrad of

Montferrat, who was slain at Tyre by some secret assassins. [74] After the surrender of Acre, and the departure of Philip, the king of England

led the crusaders to the recovery of the sea-coast; and the cities

of Cæsarea and Jaffa were added to the fragments of the kingdom of

Lusignan. A march of one hundred miles from Acre to Ascalon was a great and perpetual battle of eleven days. In the disorder of his troops,

Saladin remained on the field with seventeen guards, without lowering

his standard, or suspending the sound of his brazen kettle-drum: he again rallied and renewed the charge; and his preachers or heralds called aloud on the \_unitarians\_, manfully to stand up against the Christian idolaters. But the progress of these idolaters was

irresistible; and it was only by demolishing the walls and buildings of ascalon, that the sultan could prevent them from occupying an important fortress on the confines of Egypt. During a severe winter, the armies

slept; but in the spring, the Franks advanced within a day's march

of Jerusalem, under the leading standard of the English king; and

his active spirit intercepted a convoy, or caravan, of seven thousand camels. Saladin [75] had fixed his station in the holy city; but the city was struck with consternation and discord: he fasted; he prayed;

he preached; he offered to share the dangers of the siege; but his

Mamalukes, who remembered the fate of their companions at Acre, pressed the sultan with loyal or seditious clamors, to reserve \_his\_ person and

\_their\_ courage for the future defence of the religion and empire.

[76] The Moslems were delivered by the sudden, or, as they deemed, the

miraculous, retreat of the Christians; [77] and the laurels of Richard were blasted by the prudence, or envy, of his companions. The hero, ascending a hill, and veiling his face, exclaimed with an indignant

voice, "Those who are unwilling to rescue, are unworthy to view, the

sepulchre of Christ!" After his return to Acre, on the news that Jaffa was surprised by the sultan, he sailed with some merchant vessels, and

leaped foremost on the beach: the castle was relieved by his presence; and sixty thousand Turks and Saracens fled before his arms. The discovery of his weakness, provoked them to return in the morning; and they found him carelessly encamped before the gates with only seventeen

knights and three hundred archers. Without counting their numbers, he

sustained their charge; and we learn from the evidence of his enemies, that the king of England, grasping his lance, rode furiously along their front, from the right to the left wing, without meeting an adversary who dared to encounter his career. [78] Am I writing the history of Orlando

or Amadis?

[Footnote 71: Magnus hic apud eos, interque reges eorum tum virtute tum

majestate eminens.... summus rerum arbiter, (Bohadin, p. 159.) He does

not seem to have known the names either of Philip or Richard.]

[Footnote 72: Rex Angliæ, præstrenuus.... rege Gallorum minor apud eos censebatur ratione regni atque dignitatis; sed tum divitiis florentior, tum bellicâ virtute multo erat celebrior, (Bohadin, p. 161.) A stranger

might admire those riches; the national historians will tell with what

lawless and wasteful oppression they were collected.]

[Footnote 73: Joinville, p. 17. Cuides-tu que ce soit le roi Richart?]

[Footnote 74: Yet he was guilty in the opinion of the Moslems, who attest the confession of the assassins, that they were sent by the king

of England, (Bohadin, p. 225;) and his only defence is an absurd and

palpable forgery, (Hist. de l'Académie des Inscriptions, tom. xv. p.

155--163,) a pretended letter from the prince of the assassins, the

Sheich, or old man of the mountain, who justified Richard, by assuming to himself the guilt or merit of the murder. \* Note: Von Hammer

(Geschichte der Assassinen, p. 202) sums up against Richard, Wilken

(vol. iv. p. 485) as strongly for acquittal. Michaud (vol. ii. p. 420) delivers no decided opinion. This crime was also attributed to Saladin, who is said, by an Oriental authority, (the continuator of Tabari,) to

have employed the assassins to murder both Conrad and Richard. It is a

melancholy admission, but it must be acknowledged, that such an act would be less inconsistent with the character of the Christian than of the Mahometan king.--M.]

[Footnote 75: See the distress and pious firmness of Saladin, as they are described by Bohadin, (p. 7--9, 235--237,) who himself harangued the defenders of Jerusalem; their fears were not unknown to the enemy,

(Jacob. à Vitriaco, l. i. c. 100, p. 1123. Vinisauf, l. v. c. 50, p.

399.)]

[Footnote 76: Yet unless the sultan, or an Ayoubite prince, remained

in Jerusalem, nec Curdi Turcis, nec Turci essent obtemperaturi Curdis,

(Bohadin, p. 236.) He draws aside a corner of the political curtain.]

[Footnote 77: Bohadin, (p. 237,) and even Jeffrey de Vinisauf, (l.

vi. c. 1--8, p. 403--409,) ascribe the retreat to Richard himself; and Jacobus à Vitriaco observes, that in his impatience to depart, in alterum virum mutatus est, (p. 1123.) Yet Joinville, a French knight, accuses the envy of Hugh duke of Burgundy, (p. 116,) without supposing,

like Matthew Paris, that he was bribed by Saladin.]

[Footnote 78: The expeditions to Ascalon, Jerusalem, and Jaffa, are

related by Bohadin (p. 184--249) and Abulfeda, (p. 51, 52.) The author

of the Itinerary, or the monk of St. Alban's, cannot exaggerate the cadhi's account of the prowess of Richard, (Vinisauf, l. vi. c. 14--24,

p. 412--421. Hist. Major, p. 137--143;) and on the whole of this war there is a marvellous agreement between the Christian and Mahometan writers, who mutually praise the virtues of their enemies.]

during these hostilities, a languid and tedious negotiation [79] between the Franks and Moslems was started, and continued, and broken, and again

resumed, and again broken. Some acts of royal courtesy, the gift of snow and fruit, the exchange of Norway hawks and Arabian horses, softened the asperity of religious war: from the vicissitude of success, the monarchs

might learn to suspect that Heaven was neutral in the quarrel; nor, after the trial of each other, could either hope for a decisive victory.

[80] The health both of Richard and Saladin appeared to be in a declining

state; and they respectively suffered the evils of distant and domestic warfare: Plantagenet was impatient to punish a perfidious rival who

had invaded Normandy in his absence; and the indefatigable sultan was

subdued by the cries of the people, who was the victim, and of the

soldiers, who were the instruments, of his martial zeal. The first demands of the king of England were the restitution of Jerusalem,

Palestine, and the true cross; and he firmly declared, that himself and

his brother pilgrims would end their lives in the pious labor, rather than return to Europe with ignominy and remorse. But the conscience

of Saladin refused, without some weighty compensation, to restore the

idols, or promote the idolatry, of the Christians; he asserted, with equal firmness, his religious and civil claim to the sovereignty of

Palestine; descanted on the importance and sanctity of Jerusalem; and

rejected all terms of the establishment, or partition of the Latins. the marriage which Richard proposed, of his sister with the sultan's brother, was defeated by the difference of faith; the princess abhorred the embraces of a Turk; and Adel, or Saphadin, would not easily renounce a plurality of wives. A personal interview was declined by Saladin, who alleged their mutual ignorance of each other's language; and the

negotiation was managed with much art and delay by their interpreters and envoys. The final agreement was equally disapproved by the zealots

of both parties, by the Roman pontiff and the caliph of Bagdad. It was

stipulated that Jerusalem and the holy sepulchre should be open, without tribute or vexation, to the pilgrimage of the Latin Christians; that, after the demolition of Ascalon, they should inclusively possess the

sea-coast from Jaffa to Tyre; that the count of Tripoli and the prince

of Antioch should be comprised in the truce; and that, during three

years and three months, all hostilities should cease. The principal chiefs of the two armies swore to the observance of the treaty; but the

monarchs were satisfied with giving their word and their right hand; and the royal majesty was excused from an oath, which always implies some

suspicion of falsehood and dishonor. Richard embarked for Europe, to

seek a long captivity and a premature grave; and the space of a few

months concluded the life and glories of Saladin. The Orientals describe

his edifying death, which happened at Damascus; but they seem ignorant

of the equal distribution of his alms among the three religions, [81] or

of the display of a shroud, instead of a standard, to admonish the East

of the instability of human greatness. The unity of empire was dissolved by his death; his sons were oppressed by the stronger arm of their uncle

Saphadin; the hostile interests of the sultans of Egypt, Damascus, and Aleppo, [82] were again revived; and the Franks or Latins stood and breathed, and hoped, in their fortresses along the Syrian coast.

[Footnote 79: See the progress of negotiation and hostility in Bohadin,

(p. 207--260,) who was himself an actor in the treaty. Richard declared

his intention of returning with new armies to the conquest of the Holy

Land; and Saladin answered the menace with a civil compliment, (Vinisauf

l. vi. c. 28, p. 423.)]

[Footnote 80: The most copious and original account of this holy war is

Galfridi à Vinisauf, Itinerarium Regis Anglorum Richardi et aliorum

in Terram Hierosolymorum, in six books, published in the iid volume

of Gale's Scriptores Hist. Anglicanæ, (p. 247--429.) Roger Hoveden and

Matthew Paris afford likewise many valuable materials; and the former describes, with accuracy, the discipline and navigation of the English fleet.]

[Footnote 81: Even Vertot (tom. i. p. 251) adopts the foolish notion

of the indifference of Saladin, who professed the Koran with his last breath.]

[Footnote 82: See the succession of the Ayoubites, in Abulpharagius,

(Dynast. p. 277, &c.,) and the tables of M. De Guignes, l'Art de

Vérifier les Dates, and the Bibliothèque Orientale.]

the noblest monument of a conqueror's fame, and of the terror which he

inspired, is the Saladine tenth, a general tax which was imposed on the

laity, and even the clergy, of the Latin church, for the service of the

holy war. The practice was too lucrative to expire with the occasion: and this tribute became the foundation of all the tithes and tenths on ecclesiastical benefices, which have been granted by the Roman pontiffs to Catholic sovereigns, or reserved for the immediate use of the apostolic see. [83] This pecuniary emolument must have tended to increase the interest of the popes in the recovery of Palestine: after the death

of Saladin, they preached the crusade, by their epistles, their legates, and their missionaries; and the accomplishment of the pious work might

have been expected from the zeal and talents of Innocent the Third.

[84] Under that young and ambitious priest, the successors of St.

Peter attained the full meridian of their greatness: and in a reign of eighteen years, he exercised a despotic command over the emperors and

kings, whom he raised and deposed; over the nations, whom an interdict

of months or years deprived, for the offence of their rulers, of the exercise of Christian worship. In the council of the Lateran he acted as the ecclesiastical, almost as the temporal, sovereign of the East and west. It was at the feet of his legate that John of England surrendered

his crown; and Innocent may boast of the two most signal triumphs over

sense and humanity, the establishment of transubstantiation, and the

origin of the inquisition. At his voice, two crusades, the fourth and the fifth, were undertaken; but, except a king of Hungary, the princes

of the second order were at the head of the pilgrims: the forces were

inadequate to the design; nor did the effects correspond with the hopes and wishes of the pope and the people. The fourth crusade was diverted from Syria to Constantinople; and the conquest of the Greek or Roman empire by the Latins will form the proper and important subject of the

next chapter. In the fifth, [85] two hundred thousand Franks were landed at the eastern mouth of the Nile. They reasonably hoped that Palestine

must be subdued in Egypt, the seat and storehouse of the sultan; and, after a siege of sixteen months, the Moslems deplored the loss of damietta. But the Christian army was ruined by the pride and insolence

of the legate Pelagius, who, in the pope's name, assumed the character

of general: the sickly Franks were encompassed by the waters of the Nile and the Oriental forces; and it was by the evacuation of Damietta that they obtained a safe retreat, some concessions for the pilgrims, and the tardy restitution of the doubtful relic of the true cross. The failure

may in some measure be ascribed to the abuse and multiplication of the crusades, which were preached at the same time against the Pagans of

Livonia, the Moors of Spain, the Albigeois of France, and the kings of

Sicily of the Imperial family. [86] In these meritorious services, the

volunteers might acquire at home the same spiritual indulgence, and a

larger measure of temporal rewards; and even the popes, in their zeal against a domestic enemy, were sometimes tempted to forget the distress

of their Syrian brethren. From the last age of the crusades they derived the occasional command of an army and revenue; and some deep reasoners

have suspected that the whole enterprise, from the first synod of

Placentia, was contrived and executed by the policy of Rome. The

suspicion is not founded, either in nature or in fact. The successors

of St. Peter appear to have followed, rather than guided, the impulse

of manners and prejudice; without much foresight of the seasons, or cultivation of the soil, they gathered the ripe and spontaneous fruits

of the superstition of the times. They gathered these fruits without toil or personal danger: in the council of the Lateran, Innocent the third declared an ambiguous resolution of animating the crusaders by his example; but the pilot of the sacred vessel could not abandon the helm;

nor was Palestine ever blessed with the presence of a Roman pontiff. [87]

[Footnote 83: Thomassin (Discipline de l'Eglise, tom. iii. p. 311--374)

has copiously treated of the origin, abuses, and restrictions of these \_tenths\_. A theory was started, but not pursued, that they were

rightfully due to the pope, a tenth of the Levite's tenth to the high

priest, (Selden on Tithes; see his Works, vol. iii. p. ii. p. 1083.)]

[Footnote 84: See the Gesta Innocentii III. in Murat. Script. Rer.

Ital., (tom. iii. p. 486--568.)]

[Footnote 85: See the vth crusade, and the siege of Damietta, in Jacobus

à Vitriaco, (l. iii. p. 1125--1149, in the Gesta Dei of Bongarsius,) an eye-witness, Bernard Thesaurarius, (in Script. Muratori, tom. vii. p.

825--846, c. 190--207,) a contemporary, and Sanutus, (Secreta Fidel crucis, l. iii. p. xi. c. 4--9,) a diligent compiler; and of the arabians Abulpharagius, (Dynast. p. 294,) and the Extracts at the end of

Joinville, (p. 533, 537, 540, 547, &c.)]

[Footnote 86: To those who took the cross against Mainfroy, the

pope (A.D. 1255) granted plenissimam peccatorum remissionem. Fideles

mirabantur quòd tantum eis promitteret pro sanguine Christianorum effundendo quantum pro cruore infidelium aliquando, (Matthew Paris p.

785.) A high flight for the reason of the xiiith century.]

[Footnote 87: This simple idea is agreeable to the good sense of

Mosheim, (Institut. Hist. Ecclés. p. 332,) and the fine philosophy of

Hume, (Hist. of England, vol. i. p. 330.)]

the persons, the families, and estates of the pilgrims, were under the

immediate protection of the popes; and these spiritual patrons soon claimed the prerogative of directing their operations, and enforcing, by commands and censures, the accomplishment of their vow. Frederic the

Second, [88] the grandson of Barbarossa, was successively the pupil, the enemy, and the victim of the church. At the age of twenty-one years, and

in obedience to his guardian Innocent the Third, he assumed the cross; the same promise was repeated at his royal and imperial coronations; and

his marriage with the heiress of Jerusalem forever bound him to defend the kingdom of his son Conrad. But as Frederic advanced in age and authority, he repented of the rash engagements of his youth: his liberal

sense and knowledge taught him to despise the phantoms of superstition and the crowns of Asia: he no longer entertained the same reverence for the successors of Innocent: and his ambition was occupied by the

restoration of the Italian monarchy from Sicily to the Alps. But the

success of this project would have reduced the popes to their primitive

simplicity; and, after the delays and excuses of twelve years, they

urged the emperor, with entreaties and threats, to fix the time and

place of his departure for Palestine. In the harbors of Sicily and apulia, he prepared a fleet of one hundred galleys, and of one hundred

vessels, that were framed to transport and land two thousand five

hundred knights, with their horses and attendants; his vassals of Naples and Germany formed a powerful army; and the number of English crusaders was magnified to sixty thousand by the report of fame. But the

inevitable or affected slowness of these mighty preparations consumed the strength and provisions of the more indigent pilgrims: the multitude was thinned by sickness and desertion; and the sultry summer of Calabria anticipated the mischiefs of a Syrian campaign. At length the emperor

hoisted sail at Brundusium, with a fleet and army of forty thousand

men: but he kept the sea no more than three days; and his hasty retreat, which was ascribed by his friends to a grievous indisposition, was accused by his enemies as a voluntary and obstinate disobedience. For

suspending his vow was Frederic excommunicated by Gregory the Ninth; for presuming, the next year, to accomplish his vow, he was again excommunicated by the same pope. [89] While he served under the banner

of the cross, a crusade was preached against him in Italy; and after

his return he was compelled to ask pardon for the injuries which he had

suffered. The clergy and military orders of Palestine were previously

instructed to renounce his communion and dispute his commands; and in

his own kingdom, the emperor was forced to consent that the orders

of the camp should be issued in the name of God and of the Christian

republic. Frederic entered Jerusalem in triumph; and with his own hands

(for no priest would perform the office) he took the crown from the altar of the holy sepulchre. But the patriarch cast an interdict on the church which his presence had profaned; and the knights of the hospital and temple informed the sultan how easily he might be surprised and

slain in his unguarded visit to the River Jordan. In such a state of fanaticism and faction, victory was hopeless, and defence was difficult; but the conclusion of an advantageous peace may be imputed to the discord of the Mahometans, and their personal esteem for the character

of Frederic. The enemy of the church is accused of maintaining with the

miscreants an intercourse of hospitality and friendship unworthy of a christian; of despising the barrenness of the land; and of indulging a

profane thought, that if Jehovah had seen the kingdom of Naples he never would have selected Palestine for the inheritance of his chosen people.

Yet Frederic obtained from the sultan the restitution of Jerusalem,

of Bethlem and Nazareth, of Tyre and Sidon; the Latins were allowed to inhabit and fortify the city; an equal code of civil and religious freedom was ratified for the sectaries of Jesus and those of Mahomet; and, while the former worshipped at the holy sepulchre, the latter might

pray and preach in the mosque of the temple, [90] from whence the prophet

undertook his nocturnal journey to heaven. The clergy deplored this

scandalous toleration; and the weaker Moslems were gradually expelled; but every rational object of the crusades was accomplished without bloodshed; the churches were restored, the monasteries were replenished; and, in the space of fifteen years, the Latins of Jerusalem exceeded the

number of six thousand. This peace and prosperity, for which they were

ungrateful to their benefactor, was terminated by the irruption of the

strange and savage hordes of Carizmians. [91] Flying from the arms of the

Moguls, those shepherds [911] of the Caspian rolled headlong on Syria; and the union of the Franks with the sultans of Aleppo, Hems, and Damascus, was insufficient to stem the violence of the torrent. Whatever stood against them was cut off by the sword, or dragged into captivity: the

military orders were almost exterminated in a single battle; and in the pillage of the city, in the profanation of the holy sepulchre, the

Latins confess and regret the modesty and discipline of the Turks and

Saracens.

[Footnote 88: The original materials for the crusade of Frederic II. may be drawn from Richard de St. Germano (in Muratori, Script. Rerum Ital. tom. vii. p. 1002--1013) and Matthew Paris, (p. 286, 291, 300, 302,

304.) The most rational moderns are Fleury, (Hist. Ecclés. tom. xvi.,)

Vertot, (Chevaliers de Malthe, tom. i. l. iii.,) Giannone, (Istoria civile di Napoli, tom. ii. l. xvi.,) and Muratori, (Annali d' Italia, tom. x.)]

[Footnote 89: Poor Muratori knows what to think, but knows not what to

say: "Chino qui il capo," &c. p. 322.]

[Footnote 90: The clergy artfully confounded the mosque or church of the temple with the holy sepulchre, and their wilful error has deceived both

Vertot and Muratori.]

[Footnote 91: The irruption of the Carizmians, or Corasmins, is related by Matthew Paris, (p. 546, 547,) and by Joinville, Nangis, and the arabians, (p. 111, 112, 191, 192, 528, 530.)]

[Footnote 911: They were in alliance with Eyub, sultan of Syria. Wilken

vol. vi. p. 630.--M.]

Of the seven crusades, the two last were undertaken by Louis the Ninth,

king of France; who lost his liberty in Egypt, and his life on the coast

of Africa. Twenty-eight years after his death, he was canonized at Rome; and sixty-five miracles were readily found, and solemnly attested, to

justify the claim of the royal saint. [92] The voice of history renders a

more honorable testimony, that he united the virtues of a king, a hero, and a man; that his martial spirit was tempered by the love of private and public justice; and that Louis was the father of his people, the friend of his neighbors, and the terror of the infidels. Superstition alone, in all the extent of her baleful influence, [93] corrupted his

understanding and his heart: his devotion stooped to admire and imitate the begging friars of Francis and Dominic: he pursued with blind and cruel zeal the enemies of the faith; and the best of kings twice descended from his throne to seek the adventures of a spiritual

knight-errant. A monkish historian would have been content to applaud the most despicable part of his character; but the noble and gallant

Joinville, [94] who shared the friendship and captivity of Louis, has traced with the pencil of nature the free portrait of his virtues as well as of his failings. From this intimate knowledge we may learn to

suspect the political views of depressing their great vassals, which are so often imputed to the royal authors of the crusades. Above all the princes of the middle ages, Louis the Ninth successfully labored to

restore the prerogatives of the crown; but it was at home and not in the east, that he acquired for himself and his posterity: his vow was the

result of enthusiasm and sickness; and if he were the promoter, he was

likewise the victim, of his holy madness. For the invasion of Egypt, france was exhausted of her troops and treasures; he covered the sea of cyprus with eighteen hundred sails; the most modest enumeration amounts to fifty thousand men; and, if we might trust his own confession, as

it is reported by Oriental vanity, he disembarked nine thousand five

hundred horse, and one hundred and thirty thousand foot, who performed their pilgrimage under the shadow of his power. [95]

[Footnote 92: Read, if you can, the Life and Miracles of St. Louis, by the confessor of Queen Margaret, (p. 291--523. Joinville, du Louvre.)]

[Footnote 93: He believed all that mother church taught, (Joinville, p.

10,) but he cautioned Joinville against disputing with infidels.

"L'omme lay (said he in his old language) quand il ot medire de la

loi Crestienne, ne doit pas deffendre la loi Crestienne ne mais que de

l'espée, dequoi il doit donner parmi le ventre dedens, tant comme elle y

peut entrer" (p. 12.)]

[Footnote 94: I have two editions of Joinville, the one (Paris, 1668)

most valuable for the observations of Ducange; the other (Paris, au

Louvre, 1761) most precious for the pure and authentic text, a MS. of which has been recently discovered. The last edition proves that the

history of St. Louis was finished A.D. 1309, without explaining, or even admiring, the age of the author, which must have exceeded ninety years,

(Preface, p. x. Observations de Ducange, p. 17.)]

[Footnote 95: Joinville, p. 32. Arabic Extracts, p. 549. \* Note: Compare wilken, vol. vii. p. 94.--M.]

In complete armor, the oriflamme waving before him, Louis leaped foremost on the beach; and the strong city of Damietta, which had cost

his predecessors a siege of sixteen months, was abandoned on the first assault by the trembling Moslems. But Damietta was the first and the

last of his conquests; and in the fifth and sixth crusades, the

same causes, almost on the same ground, were productive of similar calamities. [96] After a ruinous delay, which introduced into the camp the seeds of an epidemic disease, the Franks advanced from the sea-coast towards the capital of Egypt, and strove to surmount the unseasonable

inundation of the Nile, which opposed their progress. Under the eye of their intrepid monarch, the barons and knights of France displayed their

invincible contempt of danger and discipline: his brother, the count of artois, stormed with inconsiderate valor the town of Massoura; and the carrier pigeons announced to the inhabitants of Cairo that all was lost. but a soldier, who afterwards usurped the sceptre, rallied the flying troops: the main body of the Christians was far behind the vanguard; and artois was overpowered and slain. A shower of Greek fire was incessantly

poured on the invaders; the Nile was commanded by the Egyptian galleys, the open country by the Arabs; all provisions were intercepted; each day aggravated the sickness and famine; and about the same time a retreat was found to be necessary and impracticable. The Oriental writers confess, that Louis might have escaped, if he would have deserted his

subjects; he was made prisoner, with the greatest part of his nobles; all who could not redeem their lives by service or ransom were inhumanly

massacred; and the walls of Cairo were decorated with a circle of christian heads. [97] The king of France was loaded with chains; but the

generous victor, a great-grandson of the brother of Saladin, sent a robe

of honor to his royal captive, and his deliverance, with that of his

soldiers, was obtained by the restitution of Damietta [98] and the

payment of four hundred thousand pieces of gold. In a soft and luxurious climate, the degenerate children of the companions of Noureddin and

Saladin were incapable of resisting the flower of European chivalry: they triumphed by the arms of their slaves or Mamalukes, the hardy

natives of Tartary, who at a tender age had been purchased of the Syrian

merchants, and were educated in the camp and palace of the sultan. But egypt soon afforded a new example of the danger of prætorian bands; and the rage of these ferocious animals, who had been let loose on the

strangers, was provoked to devour their benefactor. In the pride

of conquest, Touran Shaw, the last of his race, was murdered by his

Mamalukes; and the most daring of the assassins entered the chamber of the captive king, with drawn cimeters, and their hands imbrued in the blood of their sultan. The firmness of Louis commanded their respect;

[99] their avarice prevailed over cruelty and zeal; the treaty was accomplished; and the king of France, with the relics of his army, was

permitted to embark for Palestine. He wasted four years within the walls

of Acre, unable to visit Jerusalem, and unwilling to return without

glory to his native country.

[Footnote 96: The last editors have enriched their Joinville with large and curious extracts from the Arabic historians, Macrizi, Abulfeda, &c.

See likewise Abulpharagius, (Dynast. p. 322--325,) who calls him by the corrupt name of \_Redefrans\_. Matthew Paris (p. 683, 684) has described the rival folly of the French and English who fought and fell at

Massoura.]

[Footnote 97: Savary, in his agreeable Letters sur L'Egypte, has given a description of Damietta, (tom. i. lettre xxiii. p. 274--290,) and a

narrative of the exposition of St. Louis, (xxv. p. 306--350.)]

[Footnote 98: For the ransom of St. Louis, a million of byzants was asked and granted; but the sultan's generosity reduced that sum to

800,000 byzants, which are valued by Joinville at 400,000 French livres

of his own time, and expressed by Matthew Paris by 100,000 marks of

silver, (Ducange, Dissertation xx. sur Joinville.)]

[Footnote 99: The idea of the emirs to choose Louis for their sultan is

seriously attested by Joinville, (p. 77, 78,) and does not appear to me

so absurd as to M. de Voltaire, (Hist. Générale, tom. ii. p. 386, 387.) the Mamalukes themselves were strangers, rebels, and equals: they had felt his valor, they hoped his conversion; and such a motion, which was not seconded, might be made, perhaps by a secret Christian in their tumultuous assembly. \* Note: Wilken, vol. vii. p. 257, thinks the

proposition could not have been made in earnest.--M.]

the memory of his defeat excited Louis, after sixteen years of wisdom and repose, to undertake the seventh and last of the crusades. His finances were restored, his kingdom was enlarged; a new generation of warriors had arisen, and he advanced with fresh confidence at the head

of six thousand horse and thirty thousand foot. The loss of Antioch

had provoked the enterprise; a wild hope of baptizing the king of Tunis tempted him to steer for the African coast; and the report of an immense treasure reconciled his troops to the delay of their voyage to the Holy

Land. Instead of a proselyte, he found a siege: the French panted and died on the burning sands: St. Louis expired in his tent; and no sooner

had he closed his eyes, than his son and successor gave the signal of the retreat. [100] "It is thus," says a lively writer, "that a Christian

king died near the ruins of Carthage, waging war against the sectaries

of Mahomet, in a land to which Dido had introduced the deities of

Syria." [101]

[Footnote 100: See the expedition in the annals of St. Louis, by William de Nangis, p. 270--287; and the Arabic extracts, p. 545, 555, of the

Louvre edition of Joinville.]

[Footnote 101: Voltaire, Hist. Générale, tom. ii. p. 391.]

a more unjust and absurd constitution cannot be devised than that which condemns the natives of a country to perpetual servitude, under the arbitrary dominion of strangers and slaves. Yet such has been the state

of Egypt above five hundred years. The most illustrious sultans of the baharite and Borgite dynasties [102] were themselves promoted from the tartar and Circassian bands; and the four-and-twenty beys, or military chiefs, have ever been succeeded, not by their sons, but by their

servants. They produce the great charter of their liberties, the treaty

of Selim the First with the republic: [103] and the Othman emperor still accepts from Egypt a slight acknowledgment of tribute and subjection. with some breathing intervals of peace and order, the two dynasties are marked as a period of rapine and bloodshed: [104] but their throne,

however shaken, reposed on the two pillars of discipline and valor: their sway extended over Egypt, Nubia, Arabia, and Syria: their

Mamalukes were multiplied from eight hundred to twenty-five thousand

horse; and their numbers were increased by a provincial militia of one

hundred and seven thousand foot, and the occasional aid of sixty-six thousand Arabs. [105] Princes of such power and spirit could not long endure on their coast a hostile and independent nation; and if the ruin

of the Franks was postponed about forty years, they were indebted to the cares of an unsettled reign, to the invasion of the Moguls, and to the

occasional aid of some warlike pilgrims. Among these, the English reader will observe the name of our first Edward, who assumed the cross in the

lifetime of his father Henry. At the head of a thousand soldiers the future conqueror of Wales and Scotland delivered Acre from a siege;

marched as far as Nazareth with an army of nine thousand men; emulated the fame of his uncle Richard; extorted, by his valor, a ten years' truce; [1051] and escaped, with a dangerous wound, from the dagger of a fanatic \_assassin\_. [106] [1061] Antioch, [107] whose situation had been less exposed to the calamities of the holy war, was finally occupied and

ruined by Bondocdar, or Bibars, sultan of Egypt and Syria; the Latin

principality was extinguished; and the first seat of the Christian name was dispeopled by the slaughter of seventeen, and the captivity of one

hundred, thousand of her inhabitants. The maritime towns of Laodicea,

Gabala, Tripoli, Berytus, Sidon, Tyre and Jaffa, and the stronger castles of the Hospitallers and Templars, successively fell; and the whole existence of the Franks was confined to the city and colony of St.

John of Acre, which is sometimes described by the more classic title of

Ptolemais.

[Footnote 102: The chronology of the two dynasties of Mamalukes, the baharites, Turks or Tartars of Kipzak, and the Borgites, Circassians, is

given by Pocock (Prolegom. ad Abulpharag. p. 6--31) and De Guignes

(tom. i. p. 264--270;) their history from Abulfeda, Macrizi, &c., to the beginning of the xvth century, by the same M. De Guignes, (tom. iv. p.

110--328.)]

[Footnote 103: Savary, Lettres sur l'Egypte, tom. ii. lettre xv. p.

189--208. I much question the authenticity of this copy; yet it is true, that Sultan Selim concluded a treaty with the Circassians or Mamalukes

of Egypt, and left them in possession of arms, riches, and power. See a

new Abrégé de l'Histoire Ottomane, composed in Egypt, and translated by

M. Digeon, (tom. i. p. 55--58, Paris, 1781,) a curious, authentic, and

national history.]

[Footnote 104: Si totum quo regnum occupârunt tempus respicias,

præsertim quod fini propius, reperies illud bellis, pugnis, injuriis, ac rapinis refertum, (Al Jannabi, apud Pocock, p. 31.) The reign of

Mohammed (A.D. 1311--1341) affords a happy exception, (De Guignes, tom.

iv. p. 208--210.)]

[Footnote 105: They are now reduced to 8500: but the expense of each

Mamaluke may be rated at a hundred louis: and Egypt groans under the avarice and insolence of these strangers, (Voyages de Volney, tom. i. p.

89--187.)]

[Footnote 1051: Gibbon colors rather highly the success of Edward. Wilken

is more accurate vol. vii. p. 593, &c.--M.]

[Footnote 106: See Carte's History of England, vol. ii. p. 165--175, and

his original authors, Thomas Wikes and Walter Hemingford, (l. iii. c.

34, 35,) in Gale's Collection, (tom. ii. p. 97, 589--592.) They are both

ignorant of the princess Eleanor's piety in sucking the poisoned wound, and saving her husband at the risk of her own life.]

[Footnote 1061: The sultan Bibars was concerned in this attempt at assassination Wilken, vol. vii. p. 602. Ptolemæus Lucensis is the earliest authority for the devotion of Eleanora. Ibid. 605.--M.]

[Footnote 107: Sanutus, Secret. Fidelium Crucis, 1. iii. p. xii. c.

9, and De Guignes, Hist. des Huns, tom. iv. p. 143, from the Arabic

historians.]

after the loss of Jerusalem, Acre, [108] which is distant about seventy

miles, became the metropolis of the Latin Christians, and was adorned with strong and stately buildings, with aqueducts, an artificial port, and a double wall. The population was increased by the incessant streams

of pilgrims and fugitives: in the pauses of hostility the trade of the east and West was attracted to this convenient station; and the market could offer the produce of every clime and the interpreters of every tongue. But in this conflux of nations, every vice was propagated and

practised: of all the disciples of Jesus and Mahomet, the male and female inhabitants of Acre were esteemed the most corrupt; nor could the abuse of religion be corrected by the discipline of law. The city had

many sovereigns, and no government. The kings of Jerusalem and Cyprus,

of the house of Lusignan, the princes of Antioch, the counts of Tripoli and Sidon, the great masters of the hospital, the temple, and the teutonic order, the republics of Venice, Genoa, and Pisa, the pope's

legate, the kings of France and England, assumed an independent command:

seventeen tribunals exercised the power of life and death; every criminal was protected in the adjacent quarter; and the perpetual

jealousy of the nations often burst forth in acts of violence and blood.

Some adventurers, who disgraced the ensign of the cross, compensated their want of pay by the plunder of the Mahometan villages: nineteen

Syrian merchants, who traded under the public faith, were despoiled and

hanged by the Christians; and the denial of satisfaction justified the arms of the sultan Khalil. He marched against Acre, at the head of sixty thousand horse and one hundred and forty thousand foot: his train of artillery (if I may use the word) was numerous and weighty: the separate timbers of a single engine were transported in one hundred wagons; and the royal historian Abulfeda, who served with the troops of Hamah, was

himself a spectator of the holy war. Whatever might be the vices of the franks, their courage was rekindled by enthusiasm and despair; but they were torn by the discord of seventeen chiefs, and overwhelmed on all

sides by the powers of the sultan. After a siege of thirty three days, the double wall was forced by the Moslems; the principal tower yielded to their engines; the Mamalukes made a general assault; the city was

stormed; and death or slavery was the lot of sixty thousand Christians. the convent, or rather fortress, of the Templars resisted three days

longer; but the great master was pierced with an arrow; and, of five

hundred knights, only ten were left alive, less happy than the victims

of the sword, if they lived to suffer on a scaffold, in the unjust and cruel proscription of the whole order. The king of Jerusalem, the

patriarch and the great master of the hospital, effected their retreat to the shore; but the sea was rough, the vessels were insufficient; and

great numbers of the fugitives were drowned before they could reach the

Isle of Cyprus, which might comfort Lusignan for the loss of Palestine. by the command of the sultan, the churches and fortifications of the

Latin cities were demolished: a motive of avarice or fear still opened the holy sepulchre to some devout and defenceless pilgrims; and a

mournful and solitary silence prevailed along the coast which had so

long resounded with the world's debate. [109]

[Footnote 108: The state of Acre is represented in all the chronicles

of te times, and most accurately in John Villani, l. vii. c. 144, in

Muratori, Scriptores Rerum Italicarum, tom. xiii. 337, 338.]

[Footnote 109: See the final expulsion of the Franks, in Sanutus, l.

iii. p. xii. c. 11--22; Abulfeda, Macrizi, &c., in De Guignes, tom. iv.

p. 162, 164; and Vertot, tom. i. l. iii. p. 307--428. \* Note: after these chapters of Gibbon, the masterly prize composition, "Essai sur

'Influence des Croisades sur l'Europe," par A H. L. Heeren: traduit de

l'Allemand par Charles Villars, Paris, 1808,' or the original German, in

Heeren's "Vermischte Schriften," may be read with great advantage.--M.]

chapter LX: The Fourth Crusade.--Part I.

Schism Of The Greeks And Latins.--State Of Constantinople.--

Revolt Of The Bulgarians.--Isaac Angelus Dethroned By His

Brother Alexius.--Origin Of The Fourth Crusade.--Alliance Of

The French And Venetians With The Son Of Isaac.--Their Naval

Expedition To Constantinople.--The Two Sieges And Final

Conquest Of The City By The Latins.

the restoration of the Western empire by Charlemagne was speedily followed by the separation of the Greek and Latin churches. [1] a religious and national animosity still divides the two largest communions of the Christian world; and the schism of Constantinople, by alienating her most useful allies, and provoking her most dangerous enemies, has precipitated the decline and fall of the Roman empire in the East.

[Footnote 1: In the successive centuries, from the ixth to the xviiith,

Mosheim traces the schism of the Greeks with learning, clearness, and

impartiality; the \_filioque\_ (Institut. Hist. Ecclés. p. 277,) Leo III.

p. 303 Photius, p. 307, 308. Michael Cerularius, p. 370, 371, &c.]

In the course of the present History, the aversion of the Greeks for the

Latins has been often visible and conspicuous. It was originally derived from the disdain of servitude, inflamed, after the time of Constantine, by the pride of equality or dominion; and finally exasperated by the

preference which their rebellious subjects had given to the alliance of the Franks. In every age the Greeks were proud of their superiority in

profane and religious knowledge: they had first received the light

of Christianity; they had pronounced the decrees of the seven general councils; they alone possessed the language of Scripture and philosophy;

nor should the Barbarians, immersed in the darkness of the West, [2]

presume to argue on the high and mysterious questions of theological

science. Those Barbarians despised in then turn the restless and subtile

levity of the Orientals, the authors of every heresy; and blessed their

own simplicity, which was content to hold the tradition of the apostolic church. Yet in the seventh century, the synods of Spain, and afterwards

of France, improved or corrupted the Nicene creed, on the mysterious

subject of the third person of the Trinity. [3] In the long controversies

of the East, the nature and generation of the Christ had been

scrupulously defined; and the well-known relation of father and son

seemed to convey a faint image to the human mind. The idea of birth was less analogous to the Holy Spirit, who, instead of a divine gift or attribute, was considered by the Catholics as a substance, a person, a

god; he was not begotten, but in the orthodox style he \_proceeded\_. did he proceed from the Father alone, perhaps \_by\_ the Son? or from the father \_and\_ the Son? The first of these opinions was asserted by the

Greeks, the second by the Latins; and the addition to the Nicene creed of the word \_filioque\_, kindled the flame of discord between the

Oriental and the Gallic churches. In the origin of the disputes the

Roman pontiffs affected a character of neutrality and moderation: [4] they condemned the innovation, but they acquiesced in the sentiment, of their Transalpine brethren: they seemed desirous of casting a veil

of silence and charity over the superfluous research; and in the correspondence of Charlemagne and Leo the Third, the pope assumes the

liberality of a statesman, and the prince descends to the passions and prejudices of a priest. [5] But the orthodoxy of Rome spontaneously

obeyed the impulse of the temporal policy; and the \_filioque\_, which

Leo wished to erase, was transcribed in the symbol and chanted in the

liturgy of the Vatican. The Nicene and Athanasian creeds are held as the catholic faith, without which none can be saved; and both Papists and

Protestants must now sustain and return the anathemas of the Greeks, who deny the procession of the Holy Ghost from the Son, as well as from the father. Such articles of faith are not susceptible of treaty; but the

rules of discipline will vary in remote and independent churches; and the reason, even of divines, might allow, that the difference is

inevitable and harmless. The craft or superstition of Rome has imposed

on her priests and deacons the rigid obligation of celibacy; among the

Greeks it is confined to the bishops; the loss is compensated by dignity

or annihilated by age; and the parochial clergy, the papas, enjoy the conjugal society of the wives whom they have married before their entrance into holy orders. A question concerning the \_Azyms\_ was fiercely debated in the eleventh century, and the essence of the eucharist was supposed in the East and West to depend on the use of

leavened or unleavened bread. Shall I mention in a serious history the furious reproaches that were urged against the Latins, who for a long while remained on the defensive? They neglected to abstain, according to the apostolical decree, from things strangled, and from blood: they fasted (a Jewish observance!) on the Saturday of each week: during the first week of Lent they permitted the use of milk and cheese; [6] their

infirm monks were indulged in the taste of flesh; and animal grease was

substituted for the want of vegetable oil: the holy chrism or unction

in baptism was reserved to the episcopal order: the bishops, as the bridegrooms of their churches, were decorated with rings; their priests

shaved their faces, and baptized by a single immersion. Such were the crimes which provoked the zeal of the patriarchs of Constantinople; and which were justified with equal zeal by the doctors of the Latin church.

[7]

[Footnote 2: ''AndreV dussebeiV kai apotropaioi, andreV ek sktouV anadunteV, thV gar 'Esperiou moiraV uphrcon gennhmata, (Phot. Epist.

p. 47, edit. Montacut.) The Oriental patriarch continues to apply the images of thunder, earthquake, hail, wild boar, precursors of antichrist, &c., &c.]

[Footnote 3: The mysterious subject of the procession of the Holy Ghost

is discussed in the historical, theological, and controversial sense, or

nonsense, by the Jesuit Petavius. (Dogmata Theologica, tom. ii. l. vii.

p. 362--440.)]

[Footnote 4: Before the shrine of St. Peter he placed two shields of the weight of 94 1/2 pounds of pure silver; on which he inscribed the text

of both creeds, (utroque symbolo,) pro amore et \_cautelâ\_ orthodoxæ fidei, (Anastas. in Leon. III. in Muratori, tom. iii. pars. i. p. 208.)

His language most clearly proves, that neither the \_filioque\_, nor the athanasian creed were received at Rome about the year 830.]

[Footnote 5: The Missi of Charlemagne pressed him to declare, that all who rejected the \_filioque\_, or at least the doctrine, must be damned. all, replies the pope, are not capable of reaching the altiora mysteria

qui potuerit, et non voluerit, salvus esse non potest, (Collect. Concil. tom. ix. p. 277--286.) The \_potuerit\_ would leave a large loophole of

salvation!]

[Footnote 6: In France, after some harsher laws, the ecclesiastical discipline is now relaxed: milk, cheese, and butter, are become a

perpetual, and eggs an annual, indulgence in Lent, (Vie privée des françois, tom. ii. p. 27--38.)]

[Footnote 7: The original monuments of the schism, of the charges of the Greeks against the Latins, are deposited in the epistles of Photius,

(Epist Encyclica, ii. p. 47--61,) and of Michael Cerularius, (Canisii antiq. Lectiones, tom. iii. p. i. p. 281--324, edit. Basnage, with the

prolix answer of Cardinal Humbert.)]

bigotry and national aversion are powerful magnifiers of every object

of dispute; but the immediate cause of the schism of the Greeks may be traced in the emulation of the leading prelates, who maintained the

supremacy of the old metropolis superior to all, and of the reigning capital, inferior to none, in the Christian world. About the middle of the ninth century, Photius, [8] an ambitious layman, the captain of the

guards and principal secretary, was promoted by merit and favor to the

more desirable office of patriarch of Constantinople. In science, even ecclesiastical science, he surpassed the clergy of the age; and the

purity of his morals has never been impeached: but his ordination was

hasty, his rise was irregular; and Ignatius, his abdicated predecessor, was yet supported by the public compassion and the obstinacy of his adherents. They appealed to the tribunal of Nicholas the First, one of the proudest and most aspiring of the Roman pontiffs, who embraced the welcome opportunity of judging and condemning his rival of the East. their quarrel was embittered by a conflict of jurisdiction over the

king and nation of the Bulgarians; nor was their recent conversion to christianity of much avail to either prelate, unless he could number the

proselytes among the subjects of his power. With the aid of his court the Greek patriarch was victorious; but in the furious contest he deposed in his turn the successor of St. Peter, and involved the Latin church in the reproach of heresy and schism. Photius sacrificed the

peace of the world to a short and precarious reign: he fell with his

patron, the Cæsar Bardas; and Basil the Macedonian performed an act of

justice in the restoration of Ignatius, whose age and dignity had not been sufficiently respected. From his monastery, or prison, Photius

solicited the favor of the emperor by pathetic complaints and artful flattery; and the eyes of his rival were scarcely closed, when he was again restored to the throne of Constantinople. After the death of Basil

he experienced the vicissitudes of courts and the ingratitude of a royal

pupil: the patriarch was again deposed, and in his last solitary hours

he might regret the freedom of a secular and studious life. In each

revolution, the breath, the nod, of the sovereign had been accepted by a submissive clergy; and a synod of three hundred bishops was always

prepared to hail the triumph, or to stigmatize the fall, of the holy,

or the execrable, Photius. [9] By a delusive promise of succor or reward, the popes were tempted to countenance these various proceedings; and the

synods of Constantinople were ratified by their epistles or legates. But the court and the people, Ignatius and Photius, were equally adverse to their claims; their ministers were insulted or imprisoned; the

procession of the Holy Ghost was forgotten; Bulgaria was forever annexed to the Byzantine throne; and the schism was prolonged by their rigid censure of all the multiplied ordinations of an irregular patriarch. The darkness and corruption of the tenth century suspended the intercourse, without reconciling the minds, of the two nations. But when the Norman

sword restored the churches of Apulia to the jurisdiction of Rome, the departing flock was warned, by a petulant epistle of the Greek

patriarch, to avoid and abhor the errors of the Latins. The rising

majesty of Rome could no longer brook the insolence of a rebel; and

Michael Cerularius was excommunicated in the heart of Constantinople by the pope's legates. Shaking the dust from their feet, they deposited

on the altar of St. Sophia a direful anathema, [10] which enumerates the

seven mortal heresies of the Greeks, and devotes the guilty teachers, and their unhappy sectaries, to the eternal society of the devil and his angels. According to the emergencies of the church and state, a friendly correspondence was some times resumed; the language of charity and concord was sometimes affected; but the Greeks have never recanted their errors; the popes have never repealed their sentence; and from this thunderbolt we may date the consummation of the schism. It was enlarged by each ambitious step of the Roman pontiffs: the emperors blushed and trembled at the ignominious fate of their royal brethren of Germany; and the people were scandalized by the temporal power and military life of the Latin clergy. [11]

[Footnote 8: The xth volume of the Venice edition of the Councils contains all the acts of the synods, and history of Photius: they are abridged, with a faint tinge of prejudice or prudence, by Dupin and fleury.]

[Footnote 9: The synod of Constantinople, held in the year 869, is the

viiith of the general councils, the last assembly of the East which is

recognized by the Roman church. She rejects the synods of Constantinople

of the years 867 and 879, which were, however, equally numerous and

noisy; but they were favorable to Photius.]

[Footnote 10: See this anathema in the Councils, tom. xi. p.

1457--1460.]

[Footnote 11: Anna Comnena (Alexiad, l. i. p. 31--33) represents the abhorrence, not only of the church, but of the palace, for Gregory VII., the popes and the Latin communion. The style of Cinnamus and Nicetas is

still more vehement. Yet how calm is the voice of history compared with that of polemics!]

the aversion of the Greeks and Latins was nourished and manifested in the three first expeditions to the Holy Land. Alexius Comnenus contrived the absence at least of the formidable pilgrims: his successors, Manuel and Isaac Angelus, conspired with the Moslems for the ruin of the

greatest princes of the Franks; and their crooked and malignant policy was seconded by the active and voluntary obedience of every order of their subjects. Of this hostile temper, a large portion may doubtless be ascribed to the difference of language, dress, and manners, which

severs and alienates the nations of the globe. The pride, as well as the prudence, of the sovereign was deeply wounded by the intrusion of foreign armies, that claimed a right of traversing his dominions, and

passing under the walls of his capital: his subjects were insulted and plundered by the rude strangers of the West: and the hatred of the

pusillanimous Greeks was sharpened by secret envy of the bold and pious enterprises of the Franks. But these profane causes of national enmity were fortified and inflamed by the venom of religious zeal. Instead of a kind embrace, a hospitable reception from their Christian brethren of the East, every tongue was taught to repeat the names of schismatic and

heretic, more odious to an orthodox ear than those of pagan and infidel:

instead of being loved for the general conformity of faith and worship, they were abhorred for some rules of discipline, some questions of theology, in which themselves or their teachers might differ from the

Oriental church. In the crusade of Louis the Seventh, the Greek clergy washed and purified the altars which had been defiled by the sacrifice

of a French priest. The companions of Frederic Barbarossa deplore the

injuries which they endured, both in word and deed, from the peculiar

rancor of the bishops and monks. Their prayers and sermons excited the

people against the impious Barbarians; and the patriarch is accused of declaring, that the faithful might obtain the redemption of all their

sins by the extirpation of the schismatics. [12] An enthusiast, named dorotheus, alarmed the fears, and restored the confidence, of the emperor, by a prophetic assurance, that the German heretic, after assaulting the gate of Blachernes, would be made a signal example of the divine vengeance. The passage of these mighty armies were rare and

perilous events; but the crusades introduced a frequent and familiar

intercourse between the two nations, which enlarged their knowledge without abating their prejudices. The wealth and luxury of constantinople demanded the productions of every climate these imports were balanced by the art and labor of her numerous inhabitants; her

situation invites the commerce of the world; and, in every period of her existence, that commerce has been in the hands of foreigners. After the decline of Amalphi, the Venetians, Pisans, and Genoese, introduced their factories and settlements into the capital of the empire: their services were rewarded with honors and immunities; they acquired the possession

of lands and houses; their families were multiplied by marriages with the natives; and, after the toleration of a Mahometan mosque, it was

impossible to interdict the churches of the Roman rite. [13] The two wives of Manuel Comnenus [14] were of the race of the Franks: the first, a sister-in-law of the emperor Conrad; the second, a daughter of the

prince of Antioch: he obtained for his son Alexius a daughter of Philip augustus, king of France; and he bestowed his own daughter on a

marquis of Montferrat, who was educated and dignified in the palace

of Constantinople. The Greek encountered the arms, and aspired to the empire, of the West: he esteemed the valor, and trusted the fidelity, of the Franks; [15] their military talents were unfitly recompensed by the

lucrative offices of judges and treasures; the policy of Manuel had

solicited the alliance of the pope; and the popular voice accused him of a partial bias to the nation and religion of the Latins. [16] During

his reign, and that of his successor Alexius, they were exposed at constantinople to the reproach of foreigners, heretics, and favorites; and this triple guilt was severely expiated in the tumult, which announced the return and elevation of Andronicus. [17] The people rose

in arms: from the Asiatic shore the tyrant despatched his troops and

galleys to assist the national revenge; and the hopeless resistance of the strangers served only to justify the rage, and sharpen the daggers,

of the assassins. Neither age, nor sex, nor the ties of friendship or

kindred, could save the victims of national hatred, and avarice, and

religious zeal; the Latins were slaughtered in their houses and in the

streets; their quarter was reduced to ashes; the clergy were burnt in their churches, and the sick in their hospitals; and some estimate may be formed of the slain from the clemency which sold above four thousand christians in perpetual slavery to the Turks. The priests and monks were the loudest and most active in the destruction of the schismatics; and they chanted a thanksgiving to the Lord, when the head of a Roman cardinal, the pope's legate, was severed from his body, fastened to the tail of a dog, and dragged, with savage mockery, through the city. The

more diligent of the strangers had retreated, on the first alarm, to their vessels, and escaped through the Hellespont from the scene of blood. In their flight, they burnt and ravaged two hundred miles of the

sea-coast; inflicted a severe revenge on the guiltless subjects of the empire; marked the priests and monks as their peculiar enemies; and compensated, by the accumulation of plunder, the loss of their property and friends. On their return, they exposed to Italy and Europe the wealth and weakness, the perfidy and malice, of the Greeks, whose

vices were painted as the genuine characters of heresy and schism. The

scruples of the first crusaders had neglected the fairest opportunities

of securing, by the possession of Constantinople, the way to the Holy

Land: domestic revolution invited, and almost compelled, the French and

Venetians to achieve the conquest of the Roman empire of the East.

[Footnote 12: His anonymous historian (de Expedit. Asiat. Fred. I.

in Canisii Lection. Antiq. tom. iii. pars ii. p. 511, edit. Basnage)

mentions the sermons of the Greek patriarch, quomodo Græcis injunxerat

in remissionem peccatorum peregrinos occidere et delere de terra. Tagino

observes, (in Scriptores Freher. tom. i. p. 409, edit. Struv.,)

Græci hæreticos nos appellant: clerici et monachi dictis et factis

persequuntur. We may add the declaration of the emperor Baldwin fifteen

years afterwards: Hæc est (\_gens\_) quæ Latinos omnes non hominum nomine,

sed canum dignabatur; quorum sanguinem effundere penè inter merita

reputabant, (Gesta Innocent. III., c. 92, in Muratori, Script. Rerum

Italicarum, tom. iii. pars i. p. 536.) There may be some exaggeration, but it was as effectual for the action and reaction of hatred.]

[Footnote 13: See Anna Comnena, (Alexiad, l. vi. p. 161, 162,) and a

remarkable passage of Nicetas, (in Manuel, l. v. c. 9,) who observes

of the Venetians, kata smhnh kai jratriaV thn Kwnstantinou polin thV

oikeiaV hllaxanto, &c.]

[Footnote 14: Ducange, Fam. Byzant. p. 186, 187.]

[Footnote 15: Nicetas in Manuel. l. vii. c. 2. Regnante enim

(Manuele).... apud eum tantam Latinus populus repererat gratiam ut

neglectis Græculis suis tanquam viris mollibus et effminatis,.... solis

Latinis grandia committeret negotia.... erga eos profusâ liberalitate abundabat.... ex omni orbe ad eum tanquam ad benefactorem nobiles et

ignobiles concurrebant. Willelm. Tyr. xxii. c. 10.]

[Footnote 16: The suspicions of the Greeks would have been confirmed, if they had seen the political epistles of Manuel to Pope Alexander III., the enemy of his enemy Frederic I., in which the emperor declares his wish of uniting the Greeks and Latins as one flock under one shepherd,

&c (See Fleury, Hist. Ecclés. tom. xv. p. 187, 213, 243.)]

[Footnote 17: See the Greek and Latin narratives in Nicetas (in Alexio comneno, c. 10) and William of Tyre, (l. xxii. c. 10, 11, 12, 13;) the first soft and concise, the second loud, copious, and tragical.]

In the series of the Byzantine princes, I have exhibited the hypocrisy and ambition, the tyranny and fall, of Andronicus, the last male of the comnenian family who reigned at Constantinople. The revolution, which cast him headlong from the throne, saved and exalted Isaac Angelus,

[18] who descended by the females from the same Imperial dynasty. The

successor of a second Nero might have found it an easy task to deserve the esteem and affection of his subjects; they sometimes had reason to

regret the administration of Andronicus. The sound and vigorous mind of the tyrant was capable of discerning the connection between his own and the public interest; and while he was feared by all who could inspire

him with fear, the unsuspected people, and the remote provinces, might bless the inexorable justice of their master. But his successor was vain and jealous of the supreme power, which he wanted courage and abilities to exercise: his vices were pernicious, his virtues (if he possessed any virtues) were useless, to mankind; and the Greeks, who imputed their calamities to his negligence, denied him the merit of any transient or accidental benefits of the times. Isaac slept on the throne, and was awakened only by the sound of pleasure: his vacant hours were amused by comedians and buffoons, and even to these buffoons the emperor was an

object of contempt: his feasts and buildings exceeded the examples of

royal luxury: the number of his eunuchs and domestics amounted to twenty thousand; and a daily sum of four thousand pounds of silver would swell to four millions sterling the annual expense of his household and table.

His poverty was relieved by oppression; and the public discontent was

inflamed by equal abuses in the collection, and the application, of the revenue. While the Greeks numbered the days of their servitude, a flattering prophet, whom he rewarded with the dignity of patriarch, assured him of a long and victorious reign of thirty-two years; during which he should extend his sway to Mount Libanus, and his conquests beyond the Euphrates. But his only step towards the accomplishment of the prediction was a splendid and scandalous embassy to Saladin, [19] to demand the restitution of the holy sepulchre, and to propose an

offensive and defensive league with the enemy of the Christian name. In these unworthy hands, of Isaac and his brother, the remains of the Greek empire crumbled into dust. The Island of Cyprus, whose name excites the

ideas of elegance and pleasure, was usurped by his namesake, a Comnenian

prince; and by a strange concatenation of events, the sword of our english Richard bestowed that kingdom on the house of Lusignan, a rich compensation for the loss of Jerusalem.

[Footnote 18: The history of the reign of Isaac Angelus is composed, in three books, by the senator Nicetas, (p. 228--290;) and his offices

of logothete, or principal secretary, and judge of the veil or palace, could not bribe the impartiality of the historian. He wrote, it is true, after the fall and death of his benefactor.]

[Footnote 19: See Bohadin, Vit. Saladin. p. 129--131, 226, vers.

Schultens. The ambassador of Isaac was equally versed in the Greek, french, and Arabic languages; a rare instance in those times. His embassies were received with honor, dismissed without effect, and

reported with scandal in the West.]

the honor of the monarchy and the safety of the capital were deeply wounded by the revolt of the Bulgarians and Walachians. Since the

victory of the second Basil, they had supported, above a hundred and

seventy years, the loose dominion of the Byzantine princes; but no effectual measures had been adopted to impose the yoke of laws and

manners on these savage tribes. By the command of Isaac, their sole

means of subsistence, their flocks and herds, were driven away, to contribute towards the pomp of the royal nuptials; and their fierce warriors were exasperated by the denial of equal rank and pay in the

military service. Peter and Asan, two powerful chiefs, of the race

of the ancient kings, [20] asserted their own rights and the national freedom; their dæmoniac impostors proclaimed to the crowd, that their

glorious patron St. Demetrius had forever deserted the cause of the

Greeks; and the conflagration spread from the banks of the Danube to the

hills of Macedonia and Thrace. After some faint efforts, Isaac Angelus and his brother acquiesced in their independence; and the Imperial troops were soon discouraged by the bones of their fellow-soldiers, that were scattered along the passes of Mount Hæmus. By the arms and

policy of John or Joannices, the second kingdom of Bulgaria was firmly established. The subtle Barbarian sent an embassy to Innocent the Third, to acknowledge himself a genuine son of Rome in descent and religion,

[21] and humbly received from the pope the license of coining money, the

royal title, and a Latin archbishop or patriarch. The Vatican exulted in the spiritual conquest of Bulgaria, the first object of the schism; and

if the Greeks could have preserved the prerogatives of the church, they would gladly have resigned the rights of the monarchy.

[Footnote 20: Ducange, Familiæ, Dalmaticæ, p. 318, 319, 320. The

original correspondence of the Bulgarian king and the Roman pontiff is

inscribed in the Gesta Innocent. III. c. 66--82, p. 513--525.]

[Footnote 21: The pope acknowledges his pedigree, a nobili urbis Romæ

prosapiâ genitores tui originem traxerunt. This tradition, and the

strong resemblance of the Latin and Walachian idioms, is explained by M. d'Anville, (Etats de l'Europe, p. 258--262.) The Italian colonies of the Dacia of Trajan were swept away by the tide of emigration from the danube to the Volga, and brought back by another wave from the Volga to the Danube. Possible, but strange!]

the Bulgarians were malicious enough to pray for the long life of Isaac angelus, the surest pledge of their freedom and prosperity. Yet their chiefs could involve in the same indiscriminate contempt the family and

nation of the emperor. "In all the Greeks," said Asan to his troops,

"the same climate, and character, and education, will be productive of the same fruits. Behold my lance," continued the warrior, "and the long

streamers that float in the wind. They differ only in color; they are formed of the same silk, and fashioned by the same workman; nor has the

stripe that is stained in purple any superior price or value above its fellows." [22] Several of these candidates for the purple successively

rose and fell under the empire of Isaac; a general, who had repelled the fleets of Sicily, was driven to revolt and ruin by the ingratitude

of the prince; and his luxurious repose was disturbed by secret conspiracies and popular insurrections. The emperor was saved by accident, or the merit of his servants: he was at length oppressed by an ambitious brother, who, for the hope of a precarious diadem, forgot the

obligations of nature, of loyalty, and of friendship. [23] While Isaac

in the Thracian valleys pursued the idle and solitary pleasures of the chase, his brother, Alexius Angelus, was invested with the purple, by the unanimous suffrage of the camp; the capital and the clergy

subscribed to their choice; and the vanity of the new sovereign rejected the name of his fathers for the lofty and royal appellation of the comnenian race. On the despicable character of Isaac I have exhausted the language of contempt, and can only add, that, in a reign of eight

years, the baser Alexius [24] was supported by the masculine vices of his wife Euphrosyne. The first intelligence of his fall was conveyed to the

late emperor by the hostile aspect and pursuit of the guards, no longer

his own: he fled before them above fifty miles, as far as Stagyra,

in Macedonia; but the fugitive, without an object or a follower, was arrested, brought back to Constantinople, deprived of his eyes, and confined in a lonesome tower, on a scanty allowance of bread and water. at the moment of the revolution, his son Alexius, whom he educated

in the hope of empire, was twelve years of age. He was spared by the

usurper, and reduced to attend his triumph both in peace and war; but as the army was encamped on the sea-shore, an Italian vessel facilitated the escape of the royal youth; and, in the disguise of a common sailor,

he eluded the search of his enemies, passed the Hellespont, and found a

secure refuge in the Isle of Sicily. After saluting the threshold of the apostles, and imploring the protection of Pope Innocent the Third, alexius accepted the kind invitation of his sister Irene, the wife of

Philip of Swabia, king of the Romans. But in his passage through Italy,

he heard that the flower of Western chivalry was assembled at Venice for the deliverance of the Holy Land; and a ray of hope was kindled in his bosom, that their invincible swords might be employed in his father's

restoration.

[Footnote 22: This parable is in the best savage style; but I wish the walach had not introduced the classic name of Mysians, the experiment of the magnet or loadstone, and the passage of an old comic poet, (Nicetas

in Alex. Comneno, l. i. p. 299, 300.)]

[Footnote 23: The Latins aggravate the ingratitude of Alexius, by

supposing that he had been released by his brother Isaac from Turkish captivity This pathetic tale had doubtless been repeated at Venice and

Zara but I do not readily discover its grounds in the Greek historians.]

[Footnote 24: See the reign of Alexius Angelus, or Comnenus, in the three books of Nicetas, p. 291--352.]

about ten or twelve years after the loss of Jerusalem, the nobles of france were again summoned to the holy war by the voice of a third

prophet, less extravagant, perhaps, than Peter the hermit, but far below

St. Bernard in the merit of an orator and a statesman. An illiterate

priest of the neighborhood of Paris, Fulk of Neuilly, [25] forsook his

parochial duty, to assume the more flattering character of a popular and

itinerant missionary. The fame of his sanctity and miracles was spread

over the land; he declaimed, with severity and vehemence, against the

vices of the age; and his sermons, which he preached in the streets of

Paris, converted the robbers, the usurers, the prostitutes, and even the doctors and scholars of the university. No sooner did Innocent the Third ascend the chair of St. Peter, than he proclaimed in Italy, Germany, and France, the obligation of a new crusade. [26] The eloquent pontiff described the ruin of Jerusalem, the triumph of the Pagans, and the

shame of Christendom; his liberality proposed the redemption of sins, a

plenary indulgence to all who should serve in Palestine, either a year

in person, or two years by a substitute; [27] and among his legates and

orators who blew the sacred trumpet, Fulk of Neuilly was the loudest and

most successful. The situation of the principal monarchs was averse to the pious summons. The emperor Frederic the Second was a child; and his

kingdom of Germany was disputed by the rival houses of Brunswick and

Swabia, the memorable factions of the Guelphs and Ghibelines. Philip augustus of France had performed, and could not be persuaded to renew, the perilous vow; but as he was not less ambitious of praise than of

power, he cheerfully instituted a perpetual fund for the defence of the

Holy Land Richard of England was satiated with the glory and misfortunes

of his first adventure; and he presumed to deride the exhortations of fulk of Neuilly, who was not abashed in the presence of kings. "You advise me," said Plantagenet, "to dismiss my three daughters, pride, avarice, and incontinence: I bequeath them to the most deserving; my

pride to the knights templars, my avarice to the monks of Cisteaux, and

my incontinence to the prelates." But the preacher was heard and obeyed by the great vassals, the princes of the second order; and Theobald,

or Thibaut, count of Champagne, was the foremost in the holy race. The

valiant youth, at the age of twenty-two years, was encouraged by the domestic examples of his father, who marched in the second crusade, and

of his elder brother, who had ended his days in Palestine with the title

of King of Jerusalem; two thousand two hundred knights owed service and

homage to his peerage; [28] the nobles of Champagne excelled in all the exercises of war; [29] and, by his marriage with the heiress of Navarre, thibaut could draw a band of hardy Gascons from either side of the

Pyrenæan mountains. His companion in arms was Louis, count of Blois and Chartres; like himself of regal lineage, for both the princes were

nephews, at the same time, of the kings of France and England. In a crowd of prelates and barons, who imitated their zeal, I distinguish the birth and merit of Matthew of Montmorency; the famous Simon of

Montfort, the scourge of the Albigeois; and a valiant noble, Jeffrey of

Villehardouin, [30] marshal of Champagne, [31] who has condescended, in the rude idiom of his age and country, [32] to write or dictate [33] an original narrative of the councils and actions in which he bore a

memorable part. At the same time, Baldwin, count of Flanders, who had

married the sister of Thibaut, assumed the cross at Bruges, with his brother Henry, and the principal knights and citizens of that rich and

industrious province. [34] The vow which the chiefs had pronounced in churches, they ratified in tournaments; the operations of the war were debated in full and frequent assemblies; and it was resolved to seek the deliverance of Palestine in Egypt, a country, since Saladin's death, which was almost ruined by famine and civil war. But the fate of so many

royal armies displayed the toils and perils of a land expedition; and if the Flemings dwelt along the ocean, the French barons were destitute of

ships and ignorant of navigation. They embraced the wise resolution of choosing six deputies or representatives, of whom Villehardouin was

one, with a discretionary trust to direct the motions, and to pledge the faith, of the whole confederacy. The maritime states of Italy were alone

possessed of the means of transporting the holy warriors with their arms and horses; and the six deputies proceeded to Venice, to solicit, on

motives of piety or interest, the aid of that powerful republic.

[Footnote 25: See Fleury, Hist. Ecclés. tom. xvi. p. 26, &c., and

Villehardouin, No. 1, with the observations of Ducange, which I always

mean to quote with the original text.]

[Footnote 26: The contemporary life of Pope Innocent III., published by baluze and Muratori, (Scriptores Rerum Italicarum, tom. iii. pars i.

p. 486--568), is most valuable for the important and original documents which are inserted in the text. The bull of the crusade may be read, c.

84, 85.]

[Footnote 27: Por-ce que cil pardon, fut issi gran, si s'en esmeurent

mult li cuers des genz, et mult s'en croisierent, porce que li pardons ere si gran. Villehardouin, No. 1. Our philosophers may refine on the causes of the crusades, but such were the genuine feelings of a French

knight.]

[Footnote 28: This number of fiefs (of which 1800 owed liege homage) was enrolled in the church of St. Stephen at Troyes, and attested A.D. 1213, by the marshal and butler of Champagne, (Ducange, Observ. p. 254.)]

[Footnote 29: Campania.... militiæ privilegio singularius excellit....

in tyrociniis.... prolusione armorum, &c., Duncage, p. 249, from the old chronicle of Jerusalem, A.D. 1177--1199.]

[Footnote 30: The name of Villehardouin was taken from a village and castle in the diocese of Troyes, near the River Aube, between Bar and Arcis. The family was ancient and noble; the elder branch of our

historian existed after the year 1400, the younger, which acquired the principality of Achaia, merged in the house of Savoy, (Ducange, p.

235--245.)]

[Footnote 31: This office was held by his father and his descendants; but Ducange has not hunted it with his usual sagacity. I find that, in the year 1356, it was in the family of Conflans; but these provincial

have been long since eclipsed by the national marshals of France.]

[Footnote 32: This language, of which I shall produce some specimens,

is explained by Vigenere and Ducange, in a version and glossary. The

president Des Brosses (Méchanisme des Langues, tom. ii. p. 83) gives

it as the example of a language which has ceased to be French, and is

understood only by grammarians.]

[Footnote 33: His age, and his own expression, moi qui ceste uvre

\_dicta\_, (No. 62, &c.,) may justify the suspicion (more probable than

Mr. Wood's on Homer) that he could neither read nor write. Yet Champagne

may boast of the two first historians, the noble authors of French

prose, Villehardouin and Joinville.]

[Footnote 34: The crusade and reigns of the counts of Flanders, Baldwin and his brother Henry, are the subject of a particular history by the

Jesuit Doutremens, (Constantinopolis Belgica; Turnaci, 1638, in 4to.,) which I have only seen with the eyes of Ducange.]

In the invasion of Italy by Attila, I have mentioned [35] the flight of the Venetians from the fallen cities of the continent, and their obscure

shelter in the chain of islands that line the extremity of the Adriatic

Gulf. In the midst of the waters, free, indigent, laborious, and

inaccessible, they gradually coalesced into a republic: the first foundations of Venice were laid in the Island of Rialto; and the annual election of the twelve tribunes was superseded by the permanent office

of a duke or doge. On the verge of the two empires, the Venetians exult

in the belief of primitive and perpetual independence. [36] Against the

Latins, their antique freedom has been asserted by the sword, and may be justified by the pen. Charlemagne himself resigned all claims of

sovereignty to the islands of the Adriatic Gulf: his son Pepin was

repulsed in the attacks of the \_lagunas\_ or canals, too deep for the cavalry, and too shallow for the vessels; and in every age, under the

German Cæsars, the lands of the republic have been clearly distinguished from the kingdom of Italy. But the inhabitants of Venice were considered by themselves, by strangers, and by their sovereigns, as an inalienable

portion of the Greek empire: [37] in the ninth and tenth centuries, the

proofs of their subjection are numerous and unquestionable; and the

vain titles, the servile honors, of the Byzantine court, so ambitiously

solicited by their dukes, would have degraded the magistrates of a free

people. But the bands of this dependence, which was never absolute or

rigid, were imperceptibly relaxed by the ambition of Venice and the weakness of Constantinople. Obedience was softened into respect,

privilege ripened into prerogative, and the freedom of domestic

government was fortified by the independence of foreign dominion. The

maritime cities of Istria and Dalmatia bowed to the sovereigns of the Adriatic; and when they armed against the Normans in the cause of alexius, the emperor applied, not to the duty of his subjects, but to the gratitude and generosity of his faithful allies. The sea was their

patrimony: [38] the western parts of the Mediterranean, from Tuscany to

Gibraltar, were indeed abandoned to their rivals of Pisa and Genoa; but the Venetians acquired an early and lucrative share of the commerce of

Greece and Egypt. Their riches increased with the increasing demand of europe; their manufactures of silk and glass, perhaps the institution of their bank, are of high antiquity; and they enjoyed the fruits of their

industry in the magnificence of public and private life. To assert her flag, to avenge her injuries, to protect the freedom of navigation, the republic could launch and man a fleet of a hundred galleys; and the

Greeks, the Saracens, and the Normans, were encountered by her naval arms. The Franks of Syria were assisted by the Venetians in the

reduction of the sea coast; but their zeal was neither blind nor disinterested; and in the conquest of Tyre, they shared the sovereignty

of a city, the first seat of the commerce of the world. The policy of

Venice was marked by the avarice of a trading, and the insolence of a

maritime, power; yet her ambition was prudent: nor did she often forget that if armed galleys were the effect and safeguard, merchant vessels were the cause and supply, of her greatness. In her religion, she avoided the schisms of the Greeks, without yielding a servile obedience to the Roman pontiff; and a free intercourse with the infidels of every clime appears to have allayed betimes the fever of superstition. Her

primitive government was a loose mixture of democracy and monarchy; the doge was elected by the votes of the general assembly; as long as he was popular and successful, he reigned with the pomp and authority of a

prince; but in the frequent revolutions of the state, he was deposed,

or banished, or slain, by the justice or injustice of the multitude. the twelfth century produced the first rudiments of the wise and jealous aristocracy, which has reduced the doge to a pageant, and the people to a cipher. [39]

[Footnote 35: History, &c., vol. iii. p. 446, 447.]

[Footnote 36: The foundation and independence of Venice, and Pepin's

invasion, are discussed by Pagi (Critica, tom. iii. A.D. 81, No. 4,

&c.) and Beretti, (Dissert. Chorograph. Italiæ Medii Ævi, in Muratori,

Script. tom. x. p. 153.) The two critics have a slight bias, the frenchman adverse, the Italian favorable, to the republic.]

[Footnote 37: When the son of Charlemagne asserted his right of

sovereignty, he was answered by the loyal Venetians, oti hmeiV douloi

Jelomen einai tou 'Rwmaiwn basilewV, (Constantin. Porphyrogenit. de administrat. Imperii, pars ii. c. 28, p. 85;) and the report of the

ixth establishes the fact of the xth century, which is confirmed by the embassy of Liutprand of Cremona. The annual tribute, which the emperor allows them to pay to the king of Italy, alleviates, by doubling, their

servitude; but the hateful word douloi must be translated, as in the charter of 827, (Laugier, Hist. de Venice, tom. i. p. 67, &c.,) by the

softer appellation of \_subditi\_, or \_fideles\_.]

[Footnote 38: See the xxvth and xxxth dissertations of the Antiquitates

Medii Ævi of Muratori. From Anderson's History of Commerce, I understand that the Venetians did not trade to England before the year 1323. The

most flourishing state of their wealth and commerce, in the beginning of the xvth century, is agreeably described by the Abbé Dubos, (Hist. de la

Ligue de Cambray, tom. ii. p. 443--480.)]

[Footnote 39: The Venetians have been slow in writing and publishing their history. Their most ancient monuments are, 1. The rude Chronicle

(perhaps) of John Sagorninus, (Venezia, 1765, in octavo,) which

represents the state and manners of Venice in the year 1008. 2. The

larger history of the doge, (1342--1354,) Andrew Dandolo, published for the first time in the xiith tom. of Muratori, A.D. 1728. The History

of Venice by the Abbé Laugier, (Paris, 1728,) is a work of some merit, which I have chiefly used for the constitutional part. \* Note: It is

scarcely necessary to mention the valuable work of Count Daru, "History de Venise," of which I hear that an Italian translation has been

published, with notes defensive of the ancient republic. I have not yet

seen this work.--M.]

chapter LX: The Fourth Crusade.--Part II.

when the six ambassadors of the French pilgrims arrived at Venice, they were hospitably entertained in the palace of St. Mark, by the reigning duke; his name was Henry Dandolo; [40] and he shone in the last period of

human life as one of the most illustrious characters of the times.

Under the weight of years, and after the loss of his eyes, [41] Dandolo

retained a sound understanding and a manly courage: the spirit of a

hero, ambitious to signalize his reign by some memorable exploits; and the wisdom of a patriot, anxious to build his fame on the glory and advantage of his country. He praised the bold enthusiasm and liberal confidence of the barons and their deputies: in such a cause, and with

such associates, he should aspire, were he a private man, to terminate

his life; but he was the servant of the republic, and some delay was

requisite to consult, on this arduous business, the judgment of his colleagues. The proposal of the French was first debated by the six

\_sages\_ who had been recently appointed to control the administration of the doge: it was next disclosed to the forty members of the council

of state; and finally communicated to the legislative assembly of four

hundred and fifty representatives, who were annually chosen in the six

quarters of the city. In peace and war, the doge was still the chief

of the republic; his legal authority was supported by the personal

reputation of Dandolo: his arguments of public interest were balanced and approved; and he was authorized to inform the ambassadors of the following conditions of the treaty. [42] It was proposed that the crusaders should assemble at Venice, on the feast of St. John of the ensuing year; that flat-bottomed vessels should be prepared for four thousand five hundred horses, and nine thousand squires, with a number

of ships sufficient for the embarkation of four thousand five hundred

knights, and twenty thousand foot; that during a term of nine months they should be supplied with provisions, and transported to whatsoever coast the service of God and Christendom should require; and that the

republic should join the armament with a squadron of fifty galleys. It was required, that the pilgrims should pay, before their departure, a

sum of eighty-five thousand marks of silver; and that all conquests, by

sea and land, should be equally divided between the confederates. The terms were hard; but the emergency was pressing, and the French barons were not less profuse of money than of blood. A general assembly was convened to ratify the treaty: the stately chapel and place of St. Mark were filled with ten thousand citizens; and the noble deputies were taught a new lesson of humbling themselves before the majesty of the

people. "Illustrious Venetians," said the marshal of Champagne, "we are

sent by the greatest and most powerful barons of France to implore the aid of the masters of the sea for the deliverance of Jerusalem. They

have enjoined us to fall prostrate at your feet; nor will we rise from the ground till you have promised to avenge with us the injuries of christ." The eloquence of their words and tears, [43] their martial aspect, and suppliant attitude, were applauded by a universal shout; as

it were, says Jeffrey, by the sound of an earthquake. The venerable doge ascended the pulpit to urge their request by those motives of honor and

virtue, which alone can be offered to a popular assembly: the treaty was transcribed on parchment, attested with oaths and seals, mutually accepted by the weeping and joyful representatives of France and Venice; and despatched to Rome for the approbation of Pope Innocent the Third. two thousand marks were borrowed of the merchants for the first expenses

of the armament. Of the six deputies, two repassed the Alps to announce their success, while their four companions made a fruitless trial of the

zeal and emulation of the republics of Genoa and Pisa.

[Footnote 40: Henry Dandolo was eighty-four at his election, (A.D.

1192,) and ninety-seven at his death, (A.D. 1205.) See the Observations

of Ducange sur Villehardouin, No. 204. But this \_extraordinary\_

longevity is not observed by the original writers, nor does there exist another example of a hero near a hundred years of age. Theophrastus

might afford an instance of a writer of ninety-nine; but instead

of ennenhkonta, (Prom. ad Character.,)I am much inclined to read ebdomhkonta, with his last editor Fischer, and the first thoughts of casaubon. It is scarcely possible that the powers of the mind and body

should support themselves till such a period of life.]

[Footnote 41: The modern Venetians (Laugier, tom. ii. p. 119) accuse the emperor Manuel; but the calumny is refuted by Villehardouin and the

older writers, who suppose that Dandolo lost his eyes by a wound, (No.

31, and Ducange.) \* Note: The accounts differ, both as to the extent and the cause of his blindness According to Villehardouin and others, the

sight was totally lost; according to the Chronicle of Andrew Dandolo.

(Murat. tom. xii. p. 322,) he was vise debilis. See Wilken, vol. v. p.

143.--M.]

[Footnote 42: See the original treaty in the Chronicle of Andrew dandolo, p. 323--326.]

[Footnote 43: A reader of Villehardouin must observe the frequent tears

of the marshal and his brother knights. Sachiez que la ot mainte lerme

plorée de pitié, (No. 17;) mult plorant, (ibid.;) mainte lerme plorée,

(No. 34;) si orent mult pitié et plorerent mult durement, (No. 60;) i ot

mainte lerme plorée de pitié, (No. 202.) They weep on every occasion of

grief, joy, or devotion.]

the execution of the treaty was still opposed by unforeseen difficulties and delays. The marshal, on his return to Troyes, was embraced and approved by Thibaut count of Champagne, who had been unanimously chosen

general of the confederates. But the health of that valiant youth already declined, and soon became hopeless; and he deplored the untimely fate, which condemned him to expire, not in a field of battle, but on a bed of sickness. To his brave and numerous vassals, the dying prince distributed his treasures: they swore in his presence to accomplish his

vow and their own; but some there were, says the marshal, who accepted

his gifts and forfeited their words. The more resolute champions of the cross held a parliament at Soissons for the election of a new general; but such was the incapacity, or jealousy, or reluctance, of the princes

of France, that none could be found both able and willing to assume the conduct of the enterprise. They acquiesced in the choice of a stranger,

of Boniface marquis of Montferrat, descended of a race of heroes, and

himself of conspicuous fame in the wars and negotiations of the times;

[44] nor could the piety or ambition of the Italian chief decline this

honorable invitation. After visiting the French court, where he was received as a friend and kinsman, the marquis, in the church of

Soissons, was invested with the cross of a pilgrim and the staff of a

general; and immediately repassed the Alps, to prepare for the distant expedition of the East. About the festival of the Pentecost he displayed

his banner, and marched towards Venice at the head of the Italians: he was preceded or followed by the counts of Flanders and Blois, and the

most respectable barons of France; and their numbers were swelled by the

pilgrims of Germany, [45] whose object and motives were similar to their

own. The Venetians had fulfilled, and even surpassed, their engagements:

stables were constructed for the horses, and barracks for the troops: the magazines were abundantly replenished with forage and provisions; and the fleet of transports, ships, and galleys, was ready to hoist

sail as soon as the republic had received the price of the freight and armament. But that price far exceeded the wealth of the crusaders who were assembled at Venice. The Flemings, whose obedience to their count was voluntary and precarious, had embarked in their vessels for the long

navigation of the ocean and Mediterranean; and many of the French and Italians had preferred a cheaper and more convenient passage from

Marseilles and Apulia to the Holy Land. Each pilgrim might complain, that after he had furnished his own contribution, he was made

responsible for the deficiency of his absent brethren: the gold and

silver plate of the chiefs, which they freely delivered to the treasury

of St. Marks, was a generous but inadequate sacrifice; and after all their efforts, thirty-four thousand marks were still wanting to complete the stipulated sum. The obstacle was removed by the policy and

patriotism of the doge, who proposed to the barons, that if they would

join their arms in reducing some revolted cities of Dalmatia, he would expose his person in the holy war, and obtain from the republic a

long indulgence, till some wealthy conquest should afford the means

of satisfying the debt. After much scruple and hesitation, they chose

rather to accept the offer than to relinquish the enterprise; and the first hostilities of the fleet and army were directed against Zara,

[46] a strong city of the Sclavonian coast, which had renounced its allegiance to Venice, and implored the protection of the king of

Hungary. [47] The crusaders burst the chain or boom of the harbor;

landed their horses, troops, and military engines; and compelled the

inhabitants, after a defence of five days, to surrender at discretion: their lives were spared, but the revolt was punished by the pillage

of their houses and the demolition of their walls. The season was far advanced; the French and Venetians resolved to pass the winter in a

secure harbor and plentiful country; but their repose was disturbed by national and tumultuous quarrels of the soldiers and mariners. The conquest of Zara had scattered the seeds of discord and scandal: the arms of the allies had been stained in their outset with the blood, not

of infidels, but of Christians: the king of Hungary and his new subjects were themselves enlisted under the banner of the cross; and the scruples

of the devout were magnified by the fear of lassitude of the reluctant

pilgrims. The pope had excommunicated the false crusaders who had

pillaged and massacred their brethren, [48] and only the marquis Boniface and Simon of Montfort [481] escaped these spiritual thunders; the one by

his absence from the siege, the other by his final departure from the camp. Innocent might absolve the simple and submissive penitents of france; but he was provoked by the stubborn reason of the Venetians, who

refused to confess their guilt, to accept their pardon, or to allow, in their temporal concerns, the interposition of a priest.

[Footnote 44: By a victory (A.D. 1191) over the citizens of Asti, by a crusade to Palestine, and by an embassy from the pope to the German

princes, (Muratori, Annali d'Italia, tom. x. p. 163, 202.)]

[Footnote 45: See the crusade of the Germans in the Historia C. P. of

Gunther, (Canisii Antiq. Lect. tom. iv. p. v.--viii.,) who celebrates the pilgrimage of his abbot Martin, one of the preaching rivals of Fulk

of Neuilly. His monastery, of the Cistercian order, was situate in the diocese of Basil.]

[Footnote 46: Jadera, now Zara, was a Roman colony, which acknowledged augustus for its parent. It is now only two miles round, and contains five or six thousand inhabitants; but the fortifications are strong, and

it is joined to the main land by a bridge. See the travels of the two companions, Spon and Wheeler, (Voyage de Dalmatie, de Grèce, &c., tom.

i. p. 64--70. Journey into Greece, p. 8--14;) the last of whom, by

mistaking \_Sestertia\_ for \_Sestertii\_, values an arch with statues and columns at twelve pounds. If, in his time, there were no trees

near Zara, the cherry-trees were not yet planted which produce our

incomparable \_marasquin\_.]

[Footnote 47: Katona (Hist. Critica Reg. Hungariæ, Stirpis Arpad. tom.

iv. p. 536--558) collects all the facts and testimonies most adverse to the conquerors of Zara.]

[Footnote 48: See the whole transaction, and the sentiments of the pope,

in the Epistles of Innocent III. Gesta, c. 86, 87, 88.]

[Footnote 481: Montfort protested against the siege. Guido, the abbot of

Vaux de Sernay, in the name of the pope, interdicted the attack on a christian city; and the immediate surrender of the town was thus delayed for five days of fruitless resistance. Wilken, vol. v. p. 167. See

likewise, at length, the history of the interdict issued by the pope.

Ibid.--M.]

the assembly of such formidable powers by sea and land had revived the

hopes of young [49] Alexius; and both at Venice and Zara, he solicited the arms of the crusaders, for his own restoration and his father's [50] deliverance. The royal youth was recommended by Philip king of Germany:

his prayers and presence excited the compassion of the camp; and his cause was embraced and pleaded by the marquis of Montferrat and the doge

of Venice. A double alliance, and the dignity of Cæsar, had connected with the Imperial family the two elder brothers of Boniface: [51] he expected to derive a kingdom from the important service; and the

more generous ambition of Dandolo was eager to secure the inestimable benefits of trade and dominion that might accrue to his country. [52] their influence procured a favorable audience for the ambassadors of alexius; and if the magnitude of his offers excited some suspicion, the motives and rewards which he displayed might justify the delay and diversion of those forces which had been consecrated to the deliverance

of Jerusalem. He promised in his own and his father's name, that as soon as they should be seated on the throne of Constantinople, they would terminate the long schism of the Greeks, and submit themselves and their people to the lawful supremacy of the Roman church. He engaged to recompense the labors and merits of the crusaders, by the immediate

payment of two hundred thousand marks of silver; to accompany them

in person to Egypt; or, if it should be judged more advantageous, to

maintain, during a year, ten thousand men, and, during his life, five

hundred knights, for the service of the Holy Land. These tempting conditions were accepted by the republic of Venice; and the eloquence

of the doge and marquis persuaded the counts of Flanders, Blois, and St.

Pol, with eight barons of France, to join in the glorious enterprise. A treaty of offensive and defensive alliance was confirmed by their

oaths and seals; and each individual, according to his situation and character, was swayed by the hope of public or private advantage; by the honor of restoring an exiled monarch; or by the sincere and

probable opinion, that their efforts in Palestine would be fruitless and

unavailing, and that the acquisition of Constantinople must precede and

prepare the recovery of Jerusalem. But they were the chiefs or equals

of a valiant band of freemen and volunteers, who thought and acted for themselves: the soldiers and clergy were divided; and, if a large

majority subscribed to the alliance, the numbers and arguments of the dissidents were strong and respectable. [53] The boldest hearts were appalled by the report of the naval power and impregnable strength of constantinople; and their apprehensions were disguised to the world, and perhaps to themselves, by the more decent objections of religion and duty. They alleged the sanctity of a vow, which had drawn them from their families and homes to the rescue of the holy sepulchre; nor

should the dark and crooked counsels of human policy divert them from a pursuit, the event of which was in the hands of the Almighty. Their first offence, the attack of Zara, had been severely punished by the

reproach of their conscience and the censures of the pope; nor would they again imbrue their hands in the blood of their fellow-Christians. the apostle of Rome had pronounced; nor would they usurp the right

of avenging with the sword the schism of the Greeks and the doubtful

usurpation of the Byzantine monarch. On these principles or pretences,

many pilgrims, the most distinguished for their valor and piety, withdrew from the camp; and their retreat was less pernicious than the

open or secret opposition of a discontented party, that labored, on every occasion, to separate the army and disappoint the enterprise.

[Footnote 49: A modern reader is surprised to hear of the valet de constantinople, as applied to young Alexius, on account of his youth,

like the \_infants\_ of Spain, and the \_nobilissimus puer\_ of the Romans. the pages and \_valets\_ of the knights were as noble as themselves,

(Villehardouin and Ducange, No. 36.)]

[Footnote 50: The emperor Isaac is styled by Villehardouin, \_Sursac\_,

(No. 35, &c.,) which may be derived from the French \_Sire\_, or the Greek

Kur (kurioV?) melted into his proper name; the further corruptions of tursac and Conserac will instruct us what license may have been used in the old dynasties of Assyria and Egypt.]

[Footnote 51: Reinier and Conrad: the former married Maria, daughter

of the emperor Manuel Comnenus; the latter was the husband of Theodora angela, sister of the emperors Isaac and Alexius. Conrad abandoned the Greek court and princess for the glory of defending Tyre against

Saladin, (Ducange, Fam. Byzant. p. 187, 203.)]

[Footnote 52: Nicetas (in Alexio Comneno, l. iii. c. 9) accuses the doge and Venetians as the first authors of the war against Constantinople, and considers only as a kuma epi kumati, the arrival and shameful offers

of the royal exile. \* Note: He admits, however, that the Angeli had committed depredations on the Venetian trade, and the emperor himself

had refused the payment of part of the stipulated compensation for the

seizure of the Venetian merchandise by the emperor Manuel. Nicetas, in

loc.--M.]

[Footnote 53: Villehardouin and Gunther represent the sentiments of the two parties. The abbot Martin left the army at Zara, proceeded to

Palestine, was sent ambassador to Constantinople, and became a reluctant witness of the second siege.]

Notwithstanding this defection, the departure of the fleet and army was

vigorously pressed by the Venetians, whose zeal for the service of the

royal youth concealed a just resentment to his nation and family. They were mortified by the recent preference which had been given to Pisa, the rival of their trade; they had a long arrear of debt and injury to

liquidate with the Byzantine court; and Dandolo might not discourage the popular tale, that he had been deprived of his eyes by the emperor

Manuel, who perfidiously violated the sanctity of an ambassador. A

similar armament, for ages, had not rode the Adriatic: it was composed

of one hundred and twenty flat-bottomed vessels or \_palanders\_ for the horses; two hundred and forty transports filled with men and arms;

seventy store-ships laden with provisions; and fifty stout galleys, well prepared for the encounter of an enemy. [54] While the wind was favorable, the sky serene, and the water smooth, every eye was fixed with wonder and delight on the scene of military and naval pomp which

overspread the sea. [541] The shields of the knights and squires, at once an ornament and a defence, were arranged on either side of the ships; the banners of the nations and families were displayed from the stern;

our modern artillery was supplied by three hundred engines for casting

stones and darts: the fatigues of the way were cheered with the sound

of music; and the spirits of the adventurers were raised by the mutual assurance, that forty thousand Christian heroes were equal to the conquest of the world. [55] In the navigation [56] from Venice and Zara, the fleet was successfully steered by the skill and experience of the Venetian pilots: at Durazzo, the confederates first landed on the territories of the Greek empire: the Isle of Corfu afforded a station and repose; they doubled, without accident, the perilous cape of Malea, the southern point of Peloponnesus or the Morea; made a descent in the islands of Negropont and Andros; and cast anchor at Abydus on the asiatic side of the Hellespont. These preludes of conquest were easy and bloodless: the Greeks of the provinces, without patriotism or courage, were crushed by an irresistible force: the presence of the lawful heir

might justify their obedience; and it was rewarded by the modesty and discipline of the Latins. As they penetrated through the Hellespont, the

magnitude of their navy was compressed in a narrow channel, and the face

of the waters was darkened with innumerable sails. They again expanded

in the basin of the Propontis, and traversed that placid sea, till they approached the European shore, at the abbey of St. Stephen, three

leagues to the west of Constantinople. The prudent doge dissuaded them from dispersing themselves in a populous and hostile land; and, as their stock of provisions was reduced, it was resolved, in the season

of harvest, to replenish their store-ships in the fertile islands of the Propontis. With this resolution, they directed their course: but a

strong gale, and their own impatience, drove them to the eastward; and

so near did they run to the shore and the city, that some volleys of

stones and darts were exchanged between the ships and the rampart. As they passed along, they gazed with admiration on the capital of the east, or, as it should seem, of the earth; rising from her seven hills, and towering over the continents of Europe and Asia. The swelling domes and lofty spires of five hundred palaces and churches were gilded by the

sun and reflected in the waters: the walls were crowded with soldiers and spectators, whose numbers they beheld, of whose temper they were

ignorant; and each heart was chilled by the reflection, that, since the beginning of the world, such an enterprise had never been undertaken by

such a handful of warriors. But the momentary apprehension was dispelled by hope and valor; and every man, says the marshal of Champagne, glanced

his eye on the sword or lance which he must speedily use in the glorious conflict. [57] The Latins cast anchor before Chalcedon; the mariners only were left in the vessels: the soldiers, horses, and arms, were safely

landed; and, in the luxury of an Imperial palace, the barons tasted the first fruits of their success. On the third day, the fleet and army moved towards Scutari, the Asiatic suburb of Constantinople: a detachment of five hundred Greek horse was surprised and defeated by fourscore French knights; and in a halt of nine days, the camp was

plentifully supplied with forage and provisions.

[Footnote 54: The birth and dignity of Andrew Dandolo gave him the

motive and the means of searching in the archives of Venice the

memorable story of his ancestor. His brevity seems to accuse the copious and more recent narratives of Sanudo, (in Muratori, Script. Rerum

Italicarum, tom. xxii.,) Blondus, Sabellicus, and Rhamnusius.]

[Footnote 541: This description rather belongs to the first setting sail

of the expedition from Venice, before the siege of Zara. The armament did not return to Venice.--M.]

[Footnote 55: Villehardouin, No. 62. His feelings and expressions are

original: he often weeps, but he rejoices in the glories and perils of war with a spirit unknown to a sedentary writer.]

[Footnote 56: In this voyage, almost all the geographical names are corrupted by the Latins. The modern appellation of Chalcis, and all euba, is derived from its \_Euripus\_, \_Evripo\_, \_Negri-po\_, \_Negropont\_, which dishonors our maps, (D'Anville, Géographie Ancienne, tom. i. p.

263.)]

[Footnote 57: Et sachiez que il ni ot si hardi cui le cuer ne fremist,

(c. 66.).. Chascuns regardoit ses armes.... que par tems en arons

mestier, (c. 67.) Such is the honesty of courage.]

In relating the invasion of a great empire, it may seem strange that I

have not described the obstacles which should have checked the progress

of the strangers. The Greeks, in truth, were an unwarlike people; but they were rich, industrious, and subject to the will of a single man:

had that man been capable of fear, when his enemies were at a distance,

or of courage, when they approached his person. The first rumor of his

nephew's alliance with the French and Venetians was despised by the

usurper Alexius: his flatterers persuaded him, that in this contempt he was bold and sincere; and each evening, in the close of the banquet, he thrice discomfited the Barbarians of the West. These Barbarians had been justly terrified by the report of his naval power; and the sixteen

hundred fishing boats of Constantinople [58] could have manned a fleet, to sink them in the Adriatic, or stop their entrance in the mouth of the

Hellespont. But all force may be annihilated by the negligence of the

prince and the venality of his ministers. The great duke, or admiral,

made a scandalous, almost a public, auction of the sails, the masts, and the rigging: the royal forests were reserved for the more important

purpose of the chase; and the trees, says Nicetas, were guarded by the eunuchs, like the groves of religious worship. [59] From his dream of

pride, Alexius was awakened by the siege of Zara, and the rapid advances

of the Latins; as soon as he saw the danger was real, he thought it

inevitable, and his vain presumption was lost in abject despondency and despair. He suffered these contemptible Barbarians to pitch their camp

in the sight of the palace; and his apprehensions were thinly disguised by the pomp and menace of a suppliant embassy. The sovereign of the

Romans was astonished (his ambassadors were instructed to say) at the

hostile appearance of the strangers. If these pilgrims were sincere in their vow for the deliverance of Jerusalem, his voice must applaud, and

his treasures should assist, their pious design but should they dare to

invade the sanctuary of empire, their numbers, were they ten times more considerable, should not protect them from his just resentment. The answer of the doge and barons was simple and magnanimous. "In the cause

of honor and justice," they said, "we despise the usurper of Greece, his threats, and his offers. \_Our\_ friendship and \_his\_ allegiance are due to the lawful heir, to the young prince, who is seated among us, and to

his father, the emperor Isaac, who has been deprived of his sceptre, his freedom, and his eyes, by the crime of an ungrateful brother. Let that brother confess his guilt, and implore forgiveness, and we ourselves will intercede, that he may be permitted to live in affluence and

security. But let him not insult us by a second message; our reply will be made in arms, in the palace of Constantinople."

[Footnote 58: Eandem urbem plus in solis navibus piscatorum abundare,

quam illos in toto navigio. Habebat enim mille et sexcentas piscatorias

naves..... Bellicas autem sive mercatorias habebant infinitæ

multitudinis et portum tutissimum. Gunther, Hist. C. P. c. 8, p. 10.]

[Footnote 59: Kaqaper iervn alsewn, eipein de kai Jeojuteutwn paradeiswn ejeid?onto toutwni. Nicetas in Alex. Comneno, l. iii. c. 9, p. 348.]

On the tenth day of their encampment at Scutari, the crusaders prepared themselves, as soldiers and as Catholics, for the passage of the bosphorus. Perilous indeed was the adventure; the stream was broad and

rapid: in a calm the current of the Euxine might drive down the liquid and unextinguishable fires of the Greeks; and the opposite shores of europe were defended by seventy thousand horse and foot in formidable array. On this memorable day, which happened to be bright and pleasant, the Latins were distributed in six battles or divisions; the first, or

vanguard, was led by the count of Flanders, one of the most powerful of the Christian princes in the skill and number of his crossbows. The four

successive battles of the French were commanded by his brother Henry, the counts of St. Pol and Blois, and Matthew of Montmorency; the last of whom was honored by the voluntary service of the marshal and nobles of champagne. The sixth division, the rear-guard and reserve of the army, was conducted by the marquis of Montferrat, at the head of the Germans and Lombards. The chargers, saddled, with their long comparisons dragging on the ground, were embarked in the flat \_palanders\_; [60] and the knights stood by the side of their horses, in complete armor, their

helmets laced, and their lances in their hands. The numerous train of

sergeants [61] and archers occupied the transports; and each transport was towed by the strength and swiftness of a galley. The six divisions traversed the Bosphorus, without encountering an enemy or an obstacle: to land the foremost was the wish, to conquer or die was the resolution,

of every division and of every soldier. Jealous of the preeminence of danger, the knights in their heavy armor leaped into the sea, when it

rose as high as their girdle; the sergeants and archers were animated by their valor; and the squires, letting down the draw-bridges of the

palanders, led the horses to the shore. Before their squadrons could

mount, and form, and couch their Lances, the seventy thousand Greeks

had vanished from their sight: the timid Alexius gave the example to his troops; and it was only by the plunder of his rich pavilions that the

Latins were informed that they had fought against an emperor. In the first consternation of the flying enemy, they resolved, by a double attack, to open the entrance of the harbor. The tower of Galata, [62] in the suburb of Pera, was attacked and stormed by the French, while the

Venetians assumed the more difficult task of forcing the boom or chain that was stretched from that tower to the Byzantine shore. After some fruitless attempts, their intrepid perseverance prevailed: twenty ships

of war, the relics of the Grecian navy, were either sunk or taken: the enormous and massy links of iron were cut asunder by the shears, or broken by the weight, of the galleys; [63] and the Venetian fleet, safe and triumphant, rode at anchor in the port of Constantinople. By these daring achievements, a remnant of twenty thousand Latins solicited the license of besieging a capital which contained above four hundred thousand inhabitants, [64] able, though not willing, to bear arms

in defence of their country. Such an account would indeed suppose a

population of near two millions; but whatever abatement may be required

in the numbers of the Greeks, the \_belief\_ of those numbers will equally exalt the fearless spirit of their assailants.

[Footnote 60: From the version of Vignere I adopt the well-sounding word

\_palander\_, which is still used, I believe, in the Mediterranean. but had I written in French, I should have preserved the original and expressive denomination of \_vessiers\_ or \_huissiers\_, from the \_huis\_ or door which was let down as a draw-bridge; but which, at sea, was closed

into the side of the ship, (see Ducange au Villehardouin, No. 14, and

Joinville. p. 27, 28, edit. du Louvre.)]

[Footnote 61: To avoid the vague expressions of followers, &c., I use, after Villehardouin, the word \_sergeants\_ for all horsemen who were not

knights. There were sergeants at arms, and sergeants at law; and if we

visit the parade and Westminster Hall, we may observe the strange result

of the distinction, (Ducange, Glossar. Latin, \_Servientes\_, &c., tom.

vi. p. 226--231.)]

[Footnote 62: It is needless to observe, that on the subject of Galata, the chain, &c., Ducange is accurate and full. Consult likewise the

proper chapters of the C. P. Christiana of the same author. The

inhabitants of Galata were so vain and ignorant, that they applied to themselves St. Paul's Epistle to the Galatians.]

[Footnote 63: The vessel that broke the chain was named the Eagle,

\_Aquila\_, (Dandolo, Chronicon, p. 322,) which Blondus (de Gestis Venet.)

has changed into \_Aquilo\_, the north wind. Ducange (Observations, No.

83) maintains the latter reading; but he had not seen the respectable text of Dandolo, nor did he enough consider the topography of the

harbor. The south-east would have been a more effectual wind. (Note to wilken, vol. v. p. 215.)]

[Footnote 64: Quatre cens mil homes ou plus, (Villehardouin, No. 134,)

must be understood of \_men\_ of a military age. Le Beau (Hist. du. Bas empire, tom. xx. p. 417) allows Constantinople a million of inhabitants,

of whom 60,000 horse, and an infinite number of foot-soldiers. In its

present decay, the capital of the Ottoman empire may contain 400,000

souls, (Bell's Travels, vol. ii. p. 401, 402;) but as the Turks keep

no registers, and as circumstances are fallacious, it is impossible to ascertain (Niebuhr, Voyage en Arabie, tom. i. p. 18, 19) the real

populousness of their cities.]

In the choice of the attack, the French and Venetians were divided by their habits of life and warfare. The former affirmed with truth, that Constantinople was most accessible on the side of the sea and the

harbor. The latter might assert with honor, that they had long enough trusted their lives and fortunes to a frail bark and a precarious element, and loudly demanded a trial of knighthood, a firm ground, and a close onset, either on foot or on horseback. After a prudent compromise,

of employing the two nations by sea and land, in the service best suited to their character, the fleet covering the army, they both proceeded from the entrance to the extremity of the harbor: the stone bridge of the river was hastily repaired; and the six battles of the French formed their encampment against the front of the capital, the basis of the triangle which runs about four miles from the port to the Propontis. [65]

On the edge of a broad ditch, at the foot of a lofty rampart, they had

leisure to contemplate the difficulties of their enterprise. The gates to the right and left of their narrow camp poured forth frequent sallies

of cavalry and light-infantry, which cut off their stragglers, swept the country of provisions, sounded the alarm five or six times in the course of each day, and compelled them to plant a palisade, and sink an

intrenchment, for their immediate safety. In the supplies and convoys the Venetians had been too sparing, or the Franks too voracious: the

usual complaints of hunger and scarcity were heard, and perhaps felt their stock of flour would be exhausted in three weeks; and their disgust of salt meat tempted them to taste the flesh of their

horses. The trembling usurper was supported by Theodore Lascaris,

his son-in-law, a valiant youth, who aspired to save and to rule his country; the Greeks, regardless of that country, were awakened to the defence of their religion; but their firmest hope was in the strength and spirit of the Varangian guards, of the Danes and English, as they are named in the writers of the times. [66] After ten days' incessant

labor, the ground was levelled, the ditch filled, the approaches of the besiegers were regularly made, and two hundred and fifty engines of assault exercised their various powers to clear the rampart, to batter the walls, and to sap the foundations. On the first appearance of a breach, the scaling-ladders were applied: the numbers that defended the

vantage ground repulsed and oppressed the adventurous Latins; but they admired the resolution of fifteen knights and sergeants, who had

gained the ascent, and maintained their perilous station till they were

precipitated or made prisoners by the Imperial guards. On the side

of the harbor the naval attack was more successfully conducted by the

Venetians; and that industrious people employed every resource that was

known and practiced before the invention of gunpowder. A double line, three bow-shots in front, was formed by the galleys and ships; and the

swift motion of the former was supported by the weight and loftiness of the latter, whose decks, and poops, and turret, were the platforms of

military engines, that discharged their shot over the heads of the first

line. The soldiers, who leaped from the galleys on shore, immediately

planted and ascended their scaling-ladders, while the large ships, advancing more slowly into the intervals, and lowering a draw-bridge,

opened a way through the air from their masts to the rampart. In the

midst of the conflict, the doge, a venerable and conspicuous form, stood aloft in complete armor on the prow of his galley. The great standard

of St. Mark was displayed before him; his threats, promises, and exhortations, urged the diligence of the rowers; his vessel was the first that struck; and Dandolo was the first warrior on the shore. The

nations admired the magnanimity of the blind old man, without reflecting that his age and infirmities diminished the price of life, and enhanced the value of immortal glory. On a sudden, by an invisible hand, (for the standard-bearer was probably slain,) the banner of the republic was fixed on the rampart: twenty-five towers were rapidly occupied; and, by the cruel expedient of fire, the Greeks were driven from the adjacent

quarter. The doge had despatched the intelligence of his success, when

he was checked by the danger of his confederates. Nobly declaring that

he would rather die with the pilgrims than gain a victory by their destruction, Dandolo relinquished his advantage, recalled his troops, and hastened to the scene of action. He found the six weary diminutive

\_battles\_ of the French encompassed by sixty squadrons of the Greek cavalry, the least of which was more numerous than the largest of their divisions. Shame and despair had provoked Alexius to the last effort of a general sally; but he was awed by the firm order and manly aspect of the Latins; and, after skirmishing at a distance, withdrew his troops in the close of the evening. The silence or tumult of the night exasperated

his fears; and the timid usurper, collecting a treasure of ten thousand

pounds of gold, basely deserted his wife, his people, and his fortune; threw himself into a bark; stole through the Bosphorus; and landed in

shameful safety in an obscure harbor of Thrace. As soon as they were apprised of his flight, the Greek nobles sought pardon and peace in the dungeon where the blind Isaac expected each hour the visit of the executioner. Again saved and exalted by the vicissitudes of fortune, the captive in his Imperial robes was replace on the throne, and surrounded with prostrate slaves, whose real terror and affected joy he was

incapable of discerning. At the dawn of day, hostilities were suspended, and the Latin chiefs were surprised by a message from the lawful and

reigning emperor, who was impatient to embrace his son, and to reward

his generous deliverers. [67]

[Footnote 65: On the most correct plans of Constantinople, I know not

how to measure more than 4000 paces. Yet Villehardouin computes the

space at three leagues, (No. 86.) If his eye were not deceived, he must

reckon by the old Gallic league of 1500 paces, which might still be used

in Champagne.]

[Footnote 66: The guards, the Varangi, are styled by Villehardouin, (No.

89, 95) Englois et Danois avec leurs haches. Whatever had been their

origin, a French pilgrim could not be mistaken in the nations of which they were at that time composed.]

[Footnote 67: For the first siege and conquest of Constantinople, we may

read the original letter of the crusaders to Innocent III., Gesta, c.

91, p. 533, 534. Villehardouin, No. 75--99. Nicetas, in Alexio Comnen.

l. iii. c. 10, p. 349--352. Dandolo, in Chron. p. 322. Gunther, and his abbot Martin, were not yet returned from their obstinate pilgrim age to

Jerusalem, or St. John d'Acre, where the greatest part of the company

had died of the plague.]

chapter LX: The Fourth Crusade.--Part III.

but these generous deliverers were unwilling to release their hostage, till they had obtained from his father the payment, or at least the

promise, of their recompense. They chose four ambassadors, Matthew of

Montmorency, our historian the marshal of Champagne, and two Venetians, to congratulate the emperor. The gates were thrown open on their approach, the streets on both sides were lined with the battle axes of the Danish and English guard: the presence-chamber glittered with gold and jewels, the false substitute of virtue and power: by the side of the blind Isaac his wife was seated, the sister of the king of Hungary: and by her appearance, the noble matrons of Greece were drawn from their domestic retirement, and mingled with the circle of senators and

soldiers. The Latins, by the mouth of the marshal, spoke like men conscious of their merits, but who respected the work of their own

hands; and the emperor clearly understood, that his son's engagements with Venice and the pilgrims must be ratified without hesitation

or delay. Withdrawing into a private chamber with the empress, a chamberlain, an interpreter, and the four ambassadors, the father

of young Alexius inquired with some anxiety into the nature of his

stipulations. The submission of the Eastern empire to the pope, the

succor of the Holy Land, and a present contribution of two hundred thousand marks of silver.--"These conditions are weighty," was his

prudent reply: "they are hard to accept, and difficult to perform. But

no conditions can exceed the measure of your services and deserts." after this satisfactory assurance, the barons mounted on horseback, and

introduced the heir of Constantinople to the city and palace: his youth and marvellous adventures engaged every heart in his favor, and Alexius was solemnly crowned with his father in the dome of St. Sophia. In the first days of his reign, the people, already blessed with the

restoration of plenty and peace, was delighted by the joyful catastrophe

of the tragedy; and the discontent of the nobles, their regret, and their fears, were covered by the polished surface of pleasure and

loyalty The mixture of two discordant nations in the same capital might

have been pregnant with mischief and danger; and the suburb of Galata,

or Pera, was assigned for the quarters of the French and Venetians. But the liberty of trade and familiar intercourse was allowed between the friendly nations: and each day the pilgrims were tempted by devotion

or curiosity to visit the churches and palaces of Constantinople. Their

rude minds, insensible perhaps of the finer arts, were astonished by the

magnificent scenery: and the poverty of their native towns enhanced the populousness and riches of the first metropolis of Christendom. [68] descending from his state, young Alexius was prompted by interest and gratitude to repeat his frequent and familiar visits to his Latin allies; and in the freedom of the table, the gay petulance of the French

sometimes forgot the emperor of the East. [69] In their most serious conferences, it was agreed, that the reunion of the two churches must be the result of patience and time; but avarice was less tractable than

zeal; and a larger sum was instantly disbursed to appease the wants, and

silence the importunity, of the crusaders. [70] Alexius was alarmed by the approaching hour of their departure: their absence might

have relieved him from the engagement which he was yet incapable of

performing; but his friends would have left him, naked and alone, to the caprice and prejudice of a perfidious nation. He wished to bribe their

stay, the delay of a year, by undertaking to defray their expense, and to satisfy, in their name, the freight of the Venetian vessels. The

offer was agitated in the council of the barons; and, after a repetition

of their debates and scruples, a majority of votes again acquiesced in the advice of the doge and the prayer of the young emperor. At the

price of sixteen hundred pounds of gold, he prevailed on the marquis of

Montferrat to lead him with an army round the provinces of Europe; to establish his authority, and pursue his uncle, while Constantinople was awed by the presence of Baldwin and his confederates of France and flanders. The expedition was successful: the blind emperor exulted

in the success of his arms, and listened to the predictions of his flatterers, that the same Providence which had raised him from the dungeon to the throne, would heal his gout, restore his sight, and watch

over the long prosperity of his reign. Yet the mind of the suspicious

old man was tormented by the rising glories of his son; nor could his

pride conceal from his envy, that, while his own name was pronounced

in faint and reluctant acclamations, the royal youth was the theme of

spontaneous and universal praise. [71]

[Footnote 68: Compare, in the rude energy of Villehardouin, (No.

66, 100,) the inside and outside views of Constantinople, and their

impression on the minds of the pilgrims: cette ville (says he) que de toutes les autres ere souveraine. See the parallel passages of fulcherius Carnotensis, Hist. Hierosol. l. i. c. 4, and Will. Tyr. ii.

3, xx. 26.]

[Footnote 69: As they played at dice, the Latins took off his diadem, and clapped on his head a woollen or hairy cap, to megaloprepeV kai

pagkleiston katerrupainen onoma, (Nicetas, p. 358.) If these merry companions were Venetians, it was the insolence of trade and a commonwealth.]

[Footnote 70: Villehardouin, No. 101. Dandolo, p. 322. The doge affirms, that the Venetians were paid more slowly than the French; but he owns, that the histories of the two nations differed on that subject. Had he

read Villehardouin? The Greeks complained, however, good totius Græciæ

opes transtulisset, (Gunther, Hist. C. P. c 13) See the lamentations and

invectives of Nicetas, (p. 355.)]

[Footnote 71: The reign of Alexius Comnenus occupies three books in

Nicetas, p. 291--352. The short restoration of Isaac and his son is despatched in five chapters, p. 352--362.]

by the recent invasion, the Greeks were awakened from a dream of nine centuries; from the vain presumption that the capital of the Roman empire was impregnable to foreign arms. The strangers of the West had

violated the city, and bestowed the sceptre, of Constantine: their

Imperial clients soon became as unpopular as themselves: the well-known

vices of Isaac were rendered still more contemptible by his infirmities, and the young Alexius was hated as an apostate, who had renounced the

manners and religion of his country. His secret covenant with the Latins was divulged or suspected; the people, and especially the clergy, were devoutly attached to their faith and superstition; and every convent, and every shop, resounded with the danger of the church and the tyranny

of the pope. [72] An empty treasury could ill supply the demands of regal

luxury and foreign extortion: the Greeks refused to avert, by a general tax, the impending evils of servitude and pillage; the oppression of the rich excited a more dangerous and personal resentment; and if the emperor melted the plate, and despoiled the images, of the sanctuary,

he seemed to justify the complaints of heresy and sacrilege. During the absence of Marquis Boniface and his Imperial pupil, Constantinople was

visited with a calamity which might be justly imputed to the zeal and

indiscretion of the Flemish pilgrims. [73] In one of their visits to the city, they were scandalized by the aspect of a mosque or synagogue,

in which one God was worshipped, without a partner or a son. Their effectual mode of controversy was to attack the infidels with the sword, and their habitation with fire: but the infidels, and some Christian

neighbors, presumed to defend their lives and properties; and the flames which bigotry had kindled, consumed the most orthodox and innocent

structures. During eight days and nights, the conflagration spread above a league in front, from the harbor to the Propontis, over the thickest and most populous regions of the city. It is not easy to count the

stately churches and palaces that were reduced to a smoking ruin, to

value the merchandise that perished in the trading streets, or to number the families that were involved in the common destruction. By this

outrage, which the doge and the barons in vain affected to disclaim, the

name of the Latins became still more unpopular; and the colony of that

nation, above fifteen thousand persons, consulted their safety in a

hasty retreat from the city to the protection of their standard in the

suburb of Pera. The emperor returned in triumph; but the firmest and

most dexterous policy would have been insufficient to steer him through the tempest, which overwhelmed the person and government of that unhappy

youth. His own inclination, and his father's advice, attached him to

his benefactors; but Alexius hesitated between gratitude and patriotism, between the fear of his subjects and of his allies. [74] By his feeble and fluctuating conduct he lost the esteem and confidence of both; and, while he invited the marquis of Monferrat to occupy the palace,

he suffered the nobles to conspire, and the people to arm, for the deliverance of their country. Regardless of his painful situation, the

Latin chiefs repeated their demands, resented his delays, suspected his

intentions, and exacted a decisive answer of peace or war. The haughty

summons was delivered by three French knights and three Venetian deputies, who girded their swords, mounted their horses, pierced through the angry multitude, and entered, with a fearful countenance, the

palace and presence of the Greek emperor. In a peremptory tone, they

recapitulated their services and his engagements; and boldly declared, that unless their just claims were fully and immediately satisfied, they

should no longer hold him either as a sovereign or a friend. After this defiance, the first that had ever wounded an Imperial ear, they departed without betraying any symptoms of fear; but their escape from a servile

palace and a furious city astonished the ambassadors themselves; and their return to the camp was the signal of mutual hostility.

[Footnote 72: When Nicetas reproaches Alexius for his impious league,

he bestows the harshest names on the pope's new religion, meizon

kai atopwtaton... parektrophn pistewV... tvn tou Papa pronomiwn

kainismon,... metaqesin te kai metapoihsin tvn palaivn 'RwmaioiV?eqvn,

(p. 348.) Such was the sincere language of every Greek to the last gasp

of the empire.]

[Footnote 73: Nicetas (p. 355) is positive in the charge, and specifies the Flemings, (FlamioneV,) though he is wrong in supposing it an ancient

name. Villehardouin (No. 107) exculpates the barons, and is ignorant

(perhaps affectedly ignorant) of the names of the guilty.]

[Footnote 74: Compare the suspicions and complaints of Nicetas (p.

359--362) with the blunt charges of Baldwin of Flanders, (Gesta Innocent

III. c. 92, p. 534,) cum patriarcha et mole nobilium, nobis promises

perjurus et mendax.]

among the Greeks, all authority and wisdom were overborne by the

impetuous multitude, who mistook their rage for valor, their numbers for strength, and their fanaticism for the support and inspiration of

Heaven. In the eyes of both nations Alexius was false and contemptible; the base and spurious race of the Angeli was rejected with clamorous disdain; and the people of Constantinople encompassed the senate, to demand at their hands a more worthy emperor. To every senator, conspicuous by his birth or dignity, they successively presented the

purple: by each senator the deadly garment was repulsed: the contest

lasted three days; and we may learn from the historian Nicetas, one of the members of the assembly, that fear and weaknesses were the guardians

of their loyalty. A phantom, who vanished in oblivion, was forcibly

proclaimed by the crowd: [75] but the author of the tumult, and the

leader of the war, was a prince of the house of Ducas; and his common appellation of Alexius must be discriminated by the epithet of

Mourzoufle, [76] which in the vulgar idiom expressed the close junction

of his black and shaggy eyebrows. At once a patriot and a courtier, the

perfidious Mourzoufle, who was not destitute of cunning and courage,

opposed the Latins both in speech and action, inflamed the passions and prejudices of the Greeks, and insinuated himself into the favor and confidence of Alexius, who trusted him with the office of great chamberlain, and tinged his buskins with the colors of royalty. At the dead of night, he rushed into the bed-chamber with an affrighted aspect, exclaiming, that the palace was attacked by the people and betrayed by the guards. Starting from his couch, the unsuspecting prince threw

himself into the arms of his enemy, who had contrived his escape by a

private staircase. But that staircase terminated in a prison: Alexius was seized, stripped, and loaded with chains; and, after tasting some days the bitterness of death, he was poisoned, or strangled, or beaten with clubs, at the command, or in the presence, of the tyrant. the emperor Isaac Angelus soon followed his son to the grave; and

Mourzoufle, perhaps, might spare the superfluous crime of hastening the extinction of impotence and blindness.

[Footnote 75: His name was Nicholas Canabus: he deserved the praise of

Nicetas and the vengeance of Mourzoufle, (p. 362.)]

[Footnote 76: Villehardouin (No. 116) speaks of him as a favorite, without knowing that he was a prince of the blood, \_Angelus\_ and

\_Ducas\_. Ducange, who pries into every corner, believes him to be the

son of Isaac Ducas Sebastocrator, and second cousin of young Alexius.]

the death of the emperors, and the usurpation of Mourzoufle, had changed the nature of the quarrel. It was no longer the disagreement of allies who overvalued their services, or neglected their obligations: the french and Venetians forgot their complaints against Alexius, dropped a tear on the untimely fate of their companion, and swore revenge against the perfidious nation who had crowned his assassin. Yet the prudent doge was still inclined to negotiate: he asked as a debt, a subsidy, or a fine, fifty thousand pounds of gold, about two millions sterling; nor would the conference have been abruptly broken, if the zeal, or policy,

of Mourzoufle had not refused to sacrifice the Greek church to the

safety of the state. [77] Amidst the invectives of his foreign and domestic enemies, we may discern, that he was not unworthy of the character which he had assumed, of the public champion: the second siege

of Constantinople was far more laborious than the first; the treasury was replenished, and discipline was restored, by a severe inquisition

into the abuses of the former reign; and Mourzoufle, an iron mace in

his hand, visiting the posts, and affecting the port and aspect of a warrior, was an object of terror to his soldiers, at least, and to his

kinsmen. Before and after the death of Alexius, the Greeks made two

vigorous and well-conducted attempts to burn the navy in the harbor; but the skill and courage of the Venetians repulsed the fire-ships; and the

vagrant flames wasted themselves without injury in the sea. [78] In a

nocturnal sally the Greek emperor was vanquished by Henry, brother of the count of Flanders: the advantages of number and surprise aggravated the shame of his defeat: his buckler was found on the field of battle; and the Imperial standard, [79] a divine image of the Virgin, was

presented, as a trophy and a relic to the Cistercian monks, the disciples of St. Bernard. Near three months, without excepting the holy

season of Lent, were consumed in skirmishes and preparations, before the Latins were ready or resolved for a general assault. The land fortifications had been found impregnable; and the Venetian pilots

represented, that, on the shore of the Propontis, the anchorage was

unsafe, and the ships must be driven by the current far away to the

straits of the Hellespont; a prospect not unpleasing to the reluctant

pilgrims, who sought every opportunity of breaking the army. From the

harbor, therefore, the assault was determined by the assailants, and expected by the besieged; and the emperor had placed his scarlet

pavilions on a neighboring height, to direct and animate the efforts of

his troops. A fearless spectator, whose mind could entertain the ideas

of pomp and pleasure, might have admired the long array of two embattled armies, which extended above half a league, the one on the ships and

galleys, the other on the walls and towers raised above the ordinary

level by several stages of wooden turrets. Their first fury was spent

in the discharge of darts, stones, and fire, from the engines; but the water was deep; the French were bold; the Venetians were skilful; they approached the walls; and a desperate conflict of swords, spears, and battle-axes, was fought on the trembling bridges that grappled the floating, to the stable, batteries. In more than a hundred places, the assault was urged, and the defence was sustained; till the superiority

of ground and numbers finally prevailed, and the Latin trumpets sounded a retreat. On the ensuing days, the attack was renewed with equal vigor, and a similar event; and, in the night, the doge and the barons held a council, apprehensive only for the public danger: not a voice pronounced the words of escape or treaty; and each warrior, according to his temper, embraced the hope of victory, or the assurance of a glorious death. [80] By the experience of the former siege, the Greeks were

instructed, but the Latins were animated; and the knowledge that constantinople might be taken, was of more avail than the local

precautions which that knowledge had inspired for its defence. In the third assault, two ships were linked together to double their strength; a strong north wind drove them on the shore; the bishops of Troyes and

Soissons led the van; and the auspicious names of the \_pilgrim\_ and the \_paradise\_ resounded along the line. [81] The episcopal banners were displayed on the walls; a hundred marks of silver had been promised to the first adventurers; and if their reward was intercepted by death, their names have been immortalized by fame. [811] Four towers were scaled; three gates were burst open; and the French knights, who might tremble

on the waves, felt themselves invincible on horseback on the solid

ground. Shall I relate that the thousands who guarded the emperor's

person fled on the approach, and before the lance, of a single warrior? their ignominious flight is attested by their countryman Nicetas: an army of phantoms marched with the French hero, and he was magnified to a

giant in the eyes of the Greeks. [82] While the fugitives deserted their

posts and cast away their arms, the Latins entered the city under the banners of their leaders: the streets and gates opened for their

passage; and either design or accident kindled a third conflagration, which consumed in a few hours the measure of three of the largest cities

of France. [83] In the close of evening, the barons checked their troops, and fortified their stations: They were awed by the extent and

populousness of the capital, which might yet require the labor of a

month, if the churches and palaces were conscious of their internal

strength. But in the morning, a suppliant procession, with crosses and

images, announced the submission of the Greeks, and deprecated the wrath

of the conquerors: the usurper escaped through the golden gate: the

palaces of Blachernæ and Boucoleon were occupied by the count of flanders and the marquis of Montferrat; and the empire, which still bore the name of Constantine, and the title of Roman, was subverted by the arms of the Latin pilgrims. [84]

[Footnote 77: This negotiation, probable in itself, and attested by

Nicetas, (p 65,) is omitted as scandalous by the delicacy of Dandolo and

Villehardouin. \* Note: Wilken places it before the death of Alexius, vol. v. p.

276.--M.]

[Footnote 78: Baldwin mentions both attempts to fire the fleet, (Gest. c. 92, p. 534, 535;) Villehardouin, (No. 113--15) only describes the first. It is remarkable that neither of these warriors observe any

peculiar properties in the Greek fire.]

[Footnote 79: Ducange (No. 119) pours forth a torrent of learning on the

\_Gonfanon Imperial\_. This banner of the Virgin is shown at Venice as a trophy and relic: if it be genuine the pious doge must have cheated the

monks of Citeaux.]

[Footnote 80: Villehardouin (No. 126) confesses, that mult ere grant

peril; and Guntherus (Hist. C. P. c. 13) affirms, that nulla spes

victoriæ arridere poterat. Yet the knight despises those who thought of flight, and the monk praises his countrymen who were resolved on death.]

[Footnote 81: Baldwin, and all the writers, honor the names of these two

galleys, felici auspicio.]

[Footnote 811: Pietro Alberti, a Venetian noble and Andrew d'Amboise a french knight.--M.]

[Footnote 82: With an allusion to Homer, Nicetas calls him enneorguioV,

nine orgyæ, or eighteen yards high, a stature which would, indeed, have excused the terror of the Greek. On this occasion, the historian seems fonder of the marvellous than of his country, or perhaps of truth. baldwin exclaims in the words of the psalmist, persequitur unus ex nobis centum alienos.]

[Footnote 83: Villehardouin (No. 130) is again ignorant of the authors

of \_this\_ more legitimate fire, which is ascribed by Gunther to a quidam comes Teutonicus, (c. 14.) They seem ashamed, the incendiaries!]

[Footnote 84: For the second siege and conquest of Constantinople, see

Villehardouin (No. 113--132,) Baldwin's iid Epistle to Innocent III.,

(Gesta c. 92, p. 534--537,) with the whole reign of Mourzoufle, in

Nicetas, (p 363--375;) and borrowed some hints from Dandolo (Chron.

Venet. p. 323--330) and Gunther, (Hist. C. P. c. 14--18,) who added the decorations of prophecy and vision. The former produces an oracle of the Erythræan sibyl, of a great armament on the Adriatic, under a blind chief, against Byzantium, &c. Curious enough, were the prediction anterior to the fact.]

constantinople had been taken by storm; and no restraints, except those

of religion and humanity, were imposed on the conquerors by the laws of war. Boniface, marquis of Montferrat, still acted as their general; and the Greeks, who revered his name as that of their future sovereign, were

heard to exclaim in a lamentable tone, "Holy marquis-king, have mercy

upon us!" His prudence or compassion opened the gates of the city to the fugitives; and he exhorted the soldiers of the cross to spare the lives

of their fellow-Christians. The streams of blood that flowed down the

pages of Nicetas may be reduced to the slaughter of two thousand of his

unresisting countrymen; [85] and the greater part was massacred, not by the strangers, but by the Latins, who had been driven from the city, and who exercised the revenge of a triumphant faction. Yet of these exiles,

some were less mindful of injuries than of benefits; and Nicetas himself was indebted for his safety to the generosity of a Venetian merchant.

Pope Innocent the Third accuses the pilgrims for respecting, in their

lust, neither age nor sex, nor religious profession; and bitterly

laments that the deeds of darkness, fornication, adultery, and incest, were perpetrated in open day; and that noble matrons and holy nuns were

polluted by the grooms and peasants of the Catholic camp. [86] It is

indeed probable that the license of victory prompted and covered a

multitude of sins: but it is certain, that the capital of the East contained a stock of venal or willing beauty, sufficient to satiate the desires of twenty thousand pilgrims; and female prisoners were no

longer subject to the right or abuse of domestic slavery. The marquis

of Montferrat was the patron of discipline and decency; the count of flanders was the mirror of chastity: they had forbidden, under pain

of death, the rape of married women, or virgins, or nuns; and the

proclamation was sometimes invoked by the vanquished [87] and respected by the victors. Their cruelty and lust were moderated by the authority

of the chiefs, and feelings of the soldiers; for we are no longer describing an irruption of the northern savages; and however ferocious they might still appear, time, policy, and religion had civilized the

manners of the French, and still more of the Italians. But a free scope was allowed to their avarice, which was glutted, even in the holy week, by the pillage of Constantinople. The right of victory, unshackled by any promise or treaty, had confiscated the public and private wealth of the Greeks; and every hand, according to its size and strength, might

lawfully execute the sentence and seize the forfeiture. A portable and

universal standard of exchange was found in the coined and uncoined

metals of gold and silver, which each captor, at home or abroad, might convert into the possessions most suitable to his temper and situation.

Of the treasures, which trade and luxury had accumulated, the silks,

velvets, furs, the gems, spices, and rich movables, were the most

precious, as they could not be procured for money in the ruder countries

of Europe. An order of rapine was instituted; nor was the share of each individual abandoned to industry or chance. Under the tremendous

penalties of perjury, excommunication, and death, the Latins were bound to deliver their plunder into the common stock: three churches were

selected for the deposit and distribution of the spoil: a single share was allotted to a foot-soldier; two for a sergeant on horseback; four to a knight; and larger proportions according to the rank and merit of the barons and princes. For violating this sacred engagement, a knight belonging to the count of St. Paul was hanged with his shield and coat

of arms round his neck; his example might render similar offenders more artful and discreet; but avarice was more powerful than fear; and it

is generally believed that the secret far exceeded the acknowledged

plunder. Yet the magnitude of the prize surpassed the largest scale of experience or expectation. [88] After the whole had been equally divided between the French and Venetians, fifty thousand marks were deducted to satisfy the debts of the former and the demands of the latter. The

residue of the French amounted to four hundred thousand marks of silver,

[89] about eight hundred thousand pounds sterling; nor can I better appreciate the value of that sum in the public and private transactions

of the age, than by defining it as seven times the annual revenue of the

kingdom of England. [90]

[Footnote 85: Ceciderunt tamen eâ die civium quasi duo millia, &c.,

(Gunther, c. 18.) Arithmetic is an excellent touchstone to try the amplifications of passion and rhetoric.]

[Footnote 86: Quidam (says Innocent III., Gesta, c. 94, p. 538)

nec religioni, nec ætati, nec sexui pepercerunt: sed fornicationes, adulteria, et incestus in oculis omnium exercentes, non solûm maritatas et viduas, sed et matronas et virgines Deoque dicatas, exposuerunt

spurcitiis garcionum. Villehardouin takes no notice of these common

incidents.]

[Footnote 87: Nicetas saved, and afterwards married, a noble virgin,

(p. 380,) whom a soldier, eti martusi polloiV onhdon epibrimwmenoV, had almost violated in spite of the entolai, entalmata eu gegonotwn.]

[Footnote 88: Of the general mass of wealth, Gunther observes, ut de

pauperibus et advenis cives ditissimi redderentur, (Hist. C. P. c. 18;

(Villehardouin, (No. 132,) that since the creation, ne fu tant gaaignié dans une ville; Baldwin, (Gesta, c. 92,) ut tantum tota non videatur

possidere Latinitas.]

[Footnote 89: Villehardouin, No. 133--135. Instead of 400,000, there

is a various reading of 500,000. The Venetians had offered to take the whole booty, and to give 400 marks to each knight, 200 to each priest and horseman, and 100 to each foot-soldier: they would have been great

losers, (Le Beau, Hist. du. Bas Empire tom. xx. p. 506. I know not from whence.)]

[Footnote 90: At the council of Lyons (A.D. 1245) the English ambassadors stated the revenue of the crown as below that of the foreign clergy, which amounted to 60,000 marks a year, (Matthew Paris, p. 451

Hume's Hist. of England, vol. ii. p. 170.)]

In this great revolution we enjoy the singular felicity of comparing the

narratives of Villehardouin and Nicetas, the opposite feelings of the

marshal of Champagne and the Byzantine senator. [91] At the first view it

should seem that the wealth of Constantinople was only transferred from

one nation to another; and that the loss and sorrow of the Greeks is exactly balanced by the joy and advantage of the Latins. But in the

miserable account of war, the gain is never equivalent to the loss, the pleasure to the pain; the smiles of the Latins were transient and fallacious; the Greeks forever wept over the ruins of their country; and their real calamities were aggravated by sacrilege and mockery. what benefits accrued to the conquerors from the three fires which annihilated so vast a portion of the buildings and riches of the city? what a stock of such things, as could neither be used nor transported, was maliciously or wantonly destroyed! How much treasure was idly wasted

in gaming, debauchery, and riot! And what precious objects were bartered for a vile price by the impatience or ignorance of the soldiers, whose

reward was stolen by the base industry of the last of the Greeks! these alone, who had nothing to lose, might derive some profit from the

revolution; but the misery of the upper ranks of society is strongly

painted in the personal adventures of Nicetas himself His stately palace

had been reduced to ashes in the second conflagration; and the senator, with his family and friends, found an obscure shelter in another house which he possessed near the church of St. Sophia. It was the door of this mean habitation that his friend, the Venetian merchant, guarded

in the disguise of a soldier, till Nicetas could save, by a precipitate flight, the relics of his fortune and the chastity of his daughter. In a cold, wintry season, these fugitives, nursed in the lap of prosperity, departed on foot; his wife was with child; the desertion of their slaves compelled them to carry their baggage on their own shoulders; and their women, whom they placed in the centre, were exhorted to conceal their beauty with dirt, instead of adorning it with paint and jewels Every

step was exposed to insult and danger: the threats of the strangers were

less painful than the taunts of the plebeians, with whom they were

now levelled; nor did the exiles breathe in safety till their mournful

pilgrimage was concluded at Selymbria, above forty miles from the capital. On the way they overtook the patriarch, without attendance and almost without apparel, riding on an ass, and reduced to a state of apostolical poverty, which, had it been voluntary, might perhaps have been meritorious. In the mean while, his desolate churches were profaned by the licentiousness and party zeal of the Latins. After stripping the

gems and pearls, they converted the chalices into drinking-cups; their tables, on which they gamed and feasted, were covered with the pictures

of Christ and the saints; and they trampled under foot the most

venerable objects of the Christian worship. In the cathedral of St.

Sophia, the ample veil of the sanctuary was rent asunder for the sake

of the golden fringe; and the altar, a monument of art and riches, was broken in pieces and shared among the captors. Their mules and horses were laden with the wrought silver and gilt carvings, which they tore down from the doors and pulpit; and if the beasts stumbled under the burden, they were stabbed by their impatient drivers, and the holy

pavement streamed with their impure blood. A prostitute was seated on the throne of the patriarch; and that daughter of Belial, as she

is styled, sung and danced in the church, to ridicule the hymns and

processions of the Orientals. Nor were the repositories of the royal dead secure from violation: in the church of the Apostles, the tombs of the emperors were rifled; and it is said, that after six centuries the corpse of Justinian was found without any signs of decay or

putrefaction. In the streets, the French and Flemings clothed themselves and their horses in painted robes and flowing head-dresses of linen; and the coarse intemperance of their feasts [92] insulted the splendid

sobriety of the East. To expose the arms of a people of scribes and

scholars, they affected to display a pen, an inkhorn, and a sheet of

paper, without discerning that the instruments of science and valor were

\_alike\_ feeble and useless in the hands of the modern Greeks.

[Footnote 91: The disorders of the sack of Constantinople, and his own adventures, are feelingly described by Nicetas, p. 367--369, and in the

Status Urb. C. P. p. 375--384. His complaints, even of sacrilege, are

justified by Innocent III., (Gesta, c. 92;) but Villehardouin does not betray a symptom of pity or remorse.]

[Footnote 92: If I rightly apprehend the Greek of Nicetas's receipts, their favorite dishes were boiled buttocks of beef, salt pork and peas, and soup made of garlic and sharp or sour herbs, (p. 382.)]

their reputation and their language encouraged them, however, to despise the ignorance and to overlook the progress of the Latins. [93] In the

love of the arts, the national difference was still more obvious and

real; the Greeks preserved with reverence the works of their ancestors, which they could not imitate; and, in the destruction of the statues of constantinople, we are provoked to join in the complaints and invectives

of the Byzantine historian. [94] We have seen how the rising city was adorned by the vanity and despotism of the Imperial founder: in the

ruins of paganism, some gods and heroes were saved from the axe of

superstition; and the forum and hippodrome were dignified with the

relics of a better age. Several of these are described by Nicetas, [95]

in a florid and affected style; and from his descriptions I shall select

some interesting particulars. \_1.\_ The victorious charioteers were cast

in bronze, at their own or the public charge, and fitly placed in the

hippodrome: they stood aloft in their chariots, wheeling round the

goal: the spectators could admire their attitude, and judge of the

resemblance; and of these figures, the most perfect might have been transported from the Olympic stadium. \_2.\_ The sphinx, river-horse, and crocodile, denote the climate and manufacture of Egypt and the spoils of that ancient province. \_3.\_ The she-wolf suckling Romulus and Remus, a subject alike pleasing to the \_old\_ and the \_new\_ Romans, but which could really be treated before the decline of the Greek sculpture.

\_4.\_ An eagle holding and tearing a serpent in his talons, a domestic

monument of the Byzantines, which they ascribed, not to a human artist, but to the magic power of the philosopher Apollonius, who, by this talisman, delivered the city from such venomous reptiles. \_5.\_ An ass and his driver, which were erected by Augustus in his colony of

Nicopolis, to commemorate a verbal omen of the victory of Actium. \_6.\_ an equestrian statue which passed, in the vulgar opinion, for Joshua, the Jewish conqueror, stretching out his hand to stop the course of the descending sun. A more classical tradition recognized the figures of bellerophon and Pegasus; and the free attitude of the steed seemed to

mark that he trod on air, rather than on the earth. \_7.\_ A square and lofty obelisk of brass; the sides were embossed with a variety

of picturesque and rural scenes, birds singing; rustics laboring, or

playing on their pipes; sheep bleating; lambs skipping; the sea, and a

scene of fish and fishing; little naked cupids laughing, playing, and

pelting each other with apples; and, on the summit, a female figure, turning with the slightest breath, and thence denominated \_the wind's attendant\_. \_8.\_ The Phrygian shepherd presenting to Venus the prize

of beauty, the apple of discord. \_9.\_ The incomparable statue of Helen, which is delineated by Nicetas in the words of admiration and love: her well-turned feet, snowy arms, rosy lips, bewitching smiles, swimming eyes, arched eyebrows, the harmony of her shape, the lightness of her drapery, and her flowing locks that waved in the wind; a beauty that

might have moved her Barbarian destroyers to pity and remorse. \_10.\_ The

manly or divine form of Hercules, [96] as he was restored to life by the

masterhand of Lysippus; of such magnitude, that his thumb was equal to

his waist, his leg to the stature, of a common man: [97] his chest ample,

his shoulders broad, his limbs strong and muscular, his hair curled, his aspect commanding. Without his bow, or quiver, or club, his lion's skin carelessly thrown over him, he was seated on an osier basket, his right

leg and arm stretched to the utmost, his left knee bent, and supporting

his elbow, his head reclining on his left hand, his countenance

indignant and pensive. \_11.\_ A colossal statue of Juno, which had once adorned her temple of Samos, the enormous head by four yoke of oxen was

laboriously drawn to the palace. \_12.\_ Another colossus, of Pallas or

Minerva, thirty feet in height, and representing with admirable spirit the attributes and character of the martial maid. Before we accuse the

Latins, it is just to remark, that this Pallas was destroyed after the first siege, by the fear and superstition of the Greeks themselves.

[98] The other statues of brass which I have enumerated were broken and

melted by the unfeeling avarice of the crusaders: the cost and labor were consumed in a moment; the soul of genius evaporated in smoke; and the remnant of base metal was coined into money for the payment of the troops. Bronze is not the most durable of monuments: from the marble forms of Phidias and Praxiteles, the Latins might turn aside with stupid contempt; [99] but unless they were crushed by some accidental injury, those useless stones stood secure on their pedestals. [100] The most enlightened of the strangers, above the gross and sensual pursuits of their countrymen, more piously exercised the right of conquest in the

search and seizure of the relics of the saints. [101] Immense was the

supply of heads and bones, crosses and images, that were scattered by this revolution over the churches of Europe; and such was the increase

of pilgrimage and oblation, that no branch, perhaps, of more lucrative

plunder was imported from the East. [102] Of the writings of antiquity,

many that still existed in the twelfth century, are now lost. But the

pilgrims were not solicitous to save or transport the volumes of an

unknown tongue: the perishable substance of paper or parchment can only be preserved by the multiplicity of copies; the literature of the Greeks

had almost centred in the metropolis; and, without computing the extent

of our loss, we may drop a tear over the libraries that have perished in the triple fire of Constantinople. [103]

[Footnote 93: Nicetas uses very harsh expressions, par agrammatoiV barbaroiV, kai teleon analfabhtoiV, (Fragment, apud Fabric. Bibliot.

Græc. tom. vi. p. 414.) This reproach, it is true, applies most strongly to their ignorance of Greek and of Homer. In their own language, the Latins of the xiith and xiiith centuries were not destitute of

literature. See Harris's Philological Inquiries, p. iii. c. 9, 10, 11.]

[Footnote 94: Nicetas was of Chonæ in Phrygia, (the old Colossæ of St.

Paul:) he raised himself to the honors of senator, judge of the veil, and great logothete; beheld the fall of the empire, retired to Nice, and composed an elaborate history from the death of Alexius Comnenus to the

reign of Henry.]

[Footnote 95: A manuscript of Nicetas in the Bodleian library contains this curious fragment on the statues of Constantinople, which fraud, or

shame, or rather carelessness, has dropped in the common editions. It

is published by Fabricius, (Bibliot. Græc. tom. vi. p. 405--416,) and

immoderately praised by the late ingenious Mr. Harris of Salisbury,

(Philological Inquiries, p. iii. c. 5, p. 301--312.)]

[Footnote 96: To illustrate the statue of Hercules, Mr. Harris quotes a Greek epigram, and engraves a beautiful gem, which does not, however, copy the attitude of the statue: in the latter, Hercules had not his club, and his right leg and arm were extended.]

[Footnote 97: I transcribe these proportions, which appear to me

inconsistent with each other; and may possibly show, that the boasted taste of Nicetas was no more than affectation and vanity.]

[Footnote 98: Nicetas in Isaaco Angelo et Alexio, c. 3, p. 359. The

Latin editor very properly observes, that the historian, in his bombast

style, produces ex pulice elephantem.]

[Footnote 99: In two passages of Nicetas (edit. Paris, p. 360. Fabric.

p. 408) the Latins are branded with the lively reproach of oi tou kalou anerastoi barbaroi, and their avarice of brass is clearly expressed.

Yet the Venetians had the merit of removing four bronze horses from constantinople to the place of St. Mark, (Sanuto, Vite del Dogi, in

Muratori, Script. Rerum Italicarum, tom. xxii. p. 534.)]

[Footnote 100: Winckelman, Hist. de l'Art. tom. iii. p. 269, 270.]

[Footnote 101: See the pious robbery of the abbot Martin, who transferred a rich cargo to his monastery of Paris, diocese of Basil,

(Gunther, Hist. C. P. c. 19, 23, 24.) Yet in secreting this booty, the

saint incurred an excommunication, and perhaps broke his oath. (Compare wilken vol. v. p. 308.--M.)]

[Footnote 102: Fleury, Hist. Eccles tom. xvi. p. 139--145.]

[Footnote 103: I shall conclude this chapter with the notice of a modern

history, which illustrates the taking of Constantinople by the Latins; but which has fallen somewhat late into my hands. Paolo Ramusio, the

son of the compiler of Voyages, was directed by the senate of Venice to write the history of the conquest: and this order, which he received

in his youth, he executed in a mature age, by an elegant Latin work, de Bello Constantinopolitano et Imperatoribus Comnenis per Gallos et

Venetos restitutis, (Venet. 1635, in folio.) Ramusio, or Rhamnusus, transcribes and translates, sequitur ad unguem, a MS. of Villehardouin, which he possessed; but he enriches his narrative with Greek and Latin

materials, and we are indebted to him for a correct state of the fleet, the names of the fifty Venetian nobles who commanded the galleys of the

republic, and the patriot opposition of Pantaleon Barbus to the choice

of the doge for emperor.]

chapter LXI: Partition Of The Empire By The French And Venetians.--Part I.

Partition Of The Empire By The French And Venetians,--Five

Latin Emperors Of The Houses Of Flanders And Courtenay.--

Their Wars Against The Bulgarians And Greeks.--Weakness And

Poverty Of The Latin Empire.--Recovery Of Constantinople By

The Greeks.--General Consequences Of The Crusades.

after the death of the lawful princes, the French and Venetians, confident of justice and victory, agreed to divide and regulate their future possessions. [1] It was stipulated by treaty, that twelve electors, six of either nation, should be nominated; that a majority

should choose the emperor of the East; and that, if the votes were equal, the decision of chance should ascertain the successful candidate. to him, with all the titles and prerogatives of the Byzantine throne, they assigned the two palaces of Boucoleon and Blachernæ, with a fourth

part of the Greek monarchy. It was defined that the three remaining

portions should be equally shared between the republic of Venice and the barons of France; that each feudatory, with an honorable exception for the doge, should acknowledge and perform the duties of homage and

military service to the supreme head of the empire; that the nation which gave an emperor, should resign to their brethren the choice of a

patriarch; and that the pilgrims, whatever might be their impatience to visit the Holy Land, should devote another year to the conquest and defence of the Greek provinces. After the conquest of Constantinople by the Latins, the treaty was confirmed and executed; and the first and

most important step was the creation of an emperor. The six electors

of the French nation were all ecclesiastics, the abbot of Loces, the archbishop elect of Acre in Palestine, and the bishops of Troyes,

Soissons, Halberstadt, and Bethlehem, the last of whom exercised in the camp the office of pope's legate: their profession and knowledge were

respectable; and as \_they\_ could not be the objects, they were best

qualified to be the authors of the choice. The six Venetians were the

principal servants of the state, and in this list the noble families of

Querini and Contarini are still proud to discover their ancestors. the twelve assembled in the chapel of the palace; and after the solemn

invocation of the Holy Ghost, they proceeded to deliberate and vote. A

just impulse of respect and gratitude prompted them to crown the virtues

of the doge; his wisdom had inspired their enterprise; and the most

youthful knights might envy and applaud the exploits of blindness and age. But the patriot Dandolo was devoid of all personal ambition, and fully satisfied that he had been judged worthy to reign. His nomination was overruled by the Venetians themselves: his countrymen, and perhaps

his friends, [2] represented, with the eloquence of truth, the mischiefs that might arise to national freedom and the common cause, from the

union of two incompatible characters, of the first magistrate of a

republic and the emperor of the East. The exclusion of the doge left

room for the more equal merits of Boniface and Baldwin; and at their

names all meaner candidates respectfully withdrew. The marquis of

Montferrat was recommended by his mature age and fair reputation, by the choice of the adventurers, and the wishes of the Greeks; nor can

I believe that Venice, the mistress of the sea, could be seriously apprehensive of a petty lord at the foot of the Alps. [3] But the count

of Flanders was the chief of a wealthy and warlike people: he was

valiant, pious, and chaste; in the prime of life, since he was only thirty-two years of age; a descendant of Charlemagne, a cousin of the

king of France, and a compeer of the prelates and barons who had yielded with reluctance to the command of a foreigner. Without the chapel, these barons, with the doge and marquis at their head, expected the decision

of the twelve electors. It was announced by the bishop of Soissons, in the name of his colleagues: "Ye have sworn to obey the prince whom we

should choose: by our unanimous suffrage, Baldwin count of Flanders and

Hainault is now your sovereign, and the emperor of the East." He was

saluted with loud applause, and the proclamation was reechoed through the city by the joy of the Latins, and the trembling adulation of the

Greeks. Boniface was the first to kiss the hand of his rival, and to

raise him on the buckler: and Baldwin was transported to the cathedral, and solemnly invested with the purple buskins. At the end of three weeks

he was crowned by the legate, in the vacancy of the patriarch; but the

Venetian clergy soon filled the chapter of St. Sophia, seated Thomas

Morosini on the ecclesiastical throne, and employed every art to

perpetuate in their own nation the honors and benefices of the Greek church. [4] Without delay the successor of Constantine instructed

Palestine, France, and Rome, of this memorable revolution. To Palestine

he sent, as a trophy, the gates of Constantinople, and the chain of the harbor; [5] and adopted, from the Assise of Jerusalem, the laws or customs best adapted to a French colony and conquest in the East. In his epistles, the natives of France are encouraged to swell that colony, and to secure that conquest, to people a magnificent city and a fertile

land, which will reward the labors both of the priest and the soldier.

He congratulates the Roman pontiff on the restoration of his authority

in the East; invites him to extinguish the Greek schism by his presence

in a general council; and implores his blessing and forgiveness for the disobedient pilgrims. Prudence and dignity are blended in the answer of

Innocent. [6] In the subversion of the Byzantine empire, he arraigns the

vices of man, and adores the providence of God; the conquerors will be absolved or condemned by their future conduct; the validity of their treaty depends on the judgment of St. Peter; but he inculcates their

most sacred duty of establishing a just subordination of obedience and tribute, from the Greeks to the Latins, from the magistrate to the clergy, and from the clergy to the pope.

[Footnote 1: See the original treaty of partition, in the Venetian chronicle of Andrew Dandolo, p. 326--330, and the subsequent election in

Ville hardouin, No. 136--140, with Ducange in his Observations, and the book of his Histoire de Constantinople sous l'Empire des François.]

[Footnote 2: After mentioning the nomination of the doge by a French elector his kinsman Andrew Dandolo approves his exclusion, quidam

Venetorum fidelis et nobilis senex, usus oratione satis probabili, &c., which has been embroidered by modern writers from Blondus to Le Beau.]

[Footnote 3: Nicetas, (p. 384,) with the vain ignorance of a Greek, describes the marquis of Montferrat as a \_maritime\_ power. Dampardian de

oikeisqai paralion. Was he deceived by the Byzantine theme of Lombardy which extended along the coast of Calabria?]

[Footnote 4: They exacted an oath from Thomas Morosini to appoint no canons of St. Sophia the lawful electors, except Venetians who had lived ten years at Venice, &c. But the foreign clergy was envious, the pope disapproved this national monopoly, and of the six Latin patriarchs of constantinople, only the first and the last were Venetians.]

[Footnote 5: Nicetas, p. 383.]

[Footnote 6: The Epistles of Innocent III. are a rich fund for the ecclesiastical and civil institution of the Latin empire of constantinople; and the most important of these epistles (of which the collection in 2 vols. in folio is published by Stephen Baluze) are

inserted in his Gesta, in Muratori, Script. Rerum Italicarum, tom. iii.

p. l. c. 94--105.]

In the division of the Greek provinces, [7] the share of the Venetians was more ample than that of the Latin emperor. No more than one fourth was appropriated to his domain; a clear moiety of the remainder was

reserved for Venice; and the other moiety was distributed among the adventures of France and Lombardy. The venerable Dandolo was proclaimed despot of Romania, and invested after the Greek fashion with the purple buskins. He ended at Constantinople his long and glorious life; and if the prerogative was personal, the title was used by his successors till the middle of the fourteenth century, with the singular, though true, addition of lords of one fourth and a half of the Roman empire. [8] The doge, a slave of state, was seldom permitted to depart from the helm of the republic; but his place was supplied by the \_bail\_, or regent, who exercised a supreme jurisdiction over the colony of Venetians: they

possessed three of the eight quarters of the city; and his independent tribunal was composed of six judges, four counsellors, two chamberlains two fiscal advocates, and a constable. Their long experience of the eastern trade enabled them to select their portion with discernment: they had rashly accepted the dominion and defence of Adrianople; but

it was the more reasonable aim of their policy to form a chain of factories, and cities, and islands, along the maritime coast, from the

neighborhood of Ragusa to the Hellespont and the Bosphorus. The labor and cost of such extensive conquests exhausted their treasury: they abandoned their maxims of government, adopted a feudal system, and contented themselves with the homage of their nobles, [9] for the

possessions which these private vassals undertook to reduce and

maintain. And thus it was that the family of Sanut acquired the duchy

of Naxos, which involved the greatest part of the archipelago. For the

price of ten thousand marks, the republic purchased of the marquis of

Montferrat the fertile Island of Crete or Candia, with the ruins of a

hundred cities; [10] but its improvement was stinted by the proud and

narrow spirit of an aristocracy; [11] and the wisest senators would confess that the sea, not the land, was the treasury of St. Mark. In the moiety of the adventurers the marquis Boniface might claim the most

liberal reward; and, besides the Isle of Crete, his exclusion from the throne was compensated by the royal title and the provinces beyond the Hellespont. But he prudently exchanged that distant and difficult conquest for the kingdom of Thessalonica Macedonia, twelve days' journey from the capital, where he might be supported by the neighboring powers

of his brother-in-law the king of Hungary. His progress was hailed by the voluntary or reluctant acclamations of the natives; and Greece, the

proper and ancient Greece, again received a Latin conqueror, [12] who trod with indifference that classic ground. He viewed with a careless eye the beauties of the valley of Tempe; traversed with a cautious

step the straits of Thermopylæ; occupied the unknown cities of Thebes, athens, and Argos; and assaulted the fortifications of Corinth and

Napoli, [13] which resisted his arms. The lots of the Latin pilgrims were

regulated by chance, or choice, or subsequent exchange; and they abused, with intemperate joy, their triumph over the lives and fortunes of a

great people. After a minute survey of the provinces, they weighed in the scales of avarice the revenue of each district, the advantage of the situation, and the ample on scanty supplies for the maintenance of

soldiers and horses. Their presumption claimed and divided the long-lost dependencies of the Roman sceptre: the Nile and Euphrates rolled through their imaginary realms; and happy was the warrior who drew for his prize the palace of the Turkish sultan of Iconium. [14] I shall not descend to the pedigree of families and the rent-roll of estates, but I wish to specify that the counts of Blois and St. Pol were invested with the duchy of Nice and the lordship of Demotica: [15] the principal fiefs were

held by the service of constable, chamberlain, cup-bearer, butler, and chief cook; and our historian, Jeffrey of Villehardouin, obtained a fair establishment on the banks of the Hebrus, and united the double office

of marshal of Champagne and Romania. At the head of his knights and archers, each baron mounted on horseback to secure the possession of his

share, and their first efforts were generally successful. But the public force was weakened by their dispersion; and a thousand quarrels must arise under a law, and among men, whose sole umpire was the sword. within three months after the conquest of Constantinople, the emperor and the king of Thessalonica drew their hostile followers into the field; they were reconciled by the authority of the doge, the advice of the marshal, and the firm freedom of their peers. [16]

[Footnote 7: In the treaty of partition, most of the names are corrupted by the scribes: they might be restored, and a good map, suited to the

last age of the Byzantine empire, would be an improvement of geography. but, alas D'Anville is no more!]

[Footnote 8: Their style was dominus quartæ partis et dimidiæ imperii

Romani, till Giovanni Dolfino, who was elected doge in the year of

1356, (Sanuto, p. 530, 641.) For the government of Constantinople, see ducange, Histoire de C. P. i. 37.]

[Footnote 9: Ducange (Hist. de C. P. ii. 6) has marked the conquests

made by the state or nobles of Venice of the Islands of Candia, Corfu, cephalonia, Zante, Naxos, Paros, Melos, Andros, Mycone, Syro, Cea, and

Lemnos.]

[Footnote 10: Boniface sold the Isle of Candia, August 12, A.D. 1204.

See the act in Sanuto, p. 533: but I cannot understand how it could be

his mother's portion, or how she could be the daughter of an emperor alexius.]

[Footnote 11: In the year 1212, the doge Peter Zani sent a colony to candia, drawn from every quarter of Venice. But in their savage manners and frequent rebellions, the Candiots may be compared to the Corsicans

under the yoke of Genoa; and when I compare the accounts of Belon and tournefort, I cannot discern much difference between the Venetian and the Turkish island.]

[Footnote 12: Villehardouin (No. 159, 160, 173--177) and Nicetas (p.

387--394) describe the expedition into Greece of the marquis Boniface. the Choniate might derive his information from his brother Michael, archbishop of Athens, whom he paints as an orator, a statesman, and a

saint. His encomium of Athens, and the description of Tempe, should be

published from the Bodleian MS. of Nicetas, (Fabric. Bibliot. Græc. tom.

vi. p. 405,) and would have deserved Mr. Harris's inquiries.]

[Footnote 13: Napoli de Romania, or Nauplia, the ancient seaport of argos, is still a place of strength and consideration, situate on a

rocky peninsula, with a good harbor, (Chandler's Travels into Greece, p.

227.)]

[Footnote 14: I have softened the expression of Nicetas, who strives to expose the presumption of the Franks. See the Rebus post C. P. expugnatam, p. 375--384.]

[Footnote 15: A city surrounded by the River Hebrus, and six leagues to the south of Adrianople, received from its double wall the Greek name

of Didymoteichos, insensibly corrupted into Demotica and Dimot. I have

preferred the more convenient and modern appellation of Demotica. This

place was the last Turkish residence of Charles XII.]

[Footnote 16: Their quarrel is told by Villehardouin (No. 146--158) with the spirit of freedom. The merit and reputation of the marshal are so acknowledged by the Greek historian (p. 387) mega para touV tvn Dauinwn dunamenou strateumasi: unlike some modern heroes, whose exploits are

only visible in their own memoirs. \* Note: William de Champlite, brother

of the count of Dijon, assumed the title of Prince of Achaia: on the death of his brother, he returned, with regret, to France, to assume his

paternal inheritance, and left Villehardouin his "\_bailli\_," on condition that if he did not return within a year Villehardouin was to

retain an investiture. Brosset's Add. to Le Beau, vol. xvii. p. 200. M. brosset adds, from the Greek chronicler edited by M. Buchon, the

somewhat unknightly trick by which Villehardouin disembarrassed himself from the troublesome claim of Robert, the cousin of the count of Dijon. to the succession. He contrived that Robert should arrive just fifteen days too late; and with the general concurrence of the assembled knights was himself invested with the principality. Ibid. p. 283. M.]

two fugitives, who had reigned at Constantinople, still asserted the title of emperor; and the subjects of their fallen throne might be moved to pity by the misfortunes of the elder Alexius, or excited to revenge by the spirit of Mourzoufle. A domestic alliance, a common interest, a

similar guilt, and the merit of extinguishing his enemies, a brother and a nephew, induced the more recent usurper to unite with the former the

relics of his power. Mourzoufle was received with smiles and honors

in the camp of his father Alexius; but the wicked can never love, and

should rarely trust, their fellow-criminals; he was seized in the bath, deprived of his eyes, stripped of his troops and treasures, and turned

out to wander an object of horror and contempt to those who with more

propriety could hate, and with more justice could punish, the assassin

of the emperor Isaac and his son. As the tyrant, pursued by fear or

remorse, was stealing over to Asia, he was seized by the Latins of constantinople, and condemned, after an open trial, to an ignominious death. His judges debated the mode of his execution, the axe, the wheel,

or the stake; and it was resolved that Mourzoufle [17] should ascend the Theodosian column, a pillar of white marble of one hundred and forty-seven feet in height. [18] From the summit he was cast down

headlong, and dashed in pieces on the pavement, in the presence of

innumerable spectators, who filled the forum of Taurus, and admired the accomplishment of an old prediction, which was explained by this

singular event. [19] The fate of Alexius is less tragical: he was sent by the marquis a captive to Italy, and a gift to the king of the

Romans; but he had not much to applaud his fortune, if the sentence of

imprisonment and exile were changed from a fortress in the Alps to a

monastery in Asia. But his daughter, before the national calamity, had been given in marriage to a young hero who continued the succession, and restored the throne, of the Greek princes. [20] The valor of Theodore

Lascaris was signalized in the two sieges of Constantinople. After the flight of Mourzoufle, when the Latins were already in the city, he

offered himself as their emperor to the soldiers and people; and his ambition, which might be virtuous, was undoubtedly brave. Could he have

infused a soul into the multitude, they might have crushed the strangers

under their feet: their abject despair refused his aid; and Theodore

retired to breathe the air of freedom in Anatolia, beyond the immediate

view and pursuit of the conquerors. Under the title, at first of despot, and afterwards of emperor, he drew to his standard the bolder spirits, who were fortified against slavery by the contempt of life; and as every

means was lawful for the public safety implored without scruple the alliance of the Turkish sultan Nice, where Theodore established his

residence, Prusa and Philadelphia, Smyrna and Ephesus, opened their

gates to their deliverer: he derived strength and reputation from his

victories, and even from his defeats; and the successor of Constantine

preserved a fragment of the empire from the banks of the Mæander to the

suburbs of Nicomedia, and at length of Constantinople. Another portion, distant and obscure, was possessed by the lineal heir of the Comneni, a son of the virtuous Manuel, a grandson of the tyrant Andronicus. His

name was Alexius; and the epithet of great [201] was applied perhaps to his

stature, rather than to his exploits. By the indulgence of the Angeli,

he was appointed governor or duke of Trebizond: [21] [211] his birth gave

him ambition, the revolution independence; and, without changing his title, he reigned in peace from Sinope to the Phasis, along the coast

of the Black Sea. His nameless son and successor [212] is described as the vassal of the sultan, whom he served with two hundred lances: that comnenian prince was no more than duke of Trebizond, and the title

of emperor was first assumed by the pride and envy of the grandson

of Alexius. In the West, a third fragment was saved from the common

shipwreck by Michael, a bastard of the house of Angeli, who, before the

revolution, had been known as a hostage, a soldier, and a rebel. His flight from the camp of the marquis Boniface secured his freedom; by his

marriage with the governor's daughter, he commanded the important

place of Durazzo, assumed the title of despot, and founded a strong and conspicuous principality in Epirus, Ætolia, and Thessaly, which have ever been peopled by a warlike race. The Greeks, who had offered their

service to their new sovereigns, were excluded by the haughty Latins

[22] from all civil and military honors, as a nation born to tremble and

obey. Their resentment prompted them to show that they might have been

useful friends, since they could be dangerous enemies: their nerves were braced by adversity: whatever was learned or holy, whatever was noble or

valiant, rolled away into the independent states of Trebizond, Epirus, and Nice; and a single patrician is marked by the ambiguous praise of attachment and loyalty to the Franks. The vulgar herd of the cities and the country would have gladly submitted to a mild and regular servitude; and the transient disorders of war would have been obliterated by some

years of industry and peace. But peace was banished, and industry was crushed, in the disorders of the feudal system. The \_Roman\_ emperors

of Constantinople, if they were endowed with abilities, were armed with

power for the protection of their subjects: their laws were wise, and their administration was simple. The Latin throne was filled by a titular prince, the chief, and often the servant, of his licentious confederates; the fiefs of the empire, from a kingdom to a castle, were

held and ruled by the sword of the barons; and their discord, poverty, and ignorance, extended the ramifications of tyranny to the most

sequestered villages. The Greeks were oppressed by the double weight of the priest, who were invested with temporal power, and of the soldier, who was inflamed by fanatic hatred; and the insuperable bar of religion and language forever separated the stranger and the native. As long as the crusaders were united at Constantinople, the memory of their conquest, and the terror of their arms, imposed silence on the captive

land: their dispersion betrayed the smallness of their numbers and the defects of their discipline; and some failures and mischances revealed the secret, that they were not invincible. As the fears of the Greeks abated, their hatred increased. They murdered; they conspired; and before a year of slavery had elapsed, they implored, or accepted, the

succor of a Barbarian, whose power they had felt, and whose gratitude they trusted. [23]

[Footnote 17: See the fate of Mourzoufle in Nicetas, (p. 393,)

Villehardouin, (No. 141--145, 163,) and Guntherus, (c. 20, 21.) Neither the marshal nor the monk afford a grain of pity for a tyrant or rebel, whose punishment, however, was more unexampled than his crime.]

[Footnote 18: The column of Arcadius, which represents in basso relievo

his victories, or those of his father Theodosius, is still extant at constantinople. It is described and measured, Gyllius, (Topograph. iv.

7,) Banduri, (ad l. i. Antiquit. C. P. p. 507, &c.,) and Tournefort,

(Voyage du Levant, tom. ii. lettre xii. p. 231.) (Compare Wilken, note,

vol. v p. 388.--M.)]

[Footnote 19: The nonsense of Gunther and the modern Greeks concerning this \_columna fatidica\_, is unworthy of notice; but it is singular enough, that fifty years before the Latin conquest, the poet Tzetzes,

(Chiliad, ix. 277) relates the dream of a matron, who saw an army in the forum, and a man sitting on the column, clapping his hands, and uttering a loud exclamation. \* Note: We read in the "Chronicle of the Conquest of constantinople, and of the Establishment of the French in the Morea," translated by J A Buchon, Paris, 1825, p. 64 that Leo VI., called the

Philosopher, had prophesied that a perfidious emperor should be

precipitated from the top of this column. The crusaders considered themselves under an obligation to fulfil this prophecy. Brosset, note on

Le Beau, vol. xvii. p. 180. M Brosset announces that a complete edition

of this work, of which the original Greek of the first book only has been published by M. Buchon in preparation, to form part of the new

series of the Byzantine historian.--M.]

[Footnote 20: The dynasties of Nice, Trebizond, and Epirus (of which

Nicetas saw the origin without much pleasure or hope) are learnedly explored, and clearly represented, in the Familiæ Byzantinæ of Ducange.]

[Footnote 201: This was a title, not a personal appellation. Joinville

speaks of the "Grant Comnenie, et sire de Traffezzontes." Fallmerayer,

p. 82.--M.]

[Footnote 21: Except some facts in Pachymer and Nicephorus Gregoras, which will hereafter be used, the Byzantine writers disdain to speak of the empire of Trebizond, or principality of the \_Lazi\_; and among the

Latins, it is conspicuous only in the romancers of the xivth or xvth centuries. Yet the indefatigable Ducange has dug out (Fam. Byz. p. 192) two authentic passages in Vincent of Beauvais (l. xxxi. c. 144) and the

prothonotary Ogerius, (apud Wading, A.D. 1279, No. 4.)]

[Footnote 211: On the revolutions of Trebizond under the later empire down to this period, see Fallmerayer, Geschichte des Kaiserthums von trapezunt, ch. iii. The wife of Manuel fled with her infant sons and

her treasure from the relentless enmity of Isaac Angelus. Fallmerayer conjectures that her arrival enabled the Greeks of that region to make

head against the formidable Thamar, the Georgian queen of Teflis, p. 42. they gradually formed a dominion on the banks of the Phasis, which the distracted government of the Angeli neglected or were unable to

suppress. On the capture of Constantinople by the Latins, Alexius was joined by many noble fugitives from Constantinople. He had always

retained the names of Cæsar and BasileuV. He now fixed the seat of his empire at Trebizond; but he had never abandoned his pretensions to the byzantine throne, ch. iii. Fallmerayer appears to make out a triumphant case as to the assumption of the royal title by Alexius the First. Since the publication of M. Fallmerayer's work, (München, 1827,) M. Tafel has

published, at the end of the opuscula of Eustathius, a curious chronicle

of Trebizond by Michael Panaretas, (Frankfort, 1832.) It gives the

succession of the emperors, and some other curious circumstances of their wars with the several Mahometan powers.--M.]

[Footnote 212: The successor of Alexius was his son-in-law Andronicus I.,

of the Comnenian family, surnamed Gidon. There were five successions between Alexius and John, according to Fallmerayer, p. 103. The troops

of Trebizond fought in the army of Dschelaleddin, the Karismian, against alaleddin, the Seljukian sultan of Roum, but as allies rather than

vassals, p. 107. It was after the defeat of Dschelaleddin that they furnished their contingent to Alai-eddin. Fallmerayer struggles in vain to mitigate this mark of the subjection of the Comneni to the sultan. p.

116.--M.]

[Footnote 22: The portrait of the French Latins is drawn in Nicetas by the hand of prejudice and resentment: ouden tvn allwn eqnvn eiV

''AreoV?rga parasumbeblhsqai sjisin hneiconto all' oude tiV tvn caritwn

h tvn?mousvn para toiV barbaroiV toutoiV epexenizeto, kai para touto oimai thn jusin hsan anhmeroi, kai ton xolon eixon tou logou

prstreconta. [P. 791 Ed. Bek.]

[Footnote 23: I here begin to use, with freedom and confidence, the eight books of the Histoire de C. P. sous l'Empire des François, which ducange has given as a supplement to Villehardouin; and which, in a barbarous style, deserves the praise of an original and classic work.]

the Latin conquerors had been saluted with a solemn and early embassy from John, or Joannice, or Calo-John, the revolted chief of the bulgarians and Walachians. He deemed himself their brother, as the

votary of the Roman pontiff, from whom he had received the regal title and a holy banner; and in the subversion of the Greek monarchy, he might aspire to the name of their friend and accomplice. But Calo-John was astonished to find, that the Count of Flanders had assumed the pomp and pride of the successors of Constantine; and his ambassadors were dismissed with a haughty message, that the rebel must deserve a pardon, by touching with his forehead the footstool of the Imperial throne. His

resentment [24] would have exhaled in acts of violence and blood: his cooler policy watched the rising discontent of the Greeks; affected a tender concern for their sufferings; and promised, that their first

struggles for freedom should be supported by his person and kingdom. the conspiracy was propagated by national hatred, the firmest band of association and secrecy: the Greeks were impatient to sheathe their daggers in the breasts of the victorious strangers; but the execution was prudently delayed, till Henry, the emperor's brother, had transported the flower of his troops beyond the Hellespont. Most of the towns and villages of Thrace were true to the moment and the signal; and the Latins, without arms or suspicion, were slaughtered by the vile and

merciless revenge of their slaves. From Demotica, the first scene of the massacre, the surviving vassals of the count of St. Pol escaped to adrianople; but the French and Venetians, who occupied that city, were

slain or expelled by the furious multitude: the garrisons that could effect their retreat fell back on each other towards the metropolis; and the fortresses, that separately stood against the rebels, were ignorant

of each other's and of their sovereign's fate. The voice of fame and fear announced the revolt of the Greeks and the rapid approach of their bulgarian ally; and Calo-John, not depending on the forces of his own

kingdom, had drawn from the Scythian wilderness a body of fourteen thousand Comans, who drank, as it was said, the blood of their captives, and sacrificed the Christians on the altars of their gods. [25]

[Footnote 24: In Calo-John's answer to the pope we may find his claims and complaints, (Gesta Innocent III. c. 108, 109:) he was cherished at

Rome as the prodigal son.]

[Footnote 25: The Comans were a Tartar or Turkman horde, which encamped

in the xiith and xiiith centuries on the verge of Moldavia. The greater

part were pagans, but some were Mahometans, and the whole horde was converted to Christianity (A.D. 1370) by Lewis, king of Hungary.]

alarmed by this sudden and growing danger, the emperor despatched a

swift messenger to recall Count Henry and his troops; and had Baldwin expected the return of his gallant brother, with a supply of twenty thousand Armenians, he might have encountered the invader with equal

numbers and a decisive superiority of arms and discipline. But the

spirit of chivalry could seldom discriminate caution from cowardice; and the emperor took the field with a hundred and forty knights, and their train of archers and sergeants. The marshal, who dissuaded and obeyed,

led the vanguard in their march to Adrianople; the main body was commanded by the count of Blois; the aged doge of Venice followed with the rear; and their scanty numbers were increased from all sides by the fugitive Latins. They undertook to besiege the rebels of Adrianople; and

such was the pious tendency of the crusades that they employed the holy week in pillaging the country for their subsistence, and in framing engines for the destruction of their fellow-Christians. But the Latins were soon interrupted and alarmed by the light cavalry of the Comans, who boldly skirmished to the edge of their imperfect lines: and a proclamation was issued by the marshal of Romania, that, on the trumpet's sound, the cavalry should mount and form; but that none, under

pain of death, should abandon themselves to a desultory and dangerous

pursuit. This wise injunction was first disobeyed by the count of Blois, who involved the emperor in his rashness and ruin. The Comans, of the

Parthian or Tartar school, fled before their first charge; but after a career of two leagues, when the knights and their horses were almost breathless, they suddenly turned, rallied, and encompassed the heavy

squadrons of the Franks. The count was slain on the field; the emperor was made prisoner; and if the one disdained to fly, if the other

refused to yield, their personal bravery made a poor atonement for their

ignorance, or neglect, of the duties of a general. [26]

[Footnote 26: Nicetas, from ignorance or malice, imputes the defeat to the cowardice of Dandolo, (p. 383;) but Villehardouin shares his own

glory with his venerable friend, qui viels home ére et gote ne veoit,

mais mult ére sages et preus et vigueros, (No. 193.) \* Note: Gibbon appears to me to have misapprehended the passage of Nicetas. He says,

"that principal and subtlest mischief. that primary cause of all the

horrible miseries suffered by the \_Romans\_," i. e. the Byzantines. It is an effusion of malicious triumph against the Venetians, to whom he always ascribes the capture of Constantinople.--M.]

chapter LXI: Partition Of The Empire By The French And Venetians.--Part II.

Proud of his victory and his royal prize, the Bulgarian advanced to

relieve Adrianople and achieve the destruction of the Latins. They

must inevitably have been destroyed, if the marshal of Romania had not displayed a cool courage and consummate skill; uncommon in all ages, but most uncommon in those times, when war was a passion, rather than a science. His grief and fears were poured into the firm and faithful bosom of the doge; but in the camp he diffused an assurance of

safety, which could only be realized by the general belief. All day he

maintained his perilous station between the city and the Barbarians:

Villehardouin decamped in silence at the dead of night; and his masterly

retreat of three days would have deserved the praise of Xenophon and the ten thousand. In the rear, the marshal supported the weight of the

pursuit; in the front, he moderated the impatience of the fugitives; and wherever the Comans approached, they were repelled by a line of

impenetrable spears. On the third day, the weary troops beheld the sea, the solitary town of Rodosta, [27] and their friends, who had landed from the Asiatic shore. They embraced, they wept; but they united their arms and counsels; and in his brother's absence, Count Henry assumed the

regency of the empire, at once in a state of childhood and caducity. [28]

If the Comans withdrew from the summer heats, seven thousand Latins, in the hour of danger, deserted Constantinople, their brethren, and their

vows. Some partial success was overbalanced by the loss of one hundred and twenty knights in the field of Rusium; and of the Imperial domain,

no more was left than the capital, with two or three adjacent fortresses

on the shores of Europe and Asia. The king of Bulgaria was resistless and inexorable; and Calo-John respectfully eluded the demands of the

pope, who conjured his new proselyte to restore peace and the emperor to the afflicted Latins. The deliverance of Baldwin was no longer, he said,

in the power of man: that prince had died in prison; and the manner of

his death is variously related by ignorance and credulity. The lovers

of a tragic legend will be pleased to hear, that the royal captive was tempted by the amorous queen of the Bulgarians; that his chaste refusal exposed him to the falsehood of a woman and the jealousy of a savage; that his hands and feet were severed from his body; that his bleeding trunk was cast among the carcasses of dogs and horses; and that he breathed three days, before he was devoured by the birds of prey. [29] about twenty years afterwards, in a wood of the Netherlands, a hermit announced himself as the true Baldwin, the emperor of Constantinople, and lawful sovereign of Flanders. He related the wonders of his escape,

his adventures, and his penance, among a people prone to believe and to

rebel; and, in the first transport, Flanders acknowledged her long-lost

sovereign. A short examination before the French court detected the

impostor, who was punished with an ignominious death; but the Flemings

still adhered to the pleasing error; and the countess Jane is accused by the gravest historians of sacrificing to her ambition the life of an

unfortunate father. [30]

[Footnote 27: The truth of geography, and the original text of

Villehardouin, (No. 194,) place Rodosto three days' journey (trois

jornées) from Adrianople: but Vigenere, in his version, has most absurdly substituted \_trois heures\_; and this error, which is not corrected by Ducange has entrapped several moderns, whose names I shall

spare.]

[Footnote 28: The reign and end of Baldwin are related by Villehardouin and Nicetas, (p. 386--416;) and their omissions are supplied by Ducange

in his Observations, and to the end of his first book.]

[Footnote 29: After brushing away all doubtful and improbable circumstances, we may prove the death of Baldwin, 1. By the firm belief

of the French barons, (Villehardouin, No. 230.) 2. By the declaration

of Calo-John himself, who excuses his not releasing the captive emperor,

quia debitum carnis exsolverat cum carcere teneretur, (Gesta Innocent

III. c. 109.) \* Note: Compare Von Raumer. Geschichte der Hohenstaufen,

vol. ii. p. 237. Petitot, in his preface to Villehardouin in the collection des Mémoires, relatifs a l'Histoire de France, tom. i. p. 85, expresses his belief in the first part of the "tragic legend."--M.]

[Footnote 30: See the story of this impostor from the French and Flemish writers in Ducange, Hist. de C. P. iii. 9; and the ridiculous fables that were believed by the monks of St. Alban's, in Matthew Paris, Hist.

Major, p. 271, 272.]

In all civilized hostility, a treaty is established for the exchange

or ransom of prisoners; and if their captivity be prolonged, their condition is known, and they are treated according to their rank with

humanity or honor. But the savage Bulgarian was a stranger to the laws

of war: his prisons were involved in darkness and silence; and above a

year elapsed before the Latins could be assured of the death of Baldwin, before his brother, the regent Henry, would consent to assume the title

of emperor. His moderation was applauded by the Greeks as an act of rare and inimitable virtue. Their light and perfidious ambition was eager to

seize or anticipate the moment of a vacancy, while a law of succession, the guardian both of the prince and people, was gradually defined and confirmed in the hereditary monarchies of Europe. In the support of the eastern empire, Henry was gradually left without an associate, as the

heroes of the crusade retired from the world or from the war. The doge

of Venice, the venerable Dandolo, in the fulness of years and glory,

sunk into the grave. The marquis of Montferrat was slowly recalled from the Peloponnesian war to the revenge of Baldwin and the defence

of Thessalonica. Some nice disputes of feudal homage and service were

reconciled in a personal interview between the emperor and the king; they were firmly united by mutual esteem and the common danger; and their alliance was sealed by the nuptials of Henry with the daughter of the Italian prince. He soon deplored the loss of his friend and father. at the persuasion of some faithful Greeks, Boniface made a bold and

successful inroad among the hills of Rhodope: the Bulgarians fled on his approach; they assembled to harass his retreat. On the intelligence that his rear was attacked, without waiting for any defensive armor,

he leaped on horseback, couched his lance, and drove the enemies before

him; but in the rash pursuit he was pierced with a mortal wound; and the

head of the king of Thessalonica was presented to Calo-John, who enjoyed the honors, without the merit, of victory. It is here, at this

melancholy event, that the pen or the voice of Jeffrey of Villehardouin

seems to drop or to expire; [31] and if he still exercised his military

office of marshal of Romania, his subsequent exploits are buried in

oblivion. [32] The character of Henry was not unequal to his arduous

situation: in the siege of Constantinople, and beyond the Hellespont, he

had deserved the fame of a valiant knight and a skilful commander; and

his courage was tempered with a degree of prudence and mildness unknown to his impetuous brother. In the double war against the Greeks of Asia and the Bulgarians of Europe, he was ever the foremost on shipboard or

on horseback; and though he cautiously provided for the success of his arms, the drooping Latins were often roused by his example to save and to second their fearless emperor. But such efforts, and some supplies

of men and money from France, were of less avail than the errors, the cruelty, and death, of their most formidable adversary. When the despair

of the Greek subjects invited Calo-John as their deliverer, they hoped that he would protect their liberty and adopt their laws: they were soon taught to compare the degrees of national ferocity, and to execrate the

savage conqueror, who no longer dissembled his intention of dispeopling thrace, of demolishing the cities, and of transplanting the inhabitants beyond the Danube. Many towns and villages of Thrace were already evacuated: a heap of ruins marked the place of Philippopolis, and a

similar calamity was expected at Demotica and Adrianople, by the first authors of the revolt. They raised a cry of grief and repentance to the throne of Henry; the emperor alone had the magnanimity to forgive and trust them. No more than four hundred knights, with their sergeants and archers, could be assembled under his banner; and with this

slender force he fought [321] and repulsed the Bulgarian, who, besides his

infantry, was at the head of forty thousand horse. In this expedition,

Henry felt the difference between a hostile and a friendly country: the

remaining cities were preserved by his arms; and the savage, with

shame and loss, was compelled to relinquish his prey. The siege of thessalonica was the last of the evils which Calo-John inflicted or

suffered: he was stabbed in the night in his tent; and the general,

perhaps the assassin, who found him weltering in his blood, ascribed the blow, with general applause, to the lance of St. Demetrius. [33] After

several victories, the prudence of Henry concluded an honorable peace with the successor of the tyrant, and with the Greek princes of Nice and epirus. If he ceded some doubtful limits, an ample kingdom was reserved for himself and his feudatories; and his reign, which lasted only ten

years, afforded a short interval of prosperity and peace. Far above the

narrow policy of Baldwin and Boniface, he freely intrusted to the Greeks the most important offices of the state and army; and this liberality of

sentiment and practice was the more seasonable, as the princes of Nice and Epirus had already learned to seduce and employ the mercenary valor

of the Latins. It was the aim of Henry to unite and reward his deserving

subjects, of every nation and language; but he appeared less solicitous to accomplish the impracticable union of the two churches. Pelagius, the pope's legate, who acted as the sovereign of Constantinople, had

interdicted the worship of the Greeks, and sternly imposed the payment

of tithes, the double procession of the Holy Ghost, and a blind

obedience to the Roman pontiff. As the weaker party, they pleaded the duties of conscience, and implored the rights of toleration: "Our bodies," they said, "are Cæsar's, but our souls belong only to God." The

persecution was checked by the firmness of the emperor: [34] and if we can believe that the same prince was poisoned by the Greeks themselves, we must entertain a contemptible idea of the sense and gratitude of

mankind. His valor was a vulgar attribute, which he shared with ten thousand knights; but Henry possessed the superior courage to oppose,

in a superstitious age, the pride and avarice of the clergy. In the cathedral of St. Sophia he presumed to place his throne on the right

hand of the patriarch; and this presumption excited the sharpest censure

of Pope Innocent the Third. By a salutary edict, one of the first examples of the laws of mortmain, he prohibited the alienation of fiefs:

many of the Latins, desirous of returning to Europe, resigned their estates to the church for a spiritual or temporal reward; these holy

lands were immediately discharged from military service, and a colony

of soldiers would have been gradually transformed into a college of

priests. [35]

[Footnote 31: Villehardouin, No. 257. I quote, with regret, this

lamentable conclusion, where we lose at once the original history, and the rich illustrations of Ducange. The last pages may derive some light from Henry's two epistles to Innocent III., (Gesta, c. 106, 107.)]

[Footnote 32: The marshal was alive in 1212, but he probably died soon afterwards, without returning to France, (Ducange, Observations sur

Villehardouin, p. 238.) His fief of Messinople, the gift of Boniface, was the ancient Maximianopolis, which flourished in the time of Ammianus

Marcellinus, among the cities of Thrace, (No. 141.)]

[Footnote 321: There was no battle. On the advance of the Latins, John

suddenly broke up his camp and retreated. The Latins considered this unexpected deliverance almost a miracle. Le Beau suggests the

probability that the detection of the Comans, who usually quitted the camp during the heats of summer, may have caused the flight of the bulgarians. Nicetas, c. 8 Villebardouin, c. 225. Le Beau, vol. xvii. p.

242.--M.]

[Footnote 33: The church of this patron of Thessalonica was served by the canons of the holy sepulchre, and contained a divine ointment which distilled daily and stupendous miracles, (Ducange, Hist. de C. P. ii.

4.)]

[Footnote 34: Acropolita (c. 17) observes the persecution of the

legate, and the toleration of Henry, ('Erh, \* as he calls him) kludwna

katestorese. Note: Or rather 'ErrhV.--M.]

[Footnote 35: See the reign of Henry, in Ducange, (Hist. de C. P. l. i. c. 35--41, l. ii. c. 1--22,) who is much indebted to the Epistles of the

Popes. Le Beau (Hist. du Bas Empire, tom. xxi. p. 120--122) has found,

perhaps in Doutreman, some laws of Henry, which determined the service

of fiefs, and the prerogatives of the emperor.]

the virtuous Henry died at Thessalonica, in the defence of that kingdom, and of an infant, the son of his friend Boniface. In the two first emperors of Constantinople the male line of the counts of Flanders was extinct. But their sister Yolande was the wife of a French prince, the mother of a numerous progeny; and one of her daughters had married andrew king of Hungary, a brave and pious champion of the cross. By

seating him on the Byzantine throne, the barons of Romania would have acquired the forces of a neighboring and warlike kingdom; but the

prudent Andrew revered the laws of succession; and the princess Yolande, with her husband Peter of Courtenay, count of Auxerre, was invited by the Latins to assume the empire of the East. The royal birth of his father, the noble origin of his mother, recommended to the barons of france the first cousin of their king. His reputation was fair, his

possessions were ample, and in the bloody crusade against the Albigeois, the soldiers and the priests had been abundantly satisfied of his zeal and valor. Vanity might applaud the elevation of a French emperor

of Constantinople; but prudence must pity, rather than envy, his treacherous and imaginary greatness. To assert and adorn his title,

he was reduced to sell or mortgage the best of his patrimony. By these expedients, the liberality of his royal kinsman Philip Augustus, and the

national spirit of chivalry, he was enabled to pass the Alps at the

head of one hundred and forty knights, and five thousand five hundred

sergeants and archers. After some hesitation, Pope Honorius the Third was persuaded to crown the successor of Constantine: but he performed the ceremony in a church without the walls, lest he should seem to imply

or to bestow any right of sovereignty over the ancient capital of the empire. The Venetians had engaged to transport Peter and his forces beyond the Adriatic, and the empress, with her four children, to the byzantine palace; but they required, as the price of their service, that

he should recover Durazzo from the despot of Epirus. Michael Angelus, or comnenus, the first of his dynasty, had bequeathed the succession of

his power and ambition to Theodore, his legitimate brother, who already threatened and invaded the establishments of the Latins. After discharging his debt by a fruitless assault, the emperor raised the

siege to prosecute a long and perilous journey over land from Durazzo to Thessalonica. He was soon lost in the mountains of Epirus: the passes were fortified; his provisions exhausted; he was delayed and deceived by a treacherous negotiation; and, after Peter of Courtenay and the Roman

legate had been arrested in a banquet, the French troops, without

leaders or hopes, were eager to exchange their arms for the delusive

promise of mercy and bread. The Vatican thundered; and the impious theodore was threatened with the vengeance of earth and heaven; but the captive emperor and his soldiers were forgotten, and the reproaches of the pope are confined to the imprisonment of his legate. No sooner was he satisfied by the deliverance of the priests and a promise of

spiritual obedience, than he pardoned and protected the despot of epirus. His peremptory commands suspended the ardor of the Venetians and the king of Hungary; and it was only by a natural or untimely death [36] that Peter of Courtenay was released from his hopeless captivity. [37]

[Footnote 36: Acropolita (c. 14) affirms, that Peter of Courtenay died by the sword, (ergon macairaV genesqai;) but from his dark expressions,

I should conclude a previous captivity, wV pantaV ardhn desmwtaV poihsai

sun pasi skeuesi. \* The Chronicle of Auxerre delays the emperor's death till the year 1219; and Auxerre is in the neighborhood of Courtenay.

Note: Whatever may have been the fact, this can hardly be made out from the expressions of Acropolita.--M.]

[Footnote 37: See the reign and death of Peter of Courtenay, in Ducange,

(Hist. de C. P. l. ii. c. 22--28,) who feebly strives to excuse the

neglect of the emperor by Honorius III.]

the long ignorance of his fate, and the presence of the lawful

sovereign, of Yolande, his wife or widow, delayed the proclamation of a new emperor. Before her death, and in the midst of her grief, she was delivered of a son, who was named Baldwin, the last and most unfortunate

of the Latin princes of Constantinople. His birth endeared him to the barons of Romania; but his childhood would have prolonged the troubles

of a minority, and his claims were superseded by the elder claims of his brethren. The first of these, Philip of Courtenay, who derived from his

mother the inheritance of Namur, had the wisdom to prefer the substance

of a marquisate to the shadow of an empire; and on his refusal, Robert, the second of the sons of Peter and Yolande, was called to the throne

of Constantinople. Warned by his father's mischance, he pursued his slow and secure journey through Germany and along the Danube: a passage was opened by his sister's marriage with the king of Hungary; and the emperor Robert was crowned by the patriarch in the cathedral of St.

Sophia. But his reign was an æra of calamity and disgrace; and the colony, as it was styled, of New France yielded on all sides to the

Greeks of Nice and Epirus. After a victory, which he owed to his

perfidy rather than his courage, Theodore Angelus entered the kingdom

of Thessalonica, expelled the feeble Demetrius, the son of the marquis boniface, erected his standard on the walls of Adrianople; and added, by

his vanity, a third or a fourth name to the list of rival emperors. the relics of the Asiatic province were swept away by John Vataces, the

son-in-law and successor of Theodore Lascaris, and who, in a triumphant

reign of thirty-three years, displayed the virtues both of peace and war. Under his discipline, the swords of the French mercenaries were the

most effectual instruments of his conquests, and their desertion from the service of their country was at once a symptom and a cause of the

rising ascendant of the Greeks. By the construction of a fleet, he

obtained the command of the Hellespont, reduced the islands of Lesbos and Rhodes, attacked the Venetians of Candia, and intercepted the rare and parsimonious succors of the West. Once, and once only, the Latin emperor sent an army against Vataces; and in the defeat of that army, the veteran knights, the last of the original conquerors, were left on the field of battle. But the success of a foreign enemy was less painful to the pusillanimous Robert than the insolence of his Latin subjects, who confounded the weakness of the emperor and of the empire. His

personal misfortunes will prove the anarchy of the government and the ferociousness of the times. The amorous youth had neglected his Greek bride, the daughter of Vataces, to introduce into the palace a beautiful

maid, of a private, though noble family of Artois; and her mother had been tempted by the lustre of the purple to forfeit her engagements with a gentleman of Burgundy. His love was converted into rage; he assembled

his friends, forced the palace gates, threw the mother into the sea, and inhumanly cut off the nose and lips of the wife or concubine of the emperor. Instead of punishing the offender, the barons avowed and applauded the savage deed, [38] which, as a prince and as a man, it was

impossible that Robert should forgive. He escaped from the guilty city to implore the justice or compassion of the pope: the emperor was coolly exhorted to return to his station; before he could obey, he sunk under the weight of grief, shame, and impotent resentment. [39]

[Footnote 38: Marinus Sanutus (Secreta Fidelium Crucis, l. ii. p. 4, c. 18, p. 73) is so much delighted with this bloody deed, that he has transcribed it in his margin as a bonum exemplum. Yet he acknowledges the damsel for the lawful wife of Robert.]

[Footnote 39: See the reign of Robert, in Ducange, (Hist. de C. P. l.

ii. c.--12.)]

It was only in the age of chivalry, that valor could ascend from a

private station to the thrones of Jerusalem and Constantinople. The titular kingdom of Jerusalem had devolved to Mary, the daughter of

Isabella and Conrad of Montferrat, and the granddaughter of Almeric

or Amaury. She was given to John of Brienne, of a noble family in champagne, by the public voice, and the judgment of Philip Augustus, who

named him as the most worthy champion of the Holy Land. [40] In the fifth crusade, he led a hundred thousand Latins to the conquest of Egypt: by

him the siege of Damietta was achieved; and the subsequent failure was justly ascribed to the pride and avarice of the legate. After the

marriage of his daughter with Frederic the Second, [41] he was provoked by the emperor's ingratitude to accept the command of the army of the church; and though advanced in life, and despoiled of royalty, the

sword and spirit of John of Brienne were still ready for the service

of Christendom. In the seven years of his brother's reign, Baldwin of courtenay had not emerged from a state of childhood, and the barons of

Romania felt the strong necessity of placing the sceptre in the hands of a man and a hero. The veteran king of Jerusalem might have disdained the

name and office of regent; they agreed to invest him for his life with the title and prerogatives of emperor, on the sole condition that baldwin should marry his second daughter, and succeed at a mature age to the throne of Constantinople. The expectation, both of the Greeks and

Latins, was kindled by the renown, the choice, and the presence of John

of Brienne; and they admired his martial aspect, his green and vigorous age of more than fourscore years, and his size and stature, which

surpassed the common measure of mankind. [42] But avarice, and the love

of ease, appear to have chilled the ardor of enterprise: [421] his troops were disbanded, and two years rolled away without action or honor, till

he was awakened by the dangerous alliance of Vataces emperor of Nice, and of Azan king of Bulgaria. They besieged Constantinople by sea and

land, with an army of one hundred thousand men, and a fleet of three

hundred ships of war; while the entire force of the Latin emperor was reduced to one hundred and sixty knights, and a small addition of

sergeants and archers. I tremble to relate, that instead of defending the city, the hero made a sally at the head of his cavalry; and that of forty-eight squadrons of the enemy, no more than three escaped from the edge of his invincible sword. Fired by his example, the infantry and the citizens boarded the vessels that anchored close to the walls; and twenty-five were dragged in triumph into the harbor of Constantinople. at the summons of the emperor, the vassals and allies armed in her defence; broke through every obstacle that opposed their passage; and,

in the succeeding year, obtained a second victory over the same enemies. by the rude poets of the age, John of Brienne is compared to Hector,

Roland, and Judas Machabæus: [43] but their credit, and his glory,

receive some abatement from the silence of the Greeks. The empire was

soon deprived of the last of her champions; and the dying monarch was ambitious to enter paradise in the habit of a Franciscan friar. [44]

[Footnote 40: Rex igitur Franciæ, deliberatione habitâ, respondit

nuntiis, se daturum hominem Syriæ partibus aptum; in armis probum

(\_preux\_) in bellis securum, in agendis providum, Johannem comitem brennensem. Sanut. Secret. Fidelium, l. iii. p. xi. c. 4, p. 205 Matthew

Paris, p. 159.]

[Footnote 41: Giannone (Istoria Civile, tom. ii. l. xvi. p. 380--385) discusses the marriage of Frederic II. with the daughter of John of brienne, and the double union of the crowns of Naples and Jerusalem.]

[Footnote 42: Acropolita, c. 27. The historian was at that time a boy, and educated at Constantinople. In 1233, when he was eleven years old,

his father broke the Latin chain, left a splendid fortune, and escaped to the Greek court of Nice, where his son was raised to the highest

honors.]

[Footnote 421: John de Brienne, elected emperor 1229, wasted two years in

preparations, and did not arrive at Constantinople till 1231. Two years

more glided away in inglorious inaction; he then made some ineffective warlike expeditions. Constantinople was not besieged till 1234.--M.]

[Footnote 43: Philip Mouskes, bishop of Tournay, (A.D. 1274--1282,) has composed a poem, or rather string of verses, in bad old Flemish French,

on the Latin emperors of Constantinople, which Ducange has published at the end of Villehardouin; see p. 38, for the prowess of John of Brienne.

N'Aie, Ector, Roll' ne Ogiers

Ne Judas Machabeus li fiers tant ne fit d'armes en estors com fist li Rois Jehans cel jors et il defors et il dedans

La paru sa force et ses sens et li hardiment qu'il avoit.]

[Footnote 44: See the reign of John de Brienne, in Ducange, Hist. de C.

P. l. ii. c. 13--26.]

In the double victory of John of Brienne, I cannot discover the name

or exploits of his pupil Baldwin, who had attained the age of military

service, and who succeeded to the imperial dignity on the decease of his adoptive father. [45] The royal youth was employed on a commission more

suitable to his temper; he was sent to visit the Western courts, of the

pope more especially, and of the king of France; to excite their pity by the view of his innocence and distress; and to obtain some supplies of

men or money for the relief of the sinking empire. He thrice repeated these mendicant visits, in which he seemed to prolong his stay and

postpone his return; of the five-and-twenty years of his reign, a

greater number were spent abroad than at home; and in no place did the emperor deem himself less free and secure than in his native country and

his capital. On some public occasions, his vanity might be soothed by the title of Augustus, and by the honors of the purple; and at the

general council of Lyons, when Frederic the Second was excommunicated and deposed, his Oriental colleague was enthroned on the right hand of the pope. But how often was the exile, the vagrant, the Imperial beggar,

humbled with scorn, insulted with pity, and degraded in his own eyes and those of the nations! In his first visit to England, he was stopped at dover by a severe reprimand, that he should presume, without leave, to enter an independent kingdom. After some delay, Baldwin, however, was

permitted to pursue his journey, was entertained with cold civility, and thankfully departed with a present of seven hundred marks. [46] From the avarice of Rome he could only obtain the proclamation of a crusade, and a treasure of indulgences; a coin whose currency was depreciated by too frequent and indiscriminate abuse. His birth and misfortunes recommended

him to the generosity of his cousin Louis the Ninth; but the martial

zeal of the saint was diverted from Constantinople to Egypt and

Palestine; and the public and private poverty of Baldwin was alleviated, for a moment, by the alienation of the marquisate of Namur and the

lordship of Courtenay, the last remains of his inheritance. [47] By such

shameful or ruinous expedients, he once more returned to Romania, with an army of thirty thousand soldiers, whose numbers were doubled in the apprehension of the Greeks. His first despatches to France and England announced his victories and his hopes: he had reduced the country round the capital to the distance of three days' journey; and if he succeeded against an important, though nameless, city, (most probably Chiorli,) the frontier would be safe and the passage accessible. But these expectations (if Baldwin was sincere) quickly vanished like a dream: the troops and treasures of France melted away in his unskilful hands; and the throne of the Latin emperor was protected by a dishonorable alliance with the Turks and Comans. To secure the former, he consented to bestow

his niece on the unbelieving sultan of Cogni; to please the latter, he complied with their Pagan rites; a dog was sacrificed between the two armies; and the contracting parties tasted each other's blood, as a pledge of their fidelity. [48] In the palace, or prison, of constantinople, the successor of Augustus demolished the vacant houses for winter fuel, and stripped the lead from the churches for the daily expense of his family. Some usurious loans were dealt with a scanty hand by the merchants of Italy; and Philip, his son and heir, was pawned at

Venice as the security for a debt. [49] Thirst, hunger, and nakedness, are positive evils: but wealth is relative; and a prince who would be

rich in a private station, may be exposed by the increase of his wants to all the anxiety and bitterness of poverty.

[Footnote 45: See the reign of Baldwin II. till his expulsion from constantinople, in Ducange, Hist. de C. P. l. iv. c. 1--34, the end l.

v. c. 1--33.]

[Footnote 46: Matthew Paris relates the two visits of Baldwin II. to the english court, p. 396, 637; his return to Greece armatâ manû, p. 407

his letters of his nomen formidabile, &c., p. 481, (a passage which has escaped Ducange;) his expulsion, p. 850.]

[Footnote 47: Louis IX. disapproved and stopped the alienation of courtenay (Ducange, l. iv. c. 23.) It is now annexed to the

royal demesne but granted for a term (\_engagé\_) to the family of boulainvilliers. Courtenay, in the election of Nemours in the Isle de france, is a town of 900 inhabitants, with the remains of a castle,

(Mélanges tirés d'une Grande Bibliothèque, tom. xlv. p. 74--77.)]

[Footnote 48: Joinville, p. 104, edit. du Louvre. A Coman prince, who died without baptism, was buried at the gates of Constantinople with a

live retinue of slaves and horses.]

[Footnote 49: Sanut. Secret. Fidel. Crucis, l. ii. p. iv. c. 18, p. 73.]

chapter LXI: Partition Of The Empire By The French And Venetians.--Part III.

but in this abject distress, the emperor and empire were still

possessed of an ideal treasure, which drew its fantastic value from the

superstition of the Christian world. The merit of the true cross was

somewhat impaired by its frequent division; and a long captivity among the infidels might shed some suspicion on the fragments that were

produced in the East and West. But another relic of the Passion was

preserved in the Imperial chapel of Constantinople; and the crown of thorns which had been placed on the head of Christ was equally precious and authentic. It had formerly been the practice of the Egyptian debtors to deposit, as a security, the mummies of their parents; and both their

honor and religion were bound for the redemption of the pledge. In the

same manner, and in the absence of the emperor, the barons of Romania borrowed the sum of thirteen thousand one hundred and thirty-four

pieces of gold [50] on the credit of the holy crown: they failed in the

performance of their contract; and a rich Venetian, Nicholas Querini,

undertook to satisfy their impatient creditors, on condition that the

relic should be lodged at Venice, to become his absolute property, if it were not redeemed within a short and definite term. The barons apprised their sovereign of the hard treaty and impending loss and as the empire could not afford a ransom of seven thousand pounds sterling, Baldwin was anxious to snatch the prize from the Venetians, and to vest it with more

honor and emolument in the hands of the most Christian king. [51] Yet the

negotiation was attended with some delicacy. In the purchase of relics, the saint would have started at the guilt of simony; but if the mode of expression were changed, he might lawfully repay the debt, accept the

gift, and acknowledge the obligation. His ambassadors, two Dominicans, were despatched to Venice to redeem and receive the holy crown which had escaped the dangers of the sea and the galleys of Vataces. On opening a wooden box, they recognized the seals of the doge and barons, which were applied on a shrine of silver; and within this shrine the monument

of the Passion was enclosed in a golden vase. The reluctant Venetians

yielded to justice and power: the emperor Frederic granted a free and

honorable passage; the court of France advanced as far as Troyes in champagne, to meet with devotion this inestimable relic: it was borne in triumph through Paris by the king himself, barefoot, and in his shirt; and a free gift of ten thousand marks of silver reconciled Baldwin to

his loss. The success of this transaction tempted the Latin emperor to

offer with the same generosity the remaining furniture of his chapel;

[52] a large and authentic portion of the true cross; the baby-linen of the Son of God, the lance, the sponge, and the chain, of his Passion; the rod of Moses, and part of the skull of St. John the Baptist. For the reception of these spiritual treasures, twenty thousand marks were expended by St. Louis on a stately foundation, the holy chapel of Paris,

on which the muse of Boileau has bestowed a comic immortality. The truth

of such remote and ancient relics, which cannot be proved by any human testimony, must be admitted by those who believe in the miracles which they have performed. About the middle of the last age, an inveterate

ulcer was touched and cured by a holy prickle of the holy crown: [53] the prodigy is attested by the most pious and enlightened Christians of france; nor will the fact be easily disproved, except by those who are armed with a general antidote against religious credulity. [54]

[Footnote 50: Under the words \_Perparus\_, \_Perpera\_, \_Hyperperum\_, ducange is short and vague: Monetæ genus. From a corrupt passage of

Guntherus, (Hist. C. P. c. 8, p. 10,) I guess that the Perpera was the nummus aureus, the fourth part of a mark of silver, or about ten

shillings sterling in value. In lead it would be too contemptible.]

[Footnote 51: For the translation of the holy crown, &c., from constantinople to Paris, see Ducange (Hist. de C. P. l. iv. c. 11--14,

24, 35) and Fleury, (Hist. Ecclés. tom. xvii. p. 201--204.)]

[Footnote 52: Mélanges tirés d'une Grande Bibliothèque, tom. xliii.

p. 201--205. The Lutrin of Boileau exhibits the inside, the soul and manners of the \_Sainte Chapelle\_; and many facts relative to the

institution are collected and explained by his commentators, Brosset and de St. Marc.]

[Footnote 53: It was performed A.D. 1656, March 24, on the niece of

Pascal; and that superior genius, with Arnauld, Nicole, &c., were on the

spot, to believe and attest a miracle which confounded the Jesuits, and saved Port Royal, (uvres de Racine, tom. vi. p. 176--187, in his eloquent History of Port Royal.)]

[Footnote 54: Voltaire (Siécle de Louis XIV. c. 37, uvres, tom. ix. p.

178, 179) strives to invalidate the fact: but Hume, (Essays, vol. ii.

p. 483, 484,) with more skill and success, seizes the battery, and turns the cannon against his enemies.]

the Latins of Constantinople [55] were on all sides encompassed and

pressed; their sole hope, the last delay of their ruin, was in the division of their Greek and Bulgarian enemies; and of this hope they were deprived by the superior arms and policy of Vataces, emperor of

Nice. From the Propontis to the rocky coast of Pamphylia, Asia was

peaceful and prosperous under his reign; and the events of every campaign extended his influence in Europe. The strong cities of the

hills of Macedonia and Thrace were rescued from the Bulgarians; and their kingdom was circumscribed by its present and proper limits, along the southern banks of the Danube. The sole emperor of the Romans could

no longer brook that a lord of Epirus, a Comnenian prince of the West,

should presume to dispute or share the honors of the purple; and the

humble Demetrius changed the color of his buskins, and accepted with

gratitude the appellation of despot. His own subjects were exasperated by his baseness and incapacity; they implored the protection of their

supreme lord. After some resistance, the kingdom of Thessalonica was

united to the empire of Nice; and Vataces reigned without a competitor from the Turkish borders to the Adriatic Gulf. The princes of Europe

revered his merit and power; and had he subscribed an orthodox creed,

it should seem that the pope would have abandoned without reluctance the

Latin throne of Constantinople. But the death of Vataces, the short and busy reign of Theodore his son, and the helpless infancy of his grandson

John, suspended the restoration of the Greeks. In the next chapter,

I shall explain their domestic revolutions; in this place, it will be sufficient to observe, that the young prince was oppressed by the ambition of his guardian and colleague, Michael Palæologus, who displayed the virtues and vices that belong to the founder of a new dynasty. The emperor Baldwin had flattered himself, that he might

recover some provinces or cities by an impotent negotiation. His ambassadors were dismissed from Nice with mockery and contempt. At every

place which they named, Palæologus alleged some special reason, which

rendered it dear and valuable in his eyes: in the one he was born; in another he had been first promoted to military command; and in a third

he had enjoyed, and hoped long to enjoy, the pleasures of the chase.

"And what then do you propose to give us?" said the astonished deputies.

"Nothing," replied the Greek, "not a foot of land. If your master be desirous of peace, let him pay me, as an annual tribute, the sum which

he receives from the trade and customs of Constantinople. On these terms, I may allow him to reign. If he refuses, it is war. I am not

ignorant of the art of war, and I trust the event to God and my sword."

[56] An expedition against the despot of Epirus was the first prelude

of his arms. If a victory was followed by a defeat; if the race of the comneni or Angeli survived in those mountains his efforts and his reign; the captivity of Villehardouin, prince of Achaia, deprived the Latins

of the most active and powerful vassal of their expiring monarchy. The

republics of Venice and Genoa disputed, in the first of their naval wars, the command of the sea and the commerce of the East. Pride and

interest attached the Venetians to the defence of Constantinople; their

rivals were tempted to promote the designs of her enemies, and the alliance of the Genoese with the schismatic conqueror provoked the

indignation of the Latin church. [57]

[Footnote 55: The gradual losses of the Latins may be traced in the third fourth, and fifth books of the compilation of Ducange: but of the Greek conquests he has dropped many circumstances, which may be

recovered from the larger history of George Acropolita, and the three first books of Nicephorus, Gregoras, two writers of the Byzantine

series, who have had the good fortune to meet with learned editors Leo allatius at Rome, and John Boivin in the Academy of Inscriptions of

Paris.]

[Footnote 56: George Acropolita, c. 78, p. 89, 90. edit. Paris.]

[Footnote 57: The Greeks, ashamed of any foreign aid, disguise the alliance and succor of the Genoese: but the fact is proved by the testimony of J Villani (Chron. l. vi. c. 71, in Muratori, Script. Rerum

Italicarum, tom. xiii. p. 202, 203) and William de Nangis, (Annales de

St. Louis, p. 248 in the Louvre Joinville,) two impartial foreigners; and Urban IV threatened to deprive Genoa of her archbishop.]

Intent on his great object, the emperor Michael visited in person and

strengthened the troops and fortifications of Thrace. The remains of the Latins were driven from their last possessions: he assaulted without

success the suburb of Galata; and corresponded with a perfidious baron, who proved unwilling, or unable, to open the gates of the metropolis. the next spring, his favorite general, Alexius Strategopulus, whom he

had decorated with the title of Cæsar, passed the Hellespont with eight hundred horse and some infantry, [58] on a secret expedition. His

instructions enjoined him to approach, to listen, to watch, but not to

risk any doubtful or dangerous enterprise against the city. The adjacent territory between the Propontis and the Black Sea was cultivated by a hardy race of peasants and outlaws, exercised in arms, uncertain

in their allegiance, but inclined by language, religion, and

present advantage, to the party of the Greeks. They were styled the

\_volunteers\_; [59] and by their free service the army of Alexius, with the regulars of Thrace and the Coman auxiliaries, [60] was augmented to the number of five-and-twenty thousand men. By the ardor of the

volunteers, and by his own ambition, the Cæsar was stimulated to disobey the precise orders of his master, in the just confidence that success would plead his pardon and reward. The weakness of Constantinople, and the distress and terror of the Latins, were familiar to the observation

of the volunteers; and they represented the present moment as the most

propitious to surprise and conquest. A rash youth, the new governor of the Venetian colony, had sailed away with thirty galleys, and the best

of the French knights, on a wild expedition to Daphnusia, a town on the black Sea, at the distance of forty leagues; [601] and the remaining Latins were without strength or suspicion. They were informed that Alexius

had passed the Hellespont; but their apprehensions were lulled by the

smallness of his original numbers; and their imprudence had not watched the subsequent increase of his army. If he left his main body to second and support his operations, he might advance unperceived in the night with a chosen detachment. While some applied scaling-ladders to the

lowest part of the walls, they were secure of an old Greek, who would

introduce their companions through a subterraneous passage into his

house; they could soon on the inside break an entrance through the

golden gate, which had been long obstructed; and the conqueror would be in the heart of the city before the Latins were conscious of their danger. After some debate, the Cæsar resigned himself to the faith

of the volunteers; they were trusty, bold, and successful; and in describing the plan, I have already related the execution and success.

[61] But no sooner had Alexius passed the threshold of the golden gate, than he trembled at his own rashness; he paused, he deliberated; till the desperate volunteers urged him forwards, by the assurance that in

retreat lay the greatest and most inevitable danger. Whilst the Cæsar

kept his regulars in firm array, the Comans dispersed themselves on all sides; an alarm was sounded, and the threats of fire and pillage compelled the citizens to a decisive resolution. The Greeks of constantinople remembered their native sovereigns; the Genoese merchants their recent alliance and Venetian foes; every quarter was in arms; and the air resounded with a general acclamation of "Long life and victory to Michael and John, the august emperors of the Romans!" Their rival, baldwin, was awakened by the sound; but the most pressing danger could

not prompt him to draw his sword in the defence of a city which he deserted, perhaps, with more pleasure than regret: he fled from the

palace to the seashore, where he descried the welcome sails of the fleet returning from the vain and fruitless attempt on Daphnusia. constantinople was irrecoverably lost; but the Latin emperor and the

principal families embarked on board the Venetian galleys, and steered for the Isle of Euba, and afterwards for Italy, where the royal fugitive was entertained by the pope and Sicilian king with a mixture of contempt and pity. From the loss of Constantinople to his death, he consumed thirteen years, soliciting the Catholic powers to join in his

restoration: the lesson had been familiar to his youth; nor was his last exile more indigent or shameful than his three former pilgrimages to the courts of Europe. His son Philip was the heir of an ideal empire; and the pretensions of his daughter Catherine were transported by her

marriage to Charles of Valois, the brother of Philip the Fair, king of france. The house of Courtenay was represented in the female line by

successive alliances, till the title of emperor of Constantinople, too bulky and sonorous for a private name, modestly expired in silence and

oblivion. [62]

[Footnote 58: Some precautions must be used in reconciling the discordant numbers; the 800 soldiers of Nicetas, the 25,000 of

Spandugino, (apud Ducange, l. v. c. 24;) the Greeks and Scythians of acropolita; and the numerous army of Michael, in the Epistles of Pope

Urban IV. (i. 129.)]

[Footnote 59: Qelhmatarioi. They are described and named by Pachymer,

(l. ii. c. 14.)]

[Footnote 60: It is needless to seek these Comans in the deserts of tartary, or even of Moldavia. A part of the horde had submitted to John

Vataces, and was probably settled as a nursery of soldiers on some waste

lands of Thrace, (Cantacuzen. l. i. c. 2.)]

[Footnote 601: According to several authorities, particularly Abulfaradj. chron. Arab. p. 336, this was a stratagem on the part of the Greeks to weaken the garrison of Constantinople. The Greek commander offered to

surrender the town on the appearance of the Venetians.--M.]

[Footnote 61: The loss of Constantinople is briefly told by the Latins: the conquest is described with more satisfaction by the Greeks; by acropolita, (c. 85,) Pachymer, (l. ii. c. 26, 27,) Nicephorus Gregoras,

(l. iv. c. 1, 2) See Ducange, Hist. de C. P. l. v. c. 19--27.]

[Footnote 62: See the three last books (l. v.--viii.) and the

genealogical tables of Ducange. In the year 1382, the titular emperor

of Constantinople was James de Baux, duke of Andria in the kingdom of

Naples, the son of Margaret, daughter of Catherine de Valois, daughter

of Catharine, daughter of Philip, son of Baldwin II., (Ducange, l. viii. c. 37, 38.) It is uncertain whether he left any posterity.]

after this narrative of the expeditions of the Latins to Palestine and Constantinople, I cannot dismiss the subject without resolving the

general consequences on the countries that were the scene, and on the

nations that were the actors, of these memorable crusades. [63] As soon as the arms of the Franks were withdrawn, the impression, though not the memory, was erased in the Mahometan realms of Egypt and Syria. The faithful disciples of the prophet were never tempted by a profane desire to study the laws or language of the idolaters; nor did the simplicity

of their primitive manners receive the slightest alteration from their

intercourse in peace and war with the unknown strangers of the West. The

Greeks, who thought themselves proud, but who were only vain, showed a disposition somewhat less inflexible. In the efforts for the recovery of their empire, they emulated the valor, discipline, and tactics of their antagonists. The modern literature of the West they might justly despise; but its free spirit would instruct them in the rights of man; and some institutions of public and private life were adopted from the french. The correspondence of Constantinople and Italy diffused the

knowledge of the Latin tongue; and several of the fathers and classics were at length honored with a Greek version. [64] But the national and

religious prejudices of the Orientals were inflamed by persecution, and the reign of the Latins confirmed the separation of the two churches.

[Footnote 63: Abulfeda, who saw the conclusion of the crusades, speaks

of the kingdoms of the Franks, and those of the Negroes, as equally

unknown, (Prolegom. ad Geograph.) Had he not disdained the Latin

language, how easily might the Syrian prince have found books and

interpreters!]

[Footnote 64: A short and superficial account of these versions from

Latin into Greek is given by Huet, (de Interpretatione et de claris

Interpretibus p. 131--135.) Maximus Planudes, a monk of Constantinople,

(A.D. 1327--1353) has translated Cæsar's Commentaries, the Somnium

Scipionis, the Metamorphoses and Heroides of Ovid, &c., (Fabric. Bib.

Græc. tom. x. p. 533.)]

If we compare the æra of the crusades, the Latins of Europe with the

Greeks and Arabians, their respective degrees of knowledge, industry, and art, our rude ancestors must be content with the third rank in the

scale of nations. Their successive improvement and present superiority

may be ascribed to a peculiar energy of character, to an active and

imitative spirit, unknown to their more polished rivals, who at that time were in a stationary or retrograde state. With such a disposition, the Latins should have derived the most early and essential benefits from a series of events which opened to their eyes the prospect of the world, and introduced them to a long and frequent intercourse with the

more cultivated regions of the East. The first and most obvious progress was in trade and manufactures, in the arts which are strongly prompted by the thirst of wealth, the calls of necessity, and the gratification

of the sense or vanity. Among the crowd of unthinking fanatics, a captive or a pilgrim might sometimes observe the superior refinements

of Cairo and Constantinople: the first importer of windmills [65] was the benefactor of nations; and if such blessings are enjoyed without any grateful remembrance, history has condescended to notice the more apparent luxuries of silk and sugar, which were transported into Italy from Greece and Egypt. But the intellectual wants of the Latins were

more slowly felt and supplied; the ardor of studious curiosity was awakened in Europe by different causes and more recent events; and,

in the age of the crusades, they viewed with careless indifference the

literature of the Greeks and Arabians. Some rudiments of mathematical and medicinal knowledge might be imparted in practice and in figures;

necessity might produce some interpreters for the grosser business

of merchants and soldiers; but the commerce of the Orientals had not diffused the study and knowledge of their languages in the schools of europe. [66] If a similar principle of religion repulsed the idiom of the

Koran, it should have excited their patience and curiosity to understand the original text of the gospel; and the same grammar would have

unfolded the sense of Plato and the beauties of Homer. Yet in a reign

of sixty years, the Latins of Constantinople disdained the speech and

learning of their subjects; and the manuscripts were the only treasures which the natives might enjoy without rapine or envy. Aristotle was

indeed the oracle of the Western universities, but it was a barbarous aristotle; and, instead of ascending to the fountain head, his Latin

votaries humbly accepted a corrupt and remote version, from the Jews and Moors of Andalusia. The principle of the crusades was a savage fanaticism; and the most important effects were analogous to the cause. each pilgrim was ambitious to return with his sacred spoils, the relics

of Greece and Palestine; [67] and each relic was preceded and followed by a train of miracles and visions. The belief of the Catholics was corrupted by new legends, their practice by new superstitions; and the establishment of the inquisition, the mendicant orders of monks and friars, the last abuse of indulgences, and the final progress of

idolatry, flowed from the baleful fountain of the holy war. The active

spirit of the Latins preyed on the vitals of their reason and religion; and if the ninth and tenth centuries were the times of darkness, the thirteenth and fourteenth were the age of absurdity and fable.

[Footnote 65: Windmills, first invented in the dry country of Asia

Minor, were used in Normandy as early as the year 1105, (Vie privée des françois, tom. i. p. 42, 43. Ducange, Gloss. Latin. tom. iv. p. 474.)]

[Footnote 66: See the complaints of Roger Bacon, (Biographia Britannica,

vol. i. p. 418, Kippis's edition.) If Bacon himself, or Gerbert,

understood \_some\_Greek, they were prodigies, and owed nothing to the commerce of the East.]

[Footnote 67: Such was the opinion of the great Leibnitz, (uvres de fontenelle, tom. v. p. 458,) a master of the history of the middle ages.

I shall only instance the pedigree of the Carmelites, and the flight of the house of Loretto, which were both derived from Palestine.]

chapter LXI: Partition Of The Empire By The French And Venetians.--Part IV.

In the profession of Christianity, in the cultivation of a fertile land, the northern conquerors of the Roman empire insensibly mingled with the

provincials, and rekindled the embers of the arts of antiquity. Their

settlements about the age of Charlemagne had acquired some degree

of order and stability, when they were overwhelmed by new swarms of

invaders, the Normans, Saracens, [68] and Hungarians, who replunged the western countries of Europe into their former state of anarchy and barbarism. About the eleventh century, the second tempest had subsided by the expulsion or conversion of the enemies of Christendom: the tide

of civilization, which had so long ebbed, began to flow with a steady and accelerated course; and a fairer prospect was opened to the hopes and efforts of the rising generations. Great was the increase, and rapid the progress, during the two hundred years of the crusades; and some

philosophers have applauded the propitious influence of these holy wars, which appear to me to have checked rather than forwarded the maturity of europe. [69] The lives and labors of millions, which were buried in the east, would have been more profitably employed in the improvement of their native country: the accumulated stock of industry and wealth would

have overflowed in navigation and trade; and the Latins would have been enriched and enlightened by a pure and friendly correspondence with the climates of the East. In one respect I can indeed perceive the accidental operation of the crusades, not so much in producing a benefit as in removing an evil. The larger portion of the inhabitants of Europe was chained to the soil, without freedom, or property, or knowledge; and the two orders of ecclesiastics and nobles, whose numbers were comparatively small, alone deserved the name of citizens and men. This

oppressive system was supported by the arts of the clergy and the swords

of the barons. The authority of the priests operated in the darker ages as a salutary antidote: they prevented the total extinction of

letters, mitigated the fierceness of the times, sheltered the poor and defenceless, and preserved or revived the peace and order of civil

society. But the independence, rapine, and discord of the feudal lords were unmixed with any semblance of good; and every hope of industry and

improvement was crushed by the iron weight of the martial aristocracy. among the causes that undermined that Gothic edifice, a conspicuous

place must be allowed to the crusades. The estates of the barons were dissipated, and their race was often extinguished, in these costly and

perilous expeditions. Their poverty extorted from their pride those charters of freedom which unlocked the fetters of the slave, secured the farm of the peasant and the shop of the artificer, and gradually

restored a substance and a soul to the most numerous and useful part

of the community. The conflagration which destroyed the tall and barren trees of the forest gave air and scope to the vegetation of the smaller and nutritive plants of the soil. [691]

[Footnote 68: If I rank the Saracens with the Barbarians, it is only

relative to their wars, or rather inroads, in Italy and France, where their sole purpose was to plunder and destroy.]

[Footnote 69: On this interesting subject, the progress of society in europe, a strong ray of philosophical light has broke from Scotland in

our own times; and it is with private, as well as public regard, that I

repeat the names of Hume, Robertson, and Adam Smith.]

[Footnote 691: On the consequences of the crusades, compare the valuable essay of Heeren, that of M. Choiseul d'Aillecourt, and a chapter of

Mr. Forster's "Mahometanism Unveiled." I may admire this gentleman's

learning and industry, without pledging myself to his wild theory of

prophets interpretation.--M.]

\_Digression On The Family Of Courtenay.\_

the purple of three emperors, who have reigned at Constantinople, will authorize or excuse a digression on the origin and singular fortunes

of the house of Courtenay, [70] in the three principal branches: I. Of edessa; II. Of France; and III. Of England; of which the last only has

survived the revolutions of eight hundred years.

[Footnote 70: I have applied, but not confined, myself to \_A

genealogical History of the noble and illustrious Family of Courtenay, by Ezra Cleaveland, Tutor to Sir William Courtenay, and Rector of

Honiton; Exon. 1735, in folio.\_ The first part is extracted from William

of Tyre; the second from Bouchet's French history; and the third from

various memorials, public, provincial, and private, of the Courtenays of devonshire The rector of Honiton has more gratitude than industry, and

more industry than criticism.]

I. Before the introduction of trade, which scatters riches, and of

knowledge, which dispels prejudice, the prerogative of birth is most

strongly felt and most humbly acknowledged. In every age, the laws and

manners of the Germans have discriminated the ranks of society; the dukes and counts, who shared the empire of Charlemagne, converted their office to an inheritance; and to his children, each feudal lord bequeathed his honor and his sword. The proudest families are content to lose, in the darkness of the middle ages, the tree of their pedigree, which, however deep and lofty, must ultimately rise from a plebeian

root; and their historians must descend ten centuries below the christian æra, before they can ascertain any lineal succession by the evidence of surnames, of arms, and of authentic records. With the first

rays of light, [71] we discern the nobility and opulence of Atho, a french knight; his nobility, in the rank and title of a nameless father;

his opulence, in the foundation of the castle of Courtenay in the district of Gatinois, about fifty-six miles to the south of Paris. From the reign of Robert, the son of Hugh Capet, the barons of Courtenay are conspicuous among the immediate vassals of the crown; and Joscelin, the

grandson of Atho and a noble dame, is enrolled among the heroes of the first crusade. A domestic alliance (their mothers were sisters) attached

him to the standard of Baldwin of Bruges, the second count of Edessa; a princely fief, which he was worthy to receive, and able to maintain, announces the number of his martial followers; and after the departure

of his cousin, Joscelin himself was invested with the county of Edessa

on both sides of the Euphrates. By economy in peace, his territories were replenished with Latin and Syrian subjects; his magazines with corn, wine, and oil; his castles with gold and silver, with arms and horses. In a holy warfare of thirty years, he was alternately a conqueror and a captive: but he died like a soldier, in a horse litter at the head of his troops; and his last glance beheld the flight of the turkish invaders who had presumed on his age and infirmities. His son and successor, of the same name, was less deficient in valor than

in vigilance; but he sometimes forgot that dominion is acquired and

maintained by the same arms. He challenged the hostility of the Turks, without securing the friendship of the prince of Antioch; and, amidst the peaceful luxury of Turbessel, in Syria, [72] Joscelin neglected the defence of the Christian frontier beyond the Euphrates. In his absence,

Zenghi, the first of the Atabeks, besieged and stormed his capital, edessa, which was feebly defended by a timorous and disloyal crowd of

Orientals: the Franks were oppressed in a bold attempt for its recovery, and Courtenay ended his days in the prison of Aleppo. He still left a fair and ample patrimony But the victorious Turks oppressed on all sides the weakness of a widow and orphan; and, for the equivalent of an annual

pension, they resigned to the Greek emperor the charge of defending, and the shame of losing, the last relics of the Latin conquest. The countess-dowager of Edessa retired to Jerusalem with her two children; the daughter, Agnes, became the wife and mother of a king; the son,

Joscelin the Third, accepted the office of seneschal, the first of the

kingdom, and held his new estates in Palestine by the service of fifty

knights. His name appears with honor in the transactions of peace and war; but he finally vanishes in the fall of Jerusalem; and the name of courtenay, in this branch of Edessa, was lost by the marriage of his two daughters with a French and German baron. [73]

[Footnote 71: The primitive record of the family is a passage of the continuator of Aimoin, a monk of Fleury, who wrote in the xiith century.

See his Chronicle, in the Historians of France, (tom. xi. p. 276.)]

[Footnote 72: Turbessel, or, as it is now styled, Telbesher, is fixed by D'Anville four-and-twenty miles from the great passage over the euphrates at Zeugma.]

[Footnote 73: His possessions are distinguished in the Assises of

Jerusalem (c. B26) among the feudal tenures of the kingdom, which must therefore have been collected between the years 1153 and 1187. His

pedigree may be found in the Lignages d'Outremer, c. 16.]

II. While Joscelin reigned beyond the Euphrates, his elder brother Milo, the son of Joscelin, the son of Atho, continued, near the Seine, to

possess the castle of their fathers, which was at length inherited by

Rainaud, or Reginald, the youngest of his three sons. Examples of genius

or virtue must be rare in the annals of the oldest families; and, in a

remote age their pride will embrace a deed of rapine and violence;

such, however, as could not be perpetrated without some superiority of courage, or, at least, of power. A descendant of Reginald of Courtenay

may blush for the public robber, who stripped and imprisoned several

merchants, after they had satisfied the king's duties at Sens and

Orleans. He will glory in the offence, since the bold offender could not be compelled to obedience and restitution, till the regent and the count

of Champagne prepared to march against him at the head of an army. [74]

Reginald bestowed his estates on his eldest daughter, and his daughter

on the seventh son of King Louis the Fat; and their marriage was crowned with a numerous offspring. We might expect that a private should have

merged in a royal name; and that the descendants of Peter of France and Elizabeth of Courtenay would have enjoyed the titles and honors of

princes of the blood. But this legitimate claim was long neglected, and finally denied; and the causes of their disgrace will represent the

story of this second branch. \_1.\_ Of all the families now extant, the

most ancient, doubtless, and the most illustrious, is the house of france, which has occupied the same throne above eight hundred years, and descends, in a clear and lineal series of males, from the middle

of the ninth century. [75] In the age of the crusades, it was already

revered both in the East and West. But from Hugh Capet to the marriage

of Peter, no more than five reigns or generations had elapsed; and

so precarious was their title, that the eldest sons, as a necessary

precaution, were previously crowned during the lifetime of their fathers. The peers of France have long maintained their precedency before the younger branches of the royal line, nor had the princes of the blood, in the twelfth century, acquired that hereditary lustre which

is now diffused over the most remote candidates for the succession. \_2.\_ the barons of Courtenay must have stood high in their own estimation, and in that of the world, since they could impose on the son of a king the obligation of adopting for himself and all his descendants the name and arms of their daughter and his wife. In the marriage of an heiress with her inferior or her equal, such exchange often required and allowed: but as they continued to diverge from the regal stem, the

sons of Louis the Fat were insensibly confounded with their maternal ancestors; and the new Courtenays might deserve to forfeit the honors

of their birth, which a motive of interest had tempted them to renounce.

\_3.\_ The shame was far more permanent than the reward, and a momentary blaze was followed by a long darkness. The eldest son of these nuptials,

Peter of Courtenay, had married, as I have already mentioned, the sister

of the counts of Flanders, the two first emperors of Constantinople: he

rashly accepted the invitation of the barons of Romania; his two sons,

Robert and Baldwin, successively held and lost the remains of the Latin empire in the East, and the granddaughter of Baldwin the Second again

mingled her blood with the blood of France and of Valois. To support the expenses of a troubled and transitory reign, their patrimonial estates were mortgaged or sold: and the last emperors of Constantinople depended

on the annual charity of Rome and Naples.

[Footnote 74: The rapine and satisfaction of Reginald de Courtenay, are

preposterously arranged in the Epistles of the abbot and regent Suger,

(cxiv. cxvi.,) the best memorials of the age, (Duchesne, Scriptores

Hist. Franc. tom. iv. p. 530.)]

[Footnote 75: In the beginning of the xith century, after naming the father and grandfather of Hugh Capet, the monk Glaber is obliged to add, cujus genus valde in-ante reperitur obscurum. Yet we are assured that the great-grandfather of Hugh Capet was Robert the Strong count of anjou, (A.D. 863--873,) a noble Frank of Neustria, Neustricus...

generosæ stirpis, who was slain in the defence of his country against the Normans, dum patriæ fines tuebatur. Beyond Robert, all is conjecture

or fable. It is a probable conjecture, that the third race descended from the second by Childebrand, the brother of Charles Martel. It is an absurd fable that the second was allied to the first by the marriage of ansbert, a Roman senator and the ancestor of St. Arnoul, with Blitilde, a daughter of Clotaire I. The Saxon origin of the house of France is an ancient but incredible opinion. See a judicious memoir of M. de foncemagne, (Mémoires de l'Académie des Inscriptions, tom. xx. p.

548--579.) He had promised to declare his own opinion in a second

memoir, which has never appeared.]

while the elder brothers dissipated their wealth in romantic adventures, and the castle of Courtenay was profaned by a plebeian owner, the

younger branches of that adopted name were propagated and multiplied. but their splendor was clouded by poverty and time: after the decease of

Robert, great butler of France, they descended from princes to barons; the next generations were confounded with the simple gentry; the descendants of Hugh Capet could no longer be visible in the rural lords

of Tanlay and of Champignelles. The more adventurous embraced without dishonor the profession of a soldier: the least active and opulent might

sink, like their cousins of the branch of Dreux, into the condition of

peasants. Their royal descent, in a dark period of four hundred years, became each day more obsolete and ambiguous; and their pedigree, instead

of being enrolled in the annals of the kingdom, must be painfully

searched by the minute diligence of heralds and genealogists. It was

not till the end of the sixteenth century, on the accession of a family almost as remote as their own, that the princely spirit of the courtenays again revived; and the question of the nobility provoked them to ascertain the royalty of their blood. They appealed to the justice and compassion of Henry the Fourth; obtained a favorable opinion from twenty lawyers of Italy and Germany, and modestly compared themselves to the descendants of King David, whose prerogatives were not impaired by the lapse of ages or the trade of a carpenter. [76] But every ear was deaf, and every circumstance was adverse, to their lawful claims. The bourbon kings were justified by the neglect of the Valois; the princes

of the blood, more recent and lofty, disdained the alliance of his

humble kindred: the parliament, without denying their proofs, eluded a dangerous precedent by an arbitrary distinction, and established

St. Louis as the first father of the royal line. [77] A repetition of complaints and protests was repeatedly disregarded; and the hopeless

pursuit was terminated in the present century by the death of the

last male of the family. [78] Their painful and anxious situation was alleviated by the pride of conscious virtue: they sternly rejected the temptations of fortune and favor; and a dying Courtenay would have

sacrificed his son, if the youth could have renounced, for any temporal

interest, the right and title of a legitimate prince of the blood of france. [79]

[Footnote 76: Of the various petitions, apologies, &c., published by the

princes of Courtenay, I have seen the three following, all in octavo:

1. De Stirpe et Origine Domus de Courtenay: addita sunt Responsa celeberrimorum Europæ Jurisconsultorum; Paris, 1607. 2. Representation du Procedé tenû a l'instance faicte devant le Roi, par Messieurs de courtenay, pour la conservation de l'Honneur et Dignité de leur Maison, branche de la royalle Maison de France; à Paris, 1613. 3. Representation du subject qui a porté Messieurs de Salles et de Fraville, de la Maison de Courtenay, à se retirer hors du Royaume, 1614. It was a homicide, for which the Courtenays expected to be pardoned, or tried, as princes of the blood.]

[Footnote 77: The sense of the parliaments is thus expressed by Thuanus

Principis nomen nusquam in Galliâ tributum, nisi iis qui per mares e

regibus nostris originem repetunt; qui nunc tantum a Ludovico none beatæ

memoriæ numerantur; nam \_Cortini\_ et Drocenses, a Ludovico crasso

genus ducentes, hodie inter eos minime recensentur. A distinction of expediency rather than justice. The sanctity of Louis IX. could not

invest him with any special prerogative, and all the descendants of Hugh capet must be included in his original compact with the French nation.]

[Footnote 78: The last male of the Courtenays was Charles Roger, who died in the year 1730, without leaving any sons. The last female was

Helene de Courtenay, who married Louis de Beaufremont. Her title of

Princesse du Sang Royal de France was suppressed (February 7th, 1737) by an \_arrêt\_ of the parliament of Paris.]

[Footnote 79: The singular anecdote to which I allude is related in the

Recueil des Pieces interessantes et peu connues, (Maestricht, 1786, in 4

vols. 12mo.;) and the unknown editor quotes his author, who had received

it from Helene de Courtenay, marquise de Beaufremont.]

III. According to the old register of Ford Abbey, the Courtenays of devonshire are descended from Prince \_Florus\_, the second son of Peter, and the grandson of Louis the Fat. [80] This fable of the grateful or

venal monks was too respectfully entertained by our antiquaries, Cambden

[81] and Dugdale: [82] but it is so clearly repugnant to truth and time, that the rational pride of the family now refuses to accept this

imaginary founder. Their most faithful historians believe, that, after

giving his daughter to the king's son, Reginald of Courtenay abandoned

his possessions in France, and obtained from the English monarch a

second wife and a new inheritance. It is certain, at least, that Henry the Second distinguished in his camps and councils a Reginald, of the

name and arms, and, as it may be fairly presumed, of the genuine race,

of the Courtenays of France. The right of wardship enabled a feudal lord to reward his vassal with the marriage and estate of a noble heiress; and Reginald of Courtenay acquired a fair establishment in Devonshire, where his posterity has been seated above six hundred years. [83] From a Norman baron, Baldwin de Brioniis, who had been invested by the Conqueror, Hawise, the wife of Reginald, derived the honor of

Okehampton, which was held by the service of ninety-three knights; and a female might claim the manly offices of hereditary viscount or sheriff, and of captain of the royal castle of Exeter. Their son Robert married the sister of the earl of Devon: at the end of a century, on the failure

of the family of Rivers, [84] his great-grandson, Hugh the Second,

succeeded to a title which was still considered as a territorial dignity; and twelve earls of Devonshire, of the name of Courtenay, have flourished in a period of two hundred and twenty years. They were ranked among the chief of the barons of the realm; nor was it till after a

strenuous dispute, that they yielded to the fief of Arundel the first

place in the parliament of England: their alliances were contracted with the noblest families, the Veres, Despensers, St. Johns, Talbots, Bohuns, and even the Plantagenets themselves; and in a contest with John of

Lancaster, a Courtenay, bishop of London, and afterwards archbishop of canterbury, might be accused of profane confidence in the strength and

number of his kindred. In peace, the earls of Devon resided in their

numerous castles and manors of the west; their ample revenue was appropriated to devotion and hospitality; and the epitaph of Edward,

surnamed from his misfortune, the \_blind\_, from his virtues, the \_good\_, earl, inculcates with much ingenuity a moral sentence, which may,

however, be abused by thoughtless generosity. After a grateful commemoration of the fifty-five years of union and happiness which he enjoyed with Mabe his wife, the good earl thus speaks from the tomb:--

"What we gave, we have;

What we spent, we had;

What we left, we lost." [85]

but their \_losses\_, in this sense, were far superior to their gifts and expenses; and their heirs, not less than the poor, were the objects

of their paternal care. The sums which they paid for livery and seizin attest the greatness of their possessions; and several estates have

remained in their family since the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries.

In war, the Courtenays of England fulfilled the duties, and deserved the

honors, of chivalry. They were often intrusted to levy and command the

militia of Devonshire and Cornwall; they often attended their supreme

lord to the borders of Scotland; and in foreign service, for a

stipulated price, they sometimes maintained fourscore men-at-arms and as many archers. By sea and land they fought under the standard of the Edwards and Henries: their names are conspicuous in battles, in tournaments, and in the original list of the Order of the Garter; three brothers shared the Spanish victory of the Black Prince; and in the

lapse of six generations, the English Courtenays had learned to despise the nation and country from which they derived their origin. In the

quarrel of the two roses, the earls of Devon adhered to the house of

Lancaster; and three brothers successively died either in the field or

on the scaffold. Their honors and estates were restored by Henry the

Seventh; a daughter of Edward the Fourth was not disgraced by the

nuptials of a Courtenay; their son, who was created Marquis of Exeter, enjoyed the favor of his cousin Henry the Eighth; and in the camp of cloth of Gold, he broke a lance against the French monarch. But the favor of Henry was the prelude of disgrace; his disgrace was the signal

of death; and of the victims of the jealous tyrant, the marquis of exeter is one of the most noble and guiltless. His son Edward lived a

prisoner in the Tower, and died in exile at Padua; and the secret love

of Queen Mary, whom he slighted, perhaps for the princess Elizabeth, has

shed a romantic color on the story of this beautiful youth. The relics

of his patrimony were conveyed into strange families by the marriages

of his four aunts; and his personal honors, as if they had been legally extinct, were revived by the patents of succeeding princes. But there

still survived a lineal descendant of Hugh, the first earl of Devon, a younger branch of the Courtenays, who have been seated at Powderham castle above four hundred years, from the reign of Edward the Third to the present hour. Their estates have been increased by the grant and

improvement of lands in Ireland, and they have been recently restored to the honors of the peerage. Yet the Courtenays still retain the plaintive

motto, which asserts the innocence, and deplores the fall, of their ancient house. [86] While they sigh for past greatness, they are doubtless sensible of present blessings: in the long series of the Courtenay annals, the most splendid æra is likewise the most

unfortunate; nor can an opulent peer of Britain be inclined to envy the emperors of Constantinople, who wandered over Europe to solicit alms for the support of their dignity and the defence of their capital.

[Footnote 80: Dugdale, Monasticon Anglicanum, vol. i. p. 786. Yet this fable must have been invented before the reign of Edward III. the profuse devotion of the three first generations to Ford Abbey was followed by oppression on one side and ingratitude on the other; and in the sixth generation, the monks ceased to register the births, actions, and deaths of their patrons.]

[Footnote 81: In his Britannia, in the list of the earls of Devonshire.

His expression, e regio sanguine ortos, credunt, betrays, however, some doubt or suspicion.]

[Footnote 82: In his Baronage, P. i. p. 634, he refers to his own

Monasticon. Should he not have corrected the register of Ford Abbey, and annihilated the phantom Florus, by the unquestionable evidence of the french historians?]

[Footnote 83: Besides the third and most valuable book of Cleaveland's

History, I have consulted Dugdale, the father of our genealogical

science, (Baronage, P. i. p. 634--643.)]

[Footnote 84: This great family, de Ripuariis, de Redvers, de Rivers, ended, in Edward the Fifth's time, in Isabella de Fortibus, a famous and potent dowager, who long survived her brother and husband, (Dugdale, baronage, P i. p. 254--257.)]

[Footnote 85: Cleaveland p. 142. By some it is assigned to a Rivers earl of Devon; but the English denotes the xvth, rather than the xiiith century.]

[Footnote 86: \_Ubi lapsus! Quid feci?\_ a motto which was probably adopted by the Powderham branch, after the loss of the earldom of devonshire, &c. The primitive arms of the Courtenays were, \_Or\_, \_three torteaux\_, \_Gules\_, which seem to denote their affinity with Godfrey of bouillon, and the ancient counts of Boulogne.]

chapter LXII: Greek Emperors Of Nice And Constantinople.--Part I.

The Greek Emperors Of Nice And Constantinople.--Elevation

And Reign Of Michael Palæologus.--His False Union With The

Pope And The Latin Church.--Hostile Designs Of Charles Of

Anjou.--Revolt Of Sicily.--War Of The Catalans In Asia And

Greece.--Revolutions And Present State Of Athens.

the loss of Constantinople restored a momentary vigor to the Greeks. from their palaces, the princes and nobles were driven into the field; and the fragments of the falling monarchy were grasped by the hands of the most vigorous or the most skilful candidates. In the long and barren

pages of the Byzantine annals, [1] it would not be an easy task to equal the two characters of Theodore Lascaris and John Ducas Vataces, [2] who replanted and upheld the Roman standard at Nice in Bithynia. The difference of their virtues was happily suited to the diversity of their

situation. In his first efforts, the fugitive Lascaris commanded only three cities and two thousand soldiers: his reign was the season of

generous and active despair: in every military operation he staked his

life and crown; and his enemies of the Hellespont and the Mæander, were

surprised by his celerity and subdued by his boldness. A victorious

reign of eighteen years expanded the principality of Nice to the

magnitude of an empire. The throne of his successor and son-in-law

Vataces was founded on a more solid basis, a larger scope, and more

plentiful resources; and it was the temper, as well as the interest, of

Vataces to calculate the risk, to expect the moment, and to insure the

success, of his ambitious designs. In the decline of the Latins, I have briefly exposed the progress of the Greeks; the prudent and gradual advances of a conqueror, who, in a reign of thirty-three years, rescued the provinces from national and foreign usurpers, till he pressed on all

sides the Imperial city, a leafless and sapless trunk, which must full at the first stroke of the axe. But his interior and peaceful administration is still more deserving of notice and praise. [3] The calamities of the times had wasted the numbers and the substance of the

Greeks; the motives and the means of agriculture were extirpated; and the most fertile lands were left without cultivation or inhabitants. a portion of this vacant property was occupied and improved by the command, and for the benefit, of the emperor: a powerful hand and a

vigilant eye supplied and surpassed, by a skilful management, the minute diligence of a private farmer: the royal domain became the garden and

granary of Asia; and without impoverishing the people, the sovereign acquired a fund of innocent and productive wealth. According to the

nature of the soil, his lands were sown with corn or planted with vines; the pastures were filled with horses and oxen, with sheep and hogs; and when Vataces presented to the empress a crown of diamonds and pearls, he

informed her, with a smile, that this precious ornament arose from the

sale of the eggs of his innumerable poultry. The produce of his domain was applied to the maintenance of his palace and hospitals, the calls

of dignity and benevolence: the lesson was still more useful than the

revenue: the plough was restored to its ancient security and honor; and the nobles were taught to seek a sure and independent revenue from their estates, instead of adorning their splendid beggary by the oppression of the people, or (what is almost the same) by the favors of the court. The

superfluous stock of corn and cattle was eagerly purchased by the turks, with whom Vataces preserved a strict and sincere alliance; but he discouraged the importation of foreign manufactures, the costly silks of the East, and the curious labors of the Italian looms. "The demands of

nature and necessity," was he accustomed to say, "are indispensable; but the influence of fashion may rise and sink at the breath of a monarch;" and both his precept and example recommended simplicity of manners and the use of domestic industry. The education of youth and the revival

of learning were the most serious objects of his care; and, without deciding the precedency, he pronounced with truth, that a prince and a

philosopher [4] are the two most eminent characters of human society. His first wife was Irene, the daughter of Theodore Lascaris, a woman more

illustrious by her personal merit, the milder virtues of her sex, than by the blood of the Angeli and Comneni that flowed in her veins, and transmitted the inheritance of the empire. After her death he was contracted to Anne, or Constance, a natural daughter of the emperor frederic [499] the Second; but as the bride had not attained the years of

puberty, Vataces placed in his solitary bed an Italian damsel of her train; and his amorous weakness bestowed on the concubine the honors, though not the title, of a lawful empress. His frailty was censured as a flagitious and damnable sin by the monks; and their rude invectives exercised and displayed the patience of the royal lover. A philosophic age may excuse a single vice, which was redeemed by a crowd of virtues; and in the review of his faults, and the more intemperate passions of

Lascaris, the judgment of their contemporaries was softened by gratitude to the second founders of the empire. [5] The slaves of the Latins, without law or peace, applauded the happiness of their brethren who had

resumed their national freedom; and Vataces employed the laudable policy

of convincing the Greeks of every dominion that it was their interest to be enrolled in the number of his subjects.

[Footnote 1: For the reigns of the Nicene emperors, more especially of

John Vataces and his son, their minister, George Acropolita, is the only

genuine contemporary; but George Pachymer returned to Constantinople with the Greeks at the age of nineteen, (Hanckius de Script. Byzant. c.

33, 34, p. 564--578. Fabric. Bibliot. Græc. tom. vi. p. 448--460.) Yet the history of Nicephorus Gregoras, though of the xivth century, is a

valuable narrative from the taking of Constantinople by the Latins.]

[Footnote 2: Nicephorus Gregoras (l. ii. c. 1) distinguishes between the

oxeia ormh of Lascaris, and the eustaqeia of Vataces. The two portraits are in a very good style.]

[Footnote 3: Pachymer, l. i. c. 23, 24. Nic. Greg. l. ii. c. 6. The

reader of the Byzantines must observe how rarely we are indulged with

such precious details.]

[Footnote 4: Monoi gar apantwn anqrwpwn onomastotatoi basileuV

kai jilosojoV, (Greg. Acropol. c. 32.) The emperor, in a familiar conversation, examined and encouraged the studies of his future

logothete.]

[Footnote 499: Sister of Manfred, afterwards king of Naples. Nic. Greg. p.

45.--M.]

[Footnote 5: Compare Acropolita, (c. 18, 52,) and the two first books of

Nicephorus Gregoras.]

a strong shade of degeneracy is visible between John Vataces and his son theodore; between the founder who sustained the weight, and the heir who enjoyed the splendor, of the Imperial crown. [6] Yet the character of theodore was not devoid of energy; he had been educated in the school of

his father, in the exercise of war and hunting; Constantinople was

yet spared; but in the three years of a short reign, he thrice led

his armies into the heart of Bulgaria. His virtues were sullied by a choleric and suspicious temper: the first of these may be ascribed to the ignorance of control; and the second might naturally arise from a dark and imperfect view of the corruption of mankind. On a march in bulgaria, he consulted on a question of policy his principal ministers; and the Greek logothete, George Acropolita, presumed to offend him by the declaration of a free and honest opinion. The emperor half

unsheathed his cimeter; but his more deliberate rage reserved Acropolita for a baser punishment. One of the first officers of the empire was

ordered to dismount, stripped of his robes, and extended on the ground

in the presence of the prince and army. In this posture he was chastised with so many and such heavy blows from the clubs of two guards or executioners, that when Theodore commanded them to cease, the great

logothete was scarcely able to rise and crawl away to his tent. After a

seclusion of some days, he was recalled by a peremptory mandate to his

seat in council; and so dead were the Greeks to the sense of honor and

shame, that it is from the narrative of the sufferer himself that we acquire the knowledge of his disgrace. [7] The cruelty of the emperor was exasperated by the pangs of sickness, the approach of a premature end, and the suspicion of poison and magic. The lives and fortunes, the eyes and limbs, of his kinsmen and nobles, were sacrificed to each sally of

passion; and before he died, the son of Vataces might deserve from the

people, or at least from the court, the appellation of tyrant. A matron

of the family of the Palæologi had provoked his anger by refusing to bestow her beauteous daughter on the vile plebeian who was recommended by his caprice. Without regard to her birth or age, her body, as high as the neck, was enclosed in a sack with several cats, who were

pricked with pins to irritate their fury against their unfortunate fellow-captive. In his last hours the emperor testified a wish to forgive and be forgiven, a just anxiety for the fate of John his son and

successor, who, at the age of eight years, was condemned to the dangers

of a long minority. His last choice intrusted the office of guardian to the sanctity of the patriarch Arsenius, and to the courage of George

Muzalon, the great domestic, who was equally distinguished by the royal favor and the public hatred. Since their connection with the Latins, the

names and privileges of hereditary rank had insinuated themselves into the Greek monarchy; and the noble families [8] were provoked by the elevation of a worthless favorite, to whose influence they imputed the errors and calamities of the late reign. In the first council, after the emperor's death, Muzalon, from a lofty throne, pronounced a labored apology of his conduct and intentions: his modesty was subdued by a

unanimous assurance of esteem and fidelity; and his most inveterate enemies were the loudest to salute him as the guardian and savior of the Romans. Eight days were sufficient to prepare the execution of the conspiracy. On the ninth, the obsequies of the deceased monarch were

solemnized in the cathedral of Magnesia, [9] an Asiatic city, where he expired, on the banks of the Hermus, and at the foot of Mount Sipylus. the holy rites were interrupted by a sedition of the guards; Muzalon,

his brothers, and his adherents, were massacred at the foot of the altar; and the absent patriarch was associated with a new colleague, with Michael Palæologus, the most illustrious, in birth and merit, of the Greek nobles. [10]

[Footnote 6: A Persian saying, that Cyrus was the \_father\_ and Darius the \_master\_, of his subjects, was applied to Vataces and his son. but Pachymer (l. i. c. 23) has mistaken the mild Darius for the cruel cambyses, despot or tyrant of his people. By the institution of taxes, darius had incurred the less odious, but more contemptible, name of

KaphloV, merchant or broker, (Herodotus, iii. 89.)]

[Footnote 7: Acropolita (c. 63) seems to admire his own firmness in

sustaining a beating, and not returning to council till he was called.

He relates the exploits of Theodore, and his own services, from c. 53 to c. 74 of his history. See the third book of Nicephorus Gregoras.]

[Footnote 8: Pachymer (l. i. c. 21) names and discriminates fifteen or twenty Greek families, kai osoi alloi, oiV h megalogenhV seira kai crush

sugkekrothto. Does he mean, by this decoration, a figurative or a real

golden chain? Perhaps, both.]

[Footnote 9: The old geographers, with Cellarius and D'Anville, and

our travellers, particularly Pocock and Chandler, will teach us to distinguish the two Magnesias of Asia Minor, of the Mæander and of

Sipylus. The latter, our present object, is still flourishing for a turkish city, and lies eight hours, or leagues, to the north-east

of Smyrna, (Tournefort, Voyage du Levant, tom. iii. lettre xxii. p.

365--370. Chandler's Travels into Asia Minor, p. 267.)]

[Footnote 10: See Acropolita, (c. 75, 76, &c.,) who lived too near the times; Pachymer, (l. i. c. 13--25,) Gregoras, (l. iii. c. 3, 4, 5.)]

Of those who are proud of their ancestors, the far greater part must be content with local or domestic renown; and few there are who dare trust the memorials of their family to the public annals of their country. as early as the middle of the eleventh century, the noble race of the

Palæologi [11] stands high and conspicuous in the Byzantine history: it was the valiant George Palæologus who placed the father of the Comneni

on the throne; and his kinsmen or descendants continue, in each

generation, to lead the armies and councils of the state. The purple was not dishonored by their alliance, and had the law of succession, and female succession, been strictly observed, the wife of Theodore Lascaris

must have yielded to her elder sister, the mother of Michael Palæologus, who afterwards raised his family to the throne. In his person, the

splendor of birth was dignified by the merit of the soldier and

statesman: in his early youth he was promoted to the office of

\_constable\_ or commander of the French mercenaries; the private expense

of a day never exceeded three pieces of gold; but his ambition was

rapacious and profuse; and his gifts were doubled by the graces of his conversation and manners. The love of the soldiers and people excited the jealousy of the court, and Michael thrice escaped from the dangers

in which he was involved by his own imprudence or that of his friends.

I. Under the reign of Justice and Vataces, a dispute arose [12] between two officers, one of whom accused the other of maintaining the

hereditary right of the Palæologi The cause was decided, according to the new jurisprudence of the Latins, by single combat; the defendant was

overthrown; but he persisted in declaring that himself alone was guilty; and that he had uttered these rash or treasonable speeches without the approbation or knowledge of his patron Yet a cloud of suspicion hung

over the innocence of the constable; he was still pursued by the whispers of malevolence; and a subtle courtier, the archbishop of

Philadelphia, urged him to accept the judgment of God in the fiery proof

of the ordeal. [13] Three days before the trial, the patient's arm was enclosed in a bag, and secured by the royal signet; and it was incumbent

on him to bear a red-hot ball of iron three times from the altar to the

rails of the sanctuary, without artifice and without injury. Palæologus eluded the dangerous experiment with sense and pleasantry. "I am a

soldier," said he, "and will boldly enter the lists with my accusers; but a layman, a sinner like myself, is not endowed with the gift of

miracles. \_Your\_ piety, most holy prelate, may deserve the interposition

of Heaven, and from your hands I will receive the fiery globe, the

pledge of my innocence." The archbishop started; the emperor smiled; and the absolution or pardon of Michael was approved by new rewards and

new services. II. In the succeeding reign, as he held the government of

Nice, he was secretly informed, that the mind of the absent prince was

poisoned with jealousy; and that death, or blindness, would be his final

reward. Instead of awaiting the return and sentence of Theodore, the constable, with some followers, escaped from the city and the empire; and though he was plundered by the Turkmans of the desert, he found a

hospitable refuge in the court of the sultan. In the ambiguous state

of an exile, Michael reconciled the duties of gratitude and loyalty: drawing his sword against the Tartars; admonishing the garrisons of the

Roman limit; and promoting, by his influence, the restoration of peace,

in which his pardon and recall were honorably included. III. While

he guarded the West against the despot of Epirus, Michael was again

suspected and condemned in the palace; and such was his loyalty or weakness, that he submitted to be led in chains above six hundred miles from Durazzo to Nice. The civility of the messenger alleviated his disgrace; the emperor's sickness dispelled his danger; and the

last breath of Theodore, which recommended his infant son, at once acknowledged the innocence and the power of Palæologus.

[Footnote 11: The pedigree of Palæologus is explained by Ducange,

(Famil. Byzant. p. 230, &c.:) the events of his private life are related by Pachymer (l. i. c. 7--12) and Gregoras (l. ii. 8, l. iii. 2, 4, l.

iv. 1) with visible favor to the father of the reigning dynasty.]

[Footnote 12: Acropolita (c. 50) relates the circumstances of this curious adventure, which seem to have escaped the more recent writers.]

[Footnote 13: Pachymer, (l. i. c. 12,) who speaks with proper contempt

of this barbarous trial, affirms, that he had seen in his youth many

person who had sustained, without injury, the fiery ordeal. As a Greek,

he is credulous; but the ingenuity of the Greeks might furnish some

remedies of art or fraud against their own superstition, or that of their tyrant.]

but his innocence had been too unworthily treated, and his power was too

strongly felt, to curb an aspiring subject in the fair field that was

opened to his ambition. [14] In the council, after the death of Theodore,

he was the first to pronounce, and the first to violate, the oath of allegiance to Muzalon; and so dexterous was his conduct, that he reaped the benefit, without incurring the guilt, or at least the reproach,

of the subsequent massacre. In the choice of a regent, he balanced the

interests and passions of the candidates; turned their envy and hatred from himself against each other, and forced every competitor to own, that after his own claims, those of Palæologus were best entitled to the preference. Under the title of great duke, he accepted or assumed, during a long minority, the active powers of government; the patriarch was a venerable name; and the factious nobles were seduced, or

oppressed, by the ascendant of his genius. The fruits of the economy of

Vataces were deposited in a strong castle on the banks of the Hermus,

in the custody of the faithful Varangians: the constable retained his command or influence over the foreign troops; he employed the guards to possess the treasure, and the treasure to corrupt the guards; and whatsoever might be the abuse of the public money, his character was above the suspicion of private avarice. By himself, or by his emissaries, he strove to persuade every rank of subjects, that their

own prosperity would rise in just proportion to the establishment of

his authority. The weight of taxes was suspended, the perpetual theme

of popular complaint; and he prohibited the trials by the ordeal and

judicial combat. These Barbaric institutions were already abolished or

undermined in France [15] and England; [16] and the appeal to the sword

offended the sense of a civilized, [17] and the temper of an unwarlike,

people. For the future maintenance of their wives and children, the

veterans were grateful: the priests and the philosophers applauded his ardent zeal for the advancement of religion and learning; and his vague

promise of rewarding merit was applied by every candidate to his own

hopes. Conscious of the influence of the clergy, Michael successfully

labored to secure the suffrage of that powerful order. Their expensive

journey from Nice to Magnesia, afforded a decent and ample pretence: the

leading prelates were tempted by the liberality of his nocturnal visits; and the incorruptible patriarch was flattered by the homage of his new colleague, who led his mule by the bridle into the town, and removed to a respectful distance the importunity of the crowd. Without renouncing

his title by royal descent, Palæologus encouraged a free discussion into the advantages of elective monarchy; and his adherents asked, with the insolence of triumph, what patient would trust his health, or what merchant would abandon his vessel, to the \_hereditary\_ skill of a physician or a pilot? The youth of the emperor, and the impending dangers of a minority, required the support of a mature and experienced

guardian; of an associate raised above the envy of his equals, and

invested with the name and prerogatives of royalty. For the interest

of the prince and people, without any selfish views for himself or

his family, the great duke consented to guard and instruct the son of theodore; but he sighed for the happy moment when he might restore to

his firmer hands the administration of his patrimony, and enjoy the blessings of a private station. He was first invested with the title and

prerogatives of \_despot\_, which bestowed the purple ornaments and the

second place in the Roman monarchy. It was afterwards agreed that John and Michael should be proclaimed as joint emperors, and raised on the buckler, but that the preeminence should be reserved for the birthright

of the former. A mutual league of amity was pledged between the royal

partners; and in case of a rupture, the subjects were bound, by their

oath of allegiance, to declare themselves against the aggressor; an ambiguous name, the seed of discord and civil war. Palæologus was content; but, on the day of the coronation, and in the cathedral of

Nice, his zealous adherents most vehemently urged the just priority of

his age and merit. The unseasonable dispute was eluded by postponing to a more convenient opportunity the coronation of John Lascaris; and he walked with a slight diadem in the train of his guardian, who alone

received the Imperial crown from the hands of the patriarch. It was

not without extreme reluctance that Arsenius abandoned the cause of his

pupil; out the Varangians brandished their battle-axes; a sign of assent was extorted from the trembling youth; and some voices were heard, that the life of a child should no longer impede the settlement of the

nation. A full harvest of honors and employments was distributed among

his friends by the grateful Palæologus. In his own family he created a despot and two sebastocrators; Alexius Strategopulus was decorated with the title of Cæsar; and that veteran commander soon repaid the

obligation, by restoring Constantinople to the Greek emperor.

[Footnote 14: Without comparing Pachymer to Thucydides or Tacitus, I will praise his narrative, (l. i. c. 13--32, l. ii. c. 1--9,) which

pursues the ascent of Palæologus with eloquence, perspicuity, and tolerable freedom. Acropolita is more cautious, and Gregoras more concise.]

[Footnote 15: The judicial combat was abolished by St. Louis in his own territories; and his example and authority were at length prevalent in france, (Esprit des Loix, l. xxviii. c. 29.)]

[Footnote 16: In civil cases Henry II. gave an option to the defendant:

Glanville prefers the proof by evidence; and that by judicial combat

is reprobated in the Fleta. Yet the trial by battle has never been abrogated in the English law, and it was ordered by the judges as late as the beginning of the last century. \* Note : And even demanded in the present.--M.]

[Footnote 17: Yet an ingenious friend has urged to me in mitigation

of this practice, 1. \_That\_ in nations emerging from barbarism, it

moderates the license of private war and arbitrary revenge. 2. \_That\_ it

is less absurd than the trials by the ordeal, or boiling water, or the cross, which it has contributed to abolish. 3. \_That\_ it served at least as a test of personal courage; a quality so seldom united with a base disposition, that the danger of a trial might be some check to a

malicious prosecutor, and a useful barrier against injustice supported by power. The gallant and unfortunate earl of Surrey might probably have escaped his unmerited fate, had not his demand of the combat against his accuser been overruled.]

It was in the second year of his reign, while he resided in the palace and gardens of Nymphæum, [18] near Smyrna, that the first messenger arrived at the dead of night; and the stupendous intelligence was

imparted to Michael, after he had been gently waked by the tender

precaution of his sister Eulogia. The man was unknown or obscure; he

produced no letters from the victorious Cæsar; nor could it easily be credited, after the defeat of Vataces and the recent failure of

Palæologus himself, that the capital had been surprised by a detachment

of eight hundred soldiers. As a hostage, the doubtful author was confined, with the assurance of death or an ample recompense; and the court was left some hours in the anxiety of hope and fear, till the

messengers of Alexius arrived with the authentic intelligence, and displayed the trophies of the conquest, the sword and sceptre, [19] the buskins and bonnet, [20] of the usurper Baldwin, which he had dropped in

his precipitate flight. A general assembly of the bishops, senators, and nobles, was immediately convened, and never perhaps was an event

received with more heartfelt and universal joy. In a studied oration, the new sovereign of Constantinople congratulated his own and the public fortune. "There was a time," said he, "a far distant time, when the

Roman empire extended to the Adriatic, the Tigris, and the confines of

Æthiopia. After the loss of the provinces, our capital itself, in these last and calamitous days, has been wrested from our hands by the barbarians of the West. From the lowest ebb, the tide of prosperity has again returned in our favor; but our prosperity was that of fugitives and exiles: and when we were asked, which was the country of the Romans, we indicated with a blush the climate of the globe, and the quarter of the heavens. The divine Providence has now restored to our arms the city of Constantine, the sacred seat of religion and empire; and it will depend on our valor and conduct to render this important acquisition the

pledge and omen of future victories." So eager was the impatience of the prince and people, that Michael made his triumphal entry into constantinople only twenty days after the expulsion of the Latins. the golden gate was thrown open at his approach; the devout conqueror dismounted from his horse; and a miraculous image of Mary the conductress was borne before him, that the divine Virgin in person might appear to conduct him to the temple of her Son, the cathedral of St.

Sophia. But after the first transport of devotion and pride, he sighed at the dreary prospect of solitude and ruin. The palace was defiled with

smoke and dirt, and the gross intemperance of the Franks; whole streets

had been consumed by fire, or were decayed by the injuries of time; the

sacred and profane edifices were stripped of their ornaments: and, as

if they were conscious of their approaching exile, the industry of the

Latins had been confined to the work of pillage and destruction. Trade

had expired under the pressure of anarchy and distress, and the numbers

of inhabitants had decreased with the opulence of the city. It was the first care of the Greek monarch to reinstate the nobles in the palaces

of their fathers; and the houses or the ground which they occupied were restored to the families that could exhibit a legal right of

inheritance. But the far greater part was extinct or lost; the vacant

property had devolved to the lord; he repeopled Constantinople by a

liberal invitation to the provinces; and the brave \_volunteers\_ were

seated in the capital which had been recovered by their arms. The French barons and the principal families had retired with their emperor; but the patient and humble crowd of Latins was attached to the country, and

indifferent to the change of masters. Instead of banishing the factories

of the Pisans, Venetians, and Genoese, the prudent conqueror accepted their oaths of allegiance, encouraged their industry, confirmed their

privileges, and allowed them to live under the jurisdiction of their

proper magistrates. Of these nations, the Pisans and Venetians preserved their respective quarters in the city; but the services and power of the

Genoese deserved at the same time the gratitude and the jealousy of the

Greeks. Their independent colony was first planted at the seaport town

of Heraclea in Thrace. They were speedily recalled, and settled in the exclusive possession of the suburb of Galata, an advantageous post,

in which they revived the commerce, and insulted the majesty, of the byzantine empire. [21]

[Footnote 18: The site of Nymphæum is not clearly defined in ancient or

modern geography. But from the last hours of Vataces, (Acropolita, c.

52,) it is evident the palace and gardens of his favorite residence were in the neighborhood of Smyrna. Nymphæum might be loosely placed in

Lydia, (Gregoras, l. vi. 6.)]

[Footnote 19: This sceptre, the emblem of justice and power, was a long

staff, such as was used by the heroes in Homer. By the latter Greeks

it was named \_Dicanice\_, and the Imperial sceptre was distinguished as

usual by the red or purple color.]

[Footnote 20: Acropolita affirms (c. 87,) that this "Onnet" was after the french fashion; but from the ruby at the point or summit, Ducange (Hist. de C. P. l. v. c. 28, 29) believes that it was the high-crowned hat of the Greeks. Could Acropolita mistake the dress of his own court?]

[Footnote 21: See Pachymer, (l. ii. c. 28--33,) Acropolita, (c. 88,)

Nicephorus Gregoras, (l. iv. 7,) and for the treatment of the subject

Latins, Ducange, (l. v. c. 30, 31.)]

the recovery of Constantinople was celebrated as the æra of a new empire: the conqueror, alone, and by the right of the sword, renewed his coronation in the church of St. Sophia; and the name and honors of John

Lascaris, his pupil and lawful sovereign, were insensibly abolished. But

his claims still lived in the minds of the people; and the royal youth

must speedily attain the years of manhood and ambition. By fear or conscience, Palæologus was restrained from dipping his hands in innocent and royal blood; but the anxiety of a usurper and a parent urged him to

secure his throne by one of those imperfect crimes so familiar to the

modern Greeks. The loss of sight incapacitated the young prince for the active business of the world; instead of the brutal violence of tearing

out his eyes, the visual nerve was destroyed by the intense glare of a

red-hot basin, [22] and John Lascaris was removed to a distant castle, where he spent many years in privacy and oblivion. Such cool and deliberate guilt may seem incompatible with remorse; but if Michael could trust the mercy of Heaven, he was not inaccessible to the

reproaches and vengeance of mankind, which he had provoked by cruelty and treason. His cruelty imposed on a servile court the duties of applause or silence; but the clergy had a right to speak in the name of their invisible Master; and their holy legions were led by a prelate, whose character was above the temptations of hope or fear. After a short abdication of his dignity, Arsenius [23] had consented to ascend the ecclesiastical throne of Constantinople, and to preside in the

restoration of the church. His pious simplicity was long deceived by the arts of Palæologus; and his patience and submission might soothe the

usurper, and protect the safety of the young prince. On the news of his

inhuman treatment, the patriarch unsheathed the spiritual sword; and

superstition, on this occasion, was enlisted in the cause of humanity and justice. In a synod of bishops, who were stimulated by the example

of his zeal, the patriarch pronounced a sentence of excommunication; though his prudence still repeated the name of Michael in the public

prayers. The Eastern prelates had not adopted the dangerous maxims

of ancient Rome; nor did they presume to enforce their censures, by deposing princes, or absolving nations from their oaths of allegiance. but the Christian, who had been separated from God and the church, became an object of horror; and, in a turbulent and fanatic capital, that horror might arm the hand of an assassin, or inflame a sedition

of the people. Palæologus felt his danger, confessed his guilt, and deprecated his judge: the act was irretrievable; the prize was obtained; and the most rigorous penance, which he solicited, would have raised the

sinner to the reputation of a saint. The unrelenting patriarch

refused to announce any means of atonement or any hopes of mercy; and condescended only to pronounce, that for so great a crime, great indeed

must be the satisfaction. "Do you require," said Michael, "that I should abdicate the empire?" and at these words, he offered, or seemed to

offer, the sword of state. Arsenius eagerly grasped this pledge of

sovereignty; but when he perceived that the emperor was unwilling to

purchase absolution at so dear a rate, he indignantly escaped to his cell, and left the royal sinner kneeling and weeping before the door.

[24]

[Footnote 22: This milder invention for extinguishing the sight was tried by the philosopher Democritus on himself, when he sought to withdraw his mind from the visible world: a foolish story! The word

\_abacinare\_, in Latin and Italian, has furnished Ducange (Gloss. Lat.) with an opportunity to review the various modes of blinding: the more

violent were scooping, burning with an iron, or hot vinegar, and binding the head with a strong cord till the eyes burst from their sockets.

Ingenious tyrants!]

[Footnote 23: See the first retreat and restoration of Arsenius, in

Pachymer (l. ii. c. 15, l. iii. c. 1, 2) and Nicephorus Gregoras,

(l. iii. c. 1, l. iv. c. 1.) Posterity justly accused the ajeleia and

raqumia of Arsenius the virtues of a hermit, the vices of a minister,

(l. xii. c. 2.)]

[Footnote 24: The crime and excommunication of Michael are fairly told by Pachymer (l. iii. c. 10, 14, 19, &c.) and Gregoras, (l. iv. c. 4.)

His confession and penance restored their freedom.]

chapter LXII: Greek Emperors Of Nice And Constantinople.--Part II.

the danger and scandal of this excommunication subsisted above three

years, till the popular clamor was assuaged by time and repentance; till the brethren of Arsenius condemned his inflexible spirit, so repugnant to the unbounded forgiveness of the gospel. The emperor had artfully

insinuated, that, if he were still rejected at home, he might seek, in the Roman pontiff, a more indulgent judge; but it was far more easy and effectual to find or to place that judge at the head of the Byzantine church. Arsenius was involved in a vague rumor of conspiracy and disaffection; [248] some irregular steps in his ordination and government were liable to censure; a synod deposed him from the episcopal office; and he was transported under a guard of soldiers to a small island of the Propontis. Before his exile, he sullenly requested that a strict account might be taken of the treasures of the church; boasted, that his

sole riches, three pieces of gold, had been earned by transcribing the

psalms; continued to assert the freedom of his mind; and denied, with

his last breath, the pardon which was implored by the royal sinner. [25] after some delay, Gregory, [259 bishop of Adrianople, was translated to the Byzantine throne; but his authority was found insufficient to

support the absolution of the emperor; and Joseph, a reverend monk, was substituted to that important function. This edifying scene was

represented in the presence of the senate and the people; at the end

of six years the humble penitent was restored to the communion of the faithful; and humanity will rejoice, that a milder treatment of the captive Lascaris was stipulated as a proof of his remorse. But the

spirit of Arsenius still survived in a powerful faction of the monks and clergy, who persevered about forty-eight years in an obstinate schism. their scruples were treated with tenderness and respect by Michael and

his son; and the reconciliation of the Arsenites was the serious labor

of the church and state. In the confidence of fanaticism, they had

proposed to try their cause by a miracle; and when the two papers, that contained their own and the adverse cause, were cast into a fiery brazier, they expected that the Catholic verity would be respected by the flames. Alas! the two papers were indiscriminately consumed, and this unforeseen accident produced the union of a day, and renewed the

quarrel of an age. [26] The final treaty displayed the victory of the Arsenites: the clergy abstained during forty days from all ecclesiastical functions; a slight penance was imposed on the laity; the body of Arsenius was deposited in the sanctuary; and, in the name of the departed saint, the prince and people were released from the sins of their fathers. [27]

[Footnote 248: Except the omission of a prayer for the emperor, the charges against Arsenius were of different nature: he was accused of

having allowed the sultan of Iconium to bathe in vessels signed with the cross, and to have admitted him to the church, though unbaptized, during the service. It was pleaded, in favor of Arsenius, among other proofs of the sultan's Christianity, that he had offered to eat ham. Pachymer,

l. iv. c. 4, p. 265. It was after his exile that he was involved in a charge of conspiracy.--M.]

[Footnote 25: Pachymer relates the exile of Arsenius, (l. iv. c. 1--16:)

he was one of the commissaries who visited him in the desert island. the last testament of the unforgiving patriarch is still extant, (Dupin, bibliothèque Ecclésiastique, tom. x. p. 95.)]

[Footnote 259: Pachymer calls him Germanus.--M.]

[Footnote 26: Pachymer (l. vii. c. 22) relates this miraculous trial

like a philosopher, and treats with similar contempt a plot of the arsenites, to hide a revelation in the coffin of some old saint, (l.

vii. c. 13.) He compensates this incredulity by an image that weeps, another that bleeds, (l. vii. c. 30,) and the miraculous cures of a deaf and a mute patient, (l. xi. c. 32.)]

[Footnote 27: The story of the Arsenites is spread through the thirteen books of Pachymer. Their union and triumph are reserved for Nicephorus

Gregoras, (l. vii. c. 9,) who neither loves nor esteems these

sectaries.]

the establishment of his family was the motive, or at least the

pretence, of the crime of Palæologus; and he was impatient to confirm the succession, by sharing with his eldest son the honors of the purple. andronicus, afterwards surnamed the Elder, was proclaimed and crowned emperor of the Romans, in the fifteenth year of his age; and, from the first æra of a prolix and inglorious reign, he held that august title

nine years as the colleague, and fifty as the successor, of his father.

Michael himself, had he died in a private station, would have been thought more worthy of the empire; and the assaults of his temporal and

spiritual enemies left him few moments to labor for his own fame or the

happiness of his subjects. He wrested from the Franks several of the

noblest islands of the Archipelago, Lesbos, Chios, and Rhodes: his brother Constantine was sent to command in Malvasia and Sparta; and the eastern side of the Morea, from Argos and Napoli to Cape Thinners, was

repossessed by the Greeks. This effusion of Christian blood was

loudly condemned by the patriarch; and the insolent priest presumed to

interpose his fears and scruples between the arms of princes. But in the prosecution of these western conquests, the countries beyond the

Hellespont were left naked to the Turks; and their depredations verified the prophecy of a dying senator, that the recovery of Constantinople would be the ruin of Asia. The victories of Michael were achieved by his

lieutenants; his sword rusted in the palace; and, in the transactions

of the emperor with the popes and the king of Naples, his political acts were stained with cruelty and fraud. [28]

[Footnote 28: Of the xiii books of Pachymer, the first six (as the ivth and vth of Nicephorus Gregoras) contain the reign of Michael, at the time of whose death he was forty years of age. Instead of breaking,

like his editor the Père Poussin, his history into two parts, I follow ducange and Cousin, who number the xiii. books in one series.]

I. The Vatican was the most natural refuge of a Latin emperor, who had been driven from his throne; and Pope Urban the Fourth appeared to pity the misfortunes, and vindicate the cause, of the fugitive Baldwin. A crusade, with plenary indulgence, was preached by his command against the schismatic Greeks: he excommunicated their allies and adherents;

solicited Louis the Ninth in favor of his kinsman; and demanded a tenth

of the ecclesiastical revenues of France and England for the service of the holy war. [29] The subtle Greek, who watched the rising tempest of the West, attempted to suspend or soothe the hostility of the pope, by

suppliant embassies and respectful letters; but he insinuated that the establishment of peace must prepare the reconciliation and obedience of the Eastern church. The Roman court could not be deceived by so gross an artifice; and Michael was admonished, that the repentance of the

son should precede the forgiveness of the father; and that \_faith\_ (an ambiguous word) was the only basis of friendship and alliance. After a

long and affected delay, the approach of danger, and the importunity of

Gregory the Tenth, compelled him to enter on a more serious negotiation:

he alleged the example of the great Vataces; and the Greek clergy, who

understood the intentions of their prince, were not alarmed by the first

steps of reconciliation and respect. But when he pressed the conclusion

of the treaty, they strenuously declared, that the Latins, though not in

name, were heretics in fact, and that they despised those strangers as the vilest and most despicable portion of the human race. [30] It was the task of the emperor to persuade, to corrupt, to intimidate the

most popular ecclesiastics, to gain the vote of each individual, and alternately to urge the arguments of Christian charity and the public welfare. The texts of the fathers and the arms of the Franks were balanced in the theological and political scale; and without approving the addition to the Nicene creed, the most moderate were taught to confess, that the two hostile propositions of proceeding from the Father by the Son, and of proceeding from the Father and the Son, might be

reduced to a safe and Catholic sense. [31] The supremacy of the pope was a doctrine more easy to conceive, but more painful to acknowledge: yet

Michael represented to his monks and prelates, that they might submit to name the Roman bishop as the first of the patriarchs; and that their distance and discretion would guard the liberties of the Eastern church from the mischievous consequences of the right of appeal. He protested that he would sacrifice his life and empire rather than yield the

smallest point of orthodox faith or national independence; and this declaration was sealed and ratified by a golden bull. The patriarch

Joseph withdrew to a monastery, to resign or resume his throne, according to the event of the treaty: the letters of union and obedience were subscribed by the emperor, his son Andronicus, and thirty-five archbishops and metropolitans, with their respective synods; and the episcopal list was multiplied by many dioceses which were annihilated

under the yoke of the infidels. An embassy was composed of some trusty

ministers and prelates: they embarked for Italy, with rich ornaments and rare perfumes for the altar of St. Peter; and their secret orders authorized and recommended a boundless compliance. They were received in the general council of Lyons, by Pope Gregory the Tenth, at the head

of five hundred bishops. [32] He embraced with tears his long-lost and

repentant children; accepted the oath of the ambassadors, who abjured the schism in the name of the two emperors; adorned the prelates with the ring and mitre; chanted in Greek and Latin the Nicene creed with the addition of \_filioque\_; and rejoiced in the union of the East and West, which had been reserved for his reign. To consummate this pious work, the Byzantine deputies were speedily followed by the pope's nuncios; and their instruction discloses the policy of the Vatican, which could not be satisfied with the vain title of supremacy. After viewing the temper

of the prince and people, they were enjoined to absolve the schismatic clergy, who should subscribe and swear their abjuration and obedience; to establish in all the churches the use of the perfect creed; to

prepare the entrance of a cardinal legate, with the full powers and dignity of his office; and to instruct the emperor in the advantages which he might derive from the temporal protection of the Roman pontiff.

[33]

[Footnote 29: Ducange, Hist. de C. P. l. v. c. 33, &c., from the epistles of Urban IV.]

[Footnote 30: From their mercantile intercourse with the Venetians and

Genoese, they branded the Latins as kaphloi and banausoi, (Pachymer,

l. v. c. 10.) "Some are heretics in name; others, like the Latins,

in fact," said the learned Veccus, (l. v. c. 12,) who soon afterwards became a convert (c. 15, 16) and a patriarch, (c. 24.)]

[Footnote 31: In this class we may place Pachymer himself, whose copious and candid narrative occupies the vth and vith books of his history. Yet the Greek is silent on the council of Lyons, and seems to believe that the popes always resided in Rome and Italy, (l. v. c. 17, 21.)]

[Footnote 32: See the acts of the council of Lyons in the year 1274. fleury, Hist. Ecclésiastique, tom. xviii. p. 181--199. Dupin, Bibliot. ecclés. tom. x. p. 135.]

[Footnote 33: This curious instruction, which has been drawn with more

or less honesty by Wading and Leo Allatius from the archives of the

Vatican, is given in an abstract or version by Fleury, (tom. xviii. p.

252--258.)]

but they found a country without a friend, a nation in which the names

of Rome and Union were pronounced with abhorrence. The patriarch Joseph was indeed removed: his place was filled by Veccus, an ecclesiastic of

learning and moderation; and the emperor was still urged by the same

motives, to persevere in the same professions. But in his private

language Palæologus affected to deplore the pride, and to blame the

innovations, of the Latins; and while he debased his character by this double hypocrisy, he justified and punished the opposition of

his subjects. By the joint suffrage of the new and the ancient Rome, a sentence of excommunication was pronounced against the obstinate

schismatics; the censures of the church were executed by the sword of

Michael; on the failure of persuasion, he tried the arguments of prison and exile, of whipping and mutilation; those touchstones, says an

historian, of cowards and the brave. Two Greeks still reigned in Ætolia, epirus, and Thessaly, with the appellation of despots: they had yielded to the sovereign of Constantinople, but they rejected the chains of the

Roman pontiff, and supported their refusal by successful arms. Under their protection, the fugitive monks and bishops assembled in hostile

synods; and retorted the name of heretic with the galling addition of apostate: the prince of Trebizond was tempted to assume the forfeit title of emperor; [339] and even the Latins of Negropont, Thebes, Athens, and the Morea, forgot the merits of the convert, to join, with open or clandestine aid, the enemies of Palæologus. His favorite generals,

of his own blood, and family, successively deserted, or betrayed, the

sacrilegious trust. His sister Eulogia, a niece, and two female cousins, conspired against him; another niece, Mary queen of Bulgaria, negotiated

his ruin with the sultan of Egypt; and, in the public eye, their treason was consecrated as the most sublime virtue. [34] To the pope's nuncios, who urged the consummation of the work, Palæologus exposed a naked

recital of all that he had done and suffered for their sake. They were assured that the guilty sectaries, of both sexes and every rank, had been deprived of their honors, their fortunes, and their liberty; a

spreading list of confiscation and punishment, which involved many

persons, the dearest to the emperor, or the best deserving of his favor. they were conducted to the prison, to behold four princes of the royal blood chained in the four corners, and shaking their fetters in an agony

of grief and rage. Two of these captives were afterwards released; the

one by submission, the other by death: but the obstinacy of their two companions was chastised by the loss of their eyes; and the Greeks, the least adverse to the union, deplored that cruel and inauspicious tragedy. [35] Persecutors must expect the hatred of those whom they

oppress; but they commonly find some consolation in the testimony of their conscience, the applause of their party, and, perhaps, the success

of their undertaking. But the hypocrisy of Michael, which was prompted

only by political motives, must have forced him to hate himself, to despise his followers, and to esteem and envy the rebel champions by whom he was detested and despised. While his violence was abhorred at constantinople, at Rome his slowness was arraigned, and his sincerity

suspected; till at length Pope Martin the Fourth excluded the Greek emperor from the pale of a church, into which he was striving to reduce a schismatic people. No sooner had the tyrant expired, than the union was dissolved, and abjured by unanimous consent; the churches were

purified; the penitents were reconciled; and his son Andronicus, after weeping the sins and errors of his youth most piously denied his father the burial of a prince and a Christian. [36]

[Footnote 339: According to Fallmarayer he had always maintained this title.--M.]

[Footnote 34: This frank and authentic confession of Michael's distress is exhibited in barbarous Latin by Ogerius, who signs himself

Protonotarius Interpretum, and transcribed by Wading from the MSS. of the Vatican, (A.D. 1278, No. 3.) His annals of the Franciscan order, the Fratres Minores, in xvii. volumes in folio, (Rome, 1741,) I have now accidentally seen among the waste paper of a bookseller.]

[Footnote 35: See the vith book of Pachymer, particularly the chapters

1, 11, 16, 18, 24--27. He is the more credible, as he speaks of this

persecution with less anger than sorrow.]

[Footnote 36: Pachymer, l. vii. c. 1--ii. 17. The speech of Andronicus the Elder (lib. xii. c. 2) is a curious record, which proves that if the Greeks were the slaves of the emperor, the emperor was not less the

slave of superstition and the clergy.]

II. In the distress of the Latins, the walls and towers of constantinople had fallen to decay: they were restored and fortified by the policy of Michael, who deposited a plenteous store of corn and salt

provisions, to sustain the siege which he might hourly expect from the

resentment of the Western powers. Of these, the sovereign of the Two

Sicilies was the most formidable neighbor: but as long as they were

possessed by Mainfroy, the bastard of Frederic the Second, his monarchy was the bulwark, rather than the annoyance, of the Eastern empire. The

usurper, though a brave and active prince, was sufficiently employed

in the defence of his throne: his proscription by successive popes had

separated Mainfroy from the common cause of the Latins; and the forces that might have besieged Constantinople were detained in a crusade against the domestic enemy of Rome. The prize of her avenger, the crown

of the Two Sicilies, was won and worn by the brother of St Louis, by charles count of Anjou and Provence, who led the chivalry of France on this holy expedition. [37] The disaffection of his Christian subjects compelled Mainfroy to enlist a colony of Saracens whom his father had

planted in Apulia; and this odious succor will explain the defiance of the Catholic hero, who rejected all terms of accommodation. "Bear this

message," said Charles, "to the sultan of Nocera, that God and the sword are umpire between us; and that he shall either send me to paradise,

or I will send him to the pit of hell." The armies met: and though I am ignorant of Mainfroy's doom in the other world, in this he lost his friends, his kingdom, and his life, in the bloody battle of Benevento.

Naples and Sicily were immediately peopled with a warlike race of french nobles; and their aspiring leader embraced the future conquest of africa, Greece, and Palestine. The most specious reasons might point his first arms against the Byzantine empire; and Palæologus, diffident of

his own strength, repeatedly appealed from the ambition of Charles to the humanity of St. Louis, who still preserved a just ascendant over the

mind of his ferocious brother. For a while the attention of that brother was confined at home by the invasion of Conradin, the last heir to the imperial house of Swabia; but the hapless boy sunk in the unequal conflict; and his execution on a public scaffold taught the rivals of charles to tremble for their heads as well as their dominions. A second

respite was obtained by the last crusade of St. Louis to the African coast; and the double motive of interest and duty urged the king of

Naples to assist, with his powers and his presence, the holy enterprise. the death of St. Louis released him from the importunity of a virtuous censor: the king of Tunis confessed himself the tributary and vassal of the crown of Sicily; and the boldest of the French knights were free to enlist under his banner against the Greek empire. A treaty and a

marriage united his interest with the house of Courtenay; his daughter beatrice was promised to Philip, son and heir of the emperor Baldwin; a

pension of six hundred ounces of gold was allowed for his maintenance; and his generous father distributed among his aliens the kingdoms and

provinces of the East, reserving only Constantinople, and one day's

journey round the city for the imperial domain. [38] In this perilous

moment, Palæologus was the most eager to subscribe the creed, and

implore the protection, of the Roman pontiff, who assumed, with

propriety and weight, the character of an angel of peace, the common father of the Christians. By his voice, the sword of Charles was chained

in the scabbard; and the Greek ambassadors beheld him, in the pope's antechamber, biting his ivory sceptre in a transport of fury, and deeply

resenting the refusal to enfranchise and consecrate his arms. He appears to have respected the disinterested mediation of Gregory the Tenth; but charles was insensibly disgusted by the pride and partiality of Nicholas the Third; and his attachment to his kindred, the Ursini family, alienated the most strenuous champion from the service of the church. the hostile league against the Greeks, of Philip the Latin emperor, the

king of the Two Sicilies, and the republic of Venice, was ripened into execution; and the election of Martin the Fourth, a French pope, gave a

sanction to the cause. Of the allies, Philip supplied his name; Martin, a bull of excommunication; the Venetians, a squadron of forty galleys; and the formidable powers of Charles consisted of forty counts, ten thousand men at arms, a numerous body of infantry, and a fleet of more than three hundred ships and transports. A distant day was appointed for assembling this mighty force in the harbor of Brindisi; and a previous attempt was risked with a detachment of three hundred knights, who

invaded Albania, and besieged the fortress of Belgrade. Their defeat

might amuse with a triumph the vanity of Constantinople; but the more

sagacious Michael, despairing of his arms, depended on the effects of a conspiracy; on the secret workings of a rat, who gnawed the bowstring

[39] of the Sicilian tyrant.

[Footnote 37: The best accounts, the nearest the time, the most full and entertaining, of the conquest of Naples by Charles of Anjou, may be found in the Florentine Chronicles of Ricordano Malespina, (c.

175--193,) and Giovanni Villani, (l. vii. c. 1--10, 25--30,) which are

published by Muratori in the viiith and xiiith volumes of the Historians

of Italy. In his Annals (tom. xi. p. 56--72) he has abridged these great events which are likewise described in the Istoria Civile of Giannone. tom. l. xix. tom. iii. l. xx.]

[Footnote 38: Ducange, Hist. de C. P. l. v. c. 49--56, l. vi. c. 1--13.

See Pachymer, l. iv. c. 29, l. v. c. 7--10, 25 l. vi. c. 30, 32, 33, and

Nicephorus Gregoras, l. iv. 5, l. v. 1, 6.]

[Footnote 39: The reader of Herodotus will recollect how miraculously the Assyrian host of Sennacherib was disarmed and destroyed, (l. ii. c.

141.)]

among the proscribed adherents of the house of Swabia, John of Procida forfeited a small island of that name in the Bay of Naples. His birth was noble, but his education was learned; and in the poverty of exile,

he was relieved by the practice of physic, which he had studied in the

school of Salerno. Fortune had left him nothing to lose, except life; and to despise life is the first qualification of a rebel. Procida was endowed with the art of negotiation, to enforce his reasons and disguise

his motives; and in his various transactions with nations and men, he could persuade each party that he labored solely for \_their\_ interest. the new kingdoms of Charles were afflicted by every species of fiscal and military oppression; [40] and the lives and fortunes of his Italian

subjects were sacrificed to the greatness of their master and the

licentiousness of his followers. The hatred of Naples was repressed by

his presence; but the looser government of his vicegerents excited the contempt, as well as the aversion, of the Sicilians: the island was

roused to a sense of freedom by the eloquence of Procida; and he displayed to every baron his private interest in the common cause. In the confidence of foreign aid, he successively visited the courts of the Greek emperor, and of Peter king of Arragon, [41] who possessed the

maritime countries of Valentia and Catalonia. To the ambitious Peter a crown was presented, which he might justly claim by his marriage with the sister [419] of Mainfroy, and by the dying voice of Conradin, who from the scaffold had cast a ring to his heir and avenger. Palæologus was easily persuaded to divert his enemy from a foreign war by a rebellion at home; and a Greek subsidy of twenty-five thousand ounces of gold was

most profitably applied to arm a Catalan fleet, which sailed under a

holy banner to the specious attack of the Saracens of Africa. In the disguise of a monk or beggar, the indefatigable missionary of revolt flew from Constantinople to Rome, and from Sicily to Saragossa: the treaty was sealed with the signet of Pope Nicholas himself, the enemy

of Charles; and his deed of gift transferred the fiefs of St. Peter from the house of Anjou to that of Arragon. So widely diffused and so freely circulated, the secret was preserved above two years with impenetrable discretion; and each of the conspirators imbibed the maxim of Peter, who declared that he would cut off his left hand if it were conscious of the

intentions of his right. The mine was prepared with deep and dangerous artifice; but it may be questioned, whether the instant explosion of

Palermo were the effect of accident or design.

[Footnote 40: According to Sabas Malaspina, (Hist. Sicula, l. iii. c.

16, in Muratori, tom. viii. p. 832,) a zealous Guelph, the subjects of charles, who had reviled Mainfroy as a wolf, began to regret him as a

lamb; and he justifies their discontent by the oppressions of the French

government, (l. vi. c. 2, 7.) See the Sicilian manifesto in Nicholas

Specialis, (l. i. c. 11, in Muratori, tom. x. p. 930.)]

[Footnote 41: See the character and counsels of Peter, king of Arragon,

in Mariana, (Hist. Hispan. l. xiv. c. 6, tom. ii. p. 133.) The reader for gives the Jesuit's defects, in favor, always of his style, and often

of his sense.]

[Footnote 419: Daughter. See Hallam's Middle Ages, vol. i. p. 517.--M.]

On the vigil of Easter, a procession of the disarmed citizens visited a church without the walls; and a noble damsel was rudely insulted by a french soldier. [42] The ravisher was instantly punished with death; and

if the people was at first scattered by a military force, their numbers and fury prevailed: the conspirators seized the opportunity; the flame

spread over the island; and eight thousand French were exterminated in a promiscuous massacre, which has obtained the name of the Sicilian

Vespers. [43] From every city the banners of freedom and the church were displayed: the revolt was inspired by the presence or the soul

of Procida and Peter of Arragon, who sailed from the African coast to Palermo, was saluted as the king and savior of the isle. By the

rebellion of a people on whom he had so long trampled with impunity, charles was astonished and confounded; and in the first agony of grief and devotion, he was heard to exclaim, "O God! if thou hast decreed to humble me, grant me at least a gentle and gradual descent from the

pinnacle of greatness!" His fleet and army, which already filled the

seaports of Italy, were hastily recalled from the service of the Grecian war; and the situation of Messina exposed that town to the first storm

of his revenge. Feeble in themselves, and yet hopeless of foreign

succor, the citizens would have repented, and submitted on the assurance

of full pardon and their ancient privileges. But the pride of the

monarch was already rekindled; and the most fervent entreaties of the

legate could extort no more than a promise, that he would forgive the

remainder, after a chosen list of eight hundred rebels had been yielded to his discretion. The despair of the Messinese renewed their courage:

Peter of Arragon approached to their relief; [44] and his rival was driven back by the failure of provision and the terrors of the equinox to the Calabrian shore. At the same moment, the Catalan admiral, the famous Roger de Loria, swept the channel with an invincible squadron: the French fleet, more numerous in transports than in galleys, was either burnt or destroyed; and the same blow assured the independence of

Sicily and the safety of the Greek empire. A few days before his death, the emperor Michael rejoiced in the fall of an enemy whom he hated and esteemed; and perhaps he might be content with the popular judgment, that had they not been matched with each other, Constantinople and Italy

must speedily have obeyed the same master. [45] From this disastrous

moment, the life of Charles was a series of misfortunes: his capital was

insulted, his son was made prisoner, and he sunk into the grave without

recovering the Isle of Sicily, which, after a war of twenty years, was finally severed from the throne of Naples, and transferred, as an

independent kingdom, to a younger branch of the house of Arragon. [46]

[Footnote 42: After enumerating the sufferings of his country, Nicholas

Specialis adds, in the true spirit of Italian jealousy, Quæ omnia et

graviora quidem, ut arbitror, patienti animo Siculi tolerassent,

nisi (quod primum cunctis dominantibus cavendum est) alienas fminas

invasissent, (l. i. c. 2, p. 924.)]

[Footnote 43: The French were long taught to remember this bloody

lesson: "If I am provoked, (said Henry the Fourth,) I will breakfast at Milan, and dine at Naples." "Your majesty (replied the Spanish ambassador) may perhaps arrive in Sicily for vespers."]

[Footnote 44: This revolt, with the subsequent victory, are related by two national writers, Bartholemy à Neocastro (in Muratori, tom. xiii.,) and Nicholas Specialis (in Muratori, tom. x.,) the one a contemporary, the other of the next century. The patriot Specialis disclaims the name

of rebellion, and all previous correspondence with Peter of Arragon,

(nullo communicato consilio,) who \_happened\_ to be with a fleet and army

on the African coast, (l. i. c. 4, 9.)]

[Footnote 45: Nicephorus Gregoras (l. v. c. 6) admires the wisdom of

Providence in this equal balance of states and princes. For the honor

of Palæologus, I had rather this balance had been observed by an Italian writer.]

[Footnote 46: See the Chronicle of Villani, the xith volume of the annali d'Italia of Muratori, and the xxth and xxist books of the Istoria civile of Giannone.]

chapter LXII: Greek Emperors Of Nice And Constantinople.--Part III.

I shall not, I trust, be accused of superstition; but I must remark that, even in this world, the natural order of events will sometimes afford the strong appearances of moral retribution. The first Palæologus

had saved his empire by involving the kingdoms of the West in rebellion and blood; and from these scenes of discord uprose a generation of iron

men, who assaulted and endangered the empire of his son. In modern times

our debts and taxes are the secret poison which still corrodes the bosom

of peace: but in the weak and disorderly government of the middle ages,

it was agitated by the present evil of the disbanded armies. Too idle to work, too proud to beg, the mercenaries were accustomed to a life of

rapine: they could rob with more dignity and effect under a banner and a chief; and the sovereign, to whom their service was useless, and their presence importunate, endeavored to discharge the torrent on some

neighboring countries. After the peace of Sicily, many thousands of

Genoese, \_Catalans\_, [47] &c., who had fought, by sea and land, under the standard of Anjou or Arragon, were blended into one nation by the

resemblance of their manners and interest. They heard that the Greek

provinces of Asia were invaded by the Turks: they resolved to share the

harvest of pay and plunder: and Frederic king of Sicily most liberally contributed the means of their departure. In a warfare of twenty years, a ship, or a camp, was become their country; arms were their sole

profession and property; valor was the only virtue which they knew; their women had imbibed the fearless temper of their lovers and

husbands: it was reported, that, with a stroke of their broadsword, the catalans could cleave a horseman and a horse; and the report itself was a powerful weapon. Roger de Flor [477] was the most popular of their chiefs; and his personal merit overshadowed the dignity of his prouder

rivals of Arragon. The offspring of a marriage between a German

gentleman of the court of Frederic the Second and a damsel of Brindisi,

Roger was successively a templar, an apostate, a pirate, and at length the richest and most powerful admiral of the Mediterranean. He sailed from Messina to Constantinople, with eighteen galleys, four great

ships, and eight thousand adventurers; [478] and his previous treaty was faithfully accomplished by Andronicus the elder, who accepted with

joy and terror this formidable succor. A palace was allotted for his

reception, and a niece of the emperor was given in marriage to the

valiant stranger, who was immediately created great duke or admiral

of Romania. After a decent repose, he transported his troops over the

Propontis, and boldly led them against the Turks: in two bloody battles thirty thousand of the Moslems were slain: he raised the siege of

Philadelphia, and deserved the name of the deliverer of Asia. But after a short season of prosperity, the cloud of slavery and ruin again burst on that unhappy province. The inhabitants escaped (says a Greek

historian) from the smoke into the flames; and the hostility of the turks was less pernicious than the friendship of the Catalans. [479] The

lives and fortunes which they had rescued they considered as their own: the willing or reluctant maid was saved from the race of circumcision for the embraces of a Christian soldier: the exaction of fines and

supplies was enforced by licentious rapine and arbitrary executions; and, on the resistance of Magnesia, the great duke besieged a city

of the Roman empire. [48] These disorders he excused by the wrongs and

passions of a victorious army; nor would his own authority or person

have been safe, had he dared to punish his faithful followers, who were defrauded of the just and covenanted price of their services. The threats and complaints of Andronicus disclosed the nakedness of the empire. His golden bull had invited no more than five hundred horse and a thousand foot soldiers; yet the crowds of volunteers, who migrated to the East, had been enlisted and fed by his spontaneous bounty. While his bravest allies were content with three byzants or pieces of gold, for their monthly pay, an ounce, or even two ounces, of gold were assigned to the Catalans, whose annual pension would thus amount to near a

hundred pounds sterling: one of their chiefs had modestly rated at three

hundred thousand crowns the value of his \_future\_ merits; and above a

million had been issued from the treasury for the maintenance of these costly mercenaries. A cruel tax had been imposed on the corn of the

husbandman: one third was retrenched from the salaries of the public

officers; and the standard of the coin was so shamefully debased, that

of the four-and-twenty parts only five were of pure gold. [49] At the

summons of the emperor, Roger evacuated a province which no longer

supplied the materials of rapine; [496] but he refused to disperse his troops; and while his style was respectful, his conduct was independent and hostile. He protested, that if the emperor should march against

him, he would advance forty paces to kiss the ground before him; but in

rising from this prostrate attitude Roger had a life and sword at the

service of his friends. The great duke of Romania condescended to accept the title and ornaments of Cæsar; but he rejected the new proposal of the government of Asia with a subsidy of corn and money, [497] on condition that he should reduce his troops to the harmless number of three thousand men. Assassination is the last resource of cowards. The cæsar was tempted to visit the royal residence of Adrianople; in the apartment, and before the eyes, of the empress he was stabbed by the alani guards; and though the deed was imputed to their private revenge,

[498] his countrymen, who dwelt at Constantinople in the security of peace, were involved in the same proscription by the prince or people. The loss

of their leader intimidated the crowd of adventurers, who hoisted the sails of flight, and were soon scattered round the coasts of the

Mediterranean. But a veteran band of fifteen hundred Catalans,

or French, stood firm in the strong fortress of Gallipoli on the

Hellespont, displayed the banners of Arragon, and offered to revenge and

justify their chief, by an equal combat of ten or a hundred warriors.

Instead of accepting this bold defiance, the emperor Michael, the son and colleague of Andronicus, resolved to oppress them with the weight

of multitudes: every nerve was strained to form an army of thirteen thousand horse and thirty thousand foot; and the Propontis was covered with the ships of the Greeks and Genoese. In two battles by sea and

land, these mighty forces were encountered and overthrown by the despair and discipline of the Catalans: the young emperor fled to the palace; and an insufficient guard of light-horse was left for the protection

of the open country. Victory renewed the hopes and numbers of the adventures: every nation was blended under the name and standard of the

\_great company\_; and three thousand Turkish proselytes deserted from the

Imperial service to join this military association. In the possession of

Gallipoli, [499] the Catalans intercepted the trade of Constantinople and the Black Sea, while they spread their devastation on either side of the Hellespont over the confines of Europe and Asia. To prevent their approach, the greatest part of the Byzantine territory was laid waste by the Greeks themselves: the peasants and their cattle retired into the city; and myriads of sheep and oxen, for which neither place nor food could be procured, were unprofitably slaughtered on the same day. Four times the emperor Andronicus sued for peace, and four times he was

inflexibly repulsed, till the want of provisions, and the discord of the chiefs, compelled the Catalans to evacuate the banks of the Hellespont and the neighborhood of the capital. After their separation from the turks, the remains of the great company pursued their march through

Macedonia and Thessaly, to seek a new establishment in the heart of

Greece. [50]

[Footnote 47: In this motley multitude, the Catalans and Spaniards, the bravest of the soldiery, were styled by themselves and the Greeks

\_Amogavares\_. Moncada derives their origin from the Goths, and Pachymer

(l. xi. c. 22) from the Arabs; and in spite of national and religious

pride, I am afraid the latter is in the right.]

[Footnote 477: On Roger de Flor and his companions, see an historical fragment, detailed and interesting, entitled "The Spaniards of the fourteenth Century," and inserted in "L'Espagne en 1808," a work translated from the German, vol. ii. p. 167. This narrative enables us to detect some slight errors which have crept into that of Gibbon.--G.]

[Footnote 478: The troops of Roger de Flor, according to his companions

Ramon de Montaner, were 1500 men at arms, 4000 Almogavares, and 1040

other foot, besides the sailors and mariners, vol. ii. p. 137.--M.]

[Footnote 479: Ramon de Montaner suppresses the cruelties and oppressions

of the Catalans, in which, perhaps, he shared.--M.]

[Footnote 48: Some idea may be formed of the population of these cities, from the 36,000 inhabitants of Tralles, which, in the preceding reign, was rebuilt by the emperor, and ruined by the Turks. (Pachymer, l. vi. c. 20, 21.)]

[Footnote 49: I have collected these pecuniary circumstances from

Pachymer, (l. xi. c. 21, l. xii. c. 4, 5, 8, 14, 19,) who describes the

progressive degradation of the gold coin. Even in the prosperous times

of John Ducas Vataces, the byzants were composed in equal proportions

of the pure and the baser metal. The poverty of Michael Palæologus compelled him to strike a new coin, with nine parts, or carats, of gold, and fifteen of copper alloy. After his death, the standard rose to ten carats, till in the public distress it was reduced to the moiety. The

prince was relieved for a moment, while credit and commerce were forever blasted. In France, the gold coin is of twenty-two carats, (one twelfth alloy,) and the standard of England and Holland is still higher.]

[Footnote 496]: Roger de Flor, according to Ramon de Montaner, was recalled from Natolia, on account of the war which had arisen on the death of asan, king of Bulgaria. Andronicus claimed the kingdom for his nephew, the sons of Asan by his sister. Roger de Flor turned the tide of success

in favor of the emperor of Constantinople and made peace.--M.]

[Footnote 497: Andronicus paid the Catalans in the debased money, much to their indignation.--M.]

[Footnote 498: According to Ramon de Montaner, he was murdered by order of

Kyr (kurioV) Michael, son of the emperor. p. 170.--M.]

[Footnote 499: Ramon de Montaner describes his sojourn at Gallipoli: Nous etions si riches, que nous ne semions, ni ne labourions, ni ne faisions enver des vins ni ne cultivions les vignes: et cependant tous les ans

nous recucillions tour ce qu'il nous fallait, en vin, froment et avoine.

p. 193. This lasted for five merry years. Ramon de Montaner is high authority, for he was "chancelier et maitre rational de l'armée,"

(commissary of \_rations\_.) He was left governor; all the scribes of the army remained with him, and with their aid he kept the books in which were registered the number of horse and foot employed on each expedition. According to this book the plunder was shared, of which he

had a fifth for his trouble. p. 197.--M.]

[Footnote 50: The Catalan war is most copiously related by Pachymer, in the xith, xiith, and xiiith books, till he breaks off in the year

1308. Nicephorus Gregoras (l. vii. 3--6) is more concise and complete. ducange, who adopts these adventurers as French, has hunted their footsteps with his usual diligence, (Hist. de C. P. l. vi. c. 22--46.)

He quotes an Arragonese history, which I have read with pleasure, and which the Spaniards extol as a model of style and composition,

(Expedicion de los Catalanes y Arragoneses contra Turcos y Griegos: barcelona, 1623 in quarto: Madrid, 1777, in octavo.) Don Francisco de

Moncada Conde de Ossona, may imitate Cæsar or Sallust; he may transcribe the Greek or Italian contemporaries: but he never quotes his authorities, and I cannot discern any national records of the exploits

of his countrymen. \* Note: Ramon de Montaner, one of the Catalans, who accompanied Roger de Flor, and who was governor of Gallipoli, has written, in Spanish, the history of this band of adventurers, to which

he belonged, and from which he separated when it left the Thracian chersonese to penetrate into Macedonia and Greece.--G.----The autobiography of Ramon de Montaner has been published in French by M. buchon, in the great collection of Mémoires relatifs à l'Histoire de france. I quote this edition.--M.]

after some ages of oblivion, Greece was awakened to new misfortunes by the arms of the Latins. In the two hundred and fifty years between the first and the last conquest of Constantinople, that venerable land was disputed by a multitude of petty tyrants; without the comforts of freedom and genius, her ancient cities were again plunged in foreign and

intestine war; and, if servitude be preferable to anarchy, they might

repose with joy under the Turkish yoke. I shall not pursue the obscure and various dynasties, that rose and fell on the continent or in the

isles; but our silence on the fate of Athens [51] would argue a strange

ingratitude to the first and purest school of liberal science and amusement. In the partition of the empire, the principality of Athens and Thebes was assigned to Otho de la Roche, a noble warrior of burgundy, [52] with the title of great duke, [53] which the Latins

understood in their own sense, and the Greeks more foolishly derived from the age of Constantine. [54] Otho followed the standard of the

marquis of Montferrat: the ample state which he acquired by a miracle

of conduct or fortune, [55] was peaceably inherited by his son and two

grandsons, till the family, though not the nation, was changed, by the

marriage of an heiress into the elder branch of the house of Brienne. the son of that marriage, Walter de Brienne, succeeded to the duchy of athens; and, with the aid of some Catalan mercenaries, whom he invested with fiefs, reduced above thirty castles of the vassal or neighboring

lords. But when he was informed of the approach and ambition of the

great company, he collected a force of seven hundred knights, six thousand four hundred horse, and eight thousand foot, and boldly met them on the banks of the River Cephisus in Botia. The Catalans amounted to no more than three thousand five hundred horse, and four thousand foot; but the deficiency of numbers was compensated by stratagem and

order. They formed round their camp an artificial inundation; the duke and his knights advanced without fear or precaution on the verdant

meadow; their horses plunged into the bog; and he was cut in pieces, with the greatest part of the French cavalry. His family and nation were expelled; and his son Walter de Brienne, the titular duke of Athens, the tyrant of Florence, and the constable of France, lost his life in the field of Poitiers Attica and Botia were the rewards of the victorious catalans; they married the widows and daughters of the slain; and during fourteen years, the great company was the terror of the Grecian states. their factions drove them to acknowledge the sovereignty of the house of arragon; and during the remainder of the fourteenth century, Athens, as a government or an appanage, was successively bestowed by the kings of

Sicily. After the French and Catalans, the third dynasty was that of the Accaioli, a family, plebeian at Florence, potent at Naples, and

sovereign in Greece. Athens, which they embellished with new buildings, became the capital of a state, that extended over Thebes, Argos, corinth, Delphi, and a part of Thessaly; and their reign was finally determined by Mahomet the Second, who strangled the last duke, and educated his sons in the discipline and religion of the seraglio.

[Footnote 51: See the laborious history of Ducange, whose accurate table

of the French dynasties recapitulates the thirty-five passages, in which

he mentions the dukes of Athens.]

[Footnote 52: He is twice mentioned by Villehardouin with honor, (No.

151, 235;) and under the first passage, Ducange observes all that can be

known of his person and family.]

[Footnote 53: From these Latin princes of the xivth century, Boccace, chaucer. and Shakspeare, have borrowed their Theseus \_duke\_ of Athens. an ignorant age transfers its own language and manners to the most distant times.]

[Footnote 54: The same Constantine gave to Sicily a king, to Russia the

\_magnus dapifer\_ of the empire, to Thebes the \_primicerius\_; and these absurd fables are properly lashed by Ducange, (ad Nicephor. Greg. l.

vii. c. 5.) By the Latins, the lord of Thebes was styled, by corruption, the Megas Kurios, or Grand Sire!]

[Footnote 55: \_Quodam miraculo\_, says Alberic. He was probably received by Michael Choniates, the archbishop who had defended Athens against the tyrant Leo Sgurus, (Nicetas urbs capta, p. 805, ed. Bek.) Michael was the brother of the historian Nicetas; and his encomium of Athens is

still extant in MS. in the Bodleian library, (Fabric. Bibliot. Græc tom.

vi. p. 405.) \* Note: Nicetas says expressly that Michael surrendered the Acropolis to the marquis.--M.]

athens, [56] though no more than the shadow of her former self, still contains about eight or ten thousand inhabitants; of these, three fourths are Greeks in religion and language; and the Turks, who compose the remainder, have relaxed, in their intercourse with the citizens,

somewhat of the pride and gravity of their national character. The

olive-tree, the gift of Minerva, flourishes in Attica; nor has the honey

of Mount Hymettus lost any part of its exquisite flavor: [57] but the

languid trade is monopolized by strangers, and the agriculture of a barren land is abandoned to the vagrant Walachians. The Athenians are still distinguished by the subtlety and acuteness of their

understandings; but these qualities, unless ennobled by freedom, and enlightened by study, will degenerate into a low and selfish cunning: and it is a proverbial saying of the country, "From the Jews of thessalonica, the Turks of Negropont, and the Greeks of Athens, good

Lord deliver us!" This artful people has eluded the tyranny of the turkish bashaws, by an expedient which alleviates their servitude and aggravates their shame. About the middle of the last century, the athenians chose for their protector the Kislar Aga, or chief black eunuch of the seraglio. This Æthiopian slave, who possesses the sultan's ear, condescends to accept the tribute of thirty thousand crowns: his

lieutenant, the Waywode, whom he annually confirms, may reserve for

his own about five or six thousand more; and such is the policy of the citizens, that they seldom fail to remove and punish an oppressive

governor. Their private differences are decided by the archbishop,

one of the richest prelates of the Greek church, since he possesses a

revenue of one thousand pounds sterling; and by a tribunal of the eight

\_geronti\_ or elders, chosen in the eight quarters of the city: the noble families cannot trace their pedigree above three hundred years; but their principal members are distinguished by a grave demeanor, a fur cap, and the lofty appellation of \_archon\_. By some, who delight in the contrast, the modern language of Athens is represented as the most corrupt and barbarous of the seventy dialects of the vulgar Greek: [58] this picture is too darkly colored: but it would not be easy, in the country of Plato and Demosthenes, to find a reader or a copy of their works. The Athenians walk with supine indifference among the glorious

ruins of antiquity; and such is the debasement of their character, that they are incapable of admiring the genius of their predecessors. [59]

[Footnote 56: The modern account of Athens, and the Athenians, is extracted from Spon, (Voyage en Grece, tom. ii. p. 79--199,) and wheeler, (Travels into Greece, p. 337--414,) Stuart, (Antiquities of athens, passim,) and Chandler, (Travels into Greece, p. 23--172.) The first of these travellers visited Greece in the year 1676; the last,

1765; and ninety years had not produced much difference in the tranquil

scene.]

[Footnote 57: The ancients, or at least the Athenians, believed that all the bees in the world had been propagated from Mount Hymettus. they taught, that health might be preserved, and life prolonged, by the external use of oil, and the internal use of honey, (Geoponica, l. xv. c

7, p. 1089--1094, edit. Niclas.)]

[Footnote 58: Ducange, Glossar. Græc. Præfat. p. 8, who quotes for his author Theodosius Zygomalas, a modern grammarian. Yet Spon (tom. ii.

p. 194) and Wheeler, (p. 355,) no incompetent judges, entertain a more favorable opinion of the Attic dialect.]

[Footnote 59: Yet we must not accuse them of corrupting the name of athens, which they still call Athini. From the eiV thn 'Aqhnhn, we have formed our own barbarism of \_Setines\_. \* Note: Gibbon did not foresee a bavarian prince on the throne of

Greece, with Athens as his capital.--M.]

chapter LXIII: Civil Wars And The Ruin Of The Greek Empire.--Part I.

Civil Wars, And Ruin Of The Greek Empire.--Reigns Of

Andronicus, The Elder And Younger, And John Palæologus.--

Regency, Revolt, Reign, And Abdication Of John Cantacuzene.--

Establishment Of A Genoese Colony At Pera Or Galata.--Their

Wars With The Empire And City Of Constantinople.

the long reign of Andronicus [1] the elder is chiefly memorable by the disputes of the Greek church, the invasion of the Catalans, and the rise

of the Ottoman power. He is celebrated as the most learned and virtuous

prince of the age; but such virtue, and such learning, contributed

neither to the perfection of the individual, nor to the happiness of

society A slave of the most abject superstition, he was surrounded on all sides by visible and invisible enemies; nor were the flames of hell

less dreadful to his fancy, than those of a Catalan or Turkish war.

Under the reign of the Palæologi, the choice of the patriarch was the

most important business of the state; the heads of the Greek church were ambitious and fanatic monks; and their vices or virtues, their

learning or ignorance, were equally mischievous or contemptible. By his

intemperate discipline, the patriarch Athanasius [2] excited the hatred

of the clergy and people: he was heard to declare, that the sinner

should swallow the last dregs of the cup of penance; and the foolish tale was propagated of his punishing a sacrilegious ass that had tasted the lettuce of a convent garden. Driven from the throne by the universal clamor, Athanasius composed before his retreat two papers of a very

opposite cast. His public testament was in the tone of charity and

resignation; the private codicil breathed the direst anathemas against the authors of his disgrace, whom he excluded forever from the communion

of the holy trinity, the angels, and the saints. This last paper he enclosed in an earthen pot, which was placed, by his order, on the top

of one of the pillars, in the dome of St. Sophia, in the distant hope of discovery and revenge. At the end of four years, some youths, climbing by a ladder in search of pigeons' nests, detected the fatal secret; and, as Andronicus felt himself touched and bound by the excommunication, he trembled on the brink of the abyss which had been so treacherously dug

under his feet. A synod of bishops was instantly convened to debate this important question: the rashness of these clandestine anathemas was

generally condemned; but as the knot could be untied only by the same

hand, as that hand was now deprived of the crosier, it appeared that this posthumous decree was irrevocable by any earthly power. Some faint testimonies of repentance and pardon were extorted from the author of the mischief; but the conscience of the emperor was still wounded, and

he desired, with no less ardor than Athanasius himself, the restoration

of a patriarch, by whom alone he could be healed. At the dead of night, a monk rudely knocked at the door of the royal bed-chamber, announcing a revelation of plague and famine, of inundations and earthquakes. andronicus started from his bed, and spent the night in prayer, till he felt, or thought that he felt, a slight motion of the earth. The emperor

on foot led the bishops and monks to the cell of Athanasius; and, after a proper resistance, the saint, from whom this message had been

sent, consented to absolve the prince, and govern the church of constantinople. Untamed by disgrace, and hardened by solitude, the

shepherd was again odious to the flock, and his enemies contrived a

singular, and as it proved, a successful, mode of revenge. In the night, they stole away the footstool or foot-cloth of his throne, which they

secretly replaced with the decoration of a satirical picture. The emperor was painted with a bridle in his mouth, and Athanasius leading the tractable beast to the feet of Christ. The authors of the libel were detected and punished; but as their lives had been spared, the Christian

priest in sullen indignation retired to his cell; and the eyes of andronicus, which had been opened for a moment, were again closed by his

successor.

[Footnote 1: Andronicus himself will justify our freedom in the

invective, (Nicephorus Gregoras, l. i. c. i.,) which he pronounced against historic falsehood. It is true, that his censure is more

pointedly urged against calumny than against adulation.]

[Footnote 2: For the anathema in the pigeon's nest, see Pachymer, (l.

ix. c. 24,) who relates the general history of Athanasius, (l. viii. c.

13--16, 20, 24, l. x. c. 27--29, 31--36, l. xi. c. 1--3, 5, 6, l. xiii. c. 8, 10, 23, 35,) and is followed by Nicephorus Gregoras, (l. vi. c.

5, 7, l. vii. c. 1, 9,) who includes the second retreat of this second chrysostom.]

If this transaction be one of the most curious and important of a reign

of fifty years, I cannot at least accuse the brevity of my materials,

since I reduce into some few pages the enormous folios of Pachymer, [3] cantacuzene, [4] and Nicephorus Gregoras, [5] who have composed the prolix and languid story of the times. The name and situation of the emperor

John Cantacuzene might inspire the most lively curiosity. His memorials

of forty years extend from the revolt of the younger Andronicus to his

own abdication of the empire; and it is observed, that, like Moses and cæsar, he was the principal actor in the scenes which he describes. But

in this eloquent work we should vainly seek the sincerity of a hero or a penitent. Retired in a cloister from the vices and passions of the world, he presents not a confession, but an apology, of the life of an ambitious statesman. Instead of unfolding the true counsels and characters of men, he displays the smooth and specious surface of events, highly varnished with his own praises and those of his friends. their motives are always pure; their ends always legitimate: they conspire and rebel without any views of interest; and the violence which they inflict or suffer is celebrated as the spontaneous effect of reason and virtue.

[Footnote 3: Pachymer, in seven books, 377 folio pages, describes the first twenty-six years of Andronicus the Elder; and marks the date of

his composition by the current news or lie of the day, (A.D. 1308.) either death or disgust prevented him from resuming the pen.]

[Footnote 4: After an interval of twelve years, from the conclusion of

Pachymer, Cantacuzenus takes up the pen; and his first book (c. 1--59,

p. 9--150) relates the civil war, and the eight last years of the elder andronicus. The ingenious comparison with Moses and Cæsar is fancied by

his French translator, the president Cousin.]

[Footnote 5: Nicephorus Gregoras more briefly includes the entire life and reign of Andronicus the elder, (l. vi. c. 1, p. 96--291.) This

is the part of which Cantacuzene complains as a false and malicious

representation of his conduct.]

after the example of the first of the Palæologi, the elder Andronicus associated his son Michael to the honors of the purple; and from the age

of eighteen to his premature death, that prince was acknowledged, above twenty-five years, as the second emperor of the Greeks. [6] At the head

of an army, he excited neither the fears of the enemy, nor the jealousy

of the court; his modesty and patience were never tempted to compute the years of his father; nor was that father compelled to repent of his

liberality either by the virtues or vices of his son. The son of Michael was named Andronicus from his grandfather, to whose early favor he was

introduced by that nominal resemblance. The blossoms of wit and beauty

increased the fondness of the elder Andronicus; and, with the common

vanity of age, he expected to realize in the second, the hope which had been disappointed in the first, generation. The boy was educated in the

palace as an heir and a favorite; and in the oaths and acclamations of the people, the \_august triad\_ was formed by the names of the father, the son, and the grandson. But the younger Andronicus was speedily corrupted by his infant greatness, while he beheld with puerile

impatience the double obstacle that hung, and might long hang, over his

rising ambition. It was not to acquire fame, or to diffuse happiness, that he so eagerly aspired: wealth and impunity were in his eyes the

most precious attributes of a monarch; and his first indiscreet demand was the sovereignty of some rich and fertile island, where he might lead a life of independence and pleasure. The emperor was offended by the

loud and frequent intemperance which disturbed his capital; the sums which his parsimony denied were supplied by the Genoese usurers of Pera; and the oppressive debt, which consolidated the interest of a faction, could be discharged only by a revolution. A beautiful female, a matron

in rank, a prostitute in manners, had instructed the younger Andronicus

in the rudiments of love; but he had reason to suspect the nocturnal

visits of a rival; and a stranger passing through the street was pierced by the arrows of his guards, who were placed in ambush at her door. That

stranger was his brother, Prince Manuel, who languished and died of his wound; and the emperor Michael, their common father, whose health was in a declining state, expired on the eighth day, lamenting the loss of both his children. [7] However guiltless in his intention, the younger andronicus might impute a brother's and a father's death to the consequence of his own vices; and deep was the sigh of thinking and feeling men, when they perceived, instead of sorrow and repentance, his

ill-dissembled joy on the removal of two odious competitors. By these

melancholy events, and the increase of his disorders, the mind of the elder emperor was gradually alienated; and, after many fruitless

reproofs, he transferred on another grandson [8] his hopes and affection. the change was announced by the new oath of allegiance to the reigning

sovereign, and the \_person\_ whom he should appoint for his successor; and the acknowledged heir, after a repetition of insults and complaints, was exposed to the indignity of a public trial. Before the sentence, which would probably have condemned him to a dungeon or a cell, the emperor was informed that the palace courts were filled with the armed followers of his grandson; the judgment was softened to a treaty of

reconciliation; and the triumphant escape of the prince encouraged the ardor of the younger faction.

[Footnote 6: He was crowned May 21st, 1295, and died October 12th, 1320,

(Ducange, Fam. Byz. p. 239.) His brother Theodore, by a second marriage,

inherited the marquisate of Montferrat, apostatized to the religion and manners of the Latins, (oti kai gnwmh kai pistei kai schkati, kai

geneiwn koura kai pasin eqesin DatinoV hn akraijnhV. Nic. Greg. l. ix. c. 1,) and founded a dynasty of Italian princes, which was extinguished a.D. 1533, (Ducange, Fam. Byz. p. 249--253.)]

[Footnote 7: We are indebted to Nicephorus Gregoras (l. viii. c. 1) for the knowledge of this tragic adventure; while Cantacuzene more discreetly conceals the vices of Andronicus the Younger, of which he was the witness and perhaps the associate, (l. i. c. 1, &c.)]

[Footnote 8: His destined heir was Michael Catharus, the bastard of constantine his second son. In this project of excluding his grandson andronicus, Nicephorus Gregoras (l. viii. c. 3) agrees with Cantacuzene,

(l. i. c. 1, 2.)]

Yet the capital, the clergy, and the senate, adhered to the person, or at least to the government, of the old emperor; and it was only in the provinces, by flight, and revolt, and foreign succor, that the

malecontents could hope to vindicate their cause and subvert his throne. the soul of the enterprise was the great domestic John Cantacuzene; the sally from Constantinople is the first date of his actions and

memorials; and if his own pen be most descriptive of his patriotism, an

unfriendly historian has not refused to celebrate the zeal and ability which he displayed in the service of the young emperor. [89] That prince escaped from the capital under the pretence of hunting; erected his

standard at Adrianople; and, in a few days, assembled fifty thousand

horse and foot, whom neither honor nor duty could have armed against the barbarians. Such a force might have saved or commanded the empire; but their counsels were discordant, their motions were slow and doubtful, and their progress was checked by intrigue and negotiation. The quarrel

of the two Andronici was protracted, and suspended, and renewed, during a ruinous period of seven years. In the first treaty, the relics of the Greek empire were divided: Constantinople, Thessalonica, and the islands, were left to the elder, while the younger acquired the

sovereignty of the greatest part of Thrace, from Philippi to the byzantine limit. By the second treaty, he stipulated the payment of his troops, his immediate coronation, and an adequate share of the power and

revenue of the state. The third civil war was terminated by the surprise

of Constantinople, the final retreat of the old emperor, and the sole

reign of his victorious grandson. The reasons of this delay may be found

in the characters of the men and of the times. When the heir of the

monarchy first pleaded his wrongs and his apprehensions, he was heard with pity and applause: and his adherents repeated on all sides the

inconsistent promise, that he would increase the pay of the soldiers and alleviate the burdens of the people. The grievances of forty years were

mingled in his revolt; and the rising generation was fatigued by the endless prospect of a reign, whose favorites and maxims were of other times. The youth of Andronicus had been without spirit, his age was without reverence: his taxes produced an unusual revenue of five hundred thousand pounds; yet the richest of the sovereigns of Christendom was

incapable of maintaining three thousand horse and twenty galleys, to

resist the destructive progress of the Turks. [9] "How different," said the younger Andronicus, "is my situation from that of the son of Philip! alexander might complain, that his father would leave him nothing to conquer: alas! my grandsire will leave me nothing to lose." But the

Greeks were soon admonished, that the public disorders could not be

healed by a civil war; and that their young favorite was not destined to be the savior of a falling empire. On the first repulse, his party was broken by his own levity, their intestine discord, and the intrigues of the ancient court, which tempted each malecontent to desert or betray the cause of the rebellion. Andronicus the younger was touched with

remorse, or fatigued with business, or deceived by negotiation: pleasure

rather than power was his aim; and the license of maintaining a thousand

hounds, a thousand hawks, and a thousand huntsmen, was sufficient to

sully his fame and disarm his ambition.

[Footnote 89: The conduct of Cantacuzene, by his own showing, was

inexplicable. He was unwilling to dethrone the old emperor, and dissuaded the immediate march on Constantinople. The young Andronicus,

he says, entered into his views, and wrote to warn the emperor of his danger when the march was determined. Cantacuzenus, in Nov. Byz. Hist. collect. vol. i. p. 104, &c.--M.]

[Footnote 9: See Nicephorus Gregoras, l. viii. c. 6. The younger andronicus complained, that in four years and four months a sum

of 350,000 byzants of gold was due to him for the expenses of his

household, (Cantacuzen l. i. c. 48.) Yet he would have remitted the debt, if he might have been allowed to squeeze the farmers of the

revenue.]

Let us now survey the catastrophe of this busy plot, and the final

situation of the principal actors. [10] The age of Andronicus was consumed in civil discord; and, amidst the events of war and treaty, his

power and reputation continually decayed, till the fatal night in which the gates of the city and palace were opened without resistance to

his grandson. His principal commander scorned the repeated warnings

of danger; and retiring to rest in the vain security of ignorance, abandoned the feeble monarch, with some priests and pages, to the terrors of a sleepless night. These terrors were quickly realized by the

hostile shouts, which proclaimed the titles and victory of Andronicus the younger; and the aged emperor, falling prostrate before an image of the Virgin, despatched a suppliant message to resign the sceptre, and to obtain his life at the hands of the conqueror. The answer of his

grandson was decent and pious; at the prayer of his friends, the younger andronicus assumed the sole administration; but the elder still enjoyed the name and preeminence of the first emperor, the use of the great

palace, and a pension of twenty-four thousand pieces of gold, one

half of which was assigned on the royal treasury, and the other on the fishery of Constantinople. But his impotence was soon exposed to contempt and oblivion; the vast silence of the palace was disturbed

only by the cattle and poultry of the neighborhood, [101] which roved with

impunity through the solitary courts; and a reduced allowance of ten thousand pieces of gold [11] was all that he could ask, and more than he could hope. His calamities were imbittered by the gradual extinction of

sight; his confinement was rendered each day more rigorous; and during the absence and sickness of his grandson, his inhuman keepers, by the threats of instant death, compelled him to exchange the purple for the

monastic habit and profession. The monk \_Antony\_ had renounced the pomp

of the world; yet he had occasion for a coarse fur in the winter season, and as wine was forbidden by his confessor, and water by his physician, the sherbet of Egypt was his common drink. It was not without difficulty that the late emperor could procure three or four pieces to satisfy these simple wants; and if he bestowed the gold to relieve the more

painful distress of a friend, the sacrifice is of some weight in the scale of humanity and religion. Four years after his abdication, andronicus or Antony expired in a cell, in the seventy-fourth year of

his age: and the last strain of adulation could only promise a more

splendid crown of glory in heaven than he had enjoyed upon earth. [12] [121]

[Footnote 10: I follow the chronology of Nicephorus Gregoras, who is

remarkably exact. It is proved that Cantacuzene has mistaken the dates

of his own actions, or rather that his text has been corrupted by

ignorant transcribers.]

[Footnote 101: And the washerwomen, according to Nic. Gregoras, p.

431.--M.]

[Footnote 11: I have endeavored to reconcile the 24,000 pieces of cantacuzene (l. ii. c. 1) with the 10,000 of Nicephorus Gregoras, (l.

ix. c. 2;) the one of whom wished to soften, the other to magnify, the

hardships of the old emperor.]

[Footnote 12: See Nicephorus Gregoras, (l. ix. 6, 7, 8, 10, 14, l. x. c.

1.) The historian had tasted of the prosperity, and shared the retreat,

of his benefactor; and that friendship which "waits or to the scaffold

or the cell," should not lightly be accused as "a hireling, a prostitute to praise." \* Note: But it may be accused of unparalleled absurdity. He compares the extinction of the feeble old man to that of the sun: his coffin is to be floated like Noah's ark by a deluge of tears.--M.]

[Footnote 121: Prodigies (according to Nic. Gregoras, p. 460) announced the departure of the old and imbecile Imperial Monk from his earthly

prison.--M.]

Nor was the reign of the younger, more glorious or fortunate than that

of the elder, Andronicus. [13] He gathered the fruits of ambition; but the taste was transient and bitter: in the supreme station he lost the

remains of his early popularity; and the defects of his character became

still more conspicuous to the world. The public reproach urged him to

march in person against the Turks; nor did his courage fail in the

hour of trial; but a defeat and a wound were the only trophies of his expedition in Asia, which confirmed the establishment of the Ottoman

monarchy. The abuses of the civil government attained their full

maturity and perfection: his neglect of forms, and the confusion of

national dresses, are deplored by the Greeks as the fatal symptoms

of the decay of the empire. Andronicus was old before his time; the

intemperance of youth had accelerated the infirmities of age; and after being rescued from a dangerous malady by nature, or physic, or the

Virgin, he was snatched away before he had accomplished his forty-fifth

year. He was twice married; and, as the progress of the Latins in arms and arts had softened the prejudices of the Byzantine court, his two wives were chosen in the princely houses of Germany and Italy. The first, Agnes at home, Irene in Greece, was daughter of the duke of brunswick. Her father [14] was a petty lord [15] in the poor and savage

regions of the north of Germany: [16] yet he derived some revenue from

his silver mines; [17] and his family is celebrated by the Greeks as the

most ancient and noble of the Teutonic name. [18] After the death of this childish princess, Andronicus sought in marriage Jane, the sister of the count of Savoy; [19] and his suit was preferred to that of the French

king. [20] The count respected in his sister the superior majesty of a

Roman empress: her retinue was composed of knights and ladies; she was regenerated and crowned in St. Sophia, under the more orthodox appellation of Anne; and, at the nuptial feast, the Greeks and Italians

vied with each other in the martial exercises of tilts and tournaments.

[Footnote 13: The sole reign of Andronicus the younger is described by cantacuzene (l. ii. c. 1--40, p. 191--339) and Nicephorus Gregoras, (l.

ix c. 7--l. xi. c. 11, p. 262--361.)]

[Footnote 14: Agnes, or Irene, was the daughter of Duke Henry the wonderful, the chief of the house of Brunswick, and the fourth in descent from the famous Henry the Lion, duke of Saxony and Bavaria, and conqueror of the Sclavi on the Baltic coast. Her brother Henry was

surnamed the \_Greek\_, from his two journeys into the East: but these

journeys were subsequent to his sister's marriage; and I am ignorant

\_how\_ Agnes was discovered in the heart of Germany, and recommended to the Byzantine court. (Rimius, Memoirs of the House of Brunswick, p.

126--137.]

[Footnote 15: Henry the Wonderful was the founder of the branch of

Grubenhagen, extinct in the year 1596, (Rimius, p. 287.) He resided in the castle of Wolfenbuttel, and possessed no more than a sixth part of the allodial estates of Brunswick and Luneburgh, which the Guelph family

had saved from the confiscation of their great fiefs. The frequent

partitions among brothers had almost ruined the princely houses of

Germany, till that just, but pernicious, law was slowly superseded by the right of primogeniture. The principality of Grubenhagen, one of the last remains of the Hercynian forest, is a woody, mountainous, and barren tract, (Busching's Geography, vol. vi. p. 270--286, English translation.)]

[Footnote 16: The royal author of the Memoirs of Brandenburgh will teach

us, how justly, in a much later period, the north of Germany deserved the epithets of poor and barbarous. (Essai sur les Murs, &c.) In the

year 1306, in the woods of Luneburgh, some wild people of the Vened race were allowed to bury alive their infirm and useless parents. (Rimius, p.

136.)]

[Footnote 17: The assertion of Tacitus, that Germany was destitute of the precious metals, must be taken, even in his own time, with some

limitation, (Germania, c. 5. Annal. xi. 20.) According to Spener,

(Hist. Germaniæ Pragmatica, tom. i. p. 351,) \_Argentifodin\_ in Hercyniis

montibus, imperante Othone magno (A.D. 968) primum apertæ, largam etiam

opes augendi dederunt copiam: but Rimius (p. 258, 259) defers till the

year 1016 the discovery of the silver mines of Grubenhagen, or the Upper

Hartz, which were productive in the beginning of the xivth century, and which still yield a considerable revenue to the house of Brunswick.]

[Footnote 18: Cantacuzene has given a most honorable testimony, hn d' ek

Germanvn auth Jugathr doukoV nti Mprouzouhk, (the modern Greeks employ the nt for the d, and the mp for the b, and the whole will read in the

Italian idiom di Brunzuic,) tou par autoiV epijanestatou, kai?iamprothti

pantaV touV omojulouV uperballontoV. The praise is just in itself, and

pleasing to an English ear.]

[Footnote 19: Anne, or Jane, was one of the four daughters of Amedée the Great, by a second marriage, and half-sister of his successor Edward count of Savoy. (Anderson's Tables, p. 650. See Cantacuzene, l. i. c.

40--42.)]

[Footnote 20: That king, if the fact be true, must have been Charles the Fair who in five years (1321--1326) was married to three wives,

(Anderson, p. 628.) Anne of Savoy arrived at Constantinople in February,

1326.]

the empress Anne of Savoy survived her husband: their son, John

Palæologus, was left an orphan and an emperor in the ninth year of his age; and his weakness was protected by the first and most deserving

of the Greeks. The long and cordial friendship of his father for John cantacuzene is alike honorable to the prince and the subject. It had been formed amidst the pleasures of their youth: their families were almost equally noble; [21] and the recent lustre of the purple was amply compensated by the energy of a private education. We have seen that the young emperor was saved by Cantacuzene from the power of his

grandfather; and, after six years of civil war, the same favorite brought him back in triumph to the palace of Constantinople. Under the

reign of Andronicus the younger, the great domestic ruled the emperor and the empire; and it was by his valor and conduct that the Isle of

Lesbos and the principality of Ætolia were restored to their ancient allegiance. His enemies confess, that, among the public robbers, cantacuzene alone was moderate and abstemious; and the free and

voluntary account which he produces of his own wealth [22] may sustain the presumption that he was devolved by inheritance, and not accumulated by rapine. He does not indeed specify the value of his money, plate, and jewels; yet, after a voluntary gift of two hundred vases of silver, after much had been secreted by his friends and plundered by his foes,

his forfeit treasures were sufficient for the equipment of a fleet of

seventy galleys. He does not measure the size and number of his estates; but his granaries were heaped with an incredible store of wheat and barley; and the labor of a thousand yoke of oxen might cultivate, according to the practice of antiquity, about sixty-two thousand five

hundred acres of arable land. [23] His pastures were stocked with two thousand five hundred brood mares, two hundred camels, three hundred

mules, five hundred asses, five thousand horned cattle, fifty thousand

hogs, and seventy thousand sheep: [24] a precious record of rural

opulence, in the last period of the empire, and in a land, most probably

in Thrace, so repeatedly wasted by foreign and domestic hostility. the favor of Cantacuzene was above his fortune. In the moments of familiarity, in the hour of sickness, the emperor was desirous to level the distance between them and pressed his friend to accept the diadem and purple. The virtue of the great domestic, which is attested by his

own pen, resisted the dangerous proposal; but the last testament of andronicus the younger named him the guardian of his son, and the regent

of the empire.

[Footnote 21: The noble race of the Cantacuzeni (illustrious from the

xith century in the Byzantine annals) was drawn from the Paladins of france, the heroes of those romances which, in the xiiith century, were translated and read by the Greeks, (Ducange, Fam. Byzant. p. 258.)]

[Footnote 22: See Cantacuzene, (l. iii. c. 24, 30, 36.)]

[Footnote 23: Saserna, in Gaul, and Columella, in Italy or Spain, allow two yoke of oxen, two drivers, and six laborers, for two hundred jugera

(125 English acres) of arable land, and three more men must be added if there be much underwood, (Columella de Re Rustica, l. ii. c. 13, p 441, edit. Gesner.)]

[Footnote 24: In this enumeration (l. iii. c. 30) the French translation

of the president Cousin is blotted with three palpable and essential errors. 1. He omits the 1000 yoke of working oxen. 2. He interprets the

pentakosiai proV diaciliaiV, by the number of fifteen hundred. \* 3. He confounds myriads with chiliads, and gives Cantacuzene no more than 5000

hogs. Put not your trust in translations! Note: \* There seems to be another reading, ciliaiV. Niebuhr's edit. in

loc.--M.]

Had the regent found a suitable return of obedience and gratitude,

perhaps he would have acted with pure and zealous fidelity in the

service of his pupil. [25] A guard of five hundred soldiers watched over

his person and the palace; the funeral of the late emperor was decently

performed; the capital was silent and submissive; and five hundred

letters, which Cantacuzene despatched in the first month, informed the provinces of their loss and their duty. The prospect of a tranquil

minority was blasted by the great duke or admiral Apocaucus, and to exaggerate \_his\_ perfidy, the Imperial historian is pleased to magnify

his own imprudence, in raising him to that office against the advice of

his more sagacious sovereign. Bold and subtle, rapacious and profuse, the avarice and ambition of Apocaucus were by turns subservient to each

other; and his talents were applied to the ruin of his country.

His arrogance was heightened by the command of a naval force and an

impregnable castle, and under the mask of oaths and flattery he secretly conspired against his benefactor. The female court of the empress was bribed and directed; he encouraged Anne of Savoy to assert, by the law

of nature, the tutelage of her son; the love of power was disguised by the anxiety of maternal tenderness: and the founder of the Palæologi had

instructed his posterity to dread the example of a perfidious guardian. the patriarch John of Apri was a proud and feeble old man, encompassed by a numerous and hungry kindred. He produced an obsolete epistle of andronicus, which bequeathed the prince and people to his pious care: the fate of his predecessor Arsenius prompted him to prevent, rather than punish, the crimes of a usurper; and Apocaucus smiled at the

success of his own flattery, when he beheld the Byzantine priest assuming the state and temporal claims of the Roman pontiff. [26] Between three persons so different in their situation and character, a private

league was concluded: a shadow of authority was restored to the senate; and the people was tempted by the name of freedom. By this powerful confederacy, the great domestic was assaulted at first with clandestine, at length with open, arms. His prerogatives were disputed; his opinions

slighted; his friends persecuted; and his safety was threatened both in the camp and city. In his absence on the public service, he was accused of treason; proscribed as an enemy of the church and state; and delivered with all his adherents to the sword of justice, the

vengeance of the people, and the power of the devil; his fortunes were confiscated; his aged mother was cast into prison; [261] all his past

services were buried in oblivion; and he was driven by injustice to

perpetrate the crime of which he was accused. [27] From the review of

his preceding conduct, Cantacuzene appears to have been guiltless of any treasonable designs; and the only suspicion of his innocence must arise from the vehemence of his protestations, and the sublime purity which

he ascribes to his own virtue. While the empress and the patriarch

still affected the appearances of harmony, he repeatedly solicited the

permission of retiring to a private, and even a monastic, life. After

he had been declared a public enemy, it was his fervent wish to throw

himself at the feet of the young emperor, and to receive without a

murmur the stroke of the executioner: it was not without reluctance that

he listened to the voice of reason, which inculcated the sacred duty of

saving his family and friends, and proved that he could only save them by drawing the sword and assuming the Imperial title.

[Footnote 25: See the regency and reign of John Cantacuzenus, and the whole progress of the civil war, in his own history, (l. iii. c. 1--100,

p. 348--700,) and in that of Nicephorus Gregoras, (l. xii. c. 1--l. xv. c. 9, p. 353--492.)]

[Footnote 26: He assumes the royal privilege of red shoes or buskins;

placed on his head a mitre of silk and gold; subscribed his epistles with hyacinth or green ink, and claimed for the new, whatever constantine had given to the ancient, Rome, (Cantacuzen. l. iii. c. 36.

Nic. Gregoras, l. xiv. c. 3.)]

[Footnote 261: She died there through persecution and neglect.--M.]

[Footnote 27: Nic. Gregoras (l. xii. c. 5) confesses the innocence and

virtues of Cantacuzenus, the guilt and flagitious vices of Apocaucus;

nor does he dissemble the motive of his personal and religious enmity to the former; nun de dia kakian allwn, aitioV o praotatoV thV tvn olwn edoxaV? eioai jqoraV. Note: The alloi were the religious enemies and

persecutors of Nicephorus.--M.]

chapter LXIII: Civil Wars And The Ruin Of The Greek Empire.--Part II.

In the strong city of Demotica, his peculiar domain, the emperor John cantacuzenus was invested with the purple buskins: his right leg was clothed by his noble kinsmen, the left by the Latin chiefs, on whom he conferred the order of knighthood. But even in this act of revolt, he was still studious of loyalty; and the titles of John Palæologus and anne of Savoy were proclaimed before his own name and that of his wife

Irene. Such vain ceremony is a thin disguise of rebellion, nor are there

perhaps any personal wrongs that can authorize a subject to take arms against his sovereign: but the want of preparation and success may confirm the assurance of the usurper, that this decisive step was the effect of necessity rather than of choice. Constantinople adhered to the young emperor; the king of Bulgaria was invited to the relief of adrianople: the principal cities of Thrace and Macedonia, after some

hesitation, renounced their obedience to the great domestic; and the

leaders of the troops and provinces were induced, by their private

interest, to prefer the loose dominion of a woman and a priest. [271] The army of Cantacuzene, in sixteen divisions, was stationed on the banks

of the Melas to tempt or to intimidate the capital: it was dispersed by treachery or fear; and the officers, more especially the mercenary

Latins, accepted the bribes, and embraced the service, of the Byzantine court. After this loss, the rebel emperor (he fluctuated between the two characters) took the road of Thessalonica with a chosen remnant; but

he failed in his enterprise on that important place; and he was closely

pursued by the great duke, his enemy Apocaucus, at the head of a

superior power by sea and land. Driven from the coast, in his march, or

rather flight, into the mountains of Servia, Cantacuzene assembled his troops to scrutinize those who were worthy and willing to accompany his broken fortunes. A base majority bowed and retired; and his trusty band was diminished to two thousand, and at last to five hundred, volunteers. the \_cral\_, [28] or despot of the Servians received him with general

hospitality; but the ally was insensibly degraded to a suppliant, a

hostage, a captive; and in this miserable dependence, he waited at the door of the Barbarian, who could dispose of the life and liberty of a

Roman emperor. The most tempting offers could not persuade the cral to

violate his trust; but he soon inclined to the stronger side; and his friend was dismissed without injury to a new vicissitude of hopes and

perils. Near six years the flame of discord burnt with various success and unabated rage: the cities were distracted by the faction of the

nobles and the plebeians; the Cantacuzeni and Palæologi: and the bulgarians, the Servians, and the Turks, were invoked on both sides as the instruments of private ambition and the common ruin. The regent deplored the calamities, of which he was the author and victim: and his

own experience might dictate a just and lively remark on the different

nature of foreign and civil war. "The former," said he, "is the external warmth of summer, always tolerable, and often beneficial; the latter is the deadly heat of a fever, which consumes without a remedy the vitals

of the constitution." [29]

[Footnote 271: Cantacuzene asserts, that in all the cities, the populace were on the side of the emperor, the aristocracy on his. The

populace took the opportunity of rising and plundering the wealthy as cantacuzenites, vol. iii. c. 29 Ages of common oppression and ruin had

not extinguished these republican factions.--M.]

[Footnote 28: The princes of Servia (Ducange, Famil. Dalmaticæ, &c., c. 2, 3, 4, 9) were styled Despots in Greek, and Cral in their native

idiom, (Ducange, Gloss. Græc. p. 751.) That title, the equivalent

of king, appears to be of Sclavonic origin, from whence it has been borrowed by the Hungarians, the modern Greeks, and even by the Turks,

(Leunclavius, Pandect. Turc. p. 422,) who reserve the name of Padishah for the emperor. To obtain the latter instead of the former is the ambition of the French at Constantinople, (Aversissement à l'Histoire de timur Bec, p. 39.)]

[Footnote 29: Nic. Gregoras, l. xii. c. 14. It is surprising that cantacuzene has not inserted this just and lively image in his own writings.]

the introduction of barbarians and savages into the contests of civilized nations, is a measure pregnant with shame and mischief; which the interest of the moment may compel, but which is reprobated by the best principles of humanity and reason. It is the practice of both sides to accuse their enemies of the guilt of the first alliances; and those who fail in their negotiations are loudest in their censure of the example which they envy and would gladly imitate. The Turks of Asia were

less barbarous perhaps than the shepherds of Bulgaria and Servia; but their religion rendered them implacable foes of Rome and Christianity. to acquire the friendship of their emirs, the two factions vied with each other in baseness and profusion: the dexterity of Cantacuzene

obtained the preference: but the succor and victory were dearly

purchased by the marriage of his daughter with an infidel, the captivity

of many thousand Christians, and the passage of the Ottomans into europe, the last and fatal stroke in the fall of the Roman empire. The

inclining scale was decided in his favor by the death of Apocaucus, the

just though singular retribution of his crimes. A crowd of nobles or

plebeians, whom he feared or hated, had been seized by his orders in the capital and the provinces; and the old palace of Constantine was assigned as the place of their confinement. Some alterations in raising the walls, and narrowing the cells, had been ingeniously contrived to prevent their escape, and aggravate their misery; and the work was incessantly pressed by the daily visits of the tyrant. His guards watched at the gate, and as he stood in the inner court to overlook the architects, without fear or suspicion, he was assaulted and

laid breathless on the ground, by two [291] resolute prisoners of the

Palæologian race, [30] who were armed with sticks, and animated by despair. On the rumor of revenge and liberty, the captive multitude broke their fetters, fortified their prison, and exposed from the battlements the tyrant's head, presuming on the favor of the people and the clemency of the empress. Anne of Savoy might rejoice in the fall of a haughty and ambitious minister, but while she delayed to resolve or to act, the populace, more especially the mariners, were excited by the widow of the great duke to a sedition, an assault, and a massacre. The

prisoners (of whom the far greater part were guiltless or inglorious of the deed) escaped to a neighboring church: they were slaughtered at the foot of the altar; and in his death the monster was not less bloody and

venomous than in his life. Yet his talents alone upheld the cause of the

young emperor; and his surviving associates, suspicious of each other, abandoned the conduct of the war, and rejected the fairest terms of accommodation. In the beginning of the dispute, the empress felt, and complained, that she was deceived by the enemies of Cantacuzene: the

patriarch was employed to preach against the forgiveness of injuries; and her promise of immortal hatred was sealed by an oath, under the

penalty of excommunication. [31] But Anne soon learned to hate without a teacher: she beheld the misfortunes of the empire with the indifference

of a stranger: her jealousy was exasperated by the competition of a

rival empress; and on the first symptoms of a more yielding temper, she threatened the patriarch to convene a synod, and degrade him from

his office. Their incapacity and discord would have afforded the most decisive advantage; but the civil war was protracted by the weakness

of both parties; and the moderation of Cantacuzene has not escaped the reproach of timidity and indolence. He successively recovered the

provinces and cities; and the realm of his pupil was measured by the walls of Constantinople; but the metropolis alone counterbalanced the

rest of the empire; nor could he attempt that important conquest till he

had secured in his favor the public voice and a private correspondence. an Italian, of the name of Facciolati, [32] had succeeded to the office

of great duke: the ships, the guards, and the golden gate, were subject to his command; but his humble ambition was bribed to become the

instrument of treachery; and the revolution was accomplished without danger or bloodshed. Destitute of the powers of resistance, or the hope

of relief, the inflexible Anne would have still defended the palace, and have smiled to behold the capital in flames, rather than in the

possession of a rival. She yielded to the prayers of her friends and enemies; and the treaty was dictated by the conqueror, who professed a

loyal and zealous attachment to the son of his benefactor. The marriage

of his daughter with John Palæologus was at length consummated: the hereditary right of the pupil was acknowledged; but the sole administration during ten years was vested in the guardian. Two emperors and three empresses were seated on the Byzantine throne; and a general amnesty quieted the apprehensions, and confirmed the property, of the

most guilty subjects. The festival of the coronation and nuptials was celebrated with the appearances of concord and magnificence, and both were equally fallacious. During the late troubles, the treasures of the state, and even the furniture of the palace, had been alienated or embezzled; the royal banquet was served in pewter or earthenware; and

such was the proud poverty of the times, that the absence of gold and

jewels was supplied by the paltry artifices of glass and gilt-leather.

[33]

[Footnote 291: Nicephorus says four, p.734.]

[Footnote 30: The two avengers were both Palæologi, who might resent, with royal indignation, the shame of their chains. The tragedy of apocaucus may deserve a peculiar reference to Cantacuzene (l. iii. c.

86) and Nic. Gregoras, (l. xiv. c. 10.)]

[Footnote 31: Cantacuzene accuses the patriarch, and spares the empress, the mother of his sovereign, (l. iii. 33, 34,) against whom Nic.

Gregoras expresses a particular animosity, (l. xiv. 10, 11, xv. 5.) It

is true that they do not speak exactly of the same time.]

[Footnote 32: The traitor and treason are revealed by Nic. Gregoras,

(l. xv. c. 8;) but the name is more discreetly suppressed by his great accomplice, (Cantacuzen. l. iii. c. 99.)]

[Footnote 33: Nic. Greg. l. xv. 11. There were, however, some true

pearls, but very thinly sprinkled. The rest of the stones had only

pantodaphn croian proV to diaugeV.]

I hasten to conclude the personal history of John Cantacuzene. [34] He triumphed and reigned; but his reign and triumph were clouded by the discontent of his own and the adverse faction. His followers might style the general amnesty an act of pardon for his enemies, and of oblivion for his friends: [35] in his cause their estates had been forfeited or

plundered; and as they wandered naked and hungry through the streets, they cursed the selfish generosity of a leader, who, on the throne of the empire, might relinquish without merit his private inheritance. The adherents of the empress blushed to hold their lives and fortunes by the

precarious favor of a usurper; and the thirst of revenge was concealed by a tender concern for the succession, and even the safety, of her son. they were justly alarmed by a petition of the friends of Cantacuzene, that they might be released from their oath of allegiance to the

Palæologi, and intrusted with the defence of some cautionary towns; a

measure supported with argument and eloquence; and which was rejected

(says the Imperial historian) "by \_my\_ sublime, and almost incredible

virtue." His repose was disturbed by the sound of plots and seditions; and he trembled lest the lawful prince should be stolen away by some foreign or domestic enemy, who would inscribe his name and his wrongs in the banners of rebellion. As the son of Andronicus advanced in the years

of manhood, he began to feel and to act for himself; and his rising ambition was rather stimulated than checked by the imitation of his father's vices. If we may trust his own professions, Cantacuzene labored with honest industry to correct these sordid and sensual appetites, and to raise the mind of the young prince to a level with his fortune. In the Servian expedition, the two emperors showed themselves in cordial

harmony to the troops and provinces; and the younger colleague was

initiated by the elder in the mysteries of war and government. After the conclusion of the peace, Palæologus was left at Thessalonica, a royal

residence, and a frontier station, to secure by his absence the peace

of Constantinople, and to withdraw his youth from the temptations of a

luxurious capital. But the distance weakened the powers of control, and the son of Andronicus was surrounded with artful or unthinking companions, who taught him to hate his guardian, to deplore his exile, and to vindicate his rights. A private treaty with the cral or despot

of Servia was soon followed by an open revolt; and Cantacuzene, on the throne of the elder Andronicus, defended the cause of age and

prerogative, which in his youth he had so vigorously attacked. At his

request the empress-mother undertook the voyage of Thessalonica, and the

office of mediation: she returned without success; and unless Anne of

Savoy was instructed by adversity, we may doubt the sincerity, or at

least the fervor, of her zeal. While the regent grasped the sceptre with a firm and vigorous hand, she had been instructed to declare, that the ten years of his legal administration would soon elapse; and that, after a full trial of the vanity of the world, the emperor Cantacuzene sighed for the repose of a cloister, and was ambitious only of a heavenly crown. Had these sentiments been genuine, his voluntary abdication would

have restored the peace of the empire, and his conscience would have been relieved by an act of justice. Palæologus alone was responsible for

his future government; and whatever might be his vices, they were

surely less formidable than the calamities of a civil war, in which the barbarians and infidels were again invited to assist the Greeks in their

mutual destruction. By the arms of the Turks, who now struck a deep and everlasting root in Europe, Cantacuzene prevailed in the third contest

in which he had been involved; and the young emperor, driven from the

sea and land, was compelled to take shelter among the Latins of the Isle

of Tenedos. His insolence and obstinacy provoked the victor to a step which must render the quarrel irreconcilable; and the association of

his son Matthew, whom he invested with the purple, established the

succession in the family of the Cantacuzeni. But Constantinople was

still attached to the blood of her ancient princes; and this last

injury accelerated the restoration of the rightful heir. A noble Genoese espoused the cause of Palæologus, obtained a promise of his sister, and achieved the revolution with two galleys and two thousand five hundred auxiliaries. Under the pretence of distress, they were admitted into the

lesser port; a gate was opened, and the Latin shout of, "Long life and

victory to the emperor, John Palæologus!" was answered by a general

rising in his favor. A numerous and loyal party yet adhered to the

standard of Cantacuzene: but he asserts in his history (does he hope for belief?) that his tender conscience rejected the assurance of conquest; that, in free obedience to the voice of religion and philosophy, he descended from the throne and embraced with pleasure the monastic habit and profession. [36] So soon as he ceased to be a prince, his successor was not unwilling that he should be a saint: the remainder of his life was devoted to piety and learning; in the cells of Constantinople and Mount Athos, the monk Joasaph was respected as the temporal and

spiritual father of the emperor; and if he issued from his retreat, it was as the minister of peace, to subdue the obstinacy, and solicit the

pardon, of his rebellious son. [37]

[Footnote 34: From his return to Constantinople, Cantacuzene continues

his history and that of the empire, one year beyond the abdication of

his son Matthew, A.D. 1357, (l. iv. c. l--50, p. 705--911.) Nicephorus

Gregoras ends with the synod of Constantinople, in the year 1351, (l.

xxii. c. 3, p. 660; the rest, to the conclusion of the xxivth book, p.

717, is all controversy;) and his fourteen last books are still MSS. in the king of France's library.]

[Footnote 35: The emperor (Cantacuzen. l. iv. c. 1) represents his own

virtues, and Nic. Gregoras (l. xv. c. 11) the complaints of his friends, who suffered by its effects. I have lent them the words of our poor cavaliers after the Restoration.]

[Footnote 36: The awkward apology of Cantacuzene, (l. iv. c. 39--42,) who relates, with visible confusion, his own downfall, may be supplied by the less accurate, but more honest, narratives of Matthew Villani (l.

iv. c. 46, in the Script. Rerum Ital. tom. xiv. p. 268) and Ducas, (c

10, 11.)]

[Footnote 37: Cantacuzene, in the year 1375, was honored with a letter from the pope, (Fleury, Hist. Ecclés. tom. xx. p. 250.) His death

is placed by a respectable authority on the 20th of November, 1411,

(Ducange, Fam. Byzant. p. 260.) But if he were of the age of his companion Andronicus the Younger, he must have lived 116 years; a rare

instance of longevity, which in so illustrious a person would have attracted universal notice.]

Yet in the cloister, the mind of Cantacuzene was still exercised by theological war. He sharpened a controversial pen against the Jews and Mahometans; [38] and in every state he defended with equal zeal the divine light of Mount Thabor, a memorable question which consummates the

religious follies of the Greeks. The fakirs of India, [39] and the

monks of the Oriental church, were alike persuaded, that in the total abstraction of the faculties of the mind and body, the purer spirit

may ascend to the enjoyment and vision of the Deity. The opinion and

practice of the monasteries of Mount Athos [40] will be best represented

in the words of an abbot, who flourished in the eleventh century. "When thou art alone in thy cell," says the ascetic teacher, "shut thy door, and seat thyself in a corner: raise thy mind above all things vain and transitory; recline thy beard and chin on thy breast; turn thy eyes and thy thoughts toward the middle of thy belly, the region of the navel; and search the place of the heart, the seat of the soul. At first, all will be dark and comfortless; but if you persevere day and night, you will feel an ineffable joy; and no sooner has the soul discovered the

place of the heart, than it is involved in a mystic and ethereal light." this light, the production of a distempered fancy, the creature of an empty stomach and an empty brain, was adored by the Quietists as the

pure and perfect essence of God himself; and as long as the folly was confined to Mount Athos, the simple solitaries were not inquisitive

how the divine essence could be a \_material\_ substance, or how an

\_immaterial\_ substance could be perceived by the eyes of the body. But

in the reign of the younger Andronicus, these monasteries were visited by Barlaam, [41] a Calabrian monk, who was equally skilled in philosophy and theology; who possessed the language of the Greeks and Latins; and whose versatile genius could maintain their opposite creeds, according to the interest of the moment. The indiscretion of an ascetic revealed to the curious traveller the secrets of mental prayer and Barlaam embraced the opportunity of ridiculing the Quietists, who placed the

soul in the navel; of accusing the monks of Mount Athos of heresy and blasphemy. His attack compelled the more learned to renounce or dissemble the simple devotion of their brethren; and Gregory Palamas

introduced a scholastic distinction between the essence and operation

of God. His inaccessible essence dwells in the midst of an uncreated and eternal light; and this beatific vision of the saints had been

manifested to the disciples on Mount Thabor, in the transfiguration

of Christ. Yet this distinction could not escape the reproach of

polytheism; the eternity of the light of Thabor was fiercely denied; and barlaam still charged the Palamites with holding two eternal substances, a visible and an invisible God. From the rage of the monks of Mount athos, who threatened his life, the Calabrian retired to Constantinople, where his smooth and specious manners introduced him to the favor of the

great domestic and the emperor. The court and the city were involved

in this theological dispute, which flamed amidst the civil war; but the doctrine of Barlaam was disgraced by his flight and apostasy: the

Palamites triumphed; and their adversary, the patriarch John of Apri, was deposed by the consent of the adverse factions of the state. In the character of emperor and theologian, Cantacuzene presided in the synod

of the Greek church, which established, as an article of faith, the

uncreated light of Mount Thabor; and, after so many insults, the reason

of mankind was slightly wounded by the addition of a single absurdity.

Many rolls of paper or parchment have been blotted; and the impenitent

sectaries, who refused to subscribe the orthodox creed, were deprived

of the honors of Christian burial; but in the next age the question was forgotten; nor can I learn that the axe or the fagot were employed for the extirpation of the Barlaamite heresy. [42]

[Footnote 38: His four discourses, or books, were printed at Basil,

1543, (Fabric Bibliot. Græc. tom. vi. p. 473.) He composed them to

satisfy a proselyte who was assaulted with letters from his friends of

Ispahan. Cantacuzene had read the Koran; but I understand from Maracci that he adopts the vulgar prejudices and fables against Mahomet and his

religion.]

[Footnote 39: See the Voyage de Bernier, tom. i. p. 127.]

[Footnote 40: Mosheim, Institut. Hist. Ecclés. p. 522, 523. Fleury,

Hist. Ecclés. tom. xx. p. 22, 24, 107--114, &c. The former unfolds the causes with the judgment of a philosopher, the latter transcribes and transcribes and translates with the prejudices of a Catholic priest.]

[Footnote 41: Basnage (in Canisii Antiq. Lectiones, tom. iv. p.

363--368) has investigated the character and story of Barlaam. The duplicity of his opinions had inspired some doubts of the identity

of his person. See likewise Fabricius, (Bibliot. Græc. tom. x. p.

427--432.)]

[Footnote 42: See Cantacuzene (l. ii. c. 39, 40, l. iv. c. 3, 23, 24,

25) and Nic. Gregoras, (l. xi. c. 10, l. xv. 3, 7, &c.,) whose last books, from the xixth to xxivth, are almost confined to a subject so

interesting to the authors. Boivin, (in Vit. Nic. Gregoræ,) from the

unpublished books, and Fabricius, (Bibliot. Græc. tom. x. p. 462--473,)

or rather Montfaucon, from the MSS. of the Coislin library, have added

some facts and documents.]

for the conclusion of this chapter, I have reserved the Genoese war, which shook the throne of Cantacuzene, and betrayed the debility of the

Greek empire. The Genoese, who, after the recovery of Constantinople, were seated in the suburb of Pera or Galata, received that honorable fief from the bounty of the emperor. They were indulged in the use of their laws and magistrates; but they submitted to the duties of vassals and subjects; the forcible word of \_liegemen\_[43] was borrowed from the

Latin jurisprudence; and their \_podesta\_, or chief, before he entered

on his office, saluted the emperor with loyal acclamations and vows of fidelity. Genoa sealed a firm alliance with the Greeks; and, in case of a defensive war, a supply of fifty empty galleys and a succor of fifty

galleys, completely armed and manned, was promised by the republic to the empire. In the revival of a naval force, it was the aim of Michael

Palæologus to deliver himself from a foreign aid; and his vigorous

government contained the Genoese of Galata within those limits which the insolence of wealth and freedom provoked them to exceed. A sailor threatened that they should soon be masters of Constantinople, and slew the Greek who resented this national affront; and an armed vessel, after

refusing to salute the palace, was guilty of some acts of piracy in the black Sea. Their countrymen threatened to support their cause; but the

long and open village of Galata was instantly surrounded by the Imperial troops; till, in the moment of the assault, the prostrate Genoese

implored the clemency of their sovereign. The defenceless situation which secured their obedience exposed them to the attack of their

Venetian rivals, who, in the reign of the elder Andronicus, presumed to

violate the majesty of the throne. On the approach of their fleets, the

Genoese, with their families and effects, retired into the city: their empty habitations were reduced to ashes; and the feeble prince, who had

viewed the destruction of his suburb, expressed his resentment, not by arms, but by ambassadors. This misfortune, however, was advantageous to the Genoese, who obtained, and imperceptibly abused, the dangerous

license of surrounding Galata with a strong wall; of introducing into the ditch the waters of the sea; of erecting lofty turrets; and of

mounting a train of military engines on the rampart. The narrow bounds

in which they had been circumscribed were insufficient for the growing colony; each day they acquired some addition of landed property; and the adjacent hills were covered with their villas and castles, which they

joined and protected by new fortifications. [44] The navigation and trade

of the Euxine was the patrimony of the Greek emperors, who commanded the

narrow entrance, the gates, as it were, of that inland sea. In the reign

of Michael Palæologus, their prerogative was acknowledged by the sultan

of Egypt, who solicited and obtained the liberty of sending an annual

ship for the purchase of slaves in Circassia and the Lesser Tartary: a liberty pregnant with mischief to the Christian cause; since these

youths were transformed by education and discipline into the formidable

Mamalukes. [45] From the colony of Pera, the Genoese engaged with

superior advantage in the lucrative trade of the Black Sea; and their

industry supplied the Greeks with fish and corn; two articles of food almost equally important to a superstitious people. The spontaneous bounty of nature appears to have bestowed the harvests of Ukraine, the

produce of a rude and savage husbandry; and the endless exportation of

salt fish and caviare is annually renewed by the enormous sturgeons that are caught at the mouth of the Don or Tanais, in their last station

of the rich mud and shallow water of the Mæotis. [46] The waters of the

Oxus, the Caspian, the Volga, and the Don, opened a rare and laborious

passage for the gems and spices of India; and after three months'

march the caravans of Carizme met the Italian vessels in the harbors

of Crimæa. [47] These various branches of trade were monopolized by the diligence and power of the Genoese. Their rivals of Venice and Pisa were forcibly expelled; the natives were awed by the castles and cities, which arose on the foundations of their humble factories; and their

principal establishment of Caffa [48] was besieged without effect by the tartar powers. Destitute of a navy, the Greeks were oppressed by these

haughty merchants, who fed, or famished, Constantinople, according to their interest. They proceeded to usurp the customs, the fishery, and even the toll, of the Bosphorus; and while they derived from these

objects a revenue of two hundred thousand pieces of gold, a remnant of thirty thousand was reluctantly allowed to the emperor. [49] The colony

of Pera or Galata acted, in peace and war, as an independent state; and, as it will happen in distant settlements, the Genoese podesta too often forgot that he was the servant of his own masters.

[Footnote 43: Pachymer (l. v. c. 10) very properly explains liziouV

(\_ligios\_) by?lidiouV. The use of these words in the Greek and Latin of the feudal times may be amply understood from the Glossaries of Ducange,

(Græc. p. 811, 812. Latin. tom. iv. p. 109--111.)]

[Footnote 44: The establishment and progress of the Genoese at Pera, or

Galata, is described by Ducange (C. P. Christiana, l. i. p. 68, 69) from the Byzantine historians, Pachymer, (l. ii. c. 35, l. v. 10, 30, l. ix.

15 l. xii. 6, 9,) Nicephorus Gregoras, (l. v. c. 4, l. vi. c. 11, l. ix. c. 5, l. ix. c. 1, l. xv. c. 1, 6,) and Cantacuzene, (l. i. c. 12, l.

ii. c. 29, &c.)]

[Footnote 45: Both Pachymer (l. iii. c. 3, 4, 5) and Nic. Greg. (l. iv. c. 7) understand and deplore the effects of this dangerous indulgence. bibars, sultan of Egypt, himself a Tartar, but a devout Mussulman,

obtained from the children of Zingis the permission to build a stately

mosque in the capital of Crimea, (De Guignes, Hist. des Huns, tom. iii.

p. 343.)]

[Footnote 46: Chardin (Voyages en Perse, tom. i. p. 48) was assured at caffa, that these fishes were sometimes twenty-four or twenty-six feet

long, weighed eight or nine hundred pounds, and yielded three or four quintals of caviare. The corn of the Bosphorus had supplied the athenians in the time of Demosthenes.]

[Footnote 47: De Guignes, Hist. des Huns, tom. iii. p. 343, 344. Viaggi di Ramusio, tom. i. fol. 400. But this land or water carriage could

only be practicable when Tartary was united under a wise and powerful

monarch.]

[Footnote 48: Nic. Gregoras (l. xiii. c. 12) is judicious and well

informed on the trade and colonies of the Black Sea. Chardin describes the present ruins of Caffa, where, in forty days, he saw above 400

sail employed in the corn and fish trade, (Voyages en Perse, tom. i. p.

46--48.)]

[Footnote 49: See Nic. Gregoras, l. xvii. c. 1.]

these usurpations were encouraged by the weakness of the elder andronicus, and by the civil wars that afflicted his age and the

minority of his grandson. The talents of Cantacuzene were employed to the ruin, rather than the restoration, of the empire; and after his domestic victory, he was condemned to an ignominious trial, whether the

Greeks or the Genoese should reign in Constantinople. The merchants

of Pera were offended by his refusal of some contiguous land,

some commanding heights, which they proposed to cover with new fortifications; and in the absence of the emperor, who was detained at demotica by sickness, they ventured to brave the debility of a female

reign. A Byzantine vessel, which had presumed to fish at the mouth of the harbor, was sunk by these audacious strangers; the fishermen were murdered. Instead of suing for pardon, the Genoese demanded

satisfaction; required, in a haughty strain, that the Greeks should

renounce the exercise of navigation; and encountered with regular arms the first sallies of the popular indignation. They instantly occupied the debatable land; and by the labor of a whole people, of either sex and of every age, the wall was raised, and the ditch was sunk, with

incredible speed. At the same time, they attacked and burnt two byzantine galleys; while the three others, the remainder of the Imperial

navy, escaped from their hands: the habitations without the gates,

or along the shore, were pillaged and destroyed; and the care of the

regent, of the empress Irene, was confined to the preservation of the city. The return of Cantacuzene dispelled the public consternation: the emperor inclined to peaceful counsels; but he yielded to the obstinacy

of his enemies, who rejected all reasonable terms, and to the ardor of

his subjects, who threatened, in the style of Scripture, to break them

in pieces like a potter's vessel. Yet they reluctantly paid the taxes, that he imposed for the construction of ships, and the expenses of the war; and as the two nations were masters, the one of the land, the

other of the sea, Constantinople and Pera were pressed by the evils of a mutual siege. The merchants of the colony, who had believed that a few days would terminate the war, already murmured at their losses: the

succors from their mother-country were delayed by the factions of Genoa; and the most cautious embraced the opportunity of a Rhodian vessel to

remove their families and effects from the scene of hostility. In the spring, the Byzantine fleet, seven galleys and a train of smaller

vessels, issued from the mouth of the harbor, and steered in a single

line along the shore of Pera; unskilfully presenting their sides to the beaks of the adverse squadron. The crews were composed of peasants and

mechanics; nor was their ignorance compensated by the native courage of barbarians: the wind was strong, the waves were rough; and no sooner did the Greeks perceive a distant and inactive enemy, than they leaped

headlong into the sea, from a doubtful, to an inevitable peril. The troops that marched to the attack of the lines of Pera were struck at the same moment with a similar panic; and the Genoese were astonished, and almost ashamed, at their double victory. Their triumphant vessels, crowned with flowers, and dragging after them the captive galleys,

repeatedly passed and repassed before the palace: the only virtue of the emperor was patience; and the hope of revenge his sole consolation. Yet the distress of both parties interposed a temporary agreement; and the

shame of the empire was disguised by a thin veil of dignity and power.

Summoning the chiefs of the colony, Cantacuzene affected to despise the trivial object of the debate; and, after a mild reproof, most liberally

granted the lands, which had been previously resigned to the seeming custody of his officers. [50]

[Footnote 50: The events of this war are related by Cantacuzene (l. iv. c. 11 with obscurity and confusion, and by Nic. Gregoras l. xvii. c.

1--7) in a clear and honest narrative. The priest was less responsible than the prince for the defeat of the fleet.]

but the emperor was soon solicited to violate the treaty, and to join

his arms with the Venetians, the perpetual enemies of Genoa and her colonies. While he compared the reasons of peace and war, his moderation was provoked by a wanton insult of the inhabitants of Pera, who discharged from their rampart a large stone that fell in the midst of constantinople. On his just complaint, they coldly blamed the imprudence

of their engineer; but the next day the insult was repeated; and they exulted in a second proof that the royal city was not beyond the reach

of their artillery. Cantacuzene instantly signed his treaty with the

Venetians; but the weight of the Roman empire was scarcely felt in the balance of these opulent and powerful republics. [51] From the Straits

of Gibraltar to the mouth of the Tanais, their fleets encountered each

other with various success; and a memorable battle was fought in the

narrow sea, under the walls of Constantinople. It would not be an easy task to reconcile the accounts of the Greeks, the Venetians, and the Genoese; [52] and while I depend on the narrative of an impartial

historian, [53] I shall borrow from each nation the facts that redound to their own disgrace, and the honor of their foes. The Venetians, with their allies the Catalans, had the advantage of number; and their fleet, with the poor addition of eight Byzantine galleys, amounted to

seventy-five sail: the Genoese did not exceed sixty-four; but in those times their ships of war were distinguished by the superiority of their

size and strength. The names and families of their naval commanders,

Pisani and Doria, are illustrious in the annals of their country; but the personal merit of the former was eclipsed by the fame and abilities

of his rival. They engaged in tempestuous weather; and the tumultuary conflict was continued from the dawn to the extinction of light. the enemies of the Genoese applaud their prowess; the friends of the

Venetians are dissatisfied with their behavior; but all parties agree

in praising the skill and boldness of the Catalans, [531] who, with many wounds, sustained the brunt of the action. On the separation of the fleets, the event might appear doubtful; but the thirteen Genoese

galleys, that had been sunk or taken, were compensated by a double loss

of the allies; of fourteen Venetians, ten Catalans, and two Greeks; [532] and even the grief of the conquerors expressed the assurance and habit

of more decisive victories. Pisani confessed his defeat, by retiring

into a fortified harbor, from whence, under the pretext of the orders of the senate, he steered with a broken and flying squadron for the Isle

of Candia, and abandoned to his rivals the sovereignty of the sea. In a

public epistle, [54] addressed to the doge and senate, Petrarch employs

his eloquence to reconcile the maritime powers, the two luminaries of

Italy. The orator celebrates the valor and victory of the Genoese, the first of men in the exercise of naval war: he drops a tear on the

misfortunes of their Venetian brethren; but he exhorts them to pursue with fire and sword the base and perfidious Greeks; to purge the

metropolis of the East from the heresy with which it was infected. deserted by their friends, the Greeks were incapable of resistance; and three months after the battle, the emperor Cantacuzene solicited and

subscribed a treaty, which forever banished the Venetians and Catalans, and granted to the Genoese a monopoly of trade, and almost a right of dominion. The Roman empire (I smile in transcribing the name) might soon

have sunk into a province of Genoa, if the ambition of the republic

had not been checked by the ruin of her freedom and naval power. A long contest of one hundred and thirty years was determined by the triumph

of Venice; and the factions of the Genoese compelled them to seek for domestic peace under the protection of a foreign lord, the duke of

Milan, or the French king. Yet the spirit of commerce survived that of conquest; and the colony of Pera still awed the capital and navigated the Euxine, till it was involved by the Turks in the final servitude of constantinople itself.

[Footnote 51: The second war is darkly told by Cantacuzene, (l. iv. c.

18, p. 24, 25, 28--32,) who wishes to disguise what he dares not deny. I

regret this part of Nic. Gregoras, which is still in MS. at Paris. \* Note: this part of Nicephorus Gregoras has not been printed in the new edition of the Byzantine Historians. The editor expresses a hope that

it may be undertaken by Hase. I should join in the regret of Gibbon,

if these books contain any historical information: if they are but a continuation of the controversies which fill the last books in our

present copies, they may as well sleep their eternal sleep in MS. as in

print.--M.]

[Footnote 52: Muratori (Annali d' Italia, tom. xii. p. 144) refers to the most ancient Chronicles of Venice (Caresinus, the continuator

of Andrew Dandulus, tom. xii. p. 421, 422) and Genoa, (George Stella annales Genuenses, tom. xvii. p. 1091, 1092;) both which I have diligently consulted in his great Collection of the Historians of

Italy.]

[Footnote 53: See the Chronicle of Matteo Villani of Florence, l. ii. c.

59, p. 145--147, c. 74, 75, p. 156, 157, in Muratori's Collection, tom.

xiv.]

[Footnote 531: Cantacuzene praises their bravery, but imputes their losses to their ignorance of the seas: they suffered more by the breakers than by the enemy, vol. iii. p. 224.--M.]

[Footnote 532: Cantacuzene says that the Genoese lost twenty-eight ships with their crews, autandroi; the Venetians and Catalans sixteen, the Imperials, none Cantacuzene accuses Pisani of cowardice, in not following up the victory, and destroying the Genoese. But Pisani's conduct, and indeed Cantacuzene's account of the battle, betray the

superiority of the Genoese.--M.]

[Footnote 54: The Abbé de Sade (Mémoires sur la Vie de Petrarque, tom.

iii. p. 257--263) translates this letter, which he copied from a MS.

in the king of France's library. Though a servant of the duke of Milan,

Petrarch pours forth his astonishment and grief at the defeat and despair of the Genoese in the following year, (p. 323--332.)]

chapter LXIV: Moguls, Ottoman Turks.--Part I.

Conquests Of Zingis Khan And The Moguls From China To

Poland.--Escape Of Constantinople And The Greeks.--Origin Of

The Ottoman Turks In Bithynia.--Reigns And Victories Of

Othman, Orchan, Amurath The First, And Bajazet The First.--

Foundation And Progress Of The Turkish Monarchy In Asia And

Europe.--Danger Of Constantinople And The Greek Empire.

from the petty quarrels of a city and her suburbs, from the cowardice and discord of the falling Greeks, I shall now ascend to the victorious turks; whose domestic slavery was ennobled by martial discipline,

religious enthusiasm, and the energy of the national character. The rise and progress of the Ottomans, the present sovereigns of Constantinople, are connected with the most important scenes of modern history; but they are founded on a previous knowledge of the great eruption of the Moguls

[100] and Tartars; whose rapid conquests may be compared with the primitive convulsions of nature, which have agitated and altered the surface of the globe. I have long since asserted my claim to introduce the nations, the immediate or remote authors of the fall of the Roman empire; nor can

I refuse myself to those events, which, from their uncommon magnitude, will interest a philosophic mind in the history of blood. [1]

[Footnote 100: Mongol seems to approach the nearest to the proper name

of this race. The Chinese call them Mong-kou; the Mondchoux, their

neighbors, Monggo or Monggou. They called themselves also Beda. this fact seems to have been proved by M. Schmidt against the French

Orientalists. See De Brosset. Note on Le Beau, tom. xxii p. 402.]

[Footnote 1: The reader is invited to review chapters xxii. to xxvi., and xxiii. to xxxviii., the manners of pastoral nations, the conquests

of Attila and the Huns, which were composed at a time when I entertained the wish, rather than the hope, of concluding my history.]

from the spacious highlands between China, Siberia, and the Caspian Sea, the tide of emigration and war has repeatedly been poured. These ancient

seats of the Huns and Turks were occupied in the twelfth century by many

pastoral tribes, of the same descent and similar manners, which were

united and led to conquest by the formidable Zingis. [101] In his ascent to greatness, that Barbarian (whose private appellation was Temugin) had trampled on the necks of his equals. His birth was noble; but it was the

pride of victory, that the prince or people deduced his seventh ancestor from the immaculate conception of a virgin. His father had reigned over thirteen hordes, which composed about thirty or forty thousand families: above two thirds refused to pay tithes or obedience to his infant

son; and at the age of thirteen, Temugin fought a battle against his

rebellious subjects. The future conqueror of Asia was reduced to fly and to obey; but he rose superior to his fortune, and in his fortieth year

he had established his fame and dominion over the circumjacent tribes.

In a state of society, in which policy is rude and valor is universal, the ascendant of one man must be founded on his power and resolution to

punish his enemies and recompense his friends. His first military league was ratified by the simple rites of sacrificing a horse and tasting of a

running stream: Temugin pledged himself to divide with his followers the

sweets and the bitters of life; and when he had shared among them his

horses and apparel, he was rich in their gratitude and his own hopes. after his first victory, he placed seventy caldrons on the fire, and

seventy of the most guilty rebels were cast headlong into the boiling water. The sphere of his attraction was continually enlarged by the

ruin of the proud and the submission of the prudent; and the boldest chieftains might tremble, when they beheld, enchased in silver, the

skull of the khan of Keraites; [2] who, under the name of Prester John,

had corresponded with the Roman pontiff and the princes of Europe. The ambition of Temugin condescended to employ the arts of superstition; and it was from a naked prophet, who could ascend to heaven on a white

horse, that he accepted the title of Zingis, [3] the \_most great\_; and a divine right to the conquest and dominion of the earth. In a

general \_couroultai\_, or diet, he was seated on a felt, which was long afterwards revered as a relic, and solemnly proclaimed great khan, or emperor of the Moguls [4] and Tartars. [5] Of these kindred, though rival,

names, the former had given birth to the imperial race; and the latter

has been extended by accident or error over the spacious wilderness of the north.

[Footnote 101: On the traditions of the early life of Zingis, see D'Ohson,

Hist des Mongols; Histoire des Mongols, Paris, 1824. Schmidt, Geschichte des Ost-Mongolen, p. 66, &c., and Notes.--M.]

[Footnote 2: The khans of the Keraites were most probably incapable of

reading the pompous epistles composed in their name by the Nestorian

missionaries, who endowed them with the fabulous wonders of an Indian

kingdom. Perhaps these Tartars (the Presbyter or Priest John) had

submitted to the rites of baptism and ordination, (Asseman, Bibliot

Orient tom. iii. p. ii. p. 487--503.)]

[Footnote 3: Since the history and tragedy of Voltaire, Gengis, at least

in French, seems to be the more fashionable spelling; but Abulghazi Khan

must have known the true name of his ancestor. His etymology appears

just: \_Zin\_, in the Mogul tongue, signifies \_great\_, and \_gis\_ is the

superlative termination, (Hist. Généalogique des Tatars, part iii. p.

194, 195.) From the same idea of magnitude, the appellation of \_Zingis\_

is bestowed on the ocean.]

[Footnote 4: The name of Moguls has prevailed among the Orientals, and

still adheres to the titular sovereign, the Great Mogul of Hindastan. \*

Note: M. Remusat (sur les Langues Tartares, p. 233) justly observes, that Timour was a Turk, not a Mogul, and, p. 242, that probably there was not Mogul in the army of Baber, who established the Indian throne of the "Great Mogul."--M.]

[Footnote 5: The Tartars (more properly Tatars) were descended from tatar Khan, the brother of Mogul Khan, (see Abulghazi, part i. and ii.,) and once formed a horde of 70,000 families on the borders of Kitay, (p.

103--112.) In the great invasion of Europe (A.D. 1238) they seem to

have led the vanguard; and the similitude of the name of \_Tartarei\_,

recommended that of Tartars to the Latins, (Matt. Paris, p. 398, &c.) \*

Note: This relationship, according to M. Klaproth, is fabulous, and

invented by the Mahometan writers, who, from religious zeal, endeavored to connect the traditions of the nomads of Central Asia with those of the Old Testament, as preserved in the Koran. There is no trace of it in the Chinese writers. Tabl. de l'Asie, p. 156.--M.]

the code of laws which Zingis dictated to his subjects was adapted to the preservation of a domestic peace, and the exercise of foreign

hostility. The punishment of death was inflicted on the crimes of adultery, murder, perjury, and the capital thefts of a horse or ox; and the fiercest of men were mild and just in their intercourse with each

other. The future election of the great khan was vested in the princes

of his family and the heads of the tribes; and the regulations of the chase were essential to the pleasures and plenty of a Tartar camp. The

victorious nation was held sacred from all servile labors, which were abandoned to slaves and strangers; and every labor was servile except the profession of arms. The service and discipline of the troops, who were armed with bows, cimeters, and iron maces, and divided by hundreds, thousands, and ten thousands, were the institutions of a veteran commander. Each officer and soldier was made responsible, under pain

of death, for the safety and honor of his companions; and the spirit of conquest breathed in the law, that peace should never be granted unless to a vanquished and suppliant enemy. But it is the religion of Zingis that best deserves our wonder and applause. [501] The Catholic inquisitors

of Europe, who defended nonsense by cruelty, might have been confounded by the example of a Barbarian, who anticipated the lessons of

philosophy, [6] and established by his laws a system of pure theism and perfect toleration. His first and only article of faith was the existence of one God, the Author of all good; who fills by his presence the heavens and earth, which he has created by his power. The Tartars and Moguls were addicted to the idols of their peculiar tribes; and many

of them had been converted by the foreign missionaries to the religions

of Moses, of Mahomet, and of Christ. These various systems in freedom and concord were taught and practised within the precincts of the same camp; and the Bonze, the Imam, the Rabbi, the Nestorian, and the Latin

priest, enjoyed the same honorable exemption from service and tribute:

in the mosque of Bochara, the insolent victor might trample the Koran

under his horse's feet, but the calm legislator respected the prophets and pontiffs of the most hostile sects. The reason of Zingis was not

informed by books: the khan could neither read nor write; and, except the tribe of the Igours, the greatest part of the Moguls and Tartars were as illiterate as their sovereign. [601] The memory of their exploits was preserved by tradition: sixty-eight years after the death of Zingis, these traditions were collected and transcribed; [7] the brevity of their domestic annals may be supplied by the Chinese, [8] Persians, [9] armenians, [10] Syrians, [11] Arabians, [12] Greeks, [13] Russians, [14]

Poles, [15] Hungarians, [16] and Latins; [17] and each nation will deserve credit in the relation of their own disasters and defeats. [18]

[Footnote 501: Before his armies entered Thibet, he sent an embassy to bogdosottnam-Dsimmo, a Lama high priest, with a letter to this effect:

"I have chosen thee as high priest for myself and my empire. Repair then to me, and promote the present and future happiness of man: I will be thy supporter and protector: let us establish a system of religion, and unite it with the monarchy," &c. The high priest accepted the

invitation; and the Mongol history literally terms this step the \_period

of the first respect for religion\_; because the monarch, by his public

profession, made it the religion of the state. Klaproth. "Travels in caucasus," ch. 7, Eng. Trans. p. 92. Neither Dshingis nor his son and

successor Oegodah had, on account of their continual wars, much leisure for the propagation of the religion of the Lama. By religion they

understand a distinct, independent, sacred moral code, which has but

one origin, one source, and one object. This notion they universally

propagate, and even believe that the brutes, and all created beings,

have a religion adapted to their sphere of action. The different forms

of the various religions they ascribe to the difference of individuals,

nations, and legislators. Never do you hear of their inveighing against any creed, even against the obviously absurd Schaman paganism, or of their persecuting others on that account. They themselves, on the

other hand, endure every hardship, and even persecutions, with perfect

resignation, and indulgently excuse the follies of others, nay, consider them as a motive for increased ardor in prayer, ch. ix. p. 109.--M.]

[Footnote 6: A singular conformity may be found between the religious

laws of Zingis Khan and of Mr. Locke, (Constitutions of Carolina, in his works, vol. iv. p. 535, 4to. edition, 1777.)]

[Footnote 601: See the notice on Tha-tha-toung-o, the Ouogour minister of tchingis, in Abel Remusat's 2d series of Recherch. Asiat. vol. ii. p.

61. He taught the son of Tchingis to write: "He was the instructor of the Moguls in writing, of which they were before ignorant;" and hence the application of the Ouigour characters to the Mogul language cannot be placed earlier than the year 1204 or 1205, nor so late as the time of

Pà-sse-pa, who lived under Khubilai. A new alphabet, approaching to that

of Thibet, was introduced under Khubilai.--M.]

[Footnote 7: In the year 1294, by the command of Cazan, khan of Persia, the fourth in descent from Zingis. From these traditions, his vizier fadlallah composed a Mogul history in the Persian language, which has been used by Petit de la Croix, (Hist. de Genghizcan, p. 537--539.) The

Histoire Généalogique des Tatars (à Leyde, 1726, in 12mo., 2 tomes) was translated by the Swedish prisoners in Siberia from the Mogul MS. of abulgasi Bahadur Khan, a descendant of Zingis, who reigned over the

Usbeks of Charasm, or Carizme, (A.D. 1644--1663.) He is of most value and credit for the names, pedigrees, and manners of his nation. Of his

nine parts, the ist descends from Adam to Mogul Khan; the iid, from

Mogul to Zingis; the iiid is the life of Zingis; the ivth, vth, vith, and viith, the general history of his four sons and their posterity; the

viiith and ixth, the particular history of the descendants of Sheibani

Khan, who reigned in Maurenahar and Charasm.]

[Footnote 8: Histoire de Gentchiscan, et de toute la Dinastie des

Mongous ses Successeurs, Conquerans de la Chine; tirée de l'Histoire de la Chine par le R. P. Gaubil, de la Société de Jesus, Missionaire

à Peking; à Paris, 1739, in 4to. This translation is stamped with the chinese character of domestic accuracy and foreign ignorance.]

[Footnote 9: See the Histoire du Grand Genghizcan, premier Empereur des

Moguls et Tartares, par M. Petit de la Croix, à Paris, 1710, in 12mo.; a work of ten years' labor, chiefly drawn from the Persian writers, among whom Nisavi, the secretary of Sultan Gelaleddin, has the merit and

prejudices of a contemporary. A slight air of romance is the fault

of the originals, or the compiler. See likewise the articles of

\_Genghizcan\_, \_Mohammed\_, \_Gelaleddin\_, &c., in the Bibliothèque

Orientale of D'Herbelot. \* Note: The preface to the Hist. des Mongols,

(Paris, 1824) gives a catalogue of the Arabic and Persian authorities.--

M.]

[Footnote 10: Haithonus, or Aithonus, an Armenian prince, and afterwards a monk of Premontré, (Fabric, Bibliot. Lat. Medii Ævi, tom. i. p.

34,) dictated in the French language, his book \_de Tartaris\_, his

old fellow-soldiers. It was immediately translated into Latin, and is

inserted in the Novus Orbis of Simon Grynæus, (Basil, 1555, in folio.) \*

Note: A précis at the end of the new edition of Le Beau, Hist. des empereurs, vol. xvii., by M. Brosset, gives large extracts from the accounts of the Armenian historians relating to the Mogul conquests.--M.]

[Footnote 11: Zingis Khan, and his first successors, occupy the conclusion of the ixth Dynasty of Abulpharagius, (vers. Pocock, Oxon.

1663, in 4to.;) and his xth Dynasty is that of the Moguls of Persia. assemannus (Bibliot. Orient. tom. ii.) has extracted some facts from his

Syriac writings, and the lives of the Jacobite maphrians, or primates of the East.]

[Footnote 12: Among the Arabians, in language and religion, we may distinguish Abulfeda, sultan of Hamah in Syria, who fought in person,

under the Mamaluke standard, against the Moguls.]

[Footnote 13: Nicephorus Gregoras (l. ii. c. 5, 6) has felt the

necessity of connecting the Scythian and Byzantine histories. He describes with truth and elegance the settlement and manners of the

Moguls of Persia, but he is ignorant of their origin, and corrupts the

names of Zingis and his sons.]

[Footnote 14: M. Levesque (Histoire de Russie, tom. ii.) has described the conquest of Russia by the Tartars, from the patriarch Nicon, and the

old chronicles.]

[Footnote 15: For Poland, I am content with the Sarmatia Asiatica et europæa of Matthew à Michou, or De Michoviâ, a canon and physician of cracow, (A.D. 1506,) inserted in the Novus Orbis of Grynæus. Fabric bibliot. Latin. Mediæ et Infimæ Ætatis, tom. v. p. 56.]

[Footnote 16: I should quote Thuroczius, the oldest general historian

(pars ii. c. 74, p. 150) in the 1st volume of the Scriptores Rerum

Hungaricarum, did not the same volume contain the original narrative of a contemporary, an eye-witness, and a sufferer, (M. Rogerii, Hungari,

Varadiensis Capituli Canonici, Carmen miserabile, seu Historia super destructione Regni Hungariæ Temporibus Belæ IV. Regis per Tartaros facta, p. 292--321;) the best picture that I have ever seen of all the circumstances of a Barbaric invasion.]

[Footnote 17: Matthew Paris has represented, from authentic documents, the danger and distress of Europe, (consult the word \_Tartari\_ in his copious Index.) From motives of zeal and curiosity, the court of the

great khan in the xiiith century was visited by two friars, John de

Plano Carpini, and William Rubruquis, and by Marco Polo, a Venetian

gentleman. The Latin relations of the two former are inserted in the

1st volume of Hackluyt; the Italian original or version of the third

(Fabric. Bibliot. Latin. Medii Ævi, tom. ii. p. 198, tom. v. p. 25) may be found in the second tome of Ramusio.]

[Footnote 18: In his great History of the Huns, M. de Guignes has

most amply treated of Zingis Khan and his successors. See tom. iii. l.

xv.--xix., and in the collateral articles of the Seljukians of Roum, tom. ii. l. xi., the Carizmians, l. xiv., and the Mamalukes, tom. iv. l.

xxi.; consult likewise the tables of the 1st volume. He is ever learned and accurate; yet I am only indebted to him for a general view, and some

passages of Abulfeda, which are still latent in the Arabic text. \*

Note: To this catalogue of the historians of the Moguls may be added d'Ohson, Histoire des Mongols; Histoire des Mongols, (from Arabic and

Persian authorities,) Paris, 1824. Schmidt, Geschichte der Ost

Mongolen, St. Petersburgh, 1829. This curious work, by Ssanang Ssetsen chungtaidschi, published in the original Mongol, was written after the conversion of the nation to Buddhism: it is enriched with very valuable

notes by the editor and translator; but, unfortunately, is very barren

of information about the European and even the western Asiatic conquests

of the Mongols.--M.]

chapter LXIV: Moguls, Ottoman Turks.--Part II.

the arms of Zingis and his lieutenants successively reduced the hordes

of the desert, who pitched their tents between the wall of China and the

Volga; and the Mogul emperor became the monarch of the pastoral world, the lord of many millions of shepherds and soldiers, who felt their

united strength, and were impatient to rush on the mild and wealthy climates of the south. His ancestors had been the tributaries of the chinese emperors; and Temugin himself had been disgraced by a title of

honor and servitude. The court of Pekin was astonished by an embassy from its former vassal, who, in the tone of the king of nations, exacted the tribute and obedience which he had paid, and who affected to treat the \_son of heaven\_ as the most contemptible of mankind. A haughty answer disguised their secret apprehensions; and their fears were soon

justified by the march of innumerable squadrons, who pierced on all

sides the feeble rampart of the great wall. Ninety cities were stormed,

or starved, by the Moguls; ten only escaped; and Zingis, from a

knowledge of the filial piety of the Chinese, covered his vanguard with their captive parents; an unworthy, and by degrees a fruitless, abuse of the virtue of his enemies. His invasion was supported by the revolt of a

hundred thousand Khitans, who guarded the frontier: yet he listened to a treaty; and a princess of China, three thousand horses, five hundred

youths, and as many virgins, and a tribute of gold and silk, were the

price of his retreat. In his second expedition, he compelled the Chinese emperor to retire beyond the yellow river to a more southern residence. the siege of Pekin [19] was long and laborious: the inhabitants were

reduced by famine to decimate and devour their fellow-citizens; when their ammunition was spent, they discharged ingots of gold and silver from their engines; but the Moguls introduced a mine to the centre of the capital; and the conflagration of the palace burnt above thirty days. China was desolated by Tartar war and domestic faction; and the five northern provinces were added to the empire of Zingis.

[Footnote 19: More properly \_Yen-king\_, an ancient city, whose ruins

still appear some furlongs to the south-east of the modern \_Pekin\_, which was built by Cublai Khan, (Gaubel, p. 146.) Pe-king and Nan-king are vague titles, the courts of the north and of the south. The identity and change of names perplex the most skilful readers of the Chinese

geography, (p. 177.) \* Note: And likewise in Chinese history--see Abel

Remusat, Mel. Asiat. 2d tom. ii. p. 5.--M.]

In the West, he touched the dominions of Mohammed, sultan of Carizme, who reigned from the Persian Gulf to the borders of India and Turkestan; and who, in the proud imitation of Alexander the Great, forgot the

servitude and ingratitude of his fathers to the house of Seljuk. It was the wish of Zingis to establish a friendly and commercial intercourse with the most powerful of the Moslem princes: nor could he be tempted by the secret solicitations of the caliph of Bagdad, who sacrificed to his

personal wrongs the safety of the church and state. A rash and inhuman deed provoked and justified the Tartar arms in the invasion of the

southern Asia. [191] A caravan of three ambassadors and one hundred and fifty merchants were arrested and murdered at Otrar, by the command of

Mohammed; nor was it till after a demand and denial of justice, till he

had prayed and fasted three nights on a mountain, that the Mogul emperor appealed to the judgment of God and his sword. Our European battles,

says a philosophic writer, [20] are petty skirmishes, if compared to the

numbers that have fought and fallen in the fields of Asia. Seven hundred thousand Moguls and Tartars are said to have marched under the standard

of Zingis and his four sons. In the vast plains that extend to the north

of the Sihon or Jaxartes, they were encountered by four hundred thousand

soldiers of the sultan; and in the first battle, which was suspended by the night, one hundred and sixty thousand Carizmians were slain.

Mohammed was astonished by the multitude and valor of his enemies: he withdrew from the scene of danger, and distributed his troops in the frontier towns; trusting that the Barbarians, invincible in the field, would be repulsed by the length and difficulty of so many regular

sieges. But the prudence of Zingis had formed a body of Chinese engineers, skilled in the mechanic arts; informed perhaps of the secret

of gunpowder, and capable, under his discipline, of attacking a foreign country with more vigor and success than they had defended their own. the Persian historians will relate the sieges and reduction of Otrar, cogende, Bochara, Samarcand, Carizme, Herat, Merou, Nisabour, Balch, and Candahar; and the conquest of the rich and populous countries of transoxiana, Carizme, and Chorazan. [204 The destructive hostilities of attila and the Huns have long since been elucidated by the example of

Zingis and the Moguls; and in this more proper place I shall be content to observe, that, from the Caspian to the Indus, they ruined a tract of

many hundred miles, which was adorned with the habitations and labors of

mankind, and that five centuries have not been sufficient to repair the

ravages of four years. The Mogul emperor encouraged or indulged the fury

of his troops: the hope of future possession was lost in the ardor of

rapine and slaughter; and the cause of the war exasperated their native fierceness by the pretence of justice and revenge. The downfall and death of the sultan Mohammed, who expired, unpitied and alone, in a desert island of the Caspian Sea, is a poor atonement for the calamities

of which he was the author. Could the Carizmian empire have been saved by a single hero, it would have been saved by his son Gelaleddin, whose active valor repeatedly checked the Moguls in the career of victory.

Retreating, as he fought, to the banks of the Indus, he was oppressed by their innumerable host, till, in the last moment of despair, Gelaleddin

spurred his horse into the waves, swam one of the broadest and most

rapid rivers of Asia, and extorted the admiration and applause of Zingis

himself. It was in this camp that the Mogul conqueror yielded with

reluctance to the murmurs of his weary and wealthy troops, who sighed for the enjoyment of their native land. Eucumbered with the spoils of asia, he slowly measured back his footsteps, betrayed some pity for the

misery of the vanquished, and declared his intention of rebuilding the cities which had been swept away by the tempest of his arms. After he

had repassed the Oxus and Jaxartes, he was joined by two generals, whom he had detached with thirty thousand horse, to subdue the western

provinces of Persia. They had trampled on the nations which opposed their passage, penetrated through the gates of Derbent, traversed the

Volga and the desert, and accomplished the circuit of the Caspian Sea, by an expedition which had never been attempted, and has never been

repeated. The return of Zingis was signalized by the overthrow of the rebellious or independent kingdoms of Tartary; and he died in the fulness of years and glory, with his last breath exhorting and

instructing his sons to achieve the conquest of the Chinese empire. [205]

[Footnote 191: See the particular account of this transaction, from the

Kholauesut el Akbaur, in Price, vol. ii. p. 402.--M.]

[Footnote 20: M. de Voltaire, Essai sur l'Histoire Générale, tom. iii. c. 60, p. 8. His account of Zingis and the Moguls contains, as usual,

much general sense and truth, with some particular errors.]

[Footnote 204: Every where they massacred all classes, except the artisans, whom they made slaves. Hist. des Mongols.--M.]

[Footnote 205: Their first duty, which he bequeathed to them, was to

massacre the king of Tangcoute and all the inhabitants of Ninhia, the

surrender of the city being already agreed upon, Hist. des Mongols. vol.

i. p. 286.--M.]

the harem of Zingis was composed of five hundred wives and concubines; and of his numerous progeny, four sons, illustrious by their birth and

merit, exercised under their father the principal offices of peace and war. Toushi was his great huntsman, Zagatai [21] his judge, Octai his

minister, and Tuli his general; and their names and actions are often conspicuous in the history of his conquests. Firmly united for their

own and the public interest, the three brothers and their families were content with dependent sceptres; and Octai, by general consent, was

proclaimed great khan, or emperor of the Moguls and Tartars. He was

succeeded by his son Gayuk, after whose death the empire devolved to

his cousins Mangou and Cublai, the sons of Tuli, and the grandsons of

Zingis. In the sixty-eight years of his four first successors, the

Mogul subdued almost all Asia, and a large portion of Europe. Without confining myself to the order of time, without expatiating on the detail

of events, I shall present a general picture of the progress of their arms; I. In the East; II. In the South; III. In the West; and IV. In the

North.

[Footnote 21: Zagatai gave his name to his dominions of Maurenahar,

or Transoxiana; and the Moguls of Hindostan, who emigrated from that country, are styled Zagatais by the Persians. This certain etymology, and the similar example of Uzbek, Nogai, &c., may warn us not absolutely to reject the derivations of a national, from a personal, name. \*

Note: See a curious anecdote of Tschagatai. Hist. des Mongols, p.

370.--M.]

I. Before the invasion of Zingis, China was divided into two empires or dynasties of the North and South; [22] and the difference of origin and

interest was smoothed by a general conformity of laws, language, and

national manners. The Northern empire, which had been dismembered by

Zingis, was finally subdued seven years after his death. After the loss

of Pekin, the emperor had fixed his residence at Kaifong, a city many

leagues in circumference, and which contained, according to the Chinese annals, fourteen hundred thousand families of inhabitants and fugitives.

He escaped from thence with only seven horsemen, and made his last stand

in a third capital, till at length the hopeless monarch, protesting his

innocence and accusing his fortune, ascended a funeral pile, and gave

orders, that, as soon as he had stabbed himself, the fire should be

kindled by his attendants. The dynasty of the \_Song\_, the native and ancient sovereigns of the whole empire, survived about forty-five years the fall of the Northern usurpers; and the perfect conquest was reserved for the arms of Cublai. During this interval, the Moguls were often diverted by foreign wars; and, if the Chinese seldom dared to meet their victors in the field, their passive courage presented and endless

succession of cities to storm and of millions to slaughter. In the attack and defence of places, the engines of antiquity and the Greek fire were alternately employed: the use of gunpowder in cannon and bombs appears as a familiar practice; [23] and the sieges were conducted by the

Mahometans and Franks, who had been liberally invited into the service

of Cublai. After passing the great river, the troops and artillery were conveyed along a series of canals, till they invested the royal

residence of Hamcheu, or Quinsay, in the country of silk, the

most delicious climate of China. The emperor, a defenceless youth,

surrendered his person and sceptre; and before he was sent in exile into tartary, he struck nine times the ground with his forehead, to adore in

prayer or thanksgiving the mercy of the great khan. Yet the war (it was

now styled a rebellion) was still maintained in the southern provinces from Hamcheu to Canton; and the obstinate remnant of independence and

hostility was transported from the land to the sea. But when the fleet

of the \_Song\_ was surrounded and oppressed by a superior armament, their

last champion leaped into the waves with his infant emperor in his arms. "It is more glorious," he cried, "to die a prince, than to live a

slave." A hundred thousand Chinese imitated his example; and the whole empire, from Tonkin to the great wall, submitted to the dominion of cublai. His boundless ambition aspired to the conquest of Japan: his fleet was twice shipwrecked; and the lives of a hundred thousand

Moguls and Chinese were sacrificed in the fruitless expedition. But the circumjacent kingdoms, Corea, Tonkin, Cochinchina, Pegu, Bengal, and thibet, were reduced in different degrees of tribute and obedience by the effort or terror of his arms. He explored the Indian Ocean with a fleet of a thousand ships: they sailed in sixty-eight days, most

probably to the Isle of Borneo, under the equinoctial line; and though they returned not without spoil or glory, the emperor was dissatisfied that the savage king had escaped from their hands.

[Footnote 22: In Marco Polo, and the Oriental geographers, the names of cathay and Mangi distinguish the northern and southern empires, which, from A.D. 1234 to 1279, were those of the great khan, and of the chinese. The search of Cathay, after China had been found, excited and

misled our navigators of the sixteenth century, in their attempts to discover the north-east passage.]

[Footnote 23: I depend on the knowledge and fidelity of the Père Gaubil, who translates the Chinese text of the annals of the Moguls or Yuen, (p.

71, 93, 153;) but I am ignorant at what time these annals were composed and published. The two uncles of Marco Polo, who served as engineers at the siege of Siengyangfou, \* (l. ii. 61, in Ramusio, tom. ii. See

Gaubil, p. 155, 157) must have felt and related the effects of this destructive powder, and their silence is a weighty, and almost decisive

objection. I entertain a suspicion, that their recent discovery was carried from Europe to China by the caravans of the xvth century and falsely adopted as an old national discovery before the arrival of the

Portuguese and Jesuits in the xvith. Yet the Père Gaubil affirms, that the use of gunpowder has been known to the Chinese above 1600 years. \*\*

Note: \* Sou-houng-kian-lou. Abel Remusat.--M.

Note: \*\* La poudre à canon et d'autres compositions inflammantes, dont ils se servent pour construire des pièces d'artifice d'un effet

suprenant, leur étaient connues depuis très long-temps, et l'on croit

que des bombardes et des pierriers, dont ils avaient enseigné l'usage aux Tartares, ont pu donner en Europe l'idée d'artillerie, quoique la forme des fusils et des canons dont ils se servent actuellement, leur ait été apportée par les Francs, ainsi que l'attestent les noms mêmes

qu'ils donnent à ces sortes d'armes. Abel Remusat, Mélanges Asiat. 2d

ser. tom. i. p. 23.--M.]

II. The conquest of Hindostan by the Moguls was reserved in a later

period for the house of Timour; but that of Iran, or Persia, was achieved by Holagou Khan, [231] the grandson of Zingis, the brother and

lieutenant of the two successive emperors, Mangou and Cublai. I shall

not enumerate the crowd of sultans, emirs, and atabeks, whom he trampled

into dust; but the extirpation of the \_Assassins\_, or Ismaelians [24] of

Persia, may be considered as a service to mankind. Among the hills to the south of the Caspian, these odious sectaries had reigned with

impunity above a hundred and sixty years; and their prince, or Imam, established his lieutenant to lead and govern the colony of Mount

Libanus, so famous and formidable in the history of the crusades. [25] with the fanaticism of the Koran the Ismaelians had blended the Indian transmigration, and the visions of their own prophets; and it was their first duty to devote their souls and bodies in blind obedience to the

vicar of God. The daggers of his missionaries were felt both in the east and West: the Christians and the Moslems enumerate, and persons

multiply, the illustrious victims that were sacrificed to the zeal, avarice, or resentment of \_the old man\_ (as he was corruptly styled)

\_of the mountain\_. But these daggers, his only arms, were broken by the

sword of Holagou, and not a vestige is left of the enemies of mankind, except the word \_assassin\_, which, in the most odious sense, has been adopted in the languages of Europe. The extinction of the Abbassides cannot be indifferent to the spectators of their greatness and decline.

Since the fall of their Seljukian tyrants the caliphs had recovered their lawful dominion of Bagdad and the Arabian Irak; but the city was distracted by theological factions, and the commander of the faithful was lost in a harem of seven hundred concubines. The invasion of the

Moguls he encountered with feeble arms and haughty embassies. "On the divine decree," said the caliph Mostasem, "is founded the throne of the

sons of Abbas: and their foes shall surely be destroyed in this world and in the next. Who is this Holagou that dares to rise against them?

If he be desirous of peace, let him instantly depart from the sacred territory; and perhaps he may obtain from our clemency the pardon of

his fault." This presumption was cherished by a perfidious vizier, who assured his master, that, even if the Barbarians had entered the city, the women and children, from the terraces, would be sufficient to

overwhelm them with stones. But when Holagou touched the phantom, it

instantly vanished into smoke. After a siege of two months, Bagdad was stormed and sacked by the Moguls; [\* and their savage commander

pronounced the death of the caliph Mostasem, the last of the temporal

successors of Mahomet; whose noble kinsmen, of the race of Abbas, had

reigned in Asia above five hundred years. Whatever might be the designs

of the conqueror, the holy cities of Mecca and Medina [26] were protected by the Arabian desert; but the Moguls spread beyond the Tigris and euphrates, pillaged Aleppo and Damascus, and threatened to join the franks in the deliverance of Jerusalem. Egypt was lost, had she been defended only by her feeble offspring; but the Mamalukes had breathed in their infancy the keenness of a Scythian air: equal in valor, superior

in discipline, they met the Moguls in many a well-fought field; and drove back the stream of hostility to the eastward of the Euphrates. [261] but it overflowed with resistless violence the kingdoms of Armenia [262] and Anatolia, of which the former was possessed by the Christians, and the latter by the Turks. The sultans of Iconium opposed some resistance to the Mogul arms, till Azzadin sought a refuge among the Greeks of constantinople, and his feeble successors, the last of the Seljukian dynasty, were finally extirpated by the khans of Persia. [263]

[Footnote 231: See the curious account of the expedition of Holagou, translated from the Chinese, by M. Abel Remusat, Mélanges Asiat. 2d ser. tom. i. p. 171.--M.]

[Footnote 24: All that can be known of the Assassins of Persia and Syria

is poured from the copious, and even profuse, erudition of M. Falconet,

in two \_Mémoires\_ read before the Academy of Inscriptions, (tom. xvii.

p. 127--170.) \* Note: Von Hammer's History of the Assassins has now thrown Falconet's Dissertation into the shade.--M.]

[Footnote 25: The Ismaelians of Syria, 40,000 Assassins, had acquired

or founded ten castles in the hills above Tortosa. About the year 1280, they were extirpated by the Mamalukes.]

[Footnote 251: Compare Von Hammer, Geschichte der Assassinen, p. 283, 307. wilken, Geschichte der Kreuzzüge, vol. vii. p. 406. Price, Chronological

Retrospect, vol. ii. p. 217--223.--M.]

[Footnote 26: As a proof of the ignorance of the Chinese in foreign transactions, I must observe, that some of their historians extend the conquest of Zingis himself to Medina, the country of Mahomet, (Gaubil p.

42.)]

[Footnote 261: Compare Wilken, vol. vii. p. 410.--M.]

[Footnote 262: On the friendly relations of the Armenians with the Mongols

see Wilken, Geschichte der Kreuzzüge, vol. vii. p. 402. They eagerly desired an alliance against the Mahometan powers.--M.]

[Footnote 263: Trebizond escaped, apparently by the dexterous politics of the sovereign, but it acknowledged the Mogul supremacy. Falmerayer, p.

172.--M.]

III. No sooner had Octai subverted the northern empire of China, than he

resolved to visit with his arms the most remote countries of the West. fifteen hundred thousand Moguls and Tartars were inscribed on the

military roll: of these the great khan selected a third, which he

intrusted to the command of his nephew Batou, the son of Tuli; who

reigned over his father's conquests to the north of the Caspian Sea.

[264] After a festival of forty days, Batou set forwards on this great expedition; and such was the speed and ardor of his innumerable

squadrons, than in less than six years they had measured a line of

ninety degrees of longitude, a fourth part of the circumference of the

globe. The great rivers of Asia and Europe, the Volga and Kama, the Don and Borysthenes, the Vistula and Danube, they either swam with their

horses or passed on the ice, or traversed in leathern boats, which followed the camp, and transported their wagons and artillery. By the first victories of Batou, the remains of national freedom were eradicated in the immense plains of Turkestan and Kipzak. [27] In his

rapid progress, he overran the kingdoms, as they are now styled, of astracan and Cazan; and the troops which he detached towards Mount caucasus explored the most secret recesses of Georgia and Circassia. The civil discord of the great dukes, or princes, of Russia, betrayed their country to the Tartars. They spread from Livonia to the Black Sea, and both Moscow and Kiow, the modern and the ancient capitals, were reduced to ashes; a temporary ruin, less fatal than the deep, and perhaps

indelible, mark, which a servitude of two hundred years has imprinted on the character of the Russians. The Tartars ravaged with equal fury the countries which they hoped to possess, and those which they were

hastening to leave. From the permanent conquest of Russia they made a deadly, though transient, inroad into the heart of Poland, and as far as the borders of Germany. The cities of Lublin and Cracow were

obliterated: [271] they approached the shores of the Baltic; and in the battle of Lignitz they defeated the dukes of Silesia, the Polish

palatines, and the great master of the Teutonic order, and filled nine

sacks with the right ears of the slain. From Lignitz, the extreme point

of their western march, they turned aside to the invasion of Hungary; and the presence or spirit of Batou inspired the host of five hundred thousand men: the Carpathian hills could not be long impervious to their divided columns; and their approach had been fondly disbelieved till it was irresistibly felt. The king, Bela the Fourth, assembled the military force of his counts and bishops; but he had alienated the nation by adopting a vagrant horde of forty thousand families of Comans, and these

savage guests were provoked to revolt by the suspicion of treachery and the murder of their prince. The whole country north of the Danube was

lost in a day, and depopulated in a summer; and the ruins of cities and churches were overspread with the bones of the natives, who expiated the

sins of their Turkish ancestors. An ecclesiastic, who fled from the sack

of Waradin, describes the calamities which he had seen, or suffered; and the sanguinary rage of sieges and battles is far less atrocious than the treatment of the fugitives, who had been allured from the woods under a

promise of peace and pardon and who were coolly slaughtered as soon as they had performed the labors of the harvest and vintage. In the winter the Tartars passed the Danube on the ice, and advanced to Gran or

Strigonium, a German colony, and the metropolis of the kingdom. Thirty engines were planted against the walls; the ditches were filled with

sacks of earth and dead bodies; and after a promiscuous massacre, three

hundred noble matrons were slain in the presence of the khan. Of all the cities and fortresses of Hungary, three alone survived the Tartar

invasion, and the unfortunate Bata hid his head among the islands of the adriatic.

[Footnote 264: See the curious extracts from the Mahometan writers, Hist. des Mongols, p. 707.--M.]

[Footnote 27: The \_Dashté Kipzak\_, or plain of Kipzak, extends on either side of the Volga, in a boundless space towards the Jaik and borysthenes, and is supposed to contain the primitive name and nation of the Cossacks.]

[Footnote 271: Olmutz was gallantly and successfully defended by Stenberg,

Hist. des Mongols, p. 396.--M.]

the Latin world was darkened by this cloud of savage hostility: a

Russian fugitive carried the alarm to Sweden; and the remote nations of the Baltic and the ocean trembled at the approach of the Tartars, [28] whom their fear and ignorance were inclined to separate from the human

species. Since the invasion of the Arabs in the eighth century, Europe

had never been exposed to a similar calamity: and if the disciples

of Mahomet would have oppressed her religion and liberty, it might be apprehended that the shepherds of Scythia would extinguish her cities,

her arts, and all the institutions of civil society. The Roman pontiff attempted to appease and convert these invincible Pagans by a mission of franciscan and Dominican friars; but he was astonished by the reply of the khan, that the sons of God and of Zingis were invested with a divine

power to subdue or extirpate the nations; and that the pope would be

involved in the universal destruction, unless he visited in person, and as a suppliant, the royal horde. The emperor Frederic the Second embraced a more generous mode of defence; and his letters to the kings

of France and England, and the princes of Germany, represented the common danger, and urged them to arm their vassals in this just and

rational crusade. [29] The Tartars themselves were awed by the fame and valor of the Franks; the town of Newstadt in Austria was bravely defended against them by fifty knights and twenty crossbows; and they

raised the siege on the appearance of a German army. After wasting the adjacent kingdoms of Servia, Bosnia, and Bulgaria, Batou slowly

retreated from the Danube to the Volga to enjoyed the rewards of victory

in the city and palace of Serai, which started at his command from the

midst of the desert. [291]

[Footnote 28: In the year 1238, the inhabitants of Gothia (\_Sweden\_) and Frise were prevented, by their fear of the Tartars, from sending, as

usual, their ships to the herring fishery on the coast of England; and as there was no exportation, forty or fifty of these fish were sold for a shilling, (Matthew Paris, p. 396.) It is whimsical enough, that the

orders of a Mogul khan, who reigned on the borders of China, should have

lowered the price of herrings in the English market.]

[Footnote 29: I shall copy his characteristic or flattering epithets of the different countries of Europe: Furens ac fervens ad arma Germania,

strenuæ militiæ genitrix et alumna Francia, bellicosa et audax Hispania,

virtuosa viris et classe munita fertilis Anglia, impetuosis bellatoribus

referta Alemannia, navalis Dacia, indomita Italia, pacis ignara burgundia, inquieta Apulia, cum maris Græci, Adriatici et Tyrrheni

insulis pyraticis et invictis, Cretâ, Cypro, Siciliâ, cum Oceano conterterminis insulis, et regionibus, cruenta Hybernia, cum agili wallia palustris Scotia, glacialis Norwegia, suam electam militiam sub

vexillo Crucis destinabunt, &c. (Matthew Paris, p. 498.)]

[Footnote 291: He was recalled by the death of Octai.--M.]

IV. Even the poor and frozen regions of the north attracted the arms of the Moguls: Sheibani khan, the brother of the great Batou, led a

horde of fifteen thousand families into the wilds of Siberia; and his descendants reigned at Tobolskoi above three centuries, till the Russian conquest. The spirit of enterprise which pursued the course of the

Oby and Yenisei must have led to the discovery of the icy sea. After brushing away the monstrous fables, of men with dogs' heads and cloven feet, we shall find, that, fifteen years after the death of Zingis, the

Moguls were informed of the name and manners of the Samoyedes in the

neighborhood of the polar circle, who dwelt in subterraneous huts, and derived their furs and their food from the sole occupation of hunting.

[30]

[Footnote 30: See Carpin's relation in Hackluyt, vol. i. p. 30. The

pedigree of the khans of Siberia is given by Abulghazi, (part viii. p.

485--495.) Have the Russians found no Tartar chronicles at Tobolskoi? \*

Note: \* See the account of the Mongol library in Bergman, Nomadische

Streifereyen, vol. iii. p. 185, 205, and Remusat, Hist. des

Langues Tartares, p. 327, and preface to Schmidt, Geschichte der

Ost-Mongolen.--M.]

while China, Syria, and Poland, were invaded at the same time by the

Moguls and Tartars, the authors of the mighty mischief were content with the knowledge and declaration, that their word was the sword of death.

Like the first caliphs, the first successors of Zingis seldom appeared

in person at the head of their victorious armies. On the banks of the

Onon and Selinga, the royal or \_golden horde\_ exhibited the contrast

of simplicity and greatness; of the roasted sheep and mare's milk which composed their banquets; and of a distribution in one day of five

hundred wagons of gold and silver. The ambassadors and princes of europe and Asia were compelled to undertake this distant and laborious

pilgrimage; and the life and reign of the great dukes of Russia, the

kings of Georgia and Armenia, the sultans of Iconium, and the emirs of

Persia, were decided by the frown or smile of the great khan. The sons and grandsons of Zingis had been accustomed to the pastoral life; but the village of Caracorum [31] was gradually ennobled by their election and residence. A change of manners is implied in the removal of Octai and Mangou from a tent to a house; and their example was imitated by the

princes of their family and the great officers of the empire. Instead of the boundless forest, the enclosure of a park afforded the more indolent

pleasures of the chase; their new habitations were decorated with

painting and sculpture; their superfluous treasures were cast in fountains, and basins, and statues of massy silver; and the artists of china and Paris vied with each other in the service of the great khan.

[32] Caracorum contained two streets, the one of Chinese mechanics, the

other of Mahometan traders; and the places of religious worship, one

Nestorian church, two mosques, and twelve temples of various idols, may

represent in some degree the number and division of inhabitants. Yet a french missionary declares, that the town of St. Denys, near Paris, was

more considerable than the Tartar capital; and that the whole palace of

Mangou was scarcely equal to a tenth part of that Benedictine abbey. The conquests of Russia and Syria might amuse the vanity of the great khans; but they were seated on the borders of China; the acquisition of that empire was the nearest and most interesting object; and they might

learn from their pastoral economy, that it is for the advantage of the

shepherd to protect and propagate his flock. I have already celebrated the wisdom and virtue of a Mandarin who prevented the desolation of five populous and cultivated provinces. In a spotless administration

of thirty years, this friend of his country and of mankind continually

labored to mitigate, or suspend, the havoc of war; to save the

monuments, and to rekindle the flame, of science; to restrain the

military commander by the restoration of civil magistrates; and to

instil the love of peace and justice into the minds of the Moguls. He

struggled with the barbarism of the first conquerors; but his salutary

lessons produced a rich harvest in the second generation. [321] The

northern, and by degrees the southern, empire acquiesced in the

government of Cublai, the lieutenant, and afterwards the successor, of

Mangou; and the nation was loyal to a prince who had been educated

in the manners of China. He restored the forms of her venerable constitution; and the victors submitted to the laws, the fashions, and even the prejudices, of the vanquished people. This peaceful triumph, which has been more than once repeated, may be ascribed, in a great

measure, to the numbers and servitude of the Chinese. The Mogul army was dissolved in a vast and populous country; and their emperors adopted with pleasure a political system, which gives to the prince the solid

substance of despotism, and leaves to the subject the empty names of

philosophy, freedom, and filial obedience. [322] Under the reign of Cublai,

letters and commerce, peace and justice, were restored; the great canal,

of five hundred miles, was opened from Nankin to the capital: he fixed

his residence at Pekin; and displayed in his court the magnificence of the greatest monarch of Asia. Yet this learned prince declined from the

pure and simple religion of his great ancestor: he sacrificed to the

idol Fo; and his blind attachment to the lamas of Thibet and the bonzes

of China [33] provoked the censure of the disciples of Confucius. His

successors polluted the palace with a crowd of eunuchs, physicians, and astrologers, while thirteen millions of their subjects were consumed in the provinces by famine. One hundred and forty years after the death of

Zingis, his degenerate race, the dynasty of the Yuen, was expelled by a revolt of the native Chinese; and the Mogul emperors were lost in the

oblivion of the desert. Before this revolution, they had forfeited their supremacy over the dependent branches of their house, the khans of

Kipzak and Russia, the khans of Zagatai, or Transoxiana, and the khans

of Iran or Persia. By their distance and power, these royal lieutenants

had soon been released from the duties of obedience; and after the death

of Cublai, they scorned to accept a sceptre or a title from his unworthy

successors. According to their respective situations, they maintained the simplicity of the pastoral life, or assumed the luxury of the cities

of Asia; but the princes and their hordes were alike disposed for the

reception of a foreign worship. After some hesitation between the Gospel and the Koran, they conformed to the religion of Mahomet; and while they adopted for their brethren the Arabs and Persians, they renounced all

intercourse with the ancient Moguls, the idolaters of China.

[Footnote 31: The Map of D'Anville and the Chinese Itineraries (De

Guignes, tom. i. part ii. p. 57) seem to mark the position of Holin,

or Caracorum, about six hundred miles to the north-west of Pekin. The distance between Selinginsky and Pekin is near 2000 Russian versts, between 1300 and 1400 English miles, (Bell's Travels, vol. ii. p. 67.)]

[Footnote 32: Rubruquis found at Caracorum his \_countryman Guillaume boucher, orfevre de Paris\_, who had executed for the khan a silver tree

supported by four lions, and ejecting four different liquors. Abulghazi

(part iv. p. 366) mentions the painters of Kitay or China.]

[Footnote 321: See the interesting sketch of the life of this minister

(Yelin-Thsouthsai) in the second volume of the second series of

Recherches Asiatiques, par A Remusat, p. 64.--M.]

[Footnote 322: Compare Hist. des Mongols, p. 616.--M.]

[Footnote 33: The attachment of the khans, and the hatred of the

mandarins, to the bonzes and lamas (Duhalde, Hist. de la Chine, tom. i.

p. 502, 503) seems to represent them as the priests of the same god,

of the Indian \_Fo\_, whose worship prevails among the sects of Hindostan

Siam, Thibet, China, and Japan. But this mysterious subject is still

lost in a cloud, which the researchers of our Asiatic Society may

gradually dispel.]

chapter LXIV: Moguls, Ottoman Turks.--Part III.

In this shipwreck of nations, some surprise may be excited by the escape

of the Roman empire, whose relics, at the time of the Mogul invasion, were dismembered by the Greeks and Latins. Less potent than Alexander, they were pressed, like the Macedonian, both in Europe and Asia, by the shepherds of Scythia; and had the Tartars undertaken the siege, constantinople must have yielded to the fate of Pekin, Samarcand, and bagdad. The glorious and voluntary retreat of Batou from the Danube was insulted by the vain triumph of the Franks and Greeks; [34] and in a second expedition death surprised him in full march to attack the capital of the Cæsars. His brother Borga carried the Tartar arms into bulgaria and Thrace; but he was diverted from the Byzantine war by a

visit to Novogorod, in the fifty-seventh degree of latitude, where he

numbered the inhabitants and regulated the tributes of Russia. The

Mogul khan formed an alliance with the Mamalukes against his brethren

of Persia: three hundred thousand horse penetrated through the gates of derbend; and the Greeks might rejoice in the first example of domestic war. After the recovery of Constantinople, Michael Palæologus, [35] at a distance from his court and army, was surprised and surrounded in a thracian castle, by twenty thousand Tartars. But the object of their

march was a private interest: they came to the deliverance of Azzadin, the Turkish sultan; and were content with his person and the treasure of the emperor. Their general Noga, whose name is perpetuated in the hordes

of Astracan, raised a formidable rebellion against Mengo Timour, the third of the khans of Kipzak; obtained in marriage Maria, the natural daughter of Palæologus; and guarded the dominions of his friend and father. The subsequent invasions of a Scythian cast were those of

outlaws and fugitives: and some thousands of Alani and Comans, who had been driven from their native seats, were reclaimed from a vagrant life, and enlisted in the service of the empire. Such was the influence in europe of the invasion of the Moguls. The first terror of their arms

secured, rather than disturbed, the peace of the Roman Asia. The sultan

of Iconium solicited a personal interview with John Vataces; and his artful policy encouraged the Turks to defend their barrier against the common enemy. [36] That barrier indeed was soon overthrown; and the servitude and ruin of the Seljukians exposed the nakedness of the

Greeks. The formidable Holagou threatened to march to Constantinople at the head of four hundred thousand men; and the groundless panic of the citizens of Nice will present an image of the terror which he had

inspired. The accident of a procession, and the sound of a doleful

litany, "From the fury of the Tartars, good Lord, deliver us," had

scattered the hasty report of an assault and massacre. In the blind credulity of fear, the streets of Nice were crowded with thousands of both sexes, who knew not from what or to whom they fled; and some hours elapsed before the firmness of the military officers could relieve the city from this imaginary foe. But the ambition of Holagou and his

successors was fortunately diverted by the conquest of Bagdad, and a

long vicissitude of Syrian wars; their hostility to the Moslems inclined them to unite with the Greeks and Franks; [37] and their generosity

or contempt had offered the kingdom of Anatolia as the reward of an armenian vassal. The fragments of the Seljukian monarchy were disputed by the emirs who had occupied the cities or the mountains; but they all confessed the supremacy of the khans of Persia; and he often interposed

his authority, and sometimes his arms, to check their depredations, and to preserve the peace and balance of his Turkish frontier. The death

of Cazan, [38] one of the greatest and most accomplished princes of the

house of Zingis, removed this salutary control; and the decline of the

Moguls gave a free scope to the rise and progress of the Ottoman Empire.

[39]

[Footnote 34: Some repulse of the Moguls in Hungary (Matthew Paris, p.

545, 546) might propagate and color the report of the union and victory

of the kings of the Franks on the confines of Bulgaria. Abulpharagius

(Dynast. p. 310) after forty years, beyond the Tigris, might be easily deceived.]

[Footnote 35: See Pachymer, l. iii. c. 25, and l. ix. c. 26, 27; and the false alarm at Nice, l. iii. c. 27. Nicephorus Gregoras, l. iv. c. 6.]

[Footnote 36: G. Acropolita, p. 36, 37. Nic. Greg. l. ii. c. 6, l. iv. c. 5.]

[Footnote 37: Abulpharagius, who wrote in the year 1284, declares that the Moguls, since the fabulous defeat of Batou, had not attacked either the Franks or Greeks; and of this he is a competent witness. Hayton

likewise, the Armenian prince, celebrates their friendship for himself and his nation.]

[Footnote 38: Pachymer gives a splendid character of Cazan Khan, the

rival of Cyrus and Alexander, (l. xii. c. 1.) In the conclusion of his

history (l. xiii. c. 36) he \_hopes\_ much from the arrival of 30,000 tochars, or Tartars, who were ordered by the successor of Cazan to

restrain the Turks of Bithynia, A.D. 1308.]

[Footnote 39: The origin of the Ottoman dynasty is illustrated by the critical learning of Mm. De Guignes (Hist. des Huns, tom. iv. p.

329--337) and D'Anville, (Empire Turc, p. 14--22,) two inhabitants of

Paris, from whom the Orientals may learn the history and geography of their own country. \* Note: They may be still more enlightened by the

Geschichte des Osman Reiches, by M. von Hammer Purgstall of Vienna.--M.]

after the retreat of Zingis, the sultan Gelaleddin of Carizme had

returned from India to the possession and defence of his Persian

kingdoms. In the space of eleven years, than hero fought in person fourteen battles; and such was his activity, that he led his cavalry in

seventeen days from Teflis to Kerman, a march of a thousand miles.

Yet he was oppressed by the jealousy of the Moslem princes, and the

innumerable armies of the Moguls; and after his last defeat, Gelaleddin

perished ignobly in the mountains of Curdistan. His death dissolved a veteran and adventurous army, which included under the name of carizmians or Corasmins many Turkman hordes, that had attached themselves to the sultan's fortune. The bolder and more powerful chiefs

invaded Syria, and violated the holy sepulchre of Jerusalem: the more

humble engaged in the service of Aladin, sultan of Iconium; and among these were the obscure fathers of the Ottoman line. They had formerly

pitched their tents near the southern banks of the Oxus, in the plains

of Mahan and Nesa; and it is somewhat remarkable, that the same spot

should have produced the first authors of the Parthian and Turkish empires. At the head, or in the rear, of a Carizmian army, Soliman Shah was drowned in the passage of the Euphrates: his son Orthogrul became the soldier and subject of Aladin, and established at Surgut, on the banks of the Sangar, a camp of four hundred families or tents, whom he

governed fifty-two years both in peace and war. He was the father

of Thaman, or Athman, whose Turkish name has been melted into the appellation of the caliph Othman; and if we describe that pastoral chief as a shepherd and a robber, we must separate from those characters all

idea of ignominy and baseness. Othman possessed, and perhaps surpassed, the ordinary virtues of a soldier; and the circumstances of time and

place were propitious to his independence and success. The Seljukian dynasty was no more; and the distance and decline of the Mogul khans

soon enfranchised him from the control of a superior. He was situate on the verge of the Greek empire: the Koran sanctified his \_gazi\_, or

holy war, against the infidels; and their political errors unlocked the

passes of Mount Olympus, and invited him to descend into the plains of bithynia. Till the reign of Palæologus, these passes had been vigilantly

guarded by the militia of the country, who were repaid by their

own safety and an exemption from taxes. The emperor abolished their

privilege and assumed their office; but the tribute was rigorously collected, the custody of the passes was neglected, and the hardy

mountaineers degenerated into a trembling crowd of peasants without

spirit or discipline. It was on the twenty-seventh of July, in the year twelve hundred and ninety-nine of the Christian æra, that Othman first

invaded the territory of Nicomedia; [40] and the singular accuracy of the date seems to disclose some foresight of the rapid and destructive

growth of the monster. The annals of the twenty-seven years of his

reign would exhibit a repetition of the same inroads; and his hereditary troops were multiplied in each campaign by the accession of captives and

volunteers. Instead of retreating to the hills, he maintained the most

useful and defensive posts; fortified the towns and castles which he

had first pillaged; and renounced the pastoral life for the baths and

palaces of his infant capitals. But it was not till Othman was oppressed by age and infirmities, that he received the welcome news of the conquest of Prusa, which had been surrendered by famine or treachery to the arms of his son Orchan. The glory of Othman is chiefly founded on that of his descendants; but the Turks have transcribed or composed a

royal testament of his last counsels of justice and moderation. [41]

[Footnote 40: See Pachymer, l. x. c. 25, 26, l. xiii. c. 33, 34, 36; and concerning the guard of the mountains, l. i. c. 3--6: Nicephorus

Gregoras, l. vii. c. l., and the first book of Laonicus Chalcondyles, the Athenian.]

[Footnote 41: I am ignorant whether the Turks have any writers older than Mahomet II., \* nor can I reach beyond a meagre chronicle (Annales turcici ad Annum 1550) translated by John Gaudier, and published by

Leunclavius, (ad calcem Laonic. Chalcond. p. 311--350,) with copious

pandects, or commentaries. The history of the Growth and Decay (A.D.

1300--1683) of the Othman empire was translated into English from the

Latin MS. of Demetrius Cantemir, prince of Moldavia, (London, 1734, in folio.) The author is guilty of strange blunders in Oriental history; but he was conversant with the language, the annals, and institutions

of the Turks. Cantemir partly draws his materials from the Synopsis of

Saadi Effendi of Larissa, dedicated in the year 1696 to Sultan Mustapha, and a valuable abridgment of the original historians. In one of the

Ramblers, Dr. Johnson praises Knolles (a General History of the Turks to the present Year. London, 1603) as the first of historians, unhappy only

in the choice of his subject. Yet I much doubt whether a partial and

verbose compilation from Latin writers, thirteen hundred folio pages of

speeches and battles, can either instruct or amuse an enlightened age, which requires from the historian some tincture of philosophy and criticism. Note: \* We could have wished that M. von Hammer had given a

more clear and distinct reply to this question of Gibbon. In a note,

vol. i. p. 630. M. von Hammer shows that they had not only sheiks

(religious writers) and learned lawyers, but poets and authors on

medicine. But the inquiry of Gibbon obviously refers to historians. The

oldest of their historical works, of which V. Hammer makes use, is the

"Tarichi Aaschik Paschasade," i. e. the History of the Great Grandson of aaschik Pasha, who was a dervis and celebrated ascetic poet in the reign

of Murad (Amurath) I. Ahmed, the author of the work, lived during the

reign of Bajazet II., but, he says, derived much information from the book of Scheik Jachshi, the son of Elias, who was Imaum to Sultan

Orchan, (the second Ottoman king) and who related, from the lips of his father, the circumstances of the earliest Ottoman history. This book

(having searched for it in vain for five-and-twenty years) our author found at length in the Vatican. All the other Turkish histories on his

list, as indeed this, were \_written\_ during the reign of Mahomet II. It does not appear whether any of the rest cite earlier authorities of equal value with that claimed by the "Tarichi Aaschik Paschasade."--M.

(in Quarterly Review, vol. xlix. p. 292.)]

from the conquest of Prusa, we may date the true æra of the Ottoman empire. The lives and possessions of the Christian subjects were

redeemed by a tribute or ransom of thirty thousand crowns of gold; and the city, by the labors of Orchan, assumed the aspect of a Mahometan capital; Prusa was decorated with a mosque, a college, and a hospital,

of royal foundation; the Seljukian coin was changed for the name and

impression of the new dynasty: and the most skilful professors, of human and divine knowledge, attracted the Persian and Arabian students from the ancient schools of Oriental learning. The office of vizier was

instituted for Aladin, the brother of Orchan; [411] and a different habit distinguished the citizens from the peasants, the Moslems from the

infidels. All the troops of Othman had consisted of loose squadrons of turkman cavalry; who served without pay and fought without discipline: but a regular body of infantry was first established and trained by the

prudence of his son. A great number of volunteers was enrolled with a

small stipend, but with the permission of living at home, unless they were summoned to the field: their rude manners, and seditious temper, disposed Orchan to educate his young captives as his soldiers and those

of the prophet; but the Turkish peasants were still allowed to mount on

horseback, and follow his standard, with the appellation and the hopes

of \_freebooters\_. [412] By these arts he formed an army of twenty-five thousand Moslems: a train of battering engines was framed for the use

of sieges; and the first successful experiment was made on the cities

of Nice and Nicomedia. Orchan granted a safe-conduct to all who were desirous of departing with their families and effects; but the widows of the slain were given in marriage to the conquerors; and the sacrilegious

plunder, the books, the vases, and the images, were sold or ransomed at constantinople. The emperor Andronicus the Younger was vanquished and wounded by the son of Othman: [42] [421] he subdued the whole province

or kingdom of Bithynia, as far as the shores of the Bosphorus and

Hellespont; and the Christians confessed the justice and clemency of a

reign which claimed the voluntary attachment of the Turks of Asia. Yet

Orchan was content with the modest title of emir; and in the list of his compeers, the princes of Roum or Anatolia, [43] his military forces were

surpassed by the emirs of Ghermian and Caramania, each of whom could bring into the field an army of forty thousand men. Their domains were

situate in the heart of the Seljukian kingdom; but the holy warriors, though of inferior note, who formed new principalities on the Greek empire, are more conspicuous in the light of history. The maritime country from the Propontis to the Mæander and the Isle of Rhodes,

so long threatened and so often pillaged, was finally lost about the thirteenth year of Andronicus the Elder. [44] Two Turkish chieftains,

Sarukhan and Aidin, left their names to their conquests, and their conquests to their posterity. The captivity or ruin of the \_seven\_ churches of Asia was consummated; and the barbarous lords of Ionia and

Lydia still trample on the monuments of classic and Christian antiquity.

In the loss of Ephesus, the Christians deplored the fall of the first angel, the extinction of the first candlestick, of the Revelations; [45] the desolation is complete; and the temple of Diana, or the church of

Mary, will equally elude the search of the curious traveller. The circus and three stately theatres of Laodicea are now peopled with wolves and foxes; Sardes is reduced to a miserable village; the God of Mahomet, without a rival or a son, is invoked in the mosques of Thyatira and

Pergamus; and the populousness of Smyrna is supported by the foreign trade of the Franks and Armenians. Philadelphia alone has been saved by prophecy, or courage. At a distance from the sea, forgotten by the emperors, encompassed on all sides by the Turks, her valiant citizens defended their religion and freedom above fourscore years; and at length capitulated with the proudest of the Ottomans. Among the Greek colonies and churches of Asia, Philadelphia is still erect; a column in a scene

of ruins; a pleasing example, that the paths of honor and safety may

sometimes be the same. The servitude of Rhodes was delayed about two centuries by the establishment of the knights of St. John of Jerusalem:

[46] under the discipline of the order, that island emerged into fame and

opulence; the noble and warlike monks were renowned by land and sea: and the bulwark of Christendom provoked, and repelled, the arms of the Turks and Saracens.

[Footnote 411: Von Hammer, Osm. Geschichte, vol. i. p. 82.--M.]

[Footnote 412: Ibid. p. 91.--M.]

[Footnote 42: Cantacuzene, though he relates the battle and heroic flight of the younger Andronicus, (l. ii. c. 6, 7, 8,) dissembles by

his silence the loss of Prusa, Nice, and Nicomedia, which are fairly confessed by Nicephorus Gregoras, (l. viii. 15, ix. 9, 13, xi. 6.) It appears that Nice was taken by Orchan in 1330, and Nicomedia in 1339, which are somewhat different from the Turkish dates.]

[Footnote 421: For the conquests of Orchan over the ten pachaliks, or

kingdoms of the Seljukians, in Asia Minor. see V. Hammer, vol. i. p.

112.--M.]

[Footnote 43: The partition of the Turkish emirs is extracted from two contemporaries, the Greek Nicephorus Gregoras (l. vii. 1) and the Arabian Marakeschi, (De Guignes, tom. ii. P. ii. p. 76, 77.) See

likewise the first book of Laonicus Chalcondyles.]

[Footnote 44: Pachymer, l. xiii. c. 13.]

[Footnote 45: See the Travels of Wheeler and Spon, of Pocock and chandler, and more particularly Smith's Survey of the Seven Churches

of Asia, p. 205--276. The more pious antiquaries labor to reconcile the

promises and threats of the author of the Revelations with the \_present\_

state of the seven cities. Perhaps it would be more prudent to confine

his predictions to the characters and events of his own times.]

[Footnote 46: Consult the ivth book of the Histoire de l'Ordre de Malthe, par l'Abbé de Vertot. That pleasing writer betrays his

ignorance, in supposing that Othman, a freebooter of the Bithynian

hills, could besiege Rhodes by sea and land.]

the Greeks, by their intestine divisions, were the authors of their final ruin. During the civil wars of the elder and younger Andronicus, the son of Othman achieved, almost without resistance, the conquest of bithynia; and the same disorders encouraged the Turkish emirs of Lydia and Ionia to build a fleet, and to pillage the adjacent islands and the

sea-coast of Europe. In the defence of his life and honor, Cantacuzene was tempted to prevent, or imitate, his adversaries, by calling to his aid the public enemies of his religion and country. Amir, the son of aidin, concealed under a Turkish garb the humanity and politeness of a Greek; he was united with the great domestic by mutual esteem and

reciprocal services; and their friendship is compared, in the vain

rhetoric of the times, to the perfect union of Orestes and Pylades.

[47] On the report of the danger of his friend, who was persecuted by an ungrateful court, the prince of Ionia assembled at Smyrna a fleet of three hundred vessels, with an army of twenty-nine thousand men; sailed

in the depth of winter, and cast anchor at the mouth of the Hebrus. From thence, with a chosen band of two thousand Turks, he marched along the banks of the river, and rescued the empress, who was besieged in demotica by the wild Bulgarians. At that disastrous moment, the life

or death of his beloved Cantacuzene was concealed by his flight into

Servia: but the grateful Irene, impatient to behold her deliverer,

invited him to enter the city, and accompanied her message with a

present of rich apparel and a hundred horses. By a peculiar strain of delicacy, the Gentle Barbarian refused, in the absence of an unfortunate friend, to visit his wife, or to taste the luxuries of the palace;

sustained in his tent the rigor of the winter; and rejected the

hospitable gift, that he might share the hardships of two thousand companions, all as deserving as himself of that honor and distinction.

Necessity and revenge might justify his predatory excursions by sea and

land: he left nine thousand five hundred men for the guard of his fleet; and persevered in the fruitless search of Cantacuzene, till his embarkation was hastened by a fictitious letter, the severity of the

season, the clamors of his independent troops, and the weight of his

spoil and captives. In the prosecution of the civil war, the prince

of Ionia twice returned to Europe; joined his arms with those of the emperor; besieged Thessalonica, and threatened Constantinople. Calumny

might affix some reproach on his imperfect aid, his hasty departure, and a bribe of ten thousand crowns, which he accepted from the Byzantine court; but his friend was satisfied; and the conduct of Amir is excused by the more sacred duty of defending against the Latins his hereditary dominions. The maritime power of the Turks had united the pope, the

king of Cyprus, the republic of Venice, and the order of St. John, in a

laudable crusade; their galleys invaded the coast of Ionia; and Amir was

slain with an arrow, in the attempt to wrest from the Rhodian knights the citadel of Smyrna. [48] Before his death, he generously recommended another ally of his own nation; not more sincere or zealous than

himself, but more able to afford a prompt and powerful succor, by his

situation along the Propontis and in the front of Constantinople. By the

prospect of a more advantageous treaty, the Turkish prince of Bithynia was detached from his engagements with Anne of Savoy; and the pride of

Orchan dictated the most solemn protestations, that if he could obtain the daughter of Cantacuzene, he would invariably fulfil the duties of a subject and a son. Parental tenderness was silenced by the voice

of ambition: the Greek clergy connived at the marriage of a Christian

princess with a sectary of Mahomet; and the father of Theodora describes, with shameful satisfaction, the dishonor of the purple. [49] a body of Turkish cavalry attended the ambassadors, who disembarked from thirty vessels, before his camp of Selybria. A stately pavilion was erected, in which the empress Irene passed the night with her daughters.

In the morning, Theodora ascended a throne, which was surrounded with curtains of silk and gold: the troops were under arms; but the emperor alone was on horseback. At a signal the curtains were suddenly withdrawn to disclose the bride, or the victim, encircled by kneeling eunuchs and

hymeneal torches: the sound of flutes and trumpets proclaimed the joyful event; and her pretended happiness was the theme of the nuptial song, which was chanted by such poets as the age could produce. Without the

rites of the church, Theodora was delivered to her barbarous lord: but

it had been stipulated, that she should preserve her religion in the

harem of Bursa; and her father celebrates her charity and devotion in this ambiguous situation. After his peaceful establishment on the throne

of Constantinople, the Greek emperor visited his Turkish ally, who with four sons, by various wives, expected him at Scutari, on the Asiatic

shore. The two princes partook, with seeming cordiality, of the

pleasures of the banquet and the chase; and Theodora was permitted to repass the Bosphorus, and to enjoy some days in the society of her

mother. But the friendship of Orchan was subservient to his religion and

interest; and in the Genoese war he joined without a blush the enemies

of Cantacuzene.

[Footnote 47: Nicephorus Gregoras has expatiated with pleasure on this amiable character, (l. xii. 7, xiii. 4, 10, xiv. 1, 9, xvi. 6.) cantacuzene speaks with honor and esteem of his ally, (l. iii. c. 56,

57, 63, 64, 66, 67, 68, 86, 89, 95, 96;) but he seems ignorant of

his own sentimental passion for the Turks, and indirectly denies the

possibility of such unnatural friendship, (l. iv. c. 40.)]

[Footnote 48: After the conquest of Smyrna by the Latins, the defence of this fortress was imposed by Pope Gregory XI. on the knights of Rhodes,

(see Vertot, l. v.)]

[Footnote 49: See Cantacuzenus, l. iii. c. 95. Nicephorus Gregoras, who, for the light of Mount Thabor, brands the emperor with the names

of tyrant and Herod, excuses, rather than blames, this Turkish marriage, and alleges the passion and power of Orchan, eggutatoV, kai th dunamo? touV kat' auton hdh PersikouV (Turkish) uperairwn SatrapaV, (l. xv.

5.) He afterwards celebrates his kingdom and armies. See his reign in cantemir, p. 24--30.]

In the treaty with the empress Anne, the Ottoman prince had inserted a singular condition, that it should be lawful for him to sell his

prisoners at Constantinople, or transport them into Asia. A naked crowd

of Christians of both sexes and every age, of priests and monks, of

matrons and virgins, was exposed in the public market; the whip was frequently used to quicken the charity of redemption; and the indigent

Greeks deplored the fate of their brethren, who were led away to the worst evils of temporal and spiritual bondage [50] Cantacuzene was

reduced to subscribe the same terms; and their execution must have been

still more pernicious to the empire: a body of ten thousand Turks had been detached to the assistance of the empress Anne; but the entire forces of Orchan were exerted in the service of his father. Yet these calamities were of a transient nature; as soon as the storm had passed away, the fugitives might return to their habitations; and at the conclusion of the civil and foreign wars, Europe was completely evacuated by the Moslems of Asia. It was in his last quarrel with his

pupil that Cantacuzene inflicted the deep and deadly wound, which could

never be healed by his successors, and which is poorly expiated by his theological dialogues against the prophet Mahomet. Ignorant of their own

history, the modern Turks confound their first and their final passage

of the Hellespont, [51] and describe the son of Orchan as a nocturnal

robber, who, with eighty companions, explores by stratagem a hostile and unknown shore. Soliman, at the head of ten thousand horse, was transported in the vessels, and entertained as the friend, of the Greek emperor. In the civil wars of Romania, he performed some service and

perpetrated more mischief; but the Chersonesus was insensibly filled with a Turkish colony; and the Byzantine court solicited in vain the

restitution of the fortresses of Thrace. After some artful delays between the Ottoman prince and his son, their ransom was valued at sixty thousand crowns, and the first payment had been made when an earthquake

shook the walls and cities of the provinces; the dismantled places were

occupied by the Turks; and Gallipoli, the key of the Hellespont, was

rebuilt and repeopled by the policy of Soliman. The abdication of cantacuzene dissolved the feeble bands of domestic alliance; and his

last advice admonished his countrymen to decline a rash contest, and to compare their own weakness with the numbers and valor, the discipline and enthusiasm, of the Moslems. His prudent counsels were despised by the headstrong vanity of youth, and soon justified by the victories

of the Ottomans. But as he practised in the field the exercise of the

\_jerid\_, Soliman was killed by a fall from his horse; and the aged

Orchan wept and expired on the tomb of his valiant son. [511]

[Footnote 50: The most lively and concise picture of this captivity

may be found in the history of Ducas, (c. 8,) who fairly describes what cantacuzene confesses with a guilty blush!]

[Footnote 51: In this passage, and the first conquests in Europe, cantemir (p. 27, &c.) gives a miserable idea of his Turkish guides; nor am I much better satisfied with Chalcondyles, (l. i. p. 12, &c.) they forget to consult the most authentic record, the ivth book

of Cantacuzene. I likewise regret the last books, which are still

manuscript, of Nicephorus Gregoras. \* Note: Von Hammer excuses the

silence with which the Turkish historians

pass over the earlier intercourse of the Ottomans with the European continent, of which he enumerates sixteen different occasions, as

if they disdained those peaceful incursions by which they gained

no conquest, and established no permanent footing on the Byzantine territory. Of the romantic account of Soliman's first expedition, he

says, "As yet the prose of history had not asserted its right over the poetry of tradition." This defence would scarcely be accepted as

satisfactory by the historian of the Decline and Fall.--M. (in Quarterly

Review, vol. xlix. p. 293.)]

[Footnote 511: In the 75th year of his age, the 35th of his reign. V.

Hammer. M.]

chapter LXIV: Moguls, Ottoman Turks.--Part IV.

but the Greeks had not time to rejoice in the death of their enemies; and the Turkish cimeter was wielded with the same spirit by Amurath the first, the son of Orchan, and the brother of Soliman. By the pale and fainting light of the Byzantine annals, [52] we can discern, that he

subdued without resistance the whole province of Romania or Thrace, from the Hellespont to Mount Hæmus, and the verge of the capital; and that adrianople was chosen for the royal seat of his government and religion

in Europe. Constantinople, whose decline is almost coeval with her foundation, had often, in the lapse of a thousand years, been assaulted by the Barbarians of the East and West; but never till this fatal hour

had the Greeks been surrounded, both in Asia and Europe, by the arms

of the same hostile monarchy. Yet the prudence or generosity of Amurath

postponed for a while this easy conquest; and his pride was satisfied with the frequent and humble attendance of the emperor John Palæologus and his four sons, who followed at his summons the court and camp of the

Ottoman prince. He marched against the Sclavonian nations between the Danube and the Adriatic, the Bulgarians, Servians, Bosnians, and albanians; and these warlike tribes, who had so often insulted the

majesty of the empire, were repeatedly broken by his destructive

inroads. Their countries did not abound either in gold or silver;

nor were their rustic hamlets and townships enriched by commerce or decorated by the arts of luxury. But the natives of the soil have been distinguished in every age by their hardiness of mind and body; and they were converted by a prudent institution into the firmest and most faithful supporters of the Ottoman greatness. [53] The vizier of Amurath

reminded his sovereign that, according to the Mahometan law, he was entitled to a fifth part of the spoil and captives; and that the duty might easily be levied, if vigilant officers were stationed in

Gallipoli, to watch the passage, and to select for his use the stoutest and most beautiful of the Christian youth. The advice was followed: the edict was proclaimed; many thousands of the European captives were educated in religion and arms; and the new militia was consecrated and

named by a celebrated dervis. Standing in the front of their ranks, he

stretched the sleeve of his gown over the head of the foremost soldier, and his blessing was delivered in these words: "Let them be called

Janizaries, (\_Yengi cheri\_, or new soldiers;) may their countenance be ever bright! their hand victorious! their sword keen! may their spear always hang over the heads of their enemies! and wheresoever they go,

may they return with a \_white face!\_" [54] [541] Such was the origin of these haughty troops, the terror of the nations, and sometimes of the sultans themselves. Their valor has declined, their discipline is

relaxed, and their tumultuary array is incapable of contending with the order and weapons of modern tactics; but at the time of their

institution, they possessed a decisive superiority in war; since a regular body of infantry, in constant exercise and pay, was not

maintained by any of the princes of Christendom. The Janizaries fought with the zeal of proselytes against their \_idolatrous\_ countrymen; and

in the battle of Cossova, the league and independence of the Sclavonian tribes was finally crushed. As the conqueror walked over the field,

he observed that the greatest part of the slain consisted of beardless

youths; and listened to the flattering reply of his vizier, that age and wisdom would have taught them not to oppose his irresistible arms. But the sword of his Janizaries could not defend him from the dagger of despair; a Servian soldier started from the crowd of dead bodies, and amurath was pierced in the belly with a mortal wound. [542] The grandson

of Othman was mild in his temper, modest in his apparel, and a lover

of learning and virtue; but the Moslems were scandalized at his absence from public worship; and he was corrected by the firmness of the

mufti, who dared to reject his testimony in a civil cause: a mixture of

servitude and freedom not unfrequent in Oriental history. [55]

[Footnote 52: After the conclusion of Cantacuzene and Gregoras, there follows a dark interval of a hundred years. George Phranza, Michael ducas, and Laonicus Chalcondyles, all three wrote after the taking of constantinople.]

[Footnote 53: See Cantemir, p. 37--41, with his own large and curious annotations.]

[Footnote 54: \_White\_ and \_black\_ face are common and proverbial expressions of praise and reproach in the Turkish language. Hic \_niger\_ est, hunc tu Romane caveto, was likewise a Latin sentence.]

[Footnote 541: According to Von Hammer. vol. i. p. 90, Gibbon and the european writers assign too late a date to this enrolment of the

Janizaries. It took place not in the reign of Amurath, but in that of

his predecessor Orchan.--M.]

[Footnote 542: Ducas has related this as a deliberate act of self-devotion

on the part of a Servian noble who pretended to desert, and stabbed amurath during a conference which he had requested. The Italian translator of Ducas, published by Bekker in the new edition of the byzantines, has still further heightened the romance. See likewise in

Von Hammer (Osmanische Geschichte, vol. i. p. 138) the popular Servian account, which resembles that of Ducas, and may have been the source of that of his Italian translator. The Turkish account agrees more nearly with Gibbon; but the Servian, (Milosch Kohilovisch) while he lay among the heap of the dead, pretended to have some secret to impart to amurath, and stabbed him while he leaned over to listen.--M.]

[Footnote 55: See the life and death of Morad, or Amurath I., in cantemir, (p 33--45,) the first book of Chalcondyles, and the Annales turcici of Leunclavius. According to another story, the sultan was

stabbed by a Croat in his tent; and this accident was alleged to busbequius (Epist i. p. 98) as an excuse for the unworthy precaution

of pinioning, as if were, between two attendants, an ambassador's arms, when he is introduced to the royal presence.]

the character of Bajazet, the son and successor of Amurath, is strongly expressed in his surname of \_Ilderim\_, or the lightning; and he might

glory in an epithet, which was drawn from the fiery energy of his soul and the rapidity of his destructive march. In the fourteen years of his

reign, [56] he incessantly moved at the head of his armies, from boursa to Adrianople, from the Danube to the Euphrates; and, though he

strenuously labored for the propagation of the law, he invaded, with

impartial ambition, the Christian and Mahometan princes of Europe and Asia. From Angora to Amasia and Erzeroum, the northern regions of anatolia were reduced to his obedience: he stripped of their hereditary

possessions his brother emirs of Ghermian and Caramania, of Aidin and

Sarukhan; and after the conquest of Iconium the ancient kingdom of the

Seljukians again revived in the Ottoman dynasty. Nor were the conquests

of Bajazet less rapid or important in Europe. No sooner had he imposed a

regular form of servitude on the Servians and Bulgarians, than he

passed the Danube to seek new enemies and new subjects in the heart

of Moldavia. [57] Whatever yet adhered to the Greek empire in Thrace,

Macedonia, and Thessaly, acknowledged a Turkish master: an obsequious bishop led him through the gates of Thermopylæ into Greece; and we may

observe, as a singular fact, that the widow of a Spanish chief, who

possessed the ancient seat of the oracle of Delphi, deserved his favor by the sacrifice of a beauteous daughter. The Turkish communication between Europe and Asia had been dangerous and doubtful, till he

stationed at Gallipoli a fleet of galleys, to command the Hellespont and intercept the Latin succors of Constantinople. While the monarch

indulged his passions in a boundless range of injustice and cruelty, he

imposed on his soldiers the most rigid laws of modesty and abstinence; and the harvest was peaceably reaped and sold within the precincts of

his camp. Provoked by the loose and corrupt administration of justice,

he collected in a house the judges and lawyers of his dominions, who expected that in a few moments the fire would be kindled to reduce them to ashes. His ministers trembled in silence: but an Æthiopian buffoon

presumed to insinuate the true cause of the evil; and future venality was left without excuse, by annexing an adequate salary to the office

of cadhi. [58] The humble title of emir was no longer suitable to the

Ottoman greatness; and Bajazet condescended to accept a patent of sultan from the caliphs who served in Egypt under the yoke of the Mamalukes:

[59] a last and frivolous homage that was yielded by force to opinion; by the Turkish conquerors to the house of Abbas and the successors of the Arabian prophet. The ambition of the sultan was inflamed by the

obligation of deserving this august title; and he turned his arms against the kingdom of Hungary, the perpetual theatre of the Turkish

victories and defeats. Sigismond, the Hungarian king, was the son and brother of the emperors of the West: his cause was that of Europe and the church; and, on the report of his danger, the bravest knights of france and Germany were eager to march under his standard and that of the cross. In the battle of Nicopolis, Bajazet defeated a confederate army of a hundred thousand Christians, who had proudly boasted, that

if the sky should fall, they could uphold it on their lances. The far greater part were slain or driven into the Danube; and Sigismond, escaping to Constantinople by the river and the Black Sea, returned after a long circuit to his exhausted kingdom. [60] In the pride of

victory, Bajazet threatened that he would besiege Buda; that he would

subdue the adjacent countries of Germany and Italy, and that he would feed his horse with a bushel of oats on the altar of St. Peter at Rome.

His progress was checked, not by the miraculous interposition of the apostle, not by a crusade of the Christian powers, but by a long and

painful fit of the gout. The disorders of the moral, are sometimes corrected by those of the physical, world; and an acrimonious humor falling on a single fibre of one man, may prevent or suspend the misery

of nations.

[Footnote 56: The reign of Bajazet I., or Ilderim Bayazid, is contained

in Cantemir, (p. 46,) the iid book of Chalcondyles, and the Annales turcici. The surname of Ilderim, or lightning, is an example, that the conquerors and poets of every age have \_felt\_ the truth of a system which derives the sublime from the principle of terror.]

[Footnote 57: Cantemir, who celebrates the victories of the great

Stephen over the Turks, (p. 47,) had composed the ancient and modern

state of his principality of Moldavia, which has been long promised, and

is still unpublished.]

[Footnote 58: Leunclav. Annal. Turcici, p. 318, 319. The venality of the cadhis has long been an object of scandal and satire; and if we distrust the observations of our travellers, we may consult the feeling of the turks themselves, (D'Herbelot, Bibliot. Orientale, p. 216, 217, 229,

230.)]

[Footnote 59: The fact, which is attested by the Arabic history of Ben

Schounah, a contemporary Syrian, (De Guignes Hist. des Huns. tom. iv. p.

336.) destroys the testimony of Saad Effendi and Cantemir, (p. 14, 15,)

of the election of Othman to the dignity of sultan.]

[Footnote 60: See the Decades Rerum Hungaricarum (Dec. iii. l. ii. p.

379) of Bonfinius, an Italian, who, in the xvth century, was invited

into Hungary to compose an eloquent history of that kingdom. Yet, if it be extant and accessible, I should give the preference to some homely chronicle of the time and country.]

Such is the general idea of the Hungarian war; but the disastrous adventure of the French has procured us some memorials which illustrate the victory and character of Bajazet. [61] The duke of Burgundy,

sovereign of Flanders, and uncle of Charles the Sixth, yielded to the ardor of his son, John count of Nevers; and the fearless youth was accompanied by four princes, his \_cousins\_, and those of the French

monarch. Their inexperience was guided by the Sire de Coucy, one of the best and oldest captain of Christendom; [62] but the constable, admiral, and marshal of France [63] commanded an army which did not exceed the

number of a thousand knights and squires. [631] These splendid names were the source of presumption and the bane of discipline. So many might aspire to command, that none were willing to obey; their national spirit despised both their enemies and their allies; and in the persuasion that bajazet \_would\_ fly, or \_must\_ fall, they began to compute how soon they

should visit Constantinople and deliver the holy sepulchre. When their

scouts announced the approach of the Turks, the gay and thoughtless

youths were at table, already heated with wine; they instantly clasped their armor, mounted their horses, rode full speed to the vanguard, and resented as an affront the advice of Sigismond, which would have deprived them of the right and honor of the foremost attack. The battle

of Nicopolis would not have been lost, if the French would have obeyed the prudence of the Hungarians; but it might have been gloriously won,

had the Hungarians imitated the valor of the French. They dispersed the first line, consisting of the troops of Asia; forced a rampart

of stakes, which had been planted against the cavalry; broke, after a bloody conflict, the Janizaries themselves; and were at length

overwhelmed by the numerous squadrons that issued from the woods, and charged on all sides this handful of intrepid warriors. In the speed and secrecy of his march, in the order and evolutions of the battle, his enemies felt and admired the military talents of Bajazet. They accuse

his cruelty in the use of victory. After reserving the count of Nevers, and four-and-twenty lords, [632] whose birth and riches were attested by

his Latin interpreters, the remainder of the French captives, who had

survived the slaughter of the day, were led before his throne; and, as they refused to abjure their faith, were successively beheaded in

his presence. The sultan was exasperated by the loss of his bravest

Janizaries; and if it be true, that, on the eve of the engagement, the french had massacred their Turkish prisoners, [64] they might impute to themselves the consequences of a just retaliation. [641] A knight, whose

life had been spared, was permitted to return to Paris, that he

might relate the deplorable tale, and solicit the ransom of the noble captives. In the mean while, the count of Nevers, with the princes and barons of France, were dragged along in the marches of the Turkish camp, exposed as a grateful trophy to the Moslems of Europe and Asia, and

strictly confined at Boursa, as often as Bajazet resided in his capital. the sultan was pressed each day to expiate with their blood the blood of

his martyrs; but he had pronounced that they should live, and either for

mercy or destruction his word was irrevocable. He was assured of their

value and importance by the return of the messenger, and the gifts and

intercessions of the kings of France and of Cyprus. Lusignan presented

him with a gold saltcellar of curious workmanship, and of the price

of ten thousand ducats; and Charles the Sixth despatched by the way of

Hungary a cast of Norwegian hawks, and six horse-loads of scarlet cloth,

of fine linen of Rheims, and of Arras tapestry, representing the battles

of the great Alexander. After much delay, the effect of distance rather than of art, Bajazet agreed to accept a ransom of two hundred thousand ducats for the count of Nevers and the surviving princes and barons: the marshal Boucicault, a famous warrior, was of the number of the fortunate; but the admiral of France had been slain in battle; and the constable, with the Sire de Coucy, died in the prison of Boursa. This

heavy demand, which was doubled by incidental costs, fell chiefly on the duke of Burgundy, or rather on his Flemish subjects, who were bound by the feudal laws to contribute for the knighthood and captivity of the eldest son of their lord. For the faithful discharge of the debt, some

merchants of Genoa gave security to the amount of five times the sum; a

lesson to those warlike times, that commerce and credit are the links of the society of nations. It had been stipulated in the treaty, that the french captives should swear never to bear arms against the person of their conqueror; but the ungenerous restraint was abolished by Bajazet

himself. "I despise," said he to the heir of Burgundy, "thy oaths and thy arms. Thou art young, and mayest be ambitious of effacing the disgrace or misfortune of thy first chivalry. Assemble thy powers,

proclaim thy design, and be assured that Bajazet will rejoice to meet thee a second time in a field of battle." Before their departure, they were indulged in the freedom and hospitality of the court of Boursa. The french princes admired the magnificence of the Ottoman, whose hunting and hawking equipage was composed of seven thousand huntsmen and seven thousand falconers. [65] In their presence, and at his command, the belly

of one of his chamberlains was cut open, on a complaint against him for drinking the goat's milk of a poor woman. The strangers were astonished by this act of justice; but it was the justice of a sultan who disdains to balance the weight of evidence, or to measure the degrees of guilt.

[Footnote 61: I should not complain of the labor of this work, if my

materials were always derived from such books as the chronicle of

honest Froissard, (vol. iv. c. 67, 72, 74, 79--83, 85, 87, 89,) who read

little, inquired much, and believed all. The original Mémoires of the

Maréchal de Boucicault (Partie i. c. 22--28) add some facts, but they are dry and deficient, if compared with the pleasant garrulity of froissard.]

[Footnote 62: An accurate Memoir on the Life of Enguerrand VII., Sire de Coucy, has been given by the Baron de Zurlauben, (Hist. de l'Académie des Inscriptions, tom. xxv.) His rank and possessions were equally considerable in France and England; and, in 1375, he led an army of adventurers into Switzerland, to recover a large patrimony which he claimed in right of his grandmother, the daughter of the emperor Albert

I. of Austria, (Sinner, Voyage dans la Suisse Occidentale, tom. i. p.

118--124.)]

[Footnote 63: That military office, so respectable at present, was still

more conspicuous when it was divided between two persons, (Daniel, Hist. de la Milice Françoise, tom. ii. p. 5.) One of these, the marshal of the crusade, was the famous Boucicault, who afterwards defended constantinople, governed Genoa, invaded the coast of Asia, and died in the field of Azincour.]

[Footnote 631: Daru, Hist. de Venice, vol. ii. p. 104, makes the whole french army amount to 10,000 men, of whom 1000 were knights. The curious

volume of Schiltberger, a German of Munich, who was taken prisoner

in the battle, (edit. Munich, 1813,) and which V. Hammer receives as authentic, gives the whole number at 6000. See Schiltberger. Reise in dem Orient. and V. Hammer, note, p. 610.--M.]

[Footnote 632: According to Schiltberger there were only twelve French

lords granted to the prayer of the "duke of Burgundy," and "Herr Stephan

Synther, and Johann von Bodem." Schiltberger, p. 13.--M.]

[Footnote 64: For this odious fact, the Abbé de Vertot quotes the Hist. anonyme de St. Denys, l. xvi. c. 10, 11. (Ordre de Malthe, tom. ii. p.

310.)]

[Footnote 641: See Schiltberger's very graphic account of the massacre.

He was led out to be slaughtered in cold blood with the rest f the Christian prisoners, amounting to 10,000. He was spared at the

intercession of the son of Bajazet, with a few others, on account of their extreme youth. No one under 20 years of age was put to death. The

"duke of Burgundy" was obliged to be a spectator of this butchery which

lasted from early in the morning till four o'clock, P. M. It ceased only at the supplication of the leaders of Bajazet's army. Schiltberger, p.

14.--M.]

[Footnote 65: Sherefeddin Ali (Hist. de Timour Bec, l. v. c. 13) allows bajazet a round number of 12,000 officers and servants of the chase. a part of his spoils was afterwards displayed in a hunting-match of timour, l. hounds with satin housings; 2. leopards with collars set with

jewels; 3. Grecian greyhounds; and 4, dogs from Europe, as strong as african lions, (idem, l. vi. c. 15.) Bajazet was particularly fond of flying his hawks at cranes, (Chalcondyles, l. ii. p. 85.)]

after his enfranchisement from an oppressive guardian, John Palæologus

remained thirty-six years, the helpless, and, as it should seem, the careless spectator of the public ruin. [66] Love, or rather lust, was his

only vigorous passion; and in the embraces of the wives and virgins of the city, the Turkish slave forgot the dishonor of the emperor of the

\_Romans\_ Andronicus, his eldest son, had formed, at Adrianople, an

intimate and guilty friendship with Sauzes, the son of Amurath; and the two youths conspired against the authority and lives of their parents. the presence of Amurath in Europe soon discovered and dissipated their

rash counsels; and, after depriving Sauzes of his sight, the Ottoman threatened his vassal with the treatment of an accomplice and an enemy,

unless he inflicted a similar punishment on his own son. Palæologus trembled and obeyed; and a cruel precaution involved in the same

sentence the childhood and innocence of John, the son of the criminal. but the operation was so mildly, or so unskilfully, performed, that the

one retained the sight of an eye, and the other was afflicted only with the infirmity of squinting. Thus excluded from the succession, the two

princes were confined in the tower of Anema; and the piety of Manuel, the second son of the reigning monarch, was rewarded with the gift of the Imperial crown. But at the end of two years, the turbulence of the

Latins and the levity of the Greeks, produced a revolution; [661] and the two emperors were buried in the tower from whence the two prisoners were exalted to the throne. Another period of two years afforded Palæologus and Manuel the means of escape: it was contrived by the magic or

subtlety of a monk, who was alternately named the angel or the devil: they fled to Scutari; their adherents armed in their cause; and the two byzantine factions displayed the ambition and animosity with which Cæsar and Pompey had disputed the empire of the world. The Roman world was now contracted to a corner of Thrace, between the Propontis and the Black

Sea, about fifty miles in length and thirty in breadth; a space of

ground not more extensive than the lesser principalities of Germany or

Italy, if the remains of Constantinople had not still represented the wealth and populousness of a kingdom. To restore the public peace, it was found necessary to divide this fragment of the empire; and while

Palæologus and Manuel were left in possession of the capital, almost all that lay without the walls was ceded to the blind princes, who fixed their residence at Rhodosto and Selybria. In the tranquil slumber of

royalty, the passions of John Palæologus survived his reason and his

strength: he deprived his favorite and heir of a blooming princess

of Trebizond; and while the feeble emperor labored to consummate his

nuptials, Manuel, with a hundred of the noblest Greeks, was sent on a

peremptory summons to the Ottoman \_porte\_. They served with honor in the wars of Bajazet; but a plan of fortifying Constantinople excited

his jealousy: he threatened their lives; the new works were instantly demolished; and we shall bestow a praise, perhaps above the merit of

Palæologus, if we impute this last humiliation as the cause of his death.

[Footnote 66: For the reigns of John Palæologus and his son Manuel, from

1354 to 1402, see Ducas, c. 9--15, Phranza, l. i. c. 16--21, and the ist and iid books of Chalcondyles, whose proper subject is drowned in a sea

of episode.]

[Footnote 661: According to Von Hammer it was the power of Bajazet, vol.

i. p. 218.]

the earliest intelligence of that event was communicated to Manuel, who escaped with speed and secrecy from the palace of Boursa to the byzantine throne. Bajazet affected a proud indifference at the loss of this valuable pledge; and while he pursued his conquests in Europe and asia, he left the emperor to struggle with his blind cousin John of

Selybria, who, in eight years of civil war, asserted his right of

primogeniture. At length, the ambition of the victorious sultan pointed to the conquest of Constantinople; but he listened to the advice of his

vizier, who represented that such an enterprise might unite the powers

of Christendom in a second and more formidable crusade. His epistle to the emperor was conceived in these words: "By the divine clemency, our

invincible cimeter has reduced to our obedience almost all Asia, with many and large countries in Europe, excepting only the city of constantinople; for beyond the walls thou hast nothing left. Resign that city; stipulate thy reward; or tremble, for thyself and thy unhappy

people, at the consequences of a rash refusal." But his ambassadors were instructed to soften their tone, and to propose a treaty, which was subscribed with submission and gratitude. A truce of ten years was

purchased by an annual tribute of thirty thousand crowns of gold; the

Greeks deplored the public toleration of the law of Mahomet, and Bajazet enjoyed the glory of establishing a Turkish cadhi, and founding a royal

mosque in the metropolis of the Eastern church. [67] Yet this truce was

soon violated by the restless sultan: in the cause of the prince of

Selybria, the lawful emperor, an army of Ottomans again threatened constantinople; and the distress of Manuel implored the protection of the king of France. His plaintive embassy obtained much pity and some

relief; and the conduct of the succor was intrusted to the marshal boucicault, [68] whose religious chivalry was inflamed by the desire of

revenging his captivity on the infidels. He sailed with four ships of war, from Aiguesmortes to the Hellespont; forced the passage, which was

guarded by seventeen Turkish galleys; landed at Constantinople a supply

of six hundred men-at-arms and sixteen hundred archers; and reviewed them in the adjacent plain, without condescending to number or array the

multitude of Greeks. By his presence, the blockade was raised both by

sea and land; the flying squadrons of Bajazet were driven to a more

respectful distance; and several castles in Europe and Asia were stormed by the emperor and the marshal, who fought with equal valor by each

other's side. But the Ottomans soon returned with an increase of

numbers; and the intrepid Boucicault, after a year's struggle, resolved to evacuate a country which could no longer afford either pay or

provisions for his soldiers. The marshal offered to conduct Manuel to the French court, where he might solicit in person a supply of men and

money; and advised, in the mean while, that, to extinguish all domestic discord, he should leave his blind competitor on the throne. The

proposal was embraced: the prince of Selybria was introduced to the capital; and such was the public misery, that the lot of the exile

seemed more fortunate than that of the sovereign. Instead of applauding the success of his vassal, the Turkish sultan claimed the city as his

own; and on the refusal of the emperor John, Constantinople was more closely pressed by the calamities of war and famine. Against such an enemy prayers and resistance were alike unavailing; and the savage would have devoured his prey, if, in the fatal moment, he had not been

overthrown by another savage stronger than himself. By the victory of timour or Tamerlane, the fall of Constantinople was delayed about fifty years; and this important, though accidental, service may justly

introduce the life and character of the Mogul conqueror.

[Footnote 67: Cantemir, p. 50--53. Of the Greeks, Ducas alone (c. 13,

15) acknowledges the Turkish cadhi at Constantinople. Yet even Ducas dissembles the mosque.]

[Footnote 68: Mémoires du bon Messire Jean le Maingre, dit \_Boucicault\_,

Maréchal de France, partie ire c. 30, 35.]

chapter LXV: Elevation Of Timour Or Tamerlane, And His Death.--Part I.

Elevation Of Timour Or Tamerlane To The Throne Of

Samarcand.--His Conquests In Persia, Georgia, Tartary

Russia, India, Syria, And Anatolia.--His Turkish War.--

Defeat And Captivity Of Bajazet.--Death Of Timour.--Civil

War Of The Sons Of Bajazet.--Restoration Of The Turkish

Monarchy By Mahomet The First.--Siege Of Constantinople By

Amurath The Second.

the conquest and monarchy of the world was the first object of the ambition of Timour. To live in the memory and esteem of future ages was the second wish of his magnanimous spirit. All the civil and military transactions of his reign were diligently recorded in the journals of

his secretaries: [1] the authentic narrative was revised by the persons best informed of each particular transaction; and it is believed in the empire and family of Timour, that the monarch himself composed the \_commentaries\_ [2] of his life, and the \_institutions\_ [3] of his

government. [4] But these cares were ineffectual for the preservation of

his fame, and these precious memorials in the Mogul or Persian language were concealed from the world, or, at least, from the knowledge of europe. The nations which he vanquished exercised a base and impotent

revenge; and ignorance has long repeated the tale of calumny, [5] which

had disfigured the birth and character, the person, and even the name,

of \_Tamerlane\_. [6] Yet his real merit would be enhanced, rather than debased, by the elevation of a peasant to the throne of Asia; nor can

his lameness be a theme of reproach, unless he had the weakness to blush at a natural, or perhaps an honorable, infirmity. [606]

[Footnote 1: These journals were communicated to Sherefeddin, or cherefeddin Ali, a native of Yezd, who composed in the Persian language a history of Timour Beg, which has been translated into French by M.

Petit de la Croix, (Paris, 1722, in 4 vols. 12 mo.,) and has always been my faithful guide. His geography and chronology are wonderfully accurate; and he may be trusted for public facts, though he servilely

praises the virtue and fortune of the hero. Timour's attention to

procure intelligence from his own and foreign countries may be seen in the Institutions, p. 215, 217, 349, 351.]

[Footnote 2: These Commentaries are yet unknown in Europe: but Mr. White

gives some hope that they may be imported and translated by his friend

Major Davy, who had read in the East this "minute and faithful narrative

of an interesting and eventful period." \* Note: The manuscript of Major davy has been translated by Major Stewart, and published by the Oriental translation Committee of London. It contains the life of Timour, from

his birth to his forty-first year; but the last thirty years of western war and conquest are wanting. Major Stewart intimates that two

manuscripts exist in this country containing the whole work, but excuses

himself, on account of his age, from undertaking the laborious task of completing the translation. It is to be hoped that the European public will be soon enabled to judge of the value and authenticity of the commentaries of the Cæsar of the East. Major Stewart's work commences with the Book of Dreams and Omens--a wild, but characteristic, chronicle

of Visions and Sortes Koranicæ. Strange that a life of Timour should awaken a reminiscence of the diary of Archbishop Laud! The early dawn and the gradual expression of his not less splendid but more real

visions of ambition are touched with the simplicity of truth and nature. but we long to escape from the petty feuds of the pastoral chieftain, to the triumphs and the legislation of the conqueror of the world.--M.]

[Footnote 3: I am ignorant whether the original institution, in the turki or Mogul language, be still extant. The Persic version, with an english translation, and most valuable index, was published (Oxford,

1783, in 4to.) by the joint labors of Major Davy and Mr. White, the arabic professor. This work has been since translated from the Persic

into French, (Paris, 1787,) by M. Langlès, a learned Orientalist, who

has added the life of Timour, and many curious notes.]

[Footnote 4: Shaw Allum, the present Mogul, reads, values, but cannot

imitate, the institutions of his great ancestor. The English translator

relies on their internal evidence; but if any suspicions should arise

of fraud and fiction, they will not be dispelled by Major Davy's letter. the Orientals have never cultivated the art of criticism; the patronage

of a prince, less honorable, perhaps, is not less lucrative than that of a bookseller; nor can it be deemed incredible that a Persian, the \_real\_ author, should renounce the credit, to raise the value and price, of the work.]

[Footnote 5: The original of the tale is found in the following work, which is much esteemed for its florid elegance of style: \_Ahmedis arabsiad\_ (Ahmed Ebn Arabshah) \_Vitæ et Rerum gestarum Timuri. Arabice et Latine. Edidit Samuel Henricus Manger. Franequer\_, 1767, 2 tom.

in 4to. This Syrian author is ever a malicious, and often an ignorant enemy: the very titles of his chapters are injurious; as how the wicked, as how the impious, as how the viper, &c. The copious article of timur, in Bibliothèque Orientale, is of a mixed nature, as D'Herbelot

indifferently draws his materials (p. 877--888) from Khondemir Ebn

Schounah, and the Lebtarikh.]

[Footnote 6: \_Demir\_ or \_Timour\_ signifies in the Turkish language,

Iron; and it is the appellation of a lord or prince. By the change of a letter or accent, it is changed into \_Lenc\_, or Lame; and a European corruption confounds the two words in the name of Tamerlane. \*

Note: According to the memoirs he was so called by a Shaikh, who, when

visited by his mother on his birth, was reading the verse of the Koran,

'Are you sure that he who dwelleth in heaven will not cause the earth to swallow you up, and behold \_it shall shake\_, Tamûrn." The Shaikh then

stopped and said, "We have named your son \_Timûr\_," p. 21.--M.]

[Footnote 606: He was lamed by a wound at the siege of the capital of

Sistan. Sherefeddin, lib. iii. c. 17. p. 136. See Von Hammer, vol. i. p.

260.--M.]

In the eyes of the Moguls, who held the indefeasible succession of the

house of Zingis, he was doubtless a rebel subject; yet he sprang from the noble tribe of Berlass: his fifth ancestor, Carashar Nevian, had been the vizier [607] of Zagatai, in his new realm of Transoxiana; and in the ascent of some generations, the branch of Timour is confounded, at

least by the females, [7] with the Imperial stem. [8] He was born forty

miles to the south of Samarcand in the village of Sebzar, in the fruitful territory of Cash, of which his fathers were the hereditary chiefs, as well as of a toman of ten thousand horse. [9] His birth [10] was cast on one of those periods of anarchy, which announce the fall of the Asiatic dynasties, and open a new field to adventurous ambition. The

khans of Zagatai were extinct; the emirs aspired to independence; and their domestic feuds could only be suspended by the conquest and tyranny

of the khans of Kashgar, who, with an army of Getes or Calmucks, [11]

invaded the Transoxian kingdom. From the twelfth year of his age, Timour

had entered the field of action; in the twenty-fifth [111] he stood forth as the deliverer of his country; and the eyes and wishes of the people were turned towards a hero who suffered in their cause. The chiefs of the law and of the army had pledged their salvation to support him with their lives and fortunes; but in the hour of danger they were silent and afraid; and, after waiting seven days on the hills of Samarcand,

he retreated to the desert with only sixty horsemen. The fugitives were overtaken by a thousand Getes, whom he repulsed with incredible

slaughter, and his enemies were forced to exclaim, "Timour is a wonderful man: fortune and the divine favor are with him." But in this bloody action his own followers were reduced to ten, a number which was

soon diminished by the desertion of three Carizmians. [112] He wandered

in the desert with his wife, seven companions, and four horses; and

sixty-two days was he plunged in a loathsome dungeon, from whence he escaped by his own courage and the remorse of the oppressor. After

swimming the broad and rapid steam of the Jihoon, or Oxus, he led, during some months, the life of a vagrant and outlaw, on the borders

of the adjacent states. But his fame shone brighter in adversity; he

learned to distinguish the friends of his person, the associates of his fortune, and to apply the various characters of men for their advantage, and, above all, for his own. On his return to his native country, timour was successively joined by the parties of his confederates, who anxiously sought him in the desert; nor can I refuse to describe, in

his pathetic simplicity, one of their fortunate encounters. He presented

himself as a guide to three chiefs, who were at the head of seventy

horse. "When their eyes fell upon me," says Timour, "they were

overwhelmed with joy; and they alighted from their horses; and they came and kneeled; and they kissed my stirrup. I also came down from my horse, and took each of them in my arms. And I put my turban on the head of the first chief; and my girdle, rich in jewels and wrought with gold,

I bound on the loins of the second; and the third I clothed in my

own coat. And they wept, and I wept also; and the hour of prayer was arrived, and we prayed. And we mounted our horses, and came to my dwelling; and I collected my people, and made a feast." His trusty bands were soon increased by the bravest of the tribes; he led them against a

superior foe; and, after some vicissitudes of war the Getes were finally driven from the kingdom of Transoxiana. He had done much for his own

glory; but much remained to be done, much art to be exerted, and some blood to be spilt, before he could teach his equals to obey him as their

master. The birth and power of emir Houssein compelled him to accept a

vicious and unworthy colleague, whose sister was the best beloved of his wives. Their union was short and jealous; but the policy of Timour, in their frequent quarrels, exposed his rival to the reproach of injustice and perfidy; and, after a final defeat, Houssein was slain by some

sagacious friends, who presumed, for the last time, to disobey the commands of their lord. [113] At the age of thirty-four, [12] and in a

general diet or \_couroultai\_, he was invested with \_Imperial\_ command, but he affected to revere the house of Zingis; and while the emir Timour

reigned over Zagatai and the East, a nominal khan served as a private

officer in the armies of his servant. A fertile kingdom, five hundred

miles in length and in breadth, might have satisfied the ambition of a

subject; but Timour aspired to the dominion of the world; and before his death, the crown of Zagatai was one of the twenty-seven crowns which

he had placed on his head. Without expatiating on the victories of thirty-five campaigns; without describing the lines of march, which he

repeatedly traced over the continent of Asia; I shall briefly represent

his conquests in, I. Persia, II. Tartary, and, III. India, [13] and from thence proceed to the more interesting narrative of his Ottoman war.

[Footnote 607: In the memoirs, the title Gurgân is in one place (p. 23)

interpreted the son-in-law; in another (p. 28) as Kurkan, great prince,

generalissimo, and prime minister of Jagtai.--M.]

[Footnote 7: After relating some false and foolish tales of Timour

\_Lenc\_, Arabshah is compelled to speak truth, and to own him for a

kinsman of Zingis, per mulieres, (as he peevishly adds,) laqueos Satanæ,

(pars i. c. i. p. 25.) The testimony of Abulghazi Khan (P. ii. c. 5, P.

v. c. 4) is clear, unquestionable, and decisive.]

[Footnote 8: According to one of the pedigrees, the fourth ancestor of

Zingis, and the ninth of Timour, were brothers; and they agreed, that the posterity of the elder should succeed to the dignity of khan, and that the descendants of the younger should fill the office of their

minister and general. This tradition was at least convenient to justify the \_first\_ steps of Timour's ambition, (Institutions, p. 24, 25, from the MS. fragments of Timour's History.)]

[Footnote 9: See the preface of Sherefeddin, and Abulfeda's Geography,

(Chorasmiæ, &c., Descriptio, p. 60, 61,) in the iiid volume of Hudson's

Minor Greek Geographers.]

[Footnote 10: See his nativity in Dr. Hyde, (Syntagma Dissertat. tom.

ii. p. 466,) as it was cast by the astrologers of his grandson Ulugh beg. He was born, A.D. 1336, April 9, 11º 57'. p. m., lat. 36. I know

not whether they can prove the great conjunction of the planets from whence, like other conquerors and prophets, Timour derived the surname

of Saheb Keran, or master of the conjunctions, (Bibliot. Orient. p.

878.)]

[Footnote 11: In the Institutions of Timour, these subjects of the khan

of Kashgar are most improperly styled Ouzbegs, or Usbeks, a name which belongs to another branch and country of Tartars, (Abulghazi, P. v. c. v. P. vii. c. 5.) Could I be sure that this word is in the Turkish

original, I would boldly pronounce, that the Institutions were framed a century after the death of Timour, since the establishment of the Usbeks

in Transoxiana. \* Note: Col. Stewart observes, that the Persian translator has sometimes made use of the name Uzbek by anticipation. He

observes, likewise, that these Jits (Getes) are not to be confounded with the ancient Getæ: they were unconverted Turks. Col. Tod (History of

Rajasthan, vol. i. p. 166) would identify the Jits with the ancient

race.--M.]

[Footnote 111: He was twenty-seven before he served his first wars under the emir Houssein, who ruled over Khorasan and Mawerainnehr. Von Hammer,

vol. i. p. 262. Neither of these statements agrees with the Memoirs. At twelve he was a boy. "I fancied that I perceived in myself all the signs

of greatness and wisdom, and whoever came to visit me, I received with

great hauteur and dignity." At seventeen he undertook the management

of the flocks and herds of the family, (p. 24.) At nineteen he became

religious, and "left off playing chess," made a kind of Budhist vow

never to injure living thing and felt his foot paralyzed from having accidentally trod upon an ant, (p. 30.) At twenty, thoughts of rebellion and greatness rose in his mind; at twenty-one, he seems to have

performed his first feat of arms. He was a practised warrior when he

served, in his twenty-seventh year, under Emir Houssein.]

[Footnote 112: Compare Memoirs, page 61. The imprisonment is there stated at fifty-three days. "At this time I made a vow to God that I would

never keep any person, whether guilty or innocent, for any length of time, in prison or in chains." p. 63.--M.]

[Footnote 113: Timour, on one occasion, sent him this message: "He who wishes to embrace the bride of royalty must kiss her across the edge

of the sharp sword," p. 83. The scene of the trial of Houssein, the

resistance of Timour gradually becoming more feeble, the vengeance

of the chiefs becoming proportionably more determined, is strikingly

portrayed. Mem. p 130.--M.]

[Footnote 12: The ist book of Sherefeddin is employed on the private

life of the hero: and he himself, or his secretary, (Institutions, p.

3--77,) enlarges with pleasure on the thirteen designs and enterprises which most truly constitute his \_personal\_ merit. It even shines through the dark coloring of Arabshah, (P. i. c. 1--12.)]

[Footnote 13: The conquests of Persia, Tartary, and India, are

represented in the iid and iiid books of Sherefeddin, and by Arabshah,

(c. 13--55.) Consult the excellent Indexes to the Institutions. \*

Note: Compare the seventh book of Von Hammer, Geschichte des

Osmanischen Reiches.--M.]

I. For every war, a motive of safety or revenge, of honor or zeal,

of right or convenience, may be readily found in the jurisprudence of conquerors. No sooner had Timour reunited to the patrimony of Zagatai the dependent countries of Carizme and Candahar, than he turned his eyes towards the kingdoms of Iran or Persia. From the Oxus to the Tigris, that extensive country was left without a lawful sovereign since the death of Abousaid, the last of the descendants of the great Holacou.

Peace and justice had been banished from the land above forty years; and the Mogul invader might seem to listen to the cries of an oppressed

people. Their petty tyrants might have opposed him with confederate arms: they separately stood, and successively fell; and the difference

of their fate was only marked by the promptitude of submission or the

obstinacy of resistance. Ibrahim, prince of Shirwan, or Albania, kissed the footstool of the Imperial throne. His peace-offerings of silks,

horses, and jewels, were composed, according to the Tartar fashion, each article of nine pieces; but a critical spectator observed, that there were only eight slaves. "I myself am the ninth," replied Ibrahim, who was prepared for the remark; and his flattery was rewarded by the smile

of Timour. [14] Shah Mansour, prince of Fars, or the proper Persia, was

one of the least powerful, but most dangerous, of his enemies. In a battle under the walls of Shiraz, he broke, with three or four thousand

soldiers, the \_coul\_ or main body of thirty thousand horse, where the emperor fought in person. No more than fourteen or fifteen guards

remained near the standard of Timour: he stood firm as a rock, and

received on his helmet two weighty strokes of a cimeter: [15] the Moguls

rallied; the head of Mansour was thrown at his feet; and he declared

his esteem of the valor of a foe, by extirpating all the males of so

intrepid a race. From Shiraz, his troops advanced to the Persian Gulf; and the richness and weakness of Ormuz [16] were displayed in an annual tribute of six hundred thousand dinars of gold. Bagdad was no longer the city of peace, the seat of the caliphs; but the noblest conquest of

Holacou could not be overlooked by his ambitious successor. The whole course of the Tigris and Euphrates, from the mouth to the sources of those rivers, was reduced to his obedience: he entered Edessa; and the turkmans of the black sheep were chastised for the sacrilegious

pillage of a caravan of Mecca. In the mountains of Georgia, the native christians still braved the law and the sword of Mahomet, by three expeditions he obtained the merit of the \_gazie\_, or holy war; and the

prince of Teflis became his proselyte and friend.

[Footnote 14: The reverence of the Tartars for the mysterious number of

\_nine\_ is declared by Abulghazi Khan, who, for that reason, divides his

Genealogical History into nine parts.]

[Footnote 15: According to Arabshah, (P. i. c. 28, p. 183,) the coward timour ran away to his tent, and hid himself from the pursuit of Shah

Mansour under the women's garments. Perhaps Sherefeddin (l. iii. c. 25)

has magnified his courage.]

[Footnote 16: The history of Ormuz is not unlike that of Tyre. The old city, on the continent, was destroyed by the Tartars, and renewed in a neighboring island, without fresh water or vegetation. The kings of

Ormuz, rich in the Indian trade and the pearl fishery, possessed large territories both in Persia and Arabia; but they were at first the tributaries of the sultans of Kerman, and at last were delivered (A.D.

1505) by the Portuguese tyrants from the tyranny of their own viziers,

(Marco Polo, l. i. c. 15, 16, fol. 7, 8. Abulfeda, Geograph. tabul. xi.

p. 261, 262, an original Chronicle of Ormuz, in Texeira, or Stevens's

History of Persia, p. 376--416, and the Itineraries inserted in the ist

volume of Ramusio, of Ludovico Barthema, (1503,) fol. 167, of Andrea corsali, (1517) fol. 202, 203, and of Odoardo Barbessa, (in 1516,) fol.

313--318.)]

II. A just retaliation might be urged for the invasion of Turkestan, or the Eastern Tartary. The dignity of Timour could not endure the impunity

of the Getes: he passed the Sihoon, subdued the kingdom of Kashgar, and

marched seven times into the heart of their country. His most distant camp was two months' journey, or four hundred and eighty leagues to the

north-east of Samarcand; and his emirs, who traversed the River Irtish, engraved in the forests of Siberia a rude memorial of their exploits. the conquest of Kipzak, or the Western Tartary, [17] was founded on the double motive of aiding the distressed, and chastising the ungrateful. toctamish, a fugitive prince, was entertained and protected in his court: the ambassadors of Auruss Khan were dismissed with a haughty denial, and followed on the same day by the armies of Zagatai; and their

success established Toctamish in the Mogul empire of the North. But, after a reign of ten years, the new khan forgot the merits and the

strength of his benefactor; the base usurper, as he deemed him, of the

sacred rights of the house of Zingis. Through the gates of Derbend,

he entered Persia at the head of ninety thousand horse: with the

innumerable forces of Kipzak, Bulgaria, Circassia, and Russia, he passed the Sihoon, burnt the palaces of Timour, and compelled him, amidst the winter snows, to contend for Samarcand and his life. After a mild expostulation, and a glorious victory, the emperor resolved on revenge; and by the east, and the west, of the Caspian, and the Volga, he twice invaded Kipzak with such mighty powers, that thirteen miles were

measured from his right to his left wing. In a march of five months, they rarely beheld the footsteps of man; and their daily subsistence was often trusted to the fortune of the chase. At length the armies encountered each other; but the treachery of the standard-bearer, who, in the heat of action, reversed the Imperial standard of Kipzak, determined the victory of the Zagatais; and Toctamish (I peak the

language of the Institutions) gave the tribe of Toushi to the wind

of desolation. [18] He fled to the Christian duke of Lithuania; again

returned to the banks of the Volga; and, after fifteen battles with a domestic rival, at last perished in the wilds of Siberia. The pursuit of a flying enemy carried Timour into the tributary provinces of Russia: a duke of the reigning family was made prisoner amidst the ruins of his capital; and Yeletz, by the pride and ignorance of the Orientals, might easily be confounded with the genuine metropolis of the nation. Moscow trembled at the approach of the Tartar, and the resistance would have been feeble, since the hopes of the Russians were placed in a miraculous

image of the Virgin, to whose protection they ascribed the casual and

voluntary retreat of the conqueror. Ambition and prudence recalled him to the South, the desolate country was exhausted, and the Mogul soldiers were enriched with an immense spoil of precious furs, of linen of antioch, [19] and of ingots of gold and silver. [20] On the banks of the don, or Tanais, he received an humble deputation from the consuls and merchants of Egypt, [21] Venice, Genoa, Catalonia, and Biscay, who

occupied the commerce and city of Tana, or Azoph, at the mouth of the

river. They offered their gifts, admired his magnificence, and trusted

his royal word. But the peaceful visit of an emir, who explored the state of the magazines and harbor, was speedily followed by the destructive presence of the Tartars. The city was reduced to ashes; the

Moslems were pillaged and dismissed; but all the Christians, who had

not fled to their ships, were condemned either to death or slavery.

[22] Revenge prompted him to burn the cities of Serai and Astrachan, the

monuments of rising civilization; and his vanity proclaimed, that he had

penetrated to the region of perpetual daylight, a strange phenomenon, which authorized his Mahometan doctors to dispense with the obligation

of evening prayer. [23]

[Footnote 17: Arabshah had travelled into Kipzak, and acquired a

singular knowledge of the geography, cities, and revolutions, of that

northern region, (P. i. c. 45--49.)]

[Footnote 18: Institutions of Timour, p. 123, 125. Mr. White, the editor, bestows some animadversion on the superficial account of

Sherefeddin, (l. iii. c. 12, 13, 14,) who was ignorant of the designs of timour, and the true springs of action.]

[Footnote 19: The furs of Russia are more credible than the ingots. But the linen of Antioch has never been famous: and Antioch was in ruins.

I suspect that it was some manufacture of Europe, which the Hanse

merchants had imported by the way of Novogorod.]

[Footnote 20: M. Levesque (Hist. de Russie, tom. ii. p. 247. Vie de timour, p. 64--67, before the French version of the Institutes) has corrected the error of Sherefeddin, and marked the true limit of timour's conquests. His arguments are superfluous; and a simple appeal to the Russian annals is sufficient to prove that Moscow, which six

years before had been taken by Toctamish, escaped the arms of a more formidable invader.]

[Footnote 21: An Egyptian consul from Grand Cairo is mentioned in barbaro's voyage to Tana in 1436, after the city had been rebuilt,

(Ramusio, tom. ii. fol. 92.)]

[Footnote 22: The sack of Azoph is described by Sherefeddin, (l. iii. c.

55,) and much more particularly by the author of an Italian chronicle,

(Andreas de Redusiis de Quero, in Chron. Tarvisiano, in Muratori,

Script. Rerum Italicarum, tom. xix. p. 802--805.) He had conversed with the Mianis, two Venetian brothers, one of whom had been sent a deputy to the camp of Timour, and the other had lost at Azoph three sons and

12,000 ducats.]

[Footnote 23: Sherefeddin only says (l. iii. c. 13) that the rays of the setting, and those of the rising sun, were scarcely separated by any

interval; a problem which may be solved in the latitude of Moscow, (the

56th degree,) with the aid of the Aurora Borealis, and a long summer twilight. But a \_day\_ of forty days (Khondemir apud D'Herbelot, p. 880) would rigorously confine us within the polar circle.]

III. When Timour first proposed to his princes and emirs the invasion of

India or Hindostan, [24] he was answered by a murmur of discontent: "The

rivers! and the mountains and deserts! and the soldiers clad in armor! and the elephants, destroyers of men!" But the displeasure of the emperor was more dreadful than all these terrors; and his superior

reason was convinced, that an enterprise of such tremendous aspect was

safe and easy in the execution. He was informed by his spies of the weakness and anarchy of Hindostan: the soubahs of the provinces had erected the standard of rebellion; and the perpetual infancy of Sultan

Mahmoud was despised even in the harem of Delhi. The Mogul army moved

in three great divisions; and Timour observes with pleasure, that the

ninety-two squadrons of a thousand horse most fortunately corresponded with the ninety-two names or epithets of the prophet Mahomet. [241] Between the Jihoon and the Indus they crossed one of the ridges of mountains, which are styled by the Arabian geographers The Stony Girdles of the earth. The highland robbers were subdued or extirpated; but great

numbers of men and horses perished in the snow; the emperor himself was

let down a precipice on a portable scaffold--the ropes were one hundred and fifty cubits in length; and before he could reach the bottom, this dangerous operation was five times repeated. Timour crossed the Indus at the ordinary passage of Attok; and successively traversed, in the footsteps of Alexander, the \_Punjab\_, or five rivers, [25] that fall into the master stream. From Attok to Delhi, the high road measures no

more than six hundred miles; but the two conquerors deviated to the

south-east; and the motive of Timour was to join his grandson, who had achieved by his command the conquest of Moultan. On the eastern bank of the Hyphasis, on the edge of the desert, the Macedonian hero halted and wept: the Mogul entered the desert, reduced the fortress of Batmir, and

stood in arms before the gates of Delhi, a great and flourishing city, which had subsisted three centuries under the dominion of the Mahometan

kings. [251] The siege, more especially of the castle, might have been a work of time; but he tempted, by the appearance of weakness, the sultan

Mahmoud and his vizier to descend into the plain, with ten thousand cuirassiers, forty thousand of his foot-guards, and one hundred and twenty elephants, whose tusks are said to have been armed with sharp and poisoned daggers. Against these monsters, or rather against the

imagination of his troops, he condescended to use some extraordinary

precautions of fire and a ditch, of iron spikes and a rampart of bucklers; but the event taught the Moguls to smile at their own fears; and as soon as these unwieldy animals were routed, the inferior species

(the men of India) disappeared from the field. Timour made his triumphal entry into the capital of Hindostan; and admired, with a view to

imitate, the architecture of the stately mosque; but the order or

license of a general pillage and massacre polluted the festival of

his victory. He resolved to purify his soldiers in the blood of the

idolaters, or Gentoos, who still surpass, in the proportion of ten to

one, the numbers of the Moslems. [252] In this pious design, he advanced

one hundred miles to the north-east of Delhi, passed the Ganges, fought

several battles by land and water, and penetrated to the famous rock of coupele, the statue of the cow, [253] that \_seems\_ to discharge the mighty

river, whose source is far distant among the mountains of Thibet. [26]

His return was along the skirts of the northern hills; nor could this

rapid campaign of one year justify the strange foresight of his emirs, that their children in a warm climate would degenerate into a race of

Hindoos.

[Footnote 24: For the Indian war, see the Institutions, (p. 129--139,) the fourth book of Sherefeddin, and the history of Ferishta, (in Dow,

vol. ii. p. 1--20,) which throws a general light on the affairs of

Hindostan.]

[Footnote 241: Gibbon (observes M. von Hammer) is mistaken in the correspondence of the ninety-two squadrons of his army with the

ninety-two names of God: the names of God are ninety-nine. and Allah is the hundredth, p. 286, note. But Gibbon speaks of the names or epithets

of Mahomet, not of God.--M.]

[Footnote 25: The rivers of the Punjab, the five eastern branches of the

Indus, have been laid down for the first time with truth and accuracy in

Major Rennel's incomparable map of Hindostan. In this Critical Memoir

he illustrates with judgment and learning the marches of Alexander and timour. \* Note See vol. i. ch. ii. note 1.--M.]

[Footnote 251: They took, on their march, 100,000 slaves, Guebers they were all murdered. V. Hammer, vol. i. p. 286. They are called idolaters. briggs's Ferishta, vol. i. p. 491.--M.]

[Footnote 252: See a curious passage on the destruction of the Hindoo

idols, Memoirs, p. 15.--M.]

[Footnote 253: Consult the very striking description of the Cow's Mouth by captain Hodgson, Asiat. Res. vol. xiv. p. 117. "A most wonderful scene. the B'hagiratha or Ganges issues from under a very low arch at the foot

of the grand snow bed. My guide, an illiterate mountaineer compared the

pendent icicles to Mahodeva's hair." (Compare Poems, Quarterly Rev.

vol. xiv. p. 37, and at the end of my translation of Nala.) "Hindoos of

research may formerly have been here; and if so, I cannot think of any

place to which they might more aptly give the name of a cow's mouth than to this extraordinary debouche."--M.]

[Footnote 26: The two great rivers, the Ganges and Burrampooter, rise in thibet, from the opposite ridges of the same hills, separate from each

other to the distance of 1200 miles, and, after a winding course of

2000 miles, again meet in one point near the Gulf of Bengal. Yet so capricious is Fame, that the Burrampooter is a late discovery, while his brother Ganges has been the theme of ancient and modern story Coupele, the scene of Timour's last victory, must be situate near Loldong, 1100

miles from Calcutta; and in 1774, a British camp! (Rennel's Memoir, p.

7, 59, 90, 91, 99.)]

It was on the banks of the Ganges that Timour was informed, by his

speedy messengers, of the disturbances which had arisen on the confines

of Georgia and Anatolia, of the revolt of the Christians, and the ambitious designs of the sultan Bajazet. His vigor of mind and body was

not impaired by sixty-three years, and innumerable fatigues; and, after enjoying some tranquil months in the palace of Samarcand, he proclaimed a new expedition of seven years into the western countries of Asia. [27] to the soldiers who had served in the Indian war he granted the choice

of remaining at home, or following their prince; but the troops of all the provinces and kingdoms of Persia were commanded to assemble at

Ispahan, and wait the arrival of the Imperial standard. It was first directed against the Christians of Georgia, who were strong only in their rocks, their castles, and the winter season; but these obstacles were overcome by the zeal and perseverance of Timour: the rebels

submitted to the tribute or the Koran; and if both religions boasted of their martyrs, that name is more justly due to the Christian prisoners, who were offered the choice of abjuration or death. On his descent from the hills, the emperor gave audience to the first ambassadors

of Bajazet, and opened the hostile correspondence of complaints and

menaces, which fermented two years before the final explosion. Between two jealous and haughty neighbors, the motives of quarrel will seldom be wanting. The Mogul and Ottoman conquests now touched each other in the

neighborhood of Erzeroum, and the Euphrates; nor had the doubtful limit been ascertained by time and treaty. Each of these ambitious monarchs

might accuse his rival of violating his territory, of threatening his

vassals, and protecting his rebels; and, by the name of rebels, each

understood the fugitive princes, whose kingdoms he had usurped, and whose life or liberty he implacably pursued. The resemblance of character was still more dangerous than the opposition of interest; and in their victorious career, Timour was impatient of an equal, and bajazet was ignorant of a superior. The first epistle [28] of the Mogul emperor must have provoked, instead of reconciling, the Turkish sultan, whose family and nation he affected to despise. [29] "Dost thou not know, that the greatest part of Asia is subject to our arms and our laws? that our invincible forces extend from one sea to the other? that the

potentates of the earth form a line before our gate? and that we have compelled Fortune herself to watch over the prosperity of our empire. what is the foundation of thy insolence and folly? Thou hast fought

some battles in the woods of Anatolia; contemptible trophies! Thou hast

obtained some victories over the Christians of Europe; thy sword was blessed by the apostle of God; and thy obedience to the precept of the

Koran, in waging war against the infidels, is the sole consideration that prevents us from destroying thy country, the frontier and bulwark

of the Moslem world. Be wise in time; reflect; repent; and avert the thunder of our vengeance, which is yet suspended over thy head. Thou art no more than a pismire; why wilt thou seek to provoke the elephants? alas! they will trample thee under their feet." In his replies, Bajazet

poured forth the indignation of a soul which was deeply stung by such

unusual contempt. After retorting the basest reproaches on the thief and

rebel of the desert, the Ottoman recapitulates his boasted victories in

Iran, Touran, and the Indies; and labors to prove, that Timour had never triumphed unless by his own perfidy and the vices of his foes. "Thy armies are innumerable: be they so; but what are the arrows of the flying Tartar against the cimeters and battle-axes of my firm and

invincible Janizaries? I will guard the princes who have implored my

protection: seek them in my tents. The cities of Arzingan and Erzeroum are mine; and unless the tribute be duly paid, I will demand the arrears

under the walls of Tauris and Sultania." The ungovernable rage of the

sultan at length betrayed him to an insult of a more domestic kind. "If

I fly from thy arms," said he, "may \_my\_ wives be thrice divorced from

my bed: but if thou hast not courage to meet me in the field, mayest thou again receive \_thy\_ wives after they have thrice endured the embraces of a stranger." [30] Any violation by word or deed of the

secrecy of the harem is an unpardonable offence among the Turkish

nations; [31] and the political quarrel of the two monarchs was

imbittered by private and personal resentment. Yet in his first expedition, Timour was satisfied with the siege and destruction of Siwas

or Sebaste, a strong city on the borders of Anatolia; and he revenged the indiscretion of the Ottoman, on a garrison of four thousand armenians, who were buried alive for the brave and faithful discharge of their duty. [311] As a Mussulman, he seemed to respect the pious occupation

of Bajazet, who was still engaged in the blockade of Constantinople; and after this salutary lesson, the Mogul conqueror checked his pursuit, and turned aside to the invasion of Syria and Egypt. In these transactions, the Ottoman prince, by the Orientals, and even by Timour, is styled the

\_Kaissar of Roum\_, the Cæsar of the Romans; a title which, by a small anticipation, might be given to a monarch who possessed the provinces, and threatened the city, of the successors of Constantine. [32]

[Footnote 27: See the Institutions, p. 141, to the end of the 1st book, and Sherefeddin, (l. v. c. 1--16,) to the entrance of Timour into

Syria.]

[Footnote 28: We have three copies of these hostile epistles in the

Institutions, (p. 147,) in Sherefeddin, (l. v. c. 14,) and in Arabshah,

(tom. ii. c. 19 p. 183--201;) which agree with each other in the spirit and substance rather than in the style. It is probable, that they have been translated, with various latitude, from the Turkish original into the Arabic and Persian tongues. \* Note: Von Hammer considers the letter which Gibbon inserted in the text to be spurious. On the various copies

of these letters, see his note, p 116.--M.]

[Footnote 29: The Mogul emir distinguishes himself and his countrymen by the name of \_Turks\_, and stigmatizes the race and nation of Bajazet with the less honorable epithet of \_Turkmans\_. Yet I do not understand how the Ottomans could be descended from a Turkman sailor; those inland

shepherds were so remote from the sea, and all maritime affairs. \*

Note: Price translated the word pilot or boatman.--M.]

[Footnote 30: According to the Koran, (c. ii. p. 27, and Sale's discourses, p. 134,) Mussulman who had thrice divorced his wife, (who

had thrice repeated the words of a divorce,) could not take her again, till after she had been married \_to\_, and repudiated \_by\_, another

husband; an ignominious transaction, which it is needless to aggravate, by supposing that the first husband must see her enjoyed by a second before his face, (Rycaut's State of the Ottoman Empire, l. ii. c. 21.)]

[Footnote 31: The common delicacy of the Orientals, in never speaking

of their women, is ascribed in a much higher degree by Arabshah to the turkish nations; and it is remarkable enough, that Chalcondyles (l. ii.

p. 55) had some knowledge of the prejudice and the insult. \*

Note: See Von Hammer, p. 308, and note, p. 621.--M.]

[Footnote 311: Still worse barbarities were perpetrated on these brave men.

Von Hammer, vol. i. p. 295.--M.]

[Footnote 32: For the style of the Moguls, see the Institutions, (p.

131, 147,) and for the Persians, the Bibliothèque Orientale, (p. 882;) but I do not find that the title of Cæsar has been applied by the arabians, or assumed by the Ottomans themselves.]

chapter LXV: Elevation Of Timour Or Tamerlane, And His Death.--Part II.

the military republic of the Mamalukes still reigned in Egypt and Syria: but the dynasty of the Turks was overthrown by that of the Circassians;

[33] and their favorite Barkok, from a slave and a prisoner, was raised and restored to the throne. In the midst of rebellion and discord, he braved the menaces, corresponded with the enemies, and detained the ambassadors, of the Mogul, who patiently expected his decease, to

revenge the crimes of the father on the feeble reign of his son Farage. the Syrian emirs [34] were assembled at Aleppo to repel the invasion: they confided in the fame and discipline of the Mamalukes, in the temper

of their swords and lances of the purest steel of Damascus, in the

strength of their walled cities, and in the populousness of sixty thousand villages; and instead of sustaining a siege, they threw open their gates, and arrayed their forces in the plain. But these forces were not cemented by virtue and union; and some powerful emirs had been

seduced to desert or betray their more loyal companions. Timour's front was covered with a line of Indian elephants, whose turrets were filled with archers and Greek fire: the rapid evolutions of his cavalry completed the dismay and disorder; the Syrian crowds fell back on each

other: many thousands were stifled or slaughtered in the entrance of the

great street; the Moguls entered with the fugitives; and after a short defence, the citadel, the impregnable citadel of Aleppo, was surrendered by cowardice or treachery. Among the suppliants and captives, Timour distinguished the doctors of the law, whom he invited to the dangerous

honor of a personal conference. [35] The Mogul prince was a zealous

Mussulman; but his Persian schools had taught him to revere the memory

of Ali and Hosein; and he had imbibed a deep prejudice against the

Syrians, as the enemies of the son of the daughter of the apostle

of God. To these doctors he proposed a captious question, which the casuists of Bochara, Samarcand, and Herat, were incapable of resolving.

"Who are the true martyrs, of those who are slain on my side, or on that

of my enemies?" But he was silenced, or satisfied, by the dexterity

of one of the cadhis of Aleppo, who replied in the words of Mahomet

himself, that the motive, not the ensign, constitutes the martyr; and that the Moslems of either party, who fight only for the glory of God,

may deserve that sacred appellation. The true succession of the caliphs was a controversy of a still more delicate nature; and the frankness of a doctor, too honest for his situation, provoked the emperor to exclaim,

"Ye are as false as those of Damascus: Moawiyah was a usurper, Yezid a tyrant, and Ali alone is the lawful successor of the prophet." A prudent explanation restored his tranquillity; and he passed to a more familiar topic of conversation. "What is your age?" said he to the cadhi.

"Fifty years."--"It would be the age of my eldest son: you see me here

(continued Timour) a poor lame, decrepit mortal. Yet by my arm has the almighty been pleased to subdue the kingdoms of Iran, Touran, and the

Indies. I am not a man of blood; and God is my witness, that in all my wars I have never been the aggressor, and that my enemies have always been the authors of their own calamity." During this peaceful conversation the streets of Aleppo streamed with blood, and reechoed with the cries of mothers and children, with the shrieks of violated

virgins. The rich plunder that was abandoned to his soldiers might

stimulate their avarice; but their cruelty was enforced by the

peremptory command of producing an adequate number of heads, which, according to his custom, were curiously piled in columns and pyramids: the Moguls celebrated the feast of victory, while the surviving Moslems

passed the night in tears and in chains. I shall not dwell on the

march of the destroyer from Aleppo to Damascus, where he was rudely encountered, and almost overthrown, by the armies of Egypt. A retrograde

motion was imputed to his distress and despair: one of his nephews deserted to the enemy; and Syria rejoiced in the tale of his defeat, when the sultan was driven by the revolt of the Mamalukes to escape with precipitation and shame to his palace of Cairo. Abandoned by their

prince, the inhabitants of Damascus still defended their walls; and timour consented to raise the siege, if they would adorn his retreat with a gift or ransom; each article of nine pieces. But no sooner had

he introduced himself into the city, under color of a truce, than he

perfidiously violated the treaty; imposed a contribution of ten millions

of gold; and animated his troops to chastise the posterity of those

Syrians who had executed, or approved, the murder of the grandson

of Mahomet. A family which had given honorable burial to the head of

Hosein, and a colony of artificers, whom he sent to labor at Samarcand, were alone reserved in the general massacre, and after a period of seven centuries, Damascus was reduced to ashes, because a Tartar was moved by

religious zeal to avenge the blood of an Arab. The losses and fatigues

of the campaign obliged Timour to renounce the conquest of Palestine and Egypt; but in his return to the Euphrates he delivered Aleppo to the flames; and justified his pious motive by the pardon and reward of two thousand sectaries of Ali, who were desirous to visit the tomb of

his son. I have expatiated on the personal anecdotes which mark the character of the Mogul hero; but I shall briefly mention, [36] that he erected on the ruins of Bagdad a pyramid of ninety thousand heads; again

visited Georgia; encamped on the banks of Araxes; and proclaimed his

resolution of marching against the Ottoman emperor. Conscious of the

importance of the war, he collected his forces from every province: eight hundred thousand men were enrolled on his military list; [37] but the splendid commands of five, and ten, thousand horse, may be rather expressive of the rank and pension of the chiefs, than of the genuine

number of effective soldiers. [38] In the pillage of Syria, the Moguls

had acquired immense riches: but the delivery of their pay and arrears for seven years more firmly attached them to the Imperial standard.

[Footnote 33: See the reigns of Barkok and Pharadge, in M. De Guignes,

(tom. iv. l. xxii.,) who, from the Arabic texts of Aboulmahasen, Ebn

(Schounah, and Aintabi, has added some facts to our common stock of

materials.)]

[Footnote 34: For these recent and domestic transactions, Arabshah, though a partial, is a credible, witness, (tom. i. c. 64--68, tom. ii. c. 1--14.) Timour must have been odious to a Syrian; but the notoriety

of facts would have obliged him, in some measure, to respect his enemy and himself. His bitters may correct the luscious sweets of Sherefeddin,

(l. v. c. 17--29.)]

[Footnote 35: These interesting conversations appear to have been copied by Arabshah (tom. i. c. 68, p. 625--645) from the cadhi and historian ebn Schounah, a principal actor. Yet how could he be alive seventy-five

years afterwards? (D'Herbelot, p. 792.)]

[Footnote 36: The marches and occupations of Timour between the Syrian and Ottoman wars are represented by Sherefeddin (l. v. c. 29--43) and arabshah, (tom. ii. c. 15--18.)]

[Footnote 37: This number of 800,000 was extracted by Arabshah,

or rather by Ebn Schounah, ex rationario Timuri, on the faith of a carizmian officer, (tom. i. c. 68, p. 617;) and it is remarkable enough, that a Greek historian (Phranza, l. i. c. 29) adds no more than 20,000

men. Poggius reckons 1,000,000; another Latin contemporary (Chron. tarvisianum, apud Muratori, tom. xix. p. 800) 1,100,000; and the enormous sum of 1,600,000 is attested by a German soldier, who was

present at the battle of Angora, (Leunclav. ad Chalcondyl. l. iii.

p. 82.) Timour, in his Institutions, has not deigned to calculate his troops, his subjects, or his revenues.]

[Footnote 38: A wide latitude of non-effectives was allowed by the

Great Mogul for his own pride and the benefit of his officers. Bernier's

patron was Penge-Hazari, commander of 5000 horse; of which he maintained

no more than 500, (Voyages, tom. i. p. 288, 289.)]

during this diversion of the Mogul arms, Bajazet had two years to collect his forces for a more serious encounter. They consisted of four

hundred thousand horse and foot, [39] whose merit and fidelity were of an unequal complexion. We may discriminate the Janizaries, who have been

gradually raised to an establishment of forty thousand men; a national cavalry, the Spahis of modern times; twenty thousand cuirassiers of europe, clad in black and impenetrable armor; the troops of Anatolia, whose princes had taken refuge in the camp of Timour, and a colony

of Tartars, whom he had driven from Kipzak, and to whom Bajazet

had assigned a settlement in the plains of Adrianople. The fearless confidence of the sultan urged him to meet his antagonist; and, as if he

had chosen that spot for revenge, he displayed his banner near the

ruins of the unfortunate Suvas. In the mean while, Timour moved from the araxes through the countries of Armenia and Anatolia: his boldness was

secured by the wisest precautions; his speed was guided by order and discipline; and the woods, the mountains, and the rivers, were diligently explored by the flying squadrons, who marked his road and

preceded his standard. Firm in his plan of fighting in the heart of the Ottoman kingdom, he avoided their camp; dexterously inclined to the

left; occupied Cæsarea; traversed the salt desert and the River Halys; and invested Angora: while the sultan, immovable and ignorant in his

post, compared the Tartar swiftness to the crawling of a snail; [40] he

returned on the wings of indignation to the relief of Angora: and as both generals were alike impatient for action, the plains round that city were the scene of a memorable battle, which has immortalized the

glory of Timour and the shame of Bajazet. For this signal victory the

Mogul emperor was indebted to himself, to the genius of the moment, and the discipline of thirty years. He had improved the tactics, without

violating the manners, of his nation, [41] whose force still consisted in the missile weapons, and rapid evolutions, of a numerous cavalry. From a single troop to a great army, the mode of attack was the same: a foremost line first advanced to the charge, and was supported in a just

order by the squadrons of the great vanguard. The general's eye watched

over the field, and at his command the front and rear of the right and

left wings successively moved forwards in their several divisions, and

in a direct or oblique line: the enemy was pressed by eighteen or twenty attacks; and each attack afforded a chance of victory. If they all

proved fruitless or unsuccessful, the occasion was worthy of the emperor

himself, who gave the signal of advancing to the standard and main body, which he led in person. [42] But in the battle of Angora, the main body

itself was supported, on the flanks and in the rear, by the bravest

squadrons of the reserve, commanded by the sons and grandsons of Timour. the conqueror of Hindostan ostentatiously showed a line of elephants, the trophies, rather than the instruments, of victory; the use of the Greek fire was familiar to the Moguls and Ottomans; but had they borrowed from Europe the recent invention of gunpowder and cannon, the artificial thunder, in the hands of either nation, must have turned the fortune of the day. [43] In that day Bajazet displayed the qualities of a soldier and a chief: but his genius sunk under a stronger ascendant; and, from various motives, the greatest part of his troops failed him

in the decisive moment. His rigor and avarice [431] had provoked a mutiny among the Turks; and even his son Soliman too hastily withdrew from the field. The forces of Anatolia, loyal in their revolt, were drawn away to the banners of their lawful princes. His Tartar allies had been tempted by the letters and emissaries of Timour; [44] who reproached their

ignoble servitude under the slaves of their fathers; and offered to their hopes the dominion of their new, or the liberty of their ancient, country. In the right wing of Bajazet the cuirassiers of Europe charged, with faithful hearts and irresistible arms: but these men of iron were soon broken by an artful flight and headlong pursuit; and the

Janizaries, alone, without cavalry or missile weapons, were encompassed by the circle of the Mogul hunters. Their valor was at length oppressed by heat, thirst, and the weight of numbers; and the unfortunate sultan, afflicted with the gout in his hands and feet, was transported from the field on the fleetest of his horses. He was pursued and taken by the titular khan of Zagatai; and, after his capture, and the defeat of the

Ottoman powers, the kingdom of Anatolia submitted to the conqueror, who planted his standard at Kiotahia, and dispersed on all sides the

ministers of rapine and destruction. Mirza Mehemmed Sultan, the eldest and best beloved of his grandsons, was despatched to Boursa, with thirty thousand horse; and such was his youthful ardor, that he arrived with

only four thousand at the gates of the capital, after performing in five days a march of two hundred and thirty miles. Yet fear is still more

rapid in its course; and Soliman, the son of Bajazet, had already passed

over to Europe with the royal treasure. The spoil, however, of the

palace and city was immense: the inhabitants had escaped; but the buildings, for the most part of wood, were reduced to ashes From Boursa, the grandson of Timour advanced to Nice, ever yet a fair and flourishing city; and the Mogul squadrons were only stopped by the waves of the

Propontis. The same success attended the other mirzas and emirs in their excursions; and Smyrna, defended by the zeal and courage of the Rhodian

knights, alone deserved the presence of the emperor himself. After an

obstinate defence, the place was taken by storm: all that breathed was

put to the sword; and the heads of the Christian heroes were launched from the engines, on board of two carracks, or great ships of Europe, that rode at anchor in the harbor. The Moslems of Asia rejoiced in their deliverance from a dangerous and domestic foe; and a parallel was drawn between the two rivals, by observing that Timour, in fourteen days,

had reduced a fortress which had sustained seven years the siege, or at

least the blockade, of Bajazet. [45]

[Footnote 39: Timour himself fixes at 400,000 men the Ottoman army,

(Institutions, p. 153,) which is reduced to 150,000 by Phranza, (l. i. c. 29,) and swelled by the German soldier to 1,400,000. It is evident that the Moguls were the more numerous.]

[Footnote 40: It may not be useless to mark the distances between Angora and the neighboring cities, by the journeys of the caravans, each of twenty or twenty-five miles; to Smyrna xx., to Kiotahia x., to Boursa

x., to Cæsarea, viii., to Sinope x., to Nicomedia ix., to Constantinople

xii. or xiii., (see Tournefort, Voyage au Levant, tom. ii. lettre xxi.)]

[Footnote 41: See the Systems of Tactics in the Institutions, which the english editors have illustrated with elaborate plans, (p. 373--407.)]

[Footnote 42: The sultan himself (says Timour) must then put the foot of courage into the stirrup of patience. A Tartar metaphor, which is lost

in the English, but preserved in the French, version of the Institutes,

(p. 156, 157.)]

[Footnote 43: The Greek fire, on Timour's side, is attested by

Sherefeddin, (l. v. c. 47;) but Voltaire's strange suspicion, that some cannon, inscribed with strange characters, must have been sent by that monarch to Delhi, is refuted by the universal silence of contemporaries.]

[Footnote 431: See V. Hammer, vol. i. p. 310, for the singular hints which were conveyed to him of the wisdom of unlocking his hoarded treasures.--M.]

[Footnote 44: Timour has dissembled this secret and important

negotiation with the Tartars, which is indisputably proved by the joint evidence of the Arabian, (tom. i. c. 47, p. 391,) Turkish, (Annal.

Leunclav. p. 321,) and Persian historians, (Khondemir, apud d'Herbelot,

p. 882.)]

[Footnote 45: For the war of Anatolia or Roum, I add some hints in the

Institutions, to the copious narratives of Sherefeddin (l. v. c. 44--65) and Arabshah, (tom. ii. c. 20--35.) On this part only of Timour's

history it is lawful to quote the Turks, (Cantemir, p. 53--55, Annal.

Leunclav. p. 320--322,) and the Greeks, (Phranza, l. i. c. 59, Ducas, c.

15--17, Chalcondyles, l. iii.)]

the \_iron cage\_ in which Bajazet was imprisoned by Tamerlane, so long and so often repeated as a moral lesson, is now rejected as a fable by the modern writers, who smile at the vulgar credulity. [46] They appeal with confidence to the Persian history of Sherefeddin Ali, which has been given to our curiosity in a French version, and from which I

shall collect and abridge a more specious narrative of this memorable transaction. No sooner was Timour informed that the captive Ottoman was at the door of his tent, than he graciously stepped forwards to receive

him, seated him by his side, and mingled with just reproaches a soothing

pity for his rank and misfortune. "Alas!" said the emperor, "the decree

of fate is now accomplished by your own fault; it is the web which you

have woven, the thorns of the tree which yourself have planted. I wished to spare, and even to assist, the champion of the Moslems; you braved

our threats; you despised our friendship; you forced us to enter

your kingdom with our invincible armies. Behold the event. Had you

vanquished, I am not ignorant of the fate which you reserved for myself and my troops. But I disdain to retaliate: your life and honor are

secure; and I shall express my gratitude to God by my clemency to

man." The royal captive showed some signs of repentance, accepted the

humiliation of a robe of honor, and embraced with tears his son Mousa, who, at his request, was sought and found among the captives of the field. The Ottoman princes were lodged in a splendid pavilion; and the

respect of the guards could be surpassed only by their vigilance. On the arrival of the harem from Boursa, Timour restored the queen Despina and

her daughter to their father and husband; but he piously required, that the Servian princess, who had hitherto been indulged in the profession

of Christianity, should embrace without delay the religion of the

prophet. In the feast of victory, to which Bajazet was invited, the

Mogul emperor placed a crown on his head and a sceptre in his hand, with a solemn assurance of restoring him with an increase of glory to the throne of his ancestors. But the effect of his promise was disappointed by the sultan's untimely death: amidst the care of the most skilful

physicians, he expired of an apoplexy at Akshehr, the Antioch of

Pisidia, about nine months after his defeat. The victor dropped a tear

over his grave: his body, with royal pomp, was conveyed to the mausoleum which he had erected at Boursa; and his son Mousa, after receiving a

rich present of gold and jewels, of horses and arms, was invested by a

patent in red ink with the kingdom of Anatolia.

[Footnote 46: The scepticism of Voltaire (Essai sur l'Histoire Générale, c. 88) is ready on this, as on every occasion, to reject a popular tale, and to diminish the magnitude of vice and virtue; and on most occasions

his incredulity is reasonable.]

Such is the portrait of a generous conqueror, which has been extracted from his own memorials, and dedicated to his son and grandson,

nineteen years after his decease; [47] and, at a time when the truth was remembered by thousands, a manifest falsehood would have implied a

satire on his real conduct. Weighty indeed is this evidence, adopted by all the Persian histories; [48] yet flattery, more especially in the east, is base and audacious; and the harsh and ignominious treatment

of Bajazet is attested by a chain of witnesses, some of whom shall be

produced in the order of their time and country. \_1.\_ The reader has not forgot the garrison of French, whom the marshal Boucicault left behind

him for the defence of Constantinople. They were on the spot to receive the earliest and most faithful intelligence of the overthrow of their

great adversary; and it is more than probable, that some of them accompanied the Greek embassy to the camp of Tamerlane. From their account, the \_hardships\_ of the prison and death of Bajazet are affirmed by the marshal's servant and historian, within the distance of seven

years. [49] \_2.\_ The name of Poggius the Italian [50] is deservedly famous among the revivers of learning in the fifteenth century. His elegant dialogue on the vicissitudes of fortune [51] was composed in his fiftieth

year, twenty-eight years after the Turkish victory of Tamerlane; [52] whom he celebrates as not inferior to the illustrious Barbarians of antiquity. Of his exploits and discipline Poggius was informed by

several ocular witnesses; nor does he forget an example so apposite to

his theme as the Ottoman monarch, whom the Scythian confined like a wild beast in an iron cage, and exhibited a spectacle to Asia. I might add the authority of two Italian chronicles, perhaps of an earlier date, which would prove at least that the same story, whether false or true, was imported into Europe with the first tidings of the revolution. [53]

\_3.\_ At the time when Poggius flourished at Rome, Ahmed Ebn Arabshah composed at Damascus the florid and malevolent history of Timour, for which he had collected materials in his journeys over Turkey and tartary. [54] Without any possible correspondence between the Latin and the Arabian writer, they agree in the fact of the iron cage; and their agreement is a striking proof of their common veracity. Ahmed Arabshah

likewise relates another outrage, which Bajazet endured, of a more domestic and tender nature. His indiscreet mention of women and divorces was deeply resented by the jealous Tartar: in the feast of victory the wine was served by female cupbearers, and the sultan beheld his own concubines and wives confounded among the slaves, and exposed without a

veil to the eyes of intemperance. To escape a similar indignity, it is

said that his successors, except in a single instance, have abstained from legitimate nuptials; and the Ottoman practice and belief, at least

in the sixteenth century, is asserted by the observing Busbequius, [55] ambassador from the court of Vienna to the great Soliman. \_4.\_ Such is the separation of language, that the testimony of a Greek is not less

independent than that of a Latin or an Arab. I suppress the names of chalcondyles and Ducas, who flourished in the latter period, and who

speak in a less positive tone; but more attention is due to George

Phranza, [56] protovestiare of the last emperors, and who was born a year before the battle of Angora. Twenty-two years after that event, he was

sent ambassador to Amurath the Second; and the historian might converse with some veteran Janizaries, who had been made prisoners with the

sultan, and had themselves seen him in his iron cage. 5. The last evidence, in every sense, is that of the Turkish annals, which have been consulted or transcribed by Leunclavius, Pocock, and Cantemir. [57] They

unanimously deplore the captivity of the iron cage; and some credit

may be allowed to national historians, who cannot stigmatize the Tartar without uncovering the shame of their king and country.

[Footnote 47: See the History of Sherefeddin, (l. v. c. 49, 52, 53, 59,

60.) This work was finished at Shiraz, in the year 1424, and dedicated to Sultan Ibrahim, the son of Sharokh, the son of Timour, who reigned in farsistan in his father's lifetime.]

[Footnote 48: After the perusal of Khondemir, Ebn Schounah, &c., the

learned D'Herbelot (Bibliot. Orientale, p. 882) may affirm, that this fable is not mentioned in the most authentic histories; but his denial

of the visible testimony of Arabshah leaves some room to suspect his accuracy.]

[Footnote 49: Et fut lui-même (Bajazet) pris, et mené en prison, en

laquelle mourut de \_dure mort!\_ Mémoires de Boucicault, P. i. c. 37. these Memoirs were composed while the marshal was still governor of

Genoa, from whence he was expelled in the year 1409, by a popular

insurrection, (Muratori, Annali d'Italia, tom. xii. p. 473, 474.)]

[Footnote 50: The reader will find a satisfactory account of the life and writings of Poggius in the Poggiana, an entertaining work of

M. Lenfant, and in the Bibliotheca Latina Mediæ et Infimæ Ætatis of fabricius, (tom. v. p. 305--308.) Poggius was born in the year 1380, and died in 1459.]

[Footnote 51: The dialogue de Varietate Fortunæ, (of which a complete and elegant edition has been published at Paris in 1723, in 4to.,) was composed a short time before the death of Pope Martin V., (p. 5,) and consequently about the end of the year 1430.]

[Footnote 52: See a splendid and eloquent encomium of Tamerlane, p.

36--39 ipse enim novi (says Poggius) qui fuere in ejus castris.... Regem

vivum cepit, caveâque in modum feræ inclusum per omnem Asian circumtulit egregium admirandumque spectaculum fortunæ.]

[Footnote 53: The Chronicon Tarvisianum, (in Muratori, Script. Rerum

Italicarum tom. xix. p. 800,) and the Annales Estenses, (tom. xviii.

p. 974.) The two authors, Andrea de Redusiis de Quero, and James de delayto, were both contemporaries, and both chancellors, the one of trevigi, the other of Ferrara. The evidence of the former is the most

positive.]

[Footnote 54: See Arabshah, tom. ii. c. 28, 34. He travelled in regiones

Rumæas, A. H. 839, (A.D. 1435, July 27,) tom. i. c. 2, p. 13.]

[Footnote 55: Busbequius in Legatione Turcicâ, epist. i. p. 52. Yet his

respectable authority is somewhat shaken by the subsequent marriages

of Amurath II. with a Servian, and of Mahomet II. with an Asiatic,

princess, (Cantemir, p. 83, 93.)]

[Footnote 56: See the testimony of George Phranza, (l. i. c. 29,) and

his life in Hanckius (de Script. Byzant. P. i. c. 40.) Chalcondyles and ducas speak in general terms of Bajazet's \_chains\_.]

[Footnote 57: Annales Leunclav. p. 321. Pocock, Prolegomen. ad abulpharag Dynast. Cantemir, p. 55. \* Note: Von Hammer, p. 318, cites several authorities unknown to

Gibbon.--M.]

from these opposite premises, a fair and moderate conclusion may be deduced. I am satisfied that Sherefeddin Ali has faithfully described the first ostentatious interview, in which the conqueror, whose spirits were harmonized by success, affected the character of generosity. But

his mind was insensibly alienated by the unseasonable arrogance of bajazet; the complaints of his enemies, the Anatolian princes, were just and vehement; and Timour betrayed a design of leading his royal captive

in triumph to Samarcand. An attempt to facilitate his escape, by digging a mine under the tent, provoked the Mogul emperor to impose a harsher

restraint; and in his perpetual marches, an iron cage on a wagon might be invented, not as a wanton insult, but as a rigorous precaution. timour had read in some fabulous history a similar treatment of one

of his predecessors, a king of Persia; and Bajazet was condemned to

represent the person, and expiate the guilt, of the Roman Cæsar [58] [581] but the strength of his mind and body fainted under the trial, and his

premature death might, without injustice, be ascribed to the severity

of Timour. He warred not with the dead: a tear and a sepulchre were all that he could bestow on a captive who was delivered from his power; and

if Mousa, the son of Bajazet, was permitted to reign over the ruins of boursa, the greatest part of the province of Anatolia had been restored by the conqueror to their lawful sovereigns.

[Footnote 58: Sapor, king of Persia, had been made prisoner, and enclosed in the figure of a cow's hide by Maximian or Galerius Cæsar.

Such is the fable related by Eutychius, (Annal. tom. i. p. 421, vers.

Pocock). The recollection of the true history (Decline and Fall, &c.,

vol. ii. p 140--152) will teach us to appreciate the knowledge of the

Orientals of the ages which precede the Hegira.]

[Footnote 581: Von Hammer's explanation of this contested point is both

simple and satisfactory. It originates in a mistake in the meaning of the Turkish word kafe, which means a covered litter or palanquin drawn by two horses, and is generally used to convey the harem of an Eastern

monarch. In such a litter, with the lattice-work made of iron, Bajazet either chose or was constrained to travel. This was either mistaken for, or transformed by, ignorant relaters into a cage. The European

Schiltberger, the two oldest of the Turkish historians, and the most

valuable of the later compilers, Seadeddin, describe this litter.

Seadeddin discusses the question with some degree of historical criticism, and ascribes the choice of such a vehicle to the indignant

state of Bajazet's mind, which would not brook the sight of his Tartar conquerors. Von Hammer, p. 320.--M.]

from the Irtish and Volga to the Persian Gulf, and from the Ganges to damascus and the Archipelago, Asia was in the hand of Timour: his armies were invincible, his ambition was boundless, and his zeal might aspire to conquer and convert the Christian kingdoms of the West, which already trembled at his name. He touched the utmost verge of the land; but an

insuperable, though narrow, sea rolled between the two continents of europe and Asia; [59] and the lord of so many \_tomans\_, or myriads,

of horse, was not master of a single galley. The two passages of the Bosphorus and Hellespont, of Constantinople and Gallipoli, were

possessed, the one by the Christians, the other by the Turks. On this

great occasion, they forgot the difference of religion, to act with

union and firmness in the common cause: the double straits were

guarded with ships and fortifications; and they separately withheld the transports which Timour demanded of either nation, under the pretence

of attacking their enemy. At the same time, they soothed his pride with tributary gifts and suppliant embassies, and prudently tempted him to retreat with the honors of victory. Soliman, the son of Bajazet,

implored his clemency for his father and himself; accepted, by a red

patent, the investiture of the kingdom of Romania, which he already

held by the sword; and reiterated his ardent wish, of casting himself

in person at the feet of the king of the world. The Greek emperor [60]

(either John or Manuel) submitted to pay the same tribute which he had

stipulated with the Turkish sultan, and ratified the treaty by an oath

of allegiance, from which he could absolve his conscience so soon as the

Mogul arms had retired from Anatolia. But the fears and fancy of nations ascribed to the ambitious Tamerlane a new design of vast and romantic compass; a design of subduing Egypt and Africa, marching from the Nile to the Atlantic Ocean, entering Europe by the Straits of Gibraltar, and, after imposing his yoke on the kingdoms of Christendom, of returning

home by the deserts of Russia and Tartary. This remote, and perhaps

imaginary, danger was averted by the submission of the sultan of Egypt: the honors of the prayer and the coin attested at Cairo the supremacy

of Timour; and a rare gift of a \_giraffe\_, or camelopard, and nine

ostriches, represented at Samarcand the tribute of the African world.

Our imagination is not less astonished by the portrait of a Mogul, who, in his camp before Smyrna, meditates, and almost accomplishes, the

invasion of the Chinese empire. [61] Timour was urged to this enterprise by national honor and religious zeal. The torrents which he had shed of

Mussulman blood could be expiated only by an equal destruction of the

infidels; and as he now stood at the gates of paradise, he might best

secure his glorious entrance by demolishing the idols of China, founding

mosques in every city, and establishing the profession of faith in

one God, and his prophet Mahomet. The recent expulsion of the house of

Zingis was an insult on the Mogul name; and the disorders of the empire afforded the fairest opportunity for revenge. The illustrious Hongvou, founder of the dynasty of \_Ming\_, died four years before the battle of angora; and his grandson, a weak and unfortunate youth, was burnt in his

palace, after a million of Chinese had perished in the civil war. [62] before he evacuated Anatolia, Timour despatched beyond the Sihoon a

numerous army, or rather colony, of his old and new subjects, to open the road, to subdue the Pagan Calmucks and Mungals, and to found cities and magazines in the desert; and, by the diligence of his lieutenant, he

soon received a perfect map and description of the unknown regions, from the source of the Irtish to the wall of China. During these

preparations, the emperor achieved the final conquest of Georgia; passed the winter on the banks of the Araxes; appeased the troubles of Persia; and slowly returned to his capital, after a campaign of four years and

nine months.

[Footnote 59: Arabshah (tom. ii. c. 25) describes, like a curious traveller, the Straits of Gallipoli and Constantinople. To acquire a

just idea of these events, I have compared the narratives and prejudices

of the Moguls, Turks, Greeks, and Arabians. The Spanish ambassador

mentions this hostile union of the Christians and Ottomans, (Vie de timour, p. 96.)]

[Footnote 60: Since the name of Cæsar had been transferred to the

sultans of Roum, the Greek princes of Constantinople (Sherefeddin, l.

v. c. 54) were confounded with the Christian \_lords\_ of Gallipoli, thessalonica, &c. under the title of \_Tekkur\_, which is derived by corruption from the genitive tou kuriou, (Cantemir, p. 51.)]

[Footnote 61: See Sherefeddin, l. v. c. 4, who marks, in a just

itinerary, the road to China, which Arabshah (tom. ii. c. 33) paints in

vague and rhetorical colors.]

[Footnote 62: Synopsis Hist. Sinicæ, p. 74--76, (in the ivth part of the Relations de Thevenot,) Duhalde, Hist. de la Chine, (tom. i. p. 507,

508, folio edition;) and for the Chronology of the Chinese emperors, De

Guignes, Hist. des Huns, (tom. i. p. 71, 72.)]

chapter LXV: Elevation Of Timour Or Tamerlane, And His Death.--Part III.

On the throne of Samarcand, [63] he displayed, in a short repose, his

magnificence and power; listened to the complaints of the people; distributed a just measure of rewards and punishments; employed his

riches in the architecture of palaces and temples; and gave audience to the ambassadors of Egypt, Arabia, India, Tartary, Russia, and Spain, the

last of whom presented a suit of tapestry which eclipsed the pencil of the Oriental artists. The marriage of six of the emperor's grandsons was esteemed an act of religion as well as of paternal tenderness; and the

pomp of the ancient caliphs was revived in their nuptials. They were celebrated in the gardens of Canighul, decorated with innumerable tents and pavilions, which displayed the luxury of a great city and the spoils

of a victorious camp. Whole forests were cut down to supply fuel for the

kitchens; the plain was spread with pyramids of meat, and vases of every liquor, to which thousands of guests were courteously invited: the

orders of the state, and the nations of the earth, were marshalled at the royal banquet; nor were the ambassadors of Europe (says the haughty

Persian) excluded from the feast; since even the \_casses\_, the smallest

of fish, find their place in the ocean. [64] The public joy was testified by illuminations and masquerades; the trades of Samarcand passed in

review; and every trade was emulous to execute some quaint device, some

marvellous pageant, with the materials of their peculiar art. After the

marriage contracts had been ratified by the cadhis, the bride-grooms and their brides retired to the nuptial chambers: nine times, according to the Asiatic fashion, they were dressed and undressed; and at each change of apparel, pearls and rubies were showered on their heads, and contemptuously abandoned to their attendants. A general indulgence was proclaimed: every law was relaxed, every pleasure was allowed; the

people was free, the sovereign was idle; and the historian of Timour may

remark, that, after devoting fifty years to the attainment of empire, the only happy period of his life were the two months in which he ceased to exercise his power. But he was soon awakened to the cares of

government and war. The standard was unfurled for the invasion of China: the emirs made their report of two hundred thousand, the select and

veteran soldiers of Iran and Touran: their baggage and provisions were transported by five hundred great wagons, and an immense train of horses and camels; and the troops might prepare for a long absence, since more than six months were employed in the tranquil journey of a caravan from

Samarcand to Pekin. Neither age, nor the severity of the winter, could

retard the impatience of Timour; he mounted on horseback, passed the

Sihoon on the ice, marched seventy-six parasangs, three hundred miles, from his capital, and pitched his last camp in the neighborhood of

Otrar, where he was expected by the angel of death. Fatigue, and the

indiscreet use of iced water, accelerated the progress of his fever; and the conqueror of Asia expired in the seventieth year of his age, thirty-five years after he had ascended the throne of Zagatai. His designs were lost; his armies were disbanded; China was saved; and fourteen years after his decease, the most powerful of his children sent an embassy of friendship and commerce to the court of Pekin. [65]

[Footnote 63: For the return, triumph, and death of Timour, see

Sherefeddin (l. vi. c. 1--30) and Arabshah, (tom. ii. c. 36--47.)]

[Footnote 64: Sherefeddin (l. vi. c. 24) mentions the ambassadors of one

of the most potent sovereigns of Europe. We know that it was Henry III.

king of Castile; and the curious relation of his two embassies is still extant, (Mariana, Hist. Hispan. l. xix. c. 11, tom. ii. p. 329, 330. avertissement à l'Hist. de Timur Bec, p. 28--33.) There appears likewise to have been some correspondence between the Mogul emperor and the court of Charles VII. king of France, (Histoire de France, par Velly et

Villaret, tom. xii. p. 336.)]

[Footnote 65: See the translation of the Persian account of their embassy, a curious and original piece, (in the ivth part of the

Relations de Thevenot.) They presented the emperor of China with an old

horse which Timour had formerly rode. It was in the year 1419 that they departed from the court of Herat, to which place they returned in 1422 from Pekin.]

the fame of Timour has pervaded the East and West: his posterity is

still invested with the Imperial \_title\_; and the admiration of his

subjects, who revered him almost as a deity, may be justified in

some degree by the praise or confession of his bitterest enemies. [66] although he was lame of a hand and foot, his form and stature were not

unworthy of his rank; and his vigorous health, so essential to himself and to the world, was corroborated by temperance and exercise. In his familiar discourse he was grave and modest, and if he was ignorant of the Arabic language, he spoke with fluency and elegance the Persian and Turkish idioms. It was his delight to converse with the learned on topics of history and science; and the amusement of his leisure

hours was the game of chess, which he improved or corrupted with new

refinements. [67] In his religion he was a zealous, though not perhaps an orthodox, Mussulman; [68] but his sound understanding may tempt us to believe, that a superstitious reverence for omens and prophecies, for

saints and astrologers, was only affected as an instrument of policy. In the government of a vast empire, he stood alone and absolute, without a rebel to oppose his power, a favorite to seduce his affections, or a minister to mislead his judgment. It was his firmest maxim, that whatever might be the consequence, the word of the prince should never be disputed or recalled; but his foes have maliciously observed, that the commands of anger and destruction were more strictly executed than those of beneficence and favor. His sons and grandsons, of whom Timour

left six-and-thirty at his decease, were his first and most submissive

subjects; and whenever they deviated from their duty, they were corrected, according to the laws of Zingis, with the bastinade, and afterwards restored to honor and command. Perhaps his heart was not devoid of the social virtues; perhaps he was not incapable of loving his friends and pardoning his enemies; but the rules of morality are founded

on the public interest; and it may be sufficient to applaud the \_wisdom\_

of a monarch, for the liberality by which he is not impoverished, and for the justice by which he is strengthened and enriched. To maintain the harmony of authority and obedience, to chastise the proud, to

protect the weak, to reward the deserving, to banish vice and idleness from his dominions, to secure the traveller and merchant, to restrain the depredations of the soldier, to cherish the labors of the

husbandman, to encourage industry and learning, and, by an equal and

moderate assessment, to increase the revenue, without increasing the taxes, are indeed the duties of a prince; but, in the discharge of these duties, he finds an ample and immediate recompense. Timour might boast, that, at his accession to the throne, Asia was the prey of anarchy and rapine, whilst under his prosperous monarchy a child, fearless and

unhurt, might carry a purse of gold from the East to the West. Such was

his confidence of merit, that from this reformation he derived an excuse for his victories, and a title to universal dominion. The four following

observations will serve to appreciate his claim to the public gratitude; and perhaps we shall conclude, that the Mogul emperor was rather the

scourge than the benefactor of mankind. \_1.\_ If some partial disorders,

some local oppressions, were healed by the sword of Timour, the remedy was far more pernicious than the disease. By their rapine, cruelty, and discord, the petty tyrants of Persia might afflict their subjects; but whole nations were crushed under the footsteps of the reformer. The

ground which had been occupied by flourishing cities was often marked by his abominable trophies, by columns, or pyramids, of human heads. astracan, Carizme, Delhi, Ispahan, Bagdad, Aleppo, Damascus, Boursa,

Smyrna, and a thousand others, were sacked, or burnt, or utterly destroyed, in his presence, and by his troops: and perhaps his conscience would have been startled, if a priest or philosopher had dared to number the millions of victims whom he had sacrificed to the establishment of peace and order. [69] \_2.\_ His most destructive wars were rather inroads than conquests. He invaded Turkestan, Kipzak,

Russia, Hindostan, Syria, Anatolia, Armenia, and Georgia, without a

hope or a desire of preserving those distant provinces. From thence he departed laden with spoil; but he left behind him neither troops to awe the contumacious, nor magistrates to protect the obedient, natives. When

he had broken the fabric of their ancient government, he abandoned them to the evils which his invasion had aggravated or caused; nor were these evils compensated by any present or possible benefits. \_3.\_ The kingdoms

of Transoxiana and Persia were the proper field which he labored to cultivate and adorn, as the perpetual inheritance of his family. But his

peaceful labors were often interrupted, and sometimes blasted, by the absence of the conqueror. While he triumphed on the Volga or the Ganges,

his servants, and even his sons, forgot their master and their duty. The

public and private injuries were poorly redressed by the tardy rigor

of inquiry and punishment; and we must be content to praise the

\_Institutions\_ of Timour, as the specious idea of a perfect monarchy.

\_4.\_ Whatsoever might be the blessings of his administration, they evaporated with his life. To reign, rather than to govern, was the ambition of his children and grandchildren; [70] the enemies of each

other and of the people. A fragment of the empire was upheld with some

glory by Sharokh, his youngest son; but after \_his\_ decease, the scene was again involved in darkness and blood; and before the end of a century, Transoxiana and Persia were trampled by the Uzbeks from the

north, and the Turkmans of the black and white sheep. The race of Timour would have been extinct, if a hero, his descendant in the fifth degree,

had not fled before the Uzbek arms to the conquest of Hindostan. His

successors (the great Moguls [71]) extended their sway from the mountains

of Cashmir to Cape Comorin, and from Candahar to the Gulf of Bengal.

Since the reign of Aurungzebe, their empire had been dissolved; their treasures of Delhi have been rifled by a Persian robber; and the richest

of their kingdoms is now possessed by a company of Christian merchants,

of a remote island in the Northern Ocean.

[Footnote 66: From Arabshah, tom. ii. c. 96. The bright or softer colors are borrowed from Sherefeddin, D'Herbelot, and the Institutions.]

[Footnote 67: His new system was multiplied from 32 pieces and 64

squares to 56 pieces and 110 or 130 squares; but, except in his court, the old game has been thought sufficiently elaborate. The Mogul emperor was rather pleased than hurt with the victory of a subject: a chess

player will feel the value of this encomium!]

[Footnote 68: See Sherefeddin, (l. v. c. 15, 25. Arabshah tom. ii. c. 96,

p. 801, 803) approves the impiety of Timour and the Moguls, who almost preferred to the Koran the \_Yacsa\_, or Law of Zingis, (cui Deus

maledicat;) nor will he believe that Sharokh had abolished the use and authority of that Pagan code.]

[Footnote 69: Besides the bloody passages of this narrative, I must

refer to an anticipation in the third volume of the Decline and Fall, which in a single note (p. 234, note 25) accumulates nearly 300,000

heads of the monuments of his cruelty. Except in Rowe's play on the fifth of November, I did not expect to hear of Timour's amiable

moderation (White's preface, p. 7.) Yet I can excuse a generous enthusiasm in the reader, and still more in the editor, of the

\_Institutions\_.]

[Footnote 70: Consult the last chapters of Sherefeddin and Arabshah, and M. De Guignes, (Hist. des Huns, tom. iv. l. xx.) Fraser's History of

Nadir Shah, (p. 1--62.) The story of Timour's descendants is imperfectly told; and the second and third parts of Sherefeddin are unknown.]

[Footnote 71: Shah Allum, the present Mogul, is in the fourteenth degree from Timour, by Miran Shah, his third son. See the second volume of dow's History of Hindostan.]

far different was the fate of the Ottoman monarchy. The massy trunk was bent to the ground, but no sooner did the hurricane pass away, than it again rose with fresh vigor and more lively vegetation. When Timour,

in every sense, had evacuated Anatolia, he left the cities without a

palace, a treasure, or a king. The open country was overspread with

hordes of shepherds and robbers of Tartar or Turkman origin; the recent conquests of Bajazet were restored to the emirs, one of whom, in base

revenge, demolished his sepulchre; and his five sons were eager, by civil discord, to consume the remnant of their patrimony. I shall enumerate their names in the order of their age and actions. [72] \_1.\_ It

is doubtful, whether I relate the story of the true \_Mustapha\_, or of an

impostor who personated that lost prince. He fought by his father's side

in the battle of Angora: but when the captive sultan was permitted to

inquire for his children, Mousa alone could be found; and the Turkish

historians, the slaves of the triumphant faction, are persuaded that his brother was confounded among the slain. If Mustapha escaped from that disastrous field, he was concealed twelve years from his friends and enemies; till he emerged in Thessaly, and was hailed by a numerous

party, as the son and successor of Bajazet. His first defeat would have been his last, had not the true, or false, Mustapha been saved by the

Greeks, and restored, after the decease of his brother Mahomet, to

liberty and empire. A degenerate mind seemed to argue his spurious birth; and if, on the throne of Adrianople, he was adored as the Ottoman

sultan, his flight, his fetters, and an ignominious gibbet, delivered the impostor to popular contempt. A similar character and claim was asserted by several rival pretenders: thirty persons are said to have

suffered under the name of Mustapha; and these frequent executions may

perhaps insinuate, that the Turkish court was not perfectly secure of the death of the lawful prince. \_2.\_ After his father's captivity, Isa

[73] reigned for some time in the neighborhood of Angora, Sinope, and the Black Sea; and his ambassadors were dismissed from the presence of timour with fair promises and honorable gifts. But their master was soon deprived of his province and life, by a jealous brother, the sovereign

of Amasia; and the final event suggested a pious allusion, that the

law of Moses and Jesus, of \_Isa\_ and \_Mousa\_, had been abrogated by the greater Mahomet. \_3.\_ \_Soliman\_ is not numbered in the list of the turkish emperors: yet he checked the victorious progress of the Moguls; and after their departure, united for a while the thrones of Adrianople and Boursa. In war he was brave, active, and fortunate; his courage was

softened by clemency; but it was likewise inflamed by presumption, and corrupted by intemperance and idleness. He relaxed the nerves of discipline, in a government where either the subject or the sovereign

must continually tremble: his vices alienated the chiefs of the army and the law; and his daily drunkenness, so contemptible in a prince and a

man, was doubly odious in a disciple of the prophet. In the slumber of

intoxication he was surprised by his brother Mousa; and as he fled from adrianople towards the Byzantine capital, Soliman was overtaken and

slain in a bath, [731] after a reign of seven years and ten months. \_4.\_ the investiture of Mousa degraded him as the slave of the Moguls: his tributary kingdom of Anatolia was confined within a narrow limit, nor could his broken militia and empty treasury contend with the hardy and

veteran bands of the sovereign of Romania. Mousa fled in disguise from the palace of Boursa; traversed the Propontis in an open boat; wandered

over the Walachian and Servian hills; and after some vain attempts, ascended the throne of Adrianople, so recently stained with the blood

of Soliman. In a reign of three years and a half, his troops were

victorious against the Christians of Hungary and the Morea; but Mousa was ruined by his timorous disposition and unseasonable clemency. After

resigning the sovereignty of Anatolia, he fell a victim to the perfidy

of his ministers, and the superior ascendant of his brother Mahomet.

\_5.\_The final victory of Mahomet was the just recompense of his prudence and moderation. Before his father's captivity, the royal youth had been intrusted with the government of Amasia, thirty days' journey from Constantinople, and the Turkish frontier against the Christians

of Trebizond and Georgia. The castle, in Asiatic warfare, was esteemed

impregnable; and the city of Amasia, [74] which is equally divided by the River Iris, rises on either side in the form of an amphitheatre, and

represents on a smaller scale the image of Bagdad. In his rapid career, timour appears to have overlooked this obscure and contumacious angle of anatolia; and Mahomet, without provoking the conqueror, maintained his

silent independence, and chased from the province the last stragglers of the Tartar host. [741] He relieved himself from the dangerous neighborhood

of Isa; but in the contests of their more powerful brethren his firm

neutrality was respected; till, after the triumph of Mousa, he stood forth the heir and avenger of the unfortunate Soliman. Mahomet obtained anatolia by treaty, and Romania by arms; and the soldier who presented

him with the head of Mousa was rewarded as the benefactor of his

king and country. The eight years of his sole and peaceful reign were

usefully employed in banishing the vices of civil discord, and restoring

on a firmer basis the fabric of the Ottoman monarchy. His last care was the choice of two viziers, Bajazet and Ibrahim, [75] who might guide the

youth of his son Amurath; and such was their union and prudence, that they concealed above forty days the emperor's death, till the arrival of

his successor in the palace of Boursa. A new war was kindled in Europe by the prince, or impostor, Mustapha; the first vizier lost his army and his head; but the more fortunate Ibrahim, whose name and family are

still revered, extinguished the last pretender to the throne of Bajazet, and closed the scene of domestic hostility.

[Footnote 72: The civil wars, from the death of Bajazet to that of

Mustapha, are related, according to the Turks, by Demetrius Cantemir,

(p. 58--82.) Of the Greeks, Chalcondyles, (l. iv. and v.,) Phranza, (l.

i. c. 30--32,) and Ducas, (c. 18--27,) the last is the most copious and best informed.]

[Footnote 73: Arabshah, (tom. ii. c. 26,) whose testimony on this

occasion is weighty and valuable. The existence of Isa (unknown to the turks) is likewise confirmed by Sherefeddin, (l. v. c. 57.)]

[Footnote 731: He escaped from the bath, and fled towards Constantinople. five mothers from a village, Dugundschi, whose inhabitants had suffered

severely from the exactions of his officers, recognized and followed

him. Soliman shot two of them, the others discharged their arrows in their turn the sultan fell and his head was cut off. V. Hammer, vol. i.

p. 349.--M.]

[Footnote 74: Arabshah, loc. citat. Abulfeda, Geograph. tab. xvii. p.

302. Busbequius, epist. i. p. 96, 97, in Itinere C. P. et Amasiano.]

[Footnote 741: See his nine battles. V. Hammer, p. 339.--M.]

[Footnote 75: The virtues of Ibrahim are praised by a contemporary

Greek, (Ducas, c. 25.) His descendants are the sole nobles in turkey: they content themselves with the administration of his pious foundations, are excused from public offices, and receive two annual

visits from the sultan, (Cantemir, p. 76.)]

In these conflicts, the wisest Turks, and indeed the body of the nation, were strongly attached to the unity of the empire; and Romania and anatolia, so often torn asunder by private ambition, were animated by a strong and invincible tendency of cohesion. Their efforts might

have instructed the Christian powers; and had they occupied, with a confederate fleet, the Straits of Gallipoli, the Ottomans, at least in europe, must have been speedily annihilated. But the schism of the West, and the factions and wars of France and England, diverted the Latins from this generous enterprise: they enjoyed the present respite, without a thought of futurity; and were often tempted by a momentary interest to

serve the common enemy of their religion. A colony of Genoese, [76] which

had been planted at Phocæa [77] on the Ionian coast, was enriched by the lucrative monopoly of alum; [78] and their tranquillity, under the turkish empire, was secured by the annual payment of tribute. In the

last civil war of the Ottomans, the Genoese governor, Adorno, a bold and ambitious youth, embraced the party of Amurath; and undertook, with

seven stout galleys, to transport him from Asia to Europe. The sultan and five hundred guards embarked on board the admiral's ship; which was

manned by eight hundred of the bravest Franks. His life and liberty were

in their hands; nor can we, without reluctance, applaud the fidelity

of Adorno, who, in the midst of the passage, knelt before him, and

gratefully accepted a discharge of his arrears of tribute. They landed

in sight of Mustapha and Gallipoli; two thousand Italians, armed with

lances and battle-axes, attended Amurath to the conquest of Adrianople; and this venal service was soon repaid by the ruin of the commerce and colony of Phocæa.

[Footnote 76: See Pachymer, (l. v. c. 29,) Nicephorus Gregoras, (l.

ii. c. 1,) Sherefeddin, (l. v. c. 57,) and Ducas, (c. 25.) The last of these, a curious and careful observer, is entitled, from his birth and station, to particular credit in all that concerns Ionia and the

islands. Among the nations that resorted to New Phocæa, he mentions the english; ('Igglhnoi;) an early evidence of Mediterranean trade.]

[Footnote 77: For the spirit of navigation, and freedom of ancient

Phocæa, or rather the Phocæans, consult the first book of Herodotus, and the Geographical Index of his last and learned French translator, M.

Larcher (tom. vii. p. 299.)]

[Footnote 78: Phocæa is not enumerated by Pliny (Hist. Nat. xxxv. 52) among the places productive of alum: he reckons Egypt as the first, and for the second the Isle of Melos, whose alum mines are described by tournefort, (tom. i. lettre iv.,) a traveller and a naturalist. After the loss of Phocæa, the Genoese, in 1459, found that useful mineral in the Isle of Ischia, (Ismael. Bouillaud, ad Ducam, c. 25.)]

If Timour had generously marched at the request, and to the relief, of the Greek emperor, he might be entitled to the praise and gratitude of the Christians. [79] But a Mussulman, who carried into Georgia the sword

of persecution, and respected the holy warfare of Bajazet, was not disposed to pity or succor the \_idolaters\_ of Europe. The Tartar followed the impulse of ambition; and the deliverance of Constantinople was the accidental consequence. When Manuel abdicated the government,

it was his prayer, rather than his hope, that the ruin of the church and state might be delayed beyond his unhappy days; and after his return from a western pilgrimage, he expected every hour the news of the

sad catastrophe. On a sudden, he was astonished and rejoiced by the

intelligence of the retreat, the overthrow, and the captivity of the

Ottoman. Manuel [80] immediately sailed from Modon in the Morea; ascended the throne of Constantinople, and dismissed his blind competitor to an easy exile in the Isle of Lesbos. The ambassadors of the son of Bajazet were soon introduced to his presence; but their pride was fallen, their tone was modest: they were awed by the just apprehension, lest the

Greeks should open to the Moguls the gates of Europe. Soliman saluted the emperor by the name of father; solicited at his hands the government

or gift of Romania; and promised to deserve his favor by inviolable friendship, and the restitution of Thessalonica, with the most important

places along the Strymon, the Propontis, and the Black Sea. The alliance

of Soliman exposed the emperor to the enmity and revenge of Mousa: the turks appeared in arms before the gates of Constantinople; but they were repulsed by sea and land; and unless the city was guarded by some foreign mercenaries, the Greeks must have wondered at their own triumph. but, instead of prolonging the division of the Ottoman powers, the

policy or passion of Manuel was tempted to assist the most formidable of the sons of Bajazet. He concluded a treaty with Mahomet, whose progress was checked by the insuperable barrier of Gallipoli: the sultan and

his troops were transported over the Bosphorus; he was hospitably entertained in the capital; and his successful sally was the first step to the conquest of Romania. The ruin was suspended by the prudence and moderation of the conqueror: he faithfully discharged his own

obligations and those of Soliman, respected the laws of gratitude and

peace; and left the emperor guardian of his two younger sons, in the

vain hope of saving them from the jealous cruelty of their brother amurath. But the execution of his last testament would have offended the

national honor and religion; and the divan unanimously pronounced, that the royal youths should never be abandoned to the custody and education

of a Christian dog. On this refusal, the Byzantine councils were divided; but the age and caution of Manuel yielded to the presumption

of his son John; and they unsheathed a dangerous weapon of revenge, by dismissing the true or false Mustapha, who had long been detained as a captive and hostage, and for whose maintenance they received an annual

pension of three hundred thousand aspers. [81] At the door of his prison,

Mustapha subscribed to every proposal; and the keys of Gallipoli, or

rather of Europe, were stipulated as the price of his deliverance. But

no sooner was he seated on the throne of Romania, than he dismissed the

Greek ambassadors with a smile of contempt, declaring, in a pious tone, that, at the day of judgment, he would rather answer for the violation

of an oath, than for the surrender of a Mussulman city into the hands of the infidels. The emperor was at once the enemy of the two rivals; from whom he had sustained, and to whom he had offered, an injury; and the

victory of Amurath was followed, in the ensuing spring, by the siege of constantinople. [82]

[Footnote 79: The writer who has the most abused this fabulous

generosity, is our ingenious Sir William Temple, (his Works, vol. iii.

p. 349, 350, octavo edition,) that lover of exotic virtue. After the conquest of Russia, &c., and the passage of the Danube, his Tartar hero

relieves, visits, admires, and refuses the city of Constantine. His flattering pencil deviates in every line from the truth of history;

yet his pleasing fictions are more excusable than the gross errors of cantemir.]

[Footnote 80: For the reigns of Manuel and John, of Mahomet I. and amurath II., see the Othman history of Cantemir, (p. 70--95,) and the three Greeks, Chalcondyles, Phranza, and Ducas, who is still superior to

his rivals.]

[Footnote 81: The Turkish asper (from the Greek asproV) is, or was, a

piece of \_white\_ or silver money, at present much debased, but which was formerly equivalent to the 54th part, at least, of a Venetian ducat or

sequin; and the 300,000 aspers, a princely allowance or royal tribute,

may be computed at 2500\_l\_. sterling, (Leunclav. Pandect. Turc. p.

406--408.) \* Note: According to Von Hammer, this calculation is much too low. The asper was a century before the time of which writes, the tenth part of a ducat; for the same tribute which the Byzantine writers state at 300,000 aspers the Ottomans state at 30,000 ducats, about 15000l Note, vol. p.

636.--M.]

[Footnote 82: For the siege of Constantinople in 1422, see the

particular and contemporary narrative of John Cananus, published by Leo allatius, at the end of his edition of Acropolita, (p. 188--199.)]

the religious merit of subduing the city of the Cæsars attracted from asia a crowd of volunteers, who aspired to the crown of martyrdom: their

military ardor was inflamed by the promise of rich spoils and beautiful females; and the sultan's ambition was consecrated by the presence and

prediction of Seid Bechar, a descendant of the prophet, [83] who arrived in the camp, on a mule, with a venerable train of five hundred disciples. But he might blush, if a fanatic could blush, at the failure

of his assurances. The strength of the walls resisted an army of two

hundred thousand Turks; their assaults were repelled by the sallies of the Greeks and their foreign mercenaries; the old resources of defence were opposed to the new engines of attack; and the enthusiasm of the dervis, who was snatched to heaven in visionary converse with Mahomet, was answered by the credulity of the Christians, who \_beheld\_ the Virgin

Mary, in a violet garment, walking on the rampart and animating their courage. [84] After a siege of two months, Amurath was recalled to Boursa by a domestic revolt, which had been kindled by Greek treachery, and was

soon extinguished by the death of a guiltless brother. While he led his

Janizaries to new conquests in Europe and Asia, the Byzantine empire was indulged in a servile and precarious respite of thirty years. Manuel

sank into the grave; and John Palæologus was permitted to reign, for an annual tribute of three hundred thousand aspers, and the dereliction of almost all that he held beyond the suburbs of Constantinople.

[Footnote 83: Cantemir, p. 80. Cananus, who describes Seid Bechar, without naming him, supposes that the friend of Mahomet assumed in his amours the privilege of a prophet, and that the fairest of the Greek

nuns were promised to the saint and his disciples.]

[Footnote 84: For this miraculous apparition, Cananus appeals to the

Mussulman saint; but who will bear testimony for Seid Bechar?]

In the establishment and restoration of the Turkish empire, the first

merit must doubtless be assigned to the personal qualities of the

sultans; since, in human life, the most important scenes will depend on the character of a single actor. By some shades of wisdom and virtue, they may be discriminated from each other; but, except in a single

instance, a period of nine reigns, and two hundred and sixty-five years,

is occupied, from the elevation of Othman to the death of Soliman, by a

rare series of warlike and active princes, who impressed their subjects with obedience and their enemies with terror. Instead of the slothful

luxury of the seraglio, the heirs of royalty were educated in the council and the field: from early youth they were intrusted by their fathers with the command of provinces and armies; and this manly

institution, which was often productive of civil war, must have essentially contributed to the discipline and vigor of the monarchy. the Ottomans cannot style themselves, like the Arabian caliphs, the descendants or successors of the apostle of God; and the kindred which they claim with the Tartar khans of the house of Zingis appears to be founded in flattery rather than in truth. [85] Their origin is obscure; but their sacred and indefeasible right, which no time can erase, and no

violence can infringe, was soon and unalterably implanted in the

minds of their subjects. A weak or vicious sultan may be deposed and

strangled; but his inheritance devolves to an infant or an idiot: nor

has the most daring rebel presumed to ascend the throne of his lawful

sovereign. [86]

[Footnote 85: See Ricaut, (l. i. c. 13.) The Turkish sultans assume the title of khan. Yet Abulghazi is ignorant of his Ottoman cousins.]

[Footnote 86: The third grand vizier of the name of Kiuperli, who was

slain at the battle of Salankanen in 1691, (Cantemir, p. 382,) presumed to say that all the successors of Soliman had been fools or tyrants, and that it was time to abolish the race, (Marsigli Stato Militaire, &c., p.

28.) This political heretic was a good Whig, and justified against the French ambassador the revolution of England, (Mignot, Hist. des

Ottomans, tom. iii. p. 434.) His presumption condemns the singular exception of continuing offices in the same family.]

while the transient dynasties of Asia have been continually subverted by a crafty vizier in the palace, or a victorious general in the camp, the

Ottoman succession has been confirmed by the practice of five centuries, and is now incorporated with the vital principle of the Turkish nation.

to the spirit and constitution of that nation, a strong and singular

influence may, however, be ascribed. The primitive subjects of Othman were the four hundred families of wandering Turkmans, who had followed

his ancestors from the Oxus to the Sangar; and the plains of Anatolia are still covered with the white and black tents of their rustic brethren. But this original drop was dissolved in the mass of voluntary and vanquished subjects, who, under the name of Turks, are united by the common ties of religion, language, and manners. In the cities, from erzeroum to Belgrade, that national appellation is common to all the Moslems, the first and most honorable inhabitants; but they have abandoned, at least in Romania, the villages, and the cultivation of the land, to the Christian peasants. In the vigorous age of the Ottoman

government, the Turks were themselves excluded from all civil and

military honors; and a servile class, an artificial people, was raised by the discipline of education to obey, to conquer, and to command.

[87] From the time of Orchan and the first Amurath, the sultans were

persuaded that a government of the sword must be renewed in each

generation with new soldiers; and that such soldiers must be sought, not

in effeminate Asia, but among the hardy and warlike natives of Europe. the provinces of Thrace, Macedonia, Albania, Bulgaria, and Servia, became the perpetual seminary of the Turkish army; and when the royal fifth of the captives was diminished by conquest, an inhuman tax of the fifth child, or of every fifth year, was rigorously levied on the christian families. At the age of twelve or fourteen years, the most

robust youths were torn from their parents; their names were enrolled in a book; and from that moment they were clothed, taught, and maintained, for the public service. According to the promise of their appearance, they were selected for the royal schools of Boursa, Pera, and adrianople, intrusted to the care of the bashaws, or dispersed in the houses of the Anatolian peasantry. It was the first care of their

masters to instruct them in the Turkish language: their bodies were exercised by every labor that could fortify their strength; they learned to wrestle, to leap, to run, to shoot with the bow, and afterwards with the musket; till they were drafted into the chambers and companies

of the Janizaries, and severely trained in the military or monastic discipline of the order. The youths most conspicuous for birth, talents, and beauty, were admitted into the inferior class of \_Agiamoglans\_, or the more liberal rank of \_Ichoglans\_, of whom the former were attached to the palace, and the latter to the person, of the prince. In four

successive schools, under the rod of the white eunuchs, the arts of

horsemanship and of darting the javelin were their daily exercise, while those of a more studious cast applied themselves to the study of the

Koran, and the knowledge of the Arabic and Persian tongues. As they advanced in seniority and merit, they were gradually dismissed to

military, civil, and even ecclesiastical employments: the longer their

stay, the higher was their expectation; till, at a mature period, they were admitted into the number of the forty agas, who stood before the

sultan, and were promoted by his choice to the government of provinces and the first honors of the empire. [88] Such a mode of institution was admirably adapted to the form and spirit of a despotic monarchy. The

ministers and generals were, in the strictest sense, the slaves of the emperor, to whose bounty they were indebted for their instruction and

support. When they left the seraglio, and suffered their beards to grow as the symbol of enfranchisement, they found themselves in an important

office, without faction or friendship, without parents and without

heirs, dependent on the hand which had raised them from the dust, and which, on the slightest displeasure, could break in pieces these statues

of glass, as they were aptly termed by the Turkish proverb. [89] In the

slow and painful steps of education, their characters and talents were

unfolded to a discerning eye: the \_man\_, naked and alone, was reduced to the standard of his personal merit; and, if the sovereign had wisdom to choose, he possessed a pure and boundless liberty of choice. The Ottoman candidates were trained by the virtues of abstinence to those of action; by the habits of submission to those of command. A similar spirit was diffused among the troops; and their silence and sobriety, their

patience and modesty, have extorted the reluctant praise of their christian enemies. [90] Nor can the victory appear doubtful, if we compare the discipline and exercise of the Janizaries with the pride of birth, the independence of chivalry, the ignorance of the new levies, the mutinous temper of the veterans, and the vices of intemperance and disorder, which so long contaminated the armies of Europe.

[Footnote 87: Chalcondyles (l. v.) and Ducas (c. 23) exhibit the rude

lineament of the Ottoman policy, and the transmutation of Christian children into Turkish soldiers.]

[Footnote 88: This sketch of the Turkish education and discipline is chiefly borrowed from Ricaut's State of the Ottoman Empire, the Stato

Militaire del' Imperio Ottomano of Count Marsigli, (in Haya, 1732,

in folio,) and a description of the Seraglio, approved by Mr. Greaves

himself, a curious traveller, and inserted in the second volume of his works.]

[Footnote 89: From the series of cxv. viziers, till the siege of Vienna,

(Marsigli, p. 13,) their place may be valued at three years and a half

purchase.]

[Footnote 90: See the entertaining and judicious letters of Busbequius.]

the only hope of salvation for the Greek empire, and the adjacent

kingdoms, would have been some more powerful weapon, some discovery in the art of war, that would give them a decisive superiority over their turkish foes. Such a weapon was in their hands; such a discovery had been made in the critical moment of their fate. The chemists of China or europe had found, by casual or elaborate experiments, that a mixture

of saltpetre, sulphur, and charcoal, produces, with a spark of fire, a tremendous explosion. It was soon observed, that if the expansive force were compressed in a strong tube, a ball of stone or iron might be expelled with irresistible and destructive velocity. The precise æra of the invention and application of gunpowder [91] is involved in doubtful traditions and equivocal language; yet we may clearly discern, that it was known before the middle of the fourteenth century; and that before the end of the same, the use of artillery in battles and sieges, by sea and land, was familiar to the states of Germany, Italy, Spain, France, and England. [92] The priority of nations is of small account; none could derive any exclusive benefit from their previous or superior knowledge; and in the common improvement, they stood on the same level of relative

power and military science. Nor was it possible to circumscribe the

secret within the pale of the church; it was disclosed to the Turks by the treachery of apostates and the selfish policy of rivals; and the

sultans had sense to adopt, and wealth to reward, the talents of a christian engineer. The Genoese, who transported Amurath into Europe,

must be accused as his preceptors; and it was probably by their hands that his cannon was cast and directed at the siege of Constantinople.

[93] The first attempt was indeed unsuccessful; but in the general warfare of the age, the advantage was on \_their\_ side, who were most commonly the assailants: for a while the proportion of the attack and defence was suspended; and this thundering artillery was pointed against the walls and towers which had been erected only to resist the less

potent engines of antiquity. By the Venetians, the use of gunpowder was communicated without reproach to the sultans of Egypt and Persia, their allies against the Ottoman power; the secret was soon propagated to the extremities of Asia; and the advantage of the European was confined to

his easy victories over the savages of the new world. If we contrast the

rapid progress of this mischievous discovery with the slow and laborious advances of reason, science, and the arts of peace, a philosopher, according to his temper, will laugh or weep at the folly of mankind.

[Footnote 91: The first and second volumes of Dr. Watson's Chemical essays contain two valuable discourses on the discovery and composition

of gunpowder.]

[Footnote 92: On this subject modern testimonies cannot be trusted. The

original passages are collected by Ducange, (Gloss. Latin. tom. i. p.

675, \_Bombarda\_.) But in the early doubtful twilight, the name, sound, fire, and effect, that seem to express \_our\_ artillery, may be fairly

interpreted of the old engines and the Greek fire. For the English cannon at Crecy, the authority of John Villani (Chron. l. xii. c.

65) must be weighed against the silence of Froissard. Yet Muratori

(Antiquit. Italiæ Medii Ævi, tom. ii. Dissert. xxvi. p. 514, 515)

has produced a decisive passage from Petrarch, (De Remediis utriusque fortunæ Dialog.,) who, before the year 1344, execrates this terrestrial thunder, \_nuper\_ rara, \_nunc\_ communis. \* Note: Mr. Hallam makes the following observation on the objection thrown our by Gibbon: "The positive testimony of Villani, who died within two years afterwards, and had manifestly obtained much

information as to the great events passing in France, cannot be

rejected. He ascribes a material effect to the cannon of Edward, Colpi delle bombarde, which I suspect, from his strong expressions, had not been employed before, except against stone walls. It seems, he says, as if God thundered con grande uccisione di genti e efondamento di cavalli." Middle Ages, vol. i. p. 510.--M.]

[Footnote 93: The Turkish cannon, which Ducas (c. 30) first introduces before Belgrade, (A.D. 1436,) is mentioned by Chalcondyles (l. v. p.

123) in 1422, at the siege of Constantinople.]

chapter LXVI: Union Of The Greek And Latin Churches.--Part I.

Applications Of The Eastern Emperors To The Popes.--Visits

To The West, Of John The First, Manuel, And John The Second,

Palæologus.--Union Of The Greek And Latin Churches, Promoted

By The Council Of Basil, And Concluded At Ferrara And

Florence.--State Of Literature At Constantinople.--Its

Revival In Italy By The Greek Fugitives.--Curiosity And

Emulation Of The Latins.

In the four last centuries of the Greek emperors, their friendly or

hostile aspect towards the pope and the Latins may be observed as the thermometer of their prosperity or distress; as the scale of the rise and fall of the Barbarian dynasties. When the Turks of the house of

Seljuk pervaded Asia, and threatened Constantinople, we have seen, at the council of Placentia, the suppliant ambassadors of Alexius imploring the protection of the common father of the Christians. No sooner had the arms of the French pilgrims removed the sultan from Nice to Iconium, than the Greek princes resumed, or avowed, their genuine hatred and contempt for the schismatics of the West, which precipitated the first downfall of their empire. The date of the Mogul invasion is marked in the soft and charitable language of John Vataces. After the recovery of constantinople, the throne of the first Palæologus was encompassed by foreign and domestic enemies; as long as the sword of Charles was

suspended over his head, he basely courted the favor of the Roman

pontiff; and sacrificed to the present danger his faith, his virtue, and the affection of his subjects. On the decease of Michael, the prince and people asserted the independence of their church, and the purity of their creed: the elder Andronicus neither feared nor loved the Latins;

in his last distress, pride was the safeguard of superstition; nor could

he decently retract in his age the firm and orthodox declarations of

his youth. His grandson, the younger Andronicus, was less a slave in

his temper and situation; and the conquest of Bithynia by the Turks admonished him to seek a temporal and spiritual alliance with the western princes. After a separation and silence of fifty years, a secret agent, the monk Barlaam, was despatched to Pope Benedict the Twelfth; and his artful instructions appear to have been drawn by the master-hand

of the great domestic. [1] "Most holy father," was he commissioned to

say, "the emperor is not less desirous than yourself of a union between the two churches: but in this delicate transaction, he is obliged to

respect his own dignity and the prejudices of his subjects. The ways of

union are twofold; force and persuasion. Of force, the inefficacy has been already tried; since the Latins have subdued the empire, without

subduing the minds, of the Greeks. The method of persuasion, though

slow, is sure and permanent. A deputation of thirty or forty of our doctors would probably agree with those of the Vatican, in the love of truth and the unity of belief; but on their return, what would be the

use, the recompense, of such an agreement? the scorn of their brethren, and the reproaches of a blind and obstinate nation. Yet that nation

is accustomed to reverence the general councils, which have fixed the articles of our faith; and if they reprobate the decrees of Lyons, it is because the Eastern churches were neither heard nor represented in that arbitrary meeting. For this salutary end, it will be expedient, and even necessary, that a well-chosen legate should be sent into Greece, to convene the patriarchs of Constantinople, Alexandria, Antioch, and

Jerusalem; and, with their aid, to prepare a free and universal

synod. But at this moment," continued the subtle agent, "the empire is assaulted and endangered by the Turks, who have occupied four of the

greatest cities of Anatolia. The Christian inhabitants have expressed a wish of returning to their allegiance and religion; but the forces and

revenues of the emperor are insufficient for their deliverance: and the

Roman legate must be accompanied, or preceded, by an army of Franks, to expel the infidels, and open a way to the holy sepulchre." If the

suspicious Latins should require some pledge, some previous effect of the sincerity of the Greeks, the answers of Barlaam were perspicuous and

rational. "\_1.\_ A general synod can alone consummate the union of the churches; nor can such a synod be held till the three Oriental

patriarchs, and a great number of bishops, are enfranchised from the

Mahometan yoke. \_2.\_ The Greeks are alienated by a long series of

oppression and injury: they must be reconciled by some act of brotherly

love, some effectual succor, which may fortify the authority and arguments of the emperor, and the friends of the union. \_3.\_ If some difference of faith or ceremonies should be found incurable, the Greeks,

however, are the disciples of Christ; and the Turks are the common enemies of the Christian name. The Armenians, Cyprians, and Rhodians, are equally attacked; and it will become the piety of the French princes to draw their swords in the general defence of religion. \_4.\_ Should the subjects of Andronicus be treated as the worst of schismatics, of

heretics, of pagans, a judicious policy may yet instruct the powers of the West to embrace a useful ally, to uphold a sinking empire, to guard the confines of Europe; and rather to join the Greeks against the turks, than to expect the union of the Turkish arms with the troops and treasures of captive Greece." The reasons, the offers, and the demands,

of Andronicus were eluded with cold and stately indifference. The kings

of France and Naples declined the dangers and glory of a crusade; the

pope refused to call a new synod to determine old articles of faith; and his regard for the obsolete claims of the Latin emperor and clergy engaged him to use an offensive superscription,--"To the \_moderator\_ [2]

of the Greeks, and the persons who style themselves the patriarchs of the Eastern churches." For such an embassy, a time and character less

propitious could not easily have been found. Benedict the Twelfth [3] was a dull peasant, perplexed with scruples, and immersed in sloth and wine:

his pride might enrich with a third crown the papal tiara, but he was alike unfit for the regal and the pastoral office.

[Footnote 1: This curious instruction was transcribed (I believe) from the Vatican archives, by Odoricus Raynaldus, in his Continuation of the annals of Baronius, (Romæ, 1646--1677, in x. volumes in folio.) I have contented myself with the Abbé Fleury, (Hist. Ecclésiastique. tom. xx.

p. 1--8,) whose abstracts I have always found to be clear, accurate, and

impartial.]

[Footnote 2: The ambiguity of this title is happy or ingenious; and

\_moderator\_, as synonymous to \_rector\_, \_gubernator\_, is a word of classical, and even Ciceronian, Latinity, which may be found, not in the

Glossary of Ducange, but in the Thesaurus of Robert Stephens.]

[Footnote 3: The first epistle (sine titulo) of Petrarch exposes the danger of the \_bark\_, and the incapacity of the \_pilot\_. Hæc inter,

vino madidus, ævo gravis, ac soporifero rore perfusus, jamjam nutitat, dormitat, jam somno præceps, atque (utinam solus) ruit..... Heu quanto felicius patrio terram sulcasset aratro, quam scalmum piscatorium ascendisset! This satire engages his biographer to weigh the virtues and

vices of Benedict XII. which have been exaggerated by Guelphs and

Ghibe lines, by Papists and Protestants, (see Mémoires sur la Vie de

Pétrarque, tom. i. p. 259, ii. not. xv. p. 13--16.) He gave occasion to the saying, Bibamus papaliter.]

after the decease of Andronicus, while the Greeks were distracted by

intestine war, they could not presume to agitate a general union of the Christians. But as soon as Cantacuzene had subdued and pardoned

his enemies, he was anxious to justify, or at least to extenuate, the

introduction of the Turks into Europe, and the nuptials of his daughter with a Mussulman prince. Two officers of state, with a Latin

interpreter, were sent in his name to the Roman court, which was transplanted to Avignon, on the banks of the Rhône, during a period of

seventy years: they represented the hard necessity which had urged him to embrace the alliance of the miscreants, and pronounced by his command the specious and edifying sounds of union and crusade. Pope Clement the

Sixth, [4] the successor of Benedict, received them with hospitality and honor, acknowledged the innocence of their sovereign, excused his distress, applauded his magnanimity, and displayed a clear knowledge of the state and revolutions of the Greek empire, which he had imbibed from the honest accounts of a Savoyard lady, an attendant of the empress anne. [5] If Clement was ill endowed with the virtues of a priest, he

possessed, however, the spirit and magnificence of a prince, whose

liberal hand distributed benefices and kingdoms with equal facility.

Under his reign Avignon was the seat of pomp and pleasure: in his youth

he had surpassed the licentiousness of a baron; and the palace, nay, the bed-chamber of the pope, was adorned, or polluted, by the visits of his female favorites. The wars of France and England were adverse to the

holy enterprise; but his vanity was amused by the splendid idea; and the

Greek ambassadors returned with two Latin bishops, the ministers of the

pontiff. On their arrival at Constantinople, the emperor and the nuncios admired each other's piety and eloquence; and their frequent conferences were filled with mutual praises and promises, by which both parties were amused, and neither could be deceived. "I am delighted," said the devout cantacuzene, "with the project of our holy war, which must redound to

my personal glory, as well as to the public benefit of Christendom. My dominions will give a free passage to the armies of France: my troops,

my galleys, my treasures, shall be consecrated to the common cause; and happy would be my fate, could I deserve and obtain the crown of

martyrdom. Words are insufficient to express the ardor with which I sigh for the reunion of the scattered members of Christ. If my death could avail, I would gladly present my sword and my neck: if the spiritual

phnix could arise from my ashes, I would erect the pile, and kindle the flame with my own hands." Yet the Greek emperor presumed to observe, that the articles of faith which divided the two churches had been

introduced by the pride and precipitation of the Latins: he disclaimed the servile and arbitrary steps of the first Palæologus; and firmly declared, that he would never submit his conscience unless to the decrees of a free and universal synod. "The situation of the times," continued he, "will not allow the pope and myself to meet either at Rome

or Constantinople; but some maritime city may be chosen on the verge of the two empires, to unite the bishops, and to instruct the faithful, of the East and West." The nuncios seemed content with the proposition; and cantacuzene affects to deplore the failure of his hopes, which were

soon overthrown by the death of Clement, and the different temper of

his successor. His own life was prolonged, but it was prolonged in a cloister; and, except by his prayers, the humble monk was incapable of directing the counsels of his pupil or the state. [6]

[Footnote 4: See the original Lives of Clement VI. in Muratori, (Script.

Rerum Italicarum, tom. iii. P. ii. p. 550--589;) Matteo Villani, (Chron.

l. iii. c. 43, in Muratori, tom. xiv. p. 186,) who styles him, molto cavallaresco, poco religioso; Fleury, (Hist. Ecclés. tom. xx. p. 126;) and the Vie de Pétrarque, (tom. ii. p. 42--45.) The abbé de Sade treats

him with the most indulgence; but \_he\_ is a gentleman as well as a

priest.]

[Footnote 5: Her name (most probably corrupted) was Zampea. She had accompanied, and alone remained with her mistress at Constantinople, where her prudence, erudition, and politeness deserved the praises of the Greeks themselves, (Cantacuzen. l. i. c. 42.)]

[Footnote 6: See this whole negotiation in Cantacuzene, (l. iv. c. 9,) who, amidst the praises and virtues which he bestows on himself, reveals the uneasiness of a guilty conscience.]

Yet of all the Byzantine princes, that pupil, John Palæologus, was the best disposed to embrace, to believe, and to obey, the shepherd of the west. His mother, Anne of Savoy, was baptized in the bosom of the

Latin church: her marriage with Andronicus imposed a change of name, of apparel, and of worship, but her heart was still faithful to her country and religion: she had formed the infancy of her son, and she governed the emperor, after his mind, or at least his stature, was enlarged to the size of man. In the first year of his deliverance and restoration, the Turks were still masters of the Hellespont; the son of Cantacuzene was in arms at Adrianople; and Palæologus could depend neither on

himself nor on his people. By his mother's advice, and in the hope of foreign aid, he abjured the rights both of the church and state; and the act of slavery, [7] subscribed in purple ink, and sealed with the

\_golden\_ bull, was privately intrusted to an Italian agent. The first article of the treaty is an oath of fidelity and obedience to Innocent the Sixth and his successors, the supreme pontiffs of the Roman and catholic church. The emperor promises to entertain with due reverence their legates and nuncios; to assign a palace for their residence, and a temple for their worship; and to deliver his second son Manuel as the hostage of his faith. For these condescensions he requires a prompt

succor of fifteen galleys, with five hundred men at arms, and a thousand archers, to serve against his Christian and Mussulman enemies.

Palæologus engages to impose on his clergy and people the same spiritual

yoke; but as the resistance of the Greeks might be justly foreseen, he adopts the two effectual methods of corruption and education. The legate was empowered to distribute the vacant benefices among the ecclesiastics who should subscribe the creed of the Vatican: three schools were

instituted to instruct the youth of Constantinople in the language and doctrine of the Latins; and the name of Andronicus, the heir of the empire, was enrolled as the first student. Should he fail in the

measures of persuasion or force, Palæologus declares himself unworthy to reign; transferred to the pope all regal and paternal authority; and

invests Innocent with full power to regulate the family, the government, and the marriage, of his son and successor. But this treaty was neither executed nor published: the Roman galleys were as vain and imaginary as the submission of the Greeks; and it was only by the secrecy that their

sovereign escaped the dishonor of this fruitless humiliation.

[Footnote 7: See this ignominious treaty in Fleury, (Hist. Ecclés. p.

151--154,) from Raynaldus, who drew it from the Vatican archives. It was

not worth the trouble of a pious forgery.]

the tempest of the Turkish arms soon burst on his head; and after the

loss of Adrianople and Romania, he was enclosed in his capital, the

vassal of the haughty Amurath, with the miserable hope of being the last devoured by the savage. In this abject state, Palæologus embraced the

resolution of embarking for Venice, and casting himself at the feet of the pope: he was the first of the Byzantine princes who had ever

visited the unknown regions of the West, yet in them alone he could seek consolation or relief; and with less violation of his dignity he might appear in the sacred college than at the Ottoman \_Porte\_. After a long absence, the Roman pontiffs were returning from Avignon to the banks

of the Tyber: Urban the Fifth, [8] of a mild and virtuous character, encouraged or allowed the pilgrimage of the Greek prince; and, within the same year, enjoyed the glory of receiving in the Vatican the two Imperial shadows who represented the majesty of Constantine and charlemagne. In this suppliant visit, the emperor of Constantinople, whose vanity was lost in his distress, gave more than could be expected

of empty sounds and formal submissions. A previous trial was imposed; and, in the presence of four cardinals, he acknowledged, as a true catholic, the supremacy of the pope, and the double procession of the

Holy Ghost. After this purification, he was introduced to a public audience in the church of St. Peter: Urban, in the midst of the cardinals, was seated on his throne; the Greek monarch, after three

genuflections, devoutly kissed the feet, the hands, and at length the

mouth, of the holy father, who celebrated high mass in his presence, allowed him to lead the bridle of his mule, and treated him with a

sumptuous banquet in the Vatican. The entertainment of Palæologus was friendly and honorable; yet some difference was observed between the emperors of the East and West; [9] nor could the former be entitled to the rare privilege of chanting the gospel in the rank of a deacon. [10]

In favor of his proselyte, Urban strove to rekindle the zeal of the french king and the other powers of the West; but he found them cold in the general cause, and active only in their domestic quarrels. The last

hope of the emperor was in an English mercenary, John Hawkwood, [11]

or Acuto, who, with a band of adventurers, the white brotherhood,

had ravaged Italy from the Alps to Calabria; sold his services to the

hostile states; and incurred a just excommunication by shooting his arrows against the papal residence. A special license was granted to

negotiate with the outlaw, but the forces, or the spirit, of Hawkwood, were unequal to the enterprise: and it was for the advantage, perhaps,

of Palæologus to be disappointed of succor, that must have been costly, that could not be effectual, and which might have been dangerous. [12] the disconsolate Greek [13] prepared for his return, but even his return was impeded by a most ignominious obstacle. On his arrival at Venice, he

had borrowed large sums at exorbitant usury; but his coffers were empty,

his creditors were impatient, and his person was detained as the best

security for the payment. His eldest son, Andronicus, the regent of constantinople, was repeatedly urged to exhaust every resource; and even by stripping the churches, to extricate his father from captivity and disgrace. But the unnatural youth was insensible of the disgrace, and

secretly pleased with the captivity of the emperor: the state was poor, the clergy were obstinate; nor could some religious scruple be wanting to excuse the guilt of his indifference and delay. Such undutiful

neglect was severely reproved by the piety of his brother Manuel, who

instantly sold or mortgaged all that he possessed, embarked for Venice,

relieved his father, and pledged his own freedom to be responsible for the debt. On his return to Constantinople, the parent and king distinguished his two sons with suitable rewards; but the faith and

manners of the slothful Palæologus had not been improved by his Roman

pilgrimage; and his apostasy or conversion, devoid of any spiritual or temporal effects, was speedily forgotten by the Greeks and Latins. [14]

[Footnote 8: See the two first original Lives of Urban V., (in Muratori,

Script. Rerum Italicarum, tom. iii. P. ii. p. 623, 635,) and the ecclesiastical Annals of Spondanus, (tom. i. p. 573, A.D. 1369, No. 7,) and Raynaldus, (Fleury, Hist. Ecclés. tom. xx. p. 223, 224.) Yet, from

some variations, I suspect the papal writers of slightly magnifying the

genuflections of Palæologus.]

[Footnote 9: Paullo minus quam si fuisset Imperator Romanorum. Yet his title of Imperator Græcorum was no longer disputed, (Vit. Urban V. p.

623.)]

[Footnote 10: It was confined to the successors of Charlemagne, and to them only on Christmas-day. On all other festivals these Imperial deacons were content to serve the pope, as he said mass, with the book and the \_corporale\_. Yet the abbé de Sade generously thinks that the

merits of Charles IV. might have entitled him, though not on the proper day, (A.D. 1368, November 1,) to the whole privilege. He seems to affix a just value on the privilege and the man, (Vie de Petrarque, tom. iii.

p. 735.)]

[Footnote 11: Through some Italian corruptions, the etymology of

\_Falcone in bosco\_, (Matteo Villani, l. xi. c. 79, in Muratori, tom.

xv. p. 746,) suggests the English word \_Hawkwood\_, the true name of

our adventurous countryman, (Thomas Walsingham, Hist. Anglican. inter

Scriptores Camdeni, p. 184.) After two-and-twenty victories, and one defeat, he died, in 1394, general of the Florentines, and was buried with such honors as the republic has not paid to Dante or Petrarch,

(Muratori, Annali d'Italia, tom. xii. p. 212--371.)]

[Footnote 12: This torrent of English (by birth or service) overflowed from France into Italy after the peace of Bretigny in 1630. Yet the exclamation of Muratori (Annali, tom. xii. p. 197) is rather true than civil. "Ci mancava ancor questo, che dopo essere calpestrata l'Italia da tanti masnadieri Tedeschi ed Ungheri, venissero fin dall' Inghliterra

nuovi \_cani\_ a finire di divorarla."]

[Footnote 13: Chalcondyles, l. i. p. 25, 26. The Greek supposes his

journey to the king of France, which is sufficiently refuted by the

silence of the national historians. Nor am I much more inclined to believe, that Palæologus departed from Italy, valde bene consolatus et contentus, (Vit. Urban V. p. 623.)]

[Footnote 14: His return in 1370, and the coronation of Manuel, Sept.

25, 1373, (Ducange, Fam. Byzant. p. 241,) leaves some intermediate æra for the conspiracy and punishment of Andronicus.]

thirty years after the return of Palæologus, his son and successor,

Manuel, from a similar motive, but on a larger scale, again visited the countries of the West. In a preceding chapter I have related his treaty with Bajazet, the violation of that treaty, the siege or blockade of constantinople, and the French succor under the command of the gallant boucicault. [15] By his ambassadors, Manuel had solicited the Latin

powers; but it was thought that the presence of a distressed monarch would draw tears and supplies from the hardest Barbarians; [16] and the

marshal who advised the journey prepared the reception of the Byzantine

prince. The land was occupied by the Turks; but the navigation of Venice was safe and open: Italy received him as the first, or, at least, as the

second, of the Christian princes; Manuel was pitied as the champion and confessor of the faith; and the dignity of his behavior prevented that

pity from sinking into contempt. From Venice he proceeded to Padua and

Pavia; and even the duke of Milan, a secret ally of Bajazet, gave him

safe and honorable conduct to the verge of his dominions. [17] On the confines of France [18] the royal officers undertook the care of his

person, journey, and expenses; and two thousand of the richest citizens,

in arms and on horseback, came forth to meet him as far as Charenton, in the neighborhood of the capital. At the gates of Paris, he was saluted by the chancellor and the parliament; and Charles the Sixth, attended by

his princes and nobles, welcomed his brother with a cordial embrace. the successor of Constantine was clothed in a robe of white silk, and

mounted on a milk-white steed, a circumstance, in the French ceremonial,

of singular importance: the white color is considered as the symbol of

sovereignty; and, in a late visit, the German emperor, after a haughty demand and a peevish refusal, had been reduced to content himself with a black courser. Manuel was lodged in the Louvre; a succession of feasts and balls, the pleasures of the banquet and the chase, were ingeniously

varied by the politeness of the French, to display their magnificence, and amuse his grief: he was indulged in the liberty of his chapel; and the doctors of the Sorbonne were astonished, and possibly scandalized, by the language, the rites, and the vestments, of his Greek clergy. but the slightest glance on the state of the kingdom must teach him to despair of any effectual assistance. The unfortunate Charles, though

he enjoyed some lucid intervals, continually relapsed into furious or

stupid insanity: the reins of government were alternately seized by his brother and uncle, the dukes of Orleans and Burgundy, whose factious competition prepared the miseries of civil war. The former was a gay

youth, dissolved in luxury and love: the latter was the father of John count of Nevers, who had so lately been ransomed from Turkish captivity; and, if the fearless son was ardent to revenge his defeat, the more

prudent Burgundy was content with the cost and peril of the first experiment. When Manuel had satiated the curiosity, and perhaps fatigued the patience, of the French, he resolved on a visit to the adjacent

island. In his progress from Dover, he was entertained at Canterbury with due reverence by the prior and monks of St. Austin; and, on blackheath, King Henry the Fourth, with the English court, saluted the Greek hero, (I copy our old historian,) who, during many days, was

lodged and treated in London as emperor of the East. [19] But the state

of England was still more adverse to the design of the holy war. In the

same year, the hereditary sovereign had been deposed and murdered: the

reigning prince was a successful usurper, whose ambition was punished by

jealousy and remorse: nor could Henry of Lancaster withdraw his person

or forces from the defence of a throne incessantly shaken by conspiracy and rebellion. He pitied, he praised, he feasted, the emperor of constantinople; but if the English monarch assumed the cross, it was

only to appease his people, and perhaps his conscience, by the merit or

semblance of his pious intention. [20] Satisfied, however, with gifts and

honors, Manuel returned to Paris; and, after a residence of two years

in the West, shaped his course through Germany and Italy, embarked at

Venice, and patiently expected, in the Morea, the moment of his ruin or deliverance. Yet he had escaped the ignominious necessity of offering

his religion to public or private sale. The Latin church was distracted by the great schism; the kings, the nations, the universities, of Europe were divided in their obedience between the popes of Rome and Avignon; and the emperor, anxious to conciliate the friendship of both parties, abstained from any correspondence with the indigent and unpopular

rivals. His journey coincided with the year of the jubilee; but he

passed through Italy without desiring, or deserving, the plenary

indulgence which abolished the guilt or penance of the sins of the faithful. The Roman pope was offended by this neglect; accused him of

irreverence to an image of Christ; and exhorted the princes of Italy to

reject and abandon the obstinate schismatic. [21]

[Footnote 15: Mémoires de Boucicault, P. i. c. 35, 36.]

[Footnote 16: His journey into the west of Europe is slightly, and I believe reluctantly, noticed by Chalcondyles (l. ii. c. 44--50) and ducas, (c. 14.)]

[Footnote 17: Muratori, Annali d'Italia, tom. xii. p. 406. John Galeazzo was the first and most powerful duke of Milan. His connection with bajazet is attested by Froissard; and he contributed to save and deliver the French captives of Nicopolis.]

[Footnote 18: For the reception of Manuel at Paris, see Spondanus,

(Annal. Ecclés. tom. i. p. 676, 677, A.D. 1400, No. 5,) who quotes

Juvenal des Ursins and the monk of St. Denys; and Villaret, (Hist. de france, tom. xii. p. 331--334,) who quotes nobody according to the last fashion of the French writers.]

[Footnote 19: A short note of Manuel in England is extracted by Dr. Hody from a MS. at Lambeth, (de Græcis illustribus, p. 14,) C. P. Imperator, diu variisque et horrendis Paganorum insultibus coarctatus, ut pro eisdem resistentiam triumphalem perquireret, Anglorum Regem visitare decrevit, &c. Rex (says Walsingham, p. 364) nobili apparatû... suscepit

(ut decuit) tantum Heroa, duxitque Londonias, et per multos dies exhibuit gloriose, pro expensis hospitii sui solvens, et eum respiciens tanto fastigio donativis. He repeats the same in his Upodigma Neustriæ,

(p. 556.)]

[Footnote 20: Shakspeare begins and ends the play of Henry IV. with that prince's vow of a crusade, and his belief that he should die in

Jerusalem.]

[Footnote 21: This fact is preserved in the Historia Politica, A.D.

1391--1478, published by Martin Crusius, (Turco Græcia, p. 1--43.) the image of Christ, which the Greek emperor refused to worship, was

probably a work of sculpture.]

chapter LXVI: Union Of The Greek And Latin Churches.--Part II.

during the period of the crusades, the Greeks beheld with astonishment and terror the perpetual stream of emigration that flowed, and continued to flow, from the unknown climates of their West. The visits of their

last emperors removed the veil of separation, and they disclosed to their eyes the powerful nations of Europe, whom they no longer presumed to brand with the name of Barbarians. The observations of Manuel, and

his more inquisitive followers, have been preserved by a Byzantine

historian of the times: [22] his scattered ideas I shall collect and abridge; and it may be amusing enough, perhaps instructive, to contemplate the rude pictures of Germany, France, and England, whose ancient and modern state are so familiar to \_our\_ minds. I. Germany

(says the Greek Chalcondyles) is of ample latitude from Vienna to the

ocean; and it stretches (a strange geography) from Prague in Bohemia to the River Tartessus, and the Pyrenæan Mountains. [23] The soil, except

in figs and olives, is sufficiently fruitful; the air is salubrious; the bodies of the natives are robust and healthy; and these cold regions are

seldom visited with the calamities of pestilence, or earthquakes. After the Scythians or Tartars, the Germans are the most numerous of nations: they are brave and patient; and were they united under a single head, their force would be irresistible. By the gift of the pope, they have acquired the privilege of choosing the Roman emperor; [24] nor is any

people more devoutly attached to the faith and obedience of the Latin

patriarch. The greatest part of the country is divided among the princes and prelates; but Strasburg, Cologne, Hamburgh, and more than two

hundred free cities, are governed by sage and equal laws, according to the will, and for the advantage, of the whole community. The use of duels, or single combats on foot, prevails among them in peace and war: their industry excels in all the mechanic arts; and the Germans may boast of the invention of gunpowder and cannon, which is now diffused

over the greatest part of the world. II. The kingdom of France is spread above fifteen or twenty days' journey from Germany to Spain, and from the Alps to the British Ocean; containing many flourishing cities, and among these Paris, the seat of the king, which surpasses the rest

in riches and luxury. Many princes and lords alternately wait in his

palace, and acknowledge him as their sovereign: the most powerful are the dukes of Bretagne and Burgundy; of whom the latter possesses the wealthy province of Flanders, whose harbors are frequented by the ships and merchants of our own, and the more remote, seas. The French are an ancient and opulent people; and their language and manners, though

somewhat different, are not dissimilar from those of the Italians. Vain

of the Imperial dignity of Charlemagne, of their victories over the

Saracens, and of the exploits of their heroes, Oliver and Rowland,

[25] they esteem themselves the first of the western nations; but this foolish arrogance has been recently humbled by the unfortunate events of their wars against the English, the inhabitants of the British island.

III. Britain, in the ocean, and opposite to the shores of Flanders,

may be considered either as one, or as three islands; but the whole

is united by a common interest, by the same manners, and by a similar

government. The measure of its circumference is five thousand stadia: the land is overspread with towns and villages: though destitute of wine, and not abounding in fruit-trees, it is fertile in wheat and barley; in honey and wool; and much cloth is manufactured by the

inhabitants. In populousness and power, in richness and luxury, London,

[26] the metropolis of the isle, may claim a preeminence over all the cities of the West. It is situate on the Thames, a broad and rapid

river, which at the distance of thirty miles falls into the Gallic

Sea; and the daily flow and ebb of the tide affords a safe entrance and departure to the vessels of commerce. The king is head of a powerful and turbulent aristocracy: his principal vassals hold their estates by a free and unalterable tenure; and the laws define the limits of his authority and their obedience. The kingdom has been often afflicted by foreign conquest and domestic sedition: but the natives are bold and

hardy, renowned in arms and victorious in war. The form of their shields

or targets is derived from the Italians, that of their swords from the

Greeks; the use of the long bow is the peculiar and decisive advantage

of the English. Their language bears no affinity to the idioms of the Continent: in the habits of domestic life, they are not easily distinguished from their neighbors of France: but the most singular circumstance of their manners is their disregard of conjugal honor and of female chastity. In their mutual visits, as the first act of

hospitality, the guest is welcomed in the embraces of their wives and daughters: among friends they are lent and borrowed without shame; nor are the islanders offended at this strange commerce, and its inevitable consequences. [27] Informed as we are of the customs of Old England and assured of the virtue of our mothers, we may smile at the credulity, or

resent the injustice, of the Greek, who must have confounded a modest

salute [28] with a criminal embrace. But his credulity and injustice

may teach an important lesson; to distrust the accounts of foreign and

remote nations, and to suspend our belief of every tale that deviates from the laws of nature and the character of man. [29]

[Footnote 22: The Greek and Turkish history of Laonicus Chalcondyles ends with the winter of 1463; and the abrupt conclusion seems to mark, that he laid down his pen in the same year. We know that he was an athenian, and that some contemporaries of the same name contributed to the revival of the Greek language in Italy. But in his numerous digressions, the modest historian has never introduced himself; and his editor Leunclavius, as well as Fabricius, (Bibliot. Græc. tom. vi. p.

474,) seems ignorant of his life and character. For his descriptions of

Germany, France, and England, see l. ii. p. 36, 37, 44--50.]

[Footnote 23: I shall not animadvert on the geographical errors of chalcondyles. In this instance, he perhaps followed, and mistook,

Herodotus, (l. ii. c. 33,) whose text may be explained, (Herodote de

Larcher, tom. ii. p. 219, 220,) or whose ignorance may be excused.

Had these modern Greeks never read Strabo, or any of their lesser

geographers?]

[Footnote 24: A citizen of new Rome, while new Rome survived, would have

scorned to dignify the German 'Rhx with titles of BasileuV or Autokratwr

'Rwmaiwn: but all pride was extinct in the bosom of Chalcondyles; and he describes the Byzantine prince, and his subject, by the proper, though

humble, names of ''EllhneV and BasileuV 'Ellhnwn.]

[Footnote 25: Most of the old romances were translated in the xivth century into French prose, and soon became the favorite amusement of the

knights and ladies in the court of Charles VI. If a Greek believed in the exploits of Rowland and Oliver, he may surely be excused, since the

monks of St. Denys, the national historians, have inserted the fables of archbishop Turpin in their Chronicles of France.]

[Footnote 26: Londinh.... de te poliV dunamei te proecousa tvn en th

nhsw tauth pasvn polewn, olbw te kai th allh eudaimonia oudemiaV tvn

peoV esperan leipomenh. Even since the time of Fitzstephen, (the xiith century,) London appears to have maintained this preeminence of wealth and magnitude; and her gradual increase has, at least, kept pace with the general improvement of Europe.]

[Footnote 27: If the double sense of the verb Kuw (osculor, and in utero

gero) be equivocal, the context and pious horror of Chalcondyles can

leave no doubt of his meaning and mistake, (p. 49.) \*

Note: \* I can discover no "pious horror" in the plain manner in which chalcondyles relates this strange usage. He says, oude aiscunun tovto feoei eautoiV kuesqai taV te gunaikaV autvn kai taV qugateraV, yet these are expression beyond what would be used, if the ambiguous word kuesqai were taken in its more innocent sense. Nor can the phrase parecontai taV eautvn gunaikaV en toiV epithdeioiV well bear a less coarse

interpretation. Gibbon is possibly right as to the origin of this extraordinary mistake.--M.]

[Footnote 28: Erasmus (Epist. Fausto Andrelino) has a pretty passage on the English fashion of kissing strangers on their arrival and departure, from whence, however, he draws no scandalous inferences.]

[Footnote 29: Perhaps we may apply this remark to the community of wives among the old Britons, as it is supposed by Cæsar and Dion, (Dion cassius, l. lxii. tom. ii. p. 1007,) with Reimar's judicious annotation. the \_Arreoy\_ of Otaheite, so certain at first, is become less visible and scandalous, in proportion as we have studied the manners of that

gentle and amorous people.]

after his return, and the victory of Timour, Manuel reigned many years

in prosperity and peace. As long as the sons of Bajazet solicited his friendship and spared his dominions, he was satisfied with the national

religion; and his leisure was employed in composing twenty theological dialogues for its defence. The appearance of the Byzantine ambassadors at the council of Constance, [30] announces the restoration of the turkish power, as well as of the Latin church: the conquest of the

sultans, Mahomet and Amurath, reconciled the emperor to the Vatican; and the siege of Constantinople almost tempted him to acquiesce in the double procession of the Holy Ghost. When Martin the Fifth ascended without a rival the chair of St. Peter, a friendly intercourse of

letters and embassies was revived between the East and West. Ambition on

one side, and distress on the other, dictated the same decent language

of charity and peace: the artful Greek expressed a desire of marrying

his six sons to Italian princesses; and the Roman, not less artful, despatched the daughter of the marquis of Montferrat, with a company

of noble virgins, to soften, by their charms, the obstinacy of the

schismatics. Yet under this mask of zeal, a discerning eye will

perceive that all was hollow and insincere in the court and church of constantinople. According to the vicissitudes of danger and repose, the emperor advanced or retreated; alternately instructed and disavowed his

ministers; and escaped from the importunate pressure by urging the duty

of inquiry, the obligation of collecting the sense of his patriarchs and bishops, and the impossibility of convening them at a time when the Turkish arms were at the gates of his capital. From a review of the

public transactions it will appear that the Greeks insisted on three

successive measures, a succor, a council, and a final reunion, while the Latins eluded the second, and only promised the first, as a consequential and voluntary reward of the third. But we have an

opportunity of unfolding the most secret intentions of Manuel, as he explained them in a private conversation without artifice or disguise.

In his declining age, the emperor had associated John Palæologus, the

second of the name, and the eldest of his sons, on whom he devolved the

greatest part of the authority and weight of government. One day, in the

presence only of the historian Phranza, [31] his favorite chamberlain,

he opened to his colleague and successor the true principle of his

negotiations with the pope. [32] "Our last resource," said Manuel, against the Turks, "is their fear of our union with the Latins, of the warlike nations of the West, who may arm for our relief and for their destruction. As often as you are threatened by the miscreants, present this danger before their eyes. Propose a council; consult on the means; but ever delay and avoid the convocation of an assembly, which cannot tend either to our spiritual or temporal emolument. The Latins are

proud; the Greeks are obstinate; neither party will recede or retract; and the attempt of a perfect union will confirm the schism, alienate the churches, and leave us, without hope or defence, at the mercy of the barbarians." Impatient of this salutary lesson, the royal youth arose from his seat, and departed in silence; and the wise monarch (continued

Phranza) casting his eyes on me, thus resumed his discourse: "My son deems himself a great and heroic prince; but, alas! our miserable age does not afford scope for heroism or greatness. His daring spirit might

have suited the happier times of our ancestors; but the present state

requires not an emperor, but a cautious steward of the last relics of

our fortunes. Well do I remember the lofty expectations which he built

on our alliance with Mustapha; and much do I fear, that this rash courage will urge the ruin of our house, and that even religion may

precipitate our downfall." Yet the experience and authority of Manuel

preserved the peace, and eluded the council; till, in the seventy-eighth

year of his age, and in the habit of a monk, he terminated his career, dividing his precious movables among his children and the poor, his

physicians and his favorite servants. Of his six sons, [33] Andronicus the Second was invested with the principality of Thessalonica, and died

of a leprosy soon after the sale of that city to the Venetians and

its final conquest by the Turks. Some fortunate incidents had restored

Peloponnesus, or the Morea, to the empire; and in his more prosperous days, Manuel had fortified the narrow isthmus of six miles [34] with a stone wall and one hundred and fifty-three towers. The wall was

overthrown by the first blast of the Ottomans; the fertile peninsula

might have been sufficient for the four younger brothers, Theodore and constantine, Demetrius and Thomas; but they wasted in domestic contests the remains of their strength; and the least successful of the rivals were reduced to a life of dependence in the Byzantine palace.

[Footnote 30: See Lenfant, Hist. du Concile de Constance, tom. ii.

p. 576; and or the ecclesiastical history of the times, the Annals of

Spondanus the Bibliothèque of Dupin, tom. xii., and xxist and xxiid

volumes of the History, or rather the Continuation, of Fleury.]

[Footnote 31: From his early youth, George Phranza, or Phranzes, was employed in the service of the state and palace; and Hanckius (de

Script. Byzant. P. i. c. 40) has collected his life from his own writings. He was no more than four-and-twenty years of age at the death

of Manuel, who recommended him in the strongest terms to his successor:

Imprimis vero hunc Phranzen tibi commendo, qui ministravit mihi fideliter et diligenter (Phranzes, l. ii. c. i.) Yet the emperor John was cold, and he preferred the service of the despots of Peloponnesus.]

[Footnote 32: See Phranzes, l. ii. c. 13. While so many manuscripts

of the Greek original are extant in the libraries of Rome, Milan, the escurial, &c., it is a matter of shame and reproach, that we should be

reduced to the Latin version, or abstract, of James Pontanus, (ad calcem theophylact, Simocattæ: Ingolstadt, 1604,) so deficient in accuracy and elegance, (Fabric. Bibliot. Græc. tom. vi. p. 615--620.) \*

Note: \* The Greek text of Phranzes was edited by F. C. Alter Vindobonæ,

1796. It has been re-edited by Bekker for the new edition of the byzantines, Bonn, 1838.--M.]

[Footnote 33: See Ducange, Fam. Byzant. p. 243--248.]

[Footnote 34: The exact measure of the Hexamilion, from sea to sea, was

3800 orgyiæ, or \_toises\_, of six Greek feet, (Phranzes, l. i. c. 38,) which would produce a Greek mile, still smaller than that of 660 French

\_toises\_, which is assigned by D'Anville, as still in use in Turkey. five miles are commonly reckoned for the breadth of the isthmus. See the travels of Spon, Wheeler and Chandler.]

the eldest of the sons of Manuel, John Palæologus the Second, was acknowledged, after his father's death, as the sole emperor of the

Greeks. He immediately proceeded to repudiate his wife, and to contract a new marriage with the princess of Trebizond: beauty was in his eyes the first qualification of an empress; and the clergy had yielded to his firm assurance, that unless he might be indulged in a divorce, he would

retire to a cloister, and leave the throne to his brother Constantine. the first, and in truth the only, victory of Palæologus, was over a

Jew, [35] whom, after a long and learned dispute, he converted to the christian faith; and this momentous conquest is carefully recorded in the history of the times. But he soon resumed the design of uniting the east and West; and, regardless of his father's advice, listened, as it

should seem with sincerity, to the proposal of meeting the pope in a general council beyond the Adriatic. This dangerous project was encouraged by Martin the Fifth, and coldly entertained by his successor eugenius, till, after a tedious negotiation, the emperor received a

summons from the Latin assembly of a new character, the independent

prelates of Basil, who styled themselves the representatives and judges

of the Catholic church.

[Footnote 35: The first objection of the Jews is on the death of Christ:

if it were voluntary, Christ was a suicide; which the emperor parries with a mystery. They then dispute on the conception of the Virgin, the sense of the prophecies, &c., (Phranzes, l. ii. c. 12, a whole chapter.)]

the Roman pontiff had fought and conquered in the cause of ecclesiastical freedom; but the victorious clergy were soon exposed to the tyranny of their deliverer; and his sacred character was

invulnerable to those arms which they found so keen and effectual against the civil magistrate. Their great charter, the right of election, was annihilated by appeals, evaded by trusts or commendams, disappointed by reversionary grants, and superseded by previous and arbitrary reservations. [36] A public auction was instituted in the court

of Rome: the cardinals and favorites were enriched with the spoils of

nations; and every country might complain that the most important and valuable benefices were accumulated on the heads of aliens and absentees. During their residence at Avignon, the ambition of the

popes subsided in the meaner passions of avarice [37] and luxury: they

rigorously imposed on the clergy the tributes of first-fruits and tenths; but they freely tolerated the impunity of vice, disorder, and corruption. These manifold scandals were aggravated by the great schism

of the West, which continued above fifty years. In the furious conflicts

of Rome and Avignon, the vices of the rivals were mutually exposed; and their precarious situation degraded their authority, relaxed their discipline, and multiplied their wants and exactions. To heal the wounds, and restore the monarchy, of the church, the synods of Pisa and constance [38] were successively convened; but these great assemblies, conscious of their strength, resolved to vindicate the privileges of the christian aristocracy. From a personal sentence against two pontiffs, whom they rejected, and a third, their acknowledged sovereign, whom they deposed, the fathers of Constance proceeded to examine the nature and

limits of the Roman supremacy; nor did they separate till they had established the authority, above the pope, of a general council. It was enacted, that, for the government and reformation of the church, such assemblies should be held at regular intervals; and that each synod, before its dissolution, should appoint the time and place of the

subsequent meeting. By the influence of the court of Rome, the next convocation at Sienna was easily eluded; but the bold and vigorous

proceedings of the council of Basil [39] had almost been fatal to the

reigning pontiff, Eugenius the Fourth. A just suspicion of his design

prompted the fathers to hasten the promulgation of their first decree, that the representatives of the church-militant on earth were invested with a divine and spiritual jurisdiction over all Christians, without excepting the pope; and that a general council could not be dissolved,

prorogued, or transferred, unless by their free deliberation and consent. On the notice that Eugenius had fulminated a bull for that

purpose, they ventured to summon, to admonish, to threaten, to censure the contumacious successor of St. Peter. After many delays, to allow time for repentance, they finally declared, that, unless he submitted within the term of sixty days, he was suspended from the exercise of all temporal and ecclesiastical authority. And to mark their jurisdiction

over the prince as well as the priest, they assumed the government of avignon, annulled the alienation of the sacred patrimony, and protected

Rome from the imposition of new taxes. Their boldness was justified, not

only by the general opinion of the clergy, but by the support and power

of the first monarchs of Christendom: the emperor Sigismond declared

himself the servant and protector of the synod; Germany and France adhered to their cause; the duke of Milan was the enemy of Eugenius; and

he was driven from the Vatican by an insurrection of the Roman people.

Rejected at the same time by temporal and spiritual subjects, submission was his only choice: by a most humiliating bull, the pope repealed his

own acts, and ratified those of the council; incorporated his legates and cardinals with that venerable body; and \_seemed\_ to resign himself to the decrees of the supreme legislature. Their fame pervaded the countries of the East: and it was in their presence that Sigismond

received the ambassadors of the Turkish sultan, [40] who laid at his feet twelve large vases, filled with robes of silk and pieces of gold. The fathers of Basil aspired to the glory of reducing the Greeks, as well as the Bohemians, within the pale of the church; and their deputies invited the emperor and patriarch of Constantinople to unite with an assembly which possessed the confidence of the Western nations. Palæologus was

not averse to the proposal; and his ambassadors were introduced with due

honors into the Catholic senate. But the choice of the place appeared to be an insuperable obstacle, since he refused to pass the Alps, or the sea of Sicily, and positively required that the synod should be adjourned to some convenient city in Italy, or at least on the Danube. the other articles of this treaty were more readily stipulated: it was agreed to defray the travelling expenses of the emperor, with a train of

seven hundred persons, [41] to remit an immediate sum of eight thousand ducats [42] for the accommodation of the Greek clergy; and in his absence to grant a supply of ten thousand ducats, with three hundred archers and

some galleys, for the protection of Constantinople. The city of Avignon advanced the funds for the preliminary expenses; and the embarkation was

prepared at Marseilles with some difficulty and delay.

[Footnote 36: In the treatise delle Materie Beneficiarie of Fra Paolo,

(in the ivth volume of the last, and best, edition of his works,) the

papal system is deeply studied and freely described. Should Rome and

her religion be annihilated, this golden volume may still survive, a

philosophical history, and a salutary warning.]

[Footnote 37: Pope John XXII. (in 1334) left behind him, at Avignon, eighteen millions of gold florins, and the value of seven millions more

in plate and jewels. See the Chronicle of John Villani, (l. xi. c. 20,

in Muratori's Collection, tom. xiii. p. 765,) whose brother received the account from the papal treasurers. A treasure of six or eight millions

sterling in the xivth century is enormous, and almost incredible.]

[Footnote 38: A learned and liberal Protestant, M. Lenfant, has given a fair history of the councils of Pisa, Constance, and Basil, in six

volumes in quarto; but the last part is the most hasty and imperfect, except in the account of the troubles of Bohemia.]

[Footnote 39: The original acts or minutes of the council of Basil are

preserved in the public library, in twelve volumes in folio. Basil was a free city, conveniently situate on the Rhine, and guarded by the arms

of the neighboring and confederate Swiss. In 1459, the university was founded by Pope Pius II., (Æneas Sylvius,) who had been secretary to the council. But what is a council, or a university, to the presses o Froben and the studies of Erasmus?]

[Footnote 40: This Turkish embassy, attested only by Crantzius, is

related with some doubt by the annalist Spondanus, A.D. 1433, No. 25, tom. i. p. 824.]

[Footnote 41: Syropulus, p. 19. In this list, the Greeks appear to

have exceeded the real numbers of the clergy and laity which afterwards attended the emperor and patriarch, but which are not clearly specified by the great ecclesiarch. The 75,000 florins which they asked in this

negotiation of the pope, (p. 9,) were more than they could hope or want.]

[Footnote 42: I use indifferently the words \_ducat\_ and \_florin\_, which derive their names, the former from the \_dukes\_ of Milan, the latter from the republic of \_Florence\_. These gold pieces, the first that were coined in Italy, perhaps in the Latin world, may be compared in weight and value to one third of the English guinea.]

In his distress, the friendship of Palæologus was disputed by the ecclesiastical powers of the West; but the dexterous activity of a

monarch prevailed over the slow debates and inflexible temper of a

republic. The decrees of Basil continually tended to circumscribe the despotism of the pope, and to erect a supreme and perpetual tribunal

in the church. Eugenius was impatient of the yoke; and the union of the

Greeks might afford a decent pretence for translating a rebellious synod from the Rhine to the Po. The independence of the fathers was lost

if they passed the Alps: Savoy or Avignon, to which they acceded with

reluctance, were described at Constantinople as situate far beyond the

pillars of Hercules; [43] the emperor and his clergy were apprehensive

of the dangers of a long navigation; they were offended by a haughty declaration, that after suppressing the \_new\_ heresy of the Bohemians, the council would soon eradicate the \_old\_ heresy of the Greeks. [44] On the side of Eugenius, all was smooth, and yielding, and respectful; and

he invited the Byzantine monarch to heal by his presence the schism of the Latin, as well as of the Eastern, church. Ferrara, near the coast of the Adriatic, was proposed for their amicable interview; and with some

indulgence of forgery and theft, a surreptitious decree was procured, which transferred the synod, with its own consent, to that Italian city.

Nine galleys were equipped for the service at Venice, and in the Isle

of Candia; their diligence anticipated the slower vessels of Basil: the

Roman admiral was commissioned to burn, sink, and destroy; [45] and these

priestly squadrons might have encountered each other in the same seas where Athens and Sparta had formerly contended for the preeminence of

glory. Assaulted by the importunity of the factions, who were ready to fight for the possession of his person, Palæologus hesitated before

he left his palace and country on a perilous experiment. His father's advice still dwelt on his memory; and reason must suggest, that since the Latins were divided among themselves, they could never unite in a foreign cause. Sigismond dissuaded the unreasonable adventure; his advice was impartial, since he adhered to the council; and it was enforced by the strange belief, that the German Cæsar would nominate a Greek his heir and successor in the empire of the West. [46] Even the turkish sultan was a counsellor whom it might be unsafe to trust, but whom it was dangerous to offend. Amurath was unskilled in the disputes, but he was apprehensive of the union, of the Christians. From his own treasures, he offered to relieve the wants of the Byzantine court; yet

he declared with seeming magnanimity, that Constantinople should be secure and inviolate, in the absence of her sovereign. [47] The

resolution of Palæologus was decided by the most splendid gifts and the

most specious promises: he wished to escape for a while from a scene of danger and distress and after dismissing with an ambiguous answer the

messengers of the council, he declared his intention of embarking in the

Roman galleys. The age of the patriarch Joseph was more susceptible of fear than of hope; he trembled at the perils of the sea, and expressed

his apprehension, that his feeble voice, with thirty perhaps of his

orthodox brethren, would be oppressed in a foreign land by the power and numbers of a Latin synod. He yielded to the royal mandate, to the flattering assurance, that he would be heard as the oracle of nations, and to the secret wish of learning from his brother of the West, to deliver the church from the yoke of kings. [48] The five \_cross-bearers\_,

or dignitaries, of St. Sophia, were bound to attend his person; and one

of these, the great ecclesiarch or preacher, Sylvester Syropulus, [49]

has composed a free and curious history [50] of the \_false\_ union. [51]

Of the clergy that reluctantly obeyed the summons of the emperor and the

patriarch, submission was the first duty, and patience the most useful

virtue. In a chosen list of twenty bishops, we discover the metropolitan titles of Heracleæ and Cyzicus, Nice and Nicomedia, Ephesus and trebizond, and the personal merit of Mark and Bessarion who, in the confidence of their learning and eloquence, were promoted to the episcopal rank. Some monks and philosophers were named to display the

science and sanctity of the Greek church; and the service of the choir was performed by a select band of singers and musicians. The patriarchs

of Alexandria, Antioch, and Jerusalem, appeared by their genuine or fictitious deputies; the primate of Russia represented a national church, and the Greeks might contend with the Latins in the extent of their spiritual empire. The precious vases of St. Sophia were exposed to the winds and waves, that the patriarch might officiate with becoming

splendor: whatever gold the emperor could procure, was expended in the

massy ornaments of his bed and chariot; [52] and while they affected to

maintain the prosperity of their ancient fortune, they quarrelled for the division of fifteen thousand ducats, the first alms of the Roman

pontiff. After the necessary preparations, John Palæologus, with a

numerous train, accompanied by his brother Demetrius, and the most

respectable persons of the church and state, embarked in eight vessels with sails and oars which steered through the Turkish Straits of

Gallipoli to the Archipelago, the Morea, and the Adriatic Gulf. [53]

[Footnote 43: At the end of the Latin version of Phranzes, we read a

long Greek epistle or declamation of George of Trebizond, who advises the emperor to prefer Eugenius and Italy. He treats with contempt the

schismatic assembly of Basil, the Barbarians of Gaul and Germany, who

had conspired to transport the chair of St. Peter beyond the Alps; oi aqlioi (says he) se kai thn meta sou sunodon exw tvn 'Hrakleiwn sthlwn

kai pera Gadhrwn exaxousi. Was Constantinople unprovided with a map?]

[Footnote 44: Syropulus (p. 26--31) attests his own indignation, and that of his countrymen; and the Basil deputies, who excused the rash declaration, could neither deny nor alter an act of the council.]

[Footnote 45: Condolmieri, the pope's nephew and admiral, expressly declared, oti orismon eceipara tou Papa ina polemhsh opou an eurh ta

katerga thV Sunodou, kai ei dunhqh, katadush, kai ajanish. The naval

orders of the synod were less peremptory, and, till the hostile

squadrons appeared, both parties tried to conceal their quarrel from the

Greeks.]

[Footnote 46: Syropulus mentions the hopes of Palæologus, (p. 36,) and the last advice of Sigismond,(p. 57.) At Corfu, the Greek emperor was

informed of his friend's death; had he known it sooner, he would have

returned home,(p. 79.)]

[Footnote 47: Phranzes himself, though from different motives, was of the advice of Amurath, (l. ii. c. 13.) Utinam ne synodus ista unquam fuisset, si tantes offensiones et detrimenta paritura erat. This Turkish embassy is likewise mentioned by Syropulus, (p. 58;) and Amurath kept

his word. He might threaten, (p. 125, 219,) but he never attacked, the city.]

[Footnote 48: The reader will smile at the simplicity with which he

imparted these hopes to his favorites: toiauthn plhrojorian schsein

hlpize kai dia tou Papa eqarrei eleuqervdai thn ekklhsian apo thV apoteqeishV autou douleiaV para tou basilewV, (p. 92.) Yet it would have been difficult for him to have practised the lessons of Gregory VII.]

[Footnote 49: The Christian name of Sylvester is borrowed from the Latin calendar. In modern Greek, pouloV, as a diminutive, is added to the end

of words: nor can any reasoning of Creyghton, the editor, excuse his changing into S\_gur\_opulus, (Sguros, fuscus,) the Syropulus of his own

manuscript, whose name is subscribed with his own hand in the acts

of the council of Florence. Why might not the author be of Syrian extraction?]

[Footnote 50: From the conclusion of the history, I should fix the date to the year 1444, four years after the synod, when great ecclesiarch

had abdicated his office, (section xii. p. 330--350.) His passions were cooled by time and retirement; and, although Syropulus is often partial,

he is never intemperate.]

[Footnote 51: \_Vera historia unionis non ver inter Græcos et Latinos\_,

(\_Haga Comitis\_, 1660, in folio,) was first published with a loose and florid version, by Robert Creyghton, chaplain to Charles II. in his exile. The zeal of the editor has prefixed a polemic title, for the beginning of the original is wanting. Syropulus may be ranked with the best of the Byzantine writers for the merit of his narration, and even

of his style; but he is excluded from the orthodox collections of the councils.]

[Footnote 52: Syropulus (p. 63) simply expresses his intention in' outw

pompawn en' 'ItaloiV megaV basileuV par ekeinvn nomizoito; and the Latin

of Creyghton may afford a specimen of his florid paraphrase. Ut pompâ circumductus noster Imperator Italiæ populis aliquis deauratus Jupiter crederetur, aut Crsus ex opulenta Lydia.]

[Footnote 53: Although I cannot stop to quote Syropulus for every fact,

I will observe that the navigation of the Greeks from Constantinople to

Venice and Ferrara is contained in the ivth section, (p. 67--100,) and that the historian has the uncommon talent of placing each scene before the reader's eye.]

chapter LXVI: Union Of The Greek And Latin Churches.--Part III.

after a tedious and troublesome navigation of seventy-seven days, this religious squadron cast anchor before Venice; and their reception

proclaimed the joy and magnificence of that powerful republic. In the command of the world, the modest Augustus had never claimed such honors from his subjects as were paid to his feeble successor by an independent

state. Seated on the poop on a lofty throne, he received the visit, or,

in the Greek style, the \_adoration\_ of the doge and senators. [54] they sailed in the Bucentaur, which was accompanied by twelve stately

galleys: the sea was overspread with innumerable gondolas of pomp and

pleasure; the air resounded with music and acclamations; the mariners, and even the vessels, were dressed in silk and gold; and in all the emblems and pageants, the Roman eagles were blended with the lions of

St. Mark. The triumphal procession, ascending the great canal, passed

under the bridge of the Rialto; and the Eastern strangers gazed with admiration on the palaces, the churches, and the populousness of a city, that seems to float on the bosom of the waves. [55] They sighed to behold the spoils and trophies with which it had been decorated after the sack

of Constantinople. After a hospitable entertainment of fifteen days,

Palæologus pursued his journey by land and water from Venice to Ferrara; and on this occasion the pride of the Vatican was tempered by policy to indulge the ancient dignity of the emperor of the East. He made his entry on a \_black\_ horse; but a milk-white steed, whose trappings were embroidered with golden eagles, was led before him; and the canopy was borne over his head by the princes of Este, the sons or kinsmen

of Nicholas, marquis of the city, and a sovereign more powerful than

himself. [56] Palæologus did not alight till he reached the bottom of the

staircase: the pope advanced to the door of the apartment; refused his

proffered genuflection; and, after a paternal embrace, conducted the emperor to a seat on his left hand. Nor would the patriarch descend from

his galley, till a ceremony almost equal, had been stipulated between the bishops of Rome and Constantinople. The latter was saluted by his brother with a kiss of union and charity; nor would any of the Greek ecclesiastics submit to kiss the feet of the Western primate. On the

opening of the synod, the place of honor in the centre was claimed by the temporal and ecclesiastical chiefs; and it was only by alleging that

his predecessors had not assisted in person at Nice or Chalcedon, that eugenius could evade the ancient precedents of Constantine and Marcian. after much debate, it was agreed that the right and left sides of the church should be occupied by the two nations; that the solitary chair

of St. Peter should be raised the first of the Latin line; and that the throne of the Greek emperor, at the head of his clergy, should be equal and opposite to the second place, the vacant seat of the emperor of the west. [57]

[Footnote 54: At the time of the synod, Phranzes was in Peloponnesus: but he received from the despot Demetrius a faithful account of the

honorable reception of the emperor and patriarch both at Venice and ferrara, (Dux.... sedentem Imperatorem \_adorat\_,) which are more

slightly mentioned by the Latins, (l. ii. c. 14, 15, 16.)]

[Footnote 55: The astonishment of a Greek prince and a French ambassador

(Mémoires de Philippe de Comines, l. vii. c. 18,) at the sight of

Venice, abundantly proves that in the xvth century it was the first and

most splendid of the Christian cities. For the spoils of Constantinople at Venice, see Syropulus, (p. 87.)]

[Footnote 56: Nicholas III. of Este reigned forty-eight years, (A.D.

1393--1441,) and was lord of Ferrara, Modena, Reggio, Parma, Rovigo, and Commachio. See his Life in Muratori, (Antichità Estense, tom. ii. p.

159--201.)]

[Footnote 57: The Latin vulgar was provoked to laughter at the strange dresses of the Greeks, and especially the length of their garments, their sleeves, and their beards; nor was the emperor distinguished, except by the purple color, and his diadem or tiara, with a jewel on the top, (Hody de Græcis Illustribus, p. 31.) Yet another spectator confesses that the Greek fashion was piu grave e piu degna than the

Italian. (Vespasiano in Vit. Eugen. IV. in Muratori, tom. xxv. p. 261.)]

but as soon as festivity and form had given place to a more serious treaty, the Greeks were dissatisfied with their journey, with themselves, and with the pope. The artful pencil of his emissaries

had painted him in a prosperous state; at the head of the princes and

prelates of Europe, obedient at his voice, to believe and to arm. The thin appearance of the universal synod of Ferrara betrayed his weakness: and the Latins opened the first session with only five archbishops, eighteen bishops, and ten abbots, the greatest part of whom were the

subjects or countrymen of the Italian pontiff. Except the duke of burgundy, none of the potentates of the West condescended to appear in

person, or by their ambassadors; nor was it possible to suppress the

judicial acts of Basil against the dignity and person of Eugenius, which were finally concluded by a new election. Under these circumstances, a truce or delay was asked and granted, till Palæologus could expect from the consent of the Latins some temporal reward for an unpopular union; and after the first session, the public proceedings were adjourned above six months. The emperor, with a chosen band of his favorites and \_Janizaries\_, fixed his summer residence at a pleasant, spacious

monastery, six miles from Ferrara; forgot, in the pleasures of the chase, the distress of the church and state; and persisted in destroying the game, without listening to the just complaints of the marquis or the

husbandman. [58] In the mean while, his unfortunate Greeks were exposed to all the miseries of exile and poverty; for the support of each

stranger, a monthly allowance was assigned of three or four gold florins; and although the entire sum did not amount to seven hundred florins, a long arrear was repeatedly incurred by the indigence or

policy of the Roman court. [59] They sighed for a speedy deliverance, but their escape was prevented by a triple chain: a passport from their

superiors was required at the gates of Ferrara; the government of

Venice had engaged to arrest and send back the fugitives; and inevitable

punishment awaited them at Constantinople; excommunication, fines, and a

sentence, which did not respect the sacerdotal dignity, that they

should be stripped naked and publicly whipped. [60] It was only by the alternative of hunger or dispute that the Greeks could be persuaded to

open the first conference; and they yielded with extreme reluctance to attend from Ferrara to Florence the rear of a flying synod. This new translation was urged by inevitable necessity: the city was visited by the plague; the fidelity of the marquis might be suspected; the

mercenary troops of the duke of Milan were at the gates; and as they

occupied Romagna, it was not without difficulty and danger that the

pope, the emperor, and the bishops, explored their way through the

unfrequented paths of the Apennine. [61]

[Footnote 58: For the emperor's hunting, see Syropulus, (p. 143, 144,

191.) The pope had sent him eleven miserable hacks; but he bought a

strong and swift horse that came from Russia. The name of \_Janizaries\_

may surprise; but the name, rather than the institution, had passed from the Ottoman, to the Byzantine, court, and is often used in the last age

of the empire.]

[Footnote 59: The Greeks obtained, with much difficulty, that instead of

provisions, money should be distributed, four florins \_per\_ month to the

persons of honorable rank, and three florins to their servants, with an addition of thirty more to the emperor, twenty-five to the patriarch, and twenty to the prince, or despot, Demetrius. The payment of the first

month amounted to 691 florins, a sum which will not allow us to reckon above 200 Greeks of every condition. (Syropulus, p. 104, 105.) On the

20th October, 1438, there was an arrear of four months; in April, 1439,

of three; and of five and a half in July, at the time of the union, (p.

172, 225, 271.)]

[Footnote 60: Syropulus (p. 141, 142, 204, 221) deplores the

imprisonment of the Greeks, and the tyranny of the emperor and

patriarch.]

[Footnote 61: The wars of Italy are most clearly represented in the

xiiith vol. of the Annals of Muratori. The schismatic Greek, Syropulus,

(p. 145,) appears to have exaggerated the fear and disorder of the pope

in his retreat from Ferrara to Florence, which is proved by the acts to

have been somewhat more decent and deliberate.]

Yet all these obstacles were surmounted by time and policy. The violence

of the fathers of Basil rather promoted than injured the cause of eugenius; the nations of Europe abhorred the schism, and disowned the election, of Felix the Fifth, who was successively a duke of Savoy, a

hermit, and a pope; and the great princes were gradually reclaimed by

his competitor to a favorable neutrality and a firm attachment. The

legates, with some respectable members, deserted to the Roman army, which insensibly rose in numbers and reputation; the council of Basil was reduced to thirty-nine bishops, and three hundred of the inferior clergy; [62] while the Latins of Florence could produce the subscriptions

of the pope himself, eight cardinals, two patriarchs, eight archbishops, fifty two bishops, and forty-five abbots, or chiefs of religious orders. after the labor of nine months, and the debates of twenty-five sessions, they attained the advantage and glory of the reunion of the Greeks. Four

principal questions had been agitated between the two churches; \_1.\_ the use of unleavened bread in the communion of Christ's body. \_2.\_ the nature of purgatory. \_3.\_ The supremacy of the pope. And, \_4.\_ the single or double procession of the Holy Ghost. The cause of either

nation was managed by ten theological champions: the Latins were

supported by the inexhaustible eloquence of Cardinal Julian; and Mark

of Ephesus and Bessarion of Nice were the bold and able leaders of the

Greek forces. We may bestow some praise on the progress of human reason, by observing that the first of these questions was now treated as an

immaterial rite, which might innocently vary with the fashion of the age and country. With regard to the second, both parties were agreed in the belief of an intermediate state of purgation for the venial sins of the faithful; and whether their souls were purified by elemental fire was a doubtful point, which in a few years might be conveniently settled on the spot by the disputants. The claims of supremacy appeared of a more weighty and substantial kind; yet by the Orientals the Roman bishop had ever been respected as the first of the five patriarchs; nor did they

scruple to admit, that his jurisdiction should be exercised agreeably to the holy canons; a vague allowance, which might be defined or eluded by

occasional convenience. The procession of the Holy Ghost from the Father alone, or from the Father and the Son, was an article of faith which had

sunk much deeper into the minds of men; and in the sessions of Ferrara and Florence, the Latin addition of \_filioque\_ was subdivided into two

questions, whether it were legal, and whether it were orthodox. Perhaps

it may not be necessary to boast on this subject of my own impartial

indifference; but I must think that the Greeks were strongly supported by the prohibition of the council of Chalcedon, against adding any article whatsoever to the creed of Nice, or rather of Constantinople.

[63] In earthly affairs, it is not easy to conceive how an assembly equal

of legislators can bind their successors invested with powers equal to their own. But the dictates of inspiration must be true and

unchangeable; nor should a private bishop, or a provincial synod, have

presumed to innovate against the judgment of the Catholic church. On the

substance of the doctrine, the controversy was equal and endless: reason

is confounded by the procession of a deity: the gospel, which lay on the altar, was silent; the various texts of the fathers might be corrupted by fraud or entangled by sophistry; and the Greeks were ignorant of the characters and writings of the Latin saints. [64] Of this at least we may be sure, that neither side could be convinced by the arguments of their

opponents. Prejudice may be enlightened by reason, and a superficial

glance may be rectified by a clear and more perfect view of an object adapted to our faculties. But the bishops and monks had been taught from their infancy to repeat a form of mysterious words: their national and

personal honor depended on the repetition of the same sounds; and their

narrow minds were hardened and inflamed by the acrimony of a public dispute.

[Footnote 62: Syropulus is pleased to reckon seven hundred prelates in the council of Basil. The error is manifest, and perhaps voluntary. That extravagant number could not be supplied by \_all\_ the ecclesiastics of every degree who were present at the council, nor by \_all\_ the absent bishops of the West, who, expressly or tacitly, might adhere to its decrees.]

[Footnote 63: The Greeks, who disliked the union, were unwilling to

sally from this strong fortress, (p. 178, 193, 195, 202, of Syropulus.) the shame of the Latins was aggravated by their producing an old MS.

of the second council of Nice, with \_filioque\_ in the Nicene creed. A

palpable forgery! (p. 173.)]

[Footnote 64: 'WV egw (said an eminent Greek) otan eiV naon eiselqw datinwn ou proskunv tina tvn ekeise agiwn, epei oude gnwrizw tina,

(Syropulus, p. 109.) See the perplexity of the Greeks, (p. 217, 218,

252, 253, 273.)]

while they were most in a cloud of dust and darkness, the Pope and emperor were desirous of a seeming union, which could alone accomplish the purposes of their interview; and the obstinacy of public dispute was

softened by the arts of private and personal negotiation. The patriarch

Joseph had sunk under the weight of age and infirmities; his dying voice breathed the counsels of charity and concord, and his vacant benefice

might tempt the hopes of the ambitious clergy. The ready and active

obedience of the archbishops of Russia and Nice, of Isidore and bessarion, was prompted and recompensed by their speedy promotion to the dignity of cardinals. Bessarion, in the first debates, had stood forth the most strenuous and eloquent champion of the Greek church; and if the apostate, the bastard, was reprobated by his country, [65] he appears in ecclesiastical story a rare example of a patriot who was recommended to court favor by loud opposition and well-timed compliance. With the aid

of his two spiritual coadjutors, the emperor applied his arguments to the general situation and personal characters of the bishops, and each was successively moved by authority and example. Their revenues were

in the hands of the Turks, their persons in those of the Latins: an episcopal treasure, three robes and forty ducats, was soon exhausted:

[66] the hopes of their return still depended on the ships of Venice and the alms of Rome; and such was their indigence, that their arrears, the

payment of a debt, would be accepted as a favor, and might operate as a bribe. [67] The danger and relief of Constantinople might excuse

some prudent and pious dissimulation; and it was insinuated, that the

obstinate heretics who should resist the consent of the East and West would be abandoned in a hostile land to the revenge or justice of the

Roman pontiff. [68] In the first private assembly of the Greeks, the formulary of union was approved by twenty-four, and rejected by twelve,

members; but the five \_cross-bearers\_ of St. Sophia, who aspired to

represent the patriarch, were disqualified by ancient discipline; and their right of voting was transferred to the obsequious train of monks,

grammarians, and profane laymen. The will of the monarch produced a false and servile unanimity, and no more than two patriots had courage to speak their own sentiments and those of their country. Demetrius, the emperor's brother, retired to Venice, that he might not be witness of the union; and Mark of Ephesus, mistaking perhaps his pride for his conscience, disclaimed all communion with the Latin heretics, and avowed

himself the champion and confessor of the orthodox creed. [69] In the treaty between the two nations, several forms of consent were proposed,

such as might satisfy the Latins, without dishonoring the Greeks; and they weighed the scruples of words and syllables, till the theological balance trembled with a slight preponderance in favor of the Vatican.

It was agreed (I must entreat the attention of the reader) that the Holy

Ghost proceeds from the Father \_and\_ the Son, as from one principle and

one substance; that he proceeds \_by\_ the Son, being of the same nature and substance, and that he proceeds from the Father \_and\_ the Son, by

one \_spiration\_ and production. It is less difficult to understand the articles of the preliminary treaty; that the pope should defray all the expenses of the Greeks in their return home; that he should annually

maintain two galleys and three hundred soldiers for the defence of constantinople: that all the ships which transported pilgrims to

Jerusalem should be obliged to touch at that port; that as often as they were required, the pope should furnish ten galleys for a year, or twenty for six months; and that he should powerfully solicit the princes of europe, if the emperor had occasion for land forces.

[Footnote 65: See the polite altercation of Marc and Bessarion in

Syropulus, (p. 257,) who never dissembles the vices of his own party, and fairly praises the virtues of the Latins.]

[Footnote 66: For the poverty of the Greek bishops, see a remarkable

passage of Ducas, (c. 31.) One had possessed, for his whole property, three old gowns, &c. By teaching one-and-twenty years in his monastery, bessarion himself had collected forty gold florins; but of these, the archbishop had expended twenty-eight in his voyage from Peloponnesus, and the remainder at Constantinople, (Syropulus, p. 127.)]

[Footnote 67: Syropulus denies that the Greeks received any money before they had subscribed the art of union, (p. 283:) yet he relates

some suspicious circumstances; and their bribery and corruption are

positively affirmed by the historian Ducas.]

[Footnote 68: The Greeks most piteously express their own fears of exile and perpetual slavery, (Syropul. p. 196;) and they were strongly moved by the emperor's threats, (p. 260.)]

[Footnote 69: I had forgot another popular and orthodox protester: a favorite bound, who usually lay quiet on the foot-cloth of the emperor's throne but who barked most furiously while the act of union was reading without being silenced by the soothing or the lashes of the royal attendants, (Syropul. p. 265, 266.)]

the same year, and almost the same day, were marked by the deposition

of Eugenius at Basil; and, at Florence, by his reunion of the Greeks and Latins. In the former synod, (which he styled indeed an assembly

of dæmons,) the pope was branded with the guilt of simony, perjury, tyranny, heresy, and schism; [70] and declared to be incorrigible in

his vices, unworthy of any title, and incapable of holding any ecclesiastical office. In the latter, he was revered as the true and

holy vicar of Christ, who, after a separation of six hundred years, had

reconciled the Catholics of the East and West in one fold, and under one

shepherd. The act of union was subscribed by the pope, the emperor, and the principal members of both churches; even by those who, like

Syropulus, [71] had been deprived of the right of voting. Two copies

might have sufficed for the East and West; but Eugenius was not

satisfied, unless four authentic and similar transcripts were signed and attested as the monuments of his victory. [72] On a memorable day, the

sixth of July, the successors of St. Peter and Constantine ascended their thrones the two nations assembled in the cathedral of Florence; their representatives, Cardinal Julian and Bessarion archbishop of Nice, appeared in the pulpit, and, after reading in their respective tongues the act of union, they mutually embraced, in the name and the presence

of their applauding brethren. The pope and his ministers then officiated according to the Roman liturgy; the creed was chanted with the addition

of \_filioque\_; the acquiescence of the Greeks was poorly excused by their ignorance of the harmonious, but inarticulate sounds; [73] and the

more scrupulous Latins refused any public celebration of the Byzantine

rite. Yet the emperor and his clergy were not totally unmindful of

national honor. The treaty was ratified by their consent: it was tacitly agreed that no innovation should be attempted in their creed or ceremonies: they spared, and secretly respected, the generous firmness

of Mark of Ephesus; and, on the decease of the patriarch, they refused to elect his successor, except in the cathedral of St. Sophia. In the distribution of public and private rewards, the liberal pontiff exceeded their hopes and his promises: the Greeks, with less pomp and pride,

returned by the same road of Ferrara and Venice; and their reception at constantinople was such as will be described in the following chapter.

[74] The success of the first trial encouraged Eugenius to repeat the

same edifying scenes; and the deputies of the Armenians, the Maronites, the Jacobites of Syria and Egypt, the Nestorians and the Æthiopians, were successively introduced, to kiss the feet of the Roman pontiff, and to announce the obedience and the orthodoxy of the East. These Oriental embassies, unknown in the countries which they presumed to represent,

[75] diffused over the West the fame of Eugenius; and a clamor was artfully propagated against the remnant of a schism in Switzerland and

Savoy, which alone impeded the harmony of the Christian world. The vigor

of opposition was succeeded by the lassitude of despair: the council

of Basil was silently dissolved; and Felix, renouncing the tiara, again withdrew to the devout or delicious hermitage of Ripaille. [76] A general

peace was secured by mutual acts of oblivion and indemnity: all ideas

of reformation subsided; the popes continued to exercise and abuse their ecclesiastical despotism; nor has Rome been since disturbed by the

mischiefs of a contested election. [77]

[Footnote 70: From the original Lives of the Popes, in Muratori's collection, (tom. iii. p. ii. tom. xxv.,) the manners of Eugenius IV. appear to have been decent, and even exemplary. His situation, exposed to the world and to his enemies, was a restraint, and is a pledge.]

[Footnote 71: Syropulus, rather than subscribe, would have assisted, as the least evil, at the ceremony of the union. He was compelled to do both; and the great ecclesiarch poorly excuses his submission to the emperor, (p. 290--292.)]

[Footnote 72: None of these original acts of union can at present be

produced. Of the ten MSS. that are preserved, (five at Rome, and the

remainder at Florence, Bologna, Venice, Paris, and London,) nine have been examined by an accurate critic, (M. de Brequigny,) who condemns them for the variety and imperfections of the Greek signatures. Yet

several of these may be esteemed as authentic copies, which were

subscribed at Florence, before (26th of August, 1439) the final

separation of the pope and emperor, (Mémoires de l'Académie des

Inscriptions, tom. xliii. p. 287--311.)]

[Footnote 73: Hmin de wV ashmoi edokoun jwnai, (Syropul. p. 297.)]

[Footnote 74: In their return, the Greeks conversed at Bologna with the ambassadors of England: and after some questions and answers, these impartial strangers laughed at the pretended union of Florence,

(Syropul. p. 307.)]

[Footnote 75: So nugatory, or rather so fabulous, are these reunions

of the Nestorians, Jacobites, &c., that I have turned over, without

success, the Bibliotheca Orientalis of Assemannus, a faithful slave of the Vatican.]

[Footnote 76: Ripaille is situate near Thonon in Savoy, on the southern

side of the Lake of Geneva. It is now a Carthusian abbey; and Mr. addison (Travels into Italy, vol. ii. p. 147, 148, of Baskerville's edition of his works) has celebrated the place and the founder. Æneas

Sylvius, and the fathers of Basil, applaud the austere life of the ducal

hermit; but the French and Italian proverbs most unluckily attest the

popular opinion of his luxury.]

[Footnote 77: In this account of the councils of Basil, Ferrara, and florence, I have consulted the original acts, which fill the xviith and xviiith tome of the edition of Venice, and are closed by the

perspicuous, though partial, history of Augustin Patricius, an

Italian of the xvth century. They are digested and abridged by Dupin,

(Bibliothèque Ecclés. tom. xii.,) and the continuator of Fleury, (tom.

xxii.;) and the respect of the Gallican church for the adverse parties confines their members to an awkward moderation.]

the journeys of three emperors were unavailing for their temporal,

or perhaps their spiritual, salvation; but they were productive of a beneficial consequence--the revival of the Greek learning in Italy, from whence it was propagated to the last nations of the West and North. In their lowest servitude and depression, the subjects of the Byzantine throne were still possessed of a golden key that could unlock the treasures of antiquity; of a musical and prolific language, that gives a soul to the objects of sense, and a body to the abstractions of

philosophy. Since the barriers of the monarchy, and even of the capital,

had been trampled under foot, the various Barbarians had doubtless corrupted the form and substance of the national dialect; and ample

glossaries have been composed, to interpret a multitude of words, of arabic, Turkish, Sclavonian, Latin, or French origin. [78] But a purer

idiom was spoken in the court and taught in the college; and the flourishing state of the language is described, and perhaps embellished, by a learned Italian, [79] who, by a long residence and noble marriage,

[80] was naturalized at Constantinople about thirty years before the turkish conquest. "The vulgar speech," says Philelphus, [81] "has been depraved by the people, and infected by the multitude of strangers and merchants, who every day flock to the city and mingle with the

inhabitants. It is from the disciples of such a school that the Latin

language received the versions of Aristotle and Plato; so obscure

in sense, and in spirit so poor. But the Greeks who have escaped the contagion, are those whom \_we\_ follow; and they alone are worthy of

our imitation. In familiar discourse, they still speak the tongue

of Aristophanes and Euripides, of the historians and philosophers of athens; and the style of their writings is still more elaborate and correct. The persons who, by their birth and offices, are attached to the Byzantine court, are those who maintain, with the least alloy, the ancient standard of elegance and purity; and the native graces

of language most conspicuously shine among the noble matrons, who are excluded from all intercourse with foreigners. With foreigners do I

say? They live retired and sequestered from the eyes of their fellow-citizens. Seldom are they seen in the streets; and when they

leave their houses, it is in the dusk of evening, on visits to the churches and their nearest kindred. On these occasions, they are on

horseback, covered with a veil, and encompassed by their parents, their

husbands, or their servants." [82]

[Footnote 78: In the first attempt, Meursius collected 3600

Græco-barbarous words, to which, in a second edition, he subjoined 1800

more; yet what plenteous gleanings did he leave to Portius, Ducange, fabrotti, the Bollandists, &c.! (Fabric. Bibliot. Græc. tom. x. p. 101,

&c.) \_Some\_ Persic words may be found in Xenophon, and some Latin ones

in Plutarch; and such is the inevitable effect of war and commerce; but the form and substance of the language were not affected by this slight alloy.]

[Footnote 79: The life of Francis Philelphus, a sophist, proud,

restless, and rapacious, has been diligently composed by Lancelot

(Mémoires de l'Académie des Inscriptions, tom. x. p. 691--751) (Istoria della Letteratura Italiana, tom. vii. p. 282--294,) for the most

part from his own letters. His elaborate writings, and those of his contemporaries, are forgotten; but their familiar epistles still describe the men and the times.]

[Footnote 80: He married, and had perhaps debauched, the daughter

of John, and the granddaughter of Manuel Chrysoloras. She was young, beautiful, and wealthy; and her noble family was allied to the Dorias of

Genoa and the emperors of Constantinople.]

[Footnote 81: Græci quibus lingua depravata non sit.... ita loquuntur

vulgo hâc etiam tempestate ut Aristophanes comicus, aut Euripides tragicus, ut oratores omnes, ut historiographi, ut philosophi....

litterati autem homines et doctius et emendatius.... Nam viri aulici

veterem sermonis dignitatem atque elegantiam retinebant in primisque

ipsæ nobiles mulieres; quibus cum nullum esset omnino cum viris

peregrinis commercium, merus ille ac purus Græcorum sermo servabatur

intactus, (Philelph. Epist. ad ann. 1451, apud Hodium, p. 188, 189.)

He observes in another passage, uxor illa mea Theodora locutione erat admodum moderatâ et suavi et maxime Atticâ.]

[Footnote 82: Philelphus, absurdly enough, derives this Greek or

Oriental jealousy from the manners of ancient Rome.]

among the Greeks a numerous and opulent clergy was dedicated to the service of religion: their monks and bishops have ever been distinguished by the gravity and austerity of their manners; nor were they diverted, like the Latin priests, by the pursuits and pleasures of a secular, and even military, life. After a large deduction for the time and talent that were lost in the devotion, the laziness, and the discord, of the church and cloister, the more inquisitive and ambitious

minds would explore the sacred and profane erudition of their native

language. The ecclesiastics presided over the education of youth; the

schools of philosophy and eloquence were perpetuated till the fall of the empire; and it may be affirmed, that more books and more knowledge were included within the walls of Constantinople, than could be dispersed over the extensive countries of the West. [83] But an important distinction has been already noticed: the Greeks were stationary or

retrograde, while the Latins were advancing with a rapid and progressive

motion. The nations were excited by the spirit of independence and emulation; and even the little world of the Italian states contained

more people and industry than the decreasing circle of the Byzantine empire. In Europe, the lower ranks of society were relieved from the

yoke of feudal servitude; and freedom is the first step to curiosity and

knowledge. The use, however rude and corrupt, of the Latin tongue

had been preserved by superstition; the universities, from Bologna to

Oxford, [84] were peopled with thousands of scholars; and their misguided ardor might be directed to more liberal and manly studies. In the

resurrection of science, Italy was the first that cast away her shroud; and the eloquent Petrarch, by his lessons and his example, may justly be applauded as the first harbinger of day. A purer style of composition, a more generous and rational strain of sentiment, flowed from the study and imitation of the writers of ancient Rome; and the disciples of cicero and Virgil approached, with reverence and love, the sanctuary of their Grecian masters. In the sack of Constantinople, the French, and even the Venetians, had despised and destroyed the works of Lysippus and

Homer: the monuments of art may be annihilated by a single blow; but the

immortal mind is renewed and multiplied by the copies of the pen; and

such copies it was the ambition of Petrarch and his friends to possess and understand. The arms of the Turks undoubtedly pressed the flight

of the Muses; yet we may tremble at the thought, that Greece might have been overwhelmed, with her schools and libraries, before Europe had emerged from the deluge of barbarism; that the seeds of science might

have been scattered by the winds, before the Italian soil was prepared for their cultivation.

[Footnote 83: See the state of learning in the xiiith and xivth centuries, in the learned and judicious Mosheim, (Instit. Hist. Ecclés.

p. 434--440, 490--494.)]

[Footnote 84: At the end of the xvth century, there existed in Europe about fifty universities, and of these the foundation of ten or twelve

is prior to the year 1300. They were crowded in proportion to their

scarcity. Bologna contained 10,000 students, chiefly of the civil law.

In the year 1357 the number at Oxford had decreased from 30,000 to 6000

scholars, (Henry's History of Great Britain, vol. iv. p. 478.) Yet even this decrease is much superior to the present list of the members of the

university.]

chapter LXVI: Union Of The Greek And Latin Churches.--Part IV.

the most learned Italians of the fifteenth century have confessed and applauded the restoration of Greek literature, after a long oblivion of

many hundred years. [85] Yet in that country, and beyond the Alps, some

names are quoted; some profound scholars, who in the darker ages were

honorably distinguished by their knowledge of the Greek tongue; and

national vanity has been loud in the praise of such rare examples of erudition. Without scrutinizing the merit of individuals, truth must

observe, that their science is without a cause, and without an effect; that it was easy for them to satisfy themselves and their more ignorant contemporaries; and that the idiom, which they had so marvellously acquired was transcribed in few manuscripts, and was not taught in any

university of the West. In a corner of Italy, it faintly existed as the popular, or at least as the ecclesiastical dialect. [86] The first

impression of the Doric and Ionic colonies has never been completely erased: the Calabrian churches were long attached to the throne of constantinople: and the monks of St. Basil pursued their studies in

Mount Athos and the schools of the East. Calabria was the native country

of Barlaam, who has already appeared as a sectary and an ambassador; and barlaam was the first who revived, beyond the Alps, the memory, or at least the writings, of Homer. [87] He is described, by Petrarch and boccace, [88] as a man of diminutive stature, though truly great in the

measure of learning and genius; of a piercing discernment, though of a

slow and painful elocution. For many ages (as they affirm) Greece

had not produced his equal in the knowledge of history, grammar, and

philosophy; and his merit was celebrated in the attestations of the

princes and doctors of Constantinople. One of these attestations

is still extant; and the emperor Cantacuzene, the protector of his adversaries, is forced to allow, that Euclid, Aristotle, and Plato, were familiar to that profound and subtle logician. [89] In the court of avignon, he formed an intimate connection with Petrarch, [90] the first

of the Latin scholars; and the desire of mutual instruction was the

principle of their literary commerce. The Tuscan applied himself with eager curiosity and assiduous diligence to the study of the Greek

language; and in a laborious struggle with the dryness and difficulty

of the first rudiments, he began to reach the sense, and to feel the

spirit, of poets and philosophers, whose minds were congenial to his

own. But he was soon deprived of the society and lessons of this useful assistant: Barlaam relinquished his fruitless embassy; and, on his

return to Greece, he rashly provoked the swarms of fanatic monks, by attempting to substitute the light of reason to that of their navel. after a separation of three years, the two friends again met in the court of Naples: but the generous pupil renounced the fairest occasion

of improvement; and by his recommendation Barlaam was finally settled in a small bishopric of his native Calabria. [91] The manifold avocations of

Petrarch, love and friendship, his various correspondence and frequent

journeys, the Roman laurel, and his elaborate compositions in prose and

verse, in Latin and Italian, diverted him from a foreign idiom; and as

he advanced in life, the attainment of the Greek language was the object

of his wishes rather than of his hopes. When he was about fifty years of age, a Byzantine ambassador, his friend, and a master of both tongues,

presented him with a copy of Homer; and the answer of Petrarch is at one expressive of his eloquence, gratitude, and regret. After celebrating the generosity of the donor, and the value of a gift more precious in

his estimation than gold or rubies, he thus proceeds: "Your present of the genuine and original text of the divine poet, the fountain of all

inventions, is worthy of yourself and of me: you have fulfilled

your promise, and satisfied my desires. Yet your liberality is still

imperfect: with Homer you should have given me yourself; a guide, who could lead me into the fields of light, and disclose to my wondering eyes the spacious miracles of the Iliad and Odyssey. But, alas! Homer

is dumb, or I am deaf; nor is it in my power to enjoy the beauty which

I possess. I have seated him by the side of Plato, the prince of

poets near the prince of philosophers; and I glory in the sight of

my illustrious guests. Of their immortal writings, whatever had been translated into the Latin idiom, I had already acquired; but, if there be no profit, there is some pleasure, in beholding these venerable

Greeks in their proper and national habit. I am delighted with the aspect of Homer; and as often as I embrace the silent volume, I exclaim with a sigh, Illustrious bard! with what pleasure should I listen to thy

song, if my sense of hearing were not obstructed and lost by the death

of one friend, and in the much-lamented absence of another. Nor do I yet despair; and the example of Cato suggests some comfort and hope, since

it was in the last period of age that he attained the knowledge of the

Greek letters." [92]

[Footnote 85: Of those writers who professedly treat of the restoration

of the Greek learning in Italy, the two principal are Hodius, Dr.

Humphrey Hody, (de Græcis Illustribus, Linguæ Græcæ Literarumque

humaniorum Instauratoribus; Londini, 1742, in large octavo,) and tiraboschi, (Istoria della Letteratura Italiana, tom. v. p. 364--377, tom. vii. p. 112--143.) The Oxford professor is a laborious scholar, but the librarian of Modena enjoys the superiority of a modern and national

historian.]

[Footnote 86: In Calabria quæ olim magna Græcia dicebatur, coloniis

Græcis repleta, remansit quædam linguæ veteris, cognitio, (Hodius, p.

2.) If it were eradicated by the Romans, it was revived and perpetuated by the monks of St. Basil, who possessed seven convents at Rossano alone, (Giannone, Istoria di Napoli, tom. i. p. 520.)]

[Footnote 87: Ii Barbari (says Petrarch, the French and Germans) vix,

non dicam libros sed nomen Homeri audiverunt. Perhaps, in that respect, the xiiith century was less happy than the age of Charlemagne.]

[Footnote 88: See the character of Barlaam, in Boccace de Genealog. deorum, l. xv. c. 6.]

[Footnote 89: Cantacuzen. l. ii. c. 36.]

[Footnote 90: For the connection of Petrarch and Barlaam, and the two

interviews at Avignon in 1339, and at Naples in 1342, see the excellent

Mémoires sur la Vie de Pétrarque, tom. i. p. 406--410, tom. ii. p.

74--77.]

[Footnote 91: The bishopric to which Barlaam retired, was the old Locri,

in the middle ages. Scta. Cyriaca, and by corruption Hieracium, Gerace,

(Dissert. Chorographica Italiæ Medii Ævi, p. 312.) The dives opum of the

Norman times soon lapsed into poverty, since even the church was poor:

yet the town still contains 3000 inhabitants, (Swinburne, p. 340.)]

[Footnote 92: I will transcribe a passage from this epistle of Petrarch,

(Famil. ix. 2;) Donasti Homerum non in alienum sermonem violento alveâ?? derivatum, sed ex ipsis Græci eloquii scatebris, et qualis divino illi

profluxit ingenio.... Sine tuâ voce Homerus tuus apud me mutus, immo

vero ego apud illum surdus sum. Gaudeo tamen vel adspectû solo, ac sæpe

illum amplexus atque suspirans dico, O magne vir, &c.]

the prize which eluded the efforts of Petrarch, was obtained by the fortune and industry of his friend Boccace, [93] the father of the tuscan prose. That popular writer, who derives his reputation from the decameron, a hundred novels of pleasantry and love, may aspire to the more serious praise of restoring in Italy the study of the Greek

language. In the year one thousand three hundred and sixty, a disciple

of Barlaam, whose name was Leo, or Leontius Pilatus, was detained in his way to Avignon by the advice and hospitality of Boccace, who lodged the

stranger in his house, prevailed on the republic of Florence to allow

him an annual stipend, and devoted his leisure to the first Greek

professor, who taught that language in the Western countries of Europe. the appearance of Leo might disgust the most eager disciple, he was clothed in the mantle of a philosopher, or a mendicant; his countenance was hideous; his face was overshadowed with black hair; his beard long an uncombed; his deportment rustic; his temper gloomy and inconstant;

nor could he grace his discourse with the ornaments, or even the

perspicuity, of Latin elocution. But his mind was stored with a treasure

of Greek learning: history and fable, philosophy and grammar, were alike at his command; and he read the poems of Homer in the schools

of Florence. It was from his explanation that Boccace composed [\* and transcribed a literal prose version of the Iliad and Odyssey, which

satisfied the thirst of his friend Petrarch, and which, perhaps, in the succeeding century, was clandestinely used by Laurentius Valla, the Latin interpreter. It was from his narratives that the same Boccace collected the materials for his treatise on the genealogy of the

heathen gods, a work, in that age, of stupendous erudition, and which he

ostentatiously sprinkled with Greek characters and passages, to excite the wonder and applause of his more ignorant readers. [94] The first

steps of learning are slow and laborious; no more than ten votaries of

Homer could be enumerated in all Italy; and neither Rome, nor Venice,

nor Naples, could add a single name to this studious catalogue. But their numbers would have multiplied, their progress would have been accelerated, if the inconstant Leo, at the end of three years, had

not relinquished an honorable and beneficial station. In his passage,

Petrarch entertained him at Padua a short time: he enjoyed the scholar, but was justly offended with the gloomy and unsocial temper of the

man. Discontented with the world and with himself, Leo depreciated his

present enjoyments, while absent persons and objects were dear to

his imagination. In Italy he was a Thessalian, in Greece a native of calabria: in the company of the Latins he disdained their language,

religion, and manners: no sooner was he landed at Constantinople, than

he again sighed for the wealth of Venice and the elegance of Florence.

His Italian friends were deaf to his importunity: he depended on their curiosity and indulgence, and embarked on a second voyage; but on his entrance into the Adriatic, the ship was assailed by a tempest, and the

unfortunate teacher, who like Ulysses had fastened himself to the mast, was struck dead by a flash of lightning. The humane Petrarch dropped a tear on his disaster; but he was most anxious to learn whether some copy of Euripides or Sophocles might not be saved from the hands of the

mariners. [95]

[Footnote 93: For the life and writings of Boccace, who was born in

1313, and died in 1375, Fabricius (Bibliot. Latin. Medii Ævi, tom. i. p.

248, &c.) and Tiraboschi (tom. v. p. 83, 439--451) may be consulted. The editions, versions, imitations of his novels, are innumerable. Yet he was ashamed to communicate that trifling, and perhaps scandalous, work to Petrarch, his respectable friend, in whose letters and memoirs he conspicuously appears.]

[Footnote \*: This translation of Homer was by Pilatus, not by Boccacio.

See Hallam, Hist. of Lit. vol. i. p. 132.--M.]

[Footnote 94: Boccace indulges an honest vanity: Ostentationis causâ

Græca carmina adscripsi.... jure utor meo; meum est hoc decus, mea

gloria scilicet inter Etruscos Græcis uti carminibus. Nonne ego fui qui

Leontium Pilatum, &c., (de Genealogia Deorum, l. xv. c. 7, a work which, though now forgotten, has run through thirteen or fourteen editions.)]

[Footnote 95: Leontius, or Leo Pilatus, is sufficiently made known by

Hody, (p. 2--11,) and the abbé de Sade, (Vie de Pétrarque, tom. iii. p.

625--634, 670--673,) who has very happily caught the lively and dramatic

manner of his original.]

but the faint rudiments of Greek learning, which Petrarch had encouraged and Boccace had planted, soon withered and expired. The succeeding

generation was content for a while with the improvement of Latin eloquence; nor was it before the end of the fourteenth century that a

new and perpetual flame was rekindled in Italy. [96] Previous to his own

journey the emperor Manuel despatched his envoys and orators to implore the compassion of the Western princes. Of these envoys, the most conspicuous, or the most learned, was Manuel Chrysoloras, [97] of noble birth, and whose Roman ancestors are supposed to have migrated with the great Constantine. After visiting the courts of France and England, where he obtained some contributions and more promises, the envoy was

invited to assume the office of a professor; and Florence had again the honor of this second invitation. By his knowledge, not only of the

Greek, but of the Latin tongue, Chrysoloras deserved the stipend, and

surpassed the expectation, of the republic. His school was frequented by a crowd of disciples of every rank and age; and one of these, in a

general history, has described his motives and his success. "At that time," says Leonard Aretin, [98] "I was a student of the civil law; but my soul was inflamed with the love of letters; and I bestowed some application on the sciences of logic and rhetoric. On the arrival

of Manuel, I hesitated whether I should desert my legal studies, or

relinquish this golden opportunity; and thus, in the ardor of youth,

I communed with my own mind--Wilt thou be wanting to thyself and thy fortune? Wilt thou refuse to be introduced to a familiar converse with

Homer, Plato, and Demosthenes; with those poets, philosophers, and

orators, of whom such wonders are related, and who are celebrated by every age as the great masters of human science? Of professors and

scholars in civil law, a sufficient supply will always be found in our

universities; but a teacher, and such a teacher, of the Greek language,

if he once be suffered to escape, may never afterwards be retrieved. convinced by these reasons, I gave myself to Chrysoloras; and so strong was my passion, that the lessons which I had imbibed in the day were the constant object of my nightly dreams." [99] At the same time and place, the Latin classics were explained by John of Ravenna, the domestic pupil

of Petrarch; [100] the Italians, who illustrated their age and country, were formed in this double school; and Florence became the fruitful

seminary of Greek and Roman erudition. [101] The presence of the emperor

recalled Chrysoloras from the college to the court; but he afterwards taught at Pavia and Rome with equal industry and applause. The remainder

of his life, about fifteen years, was divided between Italy and constantinople, between embassies and lessons. In the noble office of enlightening a foreign nation, the grammarian was not unmindful of a

more sacred duty to his prince and country; and Emanuel Chrysoloras died at Constance on a public mission from the emperor to the council.

[Footnote 96: Dr. Hody (p. 54) is angry with Leonard Aretin, Guarinus,

Paulus Jovius, &c., for affirming, that the Greek letters were restored

in Italy \_post septingentos annos\_; as if, says he, they had flourished till the end of the viith century. These writers most probably reckoned from the last period of the exarchate; and the presence of the Greek

magistrates and troops at Ravenna and Rome must have preserved, in some degree, the use of their native tongue.]

[Footnote 97: See the article of Emanuel, or Manuel Chrysoloras, in Hody

(p 12--54) and Tiraboschi, (tom. vii. p. 113--118.) The precise date of

his arrival floats between the years 1390 and 1400, and is only confined by the reign of Boniface IX.]

[Footnote 98: The name of \_Aretinus\_ has been assumed by five or six

natives of \_Arezzo\_ in Tuscany, of whom the most famous and the most worthless lived in the xvith century. Leonardus Brunus Aretinus, the disciple of Chrysoloras, was a linguist, an orator, and an historian, the secretary of four successive popes, and the chancellor of the republic of Florence, where he died A.D. 1444, at the age

of seventy-five, (Fabric. Bibliot. Medii Ævi, tom. i. p. 190 &c. tiraboschi, tom. vii. p. 33--38.)]

[Footnote 99: See the passage in Aretin. Commentario Rerum suo Tempore

in Italia gestarum, apud Hodium, p. 28--30.]

[Footnote 100: In this domestic discipline, Petrarch, who loved the

youth, often complains of the eager curiosity, restless temper, and

proud feelings, which announce the genius and glory of a riper age,

(Mémoires sur Pétrarque, tom. iii. p. 700--709.)]

[Footnote 101: Hinc Græcæ Latinæque scholæ exortæ sunt, Guarino

Philelpho, Leonardo Aretino, Caroloque, ac plerisque aliis tanquam ex equo Trojano prodeuntibus, quorum emulatione multa ingenia deinceps ad

laudem excitata sunt, (Platina in Bonifacio IX.) Another Italian writer adds the names of Paulus Petrus Vergerius, Omnibonus Vincentius,

Poggius, Franciscus Barbarus, &c. But I question whether a rigid chronology would allow Chrysoloras \_all\_ these eminent scholars,

(Hodius, p. 25--27, &c.)]

after his example, the restoration of the Greek letters in Italy was

prosecuted by a series of emigrants, who were destitute of fortune, and endowed with learning, or at least with language. From the terror

or oppression of the Turkish arms, the natives of Thessalonica and constantinople escaped to a land of freedom, curiosity, and wealth. The

synod introduced into Florence the lights of the Greek church, and the

oracles of the Platonic philosophy; and the fugitives who adhered to the

union, had the double merit of renouncing their country, not only for the Christian, but for the catholic cause. A patriot, who sacrifices

his party and conscience to the allurements of favor, may be possessed,

however, of the private and social virtues: he no longer hears the

reproachful epithets of slave and apostate; and the consideration which

he acquires among his new associates will restore in his own eyes the dignity of his character. The prudent conformity of Bessarion was

rewarded with the Roman purple: he fixed his residence in Italy; and the

Greek cardinal, the titular patriarch of Constantinople, was respected as the chief and protector of his nation: [102] his abilities were exercised in the legations of Bologna, Venice, Germany, and France; and his election to the chair of St. Peter floated for a moment on the

uncertain breath of a conclave. [103] His ecclesiastical honors diffused a splendor and preeminence over his literary merit and service: his

palace was a school; as often as the cardinal visited the Vatican, he was attended by a learned train of both nations; [104] of men applauded by themselves and the public; and whose writings, now overspread with dust, were popular and useful in their own times. I shall not attempt to enumerate the restorers of Grecian literature in the fifteenth century; and it may be sufficient to mention with gratitude the names of Theodore

Gaza, of George of Trebizond, of John Argyropulus, and Demetrius chalcocondyles, who taught their native language in the schools of florence and Rome. Their labors were not inferior to those of Bessarion, whose purple they revered, and whose fortune was the secret object of their envy. But the lives of these grammarians were humble and obscure: they had declined the lucrative paths of the church; their dress and

manners secluded them from the commerce of the world; and since they were confined to the merit, they might be content with the rewards,

of learning. From this character, Janus Lascaris [105] will deserve an exception. His eloquence, politeness, and Imperial descent, recommended

him to the French monarch; and in the same cities he was alternately employed to teach and to negotiate. Duty and interest prompted them to cultivate the study of the Latin language; and the most successful attained the faculty of writing and speaking with fluency and elegance

in a foreign idiom. But they ever retained the inveterate vanity of their country: their praise, or at least their esteem, was reserved for the national writers, to whom they owed their fame and subsistence; and they sometimes betrayed their contempt in licentious criticism or satire

on Virgil's poetry, and the oratory of Tully. [106] The superiority of these masters arose from the familiar use of a living language; and their first disciples were incapable of discerning how far they

had degenerated from the knowledge, and even the practice of their ancestors. A vicious pronunciation, [107] which they introduced, was banished from the schools by the reason of the succeeding age. Of the

power of the Greek accents they were ignorant; and those musical notes, which, from an Attic tongue, and to an Attic ear, must have been the

secret soul of harmony, were to their eyes, as to our own, no more than

minute and unmeaning marks, in prose superfluous and troublesome in

verse. The art of grammar they truly possessed; the valuable fragments

of Apollonius and Herodian were transfused into their lessons; and their treatises of syntax and etymology, though devoid of philosophic spirit, are still useful to the Greek student. In the shipwreck of the Byzantine

libraries, each fugitive seized a fragment of treasure, a copy of some author, who without his industry might have perished: the transcripts were multiplied by an assiduous, and sometimes an elegant pen; and the text was corrected and explained by their own comments, or those of the elder scholiasts. The sense, though not the spirit, of the Greek classics, was interpreted to the Latin world: the beauties of style evaporate in a version; but the judgment of Theodore Gaza selected the more solid works of Aristotle and Theophrastus, and their natural

histories of animals and plants opened a rich fund of genuine and experimental science.

[Footnote 102: See in Hody the article of Bessarion, (p. 136--177.) theodore Gaza, George of Trebizond, and the rest of the Greeks whom

I have named or omitted, are inserted in their proper chapters of his

learned work. See likewise Tiraboschi, in the 1st and 2d parts of the

vith tome.]

[Footnote 103: The cardinals knocked at his door, but his conclavist

refused to interrupt the studies of Bessarion: "Nicholas," said he, "thy

respect has cost thee a hat, and me the tiara." \*

Note: \* Roscoe (Life of Lorenzo de Medici, vol. i. p. 75) considers that

Hody has refuted this "idle tale."--M.]

[Footnote 104: Such as George of Trebizond, Theodore Gaza, Argyropulus, andronicus of Thessalonica, Philelphus, Poggius, Blondus, Nicholas

Perrot, Valla, Campanus, Platina, &c. Viri (says Hody, with the pious

zeal of a scholar) (nullo ævo perituri, p. 156.)]

[Footnote 105: He was born before the taking of Constantinople, but his

honorable life was stretched far into the xvith century, (A.D. 1535.)

Leo X. and Francis I. were his noblest patrons, under whose auspices he founded the Greek colleges of Rome and Paris, (Hody, p. 247--275.)

He left posterity in France; but the counts de Vintimille, and their

numerous branches, derive the name of Lascaris from a doubtful marriage

in the xiiith century with the daughter of a Greek emperor (Ducange, fam. Byzant. p. 224--230.)]

[Footnote 106: Two of his epigrams against Virgil, and three against tully, are preserved and refuted by Franciscus Floridus, who can find no better names than Græculus ineptus et impudens, (Hody, p. 274.) In our

own times, an English critic has accused the Æneid of containing multa

languida, nugatoria, spiritû et majestate carminis heroici defecta; many

such verses as he, the said Jeremiah Markland, would have been ashamed

of owning, (præfat. ad Statii Sylvas, p. 21, 22.)]

[Footnote 107: Emanuel Chrysoloras, and his colleagues, are accused of

ignorance, envy, or avarice, (Sylloge, &c., tom. ii. p. 235.) The modern

Greeks pronounce the b as a V consonant, and confound three vowels, (h i

u,) and several diphthongs. Such was the vulgar pronunciation which the stern Gardiner maintained by penal statutes in the university of cambridge: but the monosyllable bh represented to an Attic ear the bleating of sheep, and a bellwether is better evidence than a bishop or a chancellor. The treatises of those scholars, particularly Erasmus, who asserted a more classical pronunciation, are collected in the Sylloge

of Havercamp, (2 vols. in octavo, Lugd. Bat. 1736, 1740:) but it is difficult to paint sounds by words: and in their reference to modern

use, they can be understood only by their respective countrymen. We may

observe, that our peculiar pronunciation of the O, th, is approved by erasmus, (tom. ii. p. 130.)]

Yet the fleeting shadows of metaphysics were pursued with more curiosity and ardor. After a long oblivion, Plato was revived in Italy by a

venerable Greek, [108] who taught in the house of Cosmo of Medicis. while the synod of Florence was involved in theological debate, some beneficial consequences might flow from the study of his elegant

philosophy: his style is the purest standard of the Attic dialect, and

his sublime thoughts are sometimes adapted to familiar conversation, and

sometimes adorned with the richest colors of poetry and eloquence. The dialogues of Plato are a dramatic picture of the life and death of a

sage; and, as often as he descends from the clouds, his moral system

inculcates the love of truth, of our country, and of mankind. The

precept and example of Socrates recommended a modest doubt and liberal

inquiry; and if the Platonists, with blind devotion, adored the visions and errors of their divine master, their enthusiasm might correct the dry, dogmatic method of the Peripatetic school. So equal, yet

so opposite, are the merits of Plato and Aristotle, that they may be balanced in endless controversy; but some spark of freedom may be

produced by the collision of adverse servitude. The modern Greeks were divided between the two sects: with more fury than skill they fought

under the banner of their leaders; and the field of battle was removed

in their flight from Constantinople to Rome. But this philosophical debate soon degenerated into an angry and personal quarrel of

grammarians; and Bessarion, though an advocate for Plato, protected the

national honor, by interposing the advice and authority of a mediator.

In the gardens of the Medici, the academical doctrine was enjoyed by the

polite and learned: but their philosophic society was quickly dissolved; and if the writings of the Attic sage were perused in the closet, the

more powerful Stagyrite continued to reign, the oracle of the church and

school. [109]

[Footnote 108: George Gemistus Pletho, a various and voluminous writer, the master of Bessarion, and all the Platonists of the times. He visited

Italy in his old age, and soon returned to end his days in Peloponnesus.

See the curious Diatribe of Leo Allatius de Georgiis, in Fabricius.

(Bibliot. Græc. tom. x. p. 739--756.)]

[Footnote 109: The state of the Platonic philosophy in Italy is

illustrated by Boivin, (Mém. de l'Acad. des Inscriptions, tom. ii. p.

715--729,) and Tiraboschi, (tom. vi. P. i. p. 259--288.)]

I have fairly represented the literary merits of the Greeks; yet it must be confessed, that they were seconded and surpassed by the ardor of the

Latins. Italy was divided into many independent states; and at that time

it was the ambition of princes and republics to vie with each other in the encouragement and reward of literature. The fame of Nicholas the fifth [110] has not been adequate to his merits. From a plebeian origin

he raised himself by his virtue and learning: the character of the man

prevailed over the interest of the pope; and he sharpened those weapons which were soon pointed against the Roman church. [111] He had been the friend of the most eminent scholars of the age: he became their patron; and such was the humility of his manners, that the change was scarcely discernible either to them or to himself. If he pressed the acceptance

of a liberal gift, it was not as the measure of desert, but as the proof

of benevolence; and when modest merit declined his bounty, "Accept it," would he say, with a consciousness of his own worth: "ye will not always

have a Nicholas among you." The influence of the holy see pervaded christendom; and he exerted that influence in the search, not of benefices, but of books. From the ruins of the Byzantine libraries, from the darkest monasteries of Germany and Britain, he collected the dusty

manuscripts of the writers of antiquity; and wherever the original could

not be removed, a faithful copy was transcribed and transmitted for

his use. The Vatican, the old repository for bulls and legends, for

superstition and forgery, was daily replenished with more precious furniture; and such was the industry of Nicholas, that in a reign

of eight years he formed a library of five thousand volumes. To his

munificence the Latin world was indebted for the versions of Xenophon, diodorus, Polybius, Thucydides, Herodotus, and Appian; of Strabo's

Geography, of the Iliad, of the most valuable works of Plato and aristotle, of Ptolemy and Theophrastus, and of the fathers of the Greek church. The example of the Roman pontiff was preceded or imitated by a florentine merchant, who governed the republic without arms and without a title. Cosmo of Medicis [112] was the father of a line of princes, whose name and age are almost synonymous with the restoration of

learning: his credit was ennobled into fame; his riches were dedicated to the service of mankind; he corresponded at once with Cairo and

London: and a cargo of Indian spices and Greek books was often imported

in the same vessel. The genius and education of his grandson Lorenzo

rendered him not only a patron, but a judge and candidate, in the

literary race. In his palace, distress was entitled to relief, and merit to reward: his leisure hours were delightfully spent in the Platonic academy; he encouraged the emulation of Demetrius Chalcocondyles and angelo Politian; and his active missionary Janus Lascaris returned from the East with a treasure of two hundred manuscripts, fourscore of which were as yet unknown in the libraries of Europe. [113] The rest of Italy was animated by a similar spirit, and the progress of the nation repaid the liberality of their princes. The Latins held the exclusive property

of their own literature; and these disciples of Greece were soon capable

of transmitting and improving the lessons which they had imbibed. After a short succession of foreign teachers, the tide of emigration subsided; but the language of Constantinople was spread beyond the Alps and the

natives of France, Germany, and England, [114] imparted to their country the sacred fire which they had kindled in the schools of Florence and

Rome. [115] In the productions of the mind, as in those of the soil, the

gifts of nature are excelled by industry and skill: the Greek authors, forgotten on the banks of the Ilissus, have been illustrated on those

of the Elbe and the Thames: and Bessarion or Gaza might have envied the

superior science of the Barbarians; the accuracy of Budæus, the taste

of Erasmus, the copiousness of Stephens, the erudition of Scaliger, the discernment of Reiske, or of Bentley. On the side of the Latins, the discovery of printing was a casual advantage: but this useful art has been applied by Aldus, and his innumerable successors, to perpetuate and

multiply the works of antiquity. [116] A single manuscript imported from

Greece is revived in ten thousand copies; and each copy is fairer than the original. In this form, Homer and Plato would peruse with more

satisfaction their own writings; and their scholiasts must resign the

prize to the labors of our Western editors.

[Footnote 110: See the Life of Nicholas V. by two contemporary authors,

Janottus Manettus, (tom. iii. P. ii. p. 905--962,) and Vespasian of florence, (tom. xxv. p. 267--290,) in the collection of Muratori; and consult Tiraboschi, (tom. vi. P. i. p. 46--52, 109,) and Hody in the articles of Theodore Gaza, George of Trebizond, &c.]

[Footnote 111: Lord Bolingbroke observes, with truth and spirit, that the popes in this instance, were worse politicians than the muftis, and that the charm which had bound mankind for so many ages was broken by the magicians themselves, (Letters on the Study of History, l. vi. p.

165, 166, octavo edition, 1779.)]

[Footnote 112: See the literary history of Cosmo and Lorenzo of Medicis,

in Tiraboschi, (tom. vi. P. i. l. i. c. 2,) who bestows a due measure

of praise on Alphonso of Arragon, king of Naples, the dukes of Milan, ferrara Urbino, &c. The republic of Venice has deserved the least from the gratitude of scholars.]

[Footnote 113: Tiraboschi, (tom. vi. P. i. p. 104,) from the preface

of Janus Lascaris to the Greek Anthology, printed at Florence, 1494.

Latebant (says Aldus in his preface to the Greek orators, apud Hodium,

p. 249) in Atho Thraciæ monte. Eas Lascaris.... in Italiam reportavit.

Miserat enim ipsum Laurentius ille Medices in Græciam ad inquirendos

simul, et quantovis emendos pretio bonos libros. It is remarkable enough, that the research was facilitated by Sultan Bajazet II.]

[Footnote 114: The Greek language was introduced into the university of

Oxford in the last years of the xvth century, by Grocyn, Linacer, and

Latimer, who had all studied at Florence under Demetrius Chalcocondyles.

See Dr. Knight's curious Life of Erasmus. Although a stout academical

patriot, he is forced to acknowledge that Erasmus learned Greek at

Oxford, and taught it at Cambridge.]

[Footnote 115: The jealous Italians were desirous of keeping a monopoly

of Greek learning. When Aldus was about to publish the Greek scholiasts

on Sophocles and Euripides, Cave, (said they,) cave hoc facias, ne

\_Barbari\_ istis adjuti domi maneant, et pauciores in Italiam ventitent,

(Dr. Knight, in his Life of Erasmus, p. 365, from Beatus Rhemanus.)]

[Footnote 116: The press of Aldus Manutius, a Roman, was established at

Venice about the year 1494: he printed above sixty considerable works

of Greek literature, almost all for the first time; several containing different treatises and authors, and of several authors, two, three, or four editions, (Fabric. Bibliot. Græc. tom. xiii. p. 605, &c.) Yet

his glory must not tempt us to forget, that the first Greek book, the

Grammar of Constantine Lascaris, was printed at Milan in 1476; and that the Florence Homer of 1488 displays all the luxury of the typographical art. See the Annales Typographical of Mattaire, and the Bibliographie

Instructive of De Bure, a knowing bookseller of Paris.]

before the revival of classic literature, the Barbarians in Europe were

immersed in ignorance; and their vulgar tongues were marked with the

rudeness and poverty of their manners. The students of the more perfect

idioms of Rome and Greece were introduced to a new world of light and

science; to the society of the free and polished nations of antiquity; and to a familiar converse with those immortal men who spoke the sublime

language of eloquence and reason. Such an intercourse must tend to

refine the taste, and to elevate the genius, of the moderns; and yet, from the first experiments, it might appear that the study of the ancients had given fetters, rather than wings, to the human mind.

However laudable, the spirit of imitation is of a servile cast; and the first disciples of the Greeks and Romans were a colony of strangers in the midst of their age and country. The minute and laborious diligence which explored the antiquities of remote times might have improved or adorned the present state of society, the critic and metaphysician were the slaves of Aristotle; the poets, historians, and orators, were proud to repeat the thoughts and words of the Augustan age: the works of

nature were observed with the eyes of Pliny and Theophrastus; and some

Pagan votaries professed a secret devotion to the gods of Homer and

Plato. [117] The Italians were oppressed by the strength and number of their ancient auxiliaries: the century after the deaths of Petrarch and boccace was filled with a crowd of Latin imitators, who decently repose

on our shelves; but in that æra of learning it will not be easy to discern a real discovery of science, a work of invention or eloquence,

in the popular language of the country. [118] But as soon as it had been deeply saturated with the celestial dew, the soil was quickened into

vegetation and life; the modern idioms were refined; the classics of athens and Rome inspired a pure taste and a generous emulation; and in

Italy, as afterwards in France and England, the pleasing reign of poetry and fiction was succeeded by the light of speculative and experimental

philosophy. Genius may anticipate the season of maturity; but in the education of a people, as in that of an individual, memory must be exercised, before the powers of reason and fancy can be expanded: nor

may the artist hope to equal or surpass, till he has learned to imitate, the works of his predecessors.

[Footnote 117: I will select three singular examples of this classic enthusiasm. I. At the synod of Florence, Gemistus Pletho said, in familiar conversation to George of Trebizond, that in a short time

mankind would unanimously renounce the Gospel and the Koran, for a

religion similar to that of the Gentiles, (Leo Allatius, apud Fabricium, tom. x. p. 751.) 2. Paul II. persecuted the Roman academy, which had been founded by Pomponius Lætus; and the principal members were accused

of heresy, impiety, and \_paganism\_, (Tiraboschi, tom. vi. P. i. p.

81, 82.) 3. In the next century, some scholars and poets in France celebrated the success of Jodelle's tragedy of Cleopatra, by a festival

of Bacchus, and, as it is said, by the sacrifice of a goat, (Bayle, dictionnaire, Jodelle. Fontenelle, tom. iii. p. 56--61.) Yet the spirit

of bigotry might often discern a serious impiety in the sportive play of fancy and learning.]

[Footnote 118: The survivor Boccace died in the year 1375; and we cannot

place before 1480 the composition of the Morgante Maggiore of Pulci and the Orlando Innamorato of Boyardo, (Tiraboschi, tom. vi. P. ii. p.

174--177.)]

chapter LXVII: Schism Of The Greeks And Latins.--Part I.

Schism Of The Greeks And Latins.--Reign And Character Of

Amurath The Second.--Crusade Of Ladislaus, King Of Hungary.--

His Defeat And Death.--John Huniades.--Scanderbeg.--

Constantine Palæologus, Last Emperor Of The East.

the respective merits of Rome and Constantinople are compared and celebrated by an eloquent Greek, the father of the Italian schools. [1] the view of the ancient capital, the seat of his ancestors, surpassed the most sanguine expectations of Emanuel Chrysoloras; and he no longer blamed the exclamation of an old sophist, that Rome was the habitation,

not of men, but of gods. Those gods, and those men, had long since

vanished; but to the eye of liberal enthusiasm, the majesty of ruin

restored the image of her ancient prosperity. The monuments of the consuls and Cæsars, of the martyrs and apostles, engaged on all sides the curiosity of the philosopher and the Christian; and he confessed that in every age the arms and the religion of Rome were destined to

reign over the earth. While Chrysoloras admired the venerable beauties

of the mother, he was not forgetful of his native country, her fairest daughter, her Imperial colony; and the Byzantine patriot expatiates with zeal and truth on the eternal advantages of nature, and the more transitory glories of art and dominion, which adorned, or had adorned, the city of Constantine. Yet the perfection of the copy still redounds

(as he modestly observes) to the honor of the original, and parents are delighted to be renewed, and even excelled, by the superior merit of their children. "Constantinople," says the orator, "is situate on a commanding point, between Europe and Asia, between the Archipelago and the Euxine. By her interposition, the two seas, and the two continents, are united for the common benefit of nations; and the gates of commerce

may be shut or opened at her command. The harbor, encompassed on all

sides by the sea, and the continent, is the most secure and capacious

in the world. The walls and gates of Constantinople may be compared with those of Babylon: the towers many; each tower is a solid and

lofty structure; and the second wall, the outer fortification, would be

sufficient for the defence and dignity of an ordinary capital. A broad and rapid stream may be introduced into the ditches and the artificial

island may be encompassed, like Athens, [2] by land or water." Two strong and natural causes are alleged for the perfection of the model of new

Rome. The royal founder reigned over the most illustrious nations of the

globe; and in the accomplishment of his designs, the power of the Romans was combined with the art and science of the Greeks. Other cities have been reared to maturity by accident and time: their beauties are mingled with disorder and deformity; and the inhabitants, unwilling to remove from their natal spot, are incapable of correcting the errors of their ancestors, and the original vices of situation or climate. But the free

idea of Constantinople was formed and executed by a single mind; and the

primitive model was improved by the obedient zeal of the subjects and

successors of the first monarch. The adjacent isles were stored with an inexhaustible supply of marble; but the various materials were transported from the most remote shores of Europe and Asia; and the public and private buildings, the palaces, churches, aqueducts, cisterns, porticos, columns, baths, and hippodromes, were adapted to the greatness of the capital of the East. The superfluity of wealth was

spread along the shores of Europe and Asia; and the Byzantine territory, as far as the Euxine, the Hellespont, and the long wall, might be considered as a populous suburb and a perpetual garden. In this flattering picture, the past and the present, the times of prosperity and decay, are art fully confounded; but a sigh and a confession escape, from the orator, that his wretched country was the shadow and sepulchre

of its former self. The works of ancient sculpture had been defaced by Christian zeal or Barbaric violence; the fairest structures were demolished; and the marbles of Paros or Numidia were burnt for lime, or applied to the meanest uses. Of many a statue, the place was marked by an empty pedestal; of many a column, the size was determined by a broken capital; the tombs of the emperors were scattered on the ground; the

stroke of time was accelerated by storms and earthquakes; and the vacant

space was adorned, by vulgar tradition, with fabulous monuments of gold and silver. From these wonders, which lived only in memory or belief, he distinguishes, however, the porphyry pillar, the column and colossus of

Justinian, [3] and the church, more especially the dome, of St. Sophia; the best conclusion, since it could not be described according to its

merits, and after it no other object could deserve to be mentioned. But

he forgets that, a century before, the trembling fabrics of the colossus and the church had been saved and supported by the timely care of andronicus the Elder. Thirty years after the emperor had fortified

St. Sophia with two new buttresses or pyramids, the eastern hemisphere

suddenly gave way: and the images, the altars, and the sanctuary, were crushed by the falling ruin. The mischief indeed was speedily repaired; the rubbish was cleared by the incessant labor of every rank and age; and the poor remains of riches and industry were consecrated by the

Greeks to the most stately and venerable temple of the East. [4]

[Footnote 1: The epistle of Emanuel Chrysoloras to the emperor John

Palæologus will not offend the eye or ear of a classical student, (ad calcem Codini de Antiquitatibus C. P. p. 107--126.) The superscription

suggests a chronological remark, that John Palæologus II. was associated

in the empire before the year 1414, the date of Chrysoloras's death. a still earlier date, at least 1408, is deduced from the age of his

youngest sons, Demetrius and Thomas, who were both \_Porphyrogeniti\_

(Ducange, Fam. Byzant. p. 244, 247.)]

[Footnote 2: Somebody observed that the city of Athens might be circumnavigated, (tiV eipen tin polin tvn Aqhnaiwn dunasqai kai

paraplein kai periplein.) But what may be true in a rhetorical sense of constantinople, cannot be applied to the situation of Athens, five

miles from the sea, and not intersected or surrounded by any navigable

streams.]

[Footnote 3: Nicephorus Gregoras has described the Colossus of

Justinian, (l. vii. 12:) but his measures are false and inconsistent. the editor Boivin consulted his friend Girardon; and the sculptor gave

him the true proportions of an equestrian statue. That of Justinian was

still visible to Peter Gyllius, not on the column, but in the outward court of the seraglio; and he was at Constantinople when it was melted down, and cast into a brass cannon, (de Topograph. C. P. l. ii. c. 17.)]

[Footnote 4: See the decay and repairs of St. Sophia, in Nicephorus

Gregoras (l. vii. 12, l. xv. 2.) The building was propped by Andronicus

in 1317, the eastern hemisphere fell in 1345. The Greeks, in their

pompous rhetoric, exalt the beauty and holiness of the church, an earthly heaven the abode of angels, and of God himself, &c.]

the last hope of the falling city and empire was placed in the harmony

of the mother and daughter, in the maternal tenderness of Rome, and the filial obedience of Constantinople. In the synod of Florence, the Greeks and Latins had embraced, and subscribed, and promised; but these signs

of friendship were perfidious or fruitless; [5] and the baseless fabric

of the union vanished like a dream. [6] The emperor and his prelates

returned home in the Venetian galleys; but as they touched at the Morea and the Isles of Corfu and Lesbos, the subjects of the Latins complained that the pretended union would be an instrument of oppression. No sooner did they land on the Byzantine shore, than they were saluted, or rather assailed, with a general murmur of zeal and discontent. During their absence, above two years, the capital had been deprived of its civil and ecclesiastical rulers; fanaticism fermented in anarchy; the most furious

monks reigned over the conscience of women and bigots; and the hatred

of the Latin name was the first principle of nature and religion. Before

his departure for Italy, the emperor had flattered the city with the assurance of a prompt relief and a powerful succor; and the clergy, confident in their orthodoxy and science, had promised themselves and their flocks an easy victory over the blind shepherds of the West. The double disappointment exasperated the Greeks; the conscience of the

subscribing prelates was awakened; the hour of temptation was past; and they had more to dread from the public resentment, than they could hope from the favor of the emperor or the pope. Instead of justifying their conduct, they deplored their weakness, professed their contrition, and cast themselves on the mercy of God and of their brethren. To the reproachful question, what had been the event or the use of their

Italian synod? they answered with sighs and tears, "Alas! we have made a new faith; we have exchanged piety for impiety; we have betrayed the

immaculate sacrifice; and we are become \_Azymites\_." (The Azymites were those who celebrated the communion with unleavened bread; and I must

retract or qualify the praise which I have bestowed on the growing

philosophy of the times.) "Alas! we have been seduced by distress, by fraud, and by the hopes and fears of a transitory life. The hand that has signed the union should be cut off; and the tongue that has

pronounced the Latin creed deserves to be torn from the root." The best

proof of their repentance was an increase of zeal for the most trivial rites and the most incomprehensible doctrines; and an absolute

separation from all, without excepting their prince, who preserved some

regard for honor and consistency. After the decease of the patriarch

Joseph, the archbishops of Heraclea and Trebizond had courage to

refuse the vacant office; and Cardinal Bessarion preferred the warm and comfortable shelter of the Vatican. The choice of the emperor and his clergy was confined to Metrophanes of Cyzicus: he was consecrated in

St. Sophia, but the temple was vacant. The cross-bearers abdicated their service; the infection spread from the city to the villages; and

Metrophanes discharged, without effect, some ecclesiastical thunders against a nation of schismatics. The eyes of the Greeks were directed to

Mark of Ephesus, the champion of his country; and the sufferings of the

holy confessor were repaid with a tribute of admiration and applause.

His example and writings propagated the flame of religious discord; age and infirmity soon removed him from the world; but the gospel of Mark was not a law of forgiveness; and he requested with his dying breath, that none of the adherents of Rome might attend his obsequies or pray for his soul.

[Footnote 5: The genuine and original narrative of Syropulus (p.

312--351) opens the schism from the first \_office\_ of the Greeks at

Venice to the general opposition at Constantinople, of the clergy and

people.]

[Footnote 6: On the schism of Constantinople, see Phranza, (l. ii. c.

17,) Laonicus Chalcondyles, (l. vi. p. 155, 156,) and Ducas, (c. 31;) the last of whom writes with truth and freedom. Among the moderns we

may distinguish the continuator of Fleury, (tom. xxii. p. 338, &c., 401,

420, &c.,) and Spondanus, (A.D. 1440--50.) The sense of the latter

is drowned in prejudice and passion, as soon as Rome and religion are concerned.]

the schism was not confined to the narrow limits of the Byzantine empire. Secure under the Mamaluke sceptre, the three patriarchs of alexandria, Antioch, and Jerusalem, assembled a numerous synod; disowned their representatives at Ferrara and Florence; condemned the creed and council of the Latins; and threatened the emperor of Constantinople with the censures of the Eastern church. Of the sectaries of the

Greek communion, the Russians were the most powerful, ignorant, and

superstitious. Their primate, the cardinal Isidore, hastened from florence to Moscow, [7] to reduce the independent nation under the Roman

yoke. But the Russian bishops had been educated at Mount Athos; and the prince and people embraced the theology of their priests. They were

scandalized by the title, the pomp, the Latin cross of the legate, the friend of those impious men who shaved their beards, and performed the divine office with gloves on their hands and rings on their fingers:

Isidore was condemned by a synod; his person was imprisoned in a

monastery; and it was with extreme difficulty that the cardinal could escape from the hands of a fierce and fanatic people. [8] The Russians

refused a passage to the missionaries of Rome who aspired to convert the Pagans beyond the Tanais; [9] and their refusal was justified by the

maxim, that the guilt of idolatry is less damnable than that of schism. the errors of the Bohemians were excused by their abhorrence for the

pope; and a deputation of the Greek clergy solicited the friendship of those sanguinary enthusiasts. [10] While Eugenius triumphed in the union and orthodoxy of the Greeks, his party was contracted to the walls, or

rather to the palace of Constantinople. The zeal of Palæologus had been excited by interest; it was soon cooled by opposition: an attempt to

violate the national belief might endanger his life and crown; not could the pious rebels be destitute of foreign and domestic aid. The sword of

his brother Demetrius, who in Italy had maintained a prudent and popular

silence, was half unsheathed in the cause of religion; and Amurath, the turkish sultan, was displeased and alarmed by the seeming friendship of the Greeks and Latins.

[Footnote 7: Isidore was metropolitan of Kiow, but the Greeks subject to Poland have removed that see from the ruins of Kiow to Lemberg, or

Leopold, (Herbestein, in Ramusio, tom. ii. p. 127.) On the other hand, the Russians transferred their spiritual obedience to the archbishop, who became, in 1588, the patriarch, of Moscow, (Levesque Hist. de

Russie, tom. iii. p. 188, 190, from a Greek MS. at Turin, Iter et

labores Archiepiscopi Arsenii.)]

[Footnote 8: The curious narrative of Levesque (Hist. de Russie, tom.

ii. p. 242--247) is extracted from the patriarchal archives. The scenes

of Ferrara and Florence are described by ignorance and passion; but the

Russians are credible in the account of their own prejudices.]

[Footnote 9: The Shamanism, the ancient religion of the Samanæans and

Gymnosophists, has been driven by the more popular Bramins from India

into the northern deserts: the naked philosophers were compelled to wrap themselves in fur; but they insensibly sunk into wizards and physicians. the Mordvans and Tcheremisses in the European Russia adhere to this

religion, which is formed on the earthly model of one king or God,

his ministers or angels, and the rebellious spirits who oppose his

government. As these tribes of the Volga have no images, they might

more justly retort on the Latin missionaries the name of idolaters,

(Levesque, Hist. des Peuples soumis à la Domination des Russes, tom. i.

p. 194--237, 423--460.)]

[Footnote 10: Spondanus, Annal. Eccles. tom ii. A.D. 1451, No. 13. The epistle of the Greeks with a Latin version, is extant in the college

library at Prague.]

"Sultan Murad, or Amurath, lived forty-nine, and reigned thirty years,

six months, and eight days. He was a just and valiant prince, of a great

soul, patient of labors, learned, merciful, religious, charitable; a

lover and encourager of the studious, and of all who excelled in any art

or science; a good emperor and a great general. No man obtained more or

greater victories than Amurath; Belgrade alone withstood his attacks. [101]

Under his reign, the soldier was ever victorious, the citizen rich and

secure. If he subdued any country, his first care was to build mosques and caravansaras, hospitals, and colleges. Every year he gave a thousand

pieces of gold to the sons of the Prophet; and sent two thousand five

hundred to the religious persons of Mecca, Medina, and Jerusalem." [11] this portrait is transcribed from the historian of the Othman empire: but the applause of a servile and superstitious people has been lavished

on the worst of tyrants; and the virtues of a sultan are often the vices

most useful to himself, or most agreeable to his subjects. A nation

ignorant of the equal benefits of liberty and law, must be awed by the flashes of arbitrary power: the cruelty of a despot will assume the character of justice; his profusion, of liberality; his obstinacy,

of firmness. If the most reasonable excuse be rejected, few acts of

obedience will be found impossible; and guilt must tremble, where

innocence cannot always be secure. The tranquillity of the people, and the discipline of the troops, were best maintained by perpetual action

in the field; war was the trade of the Janizaries; and those who

survived the peril, and divided the spoil, applauded the generous ambition of their sovereign. To propagate the true religion, was the duty of a faithful Mussulman: the unbelievers were \_his\_ enemies, and those of the Prophet; and, in the hands of the Turks, the cimeter was the only instrument of conversion. Under these circumstances, however, the justice and moderation of Amurath are attested by his conduct, and acknowledged by the Christians themselves; who consider a prosperous

reign and a peaceful death as the reward of his singular merits. In the

vigor of his age and military power, he seldom engaged in war till he was justified by a previous and adequate provocation: the victorious

sultan was disarmed by submission; and in the observance of treaties,

his word was inviolate and sacred. [12] The Hungarians were commonly the aggressors; he was provoked by the revolt of Scanderbeg; and the

perfidious Caramanian was twice vanquished, and twice pardoned, by the

Ottoman monarch. Before he invaded the Morea, Thebes had been surprised by the despot: in the conquest of Thessalonica, the grandson of Bajazet

might dispute the recent purchase of the Venetians; and after the first

siege of Constantinople, the sultan was never tempted, by the distress, the absence, or the injuries of Palæologus, to extinguish the dying

light of the Byzantine empire.

[Footnote 101: See the siege and massacre at Thessalonica. Von Hammer vol.

i p. 433.--M.]

[Footnote 11: See Cantemir, History of the Othman Empire, p. 94. Murad,

or Morad, may be more correct: but I have preferred the popular name to that obscure diligence which is rarely successful in translating an

Oriental, into the Roman, alphabet.]

[Footnote 12: See Chalcondyles, (l. vii. p. 186, 198,) Ducas, (c. 33,) and Marinus Barletius, (in Vit. Scanderbeg, p. 145, 146.) In his good faith towards the garrison of Sfetigrade, he was a lesson and example to

his son Mahomet.]

but the most striking feature in the life and character of Amurath is the double abdication of the Turkish throne; and, were not his

motives debased by an alloy of superstition, we must praise the royal

philosopher, [13] who at the age of forty could discern the vanity of

human greatness. Resigning the sceptre to his son, he retired to the

pleasant residence of Magnesia; but he retired to the society of saints and hermits. It was not till the fourth century of the Hegira, that the

religion of Mahomet had been corrupted by an institution so adverse to his genius; but in the age of the crusades, the various orders of dervises were multiplied by the example of the Christian, and even the

Latin, monks. [14] The lord of nations submitted to fast, and pray, and turn round [141] in endless rotation with the fanatics, who mistook the

giddiness of the head for the illumination of the spirit. [15] But he was

soon awakened from his dreams of enthusiasm by the Hungarian invasion; and his obedient son was the foremost to urge the public danger and the wishes of the people. Under the banner of their veteran leader, the

Janizaries fought and conquered but he withdrew from the field of Varna, again to pray, to fast, and to turn round with his Magnesian brethren. these pious occupations were again interrupted by the danger of the

state. A victorious army disdained the inexperience of their youthful

ruler: the city of Adrianople was abandoned to rapine and slaughter; and the unanimous divan implored his presence to appease the tumult, and prevent the rebellion, of the Janizaries. At the well-known voice

of their master, they trembled and obeyed; and the reluctant sultan was compelled to support his splendid servitude, till at the end of four

years, he was relieved by the angel of death. Age or disease, misfortune

or caprice, have tempted several princes to descend from the throne; and they have had leisure to repent of their irretrievable step. But Amurath alone, in the full liberty of choice, after the trial of empire and

solitude, has \_repeated\_ his preference of a private life.

[Footnote 13: Voltaire (Essai sur l'Histoire Générale, c. 89, p. 283,

284) admires \_le Philosophe Turc:\_ would he have bestowed the same

praise on a Christian prince for retiring to a monastery? In his way,

Voltaire was a bigot, an intolerant bigot.]

[Footnote 14: See the articles \_Dervische\_, \_Fakir\_, \_Nasser\_,

\_Rohbaniat\_, in D'Herbelot's Bibliothèque Orientale. Yet the subject is

superficially treated from the Persian and Arabian writers. It is among the Turks that these orders have principally flourished.]

[Footnote 141: Gibbon has fallen into a remarkable error. The unmonastic

retreat of Amurath was that of an epicurean rather than of a dervis;

more like that of Sardanapalus than of Charles the Fifth. Profane, not divine, love was its chief occupation: the only dance, that described by

Horace as belonging to the country, motus doceri gaudet Ionicos. See Von

Hammer note, p. 652.--M.]

[Footnote 15: Ricaut (in the Present State of the Ottoman Empire, p.

242--268) affords much information, which he drew from his personal conversation with the heads of the dervises, most of whom ascribed their origin to the time of Orchan. He does not mention the \_Zichid\_ of chalcondyles, (l. vii. p. 286,) among whom Amurath retired: the \_Seids\_

of that author are the descendants of Mahomet.]

after the departure of his Greek brethren, Eugenius had not been

unmindful of their temporal interest; and his tender regard for the byzantine empire was animated by a just apprehension of the Turks, who approached, and might soon invade, the borders of Italy. But the spirit

of the crusades had expired; and the coldness of the Franks was not less

unreasonable than their headlong passion. In the eleventh century, a fanatic monk could precipitate Europe on Asia for the recovery of the

holy sepulchre; but in the fifteenth, the most pressing motives of

religion and policy were insufficient to unite the Latins in the defence

of Christendom. Germany was an inexhaustible storehouse of men and arms:

[16] but that complex and languid body required the impulse of a

vigorous hand; and Frederic the Third was alike impotent in his

personal character and his Imperial dignity. A long war had impaired the

strength, without satiating the animosity, of France and England: [17] but Philip duke of Burgundy was a vain and magnificent prince; and

he enjoyed, without danger or expense, the adventurous piety of his

subjects, who sailed, in a gallant fleet, from the coast of Flanders to the Hellespont. The maritime republics of Venice and Genoa were

less remote from the scene of action; and their hostile fleets were associated under the standard of St. Peter. The kingdoms of Hungary and

Poland, which covered as it were the interior pale of the Latin church, were the most nearly concerned to oppose the progress of the Turks. Arms were the patrimony of the Scythians and Sarmatians; and these nations

might appear equal to the contest, could they point, against the common foe, those swords that were so wantonly drawn in bloody and domestic

quarrels. But the same spirit was adverse to concord and obedience: a poor country and a limited monarch are incapable of maintaining a

standing force; and the loose bodies of Polish and Hungarian horse were

not armed with the sentiments and weapons which, on some occasions, have

given irresistible weight to the French chivalry. Yet, on this side, the designs of the Roman pontiff, and the eloquence of Cardinal Julian,

his legate, were promoted by the circumstances of the times: [18] by the union of the two crowns on the head of Ladislaus, [19] a young and ambitious soldier; by the valor of a hero, whose name, the name of John

Huniades, was already popular among the Christians, and formidable to the Turks. An endless treasure of pardons and indulgences was scattered by the legate; many private warriors of France and Germany enlisted

under the holy banner; and the crusade derived some strength, or at

least some reputation, from the new allies both of Europe and Asia. a fugitive despot of Servia exaggerated the distress and ardor of the christians beyond the Danube, who would unanimously rise to vindicate their religion and liberty. The Greek emperor, [20] with a spirit unknown to his fathers, engaged to guard the Bosphorus, and to sally from constantinople at the head of his national and mercenary troops. The

sultan of Caramania [21] announced the retreat of Amurath, and a powerful diversion in the heart of Anatolia; and if the fleets of the West could

occupy at the same moment the Straits of the Hellespont, the Ottoman

monarchy would be dissevered and destroyed. Heaven and earth must

rejoice in the perdition of the miscreants; and the legate, with prudent ambiguity, instilled the opinion of the invisible, perhaps the visible, aid of the Son of God, and his divine mother.

[Footnote 16: In the year 1431, Germany raised 40,000 horse,

men-at-arms, against the Hussites of Bohemia, (Lenfant, Hist. du Concile de Basle, tom. i. p. 318.) At the siege of Nuys, on the Rhine, in 1474, the princes, prelates, and cities, sent their respective quotas; and the bishop of Munster (qui n'est pas des plus grands) furnished 1400 horse,

6000 foot, all in green, with 1200 wagons. The united armies of the king

of England and the duke of Burgundy scarcely equalled one third of this

German host, (Mémoires de Philippe de Comines, l. iv. c. 2.) At present,

six or seven hundred thousand men are maintained in constant pay and admirable discipline by the powers of Germany.]

[Footnote 17: It was not till the year 1444, that France and England could agree on a truce of some months. (See Rymer's Fdera, and the chronicles of both nations.)]

[Footnote 18: In the Hungarian crusade, Spondanus (Annal. Ecclés. A.D.

1443, 1444) has been my leading guide. He has diligently read, and critically compared, the Greek and Turkish materials, the historians of

Hungary, Poland, and the West. His narrative is perspicuous and where

he can be free from a religious bias, the judgment of Spondanus is not contemptible.]

[Footnote 19: I have curtailed the harsh letter (Wladislaus) which

most writers affix to his name, either in compliance with the Polish

pronunciation, or to distinguish him from his rival the infant Ladislaus

of Austria. Their competition for the crown of Hungary is described by callimachus, (l. i. ii. p. 447--486,) Bonfinius, (Decad. iii. l. iv.,)

Spondanus, and Lenfant.]

[Footnote 20: The Greek historians, Phranza, Chalcondyles, and Ducas, do

not ascribe to their prince a very active part in this crusade, which he

seems to have promoted by his wishes, and injured by his fears.]

[Footnote 21: Cantemir (p. 88) ascribes to his policy the original plan, and transcribes his animating epistle to the king of Hungary. But the

Mahometan powers are seldom it formed of the state of Christendom and the situation and correspondence of the knights of Rhodes must connect them with the sultan of Caramania.]

Of the Polish and Hungarian diets, a religious war was the unanimous cry; and Ladislaus, after passing the Danube, led an army of his confederate subjects as far as Sophia, the capital of the Bulgarian

kingdom. In this expedition they obtained two signal victories, which were justly ascribed to the valor and conduct of Huniades. In the first, with a vanguard of ten thousand men, he surprised the Turkish camp; in the second, he vanquished and made prisoner the most renowned of their

generals, who possessed the double advantage of ground and numbers. The approach of winter, and the natural and artificial obstacles of Mount

Hæmus, arrested the progress of the hero, who measured a narrow interval

of six days' march from the foot of the mountains to the hostile towers

of Adrianople, and the friendly capital of the Greek empire. The retreat was undisturbed; and the entrance into Buda was at once a military and

religious triumph. An ecclesiastical procession was followed by the king and his warriors on foot: he nicely balanced the merits and rewards of the two nations; and the pride of conquest was blended with the humble temper of Christianity. Thirteen bashaws, nine standards, and four thousand captives, were unquestionable trophies; and as all were willing to believe, and none were present to contradict, the crusaders

multiplied, with unblushing confidence, the myriads of Turks whom they

had left on the field of battle. [22] The most solid proof, and the most

salutary consequence, of victory, was a deputation from the divan to solicit peace, to restore Servia, to ransom the prisoners, and to evacuate the Hungarian frontier. By this treaty, the rational objects

of the war were obtained: the king, the despot, and Huniades himself, in the diet of Segedin, were satisfied with public and private emolument; a truce of ten years was concluded; and the followers of Jesus and

Mahomet, who swore on the Gospel and the Koran, attested the word of God as the guardian of truth and the avenger of perfidy. In the place of the

Gospel, the Turkish ministers had proposed to substitute the Eucharist, the real presence of the Catholic deity; but the Christians refused to

profane their holy mysteries; and a superstitious conscience is less forcibly bound by the spiritual energy, than by the outward and visible

symbols of an oath. [23]

[Footnote 22: In their letters to the emperor Frederic III. the

Hungarians slay 80,000 Turks in one battle; but the modest Julian

reduces the slaughter to 6000 or even 2000 infidels, (Æneas Sylvius in europ. c. 5, and epist. 44, 81, apud Spondanum.)]

[Footnote 23: See the origin of the Turkish war, and the first expedition of Ladislaus, in the vth and vith books of the iiid decad of bonfinius, who, in his division and style, copies Livy with tolerable

success Callimachus (l. ii p. 487--496) is still more pure and authentic.]

during the whole transaction, the cardinal legate had observed a sullen

silence, unwilling to approve, and unable to oppose, the consent of the king and people. But the diet was not dissolved before Julian was fortified by the welcome intelligence, that Anatolia was invaded by the caramanian, and Thrace by the Greek emperor; that the fleets of Genoa,

Venice, and Burgundy, were masters of the Hellespont; and that the allies, informed of the victory, and ignorant of the treaty, of

Ladislaus, impatiently waited for the return of his victorious army.

"And is it thus," exclaimed the cardinal, [24] "that you will desert their expectations and your own fortune? It is to them, to your God, and

your fellow-Christians, that you have pledged your faith; and that prior

obligation annihilates a rash and sacrilegious oath to the enemies of christ. His vicar on earth is the Roman pontiff; without whose sanction

you can neither promise nor perform. In his name I absolve your perjury and sanctify your arms: follow my footsteps in the paths of glory and salvation; and if still ye have scruples, devolve on my head the

punishment and the sin." This mischievous casuistry was seconded by his

respectable character, and the levity of popular assemblies: war was

resolved, on the same spot where peace had so lately been sworn; and, in the execution of the treaty, the Turks were assaulted by the Christians; to whom, with some reason, they might apply the epithet of Infidels. the falsehood of Ladislaus to his word and oath was palliated by the

religion of the times: the most perfect, or at least the most popular, excuse would have been the success of his arms and the deliverance of the Eastern church. But the same treaty which should have bound his conscience had diminished his strength. On the proclamation of the

peace, the French and German volunteers departed with indignant murmurs: the Poles were exhausted by distant warfare, and perhaps disgusted with foreign command; and their palatines accepted the first license, and

hastily retired to their provinces and castles. Even Hungary was divided by faction, or restrained by a laudable scruple; and the relics of the crusade that marched in the second expedition were reduced to an

inadequate force of twenty thousand men. A Walachian chief, who joined the royal standard with his vassals, presumed to remark that their

numbers did not exceed the hunting retinue that sometimes attended the

sultan; and the gift of two horses of matchless speed might admonish

Ladislaus of his secret foresight of the event. But the despot of

Servia, after the restoration of his country and children, was tempted by the promise of new realms; and the inexperience of the king, the enthusiasm of the legate, and the martial presumption of Huniades

himself, were persuaded that every obstacle must yield to the invincible

virtue of the sword and the cross. After the passage of the Danube, two

roads might lead to Constantinople and the Hellespont: the one direct, abrupt, and difficult through the mountains of Hæmus; the other more tedious and secure, over a level country, and along the shores of the euxine; in which their flanks, according to the Scythian discipline,

might always be covered by a movable fortification of wagons. The latter was judiciously preferred: the Catholics marched through the plains of bulgaria, burning, with wanton cruelty, the churches and villages of the Christian natives; and their last station was at Warna, near the

sea-shore; on which the defeat and death of Ladislaus have bestowed a

memorable name. [25]

[Footnote 24: I do not pretend to warrant the literal accuracy of

Julian's speech, which is variously worded by Callimachus, (l. iii.

p. 505--507,) Bonfinius, (dec. iii. l. vi. p. 457, 458,) and other

historians, who might indulge their own eloquence, while they represent

one of the orators of the age. But they all agree in the advice and arguments for perjury, which in the field of controversy are fiercely attacked by the Protestants, and feebly defended by the Catholics. The

latter are discouraged by the misfortune of Warna.]

[Footnote 25: Warna, under the Grecian name of Odessus, was a colony of the Milesians, which they denominated from the hero Ulysses, (Cellarius, tom. i. p. 374. D'Anville, tom. i. p. 312.) According to Arrian's

Periplus of the Euxine, (p. 24, 25, in the first volume of Hudson's

Geographers,) it was situate 1740 stadia, or furlongs, from the mouth

of the Danube, 2140 from Byzantium, and 360 to the north of a ridge of

promontory of Mount Hæmus, which advances into the sea.]

chapter LXVII: Schism Of The Greeks And Latins.--Part II.

It was on this fatal spot, that, instead of finding a confederate fleet to second their operations, they were alarmed by the approach of Amurath

himself, who had issued from his Magnesian solitude, and transported the forces of Asia to the defence of Europe. According to some writers, the

Greek emperor had been awed, or seduced, to grant the passage of the bosphorus; and an indelible stain of corruption is fixed on the Genoese,

or the pope's nephew, the Catholic admiral, whose mercenary connivance betrayed the guard of the Hellespont. From Adrianople, the sultan advanced by hasty marches, at the head of sixty thousand men; and when the cardinal, and Huniades, had taken a nearer survey of the numbers and order of the Turks, these ardent warriors proposed the tardy and

impracticable measure of a retreat. The king alone was resolved to conquer or die; and his resolution had almost been crowned with a

glorious and salutary victory. The princes were opposite to each other

in the centre; and the Beglerbegs, or generals of Anatolia and Romania, commanded on the right and left, against the adverse divisions of the despot and Huniades. The Turkish wings were broken on the first onset: but the advantage was fatal; and the rash victors, in the heat of the

pursuit, were carried away far from the annoyance of the enemy, or the support of their friends. When Amurath beheld the flight of his

squadrons, he despaired of his fortune and that of the empire: a veteran

Janizary seized his horse's bridle; and he had magnanimity to pardon and reward the soldier who dared to perceive the terror, and arrest the flight, of his sovereign. A copy of the treaty, the monument of christian perfidy, had been displayed in the front of battle; and it is

said, that the sultan in his distress, lifting his eyes and his hands to

heaven, implored the protection of the God of truth; and called on the

prophet Jesus himself to avenge the impious mockery of his name and

religion. [26] With inferior numbers and disordered ranks, the king of

Hungary rushed forward in the confidence of victory, till his career was

stopped by the impenetrable phalanx of the Janizaries. If we may credit the Ottoman annals, his horse was pierced by the javelin of Amurath;

[27] he fell among the spears of the infantry; and a Turkish soldier

proclaimed with a loud voice, "Hungarians, behold the head of your

king!" The death of Ladislaus was the signal of their defeat. On his

return from an intemperate pursuit, Huniades deplored his error, and the

public loss; he strove to rescue the royal body, till he was overwhelmed by the tumultuous crowd of the victors and vanquished; and the last efforts of his courage and conduct were exerted to save the remnant

of his Walachian cavalry. Ten thousand Christians were slain in the disastrous battle of Warna: the loss of the Turks, more considerable

in numbers, bore a smaller proportion to their total strength; yet the

philosophic sultan was not ashamed to confess, that his ruin must be the consequence of a second and similar victory. [271] At his command a column was erected on the spot where Ladislaus had fallen; but the modest

inscription, instead of accusing the rashness, recorded the valor, and bewailed the misfortune, of the Hungarian youth. [28]

[Footnote 26: Some Christian writers affirm, that he drew from his bosom the host or wafer on which the treaty had \_not\_ been sworn. The Moslems

suppose, with more simplicity, an appeal to God and his prophet Jesus, which is likewise insinuated by Callimachus, (l. iii. p. 516. Spondan. a.D. 1444, No. 8.)]

[Footnote 27: A critic will always distrust these \_spolia opima\_ of a victorious general, so difficult for valor to obtain, so easy for flattery to invent, (Cantemir, p. 90, 91.) Callimachus (l. iii. p. 517)

more simply and probably affirms, supervenitibus Janizaris, telorum

multitudine, non jam confossus est, quam obrutus.]

[Footnote 271: Compare Von Hammer, p. 463.--M.]

[Footnote 28: Besides some valuable hints from Æneas Sylvius, which are diligently collected by Spondanus, our best authorities are three

historians of the xvth century, Philippus Callimachus, (de Rebus a

Vladislao Polonorum atque Hungarorum Rege gestis, libri iii. in Bel.

Script. Rerum Hungaricarum, tom. i. p. 433--518,) Bonfinius, (decad.

iii. l. v. p. 460--467,) and Chalcondyles, (l. vii. p. 165--179.) The two first were Italians, but they passed their lives in Poland and

Hungary, (Fabric. Bibliot. Latin. Med. et Infimæ Ætatis, tom. i. p.

324. Vossius, de Hist. Latin. l. iii. c. 8, 11. Bayle, Dictionnaire, bonfinius.) A small tract of Fælix Petancius, chancellor of Segnia, (ad calcem Cuspinian. de Cæsaribus, p. 716--722,) represents the theatre of the war in the xvth century.]

before I lose sight of the field of Warna, I am tempted to pause on the character and story of two principal actors, the cardinal Julian and

John Huniades. Julian [29] Cæsarini was born of a noble family of Rome:

his studies had embraced both the Latin and Greek learning, both the

sciences of divinity and law; and his versatile genius was equally adapted to the schools, the camp, and the court. No sooner had he been

invested with the Roman purple, than he was sent into Germany to arm the empire against the rebels and heretics of Bohemia. The spirit of

persecution is unworthy of a Christian; the military profession ill becomes a priest; but the former is excused by the times; and the latter was ennobled by the courage of Julian, who stood dauntless and alone

in the disgraceful flight of the German host. As the pope's legate, he

opened the council of Basil; but the president soon appeared the most

strenuous champion of ecclesiastical freedom; and an opposition of

seven years was conducted by his ability and zeal. After promoting the

strongest measures against the authority and person of Eugenius, some

secret motive of interest or conscience engaged him to desert on a

sudden the popular party. The cardinal withdrew himself from Basil to ferrara; and, in the debates of the Greeks and Latins, the two nations admired the dexterity of his arguments and the depth of his theological erudition. [30] In his Hungarian embassy, we have already seen the

mischievous effects of his sophistry and eloquence, of which Julian

himself was the first victim. The cardinal, who performed the duties

of a priest and a soldier, was lost in the defeat of Warna. The circumstances of his death are variously related; but it is believed, that a weighty encumbrance of gold impeded his flight, and tempted the cruel avarice of some Christian fugitives.

[Footnote 29: M. Lenfant has described the origin (Hist. du Concile de Basle, tom. i. p. 247, &c.) and Bohemian campaign (p. 315, &c.) of cardinal Julian. His services at Basil and Ferrara, and his unfortunate end, are occasionally related by Spondanus, and the continuator of fleury.]

[Footnote 30: Syropulus honorably praises the talent of an enemy, (p.

117:) toiauta tina eipen o IoulianoV peplatusmenwV agan kai logikwV, kai

met episthmhV kai deinothtoV 'RhtprikhV.]

from an humble, or at least a doubtful origin, the merit of John

Huniades promoted him to the command of the Hungarian armies. His father was a Walachian, his mother a Greek: her unknown race might possibly ascend to the emperors of Constantinople; and the claims of the walachians, with the surname of Corvinus, from the place of his

nativity, might suggest a thin pretence for mingling his blood with the

patricians of ancient Rome. [31] In his youth he served in the wars of

Italy, and was retained, with twelve horsemen, by the bishop of Zagrab: the valor of the \_white knight\_ [32] was soon conspicuous; he increased

his fortunes by a noble and wealthy marriage; and in the defence of the Hungarian borders he won in the same year three battles against the Turks. By his influence, Ladislaus of Poland obtained the crown of

Hungary; and the important service was rewarded by the title and office

of Waivod of Transylvania. The first of Julian's crusades added two turkish laurels on his brow; and in the public distress the fatal errors

of Warna were forgotten. During the absence and minority of Ladislaus

of Austria, the titular king, Huniades was elected supreme captain and

governor of Hungary; and if envy at first was silenced by terror, a

reign of twelve years supposes the arts of policy as well as of war. Yet the idea of a consummate general is not delineated in his campaigns; the white knight fought with the hand rather than the head, as the chief of desultory Barbarians, who attack without fear and fly without shame; and

his military life is composed of a romantic alternative of victories and escapes. By the Turks, who employed his name to frighten their perverse children, he was corruptly denominated \_Jancus Lain\_, or the Wicked: their hatred is the proof of their esteem; the kingdom which he guarded was inaccessible to their arms; and they felt him most daring and formidable, when they fondly believed the captain and his country

irrecoverably lost. Instead of confining himself to a defensive war, four years after the defeat of Warna he again penetrated into the heart

of Bulgaria, and in the plain of Cossova, sustained, till the third day, the shock of the Ottoman army, four times more numerous than his own. As

he fled alone through the woods of Walachia, the hero was surprised by two robbers; but while they disputed a gold chain that hung at his neck,

he recovered his sword, slew the one, terrified the other, and, after

new perils of captivity or death, consoled by his presence an afflicted

kingdom. But the last and most glorious action of his life was the defence of Belgrade against the powers of Mahomet the Second in person. after a siege of forty days, the Turks, who had already entered the town, were compelled to retreat; and the joyful nations celebrated

Huniades and Belgrade as the bulwarks of Christendom. [33] About a

month after this great deliverance, the champion expired; and his most

splendid epitaph is the regret of the Ottoman prince, who sighed that he could no longer hope for revenge against the single antagonist who had triumphed over his arms. On the first vacancy of the throne, Matthias corvinus, a youth of eighteen years of age, was elected and crowned by the grateful Hungarians. His reign was prosperous and long: Matthias aspired to the glory of a conqueror and a saint: but his purest merit is the encouragement of learning; and the Latin orators and historians, who were invited from Italy by the son, have shed the lustre of their eloquence on the father's character. [34]

[Footnote 31: See Bonfinius, decad. iii. l. iv. p. 423. Could the

Italian historian pronounce, or the king of Hungary hear, without a blush, the absurd flattery which confounded the name of a Walachian

village with the casual, though glorious, epithet of a single branch of the Valerian family at Rome?]

[Footnote 32: Philip de Comines, (Mémoires, l. vi. c. 13,) from the tradition of the times, mentions him with high encomiums, but under the whimsical name of the Chevalier Blanc de Valaigne, (Valachia.) The Greek chalcondyles, and the Turkish annals of Leunclavius, presume to accuse

his fidelity or valor.]

[Footnote 33: See Bonfinius (decad. iii. l. viii. p. 492) and Spondanus,

(A.D. 456, No. 1--7.) Huniades shared the glory of the defence of belgrade with Capistran, a Franciscan friar; and in their respective

narratives, neither the saint nor the hero condescend to take notice of

his rival's merit.]

[Footnote 34: See Bonfinius, decad. iii. l. viii.--decad. iv. l. viii. the observations of Spondanus on the life and character of Matthias corvinus are curious and critical, (A.D. 1464, No. 1, 1475, No. 6, 1476,

No. 14--16, 1490, No. 4, 5.) Italian fame was the object of his vanity.

His actions are celebrated in the Epitome Rerum Hungaricarum (p.

322--412) of Peter Ranzanus, a Sicilian. His wise and facetious sayings are registered by Galestus Martius of Narni, (528--568,) and we have a

particular narrative of his wedding and coronation. These three tracts are all contained in the first vol. of Bel's Scriptores Rerum

Hungaricarum.]

In the list of heroes, John Huniades and Scanderbeg are commonly associated; [35] and they are both entitled to our notice, since their

occupation of the Ottoman arms delayed the ruin of the Greek empire.

John Castriot, the father of Scanderbeg, [36] was the hereditary prince

of a small district of Epirus or Albania, between the mountains and the Adriatic Sea. Unable to contend with the sultan's power, Castriot

submitted to the hard conditions of peace and tribute: he delivered

his four sons as the pledges of his fidelity; and the Christian youths, after receiving the mark of circumcision, were instructed in the

Mahometan religion, and trained in the arms and arts of Turkish policy.

[37] The three elder brothers were confounded in the crowd of slaves; and the poison to which their deaths are ascribed cannot be verified

or disproved by any positive evidence. Yet the suspicion is in a great

measure removed by the kind and paternal treatment of George Castriot, the fourth brother, who, from his tender youth, displayed the strength and spirit of a soldier. The successive overthrow of a Tartar and two

Persians, who carried a proud defiance to the Turkish court, recommended

him to the favor of Amurath, and his Turkish appellation of Scanderbeg,

(\_Iskender beg\_,) or the lord Alexander, is an indelible memorial of

his glory and servitude. His father's principality was reduced into a

province; but the loss was compensated by the rank and title of

Sanjiak, a command of five thousand horse, and the prospect of the first dignities of the empire. He served with honor in the wars of Europe and asia; and we may smile at the art or credulity of the historian, who

supposes, that in every encounter he spared the Christians, while he fell with a thundering arm on his Mussulman foes. The glory of Huniades

is without reproach: he fought in the defence of his religion and country; but the enemies who applaud the patriot, have branded his rival with the name of traitor and apostate. In the eyes of the Christian, the rebellion of Scanderbeg is justified by his father's wrongs, the ambiguous death of his three brothers, his own degradation, and the

slavery of his country; and they adore the generous, though tardy, zeal, with which he asserted the faith and independence of his ancestors. But

he had imbibed from his ninth year the doctrines of the Koran; he was

ignorant of the Gospel; the religion of a soldier is determined by authority and habit; nor is it easy to conceive what new illumination at the age of forty [38] could be poured into his soul. His motives would be

less exposed to the suspicion of interest or revenge, had he broken his chain from the moment that he was sensible of its weight: but a long

oblivion had surely impaired his original right; and every year of

obedience and reward had cemented the mutual bond of the sultan and his

subject. If Scanderbeg had long harbored the belief of Christianity and the intention of revolt, a worthy mind must condemn the base dissimulation, that could serve only to betray, that could promise only to be forsworn, that could actively join in the temporal and spiritual

perdition of so many thousands of his unhappy brethren. Shall we praise a secret correspondence with Huniades, while he commanded the vanguard

of the Turkish army? shall we excuse the desertion of his standard, a treacherous desertion which abandoned the victory to the enemies of

his benefactor? In the confusion of a defeat, the eye of Scanderbeg was fixed on the Reis Effendi or principal secretary: with the dagger at his breast, he extorted a firman or patent for the government of Albania; and the murder of the guiltless scribe and his train prevented the consequences of an immediate discovery. With some bold companions, to whom he had revealed his design he escaped in the night, by rapid

marches, from the field or battle to his paternal mountains. The gates

of Croya were opened to the royal mandate; and no sooner did he command the fortress, than George Castriot dropped the mask of dissimulation; abjured the prophet and the sultan, and proclaimed himself the avenger

of his family and country. The names of religion and liberty provoked a general revolt: the Albanians, a martial race, were unanimous to live and die with their hereditary prince; and the Ottoman garrisons were

indulged in the choice of martyrdom or baptism. In the assembly of the

states of Epirus, Scanderbeg was elected general of the Turkish war; and each of the allies engaged to furnish his respective proportion of men and money. From these contributions, from his patrimonial estate, and from the valuable salt-pits of Selina, he drew an annual revenue of two

hundred thousand ducats; [39] and the entire sum, exempt from the demands

of luxury, was strictly appropriated to the public use. His manners were

popular; but his discipline was severe; and every superfluous vice was banished from his camp: his example strengthened his command; and under

his conduct, the Albanians were invincible in their own opinion and that

of their enemies. The bravest adventurers of France and Germany were allured by his fame and retained in his service: his standing militia consisted of eight thousand horse and seven thousand foot; the horses were small, the men were active; but he viewed with a discerning eye the difficulties and resources of the mountains; and, at the blaze of the beacons, the whole nation was distributed in the strongest posts. With

such unequal arms Scanderbeg resisted twenty-three years the powers

of the Ottoman empire; and two conquerors, Amurath the Second, and his

greater son, were repeatedly baffled by a rebel, whom they pursued with seeming contempt and implacable resentment. At the head of sixty thousand horse and forty thousand Janizaries, Amurath entered Albania:

he might ravage the open country, occupy the defenceless towns, convert the churches into mosques, circumcise the Christian youths, and punish with death his adult and obstinate captives: but the conquests of the sultan were confined to the petty fortress of Sfetigrade; and the

garrison, invincible to his arms, was oppressed by a paltry artifice and a superstitious scruple. [40] Amurath retired with shame and loss from the walls of Croya, the castle and residence of the Castriots; the

march, the siege, the retreat, were harassed by a vexatious, and almost

invisible, adversary; [41] and the disappointment might tend to imbitter,

perhaps to shorten, the last days of the sultan. [42] In the fulness

of conquest, Mahomet the Second still felt at his bosom this domestic thorn: his lieutenants were permitted to negotiate a truce; and the albanian prince may justly be praised as a firm and able champion of

his national independence. The enthusiasm of chivalry and religion has

ranked him with the names of Alexander and Pyrrhus; nor would they blush to acknowledge their intrepid countryman: but his narrow dominion, and

slender powers, must leave him at an humble distance below the heroes

of antiquity, who triumphed over the East and the Roman legions. His

splendid achievements, the bashaws whom he encountered, the armies that he discomfited, and the three thousand Turks who were slain by

his single hand, must be weighed in the scales of suspicious criticism. against an illiterate enemy, and in the dark solitude of Epirus, his

partial biographers may safely indulge the latitude of romance: but their fictions are exposed by the light of Italian history; and they afford a strong presumption against their own truth, by a fabulous tale

of his exploits, when he passed the Adriatic with eight hundred horse to the succor of the king of Naples. [43] Without disparagement to his fame, they might have owned, that he was finally oppressed by the Ottoman

powers: in his extreme danger he applied to Pope Pius the Second for a refuge in the ecclesiastical state; and his resources were almost exhausted, since Scanderbeg died a fugitive at Lissus, on the

Venetian territory. [44] His sepulchre was soon violated by the Turkish conquerors; but the Janizaries, who wore his bones enchased in a bracelet, declared by this superstitious amulet their involuntary

reverence for his valor. The instant ruin of his country may redound to the hero's glory; yet, had he balanced the consequences of submission and resistance, a patriot perhaps would have declined the unequal contest which must depend on the life and genius of one man. Scanderbeg

might indeed be supported by the rational, though fallacious, hope, that the pope, the king of Naples, and the Venetian republic, would join in the defence of a free and Christian people, who guarded the sea-coast

of the Adriatic, and the narrow passage from Greece to Italy. His

infant son was saved from the national shipwreck; the Castriots [45] were

invested with a Neapolitan dukedom, and their blood continues to flow

in the noblest families of the realm. A colony of Albanian fugitives

obtained a settlement in Calabria, and they preserve at this day the

language and manners of their ancestors. [46]

[Footnote 35: They are ranked by Sir William Temple, in his pleasing essay on Heroic Virtue, (Works, vol. iii. p. 385,) among the seven chiefs who have deserved without wearing, a royal crown; Belisarius,

Narses, Gonsalvo of Cordova, William first prince of Orange, Alexander duke of Parma, John Huniades, and George Castriot, or Scanderbeg.]

[Footnote 36: I could wish for some simple authentic memoirs of a friend

of Scanderbeg, which would introduce me to the man, the time, and the

place. In the old and national history of Marinus Barletius, a priest of

Scodra, (de Vita. Moribus, et Rebus gestis Georgii Castrioti, &c. libri

xiii. p. 367. Argentorat. 1537, in fol.,) his gaudy and cumbersome robes are stuck with many false jewels. See likewise Chalcondyles, l vii. p.

185, l. viii. p. 229.]

[Footnote 37: His circumcision, education, &c., are marked by Marinus with brevity and reluctance, (l. i. p. 6, 7.)]

[Footnote 38: Since Scanderbeg died A.D. 1466, in the lxiiid year of his age, (Marinus, l. xiii. p. 370,) he was born in 1403; since he was torn from his parents by the Turks, when he was \_novennis\_, (Marinus, l. i.

p. 1, 6,) that event must have happened in 1412, nine years before the accession of Amurath II., who must have inherited, not acquired the albanian slave. Spondanus has remarked this inconsistency, A.D. 1431,

No. 31, 1443, No. 14.]

[Footnote 39: His revenue and forces are luckily given by Marinus, (l.

ii. p. 44.)]

[Footnote 40: There were two Dibras, the upper and lower, the Bulgarian and Albanian: the former, 70 miles from Croya, (l. i. p. 17,) was contiguous to the fortress of Sfetigrade, whose inhabitants refused to drink from a well into which a dead dog had traitorously been cast, (l.

v. p. 139, 140.) We want a good map of Epirus.]

[Footnote 41: Compare the Turkish narrative of Cantemir (p. 92) with the

pompous and prolix declamation in the ivth, vth, and vith books of the Albanian priest, who has been copied by the tribe of strangers and

moderns.]

[Footnote 42: In honor of his hero, Barletius (l. vi. p. 188--192)

kills the sultan by disease indeed, under the walls of Croya. But this audacious fiction is disproved by the Greeks and Turks, who agree in the time and manner of Amurath's death at Adrianople.]

[Footnote 43: See the marvels of his Calabrian expedition in the ixth and xth books of Marinus Barletius, which may be rectified by the testimony or silence of Muratori, (Annali d'Italia, tom. xiii. p. 291,) and his original authors, (Joh. Simonetta de Rebus Francisci Sfortiæ, in

Muratori, Script. Rerum Ital. tom. xxi. p. 728, et alios.) The Albanian cavalry, under the name of \_Stradiots\_, soon became famous in the wars

of Italy, (Mémoires de Comines, l. viii. c. 5.)]

[Footnote 44: Spondanus, from the best evidence, and the most rational criticism, has reduced the giant Scanderbeg to the human size, (A.D.

1461, No. 20, 1463, No. 9, 1465, No. 12, 13, 1467, No. 1.) His own

letter to the pope, and the testimony of Phranza, (l. iii. c. 28,) a

refugee in the neighboring isle of Corfu, demonstrate his last distress, which is awkwardly concealed by Marinus Barletius, (l. x.)]

[Footnote 45: See the family of the Castriots, in Ducange, (Fam. dalmaticæ, &c, xviii. p. 348--350.)]

[Footnote 46: This colony of Albanese is mentioned by Mr. Swinburne,

(Travels into the Two Sicilies, vol. i. p. 350--354.)]

In the long career of the decline and fall of the Roman empire, I have

reached at length the last reign of the princes of Constantinople, who

so feebly sustained the name and majesty of the Cæsars. On the decease

of John Palæologus, who survived about four years the Hungarian crusade,

[47] the royal family, by the death of Andronicus and the monastic

profession of Isidore, was reduced to three princes, Constantine, demetrius, and Thomas, the surviving sons of the emperor Manuel.

Of these the first and the last were far distant in the Morea; but demetrius, who possessed the domain of Selybria, was in the suburbs, at the head of a party: his ambition was not chilled by the public distress; and his conspiracy with the Turks and the schismatics had already disturbed the peace of his country. The funeral of the late emperor was accelerated with singular and even suspicious haste: the claim of Demetrius to the vacant throne was justified by a trite and flimsy sophism, that he was born in the purple, the eldest son of his father's reign. But the empress-mother, the senate and soldiers, the clergy and people, were unanimous in the cause of the lawful successor: and the despot Thomas, who, ignorant of the change, accidentally

returned to the capital, asserted with becoming zeal the interest of his absent brother. An ambassador, the historian Phranza, was immediately despatched to the court of Adrianople. Amurath received him with honor and dismissed him with gifts; but the gracious approbation of the turkish sultan announced his supremacy, and the approaching downfall

of the Eastern empire. By the hands of two illustrious deputies, the

Imperial crown was placed at Sparta on the head of Constantine. In the

spring he sailed from the Morea, escaped the encounter of a Turkish

squadron, enjoyed the acclamations of his subjects, celebrated the festival of a new reign, and exhausted by his donatives the treasure, or

rather the indigence, of the state. The emperor immediately resigned to

his brothers the possession of the Morea; and the brittle friendship of the two princes, Demetrius and Thomas, was confirmed in their mother's

presence by the frail security of oaths and embraces. His next

occupation was the choice of a consort. A daughter of the doge of

Venice had been proposed; but the Byzantine nobles objected the distance between an hereditary monarch and an elective magistrate; and in their subsequent distress, the chief of that powerful republic was not

unmindful of the affront. Constantine afterwards hesitated between the

royal families of Trebizond and Georgia; and the embassy of Phranza

represents in his public and private life the last days of the Byzantine empire. [48]

[Footnote 47: The Chronology of Phranza is clear and authentic; but

instead of four years and seven months, Spondanus (A.D. 1445, No. 7,) assigns seven or eight years to the reign of the last Constantine which he deduces from a spurious epistle of Eugenius IV. to the king of

Æthiopia.]

[Footnote 48: Phranza (l. iii. c. 1--6) deserves credit and esteem.]

the \_protovestiare\_, or great chamberlain, Phranza sailed from constantinople as the minister of a bridegroom; and the relics of wealth and luxury were applied to his pompous appearance. His numerous retinue consisted of nobles and guards, of physicians and monks: he was attended by a band of music; and the term of his costly embassy was protracted above two years. On his arrival in Georgia or Iberia, the natives from the towns and villages flocked around the strangers; and such was their simplicity, that they were delighted with the effects, without

understanding the cause, of musical harmony. Among the crowd was an old

man, above a hundred years of age, who had formerly been carried away a captive by the Barbarians, [49] and who amused his hearers with a tale of the wonders of India, [50] from whence he had returned to Portugal by an unknown sea. [51] From this hospitable land, Phranza proceeded to the court of Trebizond, where he was informed by the Greek prince of the

recent decease of Amurath. Instead of rejoicing in the deliverance, the experienced statesman expressed his apprehension, that an ambitious

youth would not long adhere to the sage and pacific system of his father. After the sultan's decease, his Christian wife, Maria, [52] the daughter of the Servian despot, had been honorably restored to her

parents; on the fame of her beauty and merit, she was recommended by the ambassador as the most worthy object of the royal choice; and Phranza

recapitulates and refutes the specious objections that might be raised against the proposal. The majesty of the purple would ennoble an unequal alliance; the bar of affinity might be removed by liberal alms and the dispensation of the church; the disgrace of Turkish nuptials had been

repeatedly overlooked; and, though the fair Maria was nearly fifty years

of age, she might yet hope to give an heir to the empire. Constantine

listened to the advice, which was transmitted in the first ship that

sailed from Trebizond; but the factions of the court opposed his

marriage; and it was finally prevented by the pious vow of the sultana, who ended her days in the monastic profession. Reduced to the first alternative, the choice of Phranza was decided in favor of a Georgian

princess; and the vanity of her father was dazzled by the glorious alliance. Instead of demanding, according to the primitive and national custom, a price for his daughter, [53] he offered a portion of fifty-six thousand, with an annual pension of five thousand, ducats; and the

services of the ambassador were repaid by an assurance, that, as his

son had been adopted in baptism by the emperor, the establishment of his daughter should be the peculiar care of the empress of Constantinople.

On the return of Phranza, the treaty was ratified by the Greek monarch, who with his own hand impressed three vermilion crosses on the golden bull, and assured the Georgian envoy that in the spring his galleys

should conduct the bride to her Imperial palace. But Constantine embraced his faithful servant, not with the cold approbation of a

sovereign, but with the warm confidence of a friend, who, after a long absence, is impatient to pour his secrets into the bosom of his friend.

"Since the death of my mother and of Cantacuzene, who alone advised me without interest or passion, [54] I am surrounded," said the emperor,

"by men whom I can neither love nor trust, nor esteem. You are not a

stranger to Lucas Notaras, the great admiral; obstinately attached to

his own sentiments, he declares, both in private and public, that his

sentiments are the absolute measure of my thoughts and actions. The rest

of the courtiers are swayed by their personal or factious views; and how can I consult the monks on questions of policy and marriage? I have yet

much employment for your diligence and fidelity. In the spring you shall engage one of my brothers to solicit the succor of the Western powers; from the Morea you shall sail to Cyprus on a particular commission; and from thence proceed to Georgia to receive and conduct the future empress."--"Your commands," replied Phranza, "are irresistible; but deign, great sir," he added, with a serious smile, "to consider, that

if I am thus perpetually absent from my family, my wife may be tempted either to seek another husband, or to throw herself into a monastery." after laughing at his apprehensions, the emperor more gravely consoled

him by the pleasing assurance that \_this\_ should be his last service abroad, and that he destined for his son a wealthy and noble heiress; for himself, the important office of great logothete, or principal

minister of state. The marriage was immediately stipulated: but the

office, however incompatible with his own, had been usurped by the ambition of the admiral. Some delay was requisite to negotiate a consent and an equivalent; and the nomination of Phranza was half declared, and half suppressed, lest it might be displeasing to an insolent and

powerful favorite. The winter was spent in the preparations of his embassy; and Phranza had resolved, that the youth his son should embrace this opportunity of foreign travel, and be left, on the appearance of danger, with his maternal kindred of the Morea. Such were the private and public designs, which were interrupted by a Turkish war, and finally buried in the ruins of the empire.

[Footnote 49: Suppose him to have been captured in 1394, in Timour's first war in Georgia, (Sherefeddin, l. iii. c. 50;) he might follow his tartar master into Hindostan in 1398, and from thence sail to the spice

islands.]

[Footnote 50: The happy and pious Indians lived a hundred and fifty

years, and enjoyed the most perfect productions of the vegetable and

mineral kingdoms. The animals were on a large scale: dragons seventy cubits, ants (the \_formica Indica\_) nine inches long, sheep like elephants, elephants like sheep. Quidlibet audendi, &c.]

[Footnote 51: He sailed in a country vessel from the spice islands to one of the ports of the exterior India; invenitque navem grandem

\_Ibericam\_ quâ in \_Portugalliam\_ est delatus. This passage, composed in

1477, (Phranza, l. iii. c. 30,) twenty years before the discovery of the cape of Good Hope, is spurious or wonderful. But this new geography is

sullied by the old and incompatible error which places the source of the

Nile in India.]

[Footnote 52: Cantemir, (p. 83,) who styles her the daughter of Lazarus

Ogli, and the Helen of the Servians, places her marriage with Amurath

in the year 1424. It will not easily be believed, that in six-and-twenty

years' cohabitation, the sultan corpus ejus non tetigit. After the taking of Constantinople, she fled to Mahomet II., (Phranza, l. iii. c.

22.)]

[Footnote 53: The classical reader will recollect the offers of agamemnon, (Iliad, c. v. 144,) and the general practice of antiquity.]

[Footnote 54: Cantacuzene (I am ignorant of his relation to the emperor

of that name) was great domestic, a firm assertor of the Greek creed, and a brother of the queen of Servia, whom he visited with the character

of ambassador, (Syropulus, p. 37, 38, 45.)]

chapter LXVIII: Reign Of Mahomet The Second, Extinction Of Eastern empire.--Part I.

Reign And Character Of Mahomet The Second.--Siege, Assault,

And Final Conquest, Of Constantinople By The Turks.--Death

Of Constantine Palæologus.--Servitude Of The Greeks.--

Extinction Of The Roman Empire In The East.--Consternation

Of Europe.--Conquests And Death Of Mahomet The Second.

the siege of Constantinople by the Turks attracts our first attention to the person and character of the great destroyer. Mahomet the Second

[1] was the son of the second Amurath; and though his mother has been decorated with the titles of Christian and princess, she is more

probably confounded with the numerous concubines who peopled from every climate the harem of the sultan. His first education and sentiments were those of a devout Mussulman; and as often as he conversed with an

infidel, he purified his hands and face by the legal rites of ablution. age and empire appear to have relaxed this narrow bigotry: his aspiring

genius disdained to acknowledge a power above his own; and in his looser

hours he presumed (it is said) to brand the prophet of Mecca as a robber and impostor. Yet the sultan persevered in a decent reverence for the doctrine and discipline of the Koran: [2] his private indiscretion

must have been sacred from the vulgar ear; and we should suspect the credulity of strangers and sectaries, so prone to believe that a mind which is hardened against truth must be armed with superior contempt for absurdity and error. Under the tuition of the most skilful masters,

Mahomet advanced with an early and rapid progress in the paths of

knowledge; and besides his native tongue it is affirmed that he spoke or

understood five languages, [3] the Arabic, the Persian, the Chaldæan or

Hebrew, the Latin, and the Greek. The Persian might indeed contribute to

his amusement, and the Arabic to his edification; and such studies are familiar to the Oriental youth. In the intercourse of the Greeks and turks, a conqueror might wish to converse with the people over which he was ambitious to reign: his own praises in Latin poetry [4] or prose

[5] might find a passage to the royal ear; but what use or merit could

recommend to the statesman or the scholar the uncouth dialect of his

Hebrew slaves? The history and geography of the world were familiar to

his memory: the lives of the heroes of the East, perhaps of the West, [6] excited his emulation: his skill in astrology is excused by the folly

of the times, and supposes some rudiments of mathematical science; and a profane taste for the arts is betrayed in his liberal invitation and

reward of the painters of Italy. [7] But the influence of religion and

learning were employed without effect on his savage and licentious

nature. I will not transcribe, nor do I firmly believe, the stories of

his fourteen pages, whose bellies were ripped open in search of a stolen

melon; or of the beauteous slave, whose head he severed from her body, to convince the Janizaries that their master was not the votary of love.

[701] His sobriety is attested by the silence of the Turkish annals, which accuse three, and three only, of the Ottoman line of the vice of drunkenness. [8] But it cannot be denied that his passions were at once furious and inexorable; that in the palace, as in the field, a torrent

of blood was spilt on the slightest provocation; and that the noblest

of the captive youth were often dishonored by his unnatural lust. In the albanian war he studied the lessons, and soon surpassed the example, of

his father; and the conquest of two empires, twelve kingdoms, and two hundred cities, a vain and flattering account, is ascribed to his

invincible sword. He was doubtless a soldier, and possibly a general; constantinople has sealed his glory; but if we compare the means, the obstacles, and the achievements, Mahomet the Second must blush to

sustain a parallel with Alexander or Timour. Under his command, the

Ottoman forces were always more numerous than their enemies; yet their

progress was bounded by the Euphrates and the Adriatic; and his arms were checked by Huniades and Scanderbeg, by the Rhodian knights and by the Persian king.

[Footnote 1: For the character of Mahomet II. it is dangerous to trust either the Turks or the Christians. The most moderate picture appears to be drawn by Phranza, (l. i. c. 33,) whose resentment had cooled in age and solitude; see likewise Spondanus, (A.D. 1451, No. 11,) and the continuator of Fleury, (tom. xxii. p. 552,) the \_Elogia\_ of Paulus

Jovius, (l. iii. p. 164--166,) and the Dictionnaire de Bayle, (tom. iii.

p. 273--279.)]

[Footnote 2: Cantemir, (p. 115.) and the mosques which he founded, attest his public regard for religion. Mahomet freely disputed with the

Gennadius on the two religions, (Spond. A.D. 1453, No. 22.)]

[Footnote 3: Quinque linguas præter suam noverat, Græcam, Latinam, chaldaicam, Persicam. The Latin translator of Phranza has dropped the arabic, which the Koran must recommend to every Mussulman. \*

Note: It appears in the original Greek text, p. 95, edit. Bonn.--M.]

[Footnote 4: Philelphus, by a Latin ode, requested and obtained the liberty of his wife's mother and sisters from the conqueror of constantinople. It was delivered into the sultan's hands by the envoys

of the duke of Milan. Philelphus himself was suspected of a design of

retiring to Constantinople; yet the orator often sounded the trumpet of

holy war, (see his Life by M. Lancelot, in the Mémoires de l'Académie des Inscriptions, tom. x. p. 718, 724, &c.)]

[Footnote 5: Robert Valturio published at Verona, in 1483, his xii. books de Re Militari, in which he first mentions the use of bombs. By

his patron Sigismund Malatesta, prince of Rimini, it had been addressed with a Latin epistle to Mahomet II.]

[Footnote 6: According to Phranza, he assiduously studied the lives and actions of Alexander, Augustus, Constantine, and Theodosius. I have read

somewhere, that Plutarch's Lives were translated by his orders into the turkish language. If the sultan himself understood Greek, it must have been for the benefit of his subjects. Yet these lives are a school of freedom as well as of valor. \*

Note: Von Hammer disdainfully rejects this fable of Mahomet's knowledge

of languages. Knolles adds, that he delighted in reading the history of alexander the Great, and of Julius Cæsar. The former, no doubt, was the

Persian legend, which, it is remarkable, came back to Europe, and was

popular throughout the middle ages as the "Romaunt of Alexander." The founder of the Imperial dynasty of Rome, according to M. Von Hammer, is altogether unknown in the East. Mahomet was a great patron of Turkish

literature: the romantic poems of Persia were translated, or imitated,

under his patronage. Von Hammer vol ii. p. 268.--M.]

[Footnote 7: The famous Gentile Bellino, whom he had invited from

Venice, was dismissed with a chain and collar of gold, and a purse

of 3000 ducats. With Voltaire I laugh at the foolish story of a

slave purposely beheaded to instruct the painter in the action of the

muscles.]

[Footnote 701: This story, the subject of Johnson's Irene, is rejected by

M. Von Hammer, vol. ii. p. 208. The German historian's general estimate of Mahomet's character agrees in its more marked features with

Gibbon's.--M.]

[Footnote 8: These Imperial drunkards were Soliman I., Selim II., and amurath IV., (Cantemir, p. 61.) The sophis of Persia can produce a more

regular succession; and in the last age, our European travellers were the witnesses and companions of their revels.]

In the reign of Amurath, he twice tasted of royalty, and twice descended from the throne: his tender age was incapable of opposing his father's

restoration, but never could he forgive the viziers who had recommended that salutary measure. His nuptials were celebrated with the daughter

of a Turkman emir; and, after a festival of two months, he departed from Adrianople with his bride, to reside in the government of Magnesia. before the end of six weeks, he was recalled by a sudden message from the divan, which announced the decease of Amurath, and the mutinous

spirit of the Janizaries. His speed and vigor commanded their obedience:

he passed the Hellespont with a chosen guard: and at the distance of a

mile from Adrianople, the viziers and emirs, the imams and cadhis, the

soldiers and the people, fell prostrate before the new sultan. They affected to weep, they affected to rejoice: he ascended the throne at the age of twenty-one years, and removed the cause of sedition by the death, the inevitable death, of his infant brothers. [9] [901] The ambassadors of Europe and Asia soon appeared to congratulate his accession and solicit his friendship; and to all he spoke the language

of moderation and peace. The confidence of the Greek emperor was

revived by the solemn oaths and fair assurances with which he sealed the ratification of the treaty: and a rich domain on the banks of the

Strymon was assigned for the annual payment of three hundred thousand aspers, the pension of an Ottoman prince, who was detained at his

request in the Byzantine court. Yet the neighbors of Mahomet might tremble at the severity with which a youthful monarch reformed the pomp

of his father's household: the expenses of luxury were applied to those

of ambition, and a useless train of seven thousand falconers was either dismissed from his service, or enlisted in his troops. [902] In the first

summer of his reign, he visited with an army the Asiatic provinces; but after humbling the pride, Mahomet accepted the submission, of the caramanian, that he might not be diverted by the smallest obstacle from the execution of his great design. [10]

[Footnote 9: Calapin, one of these royal infants, was saved from

his cruel brother, and baptized at Rome under the name of Callistus

Othomannus. The emperor Frederic III. presented him with an estate

in Austria, where he ended his life; and Cuspinian, who in his youth conversed with the aged prince at Vienna, applauds his piety and wisdom,

(de Cæsaribus, p. 672, 673.)]

[Footnote 901: Ahmed, the son of a Greek princess, was the object of his especial jealousy. Von Hammer, p. 501.--M.]

[Footnote 902: The Janizaries obtained, for the first time, a gift on the accession of a new sovereign, p. 504.--M.]

[Footnote 10: See the accession of Mahomet II. in Ducas, (c. 33,)

Phranza, (l. i. c. 33, l. iii. c. 2,) Chalcondyles, (l. vii. p. 199,) and Cantemir, (p. 96.)]

the Mahometan, and more especially the Turkish casuists, have pronounced that no promise can bind the faithful against the interest and duty of their religion; and that the sultan may abrogate his own treaties and those of his predecessors. The justice and magnanimity of Amurath had

scorned this immoral privilege; but his son, though the proudest of

men, could stoop from ambition to the basest arts of dissimulation and deceit. Peace was on his lips, while war was in his heart: he

incessantly sighed for the possession of Constantinople; and the Greeks, by their own indiscretion, afforded the first pretence of the fatal

rupture. [11] Instead of laboring to be forgotten, their ambassadors

pursued his camp, to demand the payment, and even the increase, of their annual stipend: the divan was importuned by their complaints, and the

vizier, a secret friend of the Christians, was constrained to deliver the sense of his brethren. "Ye foolish and miserable Romans," said calil, "we know your devices, and ye are ignorant of your own danger! the scrupulous Amurath is no more; his throne is occupied by a young conqueror, whom no laws can bind, and no obstacles can resist: and if

you escape from his hands, give praise to the divine clemency, which yet delays the chastisement of your sins. Why do ye seek to affright us by

vain and indirect menaces? Release the fugitive Orchan, crown him sultan

of Romania; call the Hungarians from beyond the Danube; arm against us the nations of the West; and be assured, that you will only provoke and

precipitate your ruin." But if the fears of the ambassadors were alarmed by the stern language of the vizier, they were soothed by the courteous audience and friendly speeches of the Ottoman prince; and Mahomet assured them that on his return to Adrianople he would redress the

grievances, and consult the true interests, of the Greeks. No sooner had

he repassed the Hellespont, than he issued a mandate to suppress their

pension, and to expel their officers from the banks of the Strymon: in this measure he betrayed a hostile mind; and the second order announced, and in some degree commenced, the siege of Constantinople. In the narrow

pass of the Bosphorus, an Asiatic fortress had formerly been raised by

his grandfather; in the opposite situation, on the European side, he

resolved to erect a more formidable castle; and a thousand masons were commanded to assemble in the spring on a spot named Asomaton, about five

miles from the Greek metropolis. [12] Persuasion is the resource of the feeble; and the feeble can seldom persuade: the ambassadors of the emperor attempted, without success, to divert Mahomet from the execution

of his design. They represented, that his grandfather had solicited the

permission of Manuel to build a castle on his own territories; but that this double fortification, which would command the strait, could only tend to violate the alliance of the nations; to intercept the Latins who traded in the Black Sea, and perhaps to annihilate the subsistence

of the city. "I form the enterprise," replied the perfidious sultan,

"against the city; but the empire of Constantinople is measured by her walls. Have you forgot the distress to which my father was reduced when

you formed a league with the Hungarians; when they invaded our country by land, and the Hellespont was occupied by the French galleys? Amurath was compelled to force the passage of the Bosphorus; and your strength was not equal to your malevolence. I was then a child at Adrianople; the Moslems trembled; and, for a while, the \_Gabours\_ [13] insulted our disgrace. But when my father had triumphed in the field of Warna, he

vowed to erect a fort on the western shore, and that vow it is my duty to accomplish. Have ye the right, have ye the power, to control my actions on my own ground? For that ground is my own: as far as the

shores of the Bosphorus, Asia is inhabited by the Turks, and Europe is deserted by the Romans. Return, and inform your king, that the present

Ottoman is far different from his predecessors; that \_his\_ resolutions

surpass \_their\_ wishes; and that \_he\_ performs more \_than\_ they could

resolve. Return in safety--but the next who delivers a similar message

may expect to be flayed alive." After this declaration, Constantine, the first of the Greeks in spirit as in rank, [14] had determined to

unsheathe the sword, and to resist the approach and establishment of the turks on the Bosphorus. He was disarmed by the advice of his civil and ecclesiastical ministers, who recommended a system less generous, and even less prudent, than his own, to approve their patience and

long-suffering, to brand the Ottoman with the name and guilt of an aggressor, and to depend on chance and time for their own safety, and the destruction of a fort which could not long be maintained in the

neighborhood of a great and populous city. Amidst hope and fear, the fears of the wise, and the hopes of the credulous, the winter rolled away; the proper business of each man, and each hour, was postponed; and the Greeks shut their eyes against the impending danger, till the arrival of the spring and the sultan decide the assurance of their ruin.

[Footnote 11: Before I enter on the siege of Constantinople, I shall

observe, that except the short hints of Cantemir and Leunclavius, I have

not been able to obtain any Turkish account of this conquest; such an account as we possess of the siege of Rhodes by Soliman II., (Mémoires de l'Académie des Inscriptions, tom. xxvi. p. 723--769.) I must therefore depend on the Greeks, whose prejudices, in some degree, are

subdued by their distress. Our standard texts ar those of Ducas,

(c. 34--42,) Phranza, (l. iii. c. 7--20,) Chalcondyles, (l. viii. p.

201--214,) and Leonardus Chiensis, (Historia C. P. a Turco expugnatæ.

Norimberghæ, 1544, in 4to., 20 leaves.) The last of these narratives is the earliest in date, since it was composed in the Isle of Chios, the

16th of August, 1453, only seventy-nine days after the loss of the city, and in the first confusion of ideas and passions. Some hints may be added from an epistle of Cardinal Isidore (in Farragine Rerum turcicarum, ad calcem Chalcondyl. Clauseri, Basil, 1556) to Pope

Nicholas V., and a tract of Theodosius Zygomala, which he addressed in the year 1581 to Martin Crucius, (Turco-Græcia, l. i. p. 74--98, Basil,

1584.) The various facts and materials are briefly, though critically,

reviewed by Spondanus, (A.D. 1453, No. 1--27.) The hearsay relations of

Monstrelet and the distant Latins I shall take leave to disregard. \*

Note: M. Von Hammer has added little new information on the siege of constantinople, and, by his general agreement, has borne an honorable testimony to the truth, and by his close imitation to the graphic spirit and boldness, of Gibbon.--M.]

[Footnote 12: The situation of the fortress, and the topography of the bosphorus, are best learned from Peter Gyllius, (de Bosphoro Thracio, l.

ii. c. 13,) Leunclavius, (Pandect. p. 445,) and Tournefort, (Voyage dans

le Levant, tom. ii. lettre xv. p. 443, 444;) but I must regret the map

or plan which Tournefort sent to the French minister of the marine. The

reader may turn back to chap. xvii. of this History.]

[Footnote 13: The opprobrious name which the Turks bestow on the

infidels, is expressed Kabour by Ducas, and \_Giaour\_ by Leunclavius and the moderns. The former term is derived by Ducange (Gloss. Græc tom.

i. p. 530) from Kabouron, in vulgar Greek, a tortoise, as denoting a

retrograde motion from the faith. But alas! \_Gabour\_ is no more than \_Gheber\_, which was transferred from the Persian to the Turkish

language, from the worshippers of fire to those of the crucifix,

(D'Herbelot, Bibliot. Orient. p. 375.)]

[Footnote 14: Phranza does justice to his master's sense and courage. calliditatem hominis non ignorans Imperator prior arma movere constituit, and stigmatizes the folly of the cum sacri tum profani

proceres, which he had heard, amentes spe vanâ pasci. Ducas was not a

privy-counsellor.]

Of a master who never forgives, the orders are seldom disobeyed. On the twenty-sixth of March, the appointed spot of Asomaton was covered with an active swarm of Turkish artificers; and the materials by sea and land were diligently transported from Europe and Asia. [15] The lime had been burnt in Cataphrygia; the timber was cut down in the woods of Heraclea and Nicomedia; and the stones were dug from the Anatolian quarries. Each

of the thousand masons was assisted by two workmen; and a measure of two cubits was marked for their daily task. The fortress [16] was built in a triangular form; each angle was flanked by a strong and massy tower; one

on the declivity of the hill, two along the sea-shore: a thickness of twenty-two feet was assigned for the walls, thirty for the towers; and the whole building was covered with a solid platform of lead. Mahomet

himself pressed and directed the work with indefatigable ardor: his three viziers claimed the honor of finishing their respective towers; the zeal of the cadhis emulated that of the Janizaries; the meanest

labor was ennobled by the service of God and the sultan; and the diligence of the multitude was quickened by the eye of a despot, whose

smile was the hope of fortune, and whose frown was the messenger of death. The Greek emperor beheld with terror the irresistible progress

of the work; and vainly strove, by flattery and gifts, to assuage an implacable foe, who sought, and secretly fomented, the slightest

occasion of a quarrel. Such occasions must soon and inevitably be found. the ruins of stately churches, and even the marble columns which had been consecrated to Saint Michael the archangel, were employed without

scruple by the profane and rapacious Moslems; and some Christians, who

presumed to oppose the removal, received from their hands the crown

of martyrdom. Constantine had solicited a Turkish guard to protect the fields and harvests of his subjects: the guard was fixed; but their first order was to allow free pasture to the mules and horses of the camp, and to defend their brethren if they should be molested by the

natives. The retinue of an Ottoman chief had left their horses to pass the night among the ripe corn; the damage was felt; the insult was

resented; and several of both nations were slain in a tumultuous conflict. Mahomet listened with joy to the complaint; and a detachment was commanded to exterminate the guilty village: the guilty had fled; but forty innocent and unsuspecting reapers were massacred by the

soldiers. Till this provocation, Constantinople had been opened to the

visits of commerce and curiosity: on the first alarm, the gates were

shut; but the emperor, still anxious for peace, released on the third day his Turkish captives; [17] and expressed, in a last message, the firm resignation of a Christian and a soldier. "Since neither oaths, nor treaty, nor submission, can secure peace, pursue," said he to Mahomet,

"your impious warfare. My trust is in God alone; if it should please

him to mollify your heart, I shall rejoice in the happy change; if he delivers the city into your hands, I submit without a murmur to his holy will. But until the Judge of the earth shall pronounce between us, it

is my duty to live and die in the defence of my people." The sultan's answer was hostile and decisive: his fortifications were completed; and before his departure for Adrianople, he stationed a vigilant Aga and four hundred Janizaries, to levy a tribute on the ships of every nation that should pass within the reach of their cannon. A Venetian vessel,

refusing obedience to the new lords of the Bosphorus, was sunk with a

single bullet. [171] The master and thirty sailors escaped in the boat; but they were dragged in chains to the \_Porte\_: the chief was impaled;

his companions were beheaded; and the historian Ducas [18] beheld, at Demotica, their bodies exposed to the wild beasts. The siege of constantinople was deferred till the ensuing spring; but an Ottoman army marched into the Morea to divert the force of the brothers of constantine. At this æra of calamity, one of these princes, the despot thomas, was blessed or afflicted with the birth of a son; "the last

heir," says the plaintive Phranza, "of the last spark of the Roman empire." [19]

[Footnote 15: Instead of this clear and consistent account, the Turkish annals (Cantemir, p. 97) revived the foolish tale of the ox's hide, and dido's stratagem in the foundation of Carthage. These annals (unless we are swayed by an anti-Christian prejudice) are far less valuable than the Greek historians.]

[Footnote 16: In the dimensions of this fortress, the old castle

of Europe, Phranza does not exactly agree with Chalcondyles, whose description has been verified on the spot by his editor Leunclavius.]

[Footnote 17: Among these were some pages of Mahomet, so conscious of

his inexorable rigor, that they begged to lose their heads in the city

unless they could return before sunset.]

[Footnote 171: This was from a model cannon cast by Urban the Hungarian.

See p. 291. Von Hammer. p. 510.--M.]

[Footnote 18: Ducas, c. 35. Phranza, (l. iii. c. 3,) who had sailed in

his vessel, commemorates the Venetian pilot as a martyr.]

[Footnote 19: Auctum est Palæologorum genus, et Imperii successor,

parvæque Romanorum scintillæ hæres natus, Andreas, &c., (Phranza, l.

iii. c. 7.) The strong expression was inspired by his feelings.]

the Greeks and the Turks passed an anxious and sleepless winter: the former were kept awake by their fears, the latter by their hopes; both by the preparations of defence and attack; and the two emperors, who

had the most to lose or to gain, were the most deeply affected by the

national sentiment. In Mahomet, that sentiment was inflamed by the ardor of his youth and temper: he amused his leisure with building at adrianople [20] the lofty palace of Jehan Numa, (the watchtower of the world;) but his serious thoughts were irrevocably bent on the conquest

of the city of Cæsar. At the dead of night, about the second watch, he

started from his bed, and commanded the instant attendance of his

prime vizier. The message, the hour, the prince, and his own situation, alarmed the guilty conscience of Calil Basha; who had possessed the confidence, and advised the restoration, of Amurath. On the accession of the son, the vizier was confirmed in his office and the appearances of favor; but the veteran statesman was not insensible that he trod on a thin and slippery ice, which might break under his footsteps, and plunge

him in the abyss. His friendship for the Christians, which might be

innocent under the late reign, had stigmatized him with the name of

Gabour Ortachi, or foster-brother of the infidels; [21] and his avarice entertained a venal and treasonable correspondence, which was detected and punished after the conclusion of the war. On receiving the royal

mandate, he embraced, perhaps for the last time, his wife and children; filled a cup with pieces of gold, hastened to the palace, adored the

sultan, and offered, according to the Oriental custom, the slight tribute of his duty and gratitude. [22] "It is not my wish," said

Mahomet, "to resume my gifts, but rather to heap and multiply them

on thy head. In my turn, I ask a present far more valuable and

important;--Constantinople." As soon as the vizier had recovered from

his surprise, "The same God," said he, "who has already given thee so

large a portion of the Roman empire, will not deny the remnant, and the capital. His providence, and thy power, assure thy success; and myself, with the rest of thy faithful slaves, will sacrifice our lives and fortunes."--"Lala," [23] (or preceptor,) continued the sultan, "do you

see this pillow? All the night, in my agitation, I have pulled it on one

side and the other; I have risen from my bed, again have I lain down;

yet sleep has not visited these weary eyes. Beware of the gold and

silver of the Romans: in arms we are superior; and with the aid of God, and the prayers of the prophet, we shall speedily become masters of constantinople." To sound the disposition of his soldiers, he often wandered through the streets alone, and in disguise; and it was fatal to discover the sultan, when he wished to escape from the vulgar eye.

His hours were spent in delineating the plan of the hostile city; in debating with his generals and engineers, on what spot he should erect

his batteries; on which side he should assault the walls; where

he should spring his mines; to what place he should apply his

scaling-ladders: and the exercises of the day repeated and proved the

lucubrations of the night.

[Footnote 20: Cantemir, p. 97, 98. The sultan was either doubtful of his conquest, or ignorant of the superior merits of Constantinople. A city

or a kingdom may sometimes be ruined by the Imperial fortune of their

sovereign.]

[Footnote 21: SuntrojoV, by the president Cousin, is translated \_père\_

nourricier, most correctly indeed from the Latin version; but in his

haste he has overlooked the note by which Ishmael Boillaud (ad Ducam, c.

35) acknowledges and rectifies his own error.]

[Footnote 22: The Oriental custom of never appearing without gifts before a sovereign or a superior is of high antiquity, and seems analogous with the idea of sacrifice, still more ancient and universal.

See the examples of such Persian gifts, Ælian, Hist. Var. l. i. c. 31,

32, 33.]

[Footnote 23: The \_Lala\_ of the Turks (Cantemir, p. 34) and the \_Tata\_

of the Greeks (Ducas, c. 35) are derived from the natural language of children; and it may be observed, that all such primitive words which denote their parents, are the simple repetition of one syllable, composed of a labial or a dental consonant and an open vowel, (Des brosses, Méchanisme des Langues, tom. i. p. 231--247.)]

chapter LXVIII: Reign Of Mahomet The Second, Extinction Of Eastern Empire.--Part II.

among the implements of destruction, he studied with peculiar care the recent and tremendous discovery of the Latins; and his artillery

surpassed whatever had yet appeared in the world. A founder of cannon, a dane [231] or Hungarian, who had been almost starved in the Greek service, deserted to the Moslems, and was liberally entertained by the Turkish

sultan. Mahomet was satisfied with the answer to his first question, which he eagerly pressed on the artist. "Am I able to cast a cannon capable of throwing a ball or stone of sufficient size to batter the walls of Constantinople? I am not ignorant of their strength; but were they more solid than those of Babylon, I could oppose an engine of

superior power: the position and management of that engine must be left to your engineers." On this assurance, a foundry was established at adrianople: the metal was prepared; and at the end of three months,

Urban produced a piece of brass ordnance of stupendous, and almost

incredible magnitude; a measure of twelve palms is assigned to the bore; and the stone bullet weighed above six hundred pounds. [24] [241] A vacant

place before the new palace was chosen for the first experiment; but to

prevent the sudden and mischievous effects of astonishment and fear, a

proclamation was issued, that the cannon would be discharged the ensuing day. The explosion was felt or heard in a circuit of a hundred furlongs: the ball, by the force of gunpowder, was driven above a mile; and on the

spot where it fell, it buried itself a fathom deep in the ground. For the conveyance of this destructive engine, a frame or carriage of thirty wagons was linked together and drawn along by a team of sixty oxen: two hundred men on both sides were stationed, to poise and support the

rolling weight; two hundred and fifty workmen marched before to smooth the way and repair the bridges; and near two months were employed in a

laborious journey of one hundred and fifty miles. A lively philosopher

[25] derides on this occasion the credulity of the Greeks, and observes, with much reason, that we should always distrust the exaggerations of a vanquished people. He calculates, that a ball, even o two hundred

pounds, would require a charge of one hundred and fifty pounds of

powder; and that the stroke would be feeble and impotent, since not a fifteenth part of the mass could be inflamed at the same moment. a stranger as I am to the art of destruction, I can discern that the

modern improvements of artillery prefer the number of pieces to the weight of metal; the quickness of the fire to the sound, or even the consequence, of a single explosion. Yet I dare not reject the positive and unanimous evidence of contemporary writers; nor can it seem

improbable, that the first artists, in their rude and ambitious efforts,

should have transgressed the standard of moderation. A Turkish cannon,

more enormous than that of Mahomet, still guards the entrance of the dardanelles; and if the use be inconvenient, it has been found on a

late trial that the effect was far from contemptible. A stone bullet of

\_eleven\_ hundred pounds' weight was once discharged with three hundred and thirty pounds of powder: at the distance of six hundred yards it

shivered into three rocky fragments; traversed the strait; and leaving the waters in a foam, again rose and bounded against the opposite hill.

[26]

[Footnote 231: Gibbon has written Dane by mistake for Dace, or Dacian. Lax ti kinoV?. Chalcondyles, Von Hammer, p. 510.--M.]

[Footnote 24: The Attic talent weighed about sixty minæ, or avoirdupois

pounds (see Hooper on Ancient Weights, Measures, &c.;) but among the

modern Greeks, that classic appellation was extended to a weight of one

hundred, or one hundred and twenty-five pounds, (Ducange, talanton.)

Leonardus Chiensis measured the ball or stone of the \_second\_ cannon

Lapidem, qui palmis undecim ex meis ambibat in gyro.]

[Footnote 241: 1200, according to Leonardus Chiensis. Von Hammer states that he had himself seen the great cannon of the Dardanelles, in which a tailor who had run away from his creditors, had concealed himself

several days Von Hammer had measured balls twelve spans round. Note. p.

666.--M.]

[Footnote 25: See Voltaire, (Hist. Générale, c. xci. p. 294, 295.) He was ambitious of universal monarchy; and the poet frequently aspires to the name and style of an astronomer, a chemist, &c.]

[Footnote 26: The Baron de Tott, (tom. iii. p. 85--89,) who fortified the Dardanelles against the Russians, describes in a lively, and even comic, strain his own prowess, and the consternation of the Turks. but that adventurous traveller does not possess the art of gaining our confidence.]

while Mahomet threatened the capital of the East, the Greek emperor

implored with fervent prayers the assistance of earth and heaven. But the invisible powers were deaf to his supplications; and Christendom beheld with indifference the fall of Constantinople, while she derived at least some promise of supply from the jealous and temporal policy of the sultan of Egypt. Some states were too weak, and others too remote; by some the danger was considered as imaginary by others as inevitable: the Western princes were involved in their endless and domestic

quarrels; and the Roman pontiff was exasperated by the falsehood or

obstinacy of the Greeks. Instead of employing in their favor the arms and treasures of Italy, Nicholas the Fifth had foretold their approaching ruin; and his honor was engaged in the accomplishment of

his prophecy. [261] Perhaps he was softened by the last extremity o their distress; but his compassion was tardy; his efforts were faint and

unavailing; and Constantinople had fallen, before the squadrons of Genoa and Venice could sail from their harbors. [27] Even the princes of the

Morea and of the Greek islands affected a cold neutrality: the Genoese colony of Galata negotiated a private treaty; and the sultan indulged them in the delusive hope, that by his clemency they might survive the

ruin of the empire. A plebeian crowd, and some Byzantine nobles basely withdrew from the danger of their country; and the avarice of the rich denied the emperor, and reserved for the Turks, the secret treasures which might have raised in their defence whole armies of mercenaries.

[28] The indigent and solitary prince prepared, however, to sustain his formidable adversary; but if his courage were equal to the peril, his

strength was inadequate to the contest. In the beginning of the spring, the Turkish vanguard swept the towns and villages as far as the gates of constantinople: submission was spared and protected; whatever presumed to resist was exterminated with fire and sword. The Greek places on the Black Sea, Mesembria, Acheloum, and Bizon, surrendered on the first

summons; Selybria alone deserved the honors of a siege or blockade; and the bold inhabitants, while they were invested by land, launched their boats, pillaged the opposite coast of Cyzicus, and sold their captives

in the public market. But on the approach of Mahomet himself all was

silent and prostrate: he first halted at the distance of five miles; and from thence advancing in battle array, planted before the gates of St.

Romanus the Imperial standard; and on the sixth day of April formed the

memorable siege of Constantinople.

[Footnote 261: See the curious Christian and Mahometan predictions of the fall of Constantinople, Von Hammer, p. 518.--M.]

[Footnote 27: Non audivit, indignum ducens, says the honest Antoninus; but as the Roman court was afterwards grieved and ashamed, we find the

more courtly expression of Platina, in animo fuisse pontifici juvare

Græcos, and the positive assertion of Æneas Sylvius, structam classem

&c. (Spond. A.D. 1453, No. 3.)]

[Footnote 28: Antonin. in Proem.--Epist. Cardinal. Isidor. apud

Spondanum and Dr. Johnson, in the tragedy of Irene, has happily seized this characteristic circumstance:--

The groaning Greeks dig up the golden caverns.

The accumulated wealth of hoarding ages;

That wealth which, granted to their weeping prince,

Had ranged embattled nations at their gates.]

the troops of Asia and Europe extended on the right and left from the

Propontis to the harbor; the Janizaries in the front were stationed before the sultan's tent; the Ottoman line was covered by a deep

intrenchment; and a subordinate army enclosed the suburb of Galata, and watched the doubtful faith of the Genoese. The inquisitive Philelphus, who resided in Greece about thirty years before the siege, is confident, that all the Turkish forces of any name or value could not exceed the

number of sixty thousand horse and twenty thousand foot; and he upbraids the pusillanimity of the nations, who had tamely yielded to a handful

of Barbarians. Such indeed might be the regular establishment of the

\_Capiculi\_, [29] the troops of the Porte who marched with the prince, and were paid from his royal treasury. But the bashaws, in their respective

governments, maintained or levied a provincial militia; many lands were

held by a military tenure; many volunteers were attracted by the hope

of spoil and the sound of the holy trumpet invited a swarm of hungry and fearless fanatics, who might contribute at least to multiply the terrors, and in a first attack to blunt the swords, of the Christians. the whole mass of the Turkish powers is magnified by Ducas, chalcondyles, and Leonard of Chios, to the amount of three or four

hundred thousand men; but Phranza was a less remote and more accurate

judge; and his precise definition of two hundred and fifty-eight thousand does not exceed the measure of experience and probability.

[30] The navy of the besiegers was less formidable: the Propontis was

overspread with three hundred and twenty sail; but of these no more than eighteen could be rated as galleys of war; and the far greater part must be degraded to the condition of store-ships and transports, which poured

into the camp fresh supplies of men, ammunition, and provisions. In her

last decay, Constantinople was still peopled with more than a hundred thousand inhabitants; but these numbers are found in the accounts, not

of war, but of captivity; and they mostly consisted of mechanics, of

priests, of women, and of men devoid of that spirit which even women

have sometimes exerted for the common safety. I can suppose, I could almost excuse, the reluctance of subjects to serve on a distant frontier, at the will of a tyrant; but the man who dares not expose

his life in the defence of his children and his property, has lost in

society the first and most active energies of nature. By the emperor's command, a particular inquiry had been made through the streets and

houses, how many of the citizens, or even of the monks, were able and willing to bear arms for their country. The lists were intrusted to

Phranza; [31] and, after a diligent addition, he informed his master, with grief and surprise, that the national defence was reduced to four thousand nine hundred and seventy \_Romans\_. Between Constantine and

his faithful minister this comfortless secret was preserved; and a sufficient proportion of shields, cross-bows, and muskets, were distributed from the arsenal to the city bands. They derived some accession from a body of two thousand strangers, under the command of

John Justiniani, a noble Genoese; a liberal donative was advanced to these auxiliaries; and a princely recompense, the Isle of Lemnos, was

promised to the valor and victory of their chief. A strong chain was drawn across the mouth of the harbor: it was supported by some Greek and

Italian vessels of war and merchandise; and the ships of every Christian

nation, that successively arrived from Candia and the Black Sea, were detained for the public service. Against the powers of the Ottoman empire, a city of the extent of thirteen, perhaps of sixteen, miles was defended by a scanty garrison of seven or eight thousand soldiers. europe and Asia were open to the besiegers; but the strength and

provisions of the Greeks must sustain a daily decrease; nor could they

indulge the expectation of any foreign succor or supply.

[Footnote 29: The palatine troops are styled \_Capiculi\_, the

provincials, \_Seratculi\_; and most of the names and institutions of the turkish militia existed before the \_Canon Nameh\_ of Soliman II, from which, and his own experience, Count Marsigli has composed his military

state of the Ottoman empire.]

[Footnote 30: The observation of Philelphus is approved by Cuspinian in the year 1508, (de Cæsaribus, in Epilog. de Militiâ Turcicâ, p. 697.)

Marsigli proves, that the effective armies of the Turks are much less

numerous than they appear. In the army that besieged Constantinople

Leonardus Chiensis reckons no more than 15,000 Janizaries.]

[Footnote 31: Ego, eidem (Imp.) tabellas extribui non absque dolore et

mstitia, mansitque apud nos duos aliis occultus numerus, (Phranza, l.

iii. c. 8.) With some indulgence for national prejudices, we cannot desire a more authentic witness, not only of public facts, but of

private counsels.]

the primitive Romans would have drawn their swords in the resolution

of death or conquest. The primitive Christians might have embraced each

other, and awaited in patience and charity the stroke of martyrdom. but the Greeks of Constantinople were animated only by the spirit of

religion, and that spirit was productive only of animosity and discord. before his death, the emperor John Palæologus had renounced the

unpopular measure of a union with the Latins; nor was the idea revived, till the distress of his brother Constantine imposed a last trial of flattery and dissimulation. [32] With the demand of temporal aid,

his ambassadors were instructed to mingle the assurance of spiritual

obedience: his neglect of the church was excused by the urgent cares

of the state; and his orthodox wishes solicited the presence of a

Roman legate. The Vatican had been too often deluded; yet the signs of

repentance could not decently be overlooked; a legate was more easily

granted than an army; and about six months before the final destruction, the cardinal Isidore of Russia appeared in that character with a retinue

of priests and soldiers. The emperor saluted him as a friend and father;

respectfully listened to his public and private sermons; and with the

most obsequious of the clergy and laymen subscribed the act of union, as it had been ratified in the council of Florence. On the twelfth of december, the two nations, in the church of St. Sophia, joined in the communion of sacrifice and prayer; and the names of the two pontiffs were solemnly commemorated; the names of Nicholas the Fifth, the vicar

of Christ, and of the patriarch Gregory, who had been driven into exile by a rebellious people.

[Footnote 32: In Spondanus, the narrative of the union is not only

partial, but imperfect. The bishop of Pamiers died in 1642, and the

history of Ducas, which represents these scenes (c. 36, 37) with such truth and spirit, was not printed till the year 1649.]

but the dress and language of the Latin priest who officiated at the altar were an object of scandal; and it was observed with horror, that

he consecrated a cake or wafer of \_unleavened\_ bread, and poured cold water into the cup of the sacrament. A national historian acknowledges with a blush, that none of his countrymen, not the emperor himself, were

sincere in this occasional conformity. [33] Their hasty and unconditional

submission was palliated by a promise of future revisal; but the best,

or the worst, of their excuses was the confession of their own perjury. when they were pressed by the reproaches of their honest brethren, "Have

patience," they whispered, "have patience till God shall have delivered the city from the great dragon who seeks to devour us. You shall then perceive whether we are truly reconciled with the Azymites." But

patience is not the attribute of zeal; nor can the arts of a court be adapted to the freedom and violence of popular enthusiasm. From the dome

of St. Sophia the inhabitants of either sex, and of every degree, rushed

in crowds to the cell of the monk Gennadius, [34] to consult the oracle

of the church. The holy man was invisible; entranced, as it should seem,

in deep meditation, or divine rapture: but he had exposed on the door

of his cell a speaking tablet; and they successively withdrew, after

reading those tremendous words: "O miserable Romans, why will ye abandon the truth? and why, instead of confiding in God, will ye put your trust

in the Italians? In losing your faith you will lose your city. Have

mercy on me, O Lord! I protest in thy presence that I am innocent of the crime. O miserable Romans, consider, pause, and repent. At the same

moment that you renounce the religion of your fathers, by embracing

impiety, you submit to a foreign servitude." According to the advice

of Gennadius, the religious virgins, as pure as angels, and as proud as dæmons, rejected the act of union, and abjured all communion with the

present and future associates of the Latins; and their example was applauded and imitated by the greatest part of the clergy and people. from the monastery, the devout Greeks dispersed themselves in the taverns; drank confusion to the slaves of the pope; emptied their

glasses in honor of the image of the holy Virgin; and besought her to defend against Mahomet the city which she had formerly saved from chosroes and the Chagan. In the double intoxication of zeal and wine, they valiantly exclaimed, "What occasion have we for succor, or union,

or Latins? Far from us be the worship of the Azymites!" During the winter that preceded the Turkish conquest, the nation was distracted by this epidemical frenzy; and the season of Lent, the approach of Easter,

instead of breathing charity and love, served only to fortify the

obstinacy and influence of the zealots. The confessors scrutinized and alarmed the conscience of their votaries, and a rigorous penance was

imposed on those who had received the communion from a priest who had

given an express or tacit consent to the union. His service at the altar propagated the infection to the mute and simple spectators of the ceremony: they forfeited, by the impure spectacle, the virtue of the

sacerdotal character; nor was it lawful, even in danger of sudden death, to invoke the assistance of their prayers or absolution. No sooner had the church of St. Sophia been polluted by the Latin sacrifice, than it was deserted as a Jewish synagogue, or a heathen temple, by the clergy and people; and a vast and gloomy silence prevailed in that venerable dome, which had so often smoked with a cloud of incense, blazed with innumerable lights, and resounded with the voice of prayer and thanksgiving. The Latins were the most odious of heretics and infidels; and the first minister of the empire, the great duke, was heard to declare, that he had rather behold in Constantinople the turban of

Mahomet, than the pope's tiara or a cardinal's hat. [35] A sentiment

so unworthy of Christians and patriots was familiar and fatal to the

Greeks: the emperor was deprived of the affection and support of his

subjects; and their native cowardice was sanctified by resignation to the divine decree, or the visionary hope of a miraculous deliverance.

[Footnote 33: Phranza, one of the conforming Greeks, acknowledges that the measure was adopted only propter spem auxilii; he affirms with

pleasure, that those who refused to perform their devotions in St.

Sophia, extra culpam et in pace essent, (l. iii. c. 20.)]

[Footnote 34: His primitive and secular name was George Scholarius, which he changed for that of Gennadius, either when he became a monk or a patriarch. His defence, at Florence, of the same union, which he so furiously attacked at Constantinople, has tempted Leo Allatius (Diatrib. de Georgiis, in Fabric. Bibliot. Græc. tom. x. p. 760--786) to divide

him into two men; but Renaudot (p. 343--383) has restored the identity

of his person and the duplicity of his character.]

[Footnote 35: Fakiolion, kaluptra, may be fairly translated a cardinal's

hat. The difference of the Greek and Latin habits imbittered the

schism.]

Of the triangle which composes the figure of Constantinople, the two

sides along the sea were made inaccessible to an enemy; the Propontis by

nature, and the harbor by art. Between the two waters, the basis of the triangle, the land side was protected by a double wall, and a deep ditch

of the depth of one hundred feet. Against this line of fortification, which Phranza, an eye-witness, prolongs to the measure of six miles,

[36] the Ottomans directed their principal attack; and the emperor, after distributing the service and command of the most perilous stations,

undertook the defence of the external wall. In the first days of the

siege the Greek soldiers descended into the ditch, or sallied into the field; but they soon discovered, that, in the proportion of their

numbers, one Christian was of more value than twenty Turks: and, after these bold preludes, they were prudently content to maintain the rampart with their missile weapons. Nor should this prudence be accused of

pusillanimity. The nation was indeed pusillanimous and base; but the last Constantine deserves the name of a hero: his noble band of

volunteers was inspired with Roman virtue; and the foreign auxiliaries

supported the honor of the Western chivalry. The incessant volleys of

lances and arrows were accompanied with the smoke, the sound, and the fire, of their musketry and cannon. Their small arms discharged at the

same time either five, or even ten, balls of lead, of the size of a walnut; and, according to the closeness of the ranks and the force of the powder, several breastplates and bodies were transpierced by the

same shot. But the Turkish approaches were soon sunk in trenches, or covered with ruins. Each day added to the science of the Christians; but their inadequate stock of gunpowder was wasted in the operations of each day. Their ordnance was not powerful, either in size or number; and

if they possessed some heavy cannon, they feared to plant them on the walls, lest the aged structure should be shaken and overthrown by the explosion. [37] The same destructive secret had been revealed to the

Moslems; by whom it was employed with the superior energy of zeal,

riches, and despotism. The great cannon of Mahomet has been separately

noticed; an important and visible object in the history of the times: but that enormous engine was flanked by two fellows almost of equal

magnitude: [38] the long order of the Turkish artillery was pointed against the walls; fourteen batteries thundered at once on the most accessible places; and of one of these it is ambiguously expressed, that

it was mounted with one hundred and thirty guns, or that it discharged

one hundred and thirty bullets. Yet in the power and activity of the

sultan, we may discern the infancy of the new science. Under a master who counted the moments, the great cannon could be loaded and fired no

more than seven times in one day. [39] The heated metal unfortunately burst; several workmen were destroyed; and the skill of an artist [391] was admired who bethought himself of preventing the danger and the accident, by pouring oil, after each explosion, into the mouth of the cannon.

[Footnote 36: We are obliged to reduce the Greek miles to the smallest

measure which is preserved in the wersts of Russia, of 547 French

\_toises\_, and of 104 2/5 to a degree. The six miles of Phranza do not exceed four English miles, (D'Anville, Mesures Itineraires, p. 61, 123,

&c.)]

[Footnote 37: At indies doctiores nostri facti paravere contra hostes

machinamenta, quæ tamen avare dabantur. Pulvis erat nitri modica exigua; tela modica; bombardæ, si aderant incommoditate loci primum hostes

offendere, maceriebus alveisque tectos, non poterant. Nam si quæ magnæ erant, ne murus concuteretur noster, quiescebant. This passage of

Leonardus Chiensis is curious and important.]

[Footnote 38: According to Chalcondyles and Phranza, the great cannon burst; an incident which, according to Ducas, was prevented by the artist's skill. It is evident that they do not speak of the same gun. \*

Note: They speak, one of a Byzantine, one of a Turkish, gun. Von

Hammer note, p. 669.]

[Footnote 39: Near a hundred years after the siege of Constantinople, the French and English fleets in the Channel were proud of firing 300

shot in an engagement of two hours, (Mémoires de Martin du Bellay, l.

x., in the Collection Générale, tom. xxi. p. 239.)]

[Footnote 391: The founder of the gun. Von Hammer, p. 526.]

the first random shots were productive of more sound than effect; and

it was by the advice of a Christian, that the engineers were taught to

level their aim against the two opposite sides of the salient angles of a bastion. However imperfect, the weight and repetition of the fire made

some impression on the walls; and the Turks, pushing their approaches to the edge of the ditch, attempted to fill the enormous chasm, and to build a road to the assault. [40] Innumerable fascines, and hogsheads, and trunks of trees, were heaped on each other; and such was the

impetuosity of the throng, that the foremost and the weakest were pushed

headlong down the precipice, and instantly buried under the accumulated

mass. To fill the ditch was the toil of the besiegers; to clear away the rubbish was the safety of the besieged; and after a long and bloody conflict, the web that had been woven in the day was still unravelled in the night. The next resource of Mahomet was the practice of mines; but the soil was rocky; in every attempt he was stopped and undermined by the Christian engineers; nor had the art been yet invented of

replenishing those subterraneous passages with gunpowder, and blowing whole towers and cities into the air. [41] A circumstance that distinguishes the siege of Constantinople is the reunion of the ancient and modern artillery. The cannon were intermingled with the mechanical engines for casting stones and darts; the bullet and the battering-ram

[411] were directed against the same walls: nor had the discovery of

gunpowder superseded the use of the liquid and unextinguishable fire. A wooden turret of the largest size was advanced on rollers this portable

magazine of ammunition and fascines was protected by a threefold covering of bulls' hides: incessant volleys were securely discharged from the loop-holes; in the front, three doors were contrived for the alternate sally and retreat of the soldiers and workmen. They ascended by a staircase to the upper platform, and, as high as the level of that

platform, a scaling-ladder could be raised by pulleys to form a bridge, and grapple with the adverse rampart. By these various arts of annoyance, some as new as they were pernicious to the Greeks, the tower

of St. Romanus was at length overturned: after a severe struggle, the turks were repulsed from the breach, and interrupted by darkness; but they trusted that with the return of light they should renew the attack with fresh vigor and decisive success. Of this pause of action, this

interval of hope, each moment was improved, by the activity of the emperor and Justiniani, who passed the night on the spot, and urged the

labors which involved the safety of the church and city. At the dawn of day, the impatient sultan perceived, with astonishment and grief, that

his wooden turret had been reduced to ashes: the ditch was cleared and

restored; and the tower of St. Romanus was again strong and entire. He deplored the failure of his design; and uttered a profane exclamation, that the word of the thirty-seven thousand prophets should not have compelled him to believe that such a work, in so short a time, could

have been accomplished by the infidels.

[Footnote 40: I have selected some curious facts, without striving to emulate the bloody and obstinate eloquence of the abbé de Vertot, in

his prolix descriptions of the sieges of Rhodes, Malta, &c. But that agreeable historian had a turn for romance; and as he wrote to please the order he had adopted the same spirit of enthusiasm and chivalry.]

[Footnote 41: The first theory of mines with gunpowder appears in 1480

in a MS. of George of Sienna, (Tiraboschi, tom. vi. P. i. p. 324.) they were first practised by Sarzanella, in 1487; but the honor and

improvement in 1503 is ascribed to Peter of Navarre, who used them with

success in the wars of Italy, (Hist. de la Ligue de Cambray, tom. ii. p.

93--97.)]

[Footnote 411: The battering-ram according to Von Hammer, (p. 670,) was

not used.--M.]

chapter LXVIII: Reign Of Mahomet The Second, Extinction Of Eastern Empire.--Part III.

the generosity of the Christian princes was cold and tardy; but in the first apprehension of a siege, Constantine had negotiated, in the

isles of the Archipelago, the Morea, and Sicily, the most indispensable

supplies. As early as the beginning of April, five [42] great ships, equipped for merchandise and war, would have sailed from the harbor of chios, had not the wind blown obstinately from the north. [43] One of these ships bore the Imperial flag; the remaining four belonged to the

Genoese; and they were laden with wheat and barley, with wine, oil, and

vegetables, and, above all, with soldiers and mariners for the service

of the capital. After a tedious delay, a gentle breeze, and, on the

second day, a strong gale from the south, carried them through the

Hellespont and the Propontis: but the city was already invested by sea and land; and the Turkish fleet, at the entrance of the Bosphorus, was

stretched from shore to shore, in the form of a crescent, to intercept,

or at least to repel, these bold auxiliaries. The reader who has present to his mind the geographical picture of Constantinople, will conceive and admire the greatness of the spectacle. The five Christian ships continued to advance with joyful shouts, and a full press both of sails and oars, against a hostile fleet of three hundred vessels; and the

rampart, the camp, the coasts of Europe and Asia, were lined with

innumerable spectators, who anxiously awaited the event of this

momentous succor. At the first view that event could not appear doubtful; the superiority of the Moslems was beyond all measure or account: and, in a calm, their numbers and valor must inevitably have

prevailed. But their hasty and imperfect navy had been created, not by the genius of the people, but by the will of the sultan: in the height

of their prosperity, the Turks have acknowledged, that if God had given them the earth, he had left the sea to the infidels; [44] and a series of defeats, a rapid progress of decay, has established the truth of their

modest confession. Except eighteen galleys of some force, the rest of their fleet consisted of open boats, rudely constructed and awkwardly

managed, crowded with troops, and destitute of cannon; and since courage arises in a great measure from the consciousness of strength, the bravest of the Janizaries might tremble on a new element. In the christian squadron, five stout and lofty ships were guided by skilful

pilots, and manned with the veterans of Italy and Greece, long practised

in the arts and perils of the sea. Their weight was directed to sink or

scatter the weak obstacles that impeded their passage: their artillery

swept the waters: their liquid fire was poured on the heads of the adversaries, who, with the design of boarding, presumed to approach them; and the winds and waves are always on the side of the ablest

navigators. In this conflict, the Imperial vessel, which had been almost

overpowered, was rescued by the Genoese; but the Turks, in a distant and closer attack, were twice repulsed with considerable loss. Mahomet

himself sat on horseback on the beach to encourage their valor by his

voice and presence, by the promise of reward, and by fear more potent than the fear of the enemy. The passions of his soul, and even the gestures of his body, [45] seemed to imitate the actions of the combatants; and, as if he had been the lord of nature, he spurred

his horse with a fearless and impotent effort into the sea. His loud

reproaches, and the clamors of the camp, urged the Ottomans to a third attack, more fatal and bloody than the two former; and I must repeat, though I cannot credit, the evidence of Phranza, who affirms, from their

own mouth, that they lost above twelve thousand men in the slaughter of the day. They fled in disorder to the shores of Europe and Asia, while the Christian squadron, triumphant and unhurt, steered along the bosphorus, and securely anchored within the chain of the harbor. In the confidence of victory, they boasted that the whole Turkish power must

have yielded to their arms; but the admiral, or captain bashaw, found

some consolation for a painful wound in his eye, by representing that accident as the cause of his defeat. Balthi Ogli was a renegade of the

race of the Bulgarian princes: his military character was tainted with the unpopular vice of avarice; and under the despotism of the prince or

people, misfortune is a sufficient evidence of guilt. [451] His rank and

services were annihilated by the displeasure of Mahomet. In the royal

presence, the captain bashaw was extended on the ground by four slaves, and received one hundred strokes with a golden rod: [46] his death had been pronounced; and he adored the clemency of the sultan, who was

satisfied with the milder punishment of confiscation and exile. The

introduction of this supply revived the hopes of the Greeks, and accused the supineness of their Western allies. Amidst the deserts of Anatolia and the rocks of Palestine, the millions of the crusades had buried themselves in a voluntary and inevitable grave; but the situation of the Imperial city was strong against her enemies, and accessible to her friends; and a rational and moderate armament of the marine states might

have saved the relics of the Roman name, and maintained a Christian fortress in the heart of the Ottoman empire. Yet this was the sole and feeble attempt for the deliverance of Constantinople: the more distant

powers were insensible of its danger; and the ambassador of Hungary, or at least of Huniades, resided in the Turkish camp, to remove the fears, and to direct the operations, of the sultan. [47]

[Footnote 42: It is singular that the Greeks should not agree in the

number of these illustrious vessels; the \_five\_ of Ducas, the \_four\_of

Phranza and Leonardus, and the \_two\_ of Chalcondyles, must be extended to the smaller, or confined to the larger, size. Voltaire, in giving one

of these ships to Frederic III., confounds the emperors of the East and west.]

[Footnote 43: In bold defiance, or rather in gross ignorance, of

language and geography, the president Cousin detains them in Chios with a south, and wafts them to Constantinople with a north, wind.]

[Footnote 44: The perpetual decay and weakness of the Turkish navy

may be observed in Ricaut, (State of the Ottoman Empire, p. 372--378,) thevenot, (Voyages, P. i. p. 229--242, and Tott), (Mémoires, tom. iii;) the last of whom is always solicitous to amuse and amaze his reader.]

[Footnote 45: I must confess that I have before my eyes the living

picture which Thucydides (l. vii. c. 71) has drawn of the passions and

gestures of the Athenians in a naval engagement in the great harbor of

Syracuse.]

[Footnote 451: According to Ducas, one of the Afabi beat out his eye with a stone Compare Von Hammer.--M.]

[Footnote 46: According to the exaggeration or corrupt text of Ducas,

(c. 38,) this golden bar was of the enormous or incredible weight of 500

libræ, or pounds. Bouillaud's reading of 500 drachms, or five pounds,

is sufficient to exercise the arm of Mahomet, and bruise the back of his admiral.]

[Footnote 47: Ducas, who confesses himself ill informed of the affairs

of Hungary assigns a motive of superstition, a fatal belief that constantinople would be the term of the Turkish conquests. See Phranza

(l. iii. c. 20) and Spondanus.]

It was difficult for the Greeks to penetrate the secret of the divan;

yet the Greeks are persuaded, that a resistance so obstinate and

surprising, had fatigued the perseverance of Mahomet. He began to

meditate a retreat; and the siege would have been speedily raised,

if the ambition and jealousy of the second vizier had not opposed the perfidious advice of Calil Bashaw, who still maintained a secret correspondence with the Byzantine court. The reduction of the city appeared to be hopeless, unless a double attack could be made from the

harbor as well as from the land; but the harbor was inaccessible: an

impenetrable chain was now defended by eight large ships, more than twenty of a smaller size, with several galleys and sloops; and, instead

of forcing this barrier, the Turks might apprehend a naval sally, and a second encounter in the open sea. In this perplexity, the genius of

Mahomet conceived and executed a plan of a bold and marvellous cast, of transporting by land his lighter vessels and military stores from the bosphorus into the higher part of the harbor. The distance is about ten

[471] miles; the ground is uneven, and was overspread with thickets; and, as the road must be opened behind the suburb of Galata, their free

passage or total destruction must depend on the option of the Genoese. but these selfish merchants were ambitious of the favor of being the

last devoured; and the deficiency of art was supplied by the strength

of obedient myriads. A level way was covered with a broad platform of

strong and solid planks; and to render them more slippery and smooth, they were anointed with the fat of sheep and oxen. Fourscore light

galleys and brigantines, of fifty and thirty oars, were disembarked

on the Bosphorus shore; arranged successively on rollers; and drawn forwards by the power of men and pulleys. Two guides or pilots were

stationed at the helm, and the prow, of each vessel: the sails were unfurled to the winds; and the labor was cheered by song and acclamation. In the course of a single night, this Turkish fleet

painfully climbed the hill, steered over the plain, and was launched from the declivity into the shallow waters of the harbor, far above the

molestation of the deeper vessels of the Greeks. The real importance of this operation was magnified by the consternation and confidence which

it inspired: but the notorious, unquestionable fact was displayed before the eyes, and is recorded by the pens, of the two nations. [48] A similar

stratagem had been repeatedly practised by the ancients; [49] the Ottoman

galleys (I must again repeat) should be considered as large boats; and,

if we compare the magnitude and the distance, the obstacles and the

means, the boasted miracle [50] has perhaps been equalled by the industry

of our own times. [51] As soon as Mahomet had occupied the upper harbor with a fleet and army, he constructed, in the narrowest part, a bridge,

or rather mole, of fifty cubits in breadth, and one hundred in length:

it was formed of casks and hogsheads; joined with rafters, linked with iron, and covered with a solid floor. On this floating battery he

planted one of his largest cannon, while the fourscore galleys, with troops and scaling ladders, approached the most accessible side, which

had formerly been stormed by the Latin conquerors. The indolence of the christians has been accused for not destroying these unfinished works;

[511] but their fire, by a superior fire, was controlled and silenced; nor were they wanting in a nocturnal attempt to burn the vessels as well as the bridge of the sultan. His vigilance prevented their approach; their foremost galiots were sunk or taken; forty youths, the bravest of Italy and Greece, were inhumanly massacred at his command; nor could the emperor's grief be assuaged by the just though cruel retaliation, of exposing from the walls the heads of two hundred and sixty Mussulman captives. After a siege of forty days, the fate of Constantinople could

no longer be averted. The diminutive garrison was exhausted by a double attack: the fortifications, which had stood for ages against hostile

violence, were dismantled on all sides by the Ottoman cannon: many breaches were opened; and near the gate of St. Romanus, four towers

had been levelled with the ground. For the payment of his feeble and

mutinous troops, Constantine was compelled to despoil the churches with the promise of a fourfold restitution; and his sacrilege offered a new

reproach to the enemies of the union. A spirit of discord impaired the

remnant of the Christian strength; the Genoese and Venetian auxiliaries asserted the preeminence of their respective service; and Justiniani and the great duke, whose ambition was not extinguished by the common danger, accused each other of treachery and cowardice.

[Footnote 471: Six miles. Von Hammer.--M.]?

[Footnote 48: The unanimous testimony of the four Greeks is confirmed by cantemir (p. 96) from the Turkish annals; but I could wish to contract the distance of \_ten\_ \* miles, and to prolong the term of \_one\_ night.

Note: Six miles. Von Hammer.--M.]

[Footnote 49: Phranza relates two examples of a similar transportation

over the six miles of the Isthmus of Corinth; the one fabulous, of augustus after the battle of Actium; the other true, of Nicetas, a

Greek general in the xth century. To these he might have added a bold enterprise of Hannibal, to introduce his vessels into the harbor of tarentum, (Polybius, l. viii. p. 749, edit. Gronov. \*

Note: Von Hammer gives a longer list of such transportations, p. 533. dion Cassius distinctly relates the occurrence treated as fabulous by

Gibbon.--M.]

[Footnote 50: A Greek of Candia, who had served the Venetians in a

similar undertaking, (Spond. A.D. 1438, No. 37,) might possibly be the adviser and agent of Mahomet.]

[Footnote 51: I particularly allude to our own embarkations on the

lakes of Canada in the years 1776 and 1777, so great in the labor, so fruitless in the event.]

[Footnote 511: They were betrayed, according to some accounts, by the

Genoese of Galata. Von Hammer, p. 536.--M.]

during the siege of Constantinople, the words of peace and capitulation

had been sometimes pronounced; and several embassies had passed between the camp and the city. [52] The Greek emperor was humbled by adversity; and would have yielded to any terms compatible with religion and

royalty. The Turkish sultan was desirous of sparing the blood of his

soldiers; still more desirous of securing for his own use the Byzantine treasures: and he accomplished a sacred duty in presenting to the

\_Gabours\_ the choice of circumcision, of tribute, or of death. The avarice of Mahomet might have been satisfied with an annual sum of one

hundred thousand ducats; but his ambition grasped the capital of the east: to the prince he offered a rich equivalent, to the people a free toleration, or a safe departure: but after some fruitless treaty, he declared his resolution of finding either a throne, or a grave, under the walls of Constantinople. A sense of honor, and the fear of universal

reproach, forbade Palæologus to resign the city into the hands of the Ottomans; and he determined to abide the last extremities of war.

Several days were employed by the sultan in the preparations of the assault; and a respite was granted by his favorite science of astrology, which had fixed on the twenty-ninth of May, as the fortunate and fatal

hour. On the evening of the twenty-seventh, he issued his final orders; assembled in his presence the military chiefs, and dispersed his heralds through the camp to proclaim the duty, and the motives, of the perilous enterprise. Fear is the first principle of a despotic government; and

his menaces were expressed in the Oriental style, that the fugitives and deserters, had they the wings of a bird, [53] should not escape from his

inexorable justice. The greatest part of his bashaws and Janizaries were the offspring of Christian parents: but the glories of the Turkish name were perpetuated by successive adoption; and in the gradual change of

individuals, the spirit of a legion, a regiment, or an \_oda\_, is kept alive by imitation and discipline. In this holy warfare, the Moslems were exhorted to purify their minds with prayer, their bodies with seven ablutions; and to abstain from food till the close of the ensuing day. A crowd of dervises visited the tents, to instil the desire of martyrdom, and the assurance of spending an immortal youth amidst the rivers and

gardens of paradise, and in the embraces of the black-eyed virgins.

Yet Mahomet principally trusted to the efficacy of temporal and visible

rewards. A double pay was promised to the victorious troops: "The city and the buildings," said Mahomet, "are mine; but I resign to your valor the captives and the spoil, the treasures of gold and beauty; be rich and be happy. Many are the provinces of my empire: the intrepid soldier who first ascends the walls of Constantinople shall be rewarded with the government of the fairest and most wealthy; and my gratitude shall accumulate his honors and fortunes above the measure of his own hopes."

Such various and potent motives diffused among the Turks a general ardor, regardless of life and impatient for action: the camp reechoed with the Moslem shouts of "God is God: there is but one God, and Mahomet

is the apostle of God;" [54] and the sea and land, from Galata to the

seven towers, were illuminated by the blaze of their nocturnal fires. [541]

[Footnote 52: Chalcondyles and Ducas differ in the time and circumstances of the negotiation; and as it was neither glorious nor

salutary, the faithful Phranza spares his prince even the thought of a

surrender.]

[Footnote 53: These wings (Chalcondyles, l. viii. p. 208) are no more than an Oriental figure: but in the tragedy of Irene, Mahomet's passion

soars above sense and reason:--

Should the fierce North, upon his frozen wings.

Bear him aloft above the wondering clouds,

And seat him in the Pleiads' golden chariot--

Then should my fury drag him down to tortures.

besides the extravagance of the rant, I must observe, 1. That the

operation of the winds must be confined to the \_lower\_ region of the air. 2. That the name, etymology, and fable of the Pleiads are purely

Greek, (Scholiast ad Homer, S. 686. Eudocia in Ioniâ, p. 399. Apollodor.

l. iii. c. 10. Heyne, p. 229, Not. 682,) and had no affinity with the astronomy of the East, (Hyde ad Ulugbeg, Tabul. in Syntagma Dissert. tom. i. p. 40, 42. Goguet, Origine des Arts, &c., tom. vi. p. 73--78.

Gebelin, Hist. du Calendrier, p. 73,) which Mahomet had studied. 3. The

golden chariot does not exist either in science or fiction; but I much fear Dr. Johnson has confounded the Pleiads with the great bear or wagon, the zodiac with a northern constellation:--

''Ark-on q' hn kai amaxan epiklhsin kaleouein. Il. S. 487.]

[Footnote 54: Phranza quarrels with these Moslem acclamations, not for the name of God, but for that of the prophet: the pious zeal of Voltaire

is excessive, and even ridiculous.]

[Footnote 541: The picture is heightened by the addition of the wailing cries of Kyris, which were heard from the dark interior of the city. Von

Hammer p. 539.--M.]

far different was the state of the Christians; who, with loud and

impotent complaints, deplored the guilt, or the punishment, of their

sins. The celestial image of the Virgin had been exposed in solemn

procession; but their divine patroness was deaf to their entreaties: they accused the obstinacy of the emperor for refusing a timely

surrender; anticipated the horrors of their fate; and sighed for the

repose and security of Turkish servitude. The noblest of the Greeks, and the bravest of the allies, were summoned to the palace, to prepare them,

on the evening of the twenty-eighth, for the duties and dangers of the

general assault. The last speech of Palæologus was the funeral oration

of the Roman empire: [55] he promised, he conjured, and he vainly attempted to infuse the hope which was extinguished in his own mind. In this world all was comfortless and gloomy; and neither the gospel nor the church have proposed any conspicuous recompense to the heroes who fall in the service of their country. But the example of their prince, and the confinement of a siege, had armed these warriors with the courage of despair, and the pathetic scene is described by the feelings

of the historian Phranza, who was himself present at this mournful assembly. They wept, they embraced; regardless of their families and fortunes, they devoted their lives; and each commander, departing to

his station, maintained all night a vigilant and anxious watch on the

rampart. The emperor, and some faithful companions, entered the dome of

St. Sophia, which in a few hours was to be converted into a mosque; and devoutly received, with tears and prayers, the sacrament of the holy communion. He reposed some moments in the palace, which resounded with cries and lamentations; solicited the pardon of all whom he might have

injured; [56] and mounted on horseback to visit the guards, and explore the motions of the enemy. The distress and fall of the last Constantine are more glorious than the long prosperity of the Byzantine Cæsars. [561]

[Footnote 55: I am afraid that this discourse was composed by Phranza

himself; and it smells so grossly of the sermon and the convent, that I almost doubt whether it was pronounced by Constantine. Leonardus assigns

him another speech, in which he addresses himself more respectfully to the Latin auxiliaries.]

[Footnote 56: This abasement, which devotion has sometimes extorted from dying princes, is an improvement of the gospel doctrine of the forgiveness of injuries: it is more easy to forgive 490 times, than once to ask pardon of an inferior.]

[Footnote 561: Compare the very curious Armenian elegy on the fall of constantinople, translated by M. Boré, in the Journal Asiatique for

March, 1835; and by M. Brosset, in the new edition of Le Beau, (tom.

xxi. p. 308.) The author thus ends his poem: "I, Abraham, loaded with

sins, have composed this elegy with the most lively sorrow; for I have

seen Constantinople in the days of its glory."--M.]

In the confusion of darkness, an assailant may sometimes succeed; out

in this great and general attack, the military judgment and astrological

knowledge of Mahomet advised him to expect the morning, the memorable twenty-ninth of May, in the fourteen hundred and fifty-third year of the christian æra. The preceding night had been strenuously employed: the troops, the cannons, and the fascines, were advanced to the edge of the ditch, which in many parts presented a smooth and level passage to the breach; and his fourscore galleys almost touched, with the prows and their scaling-ladders, the less defensible walls of the harbor. Under

pain of death, silence was enjoined: but the physical laws of motion and sound are not obedient to discipline or fear; each individual might

suppress his voice and measure his footsteps; but the march and labor

of thousands must inevitably produce a strange confusion of dissonant clamors, which reached the ears of the watchmen of the towers. At daybreak, without the customary signal of the morning gun, the Turks assaulted the city by sea and land; and the similitude of a twined or twisted thread has been applied to the closeness and continuity of their

line of attack. [57] The foremost ranks consisted of the refuse of the

host, a voluntary crowd who fought without order or command; of the feebleness of age or childhood, of peasants and vagrants, and of all who had joined the camp in the blind hope of plunder and martyrdom. The common impulse drove them onwards to the wall; the most audacious to climb were instantly precipitated; and not a dart, not a bullet, of the Christians, was idly wasted on the accumulated throng. But their

strength and ammunition were exhausted in this laborious defence: the ditch was filled with the bodies of the slain; they supported the footsteps of their companions; and of this devoted vanguard the death was more serviceable than the life. Under their respective bashaws and

sanjaks, the troops of Anatolia and Romania were successively led to the charge: their progress was various and doubtful; but, after a conflict

of two hours, the Greeks still maintained, and improved their advantage; and the voice of the emperor was heard, encouraging his soldiers to achieve, by a last effort, the deliverance of their country. In that fatal moment, the Janizaries arose, fresh, vigorous, and invincible. the sultan himself on horseback, with an iron mace in his hand, was the

spectator and judge of their valor: he was surrounded by ten thousand of

his domestic troops, whom he reserved for the decisive occasion; and the tide of battle was directed and impelled by his voice and eye. His

numerous ministers of justice were posted behind the line, to urge, to restrain, and to punish; and if danger was in the front, shame and

inevitable death were in the rear, of the fugitives. The cries of fear and of pain were drowned in the martial music of drums, trumpets, and attaballs; and experience has proved, that the mechanical operation of

sounds, by quickening the circulation of the blood and spirits, will act on the human machine more forcibly than the eloquence of reason and honor. From the lines, the galleys, and the bridge, the Ottoman artillery thundered on all sides; and the camp and city, the Greeks and the Turks, were involved in a cloud of smoke which could only be dispelled by the final deliverance or destruction of the Roman empire. the single combats of the heroes of history or fable amuse our fancy and engage our affections: the skilful evolutions of war may inform the

mind, and improve a necessary, though pernicious, science. But in the

uniform and odious pictures of a general assault, all is blood, and

horror, and confusion nor shall I strive, at the distance of three centuries, and a thousand miles, to delineate a scene of which there could be no spectators, and of which the actors themselves were

incapable of forming any just or adequate idea.

[Footnote 57: Besides the 10,000 guards, and the sailors and the

marines, Ducas numbers in this general assault 250,000 Turks, both horse and foot.]

the immediate loss of Constantinople may be ascribed to the bullet, or arrow, which pierced the gauntlet of John Justiniani. The sight of his blood, and the exquisite pain, appalled the courage of the chief, whose arms and counsels were the firmest rampart of the city. As he withdrew from his station in quest of a surgeon, his flight was perceived and stopped by the indefatigable emperor. "Your wound," exclaimed

Palæologus, "is slight; the danger is pressing: your presence is

necessary; and whither will you retire?"--"I will retire," said the trembling Genoese, "by the same road which God has opened to the Turks;" and at these words he hastily passed through one of the breaches of the inner wall. By this pusillanimous act he stained the honors of a

military life; and the few days which he survived in Galata, or the Isle

of Chios, were embittered by his own and the public reproach. [58] His example was imitated by the greatest part of the Latin auxiliaries, and the defence began to slacken when the attack was pressed with redoubled

vigor. The number of the Ottomans was fifty, perhaps a hundred, times

superior to that of the Christians; the double walls were reduced by the cannon to a heap of ruins: in a circuit of several miles, some places

must be found more easy of access, or more feebly guarded; and if the besiegers could penetrate in a single point, the whole city was

irrecoverably lost. The first who deserved the sultan's reward was

Hassan the Janizary, of gigantic stature and strength. With his cimeter

in one hand and his buckler in the other, he ascended the outward fortification: of the thirty Janizaries, who were emulous of his

valor, eighteen perished in the bold adventure. Hassan and his twelve companions had reached the summit: the giant was precipitated from the

rampart: he rose on one knee, and was again oppressed by a shower of darts and stones. But his success had proved that the achievement was

possible: the walls and towers were instantly covered with a swarm

of Turks; and the Greeks, now driven from the vantage ground, were

overwhelmed by increasing multitudes. Amidst these multitudes, the emperor, [59] who accomplished all the duties of a general and a soldier, was long seen and finally lost. The nobles, who fought round his person,

sustained, till their last breath, the honorable names of Palæologus and cantacuzene: his mournful exclamation was heard, "Cannot there be found a Christian to cut off my head?" [60] and his last fear was that of falling alive into the hands of the infidels. [61] The prudent despair

of Constantine cast away the purple: amidst the tumult he fell by an

unknown hand, and his body was buried under a mountain of the slain. after his death, resistance and order were no more: the Greeks fled towards the city; and many were pressed and stifled in the narrow pass

of the gate of St. Romanus. The victorious Turks rushed through the breaches of the inner wall; and as they advanced into the streets, they were soon joined by their brethren, who had forced the gate Phenar on the side of the harbor. [62] In the first heat of the pursuit, about two thousand Christians were put to the sword; but avarice soon prevailed

over cruelty; and the victors acknowledged, that they should immediately

have given quarter if the valor of the emperor and his chosen bands had

not prepared them for a similar opposition in every part of the capital.

It was thus, after a siege of fifty-three days, that Constantinople, which had defied the power of Chosroes, the Chagan, and the caliphs, was

irretrievably subdued by the arms of Mahomet the Second. Her empire only

had been subverted by the Latins: her religion was trampled in the dust by the Moslem conquerors. [63]

[Footnote 58: In the severe censure of the flight of Justiniani, Phranza expresses his own feelings and those of the public. For some private

reasons, he is treated with more lenity and respect by Ducas; but the words of Leonardus Chiensis express his strong and recent indignation,

gloriæ salutis suique oblitus. In the whole series of their Eastern

policy, his countrymen, the Genoese, were always suspected, and often

guilty. \* Note: M. Brosset has given some extracts from the Georgian account

of the siege of Constantinople, in which Justiniani's wound in the

left foot is represented as more serious. With charitable ambiguity the chronicler adds that his soldiers carried him away with them in their

vessel.--M.]

[Footnote 59: Ducas kills him with two blows of Turkish soldiers; chalcondyles wounds him in the shoulder, and then tramples him in the

gate. The grief of Phranza, carrying him among the enemy, escapes from the precise image of his death; but we may, without flattery, apply these noble lines of Dryden:--

As to Sebastian, let them search the field;

And where they find a mountain of the slain,

Send one to climb, and looking down beneath,

There they will find him at his manly length,

With his face up to heaven, in that red monument

Which his good sword had digged.]

[Footnote 60: Spondanus, (A.D. 1453, No. 10,) who has hopes of his

salvation, wishes to absolve this demand from the guilt of suicide.]

[Footnote 61: Leonardus Chiensis very properly observes, that the Turks,

had they known the emperor, would have labored to save and secure a captive so acceptable to the sultan.]

[Footnote 62: Cantemir, p. 96. The Christian ships in the mouth of the

harbor had flanked and retarded this naval attack.]

[Footnote 63: Chalcondyles most absurdly supposes, that Constantinople was sacked by the Asiatics in revenge for the ancient calamities of troy; and the grammarians of the xvth century are happy to melt down the

uncouth appellation of Turks into the more classical name of \_Teucri\_.]

the tidings of misfortune fly with a rapid wing; yet such was the extent

of Constantinople, that the more distant quarters might prolong, some

moments, the happy ignorance of their ruin. [64] But in the general consternation, in the feelings of selfish or social anxiety, in the tumult and thunder of the assault, a \_sleepless\_ night and morning

[641] must have elapsed; nor can I believe that many Grecian ladies were awakened by the Janizaries from a sound and tranquil slumber. On the assurance of the public calamity, the houses and convents were instantly deserted; and the trembling inhabitants flocked together in the streets,

like a herd of timid animals, as if accumulated weakness could be

productive of strength, or in the vain hope, that amid the crowd each

individual might be safe and invisible. From every part of the capital, they flowed into the church of St. Sophia: in the space of an hour, the sanctuary, the choir, the nave, the upper and lower galleries, were filled with the multitudes of fathers and husbands, of women and children, of priests, monks, and religious virgins: the doors were barred on the inside, and they sought protection from the sacred dome, which they had so lately abhorred as a profane and polluted edifice. their confidence was founded on the prophecy of an enthusiast or

impostor; that one day the Turks would enter Constantinople, and pursue the Romans as far as the column of Constantine in the square before St.

Sophia: but that this would be the term of their calamities: that an angel would descend from heaven, with a sword in his hand, and would deliver the empire, with that celestial weapon, to a poor man seated at the foot of the column. "Take this sword," would he say, "and avenge the

people of the Lord." At these animating words, the Turks would instantly fly, and the victorious Romans would drive them from the West, and from all Anatolia as far as the frontiers of Persia. It is on this occasion that Ducas, with some fancy and much truth, upbraids the discord and obstinacy of the Greeks. "Had that angel appeared," exclaims the

historian, "had he offered to exterminate your foes if you would consent to the union of the church, even event then, in that fatal moment, you would have rejected your safety, or have deceived your God." [65]

[Footnote 64: When Cyrus suppressed Babylon during the celebration of a festival, so vast was the city, and so careless were the inhabitants, that much time elapsed before the distant quarters knew that they were captives. Herodotus, (l. i. c. 191,) and Usher, (Annal. p. 78,) who has

quoted from the prophet Jeremiah a passage of similar import.]

[Footnote 641: This refers to an expression in Ducas, who, to heighten the effect of his description, speaks of the "sweet morning sleep resting on the eyes of youths and maidens," p. 288. Edit. Bekker.--M.]

[Footnote 65: This lively description is extracted from Ducas, (c. 39,) who two years afterwards was sent ambassador from the prince of Lesbos to the sultan, (c. 44.) Till Lesbos was subdued in 1463, (Phranza,

l. iii. c. 27,) that island must have been full of the fugitives of constantinople, who delighted to repeat, perhaps to adorn, the tale of their misery.]

chapter LXVIII: Reign Of Mahomet The Second, Extinction Of Eastern Empire.--Part IV.

while they expected the descent of the tardy angel, the doors were broken with axes; and as the Turks encountered no resistance, their bloodless hands were employed in selecting and securing the multitude of their prisoners. Youth, beauty, and the appearance of wealth, attracted their choice; and the right of property was decided among themselves by a prior seizure, by personal strength, and by the authority of command.

In the space of an hour, the male captives were bound with cords, the females with their veils and girdles. The senators were linked with their slaves; the prelates, with the porters of the church; and young

men of the plebeian class, with noble maids, whose faces had been

invisible to the sun and their nearest kindred. In this common captivity, the ranks of society were confounded; the ties of nature were cut asunder; and the inexorable soldier was careless of the father's

groans, the tears of the mother, and the lamentations of the children. the loudest in their wailings were the nuns, who were torn from the altar with naked bosoms, outstretched hands, and dishevelled hair; and we should piously believe that few could be tempted to prefer the vigils

of the harem to those of the monastery. Of these unfortunate Greeks,

of these domestic animals, whole strings were rudely driven through the

streets; and as the conquerors were eager to return for more prey, their trembling pace was quickened with menaces and blows. At the same hour, a

similar rapine was exercised in all the churches and monasteries, in all the palaces and habitations, of the capital; nor could any place,

however sacred or sequestered, protect the persons or the property of the Greeks. Above sixty thousand of this devoted people were transported from the city to the camp and fleet; exchanged or sold according to the caprice or interest of their masters, and dispersed in remote servitude through the provinces of the Ottoman empire. Among these we may notice

some remarkable characters. The historian Phranza, first chamberlain and principal secretary, was involved with his family in the common lot. after suffering four months the hardships of slavery, he recovered his freedom: in the ensuing winter he ventured to Adrianople, and ransomed

his wife from the \_mir bashi\_, or master of the horse; but his two children, in the flower of youth and beauty, had been seized for the

use of Mahomet himself. The daughter of Phranza died in the seraglio,

perhaps a virgin: his son, in the fifteenth year of his age, preferred death to infamy, and was stabbed by the hand of the royal lover. [66] A deed thus inhuman cannot surely be expiated by the taste and liberality with which he released a Grecian matron and her two daughters, on

receiving a Latin doe From ode from Philelphus, who had chosen a wife in that noble family. [67] The pride or cruelty of Mahomet would have been most sensibly gratified by the capture of a Roman legate; but the dexterity of Cardinal Isidore eluded the search, and he escaped from

Galata in a plebeian habit. [68] The chain and entrance of the outward

harbor was still occupied by the Italian ships of merchandise and war. they had signalized their valor in the siege: they embraced the moment

of retreat, while the Turkish mariners were dissipated in the pillage of the city. When they hoisted sail, the beach was covered with a suppliant and lamentable crowd; but the means of transportation were scanty: the

Venetians and Genoese selected their countrymen; and, notwithstanding the fairest promises of the sultan, the inhabitants of Galata evacuated their houses, and embarked with their most precious effects.

[Footnote 66: See Phranza, l. iii. c. 20, 21. His expressions are

positive: Ameras suâ manû jugulavit.... volebat enim eo turpiter et

nefarie abuti. Me miserum et infelicem! Yet he could only learn from

report the bloody or impure scenes that were acted in the dark recesses

of the seraglio.]

[Footnote 67: See Tiraboschi (tom. vi. P. i. p. 290) and Lancelot, (Mém. de l'Académie des Inscriptions, tom. x. p. 718.) I should be curious to

learn how he could praise the public enemy, whom he so often reviles as the most corrupt and inhuman of tyrants.]

[Footnote 68: The commentaries of Pius II. suppose that he craftily

placed his cardinal's hat on the head of a corpse which was cut off and exposed in triumph, while the legate himself was bought and delivered as a captive of no value. The great Belgic Chronicle adorns his escape with

new adventures, which he suppressed (says Spondanus, A.D. 1453, No.

15) in his own letters, lest he should lose the merit and reward of

suffering for Christ. \* Note: He was sold as a slave in Galata, according to Von Hammer, p.

175. See the somewhat vague and declamatory letter of Cardinal Isidore,

in the appendix to Clarke's Travels, vol. ii. p. 653.--M.]

In the fall and the sack of great cities, an historian is condemned to

repeat the tale of uniform calamity: the same effects must be produced by the same passions; and when those passions may be indulged without control, small, alas! is the difference between civilized and savage

man. Amidst the vague exclamations of bigotry and hatred, the Turks are

not accused of a wanton or immoderate effusion of Christian blood: but according to their maxims, (the maxims of antiquity,) the lives of the

vanquished were forfeited; and the legitimate reward of the conqueror was derived from the service, the sale, or the ransom, of his captives

of both sexes. [69] The wealth of Constantinople had been granted by the sultan to his victorious troops; and the rapine of an hour is more

productive than the industry of years. But as no regular division was attempted of the spoil, the respective shares were not determined by

merit; and the rewards of valor were stolen away by the followers of the camp, who had declined the toil and danger of the battle. The narrative

of their depredations could not afford either amusement or instruction: the total amount, in the last poverty of the empire, has been valued at four millions of ducats; [70] and of this sum a small part was the property of the Venetians, the Genoese, the Florentines, and the

merchants of Ancona. Of these foreigners, the stock was improved in

quick and perpetual circulation: but the riches of the Greeks were displayed in the idle ostentation of palaces and wardrobes, or deeply buried in treasures of ingots and old coin, lest it should be demanded at their hands for the defence of their country. The profanation and plunder of the monasteries and churches excited the most tragic complaints. The dome of St. Sophia itself, the earthly heaven, the

second firmament, the vehicle of the cherubim, the throne of the glory

of God, [71] was despoiled of the oblation of ages; and the gold and

silver, the pearls and jewels, the vases and sacerdotal ornaments, were

most wickedly converted to the service of mankind. After the divine

images had been stripped of all that could be valuable to a profane eye, the canvas, or the wood, was torn, or broken, or burnt, or trod under foot, or applied, in the stables or the kitchen, to the vilest uses. The example of sacrilege was imitated, however, from the Latin conquerors

of Constantinople; and the treatment which Christ, the Virgin, and the

saints, had sustained from the guilty Catholic, might be inflicted by the zealous Mussulman on the monuments of idolatry. Perhaps, instead

of joining the public clamor, a philosopher will observe, that in the decline of the arts the workmanship could not be more valuable than the work, and that a fresh supply of visions and miracles would speedily be

renewed by the craft of the priests and the credulity of the people. He will more seriously deplore the loss of the Byzantine libraries, which were destroyed or scattered in the general confusion: one hundred and twenty thousand manuscripts are said to have disappeared; [72] ten

volumes might be purchased for a single ducat; and the same ignominious

price, too high perhaps for a shelf of theology, included the whole works of Aristotle and Homer, the noblest productions of the science and literature of ancient Greece. We may reflect with pleasure that an

inestimable portion of our classic treasures was safely deposited in

Italy; and that the mechanics of a German town had invented an art which derides the havoc of time and barbarism.

[Footnote 69: Busbequius expatiates with pleasure and applause on the

rights of war, and the use of slavery, among the ancients and the Turks,

(de Legat. Turcicâ, epist. iii. p. 161.)]

[Footnote 70: This sum is specified in a marginal note of Leunclavius,

(Chalcondyles, l. viii. p. 211,) but in the distribution to Venice,

Genoa, Florence, and Ancona, of 50, 20, and 15,000 ducats, I suspect that a figure has been dropped. Even with the restitution, the foreign

property would scarcely exceed one fourth.]

[Footnote 71: See the enthusiastic praises and lamentations of Phranza,

(l. iii. c. 17.)]

[Footnote 72: See Ducas, (c. 43,) and an epistle, July 15th, 1453, from

Laurus Quirinus to Pope Nicholas V., (Hody de Græcis, p. 192, from a MS.

in the Cotton library.)]

from the first hour [73] of the memorable twenty-ninth of May, disorder and rapine prevailed in Constantinople, till the eighth hour of the same day; when the sultan himself passed in triumph through the gate of St.

Romanus. He was attended by his viziers, bashaws, and guards, each of whom (says a Byzantine historian) was robust as Hercules, dexterous as apollo, and equal in battle to any ten of the race of ordinary mortals. the conqueror [74] gazed with satisfaction and wonder on the strange, though splendid, appearance of the domes and palaces, so dissimilar from the style of Oriental architecture. In the hippodrome, or \_atmeidan\_,

his eye was attracted by the twisted column of the three serpents; and, as a trial of his strength, he shattered with his iron mace or battle-axe the under jaw of one of these monsters, [75] which in the eyes of the Turks were the idols or talismans of the city. [751] At the

principal door of St. Sophia, he alighted from his horse, and entered the dome; and such was his jealous regard for that monument of his

glory, that on observing a zealous Mussulman in the act of breaking the

marble pavement, he admonished him with his cimeter, that, if the

spoil and captives were granted to the soldiers, the public and

private buildings had been reserved for the prince. By his command the

metropolis of the Eastern church was transformed into a mosque: the rich and portable instruments of superstition had been removed; the crosses were thrown down; and the walls, which were covered with images and

mosaics, were washed and purified, and restored to a state of naked

simplicity. On the same day, or on the ensuing Friday, the \_muezin\_,

or crier, ascended the most lofty turret, and proclaimed the \_ezan\_, or

public invitation in the name of God and his prophet; the imam preached; and Mahomet and Second performed the \_namaz\_ of prayer and thanksgiving

on the great altar, where the Christian mysteries had so lately been celebrated before the last of the Cæsars. [76] From St. Sophia he

proceeded to the august, but desolate mansion of a hundred successors of the great Constantine, but which in a few hours had been stripped of the

pomp of royalty. A melancholy reflection on the vicissitudes of human

greatness forced itself on his mind; and he repeated an elegant distich

of Persian poetry: "The spider has wove his web in the Imperial palace; and the owl hath sung her watch-song on the towers of Afrasiab." [77]

[Footnote 73: The Julian Calendar, which reckons the days and hours from

midnight, was used at Constantinople. But Ducas seems to understand the

natural hours from sunrise.]

[Footnote 74: See the Turkish Annals, p. 329, and the Pandects of

Leunclavius, p. 448.]

[Footnote 75: I have had occasion (vol. ii. p. 100) to mention this curious relic of Grecian antiquity.]

[Footnote 751: Von Hammer passes over this circumstance, which is treated by Dr. Clarke (Travels, vol. ii. p. 58, 4to. edit,) as a fiction

of Thevenot. Chishull states that the monument was broken by some attendants of the Polish ambassador.--M.]

[Footnote 76: We are obliged to Cantemir (p. 102) for the Turkish account of the conversion of St. Sophia, so bitterly deplored by Phranza and Ducas. It is amusing enough to observe, in what opposite lights the

same object appears to a Mussulman and a Christian eye.]

[Footnote 77: This distich, which Cantemir gives in the original, derives new beauties from the application. It was thus that Scipio

repeated, in the sack of Carthage, the famous prophecy of Homer. The

same generous feeling carried the mind of the conqueror to the past or the future.]

Yet his mind was not satisfied, nor did the victory seem complete, till

he was informed of the fate of Constantine; whether he had escaped, or been made prisoner, or had fallen in the battle. Two Janizaries claimed the honor and reward of his death: the body, under a heap of slain, was discovered by the golden eagles embroidered on his shoes; the Greeks acknowledged, with tears, the head of their late emperor; and, after exposing the bloody trophy, [78] Mahomet bestowed on his rival the honors

of a decent funeral. After his decease, Lucas Notaras, great duke, [79] and first minister of the empire, was the most important prisoner. When

he offered his person and his treasures at the foot of the throne, "And why," said the indignant sultan, "did you not employ these treasures in the defence of your prince and country?"--"They were yours," answered the slave; "God had reserved them for your hands."--"If he reserved them for me," replied the despot, "how have you presumed to withhold them so

long by a fruitless and fatal resistance?" The great duke alleged the

obstinacy of the strangers, and some secret encouragement from the turkish vizier; and from this perilous interview he was at length dismissed with the assurance of pardon and protection. Mahomet condescended to visit his wife, a venerable princess oppressed with

sickness and grief; and his consolation for her misfortunes was in the

most tender strain of humanity and filial reverence. A similar clemency was extended to the principal officers of state, of whom several were

ransomed at his expense; and during some days he declared himself the friend and father of the vanquished people. But the scene was soon changed; and before his departure, the hippodrome streamed with the blood of his noblest captives. His perfidious cruelty is execrated by the Christians: they adorn with the colors of heroic martyrdom the execution of the great duke and his two sons; and his death is ascribed to the generous refusal of delivering his children to the tyrant's

lust. [791] Yet a Byzantine historian has dropped an unguarded word

of conspiracy, deliverance, and Italian succor: such treason may be

glorious; but the rebel who bravely ventures, has justly forfeited his

life; nor should we blame a conqueror for destroying the enemies whom

he can no longer trust. On the eighteenth of June the victorious sultan

returned to Adrianople; and smiled at the base and hollow embassies of the Christian princes, who viewed their approaching ruin in the fall of the Eastern empire.

[Footnote 78: I cannot believe with Ducas (see Spondanus, A.D. 1453, No.

13) that Mahomet sent round Persia, Arabia, &c., the head of the Greek emperor: he would surely content himself with a trophy less inhuman.]

[Footnote 79: Phranza was the personal enemy of the great duke; nor could time, or death, or his own retreat to a monastery, extort a feeling of sympathy or forgiveness. Ducas is inclined to praise and pity the martyr; Chalcondyles is neuter, but we are indebted to him for the

hint of the Greek conspiracy.]

[Footnote 791: Von Hammer relates this undoubtingly, apparently on good authority, p. 559.--M.]

constantinople had been left naked and desolate, without a prince or a people. But she could not be despoiled of the incomparable situation which marks her for the metropolis of a great empire; and the genius

of the place will ever triumph over the accidents of time and fortune. boursa and Adrianople, the ancient seats of the Ottomans, sunk into

provincial towns; and Mahomet the Second established his own residence, and that of his successors, on the same commanding spot which had been chosen by Constantine. [80] The fortifications of Galata, which might afford a shelter to the Latins, were prudently destroyed; but the damage

of the Turkish cannon was soon repaired; and before the month of August,

great quantities of lime had been burnt for the restoration of the walls of the capital. As the entire property of the soil and buildings, whether public or private, or profane or sacred, was now transferred to the conqueror, he first separated a space of eight furlongs from the

point of the triangle for the establishment of his seraglio or palace.

It is here, in the bosom of luxury, that the \_Grand Signor\_ (as he has been emphatically named by the Italians) appears to reign over Europe and Asia; but his person on the shores of the Bosphorus may not always be secure from the insults of a hostile navy. In the new character of a

mosque, the cathedral of St. Sophia was endowed with an ample revenue, crowned with lofty minarets, and surrounded with groves and fountains, for the devotion and refreshment of the Moslems. The same model was

imitated in the \_jami\_, or royal mosques; and the first of these was built, by Mahomet himself, on the ruins of the church of the holy apostles, and the tombs of the Greek emperors. On the third day after the conquest, the grave of Abu Ayub, or Job, who had fallen in the first siege of the Arabs, was revealed in a vision; and it is before the

sepulchre of the martyr that the new sultans are girded with the

sword of empire. [81] Constantinople no longer appertains to the Roman

historian; nor shall I enumerate the civil and religious edifices that were profaned or erected by its Turkish masters: the population was

speedily renewed; and before the end of September, five thousand families of Anatolia and Romania had obeyed the royal mandate, which enjoined them, under pain of death, to occupy their new habitations

in the capital. The throne of Mahomet was guarded by the numbers and fidelity of his Moslem subjects: but his rational policy aspired to collect the remnant of the Greeks; and they returned in crowds, as

soon as they were assured of their lives, their liberties, and the free exercise of their religion. In the election and investiture of a patriarch, the ceremonial of the Byzantine court was revived and

imitated. With a mixture of satisfaction and horror, they beheld the

sultan on his throne; who delivered into the hands of Gennadius the crosier or pastoral staff, the symbol of his ecclesiastical office; who conducted the patriarch to the gate of the seraglio, presented him with a horse richly caparisoned, and directed the viziers and bashaws to lead

him to the palace which had been allotted for his residence. [82] The churches of Constantinople were shared between the two religions: their

limits were marked; and, till it was infringed by Selim, the grandson

of Mahomet, the Greeks [83] enjoyed above sixty years the benefit of this equal partition. Encouraged by the ministers of the divan, who wished to elude the fanaticism of the sultan, the Christian advocates presumed to allege that this division had been an act, not of generosity, but of

justice; not a concession, but a compact; and that if one half of the city had been taken by storm, the other moiety had surrendered on the faith of a sacred capitulation. The original grant had indeed been consumed by fire: but the loss was supplied by the testimony of three aged Janizaries who remembered the transaction; and their venal oaths are of more weight in the opinion of Cantemir, than the positive and

unanimous consent of the history of the times. [84]

[Footnote 80: For the restitution of Constantinople and the Turkish foundations, see Cantemir, (p. 102--109,) Ducas, (c. 42,) with Thevenot, tournefort, and the rest of our modern travellers. From a gigantic

picture of the greatness, population, &c., of Constantinople and the

Ottoman empire, (Abrégé de l'Histoire Ottomane, tom. i. p. 16--21,) we

may learn, that in the year 1586 the Moslems were less numerous in the capital than the Christians, or even the Jews.]

[Footnote 81: The \_Turbé\_, or sepulchral monument of Abu Ayub, is described and engraved in the Tableau Générale de l'Empire Ottoman,

(Paris 1787, in large folio,) a work of less use, perhaps, than

magnificence, (tom. i. p. 305, 306.)]

[Footnote 82: Phranza (l. iii. c. 19) relates the ceremony, which has

possibly been adorned in the Greek reports to each other, and to the

Latins. The fact is confirmed by Emanuel Malaxus, who wrote, in vulgar

Greek, the History of the Patriarchs after the taking of Constantinople,

inserted in the Turco-Græcia of Crusius, (l. v. p. 106--184.) But the

most patient reader will not believe that Mahomet adopted the Catholic form, "Sancta Trinitas quæ mihi donavit imperium te in patriarcham novæ

Romæ deligit."]

[Footnote 83: From the Turco-Græcia of Crusius, &c. Spondanus (A.D.

1453, No. 21, 1458, No. 16) describes the slavery and domestic quarrels

of the Greek church. The patriarch who succeeded Gennadius threw himself

in despair into a well.]

[Footnote 84: Cantemir (p. 101--105) insists on the unanimous consent of the Turkish historians, ancient as well as modern, and argues, that they would not have violated the truth to diminish their national glory,

since it is esteemed more honorable to take a city by force than by composition. But, 1. I doubt this consent, since he quotes no particular

historian, and the Turkish Annals of Leunclavius affirm, without exception, that Mahomet took Constantinople \_per vim\_, (p. 329.) 2 The

same argument may be turned in favor of the Greeks of the times, who would not have forgotten this honorable and salutary treaty. Voltaire, as usual, prefers the Turks to the Christians.]

the remaining fragments of the Greek kingdom in Europe and Asia I shall abandon to the Turkish arms; but the final extinction of the two last dynasties [85] which have reigned in Constantinople should terminate the decline and fall of the Roman empire in the East. The despots of the

Morea, Demetrius and Thomas, [86] the two surviving brothers of the name

of Palæologus, were astonished by the death of the emperor Constantine, and the ruin of the monarchy. Hopeless of defence, they prepared, with the noble Greeks who adhered to their fortune, to seek a refuge

in Italy, beyond the reach of the Ottoman thunder. Their first apprehensions were dispelled by the victorious sultan, who contented

himself with a tribute of twelve thousand ducats; and while his ambition explored the continent and the islands, in search of prey, he indulged the Morea in a respite of seven years. But this respite was a period

of grief, discord, and misery. The \_hexamilion\_, the rampart of the

Isthmus, so often raised and so often subverted, could not long be defended by three hundred Italian archers: the keys of Corinth were

seized by the Turks: they returned from their summer excursions with a train of captives and spoil; and the complaints of the injured Greeks were heard with indifference and disdain. The Albanians, a vagrant tribe

of shepherds and robbers, filled the peninsula with rapine and murder: the two despots implored the dangerous and humiliating aid of a

neighboring bashaw; and when he had quelled the revolt, his lessons

inculcated the rule of their future conduct. Neither the ties of blood,

nor the oaths which they repeatedly pledged in the communion and before the altar, nor the stronger pressure of necessity, could reconcile or

suspend their domestic quarrels. They ravaged each other's patrimony with fire and sword: the alms and succors of the West were consumed

in civil hostility; and their power was only exerted in savage and arbitrary executions. The distress and revenge of the weaker rival

invoked their supreme lord; and, in the season of maturity and revenge,

Mahomet declared himself the friend of Demetrius, and marched into the Morea with an irresistible force. When he had taken possession of

Sparta, "You are too weak," said the sultan, "to control this turbulent

province: I will take your daughter to my bed; and you shall pass the

remainder of your life in security and honor." Demetrius sighed and

obeyed; surrendered his daughter and his castles; followed to Adrianople

his sovereign and his son; and received for his own maintenance, and that of his followers, a city in Thrace and the adjacent isles of

Imbros, Lemnos, and Samothrace. He was joined the next year by a companion [861] of misfortune, the last of the Comnenian race, who, after the taking of Constantinople by the Latins, had founded a new empire

on the coast of the Black Sea. [87] In the progress of his Anatolian conquest, Mahomet invested with a fleet and army the capital of david, who presumed to style himself emperor of Trebizond; [88] and the

negotiation was comprised in a short and peremptory question, "Will you

secure your life and treasures by resigning your kingdom? or had you

rather forfeit your kingdom, your treasures, and your life?" The feeble comnenus was subdued by his own fears, [881] and the example of a Mussulman

neighbor, the prince of Sinope, [89] who, on a similar summons, had

yielded a fortified city, with four hundred cannon and ten or twelve thousand soldiers. The capitulation of Trebizond was faithfully

performed: [891] and the emperor, with his family, was transported to a castle in Romania; but on a slight suspicion of corresponding with the

Persian king, David, and the whole Comnenian race, were sacrificed to the jealousy or avarice of the conqueror. [892] Nor could the name

of father long protect the unfortunate Demetrius from exile and confiscation; his abject submission moved the pity and contempt of the sultan; his followers were transplanted to Constantinople; and his

poverty was alleviated by a pension of fifty thousand aspers, till a

monastic habit and a tardy death released Palæologus from an earthly

master. It is not easy to pronounce whether the servitude of Demetrius,

or the exile of his brother Thomas, [90] be the most inglorious. On the conquest of the Morea, the despot escaped to Corfu, and from thence to

Italy, with some naked adherents: his name, his sufferings, and the

head of the apostle St. Andrew, entitled him to the hospitality of the Vatican; and his misery was prolonged by a pension of six thousand ducats from the pope and cardinals. His two sons, Andrew and Manuel, were educated in Italy; but the eldest, contemptible to his enemies and burdensome to his friends, was degraded by the baseness of his life and marriage. A title was his sole inheritance; and that inheritance

he successively sold to the kings of France and Arragon. [91] During his transient prosperity, Charles the Eighth was ambitious of joining the empire of the East with the kingdom of Naples: in a public festival,

he assumed the appellation and the purple of \_Augustus\_: the Greeks

rejoiced and the Ottoman already trembled, at the approach of the French chivalry. [92] Manuel Palæologus, the second son, was tempted to revisit

his native country: his return might be grateful, and could not be dangerous, to the Porte: he was maintained at Constantinople in safety and ease; and an honorable train of Christians and Moslems attended him to the grave. If there be some animals of so generous a nature that they

refuse to propagate in a domestic state, the last of the Imperial race

must be ascribed to an inferior kind: he accepted from the sultan's

liberality two beautiful females; and his surviving son was lost in the

habit and religion of a Turkish slave.

[Footnote 85: For the genealogy and fall of the Comneni of Trebizond,

see Ducange, (Fam. Byzant. p. 195;) for the last Palæologi, the same accurate antiquarian, (p. 244, 247, 248.) The Palæologi of Montferrat were not extinct till the next century; but they had forgotten their

Greek origin and kindred.]

[Footnote 86: In the worthless story of the disputes and misfortunes of the two brothers, Phranza (l. iii. c. 21--30) is too partial on the side

of Thomas Ducas (c. 44, 45) is too brief, and Chalcondyles (l. viii. ix.

x.) too diffuse and digressive.]

[Footnote 861]: Kalo-Johannes, the predecessor of David his brother, the

last emperor of Trebizond, had attempted to organize a confederacy against Mahomet it comprehended Hassan Bei, sultan of Mesopotamia, the christian princes of Georgia and Iberia, the emir of Sinope, and the

sultan of Caramania. The negotiations were interrupted by his sudden death, A.D. 1458. Fallmerayer, p. 257--260.--M.]

[Footnote 87: See the loss or conquest of Trebizond in Chalcondyles,

(l. ix. p. 263--266,) Ducas, (c. 45,) Phranza, (l. iii. c. 27,) and cantemir, (p. 107.)]

[Footnote 88: Though Tournefort (tom. iii. lettre xvii. p. 179) speaks

of Trebizond as mal peuplée, Peysonnel, the latest and most accurate

observer, can find 100,000 inhabitants, (Commerce de la Mer Noire, tom.

ii. p. 72, and for the province, p. 53--90.) Its prosperity and trade are perpetually disturbed by the factious quarrels of two \_odas\_ of

Janizaries, in one which 30,000 Lazi are commonly enrolled, (Mémoires de tott, tom. iii. p. 16, 17.)]

[Footnote 881: According to the Georgian account of these transactions,

(translated by M. Brosset, additions to Le Beau, vol. xxi. p. 325,) the emperor of Trebizond humbly entreated the sultan to have the goodness to

marry one of his daughters.--M.]

[Footnote 89: Ismael Beg, prince of Sinope or Sinople, was possessed

(chiefly from his copper mines) of a revenue of 200,000 ducats,

(Chalcond. l. ix. p. 258, 259.) Peysonnel (Commerce de la Mer Noire, tom. ii. p. 100) ascribes to the modern city 60,000 inhabitants. This account seems enormous; yet it is by trading with people that we become acquainted with their wealth and numbers.]

[Footnote 891: M. Boissonade has published, in the fifth volume of his anecdota Græca (p. 387, 401.) a very interesting letter from George amiroutzes, protovestiarius of Trebizond, to Bessarion, describing the

surrender of Trebizond, and the fate of its chief inhabitants.--M.]

[Footnote 892: See in Von Hammer, vol. ii. p. 60, the striking account of the mother, the empress Helena the Cantacuzene, who, in defiance of the edict, like that of Creon in the Greek tragedy, dug the grave for her

murdered children with her own hand, and sank into it herself.--M.]

[Footnote 90: Spondanus (from Gobelin Comment. Pii II. l. v.) relates the arrival and reception of the despot Thomas at Rome,. (A.D. 1461 No.

NO. 3.)]

[Footnote 91: By an act dated A.D. 1494, Sept. 6, and lately transmitted from the archives of the Capitol to the royal library of Paris, the despot Andrew Palæologus, reserving the Morea, and stipulating some

private advantages, conveys to Charles VIII., king of France, the empires of Constantinople and Trebizond, (Spondanus, A.D. 1495, No. 2.)

M. D. Foncemagne (Mém. de l'Académie des Inscriptions, tom. xvii. p.

539--578) has bestowed a dissertation on his national title, of which he

had obtained a copy from Rome.]

[Footnote 92: See Philippe de Comines, (l. vii. c. 14,) who reckons with

pleasure the number of Greeks who were prepared to rise, 60 miles of an easy navigation, eighteen days' journey from Valona to Constantinople,

&c. On this occasion the Turkish empire was saved by the policy of

Venice.]

the importance of Constantinople was felt and magnified in its loss: the

pontificate of Nicholas the Fifth, however peaceful and prosperous, was dishonored by the fall of the Eastern empire; and the grief and terror

of the Latins revived, or seemed to revive, the old enthusiasm of the crusades. In one of the most distant countries of the West, Philip duke of Burgundy entertained, at Lisle in Flanders, an assembly of his

nobles; and the pompous pageants of the feast were skilfully adapted to their fancy and feelings. [93] In the midst of the banquet a gigantic

Saracen entered the hall, leading a fictitious elephant with a castle on

his back: a matron in a mourning robe, the symbol of religion, was seen to issue from the castle: she deplored her oppression, and accused the

slowness of her champions: the principal herald of the golden fleece advanced, bearing on his fist a live pheasant, which, according to the rites of chivalry, he presented to the duke. At this extraordinary

summons, Philip, a wise and aged prince, engaged his person and powers

in the holy war against the Turks: his example was imitated by the barons and knights of the assembly: they swore to God, the Virgin, the ladies and the \_pheasant\_; and their particular vows were not less extravagant than the general sanction of their oath. But the performance was made to depend on some future and foreign contingency; and during twelve years, till the last hour of his life, the duke of Burgundy might be scrupulously, and perhaps sincerely, on the eve of his departure. Had every breast glowed with the same ardor; had the union of the Christians corresponded with their bravery; had every country, from Sweden [94] to

Naples, supplied a just proportion of cavalry and infantry, of men and money, it is indeed probable that Constantinople would have been delivered, and that the Turks might have been chased beyond the

Hellespont or the Euphrates. But the secretary of the emperor, who composed every epistle, and attended every meeting, Æneas Sylvius, [95] a statesman and orator, describes from his own experience the repugnant

state and spirit of Christendom. "It is a body," says he, "without a

head; a republic without laws or magistrates. The pope and the emperor

may shine as lofty titles, as splendid images; but \_they\_ are unable to command, and none are willing to obey: every state has a separate

prince, and every prince has a separate interest. What eloquence could

unite so many discordant and hostile powers under the same standard? could they be assembled in arms, who would dare to assume the office of

general? What order could be maintained?--what military discipline? Who would undertake to feed such an enormous multitude? Who would understand their various languages, or direct their stranger and incompatible

manners? What mortal could reconcile the English with the French, Genoa with Arragon the Germans with the natives of Hungary and Bohemia? If a

small number enlisted in the holy war, they must be overthrown by the

infidels; if many, by their own weight and confusion." Yet the same

Æneas, when he was raised to the papal throne, under the name of Pius the Second, devoted his life to the prosecution of the Turkish war.

In the council of Mantua he excited some sparks of a false or feeble enthusiasm; but when the pontiff appeared at Ancona, to embark in person with the troops, engagements vanished in excuses; a precise day was adjourned to an indefinite term; and his effective army consisted of

some German pilgrims, whom he was obliged to disband with indulgences and arms. Regardless of futurity, his successors and the powers of Italy were involved in the schemes of present and domestic ambition; and the distance or proximity of each object determined in their eyes its apparent magnitude. A more enlarged view of their interest would have taught them to maintain a defensive and naval war against the common enemy; and the support of Scanderbeg and his brave Albanians might have

prevented the subsequent invasion of the kingdom of Naples. The siege and sack of Otranto by the Turks diffused a general consternation; and

Pope Sixtus was preparing to fly beyond the Alps, when the storm was instantly dispelled by the death of Mahomet the Second, in the fifty-first year of his age. [96] His lofty genius aspired to the conquest of Italy: he was possessed of a strong city and a capacious

harbor; and the same reign might have been decorated with the trophies

of the New and the Ancient Rome. [97]

[Footnote 93: See the original feast in Olivier de la Marche, (Mémoires,

P. i. c. 29, 30,) with the abstract and observations of M. de Ste.

Palaye, (Mémoires sur la Chevalerie, tom. i. P. iii. p. 182--185.) The

peacock and the pheasant were distinguished as royal birds.]

[Footnote 94: It was found by an actual enumeration, that Sweden,

Gothland, and Finland, contained 1,800,000 fighting men, and consequently were far more populous than at present.]

[Footnote 95: In the year 1454, Spondanus has given, from Æneas Sylvius, a view of the state of Europe, enriched with his own observations. That

valuable annalist, and the Italian Muratori, will continue the series

of events from the year 1453 to 1481, the end of Mahomet's life, and of this chapter.]

[Footnote 96: Besides the two annalists, the reader may consult Giannone

(Istoria Civile, tom. iii. p. 449--455) for the Turkish invasion of the

kingdom of Naples. For the reign and conquests of Mahomet II., I

have occasionally used the Memorie Istoriche de Monarchi Ottomanni di

Giovanni Sagredo, (Venezia, 1677, in 4to.) In peace and war, the Turks

have ever engaged the attention of the republic of Venice. All her despatches and archives were open to a procurator of St. Mark, and

Sagredo is not contemptible either in sense or style. Yet he too bitterly hates the infidels: he is ignorant of their language and

manners; and his narrative, which allows only 70 pages to Mahomet II.,

(p. 69--140,) becomes more copious and authentic as he approaches the

years 1640 and 1644, the term of the historic labors of John Sagredo.]

[Footnote 97: As I am now taking an everlasting farewell of the Greek empire, I shall briefly mention the great collection of Byzantine writers whose names and testimonies have been successively repeated in this work. The Greeks presses of Aldus and the Italians were confined to the classics of a better age; and the first rude editions of Procopius, agathias, Cedrenus, Zonaras, &c., were published by the learned diligence of the Germans. The whole Byzantine series (xxxvi. volumes in folio) has gradually issued (A.D. 1648, &c.) from the royal press of the

Louvre, with some collateral aid from Rome and Leipsic; but the Venetian edition, (A.D. 1729,) though cheaper and more copious, is not less

inferior in correctness than in magnificence to that of Paris. The

merits of the French editors are various; but the value of Anna Comnena, cinnamus, Villehardouin, &c., is enhanced by the historical notes of charles de Fresne du Cange. His supplemental works, the Greek Glossary, the Constantinopolis Christiana, the Familiæ Byzantinæ, diffuse a steady

light over the darkness of the Lower Empire. \* Note: The new edition of the Byzantines, projected by Niebuhr, and continued under the patronage

of the Prussian government, is the most convenient in size, and contains

some authors (Leo Diaconus, Johannes Lydus, Corippus, the new fragment

of Dexippus, Eunapius, &c., discovered by Mai) which could not be comprised in the former collections; but the names of such editors as bekker, the Dindorfs, &c., raised hopes of something more than the mere

republication of the text, and the notes of former editors. Little, I

regret to say, has been added of annotation, and in some cases, the old

incorrect versions have been retained.--M.]

chapter LXIX: State Of Rome From The Twelfth Century.--Part I.

State Of Rome From The Twelfth Century.--Temporal Dominion

Of The Popes.--Seditions Of The City.--Political Heresy Of

Arnold Of Brescia.--Restoration Of The Republic.--The

Senators.--Pride Of The Romans.--Their Wars.--They Are

Deprived Of The Election And Presence Of The Popes, Who

Retire To Avignon.--The Jubilee.--Noble Families Of Rome.--

Feud Of The Colonna And Ursini.

In the first ages of the decline and fall of the Roman empire, our eye is invariably fixed on the royal city, which had given laws to the fairest portion of the globe. We contemplate her fortunes, at first with admiration, at length with pity, always with attention, and when that attention is diverted from the capital to the provinces, they are considered as so many branches which have been successively severed from the Imperial trunk. The foundation of a second Rome, on the shores of the Bosphorus, has compelled the historian to follow the successors of constantine; and our curiosity has been tempted to visit the most remote countries of Europe and Asia, to explore the causes and the authors of the long decay of the Byzantine monarchy. By the conquest of Justinian, we have been recalled to the banks of the Tyber, to the deliverance of the ancient metropolis; but that deliverance was a change, or perhaps an aggravation, of servitude. Rome had been already stripped of her trophies, her gods, and her Cæsars; nor was the Gothic dominion more

inglorious and oppressive than the tyranny of the Greeks. In the eighth century of the Christian æra, a religious quarrel, the worship of

images, provoked the Romans to assert their independence: their bishop became the temporal, as well as the spiritual, father of a free people; and of the Western empire, which was restored by Charlemagne, the title and image still decorate the singular constitution of modern Germany. the name of Rome must yet command our involuntary respect: the climate

(whatsoever may be its influence) was no longer the same: [1] the purity

of blood had been contaminated through a thousand channels; but the

venerable aspect of her ruins, and the memory of past greatness,

rekindled a spark of the national character. The darkness of the middle ages exhibits some scenes not unworthy of our notice. Nor shall I dismiss the present work till I have reviewed the state and revolutions

of the Roman City, which acquiesced under the absolute dominion of the popes, about the same time that Constantinople was enslaved by the turkish arms.

[Footnote 1: The abbé Dubos, who, with less genius than his successor

Montesquieu, has asserted and magnified the influence of climate,

objects to himself the degeneracy of the Romans and Batavians. To the first of these examples he replies, 1. That the change is less real than apparent, and that the modern Romans prudently conceal in themselves the

virtues of their ancestors. 2. That the air, the soil, and the climate

of Rome have suffered a great and visible alteration, (Réflexions sur la

Poësie et sur la Peinture, part ii. sect. 16.) \* Note: This question is discussed at considerable length in Dr. Arnold's History of Rome, ch.

xxiii. See likewise Bunsen's Dissertation on the Aria Cattiva Roms beschreibung, pp. 82, 108.--M.]

In the beginning of the twelfth century, [2] the æra of the first crusade, Rome was revered by the Latins, as the metropolis of the world, as the throne of the pope and the emperor, who, from the eternal city, derived their title, their honors, and the right or exercise of temporal dominion. After so long an interruption, it may not be useless to repeat that the successors of Charlemagne and the Othos were chosen beyond the

Rhine in a national diet; but that these princes were content with the

humble names of kings of Germany and Italy, till they had passed the alps and the Apennine, to seek their Imperial crown on the banks of the tyber. [3] At some distance from the city, their approach was saluted by a long procession of the clergy and people with palms and crosses; and the terrific emblems of wolves and lions, of dragons and eagles, that floated in the military banners, represented the departed legions and cohorts of the republic. The royal path to maintain the liberties of

Rome was thrice reiterated, at the bridge, the gate, and on the stairs

of the Vatican; and the distribution of a customary donative feebly

imitated the magnificence of the first Cæsars. In the church of St.

Peter, the coronation was performed by his successor: the voice of

God was confounded with that of the people; and the public consent was declared in the acclamations of "Long life and victory to our lord the pope! long life and victory to our lord the emperor! long life and

victory to the Roman and Teutonic armies!" [4] The names of Cæsar and Augustus, the laws of Constantine and Justinian, the example of charlemagne and Otho, established the supreme dominion of the emperors: their title and image was engraved on the papal coins; [5] and their

jurisdiction was marked by the sword of justice, which they delivered to the præfect of the city. But every Roman prejudice was awakened by the

name, the language, and the manners, of a Barbarian lord. The Cæsars of

Saxony or Franconia were the chiefs of a feudal aristocracy; nor could they exercise the discipline of civil and military power, which alone

secures the obedience of a distant people, impatient of servitude, though perhaps incapable of freedom. Once, and once only, in his life, each emperor, with an army of Teutonic vassals, descended from the Alps.

I have described the peaceful order of his entry and coronation; but that order was commonly disturbed by the clamor and sedition of the

Romans, who encountered their sovereign as a foreign invader: his departure was always speedy, and often shameful; and, in the absence of a long reign, his authority was insulted, and his name was forgotten. the progress of independence in Germany and Italy undermined the foundations of the Imperial sovereignty, and the triumph of the popes was the deliverance of Rome.

[Footnote 2: The reader has been so long absent from Rome, that I would advise him to recollect or review the xlixth chapter of this History.]

[Footnote 3: The coronation of the German emperors at Rome, more especially in the xith century, is best represented from the original

monuments by Muratori (Antiquitat. Italiæ Medii Ævi, tom. i. dissertat.

ii. p. 99, &c.) and Cenni, (Monument. Domin. Pontif. tom. ii. diss.

vi. p. 261,) the latter of whom I only know from the copious extract of

Schmidt, (Hist. des Allemands tom. iii. p. 255--266.)]

[Footnote 4: Exercitui Romano et Teutonico! The latter was both seen and felt; but the former was no more than magni nominis umbra.]

[Footnote 5: Muratori has given the series of the papal coins,

(Antiquitat. tom. ii. diss. xxvii. p. 548--554.) He finds only two more early than the year 800: fifty are still extant from Leo III. to Leo

IX., with the addition of the reigning emperor none remain of Gregory

VII. or Urban II.; but in those of Paschal II. he seems to have

renounced this badge of dependence.]

Of her two sovereigns, the emperor had precariously reigned by the right

of conquest; but the authority of the pope was founded on the soft, though more solid, basis of opinion and habit. The removal of a foreign

influence restored and endeared the shepherd to his flock. Instead of the arbitrary or venal nomination of a German court, the vicar of Christ was freely chosen by the college of cardinals, most of whom were either

natives or inhabitants of the city. The applause of the magistrates and

people confirmed his election, and the ecclesiastical power that was

obeyed in Sweden and Britain had been ultimately derived from the

suffrage of the Romans. The same suffrage gave a prince, as well as a

pontiff, to the capital. It was universally believed, that Constantine

had invested the popes with the temporal dominion of Rome; and the boldest civilians, the most profane skeptics, were satisfied with disputing the right of the emperor and the validity of his gift. The truth of the fact, the authenticity of his donation, was deeply rooted

in the ignorance and tradition of four centuries; and the fabulous

origin was lost in the real and permanent effects. The name of \_Dominus\_

or Lord was inscribed on the coin of the bishops: their title was acknowledged by acclamations and oaths of allegiance, and with the free,

or reluctant, consent of the German Cæsars, they had long exercised a

supreme or subordinate jurisdiction over the city and patrimony of St.

Peter. The reign of the popes, which gratified the prejudices, was not

incompatible with the liberties, of Rome; and a more critical inquiry would have revealed a still nobler source of their power; the gratitude

of a nation, whom they had rescued from the heresy and oppression of the

Greek tyrant. In an age of superstition, it should seem that the union

of the royal and sacerdotal characters would mutually fortify each

other; and that the keys of Paradise would be the surest pledge of earthly obedience. The sanctity of the office might indeed be degraded by the personal vices of the man. But the scandals of the tenth century were obliterated by the austere and more dangerous virtues of Gregory the Seventh and his successors; and in the ambitious contests which they maintained for the rights of the church, their sufferings or their

success must equally tend to increase the popular veneration. They

sometimes wandered in poverty and exile, the victims of persecution; and the apostolic zeal with which they offered themselves to martyrdom must engage the favor and sympathy of every Catholic breast. And sometimes, thundering from the Vatican, they created, judged, and deposed the kings

of the world; nor could the proudest Roman be disgraced by submitting to a priest, whose feet were kissed, and whose stirrup was held, by the

successors of Charlemagne. [6] Even the temporal interest of the city

should have protected in peace and honor the residence of the popes; from whence a vain and lazy people derived the greatest part of their

subsistence and riches. The fixed revenue of the popes was probably

impaired; many of the old patrimonial estates, both in Italy and the

provinces, had been invaded by sacrilegious hands; nor could the loss be compensated by the claim, rather than the possession, of the more ample

gifts of Pepin and his descendants. But the Vatican and Capitol were

nourished by the incessant and increasing swarms of pilgrims and

suppliants: the pale of Christianity was enlarged, and the pope and cardinals were overwhelmed by the judgment of ecclesiastical and secular causes. A new jurisprudence had established in the Latin church the

right and practice of appeals; [7] and from the North and West the bishops and abbots were invited or summoned to solicit, to complain, to accuse, or to justify, before the threshold of the apostles. A rare

prodigy is once recorded, that two horses, belonging to the archbishops

of Mentz and Cologne, repassed the Alps, yet laden with gold and silver:

[8] but it was soon understood, that the success, both of the pilgrims and clients, depended much less on the justice of their cause than on the value of their offering. The wealth and piety of these strangers were ostentatiously displayed; and their expenses, sacred or profane, circulated in various channels for the emolument of the Romans.

[Footnote 6: See Ducange, Gloss. mediæ et infimæ Latinitat. tom. vi. p.

364, 365, Staffa. This homage was paid by kings to archbishops, and by vassals to their lords, (Schmidt, tom. iii. p. 262;) and it was the

nicest policy of Rome to confound the marks of filial and of feudal

subjection.]

[Footnote 7: The appeals from all the churches to the Roman pontiff are deplored by the zeal of St. Bernard (de Consideratione, l. iii. tom. ii.

p. 431--442, edit. Mabillon, Venet. 1750) and the judgment of Fleury,

(Discours sur l'Hist. Ecclésiastique, iv. et vii.) But the saint, who believed in the false decretals condemns only the abuse of these appeals; the more enlightened historian investigates the origin, and

rejects the principles, of this new jurisprudence.]

[Footnote 8: Germanici.... summarii non levatis sarcinis onusti

nihilominus repatriant inviti. Nova res! quando hactenus aurum Roma

refudit? Et nunc Romanorum consilio id usurpatum non credimus, (Bernard, de Consideratione, l. iii. c. 3, p. 437.) The first words of the passage are obscure, and probably corrupt.]

Such powerful motives should have firmly attached the voluntary and

pious obedience of the Roman people to their spiritual and temporal father. But the operation of prejudice and interest is often disturbed by the sallies of ungovernable passion. The Indian who fells the tree, that he may gather the fruit, [9] and the Arab who plunders the caravans

of commerce, are actuated by the same impulse of savage nature, which

overlooks the future in the present, and relinquishes for momentary

rapine the long and secure possession of the most important blessings. and it was thus, that the shrine of St. Peter was profaned by the thoughtless Romans; who pillaged the offerings, and wounded the

pilgrims, without computing the number and value of similar visits, which they prevented by their inhospitable sacrilege. Even the influence

of superstition is fluctuating and precarious; and the slave, whose

reason is subdued, will often be delivered by his avarice or pride. A credulous devotion for the fables and oracles of the priesthood most

powerfully acts on the mind of a Barbarian; yet such a mind is the least capable of preferring imagination to sense, of sacrificing to a distant

motive, to an invisible, perhaps an ideal, object, the appetites and

interests of the present world. In the vigor of health and youth, his

practice will perpetually contradict his belief; till the pressure of age, or sickness, or calamity, awakens his terrors, and compels him to

satisfy the double debt of piety and remorse. I have already observed, that the modern times of religious indifference are the most favorable to the peace and security of the clergy. Under the reign of

superstition, they had much to hope from the ignorance, and much to fear from the violence, of mankind. The wealth, whose constant increase must

have rendered them the sole proprietors of the earth, was alternately bestowed by the repentant father and plundered by the rapacious son: their persons were adored or violated; and the same idol, by the hands

of the same votaries, was placed on the altar, or trampled in the dust.

In the feudal system of Europe, arms were the title of distinction and the measure of allegiance; and amidst their tumult, the still voice

of law and reason was seldom heard or obeyed. The turbulent Romans disdained the yoke, and insulted the impotence, of their bishop: [10] nor would his education or character allow him to exercise, with decency

or effect, the power of the sword. The motives of his election and the frailties of his life were exposed to their familiar observation; and

proximity must diminish the reverence which his name and his decrees

impressed on a barbarous world. This difference has not escaped the

notice of our philosophic historian: "Though the name and authority of the court of Rome were so terrible in the remote countries of Europe, which were sunk in profound ignorance, and were entirely unacquainted with its character and conduct, the pope was so little revered at home, that his inveterate enemies surrounded the gates of Rome itself, and even controlled his government in that city; and the ambassadors, who, from a distant extremity of Europe, carried to him the humble, or rather abject, submissions of the greatest potentate of the age, found the

utmost difficulty to make their way to him, and to throw themselves at

his feet." [11]

[Footnote 9: Quand les sauvages de la Louisiane veulent avoir du fruit,

ils coupent l'arbre au pied et cueillent le fruit. Voila le gouvernement despotique, (Esprit des Loix, l. v. c. 13;) and passion and ignorance are always despotic.]

[Footnote 10: In a free conversation with his countryman Adrian

IV., John of Salisbury accuses the avarice of the pope and clergy:

Provinciarum diripiunt spolia, ac si thesauros Crsi studeant reparare.

Sed recte cum eis agit Altissimus, quoniam et ipsi aliis et sæpe

vilissimis hominibus dati sunt in direptionem, (de Nugis Curialium,

l. vi. c. 24, p. 387.) In the next page, he blames the rashness and

infidelity of the Romans, whom their bishops vainly strove to conciliate by gifts, instead of virtues. It is pity that this miscellaneous writer

has not given us less morality and erudition, and more pictures of

himself and the times.]

[Footnote 11: Hume's History of England, vol. i. p. 419. The same writer

has given us, from Fitz-Stephen, a singular act of cruelty perpetrated

on the clergy by Geoffrey, the father of Henry II. "When he was master

of Normandy, the chapter of Seez presumed, without his consent, to

proceed to the election of a bishop: upon which he ordered all of them, with the bishop elect, to be castrated, and made all their testicles be brought him in a platter." Of the pain and danger they might justly complain; yet since they had vowed chastity he deprived them of a

superfluous treasure.]

Since the primitive times, the wealth of the popes was exposed to envy, their powers to opposition, and their persons to violence. But the long

hostility of the mitre and the crown increased the numbers, and inflamed the passions, of their enemies. The deadly factions of the Guelphs and

Ghibelines, so fatal to Italy, could never be embraced with truth or constancy by the Romans, the subjects and adversaries both of the bishop and emperor; but their support was solicited by both parties, and they alternately displayed in their banners the keys of St. Peter and the

German eagle. Gregory the Seventh, who may be adored or detested as the founder of the papal monarchy, was driven from Rome, and died in exile at Salerno. Six-and-thirty of his successors, [12] till their retreat to avignon, maintained an unequal contest with the Romans: their age and dignity were often violated; and the churches, in the solemn rites of

religion, were polluted with sedition and murder. A repetition [13]

of such capricious brutality, without connection or design, would be tedious and disgusting; and I shall content myself with some events

of the twelfth century, which represent the state of the popes and the city. On Holy Thursday, while Paschal officiated before the altar,

he was interrupted by the clamors of the multitude, who imperiously demanded the confirmation of a favorite magistrate. His silence exasperated their fury; his pious refusal to mingle the affairs of earth and heaven was encountered with menaces, and oaths, that he should be the cause and the witness of the public ruin. During the festival of easter, while the bishop and the clergy, barefooted and in procession,

visited the tombs of the martyrs, they were twice assaulted, at the bridge of St. Angelo, and before the Capitol, with volleys of stones and darts. The houses of his adherents were levelled with the ground:

Paschal escaped with difficulty and danger; he levied an army in the

patrimony of St. Peter; and his last days were embittered by suffering and inflicting the calamities of civil war. The scenes that followed the election of his successor Gelasius the Second were still more scandalous to the church and city. Cencio Frangipani, [14] a potent and factious baron, burst into the assembly furious and in arms: the cardinals were

stripped, beaten, and trampled under foot; and he seized, without pity

or respect, the vicar of Christ by the throat. Gelasius was dragged by the hair along the ground, buffeted with blows, wounded with spurs, and bound with an iron chain in the house of his brutal tyrant. An

insurrection of the people delivered their bishop: the rival families

opposed the violence of the Frangipani; and Cencio, who sued for pardon,

repented of the failure, rather than of the guilt, of his enterprise.

Not many days had elapsed, when the pope was again assaulted at the altar. While his friends and enemies were engaged in a bloody contest,

he escaped in his sacerdotal garments. In this unworthy flight, which excited the compassion of the Roman matrons, his attendants were

scattered or unhorsed; and, in the fields behind the church of St.

Peter, his successor was found alone and half dead with fear and fatigue. Shaking the dust from his feet, the \_apostle\_ withdrew from a city in which his dignity was insulted and his person was endangered; and the vanity of sacerdotal ambition is revealed in the involuntary confession, that one emperor was more tolerable than twenty. [15] These examples might suffice; but I cannot forget the sufferings of two

pontiffs of the same age, the second and third of the name of Lucius. the former, as he ascended in battle array to assault the Capitol, was

struck on the temple by a stone, and expired in a few days. The

latter was severely wounded in the person of his servants. In a civil commotion, several of his priests had been made prisoners; and the

inhuman Romans, reserving one as a guide for his brethren, put out their eyes, crowned them with ludicrous mitres, mounted them on asses with their faces towards the tail, and extorted an oath, that, in this wretched condition, they should offer themselves as a lesson to the head

of the church. Hope or fear, lassitude or remorse, the characters of the men, and the circumstances of the times, might sometimes obtain an

interval of peace and obedience; and the pope was restored with joyful acclamations to the Lateran or Vatican, from whence he had been driven with threats and violence. But the root of mischief was deep and

perennial; and a momentary calm was preceded and followed by such tempests as had almost sunk the bark of St. Peter. Rome continually

presented the aspect of war and discord: the churches and palaces were fortified and assaulted by the factions and families; and, after giving

peace to Europe, Calistus the Second alone had resolution and power to

prohibit the use of private arms in the metropolis. Among the nations who revered the apostolic throne, the tumults of Rome provoked a general

indignation; and in a letter to his disciple Eugenius the Third, St. bernard, with the sharpness of his wit and zeal, has stigmatized the

vices of the rebellious people. [16] "Who is ignorant," says the monk of clairvaux, "of the vanity and arrogance of the Romans? a nation nursed

in sedition, untractable, and scorning to obey, unless they are too feeble to resist. When they promise to serve, they aspire to reign; if they swear allegiance, they watch the opportunity of revolt; yet they

vent their discontent in loud clamors, if your doors, or your counsels, are shut against them. Dexterous in mischief, they have never learned the science of doing good. Odious to earth and heaven, impious to God,

seditious among themselves, jealous of their neighbors, inhuman to

strangers, they love no one, by no one are they beloved; and while they wish to inspire fear, they live in base and continual apprehension. they will not submit; they know not how to govern faithless to their

superiors, intolerable to their equals, ungrateful to their benefactors, and alike impudent in their demands and their refusals. Lofty in

promise, poor in execution; adulation and calumny, perfidy and treason, are the familiar arts of their policy." Surely this dark portrait is

not colored by the pencil of Christian charity; [17] yet the features,

however harsh or ugly, express a lively resemblance of the Roman of the twelfth century. [18]

[Footnote 12: From Leo IX. and Gregory VII. an authentic and contemporary series of the lives of the popes by the cardinal of arragon, Pandulphus Pisanus, Bernard Guido, &c., is inserted in the

Italian Historians of Muratori, (tom. iii. P. i. p. 277--685,) and has been always before my eyes.]

[Footnote 13: The dates of years in the contents may throughout his this chapter be understood as tacit references to the Annals of Muratori,

my ordinary and excellent guide. He uses, and indeed quotes, with the freedom of a master, his great collection of the Italian Historians, in

xxviii. volumes; and as that treasure is in my library, I have thought

it an amusement, if not a duty, to consult the originals.]

[Footnote 14: I cannot refrain from transcribing the high-colored words of Pandulphus Pisanus, (p. 384.) Hoc audiens inimicus pacis atque turbator jam fatus Centius Frajapane, more draconis immanissimi

sibilans, et ab imis pectoribus trahens longa suspiria, accinctus

retro gladio sine more cucurrit, valvas ac fores confregit. Ecclesiam furibundus introiit, inde custode remoto papam per gulam accepit, distraxit pugnis calcibusque percussit, et tanquam brutum animal intra

limen ecclesiæ acriter calcaribus cruentavit; et latro tantum dominum

per capillos et brachia, Jesû bono interim dormiente, detraxit, ad domum

usque deduxit, inibi catenavit et inclusit.]

[Footnote 15: Ego coram Deo et Ecclesiâ dico, si unquam possibile esset,

mallem unum imperatorem quam tot dominos, (Vit. Gelas. II. p. 398.)]

[Footnote 16: Quid tam notum seculis quam protervia et cervicositas

Romanorum? Gens insueta paci, tumultui assueta, gens immitis et

intractabilis usque adhuc, subdi nescia, nisi cum non valet resistere,

(de Considerat. l. iv. c. 2, p. 441.) The saint takes breath, and then begins again: Hi, invisi terræ et clo, utrique injecere manus, &c., (p.

443.)]

[Footnote 17: As a Roman citizen, Petrarch takes leave to observe, that Bernard, though a saint, was a man; that he might be provoked by

resentment, and possibly repent of his hasty passion, &c. (Mémoires sur

la Vie de Pétrarque, tom. i. p. 330.)]

[Footnote 18: Baronius, in his index to the xiith volume of his annals, has found a fair and easy excuse. He makes two heads, of Romani

\_Catholici\_ and \_Schismatici\_: to the former he applies all the good, to the latter all the evil, that is told of the city.]

the Jews had rejected the Christ when he appeared among them in a

plebeian character; and the Romans might plead their ignorance of his

vicar when he assumed the pomp and pride of a temporal sovereign. In the busy age of the crusades, some sparks of curiosity and reason were

rekindled in the Western world: the heresy of Bulgaria, the Paulician

sect, was successfully transplanted into the soil of Italy and France; the Gnostic visions were mingled with the simplicity of the gospel; and the enemies of the clergy reconciled their passions with their conscience, the desire of freedom with the profession of piety. [19] The trumpet of Roman liberty was first sounded by Arnold of Brescia, [20] whose promotion in the church was confined to the lowest rank, and who wore the monastic habit rather as a garb of poverty than as a uniform

of obedience. His adversaries could not deny the wit and eloquence which they severely felt; they confess with reluctance the specious purity of

his morals; and his errors were recommended to the public by a mixture

of important and beneficial truths. In his theological studies, he had been the disciple of the famous and unfortunate Abelard, [21] who was

likewise involved in the suspicion of heresy: but the lover of Eloisa was of a soft and flexible nature; and his ecclesiastic judges were edified and disarmed by the humility of his repentance. From this

master, Arnold most probably imbibed some metaphysical definitions of the Trinity, repugnant to the taste of the times: his ideas of baptism and the eucharist are loosely censured; but a political heresy was the

source of his fame and misfortunes. He presumed to quote the declaration

of Christ, that his kingdom is not of this world: he boldly maintained, that the sword and the sceptre were intrusted to the civil magistrate; that temporal honors and possessions were lawfully vested in secular

persons; that the abbots, the bishops, and the pope himself, must

renounce either their state or their salvation; and that after the loss

of their revenues, the voluntary tithes and oblations of the faithful would suffice, not indeed for luxury and avarice, but for a frugal life

in the exercise of spiritual labors. During a short time, the preacher was revered as a patriot; and the discontent, or revolt, of Brescia against her bishop, was the first fruits of his dangerous lessons. But the favor of the people is less permanent than the resentment of the

priest; and after the heresy of Arnold had been condemned by Innocent the Second, [22] in the general council of the Lateran, the magistrates themselves were urged by prejudice and fear to execute the sentence of the church. Italy could no longer afford a refuge; and the disciple of abelard escaped beyond the Alps, till he found a safe and hospitable

shelter in Zurich, now the first of the Swiss cantons. From a Roman

station, [23] a royal villa, a chapter of noble virgins, Zurich had

gradually increased to a free and flourishing city; where the appeals of the Milanese were sometimes tried by the Imperial commissaries. [24] In an age less ripe for reformation, the precursor of Zuinglius was heard with applause: a brave and simple people imbibed, and long retained, the color of his opinions; and his art, or merit, seduced the bishop

of Constance, and even the pope's legate, who forgot, for his sake, the

interest of their master and their order. Their tardy zeal was quickened by the fierce exhortations of St. Bernard; [25] and the enemy of the church was driven by persecution to the desperate measures of erecting

his standard in Rome itself, in the face of the successor of St. Peter.

[Footnote 19: The heresies of the xiith century may be found in Mosheim,

(Institut. Hist. Ecclés. p. 419--427,) who entertains a favorable

opinion of Arnold of Brescia. In the vth volume I have described the

sect of the Paulicians, and followed their migration from Armenia to thrace and Bulgaria, Italy and France.]

[Footnote 20: The original pictures of Arnold of Brescia are drawn by

Otho, bishop of Frisingen, (Chron. l. vii. c. 31, de Gestis Frederici

I. l. i. c. 27, l. ii. c. 21,) and in the iiid book of the Ligurinus, a poem of Gunthur, who flourished A.D. 1200, in the monastery of Paris

near Basil, (Fabric. Bibliot. Latin. Med. et Infimæ Ætatis, tom. iii.

p. 174, 175.) The long passage that relates to Arnold is produced by

Guilliman, (de Rebus Helveticis, l. iii. c. 5, p. 108.) \*

Note: Compare Franke, Arnold von Brescia und seine Zeit. Zurich,

1828.--M.]

[Footnote 21: The wicked wit of Bayle was amused in composing, with much

levity and learning, the articles of Abelard, Foulkes, Heloise, in

his Dictionnaire Critique. The dispute of Abelard and St. Bernard,

of scholastic and positive divinity, is well understood by Mosheim,

(Institut. Hist. Ecclés. p. 412--415.)]

[Footnote 22:

----Damnatus ab illo

Præsule, qui numeros vetitum contingere nostros

Nomen ad \_innocuâ\_ ducit laudabile vitâ.

we may applaud the dexterity and correctness of Ligurinus, who turns the

unpoetical name of Innocent II. into a compliment.]

[Footnote 23: A Roman inscription of Statio Turicensis has been found at

Zurich, (D'Anville, Notice de l'ancienne Gaul, p. 642--644;) but it is without sufficient warrant, that the city and canton have usurped, and even monopolized, the names of Tigurum and Pagus Tigurinus.]

[Footnote 24: Guilliman (de Rebus Helveticis, l. iii. c. 5, p. 106)

recapitulates the donation (A.D. 833) of the emperor Lewis the Pious to

his daughter the abbess Hildegardis. Curtim nostram Turegum in ducatû alamanniæ in pago Durgaugensi, with villages, woods, meadows, waters,

slaves, churches, &c.; a noble gift. Charles the Bald gave the jus

monetæ, the city was walled under Otho I., and the line of the bishop of frisingen,

Nobile Turegum multarum copia rerum,

is repeated with pleasure by the antiquaries of Zurich.]

[Footnote 25: Bernard, Epistol. cxcv. tom. i. p. 187--190. Amidst his

invectives he drops a precious acknowledgment, qui, utinam quam sanæ esset doctrinæ quam districtæ est vitæ. He owns that Arnold would be a

valuable acquisition for the church.]

chapter LXIX: State Of Rome From The Twelfth Century.--Part II.

Yet the courage of Arnold was not devoid of discretion: he was

protected, and had perhaps been invited, by the nobles and people; and

in the service of freedom, his eloquence thundered over the seven hills. blending in the same discourse the texts of Livy and St. Paul, uniting the motives of gospel, and of classic, enthusiasm, he admonished the

Romans, how strangely their patience and the vices of the clergy had degenerated from the primitive times of the church and the city. He exhorted them to assert the inalienable rights of men and Christians; to

restore the laws and magistrates of the republic; to respect the

\_name\_ of the emperor; but to confine their shepherd to the spiritual

government of his flock. [26] Nor could his spiritual government escape the censure and control of the reformer; and the inferior clergy were taught by his lessons to resist the cardinals, who had usurped a despotic command over the twenty-eight regions or parishes of Rome. [27] the revolution was not accomplished without rapine and violence, the diffusion of blood and the demolition of houses: the victorious faction was enriched with the spoils of the clergy and the adverse nobles. arnold of Brescia enjoyed, or deplored, the effects of his mission: his

reign continued above ten years, while two popes, Innocent the Second and Anastasius the Fourth, either trembled in the Vatican, or wandered as exiles in the adjacent cities. They were succeeded by a more vigorous and fortunate pontiff. Adrian the Fourth, [28] the only Englishman who

has ascended the throne of St. Peter; and whose merit emerged from the

mean condition of a monk, and almost a beggar, in the monastery of St. albans. On the first provocation, of a cardinal killed or wounded in the

streets, he cast an interdict on the guilty people; and from Christmas to Easter, Rome was deprived of the real or imaginary comforts of

religious worship. The Romans had despised their temporal prince: they

submitted with grief and terror to the censures of their spiritual father: their guilt was expiated by penance, and the banishment of the

seditious preacher was the price of their absolution. But the revenge of adrian was yet unsatisfied, and the approaching coronation of Frederic barbarossa was fatal to the bold reformer, who had offended, though

not in an equal degree, the heads of the church and state. In their

interview at Viterbo, the pope represented to the emperor the furious,

ungovernable spirit of the Romans; the insults, the injuries, the fears, to which his person and his clergy were continually exposed; and the

pernicious tendency of the heresy of Arnold, which must subvert the

principles of civil, as well as ecclesiastical, subordination. Frederic was convinced by these arguments, or tempted by the desire of the

Imperial crown: in the balance of ambition, the innocence or life of an

individual is of small account; and their common enemy was sacrificed to a moment of political concord. After his retreat from Rome, Arnold had been protected by the viscounts of Campania, from whom he was extorted by the power of Cæsar: the præfect of the city pronounced his sentence: the martyr of freedom was burned alive in the presence of a careless and ungrateful people; and his ashes were cast into the Tyber, lest the

heretics should collect and worship the relics of their master. [29] The clergy triumphed in his death: with his ashes, his sect was dispersed;

his memory still lived in the minds of the Romans. From his school they

had probably derived a new article of faith, that the metropolis of the Catholic church is exempt from the penalties of excommunication and

interdict. Their bishops might argue, that the supreme jurisdiction, which they exercised over kings and nations, more especially embraced the city and diocese of the prince of the apostles. But they preached to the winds, and the same principle that weakened the effect, must temper the abuse, of the thunders of the Vatican.

[Footnote 26: He advised the Romans,

Consiliis armisque sua moderamina summa

Arbitrio tractare suo: nil juris in hâc re

Pontifici summo, modicum concedere regi

Suadebat populo. Sic læsâ stultus utrâque

Majestate, reum geminæ se fecerat aulæ.

Nor is the poetry of Gunther different from the prose of Otho.]

[Footnote 27: See Baronius (A.D. 1148, No. 38, 39) from the Vatican

MSS. He loudly condemns Arnold (A.D. 1141, No. 3) as the father of the

political heretics, whose influence then hurt him in France.]

[Footnote 28: The English reader may consult the Biographia Britannica, adrian IV.; but our own writers have added nothing to the fame or merits

of their countrymen.]

[Footnote 29: Besides the historian and poet already quoted, the

last adventures of Arnold are related by the biographer of Adrian IV.

(Muratori. Script. Rerum Ital. tom. iii. P. i. p. 441, 442.)]

the love of ancient freedom has encouraged a belief that as early as the tenth century, in their first struggles against the Saxon Othos, the commonwealth was vindicated and restored by the senate and people of

Rome; that two consuls were annually elected among the nobles, and that ten or twelve plebeian magistrates revived the name and office of the tribunes of the commons. [30] But this venerable structure disappears before the light of criticism. In the darkness of the middle ages, the appellations of senators, of consuls, of the sons of consuls, may

sometimes be discovered. [31] They were bestowed by the emperors, or assumed by the most powerful citizens, to denote their rank, their

honors, [32] and perhaps the claim of a pure and patrician descent: but they float on the surface, without a series or a substance, the titles

of men, not the orders of government; [33] and it is only from the year

of Christ one thousand one hundred and forty-four that the establishment

of the senate is dated, as a glorious æra, in the acts of the city. a new constitution was hastily framed by private ambition or popular enthusiasm; nor could Rome, in the twelfth century, produce an antiquary to explain, or a legislator to restore, the harmony and proportions of the ancient model. The assembly of a free, of an armed, people, will ever speak in loud and weighty acclamations. But the regular distribution of the thirty-five tribes, the nice balance of the wealth and numbers of the centuries, the debates of the adverse orators, and the slow operations of votes and ballots, could not easily be adapted by a blind multitude, ignorant of the arts, and insensible of the benefits, of legal government. It was proposed by Arnold to revive and discriminate the equestrian order; but what could be the motive

or measure of such distinction? [34] The pecuniary qualification of the

knights must have been reduced to the poverty of the times: those times

no longer required their civil functions of judges and farmers of the

revenue; and their primitive duty, their military service on horseback, was more nobly supplied by feudal tenures and the spirit of chivalry. the jurisprudence of the republic was useless and unknown: the nations and families of Italy who lived under the Roman and Barbaric laws were

insensibly mingled in a common mass; and some faint tradition, some

imperfect fragments, preserved the memory of the Code and Pandects of

Justinian. With their liberty the Romans might doubtless have restored the appellation and office of consuls; had they not disdained a title so

promiscuously adopted in the Italian cities, that it has finally settled

on the humble station of the agents of commerce in a foreign land. But the rights of the tribunes, the formidable word that arrested the

public counsels, suppose or must produce a legitimate democracy. The

old patricians were the subjects, the modern barons the tyrants, of the

state; nor would the enemies of peace and order, who insulted the

vicar of Christ, have long respected the unarmed sanctity of a plebeian

magistrate. [35]

[Footnote 30: Ducange (Gloss. Latinitatis Mediæ et Infimæ Ætatis, decarchones, tom. ii. p. 726) gives me a quotation from Blondus, (Decad.

ii. l. ii.:) Duo consules ex nobilitate quotannis fiebant, qui ad

vetustum consulum exemplar summærerum præessent. And in Sigonius (de

Regno Italiæ, l. v. Opp. tom. ii. p. 400) I read of the consuls and tribunes of the xth century. Both Blondus, and even Sigonius, too freely copied the classic method of supplying from reason or fancy the deficiency of records.]

[Footnote 31: In the panegyric of Berengarius (Muratori, Script. Rer.

Ital. tom. ii. P. i. p. 408) a Roman is mentioned as consulis natus in the beginning of the xth century. Muratori (Dissert. v.) discovers, in the years 952 and 956, Gratianus in Dei nomine consul et dux, Georgius consul et dux; and in 1015, Romanus, brother of Gregory VIII., proudly, but vaguely, styles himself consul et dux et omnium Roma norum senator.]

[Footnote 32: As late as the xth century, the Greek emperors conferred

on the dukes of Venice, Naples, Amalphi, &c., the title of upatoV

or consuls, (see Chron. Sagornini, passim;) and the successors of charlemagne would not abdicate any of their prerogative. But in general the names of \_consul\_ and \_senator\_, which may be found among the French and Germans, signify no more than count and lord, (\_Signeur\_, Ducange

Glossar.) The monkish writers are often ambitious of fine classic words.]

[Footnote 33: The most constitutional form is a diploma of Otho III.,

(A. D 998,) consulibus senatûs populique Romani; but the act is probably

spurious. At the coronation of Henry I., A.D. 1014, the historian dithmar (apud Muratori, Dissert. xxiii.) describes him, a senatoribus duodecim vallatum, quorum sex rasi barbâ, alii prolixâ, mystice

incedebant cum baculis. The senate is mentioned in the panegyric of berengarius, (p. 406.)]

[Footnote 34: In ancient Rome the equestrian order was not ranked with the senate and people as a third branch of the republic till the consulship of Cicero, who assumes the merit of the establishment,

(Plin. Hist. Natur. xxxiii. 3. Beaufort, République Romaine, tom. i. p.

144--155.)]

[Footnote 35: The republican plan of Arnold of Brescia is thus stated by

Gunther:--

Quin etiam titulos urbis renovare vetustos;

Nomine plebeio secernere nomen equestre,

Jura tribunorum, sanctum reparare senatum,

Et senio fessas mutasque reponere leges.

Lapsa ruinosis, et adhuc pendentia muris

Reddere primævo Capitolia prisca nitori. but of these reformations, some were no more than ideas, others no more than words.]

In the revolution of the twelfth century, which gave a new existence and

æra to Rome, we may observe the real and important events that marked or confirmed her political independence. I. The Capitoline hill, one of

her seven eminences, [36] is about four hundred yards in length, and two

hundred in breadth. A flight of a hundred steps led to the summit of the tarpeian rock; and far steeper was the ascent before the declivities had been smoothed and the precipices filled by the ruins of fallen edifices. from the earliest ages, the Capitol had been used as a temple in peace, a fortress in war: after the loss of the city, it maintained a siege against the victorious Gauls, and the sanctuary of the empire was

occupied, assaulted, and burnt, in the civil wars of Vitellius and

Vespasian. [37] The temples of Jupiter and his kindred deities had crumbled into dust; their place was supplied by monasteries and houses; and the solid walls, the long and shelving porticos, were decayed or

ruined by the lapse of time. It was the first act of the Romans, an act of freedom, to restore the strength, though not the beauty, of the capitol; to fortify the seat of their arms and counsels; and as often as they ascended the hill, the coldest minds must have glowed with the

remembrance of their ancestors. II. The first Cæsars had been invested with the exclusive coinage of the gold and silver; to the senate they abandoned the baser metal of bronze or copper: [38] the emblems and

legends were inscribed on a more ample field by the genius of flattery; and the prince was relieved from the care of celebrating his own

virtues. The successors of Diocletian despised even the flattery of the

senate: their royal officers at Rome, and in the provinces, assumed the

sole direction of the mint; and the same prerogative was inherited by the Gothic kings of Italy, and the long series of the Greek, the French, and the German dynasties. After an abdication of eight hundred years, the Roman senate asserted this honorable and lucrative privilege; which was tacitly renounced by the popes, from Paschal the Second to the establishment of their residence beyond the Alps. Some of these

republican coins of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries are shown in the cabinets of the curious. On one of these, a gold medal, Christ is depictured holding in his left hand a book with this inscription: "The

vow of the Roman senate and people: Rome the capital of the world;" on the reverse, St. Peter delivering a banner to a kneeling senator in

his cap and gown, with the name and arms of his family impressed on a

shield. [39] III. With the empire, the præfect of the city had declined to a municipal officer; yet he still exercised in the last appeal the civil and criminal jurisdiction; and a drawn sword, which he received from the successors of Otho, was the mode of his investiture and the emblem of his functions. [40] The dignity was confined to the noble families of Rome: the choice of the people was ratified by the pope; but a triple oath of fidelity must have often embarrassed the præfect in the conflict of adverse duties. [41] A servant, in whom they possessed but a third share, was dismissed by the independent Romans: in his place they elected a patrician; but this title, which Charlemagne had not disdained, was too lofty for a citizen or a subject; and, after the first fervor of rebellion, they consented without reluctance to the

restoration of the præfect. About fifty years after this event, Innocent the Third, the most ambitious, or at least the most fortunate, of the

Pontiffs, delivered the Romans and himself from this badge of foreign dominion: he invested the præfect with a banner instead of a sword, and absolved him from all dependence of oaths or service to the

German emperors. [42] In his place an ecclesiastic, a present or future cardinal, was named by the pope to the civil government of Rome; but his

jurisdiction has been reduced to a narrow compass; and in the days of freedom, the right or exercise was derived from the senate and people.

IV. After the revival of the senate, [43] the conscript fathers (if I

may use the expression) were invested with the legislative and executive

power; but their views seldom reached beyond the present day; and that day was most frequently disturbed by violence and tumult. In its utmost

plenitude, the order or assembly consisted of fifty-six senators, [44] the most eminent of whom were distinguished by the title of counsellors: they were nominated, perhaps annually, by the people; and a previous choice of their electors, ten persons in each region, or parish, might afford a basis for a free and permanent constitution. The popes, who in this tempest submitted rather to bend than to break, confirmed by treaty the establishment and privileges of the senate, and expected from time,

peace, and religion, the restoration of their government. The motives

of public and private interest might sometimes draw from the Romans an

occasional and temporary sacrifice of their claims; and they renewed their oath of allegiance to the successor of St. Peter and Constantine, the lawful head of the church and the republic. [45]

[Footnote 36: After many disputes among the antiquaries of Rome, it

seems determined, that the summit of the Capitoline hill next the river

is strictly the Mons Tarpeius, the Arx; and that on the other summit, the church and convent of Araceli, the barefoot friars of St. Francis

occupy the temple of Jupiter, (Nardini, Roma Antica, l. v. c. 11--16. \*

Note: The authority of Nardini is now vigorously impugned, and the question of the Arx and the Temple of Jupiter revived, with new arguments by Niebuhr and his accomplished follower, M. Bunsen. Roms beschreibung, vol. iii. p. 12, et seqq.--M.]

[Footnote 37: Tacit. Hist. iii. 69, 70.]

[Footnote 38: This partition of the noble and baser metals between the emperor and senate must, however, be adopted, not as a positive fact, but as the probable opinion of the best antiquaries, \* (see the Science des Medailles of the Père Joubert, tom. ii. p. 208--211, in the improved and scarce edition of the Baron de la Bastie. \*

Note: Dr. Cardwell (Lecture on Ancient Coins, p. 70, et seq.) assigns convincing reasons in support of this opinion.--M.]

[Footnote 39: In his xxviith dissertation on the Antiquities of Italy,

(tom. ii. p. 559--569,) Muratori exhibits a series of the senatorian coins, which bore the obscure names of \_Affortiati\_, \_Infortiati\_,

\_Provisini\_, \_Paparini\_. During this period, all the popes, without excepting Boniface VIII, abstained from the right of coining, which was

resumed by his successor Benedict XI., and regularly exercised in the court of Avignon.]

[Footnote 40: A German historian, Gerard of Reicherspeg (in Baluz.

Miscell. tom. v. p. 64, apud Schmidt, Hist. des Allemands, tom. iii.

p. 265) thus describes the constitution of Rome in the xith century:

Grandiora urbis et orbis negotia spectant ad Romanum pontificem itemque ad Romanum Imperatorem, sive illius vicarium urbis præfectum, qui de suâ dignitate respicit utrumque, videlicet dominum papam cui facit hominum, et dominum imperatorem a quo accipit suæ potestatis insigne, scilicet

gladium exertum.]

[Footnote 41: The words of a contemporary writer (Pandulph. Pisan. in

Vit. Paschal. II. p. 357, 358) describe the election and oath of the

præfect in 1118, inconsultis patribus.... loca præfectoria.... Laudes

præfectoriæ.... comitiorum applausum.... juraturum populo in ambonem

sublevant.... confirmari eum in urbe præfectum petunt.]

[Footnote 42: Urbis præfectum ad ligiam fidelitatem recepit, et per

mantum quod illi donavit de præfecturâ eum publice investivit, qui usque ad id tempus juramento fidelitatis imperatori fuit obligatus et ab eo

præfecturæ tenuit honorem, (Gesta Innocent. III. in Muratori, tom. iii.

P. i. p. 487.)]

[Footnote 43: See Otho Frising. Chron. vii. 31, de Gest. Frederic. I.,

l. i. c. 27.]

[Footnote 44: Cur countryman, Roger Hoveden, speaks of the single

senators, of the \_Capuzzi\_ family, &c., quorum temporibus melius

regebatur Roma quam nunc (A.D. 1194) est temporibus lvi. senatorum,

(Ducange, Gloss. tom. vi. p. 191, Senatores.)]

[Footnote 45: Muratori (dissert. xlii. tom. iii. p. 785--788) has

published an original treaty: Concordia inter D. nostrum papam Clementem

III. et senatores populi Romani super regalibus et aliis dignitatibus

urbis, &c., anno 44º senatûs. The senate speaks, and speaks with authority: Reddimus ad præsens.... habebimus.... dabitis presbetria....

jurabimus pacem et fidelitatem, &c. A chartula de Tenementis Tusculani, dated in the 47th year of the same æra, and confirmed decreto amplissimi

ordinis senatûs, acclamatione P. R. publice Capitolio consistentis.

It is there we find the difference of senatores consiliarii and simple

senators, (Muratori, dissert. xlii. tom. iii. p. 787--789.)]

the union and vigor of a public council was dissolved in a lawless city; and the Romans soon adopted a more strong and simple mode of administration. They condensed the name and authority of the senate in a single magistrate, or two colleagues; and as they were changed at the end of a year, or of six months, the greatness of the trust was compensated by the shortness of the term. But in this transient reign, the senators of Rome indulged their avarice and ambition: their justice was perverted by the interest of their family and faction; and as they

punished only their enemies, they were obeyed only by their adherents. anarchy, no longer tempered by the pastoral care of their bishop, admonished the Romans that they were incapable of governing themselves; and they sought abroad those blessings which they were hopeless of finding at home. In the same age, and from the same motives, most of the Italian republics were prompted to embrace a measure, which, however

strange it may seem, was adapted to their situation, and productive of the most salutary effects. [46] They chose, in some foreign but friendly city, an impartial magistrate of noble birth and unblemished character, a soldier and a statesman, recommended by the voice of fame and his country, to whom they delegated for a time the supreme administration

of peace and war. The compact between the governor and the governed was

sealed with oaths and subscriptions; and the duration of his power, the

measure of his stipend, the nature of their mutual obligations, were defined with scrupulous precision. They swore to obey him as their

lawful superior: he pledged his faith to unite the indifference of a

stranger with the zeal of a patriot. At his choice, four or six

knights and civilians, his assessors in arms and justice, attended the

\_Podesta\_, [47] who maintained at his own expense a decent retinue of

servants and horses: his wife, his son, his brother, who might bias the affections of the judge, were left behind: during the exercise of his

office he was not permitted to purchase land, to contract an alliance,

or even to accept an invitation in the house of a citizen; nor could

he honorably depart till he had satisfied the complaints that might be

urged against his government.

[Footnote 46: Muratori (dissert. xlv. tom. iv. p. 64--92) has fully explained this mode of government; and the \_Occulus Pastoralis\_, which

he has given at the end, is a treatise or sermon on the duties of these foreign magistrates.]

[Footnote 47: In the Latin writers, at least of the silver age, the title of \_Potestas\_ was transferred from the office to the magistrate:--

Hujus qui trahitur prætextam sumere mavis;

An Fidenarum Gabiorumque esse \_Potestas\_.

Juvenal. Satir. x. 99.11]

chapter LXIX: State Of Rome From The Twelfth Century.--Part III.

It was thus, about the middle of the thirteenth century, that the Romans called from Bologna the senator Brancaleone, [48] whose fame and merit

have been rescued from oblivion by the pen of an English historian. A

just anxiety for his reputation, a clear foresight of the difficulties

of the task, had engaged him to refuse the honor of their choice: the

statutes of Rome were suspended, and his office prolonged to the term

of three years. By the guilty and licentious he was accused as cruel; by the clergy he was suspected as partial; but the friends of peace and

order applauded the firm and upright magistrate by whom those blessings were restored. No criminals were so powerful as to brave, so obscure as to elude, the justice of the senator. By his sentence two nobles of the Annibaldi family were executed on a gibbet; and he inexorably demolished, in the city and neighborhood, one hundred and forty towers, the strong shelters of rapine and mischief. The bishop, as a simple bishop, was compelled to reside in his diocese; and the standard of brancaleone was displayed in the field with terror and effect. His

services were repaid by the ingratitude of a people unworthy of the

happiness which they enjoyed. By the public robbers, whom he had

provoked for their sake, the Romans were excited to depose and imprison their benefactor; nor would his life have been spared, if Bologna had

not possessed a pledge for his safety. Before his departure, the prudent

senator had required the exchange of thirty hostages of the noblest families of Rome: on the news of his danger, and at the prayer of his wife, they were more strictly guarded; and Bologna, in the cause of

honor, sustained the thunders of a papal interdict. This generous

resistance allowed the Romans to compare the present with the past; and Brancaleone was conducted from the prison to the Capitol amidst the acclamations of a repentant people. The remainder of his government was firm and fortunate; and as soon as envy was appeased by death, his head, enclosed in a precious vase, was deposited on a lofty column of marble.

[49]

[Footnote 48: See the life and death of Brancaleone, in the Historia

Major of Matthew Paris, p. 741, 757, 792, 797, 799, 810, 823, 833,

836, 840. The multitude of pilgrims and suitors connected Rome and

St. Albans, and the resentment of the English clergy prompted them to

rejoice when ever the popes were humbled and oppressed.]

[Footnote 49: Matthew Paris thus ends his account: Caput vero ipsius brancaleonis in vase pretioso super marmoream columnam collocatum, in

signum sui valoris et probitatis, quasi reliquias, superstitiose nimis et pompose sustulerunt. Fuerat enim superborum potentum et malefactorum

urbis malleus et extirpator, et populi protector et defensor veritatis et justitiæ imitator et amator, (p. 840.) A biographer of Innocent IV.

(Muratori, Script. tom. iii. P. i. p. 591, 592) draws a less favorable

portrait of this Ghibeline senator.]

the impotence of reason and virtue recommended in Italy a more effectual choice: instead of a private citizen, to whom they yielded a voluntary and precarious obedience, the Romans elected for their senator some

prince of independent power, who could defend them from their enemies and themselves. Charles of Anjou and Provence, the most ambitious and warlike monarch of the age, accepted at the same time the kingdom of

Naples from the pope, and the office of senator from the Roman people.

[50] As he passed through the city, in his road to victory, he received their oath of allegiance, lodged in the Lateran palace, and smoothed

in a short visit the harsh features of his despotic character. Yet even charles was exposed to the inconstancy of the people, who saluted with the same acclamations the passage of his rival, the unfortunate conradin; and a powerful avenger, who reigned in the Capitol, alarmed the fears and jealousy of the popes. The absolute term of his life was

superseded by a renewal every third year; and the enmity of Nicholas the third obliged the Sicilian king to abdicate the government of Rome.

In his bull, a perpetual law, the imperious pontiff asserts the truth,

validity, and use of the donation of Constantine, not less essential to the peace of the city than to the independence of the church; establishes the annual election of the senator; and formally disqualifies all emperors, kings, princes, and persons of an eminent and conspicuous rank. [51] This prohibitory clause was repealed in his own behalf by Martin the Fourth, who humbly solicited the suffrage of the Romans. In the presence, and by the authority, of the people, two electors conferred, not on the pope, but on the noble and faithful

Martin, the dignity of senator, and the supreme administration of the republic, [52] to hold during his natural life, and to exercise at

pleasure by himself or his deputies. About fifty years afterwards, the

same title was granted to the emperor Lewis of Bavaria; and the liberty

of Rome was acknowledged by her two sovereigns, who accepted a municipal

office in the government of their own metropolis.

[Footnote 50: The election of Charles of Anjou to the office of

perpetual senator of Rome is mentioned by the historians in the viiith

volume of the Collection of Muratori, by Nicholas de Jamsilla, (p. 592,) the monk of Padua, (p. 724,) Sabas Malaspina, (l. ii. c. 9, p. 308,) and

Ricordano Malespini, (c. 177, p. 999.)]

[Footnote 51: The high-sounding bull of Nicholas III., which founds his temporal sovereignty on the donation of Constantine, is still extant; and as it has been inserted by Boniface VIII. in the \_Sexte\_ of the decretals, it must be received by the Catholics, or at least by the

Papists, as a sacred and perpetual law.]

[Footnote 52: I am indebted to Fleury (Hist. Ecclés. tom. xviii. p.

306) for an extract of this Roman act, which he has taken from the ecclesiastical Annals of Odericus Raynaldus, A.D. 1281, No. 14, 15.]

In the first moments of rebellion, when Arnold of Brescia had inflamed their minds against the church, the Romans artfully labored to conciliate the favor of the empire, and to recommend their merit and

services in the cause of Cæsar. The style of their ambassadors to Conrad the Third and Frederic the First is a mixture of flattery and pride, the tradition and the ignorance of their own history. [53] After some complaint of his silence and neglect, they exhort the former of these

princes to pass the Alps, and assume from their hands the Imperial crown. "We beseech your majesty not to disdain the humility of your sons and vassals, not to listen to the accusations of our common enemies; who calumniate the senate as hostile to your throne, who sow the seeds of discord, that they may reap the harvest of destruction. The pope and the

\_Sicilian\_ are united in an impious league to oppose \_our\_ liberty and

\_your\_ coronation. With the blessing of God, our zeal and courage

has hitherto defeated their attempts. Of their powerful and factious adherents, more especially the Frangipani, we have taken by assault the

houses and turrets: some of these are occupied by our troops, and some are levelled with the ground. The Milvian bridge, which they had broken,

is restored and fortified for your safe passage; and your army may enter the city without being annoyed from the castle of St. Angelo. All that we have done, and all that we design, is for your honor and service, in the loyal hope, that you will speedily appear in person, to vindicate those rights which have been invaded by the clergy, to revive the dignity of the empire, and to surpass the fame and glory of your

predecessors. May you fix your residence in Rome, the capital of the world; give laws to Italy, and the Teutonic kingdom; and imitate the example of Constantine and Justinian, [54] who, by the vigor of the

senate and people, obtained the sceptre of the earth." [55] But these

splendid and fallacious wishes were not cherished by Conrad the franconian, whose eyes were fixed on the Holy Land, and who died without

visiting Rome soon after his return from the Holy Land.

[Footnote 53: These letters and speeches are preserved by Otho bishop of frisingen, (Fabric. Bibliot. Lat. Med. et Infim. tom. v. p. 186, 187,)

perhaps the noblest of historians: he was son of Leopold marquis of austria; his mother, Agnes, was daughter of the emperor Henry IV., and

he was half-brother and uncle to Conrad III. and Frederic I. He has

left, in seven books, a Chronicle of the Times; in two, the Gesta frederici I., the last of which is inserted in the vith volume of

Muratori's historians.]

[Footnote 54: We desire (said the ignorant Romans) to restore the empire

in um statum, quo fuit tempore Constantini et Justiniani, qui totum

orbem vigore senatûs et populi Romani suis tenuere manibus.]

[Footnote 55: Otho Frising. de Gestis Frederici I. l. i. c. 28, p.

662--664.]

His nephew and successor, Frederic Barbarossa, was more ambitious of the Imperial crown; nor had any of the successors of Otho acquired

such absolute sway over the kingdom of Italy. Surrounded by his ecclesiastical and secular princes, he gave audience in his camp at

Sutri to the ambassadors of Rome, who thus addressed him in a free and florid oration: "Incline your ear to the queen of cities; approach with a peaceful and friendly mind the precincts of Rome, which has cast away the yoke of the clergy, and is impatient to crown her legitimate emperor. Under your auspicious influence, may the primitive times be

restored. Assert the prerogatives of the eternal city, and reduce under

her monarchy the insolence of the world. You are not ignorant, that, in former ages, by the wisdom of the senate, by the valor and discipline of the equestrian order, she extended her victorious arms to the East and west, beyond the Alps, and over the islands of the ocean. By our sins,

in the absence of our princes, the noble institution of the senate

has sunk in oblivion; and with our prudence, our strength has likewise decreased. We have revived the senate, and the equestrian order: the counsels of the one, the arms of the other, will be devoted to your

person and the service of the empire. Do you not hear the language of the Roman matron? You were a guest, I have adopted you as a citizen; a transalpine stranger, I have elected you for my sovereign; [56] and given

you myself, and all that is mine. Your first and most sacred duty is to swear and subscribe, that you will shed your blood for the republic; that you will maintain in peace and justice the laws of the city and the charters of your predecessors; and that you will reward with five thousand pounds of silver the faithful senators who shall proclaim

your titles in the Capitol. With the name, assume the character, of augustus." The flowers of Latin rhetoric were not yet exhausted; but frederic, impatient of their vanity, interrupted the orators in the high tone of royalty and conquest. "Famous indeed have been the fortitude and wisdom of the ancient Romans; but your speech is not seasoned with wisdom, and I could wish that fortitude were conspicuous in your actions. Like all sublunary things, Rome has felt the vicissitudes of time and fortune. Your noblest families were translated to the East, to the royal city of Constantine; and the remains of your strength and freedom have long since been exhausted by the Greeks and Franks. Are

you desirous of beholding the ancient glory of Rome, the gravity of the

senate, the spirit of the knights, the discipline of the camp, the valor

of the legions? you will find them in the German republic. It is not empire, naked and alone, the ornaments and virtues of empire have

likewise migrated beyond the Alps to a more deserving people: [57] they will be employed in your defence, but they claim your obedience. You

pretend that myself or my predecessors have been invited by the Romans:

you mistake the word; they were not invited, they were implored. From

its foreign and domestic tyrants, the city was rescued by Charlemagne and Otho, whose ashes repose in our country; and their dominion was the

price of your deliverance. Under that dominion your ancestors lived and died. I claim by the right of inheritance and possession, and who shall dare to extort you from my hands? Is the hand of the Franks [58] and

Germans enfeebled by age? Am I vanquished? Am I a captive? Am I not encompassed with the banners of a potent and invincible army? You impose conditions on your master; you require oaths: if the conditions are

just, an oath is superfluous; if unjust, it is criminal. Can you doubt

my equity? It is extended to the meanest of my subjects. Will not my

sword be unsheathed in the defence of the Capitol? By that sword the

northern kingdom of Denmark has been restored to the Roman empire. You

prescribe the measure and the objects of my bounty, which flows in a copious but a voluntary stream. All will be given to patient merit; all will be denied to rude importunity." [59] Neither the emperor nor the

senate could maintain these lofty pretensions of dominion and liberty.

United with the pope, and suspicious of the Romans, Frederic continued

his march to the Vatican; his coronation was disturbed by a sally from the Capitol; and if the numbers and valor of the Germans prevailed in the bloody conflict, he could not safely encamp in the presence of a city of which he styled himself the sovereign. About twelve years afterwards, he besieged Rome, to seat an antipope in the chair of St.

Peter; and twelve Pisan galleys were introduced into the Tyber: but the

senate and people were saved by the arts of negotiation and the progress

of disease; nor did Frederic or his successors reiterate the hostile attempt. Their laborious reigns were exercised by the popes, the crusades, and the independence of Lombardy and Germany: they courted the alliance of the Romans; and Frederic the Second offered in the Capitol the great standard, the \_Caroccio\_ of Milan. [60] After the extinction of the house of Swabia, they were banished beyond the Alps: and their last coronations betrayed the impotence and poverty of the Teutonic Cæsars.

[61]

[Footnote 56: Hospes eras, civem feci. Advena fuisti ex Transalpinis

partibus principem constitui.]

[Footnote 57: Non cessit nobis nudum imperium, virtute sua amictum

venit, ornamenta sua secum traxit. Penes nos sunt consules tui, &c. cicero or Livy would not have rejected these images, the eloquence of a barbarian born and educated in the Hercynian forest.]

[Footnote 58: Otho of Frisingen, who surely understood the language of the court and diet of Germany, speaks of the Franks in the xiith century as the reigning nation, (Proceres Franci, equites Franci, manus francorum:) he adds, however, the epithet of \_Teutonici\_.]

[Footnote 59: Otho Frising. de Gestis Frederici I., l. ii. c. 22,

p. 720--733. These original and authentic acts I have translated and abridged with freedom, yet with fidelity.]

[Footnote 60: From the Chronicles of Ricobaldo and Francis Pipin,

Muratori (dissert. xxvi. tom. ii. p. 492) has translated this curious fact with the doggerel verses that accompanied the gift:--

Ave decus orbis, ave! victus tibi destinor, ave!

Currus ab Augusto Frederico Cæsare justo.

Væ Mediolanum! jam sentis spernere vanum

Imperii vires, proprias tibi tollere vires.

Ergo triumphorum urbs potes memor esse priorum

Quos tibi mittebant reges qui bella gerebant.

Ne si dee tacere (I now use the Italian Dissertations, tom. i. p. 444) che nell' anno 1727, una copia desso Caroccio in marmo dianzi ignoto si

scopri, nel campidoglio, presso alle carcere di quel luogo, dove Sisto

V. l'avea falto rinchiudere. Stava esso posto sopra quatro colonne di

marmo fino colla sequente inscrizione, &c.; to the same purpose as the

old inscription.]

[Footnote 61: The decline of the Imperial arms and authority in Italy is

related with impartial learning in the Annals of Muratori, (tom. x. xi.

xii.;) and the reader may compare his narrative with the Histoires des allemands (tom. iii. iv.) by Schmidt, who has deserved the esteem of his countrymen.]

Under the reign of Adrian, when the empire extended from the Euphrates to the ocean, from Mount Atlas to the Grampian hills, a fanciful

historian [62] amused the Romans with the picture of their ancient wars.

"There was a time," says Florus, "when Tibur and Præneste, our summer

retreats, were the objects of hostile vows in the Capitol, when we dreaded the shades of the Arician groves, when we could triumph without a blush over the nameless villages of the Sabines and Latins, and even corioli could afford a title not unworthy of a victorious general." The

pride of his contemporaries was gratified by the contrast of the

past and the present: they would have been humbled by the prospect

of futurity; by the prediction, that after a thousand years, Rome, despoiled of empire, and contracted to her primæval limits, would renew the same hostilities, on the same ground which was then decorated with

her villas and gardens. The adjacent territory on either side of the tyber was always claimed, and sometimes possessed, as the patrimony of

St. Peter; but the barons assumed a lawless independence, and the cities too faithfully copied the revolt and discord of the metropolis. In the twelfth and thirteenth centuries the Romans incessantly labored to

reduce or destroy the contumacious vassals of the church and senate; and

if their headstrong and selfish ambition was moderated by the pope, he

often encouraged their zeal by the alliance of his spiritual arms. Their warfare was that of the first consuls and dictators, who were taken from the plough. The assembled in arms at the foot of the Capitol; sallied from the gates, plundered or burnt the harvests of their neighbors, engaged in tumultuary conflict, and returned home after an expedition of fifteen or twenty days. Their sieges were tedious and unskilful: in the use of victory, they indulged the meaner passions of jealousy and revenge; and instead of adopting the valor, they trampled on the

misfortunes, of their adversaries. The captives, in their shirts, with a

rope round their necks, solicited their pardon: the fortifications, and even the buildings, of the rival cities, were demolished, and the

inhabitants were scattered in the adjacent villages. It was thus that the seats of the cardinal bishops, Porto, Ostia, Albanum, Tusculum,

Præneste, and Tibur or Tivoli, were successively overthrown by the ferocious hostility of the Romans. [63] Of these, [64] Porto and Ostia, the two keys of the Tyber, are still vacant and desolate: the marshy and

unwholesome banks are peopled with herds of buffaloes, and the river is

lost to every purpose of navigation and trade. The hills, which afford a shady retirement from the autumnal heats, have again smiled with the blessings of peace; Frescati has arisen near the ruins of Tusculum; tibur or Tivoli has resumed the honors of a city, [65] and the meaner towns of Albano and Palestrina are decorated with the villas of the cardinals and princes of Rome. In the work of destruction, the ambition

of the Romans was often checked and repulsed by the neighboring cities and their allies: in the first siege of Tibur, they were driven from their camp; and the battles of Tusculum [66] and Viterbo [67] might be compared in their relative state to the memorable fields of Thrasymene and Cannæ. In the first of these petty wars, thirty thousand Romans were overthrown by a thousand German horse, whom Frederic Barbarossa had detached to the relief of Tusculum: and if we number the slain at three, the prisoners at two, thousand, we shall embrace the most authentic and moderate account. Sixty-eight years afterwards they marched against

Viterbo in the ecclesiastical state with the whole force of the city; by a rare coalition the Teutonic eagle was blended, in the adverse banners, with the keys of St. Peter; and the pope's auxiliaries were commanded by a count of Thoulouse and a bishop of Winchester. The Romans were discomfited with shame and slaughter: but the English prelate must have

indulged the vanity of a pilgrim, if he multiplied their numbers to one

hundred, and their loss in the field to thirty, thousand men. Had the

policy of the senate and the discipline of the legions been restored with the Capitol, the divided condition of Italy would have offered the fairest opportunity of a second conquest. But in arms, the modern Romans were not \_above\_, and in arts, they were far \_below\_, the common level

of the neighboring republics. Nor was their warlike spirit of any long continuance; after some irregular sallies, they subsided in the national apathy, in the neglect of military institutions, and in the disgraceful and dangerous use of foreign mercenaries.

[Footnote 62: Tibur nunc suburbanum, et æstivæ Præneste deliciæ,

nuncupatis in Capitolio votis petebantur. The whole passage of Florus

(l. i. c. 11) may be read with pleasure, and has deserved the praise of a man of genius, (uvres de Montesquieu, tom. iii. p. 634, 635, quarto edition.)]

[Footnote 63: Ne a feritate Romanorum, sicut fuerant Hostienses,

Portuenses, Tusculanenses, Albanenses, Labicenses, et nuper Tiburtini destruerentur, (Matthew Paris, p. 757.) These events are marked in the annals and Index (the xviiith volume) of Muratori.]

[Footnote 64: For the state or ruin of these suburban cities, the banks

of the Tyber, &c., see the lively picture of the P. Labat, (Voyage en espagne et en Italiæ,) who had long resided in the neighborhood of Rome, and the more accurate description of which P. Eschinard (Roma, 1750, in

octavo) has added to the topographical map of Cingolani.]

[Footnote 65: Labat (tom. iii. p. 233) mentions a recent decree of the

Roman government, which has severely mortified the pride and poverty of tivoli: in civitate Tiburtinâ non vivitur civiliter.]

[Footnote 66: I depart from my usual method, of quoting only by the date the Annals of Muratori, in consideration of the critical balance in which he has weighed nine contemporary writers who mention the battle of tusculum, (tom. x. p. 42--44.)]

[Footnote 67: Matthew Paris, p. 345. This bishop of Winchester was Peter de Rupibus, who occupied the see thirty-two years, (A.D. 1206--1238.) and is described, by the English historian, as a soldier and a

statesman. (p. 178, 399.)]

ambition is a weed of quick and early vegetation in the vineyard of christ. Under the first Christian princes, the chair of St. Peter was disputed by the votes, the venality, the violence, of a popular election: the sanctuaries of Rome were polluted with blood; and, from the third to the twelfth century, the church was distracted by the

mischief of frequent schisms. As long as the final appeal was determined by the civil magistrate, these mischiefs were transient and local: the merits were tried by equity or favor; nor could the unsuccessful competitor long disturb the triumph of his rival. But after the emperors had been divested of their prerogatives, after a maxim had been established that the vicar of Christ is amenable to no earthly tribunal, each vacancy of the holy see might involve Christendom in controversy and war. The claims of the cardinals and inferior clergy, of the

nobles and people, were vague and litigious: the freedom of choice was

overruled by the tumults of a city that no longer owned or obeyed a

superior. On the decease of a pope, two factions proceeded in different churches to a double election: the number and weight of votes, the

priority of time, the merit of the candidates, might balance each

other: the most respectable of the clergy were divided; and the distant

princes, who bowed before the spiritual throne, could not distinguish the spurious, from the legitimate, idol. The emperors were often the authors of the schism, from the political motive of opposing a friendly to a hostile pontiff; and each of the competitors was reduced to suffer the insults of his enemies, who were not awed by conscience, and to

purchase the support of his adherents, who were instigated by avarice

or ambition a peaceful and perpetual succession was ascertained by alexander the Third, [68] who finally abolished the tumultuary votes of the clergy and people, and defined the right of election in the sole college of cardinals. [69] The three orders of bishops, priests, and deacons, were assimilated to each other by this important privilege; the

parochial clergy of Rome obtained the first rank in the hierarchy: they were indifferently chosen among the nations of Christendom; and the

possession of the richest benefices, of the most important bishoprics, was not incompatible with their title and office. The senators of the catholic church, the coadjutors and legates of the supreme pontiff, were robed in purple, the symbol of martyrdom or royalty; they claimed a proud equality with kings; and their dignity was enhanced by the

smallness of their number, which, till the reign of Leo the Tenth,

seldom exceeded twenty or twenty-five persons. By this wise regulation, all doubt and scandal were removed, and the root of schism was so effectually destroyed, that in a period of six hundred years a double choice has only once divided the unity of the sacred college. But as the concurrence of two thirds of the votes had been made necessary, the election was often delayed by the private interest and passions of the cardinals; and while they prolonged their independent reign, the christian world was left destitute of a head. A vacancy of almost three

years had preceded the elevation of George the Tenth, who resolved to

prevent the future abuse; and his bull, after some opposition, has been consecrated in the code of the canon law. [70] Nine days are allowed for the obsequies of the deceased pope, and the arrival of the absent cardinals; on the tenth, they are imprisoned, each with one domestic,

in a common apartment or \_conclave\_, without any separation of walls

or curtains: a small window is reserved for the introduction of

necessaries; but the door is locked on both sides and guarded by the

magistrates of the city, to seclude them from all correspondence with the world. If the election be not consummated in three days, the luxury

of their table is contracted to a single dish at dinner and supper; and after the eighth day, they are reduced to a scanty allowance of bread, water, and wine. During the vacancy of the holy see, the cardinals are

prohibited from touching the revenues, or assuming, unless in some rare emergency, the government of the church: all agreements and promises among the electors are formally annulled; and their integrity is fortified by their solemn oath and the prayers of the Catholics. Some articles of inconvenient or superfluous rigor have been gradually

relaxed, but the principle of confinement is vigorous and entire: they are still urged, by the personal motives of health and freedom, to accelerate the moment of their deliverance; and the improvement of ballot or secret votes has wrapped the struggles of the conclave [71] in the silky veil of charity and politeness. [72] By these institutions the

Romans were excluded from the election of their prince and bishop; and

in the fever of wild and precarious liberty, they seemed insensible of the loss of this inestimable privilege. The emperor Lewis of Bavaria

revived the example of the great Otho. After some negotiation with the

magistrates, the Roman people were assembled [73] in the square before

St. Peter's: the pope of Avignon, John the Twenty-second, was deposed: the choice of his successor was ratified by their consent and applause. they freely voted for a new law, that their bishop should never be absent more than three months in the year, and two days' journey from the city; and that if he neglected to return on the third summons, the

public servant should be degraded and dismissed. [74] But Lewis forgot

his own debility and the prejudices of the times: beyond the precincts

of a German camp, his useless phantom was rejected; the Romans despised their own workmanship; the antipope implored the mercy of his lawful

sovereign; [75] and the exclusive right of the cardinals was more firmly established by this unseasonable attack.

[Footnote 68: See Mosheim, Institut. Histor. Ecclesiast. p. 401, 403. alexander himself had nearly been the victim of a contested election; and the doubtful merits of Innocent had only preponderated by the weight

of genius and learning which St. Bernard cast into the scale, (see his

life and writings.)]

[Footnote 69: The origin, titles, importance, dress, precedency, &c., of the Roman cardinals, are very ably discussed by Thomassin, (Discipline de l'Eglise, tom. i. p. 1262--1287;) but their purple is now much faded. the sacred college was raised to the definite number of seventy-two, to

represent, under his vicar, the disciples of Christ.]

[Footnote 70: See the bull of Gregory X. approbante sacro concilio, in the \_Sexts\_ of the Canon Law, (l. i. tit. 6, c. 3,) a supplement to the Decretals, which Boniface VIII. promulgated at Rome in 1298, and addressed in all the universities of Europe.]

[Footnote 71: The genius of Cardinal de Retz had a right to paint a conclave, (of 1665,) in which he was a spectator and an actor,

(Mémoires, tom. iv. p. 15--57;) but I am at a loss to appreciate the

knowledge or authority of an anonymous Italian, whose history (Conclavi de' Pontifici Romani, in 4to. 1667) has been continued since the reign

of Alexander VII. The accidental form of the work furnishes a lesson, though not an antidote, to ambition. From a labyrinth of intrigues, we emerge to the adoration of the successful candidate; but the next page

opens with his funeral.]

[Footnote 72: The expressions of Cardinal de Retz are positive and

picturesque: On y vecut toujours ensemble avec le même respect, et la

même civilité que l'on observe dans le cabinet des rois, avec la

même politesse qu'on avoit dans la cour de Henri III., avec la même familiarité que l'on voit dans les colleges; avec la même modestie, qui

se remarque dans les noviciats; et avec la même charité, du moins en apparence, qui pourroit ètre entre des frères parfaitement unis.]

[Footnote 73: Richiesti per bando (says John Villani) sanatori di Roma, e 52 del popolo, et capitani de' 25, e consoli, (\_consoli?\_) et 13 buone

huomini, uno per rione. Our knowledge is too imperfect to pronounce

how much of this constitution was temporary, and how much ordinary and

permanent. Yet it is faintly illustrated by the ancient statutes of

Rome.]

[Footnote 74: Villani (l. x. c. 68--71, in Muratori, Script. tom. xiii.

p. 641--645) relates this law, and the whole transaction, with much less abhorrence than the prudent Muratori. Any one conversant with the darker ages must have observed how much the sense (I mean the nonsense) of

superstition is fluctuating and inconsistent.]

[Footnote 75: In the first volume of the Popes of Avignon, see the

second original Life of John XXII. p. 142--145, the confession of the antipope p. 145--152, and the laborious notes of Baluze, p. 714, 715.]

Had the election been always held in the Vatican, the rights of the

senate and people would not have been violated with impunity. But the

Romans forgot, and were forgotten. in the absence of the successors of

Gregory the Seventh, who did not keep as a divine precept their ordinary

residence in the city and diocese. The care of that diocese was less

important than the government of the universal church; nor could the

popes delight in a city in which their authority was always opposed, and their person was often endangered. From the persecution of the emperors, and the wars of Italy, they escaped beyond the Alps into the hospitable bosom of France; from the tumults of Rome they prudently withdrew to

live and die in the more tranquil stations of Anagni, Perugia, Viterbo, and the adjacent cities. When the flock was offended or impoverished by the absence of the shepherd, they were recalled by a stern admonition, that St. Peter had fixed his chair, not in an obscure village, but in the capital of the world; by a ferocious menace, that the Romans would

march in arms to destroy the place and people that should dare to afford them a retreat. They returned with timorous obedience; and were

saluted with the account of a heavy debt, of all the losses which their desertion had occasioned, the hire of lodgings, the sale of provisions, and the various expenses of servants and strangers who attended the court. [76] After a short interval of peace, and perhaps of authority, they were again banished by new tumults, and again summoned by the

imperious or respectful invitation of the senate. In these occasional

retreats, the exiles and fugitives of the Vatican were seldom long, or far, distant from the metropolis; but in the beginning of the fourteenth century, the apostolic throne was transported, as it might seem forever, from the Tyber to the Rhône; and the cause of the transmigration may be deduced from the furious contest between Boniface the Eighth and the

king of France. [77] The spiritual arms of excommunication and interdict were repulsed by the union of the three estates, and the privileges of the Gallican church; but the pope was not prepared against the carnal weapons which Philip the Fair had courage to employ. As the pope resided at Anagni, without the suspicion of danger, his palace and person were assaulted by three hundred horse, who had been secretly levied by william of Nogaret, a French minister, and Sciarra Colonna, of a noble but hostile family of Rome. The cardinals fled; the inhabitants of anagni were seduced from their allegiance and gratitude; but the dauntless Boniface, unarmed and alone, seated himself in his chair, and awaited, like the conscript fathers of old, the swords of the Gauls.

Nogaret, a foreign adversary, was content to execute the orders of his

master: by the domestic enmity of Colonna, he was insulted with words and blows; and during a confinement of three days his life was threatened by the hardships which they inflicted on the obstinacy which they provoked. Their strange delay gave time and courage to the adherents of the church, who rescued him from sacrilegious violence; but

his imperious soul was wounded in the vital part; and Boniface expired at Rome in a frenzy of rage and revenge. His memory is stained with the glaring vices of avarice and pride; nor has the courage of a martyr

promoted this ecclesiastical champion to the honors of a saint; a

magnanimous sinner, (say the chronicles of the times,) who entered like a fox, reigned like a lion, and died like a dog. He was succeeded by benedict the Eleventh, the mildest of mankind. Yet he excommunicated the

impious emissaries of Philip, and devoted the city and people of Anagni by a tremendous curse, whose effects are still visible to the eyes of

superstition. [78]

[Footnote 76: Romani autem non valentes nec volentes ultra suam celare cupiditatem gravissimam, contra papam movere cperunt questionem, exigentes ab eo urgentissime omnia quæ subierant per ejus absentiam damna et jacturas, videlicet in hispitiis locandis, in mercimoniis,

in usuris, in redditibus, in provisionibus, et in aliis modis

innumerabilibus. Quòd cum audisset papa, præcordialiter ingemuit, et se comperiens \_muscipulatum\_, &c., Matt. Paris, p. 757. For the ordinary

history of the popes, their life and death, their residence and absence,

it is enough to refer to the ecclesiastical annalists, Spondanus and fleury.]

[Footnote 77: Besides the general historians of the church of Italy and

of France, we possess a valuable treatise composed by a learned friend

of Thuanus, which his last and best editors have published in the appendix (Histoire particulière du grand Différend entre Boniface VIII et Philippe le Bel, par Pierre du Puis, tom. vii. P. xi. p. 61--82.)]

[Footnote 78: It is difficult to know whether Labat (tom. iv. p. 53--57) be in jest or in earnest, when he supposes that Anagni still feels the weight of this curse, and that the cornfields, or vineyards, or

olive-trees, are annually blasted by Nature, the obsequious handmaid of the popes.]

chapter LXIX: State Of Rome From The Twelfth Century.--Part IV.

after his decease, the tedious and equal suspense of the conclave was fixed by the dexterity of the French faction. A specious offer was made and accepted, that, in the term of forty days, they would elect one

of the three candidates who should be named by their opponents. The archbishop of Bourdeaux, a furious enemy of his king and country, was the first on the list; but his ambition was known; and his conscience

obeyed the calls of fortune and the commands of a benefactor, who had been informed by a swift messenger that the choice of a pope was now

in his hands. The terms were regulated in a private interview; and with

such speed and secrecy was the business transacted, that the unanimous conclave applauded the elevation of Clement the Fifth. [79] The cardinals

of both parties were soon astonished by a summons to attend him beyond the Alps; from whence, as they soon discovered, they must never hope to return. He was engaged, by promise and affection, to prefer the

residence of France; and, after dragging his court through Poitou and

Gascony, and devouring, by his expense, the cities and convents on the

road, he finally reposed at Avignon, [80] which flourished above

seventy years [81] the seat of the Roman pontiff and the metropolis of christendom. By land, by sea, by the Rhône, the position of Avignon was

on all sides accessible; the southern provinces of France do not yield to Italy itself; new palaces arose for the accommodation of the pope and cardinals; and the arts of luxury were soon attracted by the treasures

of the church. They were already possessed of the adjacent territory, the Venaissin county, [82] a populous and fertile spot; and the

sovereignty of Avignon was afterwards purchased from the youth and distress of Jane, the first queen of Naples and countess of Provence, for the inadequate price of fourscore thousand florins. [83] Under the shadow of a French monarchy, amidst an obedient people, the popes enjoyed an honorable and tranquil state, to which they long had been

strangers: but Italy deplored their absence; and Rome, in solitude and

poverty, might repent of the ungovernable freedom which had driven from the Vatican the successor of St. Peter. Her repentance was tardy and fruitless: after the death of the old members, the sacred college was filled with French cardinals, [84] who beheld Rome and Italy with abhorrence and contempt, and perpetuated a series of national, and even provincial, popes, attached by the most indissoluble ties to their

native country.

[Footnote 79: See, in the Chronicle of Giovanni Villani, (l. viii. c. 63, 64, 80, in Muratori, tom. xiii.,) the imprisonment of Boniface

VIII., and the election of Clement V., the last of which, like most anecdotes, is embarrassed with some difficulties.]

[Footnote 80: The original lives of the eight popes of Avignon, Clement

V., John XXII., Benedict XI., Clement VI., Innocent VI., Urban V.,

Gregory XI., and Clement VII., are published by Stephen Baluze, (Vitæ

Paparum Avenionensium; Paris, 1693, 2 vols. in 4to.,) with copious and elaborate notes, and a second volume of acts and documents. With the true zeal of an editor and a patriot, he devoutly justifies or excuses the characters of his countrymen.]

[Footnote 81: The exile of Avignon is compared by the Italians with babylon, and the Babylonish captivity. Such furious metaphors, more

suitable to the ardor of Petrarch than to the judgment of Muratori, are gravely refuted in Baluze's preface. The abbé de Sade is distracted between the love of Petrarch and of his country. Yet he modestly pleads, that many of the local inconveniences of Avignon are now removed; and

many of the vices against which the poet declaims, had been imported with the Roman court by the strangers of Italy, (tom. i. p. 23--28.)]

[Footnote 82: The comtat Venaissin was ceded to the popes in 1273 by

Philip III. king of France, after he had inherited the dominions of the count of Thoulouse. Forty years before, the heresy of Count Raymond had

given them a pretence of seizure, and they derived some obscure claim from the xith century to some lands citra Rhodanum, (Valesii Notitia

Galliarum, p. 495, 610. Longuerue, Description de la France, tom. i. p.

376--381.)]

[Footnote 83: If a possession of four centuries were not itself a title,

such objections might annul the bargain; but the purchase money must be refunded, for indeed it was paid. Civitatem Avenionem emit.... per ejusmodi venditionem pecuniâ redundates, &c., (iida Vita Clement. VI. in baluz. tom. i. p. 272. Muratori, Script. tom. iii. P. ii. p. 565.) The

only temptation for Jane and her second husband was ready money, and without it they could not have returned to the throne of Naples.]

[Footnote 84: Clement V immediately promoted ten cardinals, nine French and one English, (Vita ivta, p. 63, et Baluz. p. 625, &c.) In 1331, the

pope refused two candidates recommended by the king of France, quod xx. cardinales, de quibus xvii. de regno Franciæ originem traxisse noscuntur

in memorato collegio existant, (Thomassin, Discipline de l'Eglise, tom.

i. p. 1281.)]

the progress of industry had produced and enriched the Italian

republics: the æra of their liberty is the most flourishing period of

population and agriculture, of manufactures and commerce; and their

mechanic labors were gradually refined into the arts of elegance and

genius. But the position of Rome was less favorable, the territory less fruitful: the character of the inhabitants was debased by indolence and elated by pride; and they fondly conceived that the tribute of subjects

must forever nourish the metropolis of the church and empire. This

prejudice was encouraged in some degree by the resort of pilgrims to the shrines of the apostles; and the last legacy of the popes, the

institution of the holy year, [85] was not less beneficial to the people than to the clergy. Since the loss of Palestine, the gift of plenary

indulgences, which had been applied to the crusades, remained without an object; and the most valuable treasure of the church was sequestered above eight years from public circulation. A new channel was opened by the diligence of Boniface the Eighth, who reconciled the vices of ambition and avarice; and the pope had sufficient learning to recollect and revive the secular games which were celebrated in Rome at the conclusion of every century. To sound without danger the depth of

popular credulity, a sermon was seasonably pronounced, a report was artfully scattered, some aged witnesses were produced; and on the first

of January of the year thirteen hundred, the church of St. Peter was crowded with the faithful, who demanded the customary indulgence of the holy time. The pontiff, who watched and irritated their devout

impatience, was soon persuaded by ancient testimony of the justice of their claim; and he proclaimed a plenary absolution to all Catholics who, in the course of that year, and at every similar period, should

respectfully visit the apostolic churches of St. Peter and St. Paul. The welcome sound was propagated through Christendom; and at first from the

nearest provinces of Italy, and at length from the remote kingdoms of

Hungary and Britain, the highways were thronged with a swarm of pilgrims who sought to expiate their sins in a journey, however costly or

laborious, which was exempt from the perils of military service. All exceptions of rank or sex, of age or infirmity, were forgotten in the common transport; and in the streets and churches many persons were trampled to death by the eagerness of devotion. The calculation of their

numbers could not be easy nor accurate; and they have probably been

magnified by a dexterous clergy, well apprised of the contagion of example: yet we are assured by a judicious historian, who assisted at the ceremony, that Rome was never replenished with less than two hundred thousand strangers; and another spectator has fixed at two millions the total concourse of the year. A trifling oblation from each individual would accumulate a royal treasure; and two priests stood night and day, with rakes in their hands, to collect, without counting, the heaps of

gold and silver that were poured on the altar of St. Paul. [86] It was fortunately a season of peace and plenty; and if forage was scarce, if

inns and lodgings were extravagantly dear, an inexhaustible supply of bread and wine, of meat and fish, was provided by the policy of Boniface and the venal hospitality of the Romans. From a city without trade or

industry, all casual riches will speedily evaporate: but the avarice and envy of the next generation solicited Clement the Sixth [87] to anticipate the distant period of the century. The gracious pontiff complied with their wishes; afforded Rome this poor consolation for his

loss; and justified the change by the name and practice of the

Mosaic Jubilee. [88] His summons was obeyed; and the number, zeal, and

liberality of the pilgrims did not yield to the primitive festival. But they encountered the triple scourge of war, pestilence, and famine:

many wives and virgins were violated in the castles of Italy; and many

strangers were pillaged or murdered by the savage Romans, no longer

moderated by the presence of their bishops. [89] To the impatience of the

popes we may ascribe the successive reduction to fifty, thirty-three, and twenty-five years; although the second of these terms is commensurate with the life of Christ. The profusion of indulgences, the

revolt of the Protestants, and the decline of superstition, have much diminished the value of the jubilee; yet even the nineteenth and

last festival was a year of pleasure and profit to the Romans; and a

philosophic smile will not disturb the triumph of the priest or the

happiness of the people. [90]

[Footnote 85: Our primitive account is from Cardinal James Caietan,

(Maxima Bibliot. Patrum, tom. xxv.;) and I am at a loss to determine whether the nephew of Boniface VIII. be a fool or a knave: the uncle is a much clearer character.]

[Footnote 86: See John Villani (l. viii. c. 36) in the xiith, and the Chronicon Astense, in the xith volume (p. 191, 192) of Muratori's collection Papa innumerabilem pecuniam ab eisdem accepit, nam duo clerici, cum rastris, &c.]

[Footnote 87: The two bulls of Boniface VIII. and Clement VI. are

inserted on the Corpus Juris Canonici, Extravagant. (Commun. l. v. tit.

ix c 1, 2.)]

[Footnote 88: The sabbatic years and jubilees of the Mosaic law, (Car.

Sigon. de Republica Hebræorum, Opp. tom. iv. l. iii. c. 14, 14, p. 151,

152,) the suspension of all care and labor, the periodical release of

lands, debts, servitude, &c., may seem a noble idea, but the execution would be impracticable in a \_profane\_ republic; and I should be glad to

learn that this ruinous festival was observed by the Jewish people.]

[Footnote 89: See the Chronicle of Matteo Villani, (l. i. c. 56,) in the

xivth vol. of Muratori, and the Mémoires sur la Vie de Pétrarque, tom.

iii. p. 75--89.]

[Footnote 90: The subject is exhausted by M. Chais, a French minister at the Hague, in his Lettres Historiques et Dogmatiques, sur les Jubilés et es Indulgences; la Haye, 1751, 3 vols. in 12mo.; an elaborate and

pleasing work, had not the author preferred the character of a polemic to that of a philosopher.]

In the beginning of the eleventh century, Italy was exposed to the feudal tyranny, alike oppressive to the sovereign and the people. The

rights of human nature were vindicated by her numerous republics, who

soon extended their liberty and dominion from the city to the adjacent country. The sword of the nobles was broken; their slaves were enfranchised; their castles were demolished; they assumed the habits of

society and obedience; their ambition was confined to municipal honors, and in the proudest aristocracy of Venice on Genoa, each patrician was

subject to the laws. [91] But the feeble and disorderly government of

Rome was unequal to the task of curbing her rebellious sons, who scorned the authority of the magistrate within and without the walls. It was

no longer a civil contention between the nobles and plebeians for the

government of the state: the barons asserted in arms their personal

independence; their palaces and castles were fortified against a siege; and their private quarrels were maintained by the numbers of their

vassals and retainers. In origin and affection, they were aliens to their country: [92] and a genuine Roman, could such have been produced,

might have renounced these haughty strangers, who disdained the appellation of citizens, and proudly styled themselves the princes, of

Rome. [93] After a dark series of revolutions, all records of pedigree were lost; the distinction of surnames was abolished; the blood of the

nations was mingled in a thousand channels; and the Goths and Lombards, the Greeks and Franks, the Germans and Normans, had obtained the fairest

possessions by royal bounty, or the prerogative of valor. These examples

might be readily presumed; but the elevation of a Hebrew race to the

rank of senators and consuls is an event without a parallel in the long captivity of these miserable exiles. [94] In the time of Leo the Ninth, a wealthy and learned Jew was converted to Christianity, and honored at

his baptism with the name of his godfather, the reigning Pope. The zeal and courage of Peter the son of Leo were signalized in the cause of

Gregory the Seventh, who intrusted his faithful adherent with the

government of Adrian's mole, the tower of Crescentius, or, as it is now called, the castle of St. Angelo. Both the father and the son were the

parents of a numerous progeny: their riches, the fruits of usury, were

shared with the noblest families of the city; and so extensive was their alliance, that the grandson of the proselyte was exalted by the weight

of his kindred to the throne of St. Peter. A majority of the clergy and

people supported his cause: he reigned several years in the Vatican; and it is only the eloquence of St. Bernard, and the final triumph of

Innocence the Second, that has branded Anacletus with the epithet of antipope. After his defeat and death, the posterity of Leo is no longer conspicuous; and none will be found of the modern nobles ambitious of descending from a Jewish stock. It is not my design to enumerate the

Roman families which have failed at different periods, or those which are continued in different degrees of splendor to the present time. [95] the old consular line of the \_Frangipani\_ discover their name in the

generous act of \_breaking\_ or dividing bread in a time of famine; and

such benevolence is more truly glorious than to have enclosed, with their allies the \_Corsi\_, a spacious quarter of the city in the chains

of their fortifications; the \_Savelli\_, as it should seem a Sabine race,

have maintained their original dignity; the obsolete surname of the

\_Capizucchi\_ is inscribed on the coins of the first senators; the

\_Conti\_ preserve the honor, without the estate, of the counts of Signia; and the \_Annibaldi\_ must have been very ignorant, or very modest, if they had not descended from the Carthaginian hero. [96]

[Footnote 91: Muratori (Dissert. xlvii.) alleges the Annals of Florence,

Padua, Genoa, &c., the analogy of the rest, the evidence of Otho of frisingen, (de Gest. Fred. I. l. ii. c. 13,) and the submission of the

marquis of Este.]

[Footnote 92: As early as the year 824, the emperor Lothaire I. found it expedient to interrogate the Roman people, to learn from each individual by what national law he chose to be governed. (Muratori, Dissertat

xxii.)]

[Footnote 93: Petrarch attacks these foreigners, the tyrants of Rome,

in a declamation or epistle, full of bold truths and absurd pedantry, in which he applies the maxims, and even prejudices, of the old republic to the state of the xivth century, (Mémoires, tom. iii. p. 157--169.)]

[Footnote 94: The origin and adventures of the Jewish family are noticed by Pagi, (Critica, tom. iv. p. 435, A.D. 1124, No. 3, 4,) who draws

his information from the Chronographus Maurigniacensis, and Arnulphus

Sagiensis de Schismate, (in Muratori, Script. Ital. tom. iii. P. i. p.

423--432.) The fact must in some degree be true; yet I could wish that

it had been coolly related, before it was turned into a reproach against the antipope.]

[Footnote 95: Muratori has given two dissertations (xli. and xlii.) to the names, surnames, and families of Italy. Some nobles, who glory

in their domestic fables, may be offended with his firm and temperate criticism; yet surely some ounces of pure gold are of more value than

many pounds of base metal.]

[Footnote 96: The cardinal of St. George, in his poetical, or rather

metrical history of the election and coronation of Boniface VIII.,

(Muratori Script. Ital. tom. iii. P. i. p. 641, &c.,) describes the

state and families of Rome at the coronation of Boniface VIII., (A.D.

1295.)

Interea titulis redimiti sanguine et armis

Illustresque viri Romanâ a stirpe trahentes

Nomen in emeritos tantæ virtutis honores

Insulerant sese medios festumque colebant

Aurata fulgente togâ, sociante catervâ.

Ex ipsis devota domus præstantis ab \_Ursâ\_

Ecclesiæ, vultumque gerens demissius altum

Festa \_Columna\_ jocis, necnon \_Sabellia\_ mitis;

Stephanides senior, \_Comites\_, \_Annibalica\_ proles,

Præfectusque urbis magnum sine viribus nomen.

(l. ii. c. 5, 100, p. 647, 648.) the ancient statutes of Rome (l. iii. c. 59, p. 174, 175) distinguish eleven families of barons, who are obliged to swear in concilio communi, before the senator, that they would not harbor or protect any

malefactors, outlaws, &c.--a feeble security!]

but among, perhaps above, the peers and princes of the city, I distinguish the rival houses of Colonna and Ursini, whose private story

is an essential part of the annals of modern Rome. I. The name and arms

of Colonna [97] have been the theme of much doubtful etymology; nor have the orators and antiquarians overlooked either Trajan's pillar, or the columns of Hercules, or the pillar of Christ's flagellation, or the

luminous column that guided the Israelites in the desert. Their first

historical appearance in the year eleven hundred and four attests the

power and antiquity, while it explains the simple meaning, of the name. by the usurpation of Cavæ, the Colonna provoked the arms of Paschal the

Second; but they lawfully held in the Campagna of Rome the hereditary fiefs of Zagarola and \_Colonna\_; and the latter of these towns was

probably adorned with some lofty pillar, the relic of a villa or temple.

[98] They likewise possessed one moiety of the neighboring city of tusculum, a strong presumption of their descent from the counts of tusculum, who in the tenth century were the tyrants of the apostolic

see. According to their own and the public opinion, the primitive and

remote source was derived from the banks of the Rhine; [99] and the

sovereigns of Germany were not ashamed of a real or fabulous affinity with a noble race, which in the revolutions of seven hundred years has been often illustrated by merit and always by fortune. [100] About the end of the thirteenth century, the most powerful branch was composed of an uncle and six bothers, all conspicuous in arms, or in the honors of the church. Of these, Peter was elected senator of Rome, introduced to the Capitol in a triumphal car, and hailed in some vain acclamations with the title of Cæsar; while John and Stephen were declared marquis of ancona and count of Romagna, by Nicholas the Fourth, a patron so partial to their family, that he has been delineated in satirical portraits,

imprisoned as it were in a hollow pillar. [101] After his decease their

haughty behavior provoked the displeasure of the most implacable

of mankind. The two cardinals, the uncle and the nephew, denied the election of Boniface the Eighth; and the Colonna were oppressed for a

moment by his temporal and spiritual arms. [102] He proclaimed a crusade against his personal enemies; their estates were confiscated; their fortresses on either side of the Tyber were besieged by the troops

of St. Peter and those of the rival nobles; and after the ruin of

Palestrina or Præneste, their principal seat, the ground was marked with a ploughshare, the emblem of perpetual desolation. Degraded, banished,

proscribed, the six brothers, in disguise and danger, wandered over europe without renouncing the hope of deliverance and revenge. In this double hope, the French court was their surest asylum; they prompted and directed the enterprise of Philip; and I should praise their

magnanimity, had they respected the misfortune and courage of the captive tyrant. His civil acts were annulled by the Roman people, who

restored the honors and possessions of the Colonna; and some estimate

may be formed of their wealth by their losses, of their losses by the damages of one hundred thousand gold florins which were granted them against the accomplices and heirs of the deceased pope. All the

spiritual censures and disqualifications were abolished [103] by his

prudent successors; and the fortune of the house was more firmly established by this transient hurricane. The boldness of Sciarra Colonna was signalized in the captivity of Boniface, and long afterwards in the coronation of Lewis of Bavaria; and by the gratitude of the emperor, the

pillar in their arms was encircled with a royal crown. But the first of the family in fame and merit was the elder Stephen, whom Petrarch loved and esteemed as a hero superior to his own times, and not unworthy

of ancient Rome. Persecution and exile displayed to the nations his abilities in peace and war; in his distress he was an object, not of

pity, but of reverence; the aspect of danger provoked him to avow his

name and country; and when he was asked, "Where is now your fortress?"

he laid his hand on his heart, and answered, "Here." He supported with the same virtue the return of prosperity; and, till the ruin of his declining age, the ancestors, the character, and the children of Stephen colonna, exalted his dignity in the Roman republic, and at the court of avignon. II. The Ursini migrated from Spoleto; [104] the sons of Ursus, as they are styled in the twelfth century, from some eminent person, who is only known as the father of their race. But they were soon distinguished among the nobles of Rome, by the number and bravery of their kinsmen, the strength of their towers, the honors of the senate and sacred college, and the elevation of two popes, Celestin the Third and Nicholas the Third, of their name and lineage. [105] Their riches may be accused as an early abuse of nepotism: the estates of St. Peter were alienated in their favor by the liberal Celestin; [106] and Nicholas was ambitious for their sake to solicit the alliance of monarchs; to found

new kingdoms in Lombardy and Tuscany; and to invest them with the

perpetual office of senators of Rome. All that has been observed of the greatness of the Colonna will likewise redeemed to the glory of the Ursini, their constant and equal antagonists in the long

hereditary feud, which distracted above two hundred and fifty years the ecclesiastical state. The jealously of preeminence and power was the true ground of their quarrel; but as a specious badge of distinction, the Colonna embraced the name of Ghibelines and the party of the empire; the Ursini espoused the title of Guelphs and the cause of the church. the eagle and the keys were displayed in their adverse banners; and the two factions of Italy most furiously raged when the origin and nature

of the dispute were long since forgotten. [107] After the retreat of the popes to Avignon they disputed in arms the vacant republic; and the mischiefs of discord were perpetuated by the wretched compromise of electing each year two rival senators. By their private hostilities the city and country were desolated, and the fluctuating balance inclined with their alternate success. But none of either family had fallen by the sword, till the most renowned champion of the Ursini was surprised and slain by the younger Stephen Colonna. [108] His triumph is stained with the reproach of violating the truce; their defeat was basely avenged by the assassination, before the church door, of an innocent boy and his two servants. Yet the victorious Colonna, with an annual colleague, was declared senator of Rome during the term of five years. and the muse of Petrarch inspired a wish, a hope, a prediction, that the

generous youth, the son of his venerable hero, would restore Rome and

Italy to their pristine glory; that his justice would extirpate the wolves and lions, the serpents and \_bears\_, who labored to subvert the eternal basis of the marble column. [109]

[Footnote 97: It is pity that the Colonna themselves have not favored the world with a complete and critical history of their illustrious

house. I adhere to Muratori, (Dissert. xlii. tom. iii. p. 647, 648.)]

[Footnote 98: Pandulph. Pisan. in Vit. Paschal. II. in Muratori, Script.

Ital. tom. iii. P. i. p. 335. The family has still great possessions in the Campagna of Rome; but they have alienated to the Rospigliosi this

original fief of \_Colonna\_, (Eschinard, p. 258, 259.)]

[Footnote 99:

Te longinqua dedit tellus et pascua Rheni,

says Petrarch; and, in 1417, a duke of Guelders and Juliers acknowledges

(Lenfant, Hist. du Concile de Constance, tom. ii. p. 539) his descent from the ancestors of Martin V., (Otho Colonna:) but the royal author

of the Memoirs of Brandenburg observes, that the sceptre in his arms

has been confounded with the column. To maintain the Roman origin of the Colonna, it was ingeniously supposed (Diario di Monaldeschi, in the Script. Ital. tom. xii. p. 533) that a cousin of the emperor Nero escaped from the city, and founded Mentz in Germany.]

[Footnote 100: I cannot overlook the Roman triumph of ovation on Marce antonio Colonna, who had commanded the pope's galleys at the naval

victory of Lepanto, (Thuan. Hist. l. 7, tom. iii. p. 55, 56. Muret.

Oratio x. Opp. tom. i. p. 180--190.)]

[Footnote 101: Muratori, Annali d'Italia, tom. x. p. 216, 220.]

[Footnote 102: Petrarch's attachment to the Colonna has authorized the abbé de Sade to expatiate on the state of the family in the fourteenth century, the persecution of Boniface VIII., the character of Stephen and

his sons, their quarrels with the Ursini, &c., (Mémoires sur Pétrarque, tom. i. p. 98--110, 146--148, 174--176, 222--230, 275--280.) His criticism often rectifies the hearsay stories of Villani, and the errors

of the less diligent moderns. I understand the branch of Stephen to be

now extinct.]

[Footnote 103: Alexander III. had declared the Colonna who adhered to the emperor Frederic I. incapable of holding any ecclesiastical benefice, (Villani, l. v. c. 1;) and the last stains of annual excommunication were purified by Sixtus V., (Vita di Sisto V. tom. iii.

p. 416.) Treason, sacrilege, and proscription are often the best titles

of ancient nobility.]

[Footnote 104:

--------Vallis te proxima misit,

Appenninigenæ qua prata virentia sylvæ

Spoletana metunt armenta gregesque protervi.

Monaldeschi (tom. xii. Script. Ital. p. 533) gives the Ursini a French

origin, which may be remotely true.]

[Footnote 105: In the metrical life of Celestine V. by the cardinal of

St. George (Muratori, tom. iii. P. i. p. 613, &c.,) we find a luminous, and not inelegant, passage, (l. i. c. 3, p. 203 &c.:)--

--------genuit quem nobilis Ursæ (\_Ursi?\_)

Progenies, Romana domus, veterataque magnis

Fascibus in clero, pompasque experta senatûs,

Bellorumque manû grandi stipata parentum

Cardineos apices necnon fastigia dudum

Papatûs \_iterata\_ tenens.

Muratori (Dissert. xlii. tom. iii.) observes, that the first Ursini

pontificate of Celestine III. was unknown: he is inclined to read \_Ursi\_

progenies.]

[Footnote 106: Filii Ursi, quondam Clestini papæ nepotes, de bonis ecclesiæ Romanæ ditati, (Vit. Innocent. III. in Muratori, Script. tom.

iii. P. i.) The partial prodigality of Nicholas III. is more conspicuous

in Villani and Muratori. Yet the Ursini would disdain the nephews of a

\_modern\_ pope.]

[Footnote 107: In his fifty-first Dissertation on the Italian antiquities, Muratori explains the factions of the Guelphs and

Ghibelines.]

[Footnote 108: Petrarch (tom. i. p. 222--230) has celebrated this

victory according to the Colonna; but two contemporaries, a Florentine

(Giovanni Villani, l. x. c. 220) and a Roman, (Ludovico Monaldeschi, p.

532--534,) are less favorable to their arms.]

[Footnote 109: The abbé de Sade (tom. i. Notes, p. 61--66) has applied the vith Canzone of Petrarch, \_Spirto Gentil\_, &c., to Stephen Colonna the younger:

Orsi, lupi, leoni, aquile e serpi

Al una gran marmorea \_colexna\_

Fanno noja sovente e à se danno. 11]

chapter LXX: Final Settlement Of The Ecclesiastical State.--Part I.

Character And Coronation Of Petrarch.--Restoration Of The

Freedom And Government Of Rome By The Tribune Rienzi.--His

Virtues And Vices, His Expulsion And Death.--Return Of The

Popes From Avignon.--Great Schism Of The West.--Reunion Of

The Latin Church.--Last Struggles Of Roman Liberty.--

Statutes Of Rome.--Final Settlement Of The Ecclesiastical

State.

In the apprehension of modern times, Petrarch [1] is the Italian songster

of Laura and love. In the harmony of his Tuscan rhymes, Italy applauds,

or rather adores, the father of her lyric poetry; and his verse, or at least his name, is repeated by the enthusiasm, or affectation, of amorous sensibility. Whatever may be the private taste of a stranger,

his slight and superficial knowledge should humbly acquiesce in the

judgment of a learned nation; yet I may hope or presume, that the

Italians do not compare the tedious uniformity of sonnets and elegies with the sublime compositions of their epic muse, the original wildness

of Dante, the regular beauties of Tasso, and the boundless variety

of the incomparable Ariosto. The merits of the lover I am still less

qualified to appreciate: nor am I deeply interested in a metaphysical

passion for a nymph so shadowy, that her existence has been questioned;

[2] for a matron so prolific, [3] that she was delivered of eleven

legitimate children, [4] while her amorous swain sighed and sung at the fountain of Vaucluse. [5] But in the eyes of Petrarch, and those of his

graver contemporaries, his love was a sin, and Italian verse a frivolous amusement. His Latin works of philosophy, poetry, and eloquence, established his serious reputation, which was soon diffused from Avignon

over France and Italy: his friends and disciples were multiplied in every city; and if the ponderous volume of his writings [6] be now abandoned to a long repose, our gratitude must applaud the man, who by

precept and example revived the spirit and study of the Augustan age. from his earliest youth, Petrarch aspired to the poetic crown. The academical honors of the three faculties had introduced a royal degree of master or doctor in the art of poetry; [7] and the title of

poet-laureate, which custom, rather than vanity, perpetuates in the english court, [8] was first invented by the Cæsars of Germany. In the

musical games of antiquity, a prize was bestowed on the victor: [9] the belief that Virgil and Horace had been crowned in the Capitol inflamed the emulation of a Latin bard; [10] and the laurel [11] was endeared to the lover by a verbal resemblance with the name of his mistress. The

value of either object was enhanced by the difficulties of the pursuit; and if the virtue or prudence of Laura was inexorable, [12] he enjoyed, and might boast of enjoying, the nymph of poetry. His vanity was not

of the most delicate kind, since he applauds the success of his own

\_labors\_; his name was popular; his friends were active; the open or

secret opposition of envy and prejudice was surmounted by the dexterity

of patient merit. In the thirty-sixth year of his age, he was solicited to accept the object of his wishes; and on the same day, in the solitude

of Vaucluse, he received a similar and solemn invitation from the senate

of Rome and the university of Paris. The learning of a theological

school, and the ignorance of a lawless city, were alike unqualified to bestow the ideal though immortal wreath which genius may obtain from the free applause of the public and of posterity: but the candidate dismissed this troublesome reflection; and after some moments of complacency and suspense, preferred the summons of the metropolis of the world.

[Footnote 1: The Mémoires sur la Vie de François Pétrarque, (Amsterdam,

1764, 1767, 3 vols. in 4to.,) form a copious, original, and entertaining work, a labor of love, composed from the accurate study of Petrarch and his contemporaries; but the hero is too often lost in the general

history of the age, and the author too often languishes in the affectation of politeness and gallantry. In the preface to his first

volume, he enumerates and weighs twenty Italian biographers, who have

professedly treated of the same subject.]

[Footnote 2: The allegorical interpretation prevailed in the xvth century; but the wise commentators were not agreed whether they should

understand by Laura, religion, or virtue, or the blessed virgin,

or--------. See the prefaces to the first and second volume.]

[Footnote 3: Laure de Noves, born about the year 1307, was married

in January 1325, to Hugues de Sade, a noble citizen of Avignon, whose

jealousy was not the effect of love, since he married a second wife within seven months of her death, which happened the 6th of April, 1348,

precisely one-and-twenty years after Petrarch had seen and loved her.]

[Footnote 4: Corpus crebris partubus exhaustum: from one of these is

issued, in the tenth degree, the abbé de Sade, the fond and grateful biographer of Petrarch; and this domestic motive most probably suggested the idea of his work, and urged him to inquire into every circumstance that could affect the history and character of his grandmother, (see

particularly tom. i. p. 122--133, notes, p. 7--58, tom. ii. p. 455--495

not. p. 76--82.)]

[Footnote 5: Vaucluse, so familiar to our English travellers, is described from the writings of Petrarch, and the local knowledge of

his biographer, (Mémoires, tom. i. p. 340--359.) It was, in truth, the

retreat of a hermit; and the moderns are much mistaken, if they place

Laura and a happy lover in the grotto.]

[Footnote 6: Of 1250 pages, in a close print, at Basil in the xvith century, but without the date of the year. The abbé de Sade calls aloud for a new edition of Petrarch's Latin works; but I much doubt whether it would redound to the profit of the bookseller, or the amusement of the

public.]

[Footnote 7: Consult Selden's Titles of Honor, in his works, (vol. iii.

p. 457--466.) A hundred years before Petrarch, St. Francis received the visit of a poet, qui ab imperatore fuerat coronatus et exinde rex

versuum dictus.]

[Footnote 8: From Augustus to Louis, the muse has too often been false and venal: but I much doubt whether any age or court can produce a

similar establishment of a stipendiary poet, who in every reign, and at all events, is bound to furnish twice a year a measure of praise and verse, such as may be sung in the chapel, and, I believe, in the

presence, of the sovereign. I speak the more freely, as the best time for abolishing this ridiculous custom is while the prince is a man of

virtue and the poet a man of genius.]

[Footnote 9: Isocrates (in Panegyrico, tom. i. p. 116, 117, edit. battie, Cantab. 1729) claims for his native Athens the glory of first

instituting and recommending the alwnaV--kai ta aqla megista--mh

monon tacouV kai rwmhV, alla kai logwn kai gnwmhV. The example of the

Panathenæa was imitated at Delphi; but the Olympic games were ignorant

of a musical crown, till it was extorted by the vain tyranny of Nero,

(Sueton. in Nerone, c. 23; Philostrat. apud Casaubon ad locum; dion Cassius, or Xiphilin, l. lxiii. p. 1032, 1041. Potter's Greek antiquities, vol. i. p. 445, 450.)]

[Footnote 10: The Capitoline games (certamen quinquenale, \_musicum\_, equestre, gymnicum) were instituted by Domitian (Sueton. c. 4) in the year of Christ 86, (Censorin. de Die Natali, c. 18, p. 100, edit.

Havercamp.) and were not abolished in the ivth century, (Ausonius de

Professoribus Burdegal. V.) If the crown were given to superior merit, the exclusion of Statius (Capitolia nostræ inficiata lyræ, Sylv. l. iii.

v. 31) may do honor to the games of the Capitol; but the Latin poets who

lived before Domitian were crowned only in the public opinion.]

[Footnote 11: Petrarch and the senators of Rome were ignorant that the

laurel was not the Capitoline, but the Delphic crown, (Plin. Hist.

Natur p. 39. Hist. Critique de la République des Lettres, tom. i. p.

150--220.) The victors in the Capitol were crowned with a garland of oak eaves, (Martial, l. iv. epigram 54.)]

[Footnote 12: The pious grandson of Laura has labored, and not without

success, to vindicate her immaculate chastity against the censures of the grave and the sneers of the profane, (tom. ii. notes, p. 76--82.)]

the ceremony of his coronation [13] was performed in the Capitol, by

his friend and patron the supreme magistrate of the republic. Twelve

patrician youths were arrayed in scarlet; six representatives of the

most illustrious families, in green robes, with garlands of flowers, accompanied the procession; in the midst of the princes and nobles, the senator, count of Anguillara, a kinsman of the Colonna, assumed his throne; and at the voice of a herald Petrarch arose. After discoursing

on a text of Virgil, and thrice repeating his vows for the prosperity of

Rome, he knelt before the throne, and received from the senator a laurel crown, with a more precious declaration, "This is the reward of merit." the people shouted, "Long life to the Capitol and the poet!" A sonnet in

praise of Rome was accepted as the effusion of genius and gratitude; and after the whole procession had visited the Vatican, the profane wreath was suspended before the shrine of St. Peter. In the act or diploma

[14] which was presented to Petrarch, the title and prerogatives of

poet-laureate are revived in the Capitol, after the lapse of thirteen

hundred years; and he receives the perpetual privilege of wearing, at

his choice, a crown of laurel, ivy, or myrtle, of assuming the poetic

habit, and of teaching, disputing, interpreting, and composing, in all

places whatsoever, and on all subjects of literature. The grant was

ratified by the authority of the senate and people; and the character of citizen was the recompense of his affection for the Roman name. They did

him honor, but they did him justice. In the familiar society of Cicero and Livy, he had imbibed the ideas of an ancient patriot; and his ardent fancy kindled every idea to a sentiment, and every sentiment to a passion. The aspect of the seven hills and their majestic ruins confirmed these lively impressions; and he loved a country by whose

liberal spirit he had been crowned and adopted. The poverty and debasement of Rome excited the indignation and pity of her grateful son;

he dissembled the faults of his fellow-citizens; applauded with partial fondness the last of their heroes and matrons; and in the remembrance of the past, in the hopes of the future, was pleased to forget the miseries

of the present time. Rome was still the lawful mistress of the world: the pope and the emperor, the bishop and general, had abdicated their

station by an inglorious retreat to the Rhône and the Danube; but if she could resume her virtue, the republic might again vindicate her liberty and dominion. Amidst the indulgence of enthusiasm and eloquence, [15]

Petrarch, Italy, and Europe, were astonished by a revolution which

realized for a moment his most splendid visions. The rise and fall of the tribune Rienzi will occupy the following pages: [16] the subject is

interesting, the materials are rich, and the glance of a patriot bard

[17] will sometimes vivify the copious, but simple, narrative of the florentine, [18] and more especially of the Roman, historian. [19]

[Footnote 13: The whole process of Petrarch's coronation is accurately described by the abbé de Sade, (tom. i. p. 425--435, tom. ii. p.

1--6, notes, p. 1--13,) from his own writings, and the Roman diary of

Ludovico, Monaldeschi, without mixing in this authentic narrative the

more recent fables of Sannuccio Delbene.]

[Footnote 14: The original act is printed among the Pieces

Justificatives in the Mémoires sur Pétrarque, tom. iii. p. 50--53.]

[Footnote 15: To find the proofs of his enthusiasm for Rome, I need only

request that the reader would open, by chance, either Petrarch, or his french biographer. The latter has described the poet's first visit to

Rome, (tom. i. p. 323--335.) But in the place of much idle rhetoric and

morality, Petrarch might have amused the present and future age with an

original account of the city and his coronation.]

[Footnote 16: It has been treated by the pen of a Jesuit, the P. de cerceau whose posthumous work (Conjuration de Nicolas Gabrini, dit de

Rienzi, Tyran de Rome, en 1347) was published at Paris, 1748, in 12mo. I am indebted to him for some facts and documents in John Hocsemius, canon

of Liege, a contemporary historian, (Fabricius Bibliot. Lat. Med. Ævi, tom. iii. p. 273, tom. iv. p. 85.)]

[Footnote 17: The abbé de Sade, who so freely expatiates on the history

of the xivth century, might treat, as his proper subject, a revolution

in which the heart of Petrarch was so deeply engaged, (Mémoires, tom.

ii. p. 50, 51, 320--417, notes, p. 70--76, tom. iii. p. 221--243,

366--375.) Not an idea or a fact in the writings of Petrarch has

probably escaped him.]

[Footnote 18: Giovanni Villani, l. xii. c. 89, 104, in Muratori, Rerum

Italicarum Scriptores, tom. xiii. p. 969, 970, 981--983.]

[Footnote 19: In his third volume of Italian antiquities, (p. 249--548,)

Muratori has inserted the Fragmenta Historiæ Romanæ ab Anno 1327 usque ad Annum 1354, in the original dialect of Rome or Naples in the xivth century, and a Latin version for the benefit of strangers. It contains the most particular and authentic life of Cola (Nicholas) di Rienzi; which had been printed at Bracciano, 1627, in 4to., under the name of tomaso Fortifiocca, who is only mentioned in this work as having been

punished by the tribune for forgery. Human nature is scarcely capable

of such sublime or stupid impartiality: but whosoever in the author

of these Fragments, he wrote on the spot and at the time, and paints, without design or art, the manners of Rome and the character of the tribune. \* Note: Since the publication of my first edition of Gibbon,

some new and very remarkable documents have been brought to light in a

life of Nicolas Rienzi,--Cola di Rienzo und seine Zeit,--by Dr. Felix

Papencordt. The most important of these documents are letters from

Rienzi to Charles the Fourth, emperor and king of Bohemia, and to the archbishop of Praque; they enter into the whole history of his adventurous career during its first period, and throw a strong light

upon his extraordinary character. These documents were first discovered and made use of, to a certain extent, by Pelzel, the historian of bohemia. The originals have disappeared, but a copy made by Pelzel for

his own use is now in the library of Count Thun at Teschen. There seems

no doubt of their authenticity. Dr. Papencordt has printed the whole in

his Urkunden, with the exception of one long theological paper.--M.

1845.]

In a quarter of the city which was inhabited only by mechanics and Jews, the marriage of an innkeeper and a washer woman produced the future deliverer of Rome. [20] [201] From such parents Nicholas Rienzi Gabrini could inherit neither dignity nor fortune; and the gift of a liberal education, which they painfully bestowed, was the cause of his glory and untimely end. The study of history and eloquence, the writings of cicero, Seneca, Livy, Cæsar, and Valerius Maximus, elevated above his equals and contemporaries the genius of the young plebeian: he perused with indefatigable diligence the manuscripts and marbles of antiquity;

loved to dispense his knowledge in familiar language; and was often

provoked to exclaim, "Where are now these Romans? their virtue, their

justice, their power? why was I not born in those happy times?" [21] When the republic addressed to the throne of Avignon an embassy of the three

orders, the spirit and eloquence of Rienzi recommended him to a place among the thirteen deputies of the commons. The orator had the honor of

haranguing Pope Clement the Sixth, and the satisfaction of conversing with Petrarch, a congenial mind: but his aspiring hopes were chilled by disgrace and poverty and the patriot was reduced to a single garment and the charity of the hospital. [211] From this misery he was relieved by the

sense of merit or the smile of favor; and the employment of apostolic

notary afforded him a daily stipend of five gold florins, a more

honorable and extensive connection, and the right of contrasting, both

in words and actions, his own integrity with the vices of the state. The eloquence of Rienzi was prompt and persuasive: the multitude is always

prone to envy and censure: he was stimulated by the loss of a brother and the impunity of the assassins; nor was it possible to excuse or exaggerate the public calamities. The blessings of peace and justice, for which civil society has been instituted, were banished from Rome: the jealous citizens, who might have endured every personal or pecuniary

injury, were most deeply wounded in the dishonor of their wives and daughters: [22] they were equally oppressed by the arrogance of the

nobles and the corruption of the magistrates; [221] and the abuse of arms

or of laws was the only circumstance that distinguished the lions from the dogs and serpents of the Capitol. These allegorical emblems were

variously repeated in the pictures which Rienzi exhibited in the streets and churches; and while the spectators gazed with curious wonder, the bold and ready orator unfolded the meaning, applied the satire, inflamed their passions, and announced a distant hope of comfort and deliverance. the privileges of Rome, her eternal sovereignty over her princes and

provinces, was the theme of his public and private discourse; and a

monument of servitude became in his hands a title and incentive

of liberty. The decree of the senate, which granted the most ample

prerogatives to the emperor Vespasian, had been inscribed on a copper

plate still extant in the choir of the church of St. John Lateran. [23] A

numerous assembly of nobles and plebeians was invited to this political

lecture, and a convenient theatre was erected for their reception. The

notary appeared in a magnificent and mysterious habit, explained the inscription by a version and commentary, [24] and descanted with eloquence and zeal on the ancient glories of the senate and people, from whom all legal authority was derived. The supine ignorance of the

nobles was incapable of discerning the serious tendency of such

representations: they might sometimes chastise with words and blows the

plebeian reformer; but he was often suffered in the Colonna palace to amuse the company with his threats and predictions; and the modern brutus [25] was concealed under the mask of folly and the character of a buffoon. While they indulged their contempt, the restoration of the

\_good estate\_, his favorite expression, was entertained among the people as a desirable, a possible, and at length as an approaching, event; and while all had the disposition to applaud, some had the courage to assist, their promised deliverer.

[Footnote 20: The first and splendid period of Rienzi, his tribunitian

government, is contained in the xviiith chapter of the Fragments, (p.

399--479,) which, in the new division, forms the iid book of the history

in xxxviii. smaller chapters or sections.]

[Footnote 201: But see in Dr. Papencordt's work, and in Rienzi's own words,

his claim to be a bastard son of the emperor Henry the Seventh, whose intrigue with his mother Rienzi relates with a sort of proud

shamelessness. Compare account by the editor of Dr. Papencordt's work in

Quarterly Review vol. lxix.--M. 1845.]

[Footnote 21: The reader may be pleased with a specimen of the original

idiom: Fò da soa juventutine nutricato di latte de eloquentia, bono

gramatico, megliore rettuorico, autorista bravo. Deh como et quanto era

veloce leitore! moito usava Tito Livio, Seneca, et Tullio, et Balerio

Massimo, moito li dilettava le magnificentie di Julio Cesare raccontare. tutta la die se speculava negl' intagli di marmo lequali iaccio intorno

Roma. Non era altri che esso, che sapesse lejere li antichi pataffii. tutte scritture antiche vulgarizzava; quesse fiure di marmo justamente

interpretava. On come spesso diceva, "Dove suono quelli buoni Romani? dove ene loro somma justitia? poleramme trovare in tempo che quessi fiuriano!"]

[Footnote 211: Sir J. Hobhouse published (in his Illustrations of Childe

Harold) Rienzi's joyful letter to the people of Rome on the apparently favorable termination of this mission.--M. 1845.]

[Footnote 22: Petrarch compares the jealousy of the Romans with the easy temper of the husbands of Avignon, (Mémoires, tom. i. p. 330.)]

[Footnote 221: All this Rienzi, writing at a later period to the archbishop

of Prague, attributed to the criminal abandonment of his flock by the

supreme pontiff. See Urkunde apud Papencordt, p. xliv. Quarterly Review,

p. 255.--M. 1845.]

[Footnote 23: The fragments of the \_Lex regia\_ may be found in the

Inscriptions of Gruter, tom. i. p. 242, and at the end of the Tacitus of ernesti, with some learned notes of the editor, tom. ii.]

[Footnote 24: I cannot overlook a stupendous and laughable blunder of

Rienzi. The Lex regia empowers Vespasian to enlarge the Pomrium, a word familiar to every antiquary. It was not so to the tribune; he confounds

it with pom\_a\_rium, an orchard, translates lo Jardino de Roma cioene

Italia, and is copied by the less excusable ignorance of the Latin translator (p. 406) and the French historian, (p. 33.) Even the learning

of Muratori has slumbered over the passage.]

[Footnote 25: Priori (\_Bruto\_) tamen similior, juvenis uterque, longe

ingenio quam cujus simulationem induerat, ut sub hoc obtentû liberator

ille P R. aperiretur tempore suo.... Ille regibus, hic tyrannis contemptus, (Opp. p. 536.) \* Note: Fatcor attamen quod-nunc fatuum. nunc

hystrionem, nunc gravem nunc simplicem, nunc astutum, nunc fervidum,

nunc timidum simulatorem, et dissimulatorem ad hunc caritativum finem,

quem dixi, constitusepius memet ipsum. Writing to an archbishop, (of

Prague,) Rienzi alleges scriptural examples. Saltator coram archa David et insanus apparuit coram Rege; blanda, astuta, et tecta Judith astitit

Holoferni; et astute Jacob meruit benedici, Urkunde xlix.--M. 1845.]

a prophecy, or rather a summons, affixed on the church door of St.

George, was the first public evidence of his designs; a nocturnal assembly of a hundred citizens on Mount Aventine, the first step to their execution. After an oath of secrecy and aid, he represented to the conspirators the importance and facility of their enterprise; that the

nobles, without union or resources, were strong only in the fear nobles,

of their imaginary strength; that all power, as well as right, was in the hands of the people; that the revenues of the apostolical chamber

might relieve the public distress; and that the pope himself would approve their victory over the common enemies of government and freedom. after securing a faithful band to protect his first declaration, he

proclaimed through the city, by sound of trumpet, that on the evening of the following day, all persons should assemble without arms before the church of St. Angelo, to provide for the reestablishment of the good estate. The whole night was employed in the celebration of thirty

masses of the Holy Ghost; and in the morning, Rienzi, bareheaded, but

in complete armor, issued from the church, encompassed by the hundred conspirators. The pope's vicar, the simple bishop of Orvieto, who had been persuaded to sustain a part in this singular ceremony, marched

on his right hand; and three great standards were borne aloft as the emblems of their design. In the first, the banner of \_liberty\_, Rome was

seated on two lions, with a palm in one hand and a globe in the other;

St. Paul, with a drawn sword, was delineated in the banner of \_justice\_; and in the third, St. Peter held the keys of \_concord\_ and \_peace\_.

Rienzi was encouraged by the presence and applause of an innumerable crowd, who understood little, and hoped much; and the procession slowly

rolled forwards from the castle of St. Angelo to the Capitol. His triumph was disturbed by some secret emotions which he labored to

suppress: he ascended without opposition, and with seeming confidence, the citadel of the republic; harangued the people from the balcony; and received the most flattering confirmation of his acts and laws. the nobles, as if destitute of arms and counsels, beheld in silent consternation this strange revolution; and the moment had been prudently chosen, when the most formidable, Stephen Colonna, was absent from the city. On the first rumor, he returned to his palace, affected to despise this plebeian tumult, and declared to the messenger of Rienzi, that at

his leisure he would cast the madman from the windows of the Capitol. the great bell instantly rang an alarm, and so rapid was the tide, so

urgent was the danger, that Colonna escaped with precipitation to the

suburb of St. Laurence: from thence, after a moment's refreshment, he continued the same speedy career till he reached in safety his castle

of Palestrina; lamenting his own imprudence, which had not trampled the

spark of this mighty conflagration. A general and peremptory order was

issued from the Capitol to all the nobles, that they should peaceably

retire to their estates: they obeyed; and their departure secured the tranquillity of the free and obedient citizens of Rome.

but such voluntary obedience evaporates with the first transports of

zeal; and Rienzi felt the importance of justifying his usurpation by a regular form and a legal title. At his own choice, the Roman people would have displayed their attachment and authority, by lavishing on his

head the names of senator or consul, of king or emperor: he preferred the ancient and modest appellation of tribune; [251] the protection of the commons was the essence of that sacred office; and they were ignorant, that it had never been invested with any share in the legislative

or executive powers of the republic. In this character, and with the consent of the Roman, the tribune enacted the most salutary laws for the

restoration and maintenance of the good estate. By the first he fulfils the wish of honesty and inexperience, that no civil suit should be

protracted beyond the term of fifteen days. The danger of frequent

perjury might justify the pronouncing against a false accuser the same

penalty which his evidence would have inflicted: the disorders of the times might compel the legislator to punish every homicide with death, and every injury with equal retaliation. But the execution of justice was hopeless till he had previously abolished the tyranny of the nobles.

It was formally provided, that none, except the supreme magistrate,

should possess or command the gates, bridges, or towers of the state; that no private garrisons should be introduced into the towns or castles

of the Roman territory; that none should bear arms, or presume to fortify their houses in the city or country; that the barons should be responsible for the safety of the highways, and the free passage of

provisions; and that the protection of malefactors and robbers should be expiated by a fine of a thousand marks of silver. But these regulations would have been impotent and nugatory, had not the licentious nobles been awed by the sword of the civil power. A sudden alarm from the bell

of the Capitol could still summon to the standard above twenty thousand

volunteers: the support of the tribune and the laws required a more

regular and permanent force. In each harbor of the coast a vessel was

stationed for the assurance of commerce; a standing militia of three

hundred and sixty horse and thirteen hundred foot was levied, clothed, and paid in the thirteen quarters of the city: and the spirit of a commonwealth may be traced in the grateful allowance of one hundred florins, or pounds, to the heirs of every soldier who lost his life in the service of his country. For the maintenance of the public defence, for the establishment of granaries, for the relief of widows, orphans, and indigent convents, Rienzi applied, without fear of sacrilege, the

revenues of the apostolic chamber: the three branches of hearth-money, the salt-duty, and the customs, were each of the annual produce of one

hundred thousand florins; [26] and scandalous were the abuses, if in four or five months the amount of the salt-duty could be trebled by his

judicious economy. After thus restoring the forces and finances of the republic, the tribune recalled the nobles from their solitary

independence; required their personal appearance in the Capitol; and

imposed an oath of allegiance to the new government, and of submission to the laws of the good estate. Apprehensive for their safety, but still

more apprehensive of the danger of a refusal, the princes and barons

returned to their houses at Rome in the garb of simple and peaceful citizens: the Colonna and Ursini, the Savelli and Frangipani, were confounded before the tribunal of a plebeian, of the vile buffoon whom they had so often derided, and their disgrace was aggravated by the

indignation which they vainly struggled to disguise. The same oath was

successively pronounced by the several orders of society, the clergy and

gentlemen, the judges and notaries, the merchants and artisans, and the

gradual descent was marked by the increase of sincerity and zeal. They

swore to live and die with the republic and the church, whose interest was artfully united by the nominal association of the bishop of Orvieto, the pope's vicar, to the office of tribune. It was the boast of Rienzi, that he had delivered the throne and patrimony of St. Peter from a

rebellious aristocracy; and Clement the Sixth, who rejoiced in its fall, affected to believe the professions, to applaud the merits, and to confirm the title, of his trusty servant. The speech, perhaps the mind,

of the tribune, was inspired with a lively regard for the purity of the faith: he insinuated his claim to a supernatural mission from the Holy

Ghost; enforced by a heavy forfeiture the annual duty of confession and communion; and strictly guarded the spiritual as well as temporal welfare of his faithful people. [27]

[Footnote 251: Et ego, Deo semper auctore, ipsa die pristinâ (leg. primâ) tribunatus, quæ quidem dignitas a tempore deflorati Imperii, et per annos Vo et ultra sub tyrannicà occupatione vacavit, ipsos omnes

potentes indifferenter Deum at justitiam odientes, a meâ, ymo a Dei facie fugiendo vehementi Spiritu dissipavi, et nullo effuso cruore trementes expuli, sine ictu remanente Romane terre facie renovatâ.

Libellus Tribuni ad Cæsarem, p. xxxiv.--M. 1845.]

[Footnote 26: In one MS. I read (l. ii. c. 4, p. 409) perfumante quatro

\_solli\_, in another, quatro \_florini\_, an important variety, since the florin was worth ten Roman \_solidi\_, (Muratori, dissert. xxviii.) The former reading would give us a population of 25,000, the latter of

250,000 families; and I much fear, that the former is more consistent with the decay of Rome and her territory.]

[Footnote 27: Hocsemius, p. 498, apud du Cerçeau, Hist. de Rienzi, p.

194. The fifteen tribunitian laws may be found in the Roman historian

(whom for brevity I shall name) Fortifiocca, l. ii. c. 4.]

chapter LXX: Final Settlement Of The Ecclesiastical State.--Part II.

Never perhaps has the energy and effect of a single mind been more

remarkably felt than in the sudden, though transient, reformation

of Rome by the tribune Rienzi. A den of robbers was converted to the discipline of a camp or convent: patient to hear, swift to redress,

inexorable to punish, his tribunal was always accessible to the poor and

stranger; nor could birth, or dignity, or the immunities of the church,

protect the offender or his accomplices. The privileged houses, the

private sanctuaries in Rome, on which no officer of justice would

presume to trespass, were abolished; and he applied the timber and iron

of their barricades in the fortifications of the Capitol. The venerable father of the Colonna was exposed in his own palace to the double shame

of being desirous, and of being unable, to protect a criminal. A mule, with a jar of oil, had been stolen near Capranica; and the lord of the

Ursini family was condemned to restore the damage, and to discharge a fine of four hundred florins for his negligence in guarding the

highways. Nor were the persons of the barons more inviolate than their

lands or houses; and, either from accident or design, the same impartial

rigor was exercised against the heads of the adverse factions. Peter agapet Colonna, who had himself been senator of Rome, was arrested in the street for injury or debt; and justice was appeased by the tardy execution of Martin Ursini, who, among his various acts of violence and

rapine, had pillaged a shipwrecked vessel at the mouth of the Tyber. [28]

His name, the purple of two cardinals, his uncles, a recent marriage, and a mortal disease were disregarded by the inflexible tribune, who had chosen his victim. The public officers dragged him from his palace and nuptial bed: his trial was short and satisfactory: the bell of the capitol convened the people: stripped of his mantle, on his knees, with

his hands bound behind his back, he heard the sentence of death; and after a brief confession, Ursini was led away to the gallows. After such an example, none who were conscious of guilt could hope for impunity, and the flight of the wicked, the licentious, and the idle, soon

purified the city and territory of Rome. In this time (says the

historian,) the woods began to rejoice that they were no longer infested with robbers; the oxen began to plough; the pilgrims visited the

sanctuaries; the roads and inns were replenished with travellers; trade,

plenty, and good faith, were restored in the markets; and a purse of

gold might be exposed without danger in the midst of the highway. As

soon as the life and property of the subject are secure, the labors and

rewards of industry spontaneously revive: Rome was still the metropolis

of the Christian world; and the fame and fortunes of the tribune were diffused in every country by the strangers who had enjoyed the blessings

of his government.

[Footnote 28: Fortifiocca, l. ii. c. 11. From the account of this

shipwreck, we learn some circumstances of the trade and navigation of the age. 1. The ship was built and freighted at Naples for the ports of

Marseilles and Avignon. 2. The sailors were of Naples and the Isle of

naria less skilful than those of Sicily and Genoa. 3. The navigation from Marseilles was a coasting voyage to the mouth of the Tyber, where they took shelter in a storm; but, instead of finding the current,

unfortunately ran on a shoal: the vessel was stranded, the mariners escaped. 4. The cargo, which was pillaged, consisted of the revenue of

Provence for the royal treasury, many bags of pepper and cinnamon, and bales of French cloth, to the value of 20,000 florins; a rich prize.]

the deliverance of his country inspired Rienzi with a vast, and perhaps

visionary, idea of uniting Italy in a great federative republic, of which Rome should be the ancient and lawful head, and the free cities and princes the members and associates. His pen was not less eloquent than his tongue; and his numerous epistles were delivered to swift and trusty messengers. On foot, with a white wand in their hand, they traversed the forests and mountains; enjoyed, in the most hostile

states, the sacred security of ambassadors; and reported, in the style

of flattery or truth, that the highways along their passage were lined with kneeling multitudes, who implored Heaven for the success of their

undertaking. Could passion have listened to reason; could private

interest have yielded to the public welfare; the supreme tribunal and confederate union of the Italian republic might have healed their

intestine discord, and closed the Alps against the Barbarians of the

North. But the propitious season had elapsed; and if Venice, Florence,

Sienna, Perugia, and many inferior cities offered their lives and fortunes to the good estate, the tyrants of Lombardy and Tuscany must despise, or hate, the plebeian author of a free constitution. From them,

however, and from every part of Italy, the tribune received the most friendly and respectful answers: they were followed by the ambassadors

of the princes and republics; and in this foreign conflux, on all the

occasions of pleasure or business, the low born notary could assume the familiar or majestic courtesy of a sovereign. [29] The most glorious circumstance of his reign was an appeal to his justice from Lewis, king

of Hungary, who complained, that his brother and her husband had been

perfidiously strangled by Jane, queen of Naples: [30] her guilt or

innocence was pleaded in a solemn trial at Rome; but after hearing the advocates, [31] the tribune adjourned this weighty and invidious cause, which was soon determined by the sword of the Hungarian. Beyond the alps, more especially at Avignon, the revolution was the theme of curiosity, wonder, and applause. [311] Petrarch had been the private friend, perhaps the secret counsellor, of Rienzi: his writings breathe the most ardent spirit of patriotism and joy; and all respect for the

pope, all gratitude for the Colonna, was lost in the superior duties

of a Roman citizen. The poet-laureate of the Capitol maintains the act, applauds the hero, and mingles with some apprehension and advice, the

most lofty hopes of the permanent and rising greatness of the republic.

[32]

[Footnote 29: It was thus that Oliver Cromwell's old acquaintance, who

remembered his vulgar and ungracious entrance into the House of Commons, were astonished at the ease and majesty of the protector on his throne,

(See Harris's Life of Cromwell, p. 27--34, from Clarendon Warwick, whitelocke, Waller, &c.) The consciousness of merit and power will

sometimes elevate the manners to the station.]

[Footnote 30: See the causes, circumstances, and effects of the death of andrew in Giannone, (tom. iii. l. xxiii. p. 220--229,) and the Life of

Petrarch (Mémoires, tom. ii. p. 143--148, 245--250, 375--379, notes, p.

21--37.) The abbé de Sade \_wishes\_ to extenuate her guilt.]

[Footnote 31: The advocate who pleaded against Jane could add nothing to the logical force and brevity of his master's epistle. Johanna!

inordinata vita præcedens, retentio potestatis in regno, neglecta

vindicta, vir alter susceptus, et excusatio subsequens, necis viri tui te probant fuisse participem et consortem. Jane of Naples, and Mary of

Scotland, have a singular conformity.]

[Footnote 311]: In his letter to the archbishop of Prague, Rienzi thus describes the effect of his elevation on Italy and on the world: "Did

I not restore real peace among the cities which were distracted by factions? did I not cause all the citizens, exiled by party violence, with their wretched wives and children, to be readmitted? had I not begun to extinguish the factious names (scismatica nomina) of Guelf and

Ghibelline, for which countless thousands had perished body and soul,

under the eyes of their pastors, by the reduction of the city of Rome and all Italy into one amicable, peaceful, holy, and united confederacy? the consecrated standards and banners having been by me collected and blended together, and, in witness to our holy association and perfect

union, offered up in the presence of the ambassadors of all the cities

of Italy, on the day of the assumption of our Blessed Lady." p. xlvii.

----In the Libellus ad Cæsarem: "I received the homage and submission of all the sovereigns of Apulia, the barons and counts, and almost all the

people of Italy. I was honored by solemn embassies and letters by the emperor of Constantinople and the king of England. The queen of Naples

submitted herself and her kingdom to the protection of the tribune. The

king of Hungary, by two solemn embassies, brought his cause against his

queen and his nobles before my tribunal; and I venture to say further, that the fame of the tribune alarmed the soldan of Babylon. When the christian pilgrims to the sepulchre of our Lord related to the Christian and Jewish inhabitants of Jerusalem all the yet unheard-of and wonderful circumstances of the reformation in Rome, both Jews and Christians celebrated the event with unusual festivities. When the soldan inquired the cause of these rejoicings, and received this intelligence about

Rome, he ordered all the havens and cities on the coast to be fortified, and put in a state of defence," p. xxxv.--M. 1845.]

[Footnote 32: See the Epistola Hortatoria de Capessenda Republica, from

Petrarch to Nicholas Rienzi, (Opp. p. 535--540,) and the vth eclogue or

pastoral, a perpetual and obscure allegory.]

while Petrarch indulged these prophetic visions, the Roman hero was fast declining from the meridian of fame and power; and the people, who

had gazed with astonishment on the ascending meteor, began to mark the

irregularity of its course, and the vicissitudes of light and obscurity.

More eloquent than judicious, more enterprising than resolute, the faculties of Rienzi were not balanced by cool and commanding reason:

he magnified in a tenfold proportion the objects of hope and fear; and

prudence, which could not have erected, did not presume to fortify,

his throne. In the blaze of prosperity, his virtues were insensibly tinctured with the adjacent vices; justice with cruelly, cruelty,

liberality with profusion, and the desire of fame with puerile and

ostentatious vanity. [321] He might have learned, that the ancient tribunes, so strong and sacred in the public opinion, were not distinguished in style, habit, or appearance, from an ordinary plebeian;

[33] and that as often as they visited the city on foot, a single viator,

or beadle, attended the exercise of their office. The Gracchi would have frowned or smiled, could they have read the sonorous titles and epithets

of their successor, "Nicholas, severe and merciful; deliverer of Rome; defender of Italy; [34] friend of mankind, and of liberty, peace, and

justice; tribune august:" his theatrical pageants had prepared the

revolution; but Rienzi abused, in luxury and pride, the political maxim

of speaking to the eyes, as well as the understanding, of the multitude. from nature he had received the gift of a handsome person, [35] till

it was swelled and disfigured by intemperance: and his propensity to

laughter was corrected in the magistrate by the affectation of gravity and sternness. He was clothed, at least on public occasions, in a

party-colored robe of velvet or satin, lined with fur, and embroidered with gold: the rod of justice, which he carried in his hand, was a

sceptre of polished steel, crowned with a globe and cross of gold, and enclosing a small fragment of the true and holy wood. In his civil and

religious processions through the city, he rode on a white steed, the

symbol of royalty: the great banner of the republic, a sun with a circle

of stars, a dove with an olive branch, was displayed over his head; a

shower of gold and silver was scattered among the populace, fifty guards with halberds encompassed his person; a troop of horse preceded his

march; and their tymbals and trumpets were of massy silver.

[Footnote 321: An illustrious female writer has drawn, with a single

stroke, the character of Rienzi, Crescentius, and Arnold of Brescia, the fond restorers of Roman liberty: 'Qui ont pris les souvenirs pour les espérances.' Corinne, tom. i. p. 159. "Could Tacitus have excelled this?"

Hallam, vol i p. 418.--M.]

[Footnote 33: In his Roman Questions, Plutarch (Opuscul. tom. i. p.

505, 506, edit. Græc. Hen. Steph.) states, on the most constitutional

principles, the simple greatness of the tribunes, who were not properly

magistrates, but a check on magistracy. It was their duty and interest

omoiousqai schmati, kai stolh kai diaithtoiV epitugcanousi tvn

politvn.... katapateisqai dei (a saying of C. Curio) kai mh semnon einai th oyei mhde dusprosodon... osw de mallon ektapeinoutai tv swmati, tosoutw mallon auxetai th dunamei, &c. Rienzi, and Petrarch himself, were incapable perhaps of reading a Greek philosopher; but they might

have imbibed the same modest doctrines from their favorite Latins, Livy and Valerius Maximus.]

[Footnote 34: I could not express in English the forcible, though barbarous, title of \_Zelator\_ Italiæ, which Rienzi assumed.]

[Footnote 35: Era bell' homo, (l. ii. c. l. p. 399.) It is remarkable, that the riso sarcastico of the Bracciano edition is wanting in the

Roman MS., from which Muratori has given the text. In his second reign, when he is painted almost as a monster, Rienzi travea una ventresca tonna trionfale, a modo de uno Abbate Asiano, or Asinino, (l. iii. c.

18, p. 523.)]

the ambition of the honors of chivalry [36] betrayed the meanness of his birth, and degraded the importance of his office; and the equestrian tribune was not less odious to the nobles, whom he adopted, than to the plebeians, whom he deserted. All that yet remained of treasure,

or luxury, or art, was exhausted on that solemn day. Rienzi led the

procession from the Capitol to the Lateran; the tediousness of the way was relieved with decorations and games; the ecclesiastical, civil, and

military orders marched under their various banners; the Roman ladies attended his wife; and the ambassadors of Italy might loudly applaud or

secretly deride the novelty of the pomp. In the evening, which they had

reached the church and palace of Constantine, he thanked and dismissed the numerous assembly, with an invitation to the festival of the ensuing day. From the hands of a venerable knight he received the order of the

Holy Ghost; the purification of the bath was a previous ceremony; but in

no step of his life did Rienzi excite such scandal and censure as by the profane use of the porphyry vase, in which Constantine (a foolish

legend) had been healed of his leprosy by Pope Sylvester. [37] With equal presumption the tribune watched or reposed within the consecrated

precincts of the baptistery; and the failure of his state-bed was

interpreted as an omen of his approaching downfall. At the hour of worship, he showed himself to the returning crowds in a majestic attitude, with a robe of purple, his sword, and gilt spurs; but the holy

rites were soon interrupted by his levity and insolence. Rising from his throne, and advancing towards the congregation, he proclaimed in a

loud voice: "We summon to our tribunal Pope Clement: and command him to reside in his diocese of Rome: we also summon the sacred college of cardinals. [38] We again summon the two pretenders, Charles of Bohemia and Lewis of Bavaria, who style themselves emperors: we likewise summon all the electors of Germany, to inform us on what pretence they have

usurped the inalienable right of the Roman people, the ancient and

lawful sovereigns of the empire." [39] Unsheathing his maiden sword,

he thrice brandished it to the three parts of the world, and thrice

repeated the extravagant declaration, "And this too is mine!" The pope's

vicar, the bishop of Orvieto, attempted to check this career of folly; but his feeble protest was silenced by martial music; and instead of withdrawing from the assembly, he consented to dine with his brother tribune, at a table which had hitherto been reserved for the supreme

pontiff. A banquet, such as the Cæsars had given, was prepared for the

Romans. The apartments, porticos, and courts of the Lateran were spread with innumerable tables for either sex, and every condition; a stream

of wine flowed from the nostrils of Constantine's brazen horse; no complaint, except of the scarcity of water, could be heard; and the

licentiousness of the multitude was curbed by discipline and fear. A

subsequent day was appointed for the coronation of Rienzi; [40] seven crowns of different leaves or metals were successively placed on his

head by the most eminent of the Roman clergy; they represented the seven

gifts of the Holy Ghost; and he still professed to imitate the example

of the ancient tribunes. [401] These extraordinary spectacles might deceive

or flatter the people; and their own vanity was gratified in the vanity

of their leader. But in his private life he soon deviated from the

strict rule of frugality and abstinence; and the plebeians, who were awed by the splendor of the nobles, were provoked by the luxury of their equal. His wife, his son, his uncle, (a barber in name and profession,) exposed the contrast of vulgar manners and princely expense; and without acquiring the majesty, Rienzi degenerated into the vices, of a king.

[Footnote 36: Strange as it may seem, this festival was not without a

precedent. In the year 1327, two barons, a Colonna and an Ursini, the

usual balance, were created knights by the Roman people: their bath was

of rose-water, their beds were decked with royal magnificence, and they were served at St. Maria of Araceli in the Capitol, by the twenty-eight

\_buoni huomini\_. They afterwards received from Robert, king of Naples, the sword of chivalry, (Hist. Rom. l. i. c. 2, p. 259.)]

[Footnote 37: All parties believed in the leprosy and bath of constantine (Petrarch. Epist. Famil. vi. 2,) and Rienzi justified his

own conduct by observing to the court of Avignon, that a vase which had been used by a Pagan could not be profaned by a pious Christian. Yet this crime is specified in the bull of excommunication, (Hocsemius, apud du Cerçeau, p. 189, 190.)]

[Footnote 38: This \_verbal\_ summons of Pope Clement VI., which rests on the authority of the Roman historian and a Vatican MS., is disputed by the biographer of Petrarch, (tom. ii. not. p. 70--76), with arguments

rather of decency than of weight. The court of Avignon might not choose to agitate this delicate question.]

[Footnote 39: The summons of the two rival emperors, a monument of freedom and folly, is extant in Hocsemius, (Cerçeau, p. 163--166.)]

[Footnote 40: It is singular, that the Roman historian should have

overlooked this sevenfold coronation, which is sufficiently proved by

internal evidence, and the testimony of Hocsemius, and even of Rienzi,

(Cercean p. 167--170, 229.)]

[Footnote 401: It was on this occasion that he made the profane comparison between himself and our Lord; and the striking circumstance took place which he relates in his letter to the archbishop of Prague. In the midst

of all the wild and joyous exultation of the people, one of his most

zealous supporters, a monk, who was in high repute for his sanctity,

stood apart in a corner of the church and wept bitterly! A domestic chaplain of Rienzi's inquired the cause of his grief. "Now," replied the man of God, "is thy master cast down from heaven--never saw I man so

proud. By the aid of the Holy Ghost he has driven the tyrants from the city without drawing a sword; the cities and the sovereigns of Italy

have submitted to his power. Why is he so arrogant and ungrateful towards the Most High? Why does he seek earthly and transitory rewards for his labors, and in his wanton speech liken himself to the Creator? tell thy master that he can only atone for this offence by tears of

penitence." In the evening the chaplain communicated this solemn rebuke to the tribune: it appalled him for the time, but was soon forgotten in the tumult and hurry of business.--M. 1845.]

a simple citizen describes with pity, or perhaps with pleasure, the

humiliation of the barons of Rome. "Bareheaded, their hands crossed

on their breast, they stood with downcast looks in the presence of the tribune; and they trembled, good God, how they trembled!" [41] As long as the yoke of Rienzi was that of justice and their country, their conscience forced them to esteem the man, whom pride and interest

provoked them to hate: his extravagant conduct soon fortified their

hatred by contempt; and they conceived the hope of subverting a power which was no longer so deeply rooted in the public confidence. The old animosity of the Colonna and Ursini was suspended for a moment by their common disgrace: they associated their wishes, and perhaps their designs; an assassin was seized and tortured; he accused the nobles; and as soon as Rienzi deserved the fate, he adopted the suspicions and maxims, of a tyrant. On the same day, under various pretences,

he invited to the Capitol his principal enemies, among whom were five

members of the Ursini and three of the Colonna name. But instead of a council or a banquet, they found themselves prisoners under the sword of despotism or justice; and the consciousness of innocence or guilt might

inspire them with equal apprehensions of danger. At the sound of the

great bell the people assembled; they were arraigned for a conspiracy against the tribune's life; and though some might sympathize in their distress, not a hand, nor a voice, was raised to rescue the first of the

nobility from their impending doom. Their apparent boldness was prompted by despair; they passed in separate chambers a sleepless and painful

night; and the venerable hero, Stephen Colonna, striking against the door of his prison, repeatedly urged his guards to deliver him by a speedy death from such ignominious servitude. In the morning they

understood their sentence from the visit of a confessor and the tolling

of the bell. The great hall of the Capitol had been decorated for the bloody scene with red and white hangings: the countenance of the tribune was dark and severe; the swords of the executioners were unsheathed; and the barons were interrupted in their dying speeches by the sound of trumpets. But in this decisive moment, Rienzi was not less anxious or apprehensive than his captives: he dreaded the splendor of their names, their surviving kinsmen, the inconstancy of the people the reproaches

of the world, and, after rashly offering a mortal injury, he vainly

presumed that, if he could forgive, he might himself be forgiven. His elaborate oration was that of a Christian and a suppliant; and, as the

humble minister of the commons, he entreated his masters to pardon these

noble criminals, for whose repentance and future service he pledged

his faith and authority. "If you are spared," said the tribune, "by the

mercy of the Romans, will you not promise to support the good estate with your lives and fortunes?" Astonished by this marvellous clemency, the barons bowed their heads; and while they devoutly repeated the oath

of allegiance, might whisper a secret, and more sincere, assurance

of revenge. A priest, in the name of the people, pronounced their absolution: they received the communion with the tribune, assisted at the banquet, followed the procession; and, after every spiritual and temporal sign of reconciliation, were dismissed in safety to their

respective homes, with the new honors and titles of generals, consuls, and patricians. [42]

[Footnote 41: Puoi se faceva stare denante a se, mentre sedeva, li baroni tutti in piedi ritti co le vraccia piecate, e co li capucci tratti. Deh como stavano paurosi! (Hist. Rom. l. ii. c. 20, p. 439.) He

saw them, and we see them.]

[Footnote 42: The original letter, in which Rienzi justifies his treatment of the Colonna, (Hocsemius, apud du Cerçeau, p. 222--229,) displays, in genuine colors, the mixture of the knave and the madman.]

during some weeks they were checked by the memory of their danger,

rather than of their deliverance, till the most powerful of the Ursini, escaping with the Colonna from the city, erected at Marino the standard

of rebellion. The fortifications of the castle were instantly restored; the vassals attended their lord; the outlaws armed against the

magistrate; the flocks and herds, the harvests and vineyards, from

Marino to the gates of Rome, were swept away or destroyed; and the

people arraigned Rienzi as the author of the calamities which his

government had taught them to forget. In the camp, Rienzi appeared to

less advantage than in the rostrum; and he neglected the progress of the rebel barons till their numbers were strong, and their castles

impregnable. From the pages of Livy he had not imbibed the art, or even the courage, of a general: an army of twenty thousand Romans returned without honor or effect from the attack of Marino; and his vengeance was amused by painting his enemies, their heads downwards, and drowning two dogs (at least they should have been bears) as the representatives of the Ursini. The belief of his incapacity encouraged their operations: they were invited by their secret adherents; and the barons attempted, with four thousand foot, and sixteen hundred horse, to enter Rome by force or surprise. The city was prepared for their reception; the alarm-bell rung all night; the gates were strictly guarded, or

insolently open; and after some hesitation they sounded a retreat. The two first divisions had passed along the walls, but the prospect of a free entrance tempted the headstrong valor of the nobles in the rear; and after a successful skirmish, they were overthrown and massacred without quarter by the crowds of the Roman people. Stephen Colonna the

younger, the noble spirit to whom Petrarch ascribed the restoration of

Italy, was preceded or accompanied in death by his son John, a gallant

youth, by his brother Peter, who might regret the ease and honors of the church, by a nephew of legitimate birth, and by two bastards of the Colonna race; and the number of seven, the seven crowns, as Rienzi

styled them, of the Holy Ghost, was completed by the agony of the deplorable parent, and the veteran chief, who had survived the hope and fortune of his house. The vision and prophecies of St. Martin and Pope boniface had been used by the tribune to animate his troops: [43] he displayed, at least in the pursuit, the spirit of a hero; but he forgot the maxims of the ancient Romans, who abhorred the triumphs of civil war. The conqueror ascended the Capitol; deposited his crown and sceptre

on the altar; and boasted, with some truth, that he had cut off an ear, which neither pope nor emperor had been able to amputate. [44] His base and implacable revenge denied the honors of burial; and the bodies of the Colonna, which he threatened to expose with those of the vilest

malefactors, were secretly interred by the holy virgins of their name and family. [45] The people sympathized in their grief, repented of their

own fury, and detested the indecent joy of Rienzi, who visited the spot where these illustrious victims had fallen. It was on that fatal spot that he conferred on his son the honor of knighthood: and the ceremony was accomplished by a slight blow from each of the horsemen of the

guard, and by a ridiculous and inhuman ablution from a pool of water, which was yet polluted with patrician blood. [46]

[Footnote 43: Rienzi, in the above-mentioned letter, ascribes to St.

Martin the tribune, Boniface VIII. the enemy of Colonna, himself, and the Roman people, the glory of the day, which Villani likewise (l. 12, c. 104) describes as a regular battle. The disorderly skirmish, the flight of the Romans, and the cowardice of Rienzi, are painted in the

simple and minute narrative of Fortifiocca, or the anonymous citizen,

(l. i. c. 34--37.)]

[Footnote 44: In describing the fall of the Colonna, I speak only of the family of Stephen the elder, who is often confounded by the P. du cerçeau with his son. That family was extinguished, but the house has been perpetuated in the collateral branches, of which I have not a very accurate knowledge. Circumspice (says Petrarch) familiæ tuæ statum, columniensium \_domos\_: solito pauciores habeat columnas. Quid ad rem

modo fundamentum stabile, solidumque permaneat.]

[Footnote 45: The convent of St. Silvester was founded, endowed, and

protected by the Colonna cardinals, for the daughters of the family who embraced a monastic life, and who, in the year 1318, were twelve

in number. The others were allowed to marry with their kinsmen in the fourth degree, and the dispensation was justified by the small number and close alliances of the noble families of Rome, (Mémoires sur

Pétrarque, tom. i. p. 110, tom. ii. p. 401.)]

[Footnote 46: Petrarch wrote a stiff and pedantic letter of consolation,

(Fam. l. vii. epist. 13, p. 682, 683.) The friend was lost in the

patriot. Nulla toto orbe principum familia carior; carior tamen

respublica, carior Roma, carior Italia.

----Je rends graces aux Dieux de n'être pas Romain.]

a short delay would have saved the Colonna, the delay of a single month, which elapsed between the triumph and the exile of Rienzi. In the pride

of victory, he forfeited what yet remained of his civil virtues, without acquiring the fame of military prowess. A free and vigorous opposition was formed in the city; and when the tribune proposed in the public council [47] to impose a new tax, and to regulate the government of

Perugia, thirty-nine members voted against his measures; repelled the

injurious charge of treachery and corruption; and urged him to prove, by their forcible exclusion, that if the populace adhered to his cause, it was already disclaimed by the most respectable citizens. The pope and the sacred college had never been dazzled by his specious professions; they were justly offended by the insolence of his conduct; a cardinal

legate was sent to Italy, and after some fruitless treaty, and two

personal interviews, he fulminated a bull of excommunication, in which the tribune is degraded from his office, and branded with the guilt of

rebellion, sacrilege, and heresy. [48] The surviving barons of Rome were

now humbled to a sense of allegiance; their interest and revenge engaged them in the service of the church; but as the fate of the Colonna was before their eyes, they abandoned to a private adventurer the peril and glory of the revolution. John Pepin, count of Minorbino, [49] in the

kingdom of Naples, had been condemned for his crimes, or his riches, to perpetual imprisonment; and Petrarch, by soliciting his release,

indirectly contributed to the ruin of his friend. At the head of one

hundred and fifty soldiers, the count of Minorbino introduced himself

into Rome; barricaded the quarter of the Colonna: and found the enterprise as easy as it had seemed impossible. From the first alarm, the bell of the Capitol incessantly tolled; but, instead of repairing to the well-known sound, the people were silent and inactive; and the

pusillanimous Rienzi, deploring their ingratitude with sighs and tears, abdicated the government and palace of the republic.

[Footnote 47: This council and opposition is obscurely mentioned by

Pollistore, a contemporary writer, who has preserved some curious and

original facts, (Rer. Italicarum, tom. xxv. c. 31, p. 798--804.)]

[Footnote 48: The briefs and bulls of Clement VI. against Rienzi are translated by the P. du Cerçeau, (p. 196, 232,) from the Ecclesiastical annals of Odericus Raynaldus, (A.D. 1347, No. 15, 17, 21, &c.,) who found them in the archives of the Vatican.]

[Footnote 49: Matteo Villani describes the origin, character, and death

of this count of Minorbino, a man da natura inconstante e senza fede, whose grandfather, a crafty notary, was enriched and ennobled by the spoils of the Saracens of Nocera, (l. vii. c. 102, 103.) See his

imprisonment, and the efforts of Petrarch, (tom. ii. p. 149--151.)]

chapter LXX: Final Settlement Of The Ecclesiastical State.--Part III.

without drawing his sword, count Pepin restored the aristocracy and the church; three senators were chosen, and the legate, assuming the first

rank, accepted his two colleagues from the rival families of Colonna and

Ursini. The acts of the tribune were abolished, his head was proscribed;

yet such was the terror of his name, that the barons hesitated three days before they would trust themselves in the city, and Rienzi was

left above a month in the castle of St. Angelo, from whence he peaceably withdrew, after laboring, without effect, to revive the affection and courage of the Romans. The vision of freedom and empire had vanished: their fallen spirit would have acquiesced in servitude, had it been

smoothed by tranquillity and order; and it was scarcely observed, that the new senators derived their authority from the Apostolic See; that four cardinals were appointed to reform, with dictatorial power, the

state of the republic. Rome was again agitated by the bloody feuds of the barons, who detested each other, and despised the commons: their

hostile fortresses, both in town and country, again rose, and were again demolished: and the peaceful citizens, a flock of sheep, were devoured,

says the Florentine historian, by these rapacious wolves. But when their pride and avarice had exhausted the patience of the Romans, a confraternity of the Virgin Mary protected or avenged the republic: the bell of the Capitol was again tolled, the nobles in arms trembled in the presence of an unarmed multitude; and of the two senators, Colonna escaped from the window of the palace, and Ursini was stoned at the foot

of the altar. The dangerous office of tribune was successively occupied by two plebeians, Cerroni and Baroncelli. The mildness of Cerroni was

unequal to the times; and after a faint struggle, he retired with a fair

reputation and a decent fortune to the comforts of rural life. Devoid of eloquence or genius, Baroncelli was distinguished by a resolute spirit:

he spoke the language of a patriot, and trod in the footsteps of tyrants; his suspicion was a sentence of death, and his own death was the reward of his cruelties. Amidst the public misfortunes, the faults

of Rienzi were forgotten; and the Romans sighed for the peace and

prosperity of their good estate. [50]

[Footnote 50: The troubles of Rome, from the departure to the return of

Rienzi, are related by Matteo Villani (l. ii. c. 47, l. iii. c. 33, 57,

78) and Thomas Fortifiocca, (l. iii. c. 1--4.) I have slightly passed

over these secondary characters, who imitated the original tribune.]

after an exile of seven years, the first deliverer was again restored to

his country. In the disguise of a monk or a pilgrim, he escaped from the castle of St. Angelo, implored the friendship of the king of Hungary at

Naples, tempted the ambition of every bold adventurer, mingled at Rome with the pilgrims of the jubilee, lay concealed among the hermits of the Apennine, and wandered through the cities of Italy, Germany, and bohemia. His person was invisible, his name was yet formidable; and the anxiety of the court of Avignon supposes, and even magnifies,

his personal merit. The emperor Charles the Fourth gave audience to a

stranger, who frankly revealed himself as the tribune of the republic; and astonished an assembly of ambassadors and princes, by the eloquence

of a patriot and the visions of a prophet, the downfall of tyranny and the kingdom of the Holy Ghost. [51] Whatever had been his hopes, Rienzi found himself a captive; but he supported a character of independence and dignity, and obeyed, as his own choice, the irresistible summons of the supreme pontiff. The zeal of Petrarch, which had been cooled by the

unworthy conduct, was rekindled by the sufferings and the presence, of

his friend; and he boldly complains of the times, in which the savior of

Rome was delivered by her emperor into the hands of her bishop. Rienzi was transported slowly, but in safe custody, from Prague to Avignon: his entrance into the city was that of a malefactor; in his prison he was chained by the leg; and four cardinals were named to inquire into the crimes of heresy and rebellion. But his trial and condemnation would

have involved some questions, which it was more prudent to leave under the veil of mystery: the temporal supremacy of the popes; the duty of

residence; the civil and ecclesiastical privileges of the clergy and

people of Rome. The reigning pontiff well deserved the appellation

of \_Clement\_: the strange vicissitudes and magnanimous spirit of the captive excited his pity and esteem; and Petrarch believes that he

respected in the hero the name and sacred character of a poet. [52]

Rienzi was indulged with an easy confinement and the use of books; and

in the assiduous study of Livy and the Bible, he sought the cause and the consolation of his misfortunes.

[Footnote 51: These visions, of which the friends and enemies of Rienzi

seem alike ignorant, are surely magnified by the zeal of Pollistore, a Dominican inquisitor, (Rer. Ital. tom. xxv. c. 36, p. 819.) Had the tribune taught, that Christ was succeeded by the Holy Ghost, that the tyranny of the pope would be abolished, he might have been convicted of

heresy and treason, without offending the Roman people. \* Note:

So far from having magnified these visions, Pollistore is more than confirmed by the documents published by Papencordt. The adoption of all the wild doctrines of the Fratricelli, the Spirituals, in which, for the time at least, Rienzi appears to have been in earnest; his

magnificent offers to the emperor, and the whole history of his life, from his first escape from Rome to his imprisonment at Avignon, are among the most curious chapters of his eventful life.--M. 1845.]

[Footnote 52: The astonishment, the envy almost, of Petrarch is a

proof, if not of the truth of this incredible fact, at least of his own

veracity. The abbé de Sade (Mémoires, tom. iii. p. 242) quotes the vith epistle of the xiiith book of Petrarch, but it is of the royal MS., which he consulted, and not of the ordinary Basil edition, (p. 920.)]

the succeeding pontificate of Innocent the Sixth opened a new prospect

of his deliverance and restoration; and the court of Avignon was

persuaded, that the successful rebel could alone appease and reform the anarchy of the metropolis. After a solemn profession of fidelity, the

Roman tribune was sent into Italy, with the title of senator; but the death of Baroncelli appeared to supersede the use of his mission; and the legate, Cardinal Albornoz, [53] a consummate statesman, allowed him with reluctance, and without aid, to undertake the perilous experiment.

His first reception was equal to his wishes: the day of his entrance was a public festival; and his eloquence and authority revived the laws of the good estate. But this momentary sunshine was soon clouded by his own

vices and those of the people: in the Capitol, he might often regret the prison of Avignon; and after a second administration of four months,

Rienzi was massacred in a tumult which had been fomented by the Roman barons. In the society of the Germans and Bohemians, he is said to have contracted the habits of intemperance and cruelty: adversity had chilled

his enthusiasm, without fortifying his reason or virtue; and that

youthful hope, that lively assurance, which is the pledge of success, was now succeeded by the cold impotence of distrust and despair. The tribune had reigned with absolute dominion, by the choice, and in the

hearts, of the Romans: the senator was the servile minister of a foreign court; and while he was suspected by the people, he was abandoned by the

prince. The legate Albornoz, who seemed desirous of his ruin, inflexibly

refused all supplies of men and money; a faithful subject could no

longer presume to touch the revenues of the apostolical chamber; and the first idea of a tax was the signal of clamor and sedition. Even his

justice was tainted with the guilt or reproach of selfish cruelty: the

most virtuous citizen of Rome was sacrificed to his jealousy; and in the execution of a public robber, from whose purse he had been assisted, the

magistrate too much forgot, or too much remembered, the obligations of the debtor. [54] A civil war exhausted his treasures, and the patience

of the city: the Colonna maintained their hostile station at Palestrina; and his mercenaries soon despised a leader whose ignorance and fear were envious of all subordinate merit. In the death, as in the life, of

Rienzi, the hero and the coward were strangely mingled. When the Capitol was invested by a furious multitude, when he was basely deserted by his civil and military servants, the intrepid senator, waving the banner of

liberty, presented himself on the balcony, addressed his eloquence to the various passions of the Romans, and labored to persuade them, that

in the same cause himself and the republic must either stand or fall.

His oration was interrupted by a volley of imprecations and stones; and after an arrow had transpierced his hand, he sunk into abject despair, and fled weeping to the inner chambers, from whence he was let down by a

sheet before the windows of the prison. Destitute of aid or hope, he was besieged till the evening: the doors of the Capitol were destroyed with axes and fire; and while the senator attempted to escape in a plebeian

habit, he was discovered and dragged to the platform of the palace, the fatal scene of his judgments and executions. A whole hour, without voice

or motion, he stood amidst the multitude half naked and half dead: their rage was hushed into curiosity and wonder: the last feelings of

reverence and compassion yet struggled in his favor; and they might have

prevailed, if a bold assassin had not plunged a dagger in his breast.

He fell senseless with the first stroke: the impotent revenge of

his enemies inflicted a thousand wounds: and the senator's body was abandoned to the dogs, to the Jews, and to the flames. Posterity will compare the virtues and failings of this extraordinary man; but in a

long period of anarchy and servitude, the name of Rienzi has often been celebrated as the deliverer of his country, and the last of the Roman

patriots. [55]

[Footnote 53: Ægidius, or Giles Albornoz, a noble Spaniard, archbishop

of Toledo, and cardinal legate in Italy, (A.D. 1353--1367,) restored, by

his arms and counsels, the temporal dominion of the popes. His life has been separately written by Sepulveda; but Dryden could not reasonably

suppose, that his name, or that of Wolsey, had reached the ears of the

Mufti in Don Sebastian.]

[Footnote 54: From Matteo Villani and Fortifiocca, the P. du Cerçeau (p.

344--394) has extracted the life and death of the chevalier Montreal, the life of a robber and the death of a hero. At the head of a free company, the first that desolated Italy, he became rich and formidable be had money in all the banks,--60,000 ducats in Padua alone.]

[Footnote 55: The exile, second government, and death of Rienzi, are

minutely related by the anonymous Roman, who appears neither his friend

nor his enemy, (l. iii. c. 12--25.) Petrarch, who loved the \_tribune\_, was indifferent to the fate of the \_senator\_.]

the first and most generous wish of Petrarch was the restoration of a free republic; but after the exile and death of his plebeian hero,

he turned his eyes from the tribune, to the king, of the Romans. The capitol was yet stained with the blood of Rienzi, when Charles the fourth descended from the Alps to obtain the Italian and Imperial crowns. In his passage through Milan he received the visit, and repaid the flattery, of the poet-laureate; accepted a medal of Augustus; and

promised, without a smile, to imitate the founder of the Roman monarchy. a false application of the name and maxims of antiquity was the source

of the hopes and disappointments of Petrarch; yet he could not overlook the difference of times and characters; the immeasurable distance between the first Cæsars and a Bohemian prince, who by the favor of the clergy had been elected the titular head of the German aristocracy.

Instead of restoring to Rome her glory and her provinces, he had bound

himself by a secret treaty with the pope, to evacuate the city on the day of his coronation; and his shameful retreat was pursued by the

reproaches of the patriot bard. [56]

[Footnote 56: The hopes and the disappointment of Petrarch are agreeably described in his own words by the French biographer, (Mémoires, tom.

iii. p. 375--413;) but the deep, though secret, wound was the coronation

of Zanubi, the poet-laureate, by Charles IV.]

after the loss of liberty and empire, his third and more humble wish was to reconcile the shepherd with his flock; to recall the Roman bishop to his ancient and peculiar diocese. In the fervor of youth, with the authority of age, Petrarch addressed his exhortations to five successive

popes, and his eloquence was always inspired by the enthusiasm of

sentiment and the freedom of language. [57] The son of a citizen of florence invariably preferred the country of his birth to that of his education; and Italy, in his eyes, was the queen and garden of the world. Amidst her domestic factions, she was doubtless superior to france both in art and science, in wealth and politeness; but the difference could scarcely support the epithet of barbarous, which he

promiscuously bestows on the countries beyond the Alps. Avignon, the

mystic Babylon, the sink of vice and corruption, was the object of his

hatred and contempt; but he forgets that her scandalous vices were not the growth of the soil, and that in every residence they would adhere to the power and luxury of the papal court. He confesses that the successor

of St. Peter is the bishop of the universal church; yet it was not on the banks of the Rhône, but of the Tyber, that the apostle had fixed

his everlasting throne; and while every city in the Christian world was blessed with a bishop, the metropolis alone was desolate and forlorn.

Since the removal of the Holy See, the sacred buildings of the Lateran and the Vatican, their altars and their saints, were left in a state

of poverty and decay; and Rome was often painted under the image of a disconsolate matron, as if the wandering husband could be reclaimed by the homely portrait of the age and infirmities of his weeping spouse.

[58] But the cloud which hung over the seven hills would be dispelled by the presence of their lawful sovereign: eternal fame, the prosperity of

Rome, and the peace of Italy, would be the recompense of the pope who should dare to embrace this generous resolution. Of the five whom

Petrarch exhorted, the three first, John the Twenty-second, Benedict the Twelfth, and Clement the Sixth, were importuned or amused by the boldness of the orator; but the memorable change which had been attempted by Urban the Fifth was finally accomplished by Gregory the eleventh. The execution of their design was opposed by weighty and almost insuperable obstacles. A king of France, who has deserved the epithet of wise, was unwilling to release them from a local dependence: the cardinals, for the most part his subjects, were attached to the

language, manners, and climate of Avignon; to their stately palaces; above all, to the wines of Burgundy. In their eyes, Italy was foreign

or hostile; and they reluctantly embarked at Marseilles, as if they had been sold or banished into the land of the Saracens. Urban the Fifth

resided three years in the Vatican with safety and honor: his sanctity was protected by a guard of two thousand horse; and the king of Cyprus, the queen of Naples, and the emperors of the East and West, devoutly

saluted their common father in the chair of St. Peter. But the joy of

Petrarch and the Italians was soon turned into grief and indignation.

Some reasons of public or private moment, his own impatience or the

prayers of the cardinals, recalled Urban to France; and the approaching election was saved from the tyrannic patriotism of the Romans. The

powers of heaven were interested in their cause: Bridget of Sweden, a

saint and pilgrim, disapproved the return, and foretold the death, of

Urban the Fifth: the migration of Gregory the Eleventh was encouraged by St. Catharine of Sienna, the spouse of Christ and ambassadress of the Florentines; and the popes themselves, the great masters of human credulity, appear to have listened to these visionary females. [59] Yet those celestial admonitions were supported by some arguments of temporal

policy. The residents of Avignon had been invaded by hostile violence: at the head of thirty thousand robbers, a hero had extorted ransom and absolution from the vicar of Christ and the sacred college; and the

maxim of the French warriors, to spare the people and plunder the church, was a new heresy of the most dangerous import. [60] While the

pope was driven from Avignon, he was strenuously invited to Rome. The

senate and people acknowledged him as their lawful sovereign, and laid at his feet the keys of the gates, the bridges, and the fortresses;

of the quarter at least beyond the Tyber. [61] But this loyal offer was accompanied by a declaration, that they could no longer suffer the scandal and calamity of his absence; and that his obstinacy would finally provoke them to revive and assert the primitive right of election. The abbot of Mount Cassin had been consulted, whether he would accept the triple crown [62] from the clergy and people: "I am a citizen

of Rome," [63] replied that venerable ecclesiastic, "and my first law is, the voice of my country." [64]

[Footnote 57: See, in his accurate and amusing biographer, the application of Petrarch and Rome to Benedict XII. in the year 1334,

(Mémoires, tom. i. p. 261--265,) to Clement VI. in 1342, (tom. ii. p.

45--47,) and to Urban V. in 1366, (tom. iii. p. 677--691:) his praise

(p. 711--715) and excuse (p. 771) of the last of these pontiffs. His angry controversy on the respective merits of France and Italy may be found, Opp. p. 1068--1085.]

[Footnote 58:

Squalida sed quoniam facies, neglectaque cultû

Cæsaries; multisque malis lassata senectus

Eripuit solitam effigiem: vetus accipe nomen;

Roma vocor. (Carm. l. 2, p. 77.)

He spins this allegory beyond all measure or patience. The Epistles to

Urban V in prose are more simple and persuasive, (Senilium, l. vii. p.

811--827 l. ix. epist. i. p. 844--854.)]

[Footnote 59: I have not leisure to expatiate on the legends of St. bridget or St. Catharine, the last of which might furnish some amusing

stories. Their effect on the mind of Gregory XI. is attested by the

last solemn words of the dying pope, who admonished the assistants,

ut caverent ab hominibus, sive viris, sive mulieribus, sub specie

religionis loquentibus visiones sui capitis, quia per tales ipse

seductus, &c., (Baluz. Not ad Vit. Pap. Avenionensium, tom. i. p.

1224.)]

[Footnote 60: This predatory expedition is related by Froissard,

(Chronique, tom. i. p. 230,) and in the life of Du Guesclin, (Collection

Générale des Mémoires Historiques, tom. iv. c. 16, p. 107--113.) As early as the year 1361, the court of Avignon had been molested by

similar freebooters, who afterwards passed the Alps, (Mémoires sur

Pétrarque, tom. iii. p. 563--569.)]

[Footnote 61: Fleury alleges, from the annals of Odericus Raynaldus, the original treaty which was signed the 21st of December, 1376, between

Gregory XI. and the Romans, (Hist. Ecclés. tom. xx. p. 275.)]

[Footnote 62: The first crown or regnum (Ducange, Gloss. Latin. tom. v.

p. 702) on the episcopal mitre of the popes, is ascribed to the gift of constantine, or Clovis. The second was added by Boniface VIII., as the emblem not only of a spiritual, but of a temporal, kingdom. The three

states of the church are represented by the triple crown which was

introduced by John XXII. or Benedict XII., (Mémoires sur Pétrarque, tom.

i. p. 258, 259.)]

[Footnote 63: Baluze (Not. ad Pap. Avenion. tom. i. p. 1194, 1195)

produces the original evidence which attests the threats of the Roman ambassadors, and the resignation of the abbot of Mount Cassin, qui,

ultro se offerens, respondit se civem Romanum esse, et illud velle quod

ipsi vellent.]

[Footnote 64: The return of the popes from Avignon to Rome, and their

reception by the people, are related in the original lives of Urban

V. and Gregory XI., in Baluze (Vit. Paparum Avenionensium, tom. i. p.

363--486) and Muratori, (Script. Rer. Italicarum, tom. iii. P. i.

p. 613--712.) In the disputes of the schism, every circumstance was

severely, though partially, scrutinized; more especially in the great

inquest, which decided the obedience of Castile, and to which Baluze,

in his notes, so often and so largely appeals from a MS. volume in the

Harley library, (p. 1281, &c.)]

If superstition will interpret an untimely death, [65] if the merit of counsels be judged from the event, the heavens may seem to frown on a

measure of such apparent season and propriety. Gregory the Eleventh did

not survive above fourteen months his return to the Vatican; and his decease was followed by the great schism of the West, which distracted the Latin church above forty years. The sacred college was then composed

of twenty-two cardinals: six of these had remained at Avignon; eleven frenchmen, one Spaniard, and four Italians, entered the conclave in the

usual form. Their choice was not yet limited to the purple; and their

unanimous votes acquiesced in the archbishop of Bari, a subject of

Naples, conspicuous for his zeal and learning, who ascended the throne

of St. Peter under the name of Urban the Sixth. The epistle of the

sacred college affirms his free, and regular, election; which had been

inspired, as usual, by the Holy Ghost; he was adored, invested, and crowned, with the customary rites; his temporal authority was obeyed at

Rome and Avignon, and his ecclesiastical supremacy was acknowledged in the Latin world. During several weeks, the cardinals attended their new

master with the fairest professions of attachment and loyalty; till the

summer heats permitted a decent escape from the city. But as soon as they were united at Anagni and Fundi, in a place of security, they cast aside the mask, accused their own falsehood and hypocrisy, excommunicated the apostate and antichrist of Rome, and proceeded to a new election of Robert of Geneva, Clement the Seventh, whom they announced to the nations as the true and rightful vicar of Christ. Their first choice, an involuntary and illegal act, was annulled by fear of death and the menaces of the Romans; and their complaint is justified by the strong evidence of probability and fact. The twelve French cardinals, above two thirds of the votes, were masters of the election; and whatever might be their provincial jealousies, it cannot fairly be

presumed that they would have sacrificed their right and interest to a foreign candidate, who would never restore them to their native country.

In the various, and often inconsistent, narratives, [66] the shades

of popular violence are more darkly or faintly colored: but the

licentiousness of the seditious Romans was inflamed by a sense of their

privileges, and the danger of a second emigration. The conclave was

intimidated by the shouts, and encompassed by the arms, of thirty thousand rebels; the bells of the Capitol and St. Peter's rang an alarm:

"Death, or an Italian pope!" was the universal cry; the same threat was

repeated by the twelve bannerets or chiefs of the quarters, in the form of charitable advice; some preparations were made for burning the

obstinate cardinals; and had they chosen a Transalpine subject, it is

probable that they would never have departed alive from the Vatican. The

same constraint imposed the necessity of dissembling in the eyes of

Rome and of the world; the pride and cruelty of Urban presented a more

inevitable danger; and they soon discovered the features of the tyrant, who could walk in his garden and recite his breviary, while he heard from an adjacent chamber six cardinals groaning on the rack. His

inflexible zeal, which loudly censured their luxury and vice, would have attached them to the stations and duties of their parishes at Rome; and

had he not fatally delayed a new promotion, the French cardinals would

have been reduced to a helpless minority in the sacred college. For these reasons, and the hope of repassing the Alps, they rashly violated the peace and unity of the church; and the merits of their double choice are yet agitated in the Catholic schools. [67] The vanity, rather than the interest, of the nation determined the court and clergy of France.

[68] The states of Savoy, Sicily, Cyprus, Arragon, Castille, Navarre, and

Scotland were inclined by their example and authority to the obedience

of Clement the Seventh, and after his decease, of Benedict the thirteenth. Rome and the principal states of Italy, Germany, Portugal, england, [69] the Low Countries, and the kingdoms of the North, adhered to the prior election of Urban the Sixth, who was succeeded by Boniface the Ninth, Innocent the Seventh, and Gregory the Twelfth.

[Footnote 65: Can the death of a good man be esteemed a punishment by those who believe in the immortality of the soul? They betray the

instability of their faith. Yet as a mere philosopher, I cannot agree with the Greeks, on oi Jeoi jilousin apoqnhskei neoV, (Brunck, Poetæ

Gnomici, p. 231.) See in Herodotus (l. i. c. 31) the moral and pleasing tale of the Argive youths.]

[Footnote 66: In the first book of the Histoire du Concile de Pise,

M. Lenfant has abridged and compared the original narratives of the adherents of Urban and Clement, of the Italians and Germans, the French and Spaniards. The latter appear to be the most active and loquacious, and every fact and word in the original lives of Gregory XI. and Clement

VII. are supported in the notes of their editor Baluze.]

[Footnote 67: The ordinal numbers of the popes seems to decide the

question against Clement VII. and Benedict XIII., who are boldly

stigmatized as antipopes by the Italians, while the French are content with authorities and reasons to plead the cause of doubt and toleration,

(Baluz. in Præfat.) It is singular, or rather it is not singular, that

saints, visions and miracles should be common to both parties.]

[Footnote 68: Baluze strenuously labors (Not. p. 1271--1280) to justify the pure and pious motives of Charles V. king of France: he refused to

hear the arguments of Urban; but were not the Urbanists equally deaf to the reasons of Clement, &c.?]

[Footnote 69: An epistle, or declamation, in the name of Edward III.,

(Baluz. Vit. Pap. Avenion. tom. i. p. 553,) displays the zeal of the english nation against the Clementines. Nor was their zeal confined to words: the bishop of Norwich led a crusade of 60,000 bigots beyond sea,

(Hume's History, vol. iii. p. 57, 58.)]

from the banks of the Tyber and the Rhône, the hostile pontiffs encountered each other with the pen and the sword: the civil and ecclesiastical order of society was disturbed; and the Romans had their full share of the mischiefs of which they may be arraigned as the

primary authors. [70] They had vainly flattered themselves with the hope

of restoring the seat of the ecclesiastical monarchy, and of relieving their poverty with the tributes and offerings of the nations; but the separation of France and Spain diverted the stream of lucrative devotion; nor could the loss be compensated by the two jubilees which were crowded into the space of ten years. By the avocations of the

schism, by foreign arms, and popular tumults, Urban the Sixth and his three successors were often compelled to interrupt their residence in the Vatican. The Colonna and Ursini still exercised their deadly feuds: the bannerets of Rome asserted and abused the privileges of a republic: the vicars of Christ, who had levied a military force, chastised their

rebellion with the gibbet, the sword, and the dagger; and, in a friendly conference, eleven deputies of the people were perfidiously murdered and cast into the street. Since the invasion of Robert the Norman, the Romans had pursued their domestic quarrels without the dangerous

interposition of a stranger. But in the disorders of the schism, an aspiring neighbor, Ladislaus king of Naples, alternately supported and betrayed the pope and the people; by the former he was declared

\_gonfalonier\_, or general, of the church, while the latter submitted to

his choice the nomination of their magistrates. Besieging Rome by

land and water, he thrice entered the gates as a Barbarian conqueror;

profaned the altars, violated the virgins, pillaged the merchants,

performed his devotions at St. Peter's, and left a garrison in the castle of St. Angelo. His arms were sometimes unfortunate, and to a delay of three days he was indebted for his life and crown: but

Ladislaus triumphed in his turn; and it was only his premature death that could save the metropolis and the ecclesiastical state from the ambitious conqueror, who had assumed the title, or at least the powers,

of king of Rome. [71]

[Footnote 70: Besides the general historians, the Diaries of Delphinus

Gentilia Peter Antonius, and Stephen Infessura, in the great collection

of Muratori, represented the state and misfortunes of Rome.]

[Footnote 71: It is supposed by Giannone (tom. iii. p. 292) that

he styled himself Rex Romæ, a title unknown to the world since the expulsion of Tarquin. But a nearer inspection has justified the reading

of Rex R\_a\_mæ, of Rama, an obscure kingdom annexed to the crown of

Hungary.]

I have not undertaken the ecclesiastical history of the schism; but

Rome, the object of these last chapters, is deeply interested in the disputed succession of her sovereigns. The first counsels for the peace and union of Christendom arose from the university of Paris, from the faculty of the Sorbonne, whose doctors were esteemed, at least in the

Gallican church, as the most consummate masters of theological science.

[72] Prudently waiving all invidious inquiry into the origin and merits

of the dispute, they proposed, as a healing measure, that the two

pretenders of Rome and Avignon should abdicate at the same time, after

qualifying the cardinals of the adverse factions to join in a legitimate election; and that the nations should \_subtract\_ [73] their obedience,

if either of the competitor preferred his own interest to that of the

public. At each vacancy, these physicians of the church deprecated the

mischiefs of a hasty choice; but the policy of the conclave and the ambition of its members were deaf to reason and entreaties; and whatsoever promises were made, the pope could never be bound by the

oaths of the cardinal. During fifteen years, the pacific designs of the

university were eluded by the arts of the rival pontiffs, the scruples

or passions of their adherents, and the vicissitudes of French factions, that ruled the insanity of Charles the Sixth. At length a vigorous

resolution was embraced; and a solemn embassy, of the titular patriarch

of Alexandria, two archbishops, five bishops, five abbots, three

knights, and twenty doctors, was sent to the courts of Avignon and Rome, to require, in the name of the church and king, the abdication of the two pretenders, of Peter de Luna, who styled himself Benedict the thirteenth, and of Angelo Corrario, who assumed the name of Gregory the Twelfth. For the ancient honor of Rome, and the success of their commission, the ambassadors solicited a conference with the magistrates

of the city, whom they gratified by a positive declaration, that the

most Christian king did not entertain a wish of transporting the holy

see from the Vatican, which he considered as the genuine and proper seat

of the successor of St. Peter. In the name of the senate and people, an eloquent Roman asserted their desire to cooperate in the union of the church, deplored the temporal and spiritual calamities of the long

schism, and requested the protection of France against the arms of the

king of Naples. The answers of Benedict and Gregory were alike edifying and alike deceitful; and, in evading the demand of their abdication, the two rivals were animated by a common spirit. They agreed on the

necessity of a previous interview; but the time, the place, and the

manner, could never be ascertained by mutual consent. "If the one advances," says a servant of Gregory, "the other retreats; the one appears an animal fearful of the land, the other a creature apprehensive

of the water. And thus, for a short remnant of life and power, will these aged priests endanger the peace and salvation of the Christian world." [74]

[Footnote 72: The leading and decisive part which France assumed in the

schism is stated by Peter du Puis in a separate history, extracted from authentic records, and inserted in the seventh volume of the last and best edition of his friend Thuanus, (P. xi. p. 110--184.)]

[Footnote 73: Of this measure, John Gerson, a stout doctor, was the author of the champion. The proceedings of the university of Paris and the Gallican church were often prompted by his advice, and are copiously displayed in his theological writings, of which Le Clerc (Bibliothèque choisie, tom. x. p. 1--78) has given a valuable extract. John Gerson acted an important part in the councils of Pisa and Constance.]

[Footnote 74: Leonardus Brunus Aretinus, one of the revivers of classic

learning in Italy, who, after serving many years as secretary in the

Roman court, retired to the honorable office of chancellor of the

republic of Florence, (Fabric. Bibliot. Medii Ævi, tom. i. p. 290.)

Lenfant has given the version of this curious epistle, (Concile de Pise, tom. i. p. 192--195.)]

the Christian world was at length provoked by their obstinacy and fraud: they were deserted by their cardinals, who embraced each other as friends and colleagues; and their revolt was supported by a numerous assembly of prelates and ambassadors. With equal justice, the council of

Pisa deposed the popes of Rome and Avignon; the conclave was unanimous

in the choice of Alexander the Fifth, and his vacant seat was soon filled by a similar election of John the Twenty-third, the most

profligate of mankind. But instead of extinguishing the schism, the

rashness of the French and Italians had given a third pretender to the chair of St. Peter. Such new claims of the synod and conclave were disputed; three kings, of Germany, Hungary, and Naples, adhered to the cause of Gregory the Twelfth; and Benedict the Thirteenth, himself a Spaniard, was acknowledged by the devotion and patriotism of that

powerful nation. The rash proceedings of Pisa were corrected by the council of Constance; the emperor Sigismond acted a conspicuous part as the advocate or protector of the Catholic church; and the number and weight of civil and ecclesiastical members might seem to constitute the

states-general of Europe. Of the three popes, John the Twenty-third was the first victim: he fled and was brought back a prisoner: the most

scandalous charges were suppressed; the vicar of Christ was only accused

of piracy, murder, rape, sodomy, and incest; and after subscribing his

own condemnation, he expiated in prison the imprudence of trusting

his person to a free city beyond the Alps. Gregory the Twelfth, whose

obedience was reduced to the narrow precincts of Rimini, descended with

more honor from the throne; and his ambassador convened the session, in which he renounced the title and authority of lawful pope. To vanquish the obstinacy of Benedict the Thirteenth or his adherents, the emperor

in person undertook a journey from Constance to Perpignan. The kings of castile, Arragon, Navarre, and Scotland, obtained an equal and honorable treaty; with the concurrence of the Spaniards, Benedict was deposed by the council; but the harmless old man was left in a solitary castle to excommunicate twice each day the rebel kingdoms which had deserted his cause. After thus eradicating the remains of the schism, the synod of constance proceeded with slow and cautious steps to elect the sovereign

of Rome and the head of the church. On this momentous occasion, the college of twenty-three cardinals was fortified with thirty deputies;

six of whom were chosen in each of the five great nations of christendom,--the Italian, the German, the French, the Spanish, and the \_English\_: [75] the interference of strangers was softened by their

generous preference of an Italian and a Roman; and the hereditary, as well as personal, merit of Otho Colonna recommended him to the conclave.

Rome accepted with joy and obedience the noblest of her sons; the ecclesiastical state was defended by his powerful family; and the elevation of Martin the Fifth is the æra of the restoration and establishment of the popes in the Vatican. [76]

[Footnote 75: I cannot overlook this great national cause, which was

vigorously maintained by the English ambassadors against those

of France. The latter contended, that Christendom was essentially distributed into the four great nations and votes, of Italy, Germany, france, and Spain, and that the lesser kingdoms (such as England, denmark, Portugal, &c.) were comprehended under one or other of these

great divisions. The English asserted, that the British islands, of which they were the head, should be considered as a fifth and coördinate

nation, with an equal vote; and every argument of truth or fable was

introduced to exalt the dignity of their country. Including England,

Scotland, Wales, the four kingdoms of Ireland, and the Orkneys, the british Islands are decorated with eight royal crowns, and discriminated by four or five languages, English, Welsh, Cornish, Scotch, Irish, &c. the greater island from north to south measures 800 miles, or 40 days'

journey; and England alone contains 32 counties and 52,000 parish churches, (a bold account!) besides cathedrals, colleges, priories, and

hospitals. They celebrate the mission of St. Joseph of Arimathea, the birth of Constantine, and the legatine powers of the two primates, without forgetting the testimony of Bartholomey de Glanville, (A.D.

1360,) who reckons only four Christian kingdoms, 1. of Rome, 2. of constantinople, 3. of Ireland, which had been transferred to the English

monarchs, and 4, of Spain. Our countrymen prevailed in the council, but the victories of Henry V. added much weight to their arguments. the adverse pleadings were found at Constance by Sir Robert Wingfield, ambassador of Henry VIII. to the emperor Maximilian I., and by him

printed in 1517 at Louvain. From a Leipsic MS. they are more correctly

published in the collection of Von der Hardt, tom. v.; but I have only

seen Lenfant's abstract of these acts, (Concile de Constance, tom. ii.

p. 447, 453, &c.)]

[Footnote 76: The histories of the three successive councils, Pisa, constance, and Basil, have been written with a tolerable degree of candor, industry, and elegance, by a Protestant minister, M. Lenfant, who retired from France to Berlin. They form six volumes in quarto; and as Basil is the worst, so Constance is the best, part of the collection.]

chapter LXX: Final Settlement Of The Ecclesiastical State.--Part IV.

the royal prerogative of coining money, which had been exercised near three hundred years by the senate, was \_first\_ resumed by Martin the fifth, [77] and his image and superscription introduce the series of the

papal medals. Of his two immediate successors, Eugenius the Fourth was the \_last\_ pope expelled by the tumults of the Roman people, [78] and

Nicholas the Fifth, the \_last\_ who was importuned by the presence of a Roman emperor. [79] I. The conflict of Eugenius with the fathers of basil, and the weight or apprehension of a new excise, emboldened and

provoked the Romans to usurp the temporal government of the city. They

rose in arms, elected seven governors of the republic, and a constable

of the Capitol; imprisoned the pope's nephew; besieged his person in the

palace; and shot volleys of arrows into his bark as he escaped down the tyber in the habit of a monk. But he still possessed in the castle of

St. Angelo a faithful garrison and a train of artillery: their batteries

incessantly thundered on the city, and a bullet more dexterously pointed broke down the barricade of the bridge, and scattered with a single shot the heroes of the republic. Their constancy was exhausted by a rebellion

of five months. Under the tyranny of the Ghibeline nobles, the wisest

patriots regretted the dominion of the church; and their repentance was unanimous and effectual. The troops of St. Peter again occupied the capitol; the magistrates departed to their homes; the most guilty were executed or exiled; and the legate, at the head of two thousand foot and four thousand horse, was saluted as the father of the city. The synods

of Ferrara and Florence, the fear or resentment of Eugenius, prolonged

his absence: he was received by a submissive people; but the pontiff

understood from the acclamations of his triumphal entry, that to secure their loyalty and his own repose, he must grant without delay the abolition of the odious excise. II. Rome was restored, adorned, and enlightened, by the peaceful reign of Nicholas the Fifth. In the midst

of these laudable occupations, the pope was alarmed by the approach of frederic the Third of Austria; though his fears could not be justified by the character or the power of the Imperial candidate. After drawing

his military force to the metropolis, and imposing the best security of

oaths [80] and treaties, Nicholas received with a smiling countenance the faithful advocate and vassal of the church. So tame were the times,

so feeble was the Austrian, that the pomp of his coronation was accomplished with order and harmony: but the superfluous honor was so disgraceful to an independent nation, that his successors have excused themselves from the toilsome pilgrimage to the Vatican; and rest their

Imperial title on the choice of the electors of Germany.

[Footnote 77: See the xxviith Dissertation of the Antiquities of

Muratori, and the 1st Instruction of the Science des Medailles of the

Père Joubert and the Baron de la Bastie. The Metallic History of Martin

V. and his successors has been composed by two monks, Moulinet, a frenchman, and Bonanni, an Italian: but I understand, that the first

part of the series is restored from more recent coins.]

[Footnote 78: Besides the Lives of Eugenius IV., (Rerum Italic. tom.

iii. P. i. p. 869, and tom. xxv. p. 256,) the Diaries of Paul Petroni and Stephen Infessura are the best original evidence for the revolt of the Romans against Eugenius IV. The former, who lived at the time and on the spot, speaks the language of a citizen, equally afraid of priestly and popular tyranny.]

[Footnote 79: The coronation of Frederic III. is described by Lenfant,

(Concile de Basle, tom. ii. p. 276--288,) from Æneas Sylvius, a

spectator and actor in that splendid scene.]

[Footnote 80: The oath of fidelity imposed on the emperor by the pope is

recorded and sanctified in the Clementines, (l. ii. tit. ix.;) and Æneas

Sylvius, who objects to this new demand, could not foresee, that in a few years he should ascend the throne, and imbibe the maxims, of boniface VIII.]

a citizen has remarked, with pride and pleasure, that the king of the

Romans, after passing with a slight salute the cardinals and prelates who met him at the gate, distinguished the dress and person of the

senator of Rome; and in this last farewell, the pageants of the empire and the republic were clasped in a friendly embrace. [81] According to the laws of Rome, [82] her first magistrate was required to be a doctor

of laws, an alien, of a place at least forty miles from the city; with whose inhabitants he must not be connected in the third canonical degree

of blood or alliance. The election was annual: a severe scrutiny was

instituted into the conduct of the departing senator; nor could he be

recalled to the same office till after the expiration of two years. A

liberal salary of three thousand florins was assigned for his expense and reward; and his public appearance represented the majesty of the

republic. His robes were of gold brocade or crimson velvet, or in the

summer season of a lighter silk: he bore in his hand an ivory sceptre; the sound of trumpets announced his approach; and his solemn steps were

preceded at least by four lictors or attendants, whose red wands were enveloped with bands or streamers of the golden color or livery of the city. His oath in the Capitol proclaims his right and duty to observe and assert the laws, to control the proud, to protect the poor, and to exercise justice and mercy within the extent of his jurisdiction. In these useful functions he was assisted by three learned strangers; the two \_collaterals\_, and the judge of criminal appeals: their frequent trials of robberies, rapes, and murders, are attested by the laws; and the weakness of these laws connives at the licentiousness of private feuds and armed associations for mutual defence. But the senator was confined to the administration of justice: the Capitol, the treasury, and the government of the city and its territory, were intrusted to the three \_conservators\_, who were changed four times in each year: the

militia of the thirteen regions assembled under the banners of their respective chiefs, or \_caporioni\_; and the first of these was distinguished by the name and dignity of the \_prior\_. The popular

legislature consisted of the secret and the common councils of the

Romans. The former was composed of the magistrates and their immediate

predecessors, with some fiscal and legal officers, and three classes of thirteen, twenty-six, and forty, counsellors: amounting in the whole to about one hundred and twenty persons. In the common council all

male citizens had a right to vote; and the value of their privilege was enhanced by the care with which any foreigners were prevented from

usurping the title and character of Romans. The tumult of a democracy was checked by wise and jealous precautions: except the magistrates,

none could propose a question; none were permitted to speak, except from an open pulpit or tribunal; all disorderly acclamations were suppressed; the sense of the majority was decided by a secret ballot; and their decrees were promulgated in the venerable name of the Roman senate and

people. It would not be easy to assign a period in which this theory of

government has been reduced to accurate and constant practice, since the establishment of order has been gradually connected with the decay

of liberty. But in the year one thousand five hundred and eighty the ancient statutes were collected, methodized in three books, and adapted to present use, under the pontificate, and with the approbation, of

Gregory the Thirteenth: [83] this civil and criminal code is the modern

law of the city; and, if the popular assemblies have been abolished, a foreign senator, with the three conservators, still resides in the

palace of the Capitol. [84] The policy of the Cæsars has been repeated by the popes; and the bishop of Rome affected to maintain the form of a republic, while he reigned with the absolute powers of a temporal, as well as a spiritual, monarch.

[Footnote 81: Lo senatore di Roma, vestito di brocarto con quella beretta, e con quelle maniche, et ornamenti di pelle, co' quali va alle feste di Testaccio e Nagone, might escape the eye of Æneas Sylvius, but he is viewed with admiration and complacency by the Roman citizen,

(Diario di Stephano Infessura, p. 1133.)]

[Footnote 82: See, in the statutes of Rome, the \_senator and three

judges\_, (l. i. c. 3--14,) the \_conservators\_, (l. i. c. 15, 16, 17,

l. iii. c. 4,) the \_caporioni\_ (l. i. c. 18, l. iii. c. 8,) the \_secret council\_, (l. iii. c. 2,) the \_common council\_, (l. iii. c. 3.) The title of \_feuds\_, \_defiances\_, \_acts of violence\_, &c., is spread through many a chapter (c. 14--40) of the second book.]

[Footnote 83: \_Statuta alm Urbis Rom Auctoritate S. D. N. Gregorii XIII

Pont. Max. a Senatu Populoque Rom. reformata et edita. Rom, 1580, in folio\_. The obsolete, repugnant statutes of antiquity were confounded in five books, and Lucas Pætus, a lawyer and antiquarian, was appointed to act as the modern Tribonian. Yet I regret the old code, with the rugged crust of freedom and barbarism.]

[Footnote 84: In my time (1765) and in M. Grosley's, (Observations sur

l'Italie torn. ii. p. 361,) the senator of Rome was M. Bielke, a noble

Swede and a proselyte to the Catholic faith. The pope's right to appoint the senator and the conservator is implied, rather than affirmed, in the

statutes.]

It is an obvious truth, that the times must be suited to extraordinary characters, and that the genius of Cromwell or Retz might now expire

in obscurity. The political enthusiasm of Rienzi had exalted him to a throne; the same enthusiasm, in the next century, conducted his imitator to the gallows. The birth of Stephen Porcaro was noble, his reputation

spotless: his tongue was armed with eloquence, his mind was enlightened with learning; and he aspired, beyond the aim of vulgar ambition, to free his country and immortalize his name. The dominion of priests is

most odious to a liberal spirit: every scruple was removed by the recent

knowledge of the fable and forgery of Constantine's donation; Petrarch was now the oracle of the Italians; and as often as Porcaro revolved the

ode which describes the patriot and hero of Rome, he applied to himself the visions of the prophetic bard. His first trial of the popular feelings was at the funeral of Eugenius the Fourth: in an elaborate

speech he called the Romans to liberty and arms; and they listened with apparent pleasure, till Porcaro was interrupted and answered by a

grave advocate, who pleaded for the church and state. By every law the

seditious orator was guilty of treason; but the benevolence of the new

pontiff, who viewed his character with pity and esteem, attempted by an

honorable office to convert the patriot into a friend. The inflexible

Roman returned from Anagni with an increase of reputation and zeal; and,

on the first opportunity, the games of the place Navona, he tried to

inflame the casual dispute of some boys and mechanics into a general

rising of the people. Yet the humane Nicholas was still averse to accept the forfeit of his life; and the traitor was removed from the scene of temptation to Bologna, with a liberal allowance for his support, and the easy obligation of presenting himself each day before the governor of the city. But Porcaro had learned from the younger Brutus, that with tyrants no faith or gratitude should be observed: the exile declaimed against the arbitrary sentence; a party and a conspiracy were gradually formed: his nephew, a daring youth, assembled a band of volunteers; and on the appointed evening a feast was prepared at his house for the friends of the republic. Their leader, who had escaped from Bologna, appeared among them in a robe of purple and gold: his voice, his countenance, his gestures, bespoke the man who had devoted his life or death to the glorious cause. In a studied oration, he expiated on the

motives and the means of their enterprise; the name and liberties of

Rome; the sloth and pride of their ecclesiastical tyrants; the active

or passive consent of their fellow-citizens; three hundred soldiers, and four hundred exiles, long exercised in arms or in wrongs; the license

of revenge to edge their swords, and a million of ducats to reward their

victory. It would be easy, (he said,) on the next day, the festival of the Epiphany, to seize the pope and his cardinals, before the doors, or at the altar, of St. Peter's; to lead them in chains under the walls of

St. Angelo; to extort by the threat of their instant death a surrender

of the castle; to ascend the vacant Capitol; to ring the alarm bell; and to restore in a popular assembly the ancient republic of Rome. While he triumphed, he was already betrayed. The senator, with a strong guard,

invested the house: the nephew of Porcaro cut his way through the crowd; but the unfortunate Stephen was drawn from a chest, lamenting that his enemies had anticipated by three hours the execution of his design. after such manifest and repeated guilt, even the mercy of Nicholas was

silent. Porcaro, and nine of his accomplices, were hanged without the benefit of the sacraments; and, amidst the fears and invectives of the

papal court, the Romans pitied, and almost applauded, these martyrs of their country. [85] But their applause was mute, their pity ineffectual, their liberty forever extinct; and, if they have since risen in a

vacancy of the throne or a scarcity of bread, such accidental tumults

may be found in the bosom of the most abject servitude.

[Footnote 85: Besides the curious, though concise, narrative of

Machiavel, (Istoria Florentina, l. vi. Opere, tom. i. p. 210, 211, edit.

Londra, 1747, in 4to.) the Porcarian conspiracy is related in the Diary

of Stephen Infessura, (Rer. Ital. tom. iii. P. ii. p. 1134, 1135,) and

in a separate tract by Leo Baptista Alberti, (Rer. Ital. tom. xxv. p.

609--614.) It is amusing to compare the style and sentiments of the courtier and citizen. Facinus profecto quo.... neque periculo

horribilius, neque audaciâ detestabilius, neque crudelitate tetrius, a

quoquam perditissimo uspiam excogitatum sit.... Perdette la vita quell'

huomo da bene, e amatore dello bene e libertà di Roma.]

but the independence of the nobles, which was fomented by discord,

survived the freedom of the commons, which must be founded in union. A

privilege of rapine and oppression was long maintained by the barons of

Rome; their houses were a fortress and a sanctuary: and the ferocious train of banditti and criminals whom they protected from the law repaid the hospitality with the service of their swords and daggers. The

private interest of the pontiffs, or their nephews, sometimes involved them in these domestic feuds. Under the reign of Sixtus the Fourth, Rome was distracted by the battles and sieges of the rival houses: after the conflagration of his palace, the prothonotary Colonna was tortured and beheaded; and Savelli, his captive friend, was murdered on the spot, for

refusing to join in the acclamations of the victorious Ursini. [86] but the popes no longer trembled in the Vatican: they had strength to command, if they had resolution to claim, the obedience of their

subjects; and the strangers, who observed these partial disorders, admired the easy taxes and wise administration of the ecclesiastical

state. [87]

[Footnote 86: The disorders of Rome, which were much inflamed by the

partiality of Sixtus IV. are exposed in the Diaries of two spectators,

Stephen Infessura, and an anonymous citizen. See the troubles of the

year 1484, and the death of the prothonotary Colonna, in tom. iii. P.

ii. p. 1083, 1158.]

[Footnote 87: Est toute la terre de l'église troublée pour cette

partialité (des Colonnes et des Ursins) come nous dirions Luce et

Grammont, ou en Hollande Houc et Caballan; et quand ce ne seroit ce différend la terre de l'église seroit la plus heureuse habitation pour

les sujets qui soit dans toute le monde (car ils ne payent ni tailles ni

guères autres choses,) et seroient toujours bien conduits, (car toujours

les papes sont sages et bien consellies;) mais très souvent en advient de grands et cruels meurtres et pilleries.]

the spiritual thunders of the Vatican depend on the force of opinion; and if that opinion be supplanted by reason or passion, the sound may

idly waste itself in the air; and the helpless priest is exposed to the brutal violence of a noble or a plebeian adversary. But after their

return from Avignon, the keys of St. Peter were guarded by the sword

of St. Paul. Rome was commanded by an impregnable citadel: the use of cannon is a powerful engine against popular seditions: a regular force

of cavalry and infantry was enlisted under the banners of the pope: his ample revenues supplied the resources of war: and, from the extent of

his domain, he could bring down on a rebellious city an army of hostile

neighbors and loyal subjects. [88] Since the union of the duchies

of Ferrara and Urbino, the ecclesiastical state extends from the

Mediterranean to the Adriatic, and from the confines of Naples to the banks of the Po; and as early as the sixteenth century, the greater part

of that spacious and fruitful country acknowledged the lawful claims and temporal sovereignty of the Roman pontiffs. Their claims were readily deduced from the genuine, or fabulous, donations of the darker ages: the

successive steps of their final settlement would engage us too far in the transactions of Italy, and even of Europe; the crimes of Alexander the Sixth, the martial operations of Julius the Second, and the liberal

policy of Leo the Tenth, a theme which has been adorned by the pens of the noblest historians of the times. [89] In the first period of their conquests, till the expedition of Charles the Eighth, the popes might

successfully wrestle with the adjacent princes and states, whose

military force was equal, or inferior, to their own. But as soon as the

monarchs of France, Germany and Spain, contended with gigantic arms for the dominion of Italy, they supplied with art the deficiency of

strength; and concealed, in a labyrinth of wars and treaties, their aspiring views, and the immortal hope of chasing the Barbarians beyond the Alps. The nice balance of the Vatican was often subverted by the

soldiers of the North and West, who were united under the standard of charles the Fifth: the feeble and fluctuating policy of Clement the

Seventh exposed his person and dominions to the conqueror; and Rome was abandoned seven months to a lawless army, more cruel and rapacious than the Goths and Vandals. [90] After this severe lesson, the popes contracted their ambition, which was almost satisfied, resumed the character of a common parent, and abstained from all offensive

hostilities, except in a hasty quarrel, when the vicar of Christ and the Turkish sultan were armed at the same time against the kingdom of

Naples. [91] The French and Germans at length withdrew from the field of battle: Milan, Naples, Sicily, Sardinia, and the sea-coast of Tuscany, were firmly possessed by the Spaniards; and it became their interest to maintain the peace and dependence of Italy, which continued almost without disturbance from the middle of the sixteenth to the opening

of the eighteenth century. The Vatican was swayed and protected by the religious policy of the Catholic king: his prejudice and interest disposed him in every dispute to support the prince against the people; and instead of the encouragement, the aid, and the asylum, which they

obtained from the adjacent states, the friends of liberty, or the enemies of law, were enclosed on all sides within the iron circle

of despotism. The long habits of obedience and education subdued the turbulent spirit of the nobles and commons of Rome. The barons forgot the arms and factions of their ancestors, and insensibly became the

servants of luxury and government. Instead of maintaining a crowd of tenants and followers, the produce of their estates was consumed in the

private expenses which multiply the pleasures, and diminish the power,

of the lord. [92] The Colonna and Ursini vied with each other in the decoration of their palaces and chapels; and their antique splendor was

rivalled or surpassed by the sudden opulence of the papal families. In

Rome the voice of freedom and discord is no longer heard; and, instead

of the foaming torrent, a smooth and stagnant lake reflects the image of

idleness and servitude.

[Footnote 88: By the conomy of Sixtus V. the revenue of the ecclesiastical state was raised to two millions and a half of Roman crowns, (Vita, tom. ii. p. 291--296;) and so regular was the military establishment, that in one month Clement VIII. could invade the duchy of ferrara with three thousand horse and twenty thousand foot, (tom. iii.

p. 64) Since that time (A.D. 1597) the papal arms are happily rusted: but the revenue must have gained some nominal increase. \* Note:

On the financial measures of Sixtus V. see Ranke, Dio Römischen

Päpste, i. p. 459.--M.]

[Footnote 89: More especially by Guicciardini and Machiavel; in the

general history of the former, in the Florentine history, the Prince, and the political discourses of the latter. These, with their worthy

successors, Fra Paolo and Davila, were justly esteemed the first

historians of modern languages, till, in the present age, Scotland arose, to dispute the prize with Italy herself.]

[Footnote 90: In the history of the Gothic siege, I have compared the barbarians with the subjects of Charles V., (vol. iii. p. 289, 290;) an anticipation, which, like that of the Tartar conquests, I indulged with the less scruple, as I could scarcely hope to reach the conclusion of my work.]

[Footnote 91: The ambitious and feeble hostilities of the Caraffa pope,

Paul IV. may be seen in Thuanus (l. xvi.--xviii.) and Giannone, (tom.

iv p. 149--163.) Those Catholic bigots, Philip II. and the duke of Alva,

presumed to separate the Roman prince from the vicar of Christ, yet the

holy character, which would have sanctified his victory was decently applied to protect his defeat. \* Note: But compare Ranke, Die Römischen

Päpste, i. p. 289.--M.]

[Footnote 92: This gradual change of manners and expense is admirably explained by Dr. Adam Smith, (Wealth of Nations, vol. i. p. 495--504,) who proves, perhaps too severely, that the most salutary effects have flowed from the meanest and most selfish causes.]

a Christian, a philosopher, [93] and a patriot, will be equally

scandalized by the temporal kingdom of the clergy; and the local majesty

of Rome, the remembrance of her consuls and triumphs, may seem to

imbitter the sense, and aggravate the shame, of her slavery. If we calmly weigh the merits and defects of the ecclesiastical government,

it may be praised in its present state, as a mild, decent, and tranquil

system, exempt from the dangers of a minority, the sallies of youth, the expenses of luxury, and the calamities of war. But these advantages are overbalanced by a frequent, perhaps a septennial, election of a

sovereign, who is seldom a native of the country; the reign of a \_young\_

statesman of threescore, in the decline of his life and abilities, without hope to accomplish, and without children to inherit, the labors

of his transitory reign. The successful candidate is drawn from the church, and even the convent; from the mode of education and life the most adverse to reason, humanity, and freedom. In the trammels of

servile faith, he has learned to believe because it is absurd, to revere all that is contemptible, and to despise whatever might deserve the esteem of a rational being; to punish error as a crime, to reward

mortification and celibacy as the first of virtues; to place the saints

of the calendar [94] above the heroes of Rome and the sages of Athens; and to consider the missal, or the crucifix, as more useful instruments than the plough or the loom. In the office of nuncio, or the rank of cardinal, he may acquire some knowledge of the world, but the primitive

stain will adhere to his mind and manners: from study and experience

he may suspect the mystery of his profession; but the sacerdotal artist will imbibe some portion of the bigotry which he inculcates. The genius

of Sixtus the Fifth [95] burst from the gloom of a Franciscan cloister.

In a reign of five years, he exterminated the outlaws and banditti, abolished the \_profane\_ sanctuaries of Rome, [96] formed a naval and

military force, restored and emulated the monuments of antiquity, and after a liberal use and large increase of the revenue, left five

millions of crowns in the castle of St. Angelo. But his justice was

sullied with cruelty, his activity was prompted by the ambition of conquest: after his decease the abuses revived; the treasure was dissipated; he entailed on posterity thirty-five new taxes and the

venality of offices; and, after his death, his statue was demolished by an ungrateful, or an injured, people. [97] The wild and original character of Sixtus the Fifth stands alone in the series of the

pontiffs; the maxims and effects of their temporal government may be collected from the positive and comparative view of the arts and

philosophy, the agriculture and trade, the wealth and population, of the ecclesiastical state. For myself, it is my wish to depart in charity with all mankind, nor am I willing, in these last moments, to offend even the pope and clergy of Rome. [98]

[Footnote 93: Mr. Hume (Hist. of England, vol. i. p. 389) too hastily conclude that if the civil and ecclesiastical powers be united in the

same person, it is of little moment whether he be styled prince or

prelate since the temporal character will always predominate.]

[Footnote 94: A Protestant may disdain the unworthy preference of St. francis or St. Dominic, but he will not rashly condemn the zeal or

judgment of Sixtus V., who placed the statues of the apostles St. Peter and St. Paul on the vacant columns of Trajan and Antonine.]

[Footnote 95: A wandering Italian, Gregorio Leti, has given the Vita di

Sisto-Quinto, (Amstel. 1721, 3 vols. in 12mo.,) a copious and amusing work, but which does not command our absolute confidence. Yet the character of the man, and the principal facts, are supported by the annals of Spondanus and Muratori, (A.D. 1585--1590,) and the contemporary history of the great Thuanus, (l. lxxxii. c. 1, 2, l.

lxxxiv. c. 10, l. c. c. 8.) \* Note: The industry of M. Ranke has discovered the document, a kind of scandalous chronicle of the time, from which Leti wrought up his amusing romances. See also M. Ranke's

observations on the Life of Sixtus. by Tempesti, b. iii. p. 317, 324.--

M.]

[Footnote 96: These privileged places, the \_quartieri\_ or \_franchises\_, were adopted from the Roman nobles by the foreign ministers. Julius

II. had once abolished the abominandum et detestandum franchitiarum

hujusmodi nomen: and after Sixtus V. they again revived. I cannot discern either the justice or magnanimity of Louis XIV., who, in 1687,

sent his ambassador, the marquis de Lavardin, to Rome, with an armed force of a thousand officers, guards, and domestics, to maintain this

iniquitous claim, and insult Pope Innocent XI. in the heart of his capital, (Vita di Sisto V. tom. iii. p. 260--278. Muratori, Annali d'Italia, tom. xv. p. 494--496, and Voltaire, Siecle de Louis XIV. tom.

i. c. 14, p. 58, 59.)]

[Footnote 97: This outrage produced a decree, which was inscribed on

marble, and placed in the Capitol. It is expressed in a style of manly

simplicity and freedom: Si quis, sive privatus, sive magistratum gerens de collocandâ \_vivo\_ pontifici statuâ mentionem facere ausit, legitimo

S. P. Q. R. decreto in perpetuum infamis et publicorum munerum expers esto. MDXC. mense Augusto, (Vita di Sisto V. tom. iii. p. 469.) I believe that this decree is still observed, and I know that every

monarch who deserves a statue should himself impose the prohibition.]

[Footnote 98: The histories of the church, Italy, and Christendom, have contributed to the chapter which I now conclude. In the original Lives

of the Popes, we often discover the city and republic of Rome: and the events of the xivth and xvth centuries are preserved in the rude and domestic chronicles which I have carefully inspected, and shall

recapitulate in the order of time.

1. Monaldeschi (Ludovici Boncomitis) Fragmenta Annalium Roman. A.D.

1328, in the Scriptores Rerum Italicarum of Muratori, tom. xii. p.

525. N. B. The credit of this fragment is somewhat hurt by a singular

interpolation, in which the author relates his own death at the age of

115 years.

2. Fragmenta Historiæ Romanæ (vulgo Thomas Fortifioccæ) in Romana dialecto vulgari, (A.D. 1327--1354, in Muratori, Antiquitat. Medii Ævi

Italiæ, tom. iii. p. 247--548;) the authentic groundwork of the history

of Rienzi.

3. Delphini (Gentilis) Diarium Romanum, (A.D. 1370--1410,) in the Rerum

Italicarum, tom. iii. P. ii. p. 846.

4. Antonii (Petri) Diarium Rom., (A.D. 1404--1417,) tom. xxiv. p. 699.

5. Petroni (Pauli) Miscellanea Historica Romana, (A.D. 1433--1446,) tom.

xxiv. p. 1101.

6. Volaterrani (Jacob.) Diarium Rom., (A.D. 1472--1484,) tom. xxiii p.

81.

7. Anonymi Diarium Urbis Romæ, (A.D. 1481--1492,) tom. iii. P. ii. p.

1069.

8. Infessuræ (Stephani) Diarium Romanum, (A.D. 1294, or 1378--1494,) tom. iii. P. ii. p. 1109.

9. Historia Arcana Alexandri VI. sive Excerpta ex Diario Joh. Burcardi,

(A.D. 1492--1503,) edita a Godefr. Gulielm. Leibnizio, Hanover, 697, in

14to. The large and valuable Journal of Burcard might be completed from the MSS. in different libraries of Italy and France, (M. de Foncemagne,

in the Mémoires de l'Acad. des Inscrip. tom. xvii. p. 597--606.)

except the last, all these fragments and diaries are inserted in the collections of Muratori, my guide and master in the history of Italy.

His country, and the public, are indebted to him for the following works

on that subject: 1. \_Rerum Italicarum Scriptores\_, (A.D. 500--1500,)

\_quorum potissima pars nunc primum in lucem prodit\_, &c., xxviii.

vols. in folio, Milan, 1723--1738, 1751. A volume of chronological and alphabetical tables is still wanting as a key to this great work, which

is yet in a disorderly and defective state. 2. \_Antiquitates Italiæ

Medii Ævi\_, vi. vols. in folio, Milan, 1738--1743, in lxxv. curious dissertations, on the manners, government, religion, &c., of the

Italians of the darker ages, with a large supplement of charters, chronicles, &c. 3. \_Dissertazioni sopra le Antiquita Italiane\_, iii.

vols. in 4to., Milano, 1751, a free version by the author, which may be

quoted with the same confidence as the Latin text of the Antiquities.

\_Annali d' Italia\_, xviii. vols. in octavo, Milan, 1753--1756, a dry, though accurate and useful, abridgment of the history of Italy, from the birth of Christ to the middle of the xviiith century. 5. \_Dell' antichita Estense ed Italiane\_, ii. vols. in folio, Modena, 1717, 1740.

In the history of this illustrious race, the parent of our Brunswick

kings, the critic is not seduced by the loyalty or gratitude of the

subject. In all his works, Muratori approves himself a diligent and

laborious writer, who aspires above the prejudices of a Catholic priest.

He was born in the year 1672, and died in the year 1750, after passing

near 60 years in the libraries of Milan and Modena, (Vita del Proposto

Ludovico Antonio Muratori, by his nephew and successor Gian. Francesco

Soli Muratori Venezia, 1756 m 4to.)]

chapter LXXI: Prospect Of The Ruins Of Rome In The Fifteenth century.--Part I.

Prospect Of The Ruins Of Rome In The Fifteenth Century.--

Four Causes Of Decay And Destruction.--Example Of The

Coliseum.--Renovation Of The City.--Conclusion Of The Whole

Work.

In the last days of Pope Eugenius the Fourth, [101] two of his servants, the learned Poggius [1] and a friend, ascended the Capitoline hill;

reposed themselves among the ruins of columns and temples; and viewed from that commanding spot the wide and various prospect of desolation.

[2] The place and the object gave ample scope for moralizing on the

vicissitudes of fortune, which spares neither man nor the proudest of

his works, which buries empires and cities in a common grave; and it was agreed, that in proportion to her former greatness, the fall of Rome was the more awful and deplorable. "Her primeval state, such as she might appear in a remote age, when Evander entertained the stranger of Troy,

[3] has been delineated by the fancy of Virgil. This Tarpeian rock was then a savage and solitary thicket: in the time of the poet, it was crowned with the golden roofs of a temple; the temple is overthrown, the gold has been pillaged, the wheel of fortune has accomplished her

revolution, and the sacred ground is again disfigured with thorns and brambles. The hill of the Capitol, on which we sit, was formerly the

head of the Roman empire, the citadel of the earth, the terror of kings;

illustrated by the footsteps of so many triumphs, enriched with the

spoils and tributes of so many nations. This spectacle of the world,

how is it fallen! how changed! how defaced! The path of victory is

obliterated by vines, and the benches of the senators are concealed by a dunghill. Cast your eyes on the Palatine hill, and seek among the

shapeless and enormous fragments the marble theatre, the obelisks, the colossal statues, the porticos of Nero's palace: survey the other hills

of the city, the vacant space is interrupted only by ruins and gardens. the forum of the Roman people, where they assembled to enact their laws and elect their magistrates, is now enclosed for the cultivation of

pot-herbs, or thrown open for the reception of swine and buffaloes. the public and private edifices, that were founded for eternity, lie

prostrate, naked, and broken, like the limbs of a mighty giant; and the

ruin is the more visible, from the stupendous relics that have survived the injuries of time and fortune." [4]

[Footnote 101: It should be Pope Martin the Fifth. See Gibbon's own

note, ch. lxv, note 51 and Hobhouse, Illustrations of Childe Harold, p.

155.--M.]

[Footnote 1: I have already (notes 50, 51, on chap. lxv.) mentioned the age, character, and writings of Poggius; and particularly noticed the date of this elegant moral lecture on the varieties of fortune.]

[Footnote 2: Consedimus in ipsis Tarpeiæ arcis ruinis, pone ingens

portæ cujusdam, ut puto, templi, marmoreum limen, plurimasque passim confractas columnas, unde magnâ ex parte prospectus urbis patet, (p.

5.)]

[Footnote 3: Æneid viii. 97--369. This ancient picture, so artfully

introduced, and so exquisitely finished, must have been highly

interesting to an inhabitant of Rome; and our early studies allow us to

sympathize in the feelings of a Roman.]

[Footnote 4: Capitolium adeo.... immutatum ut vineæ in senatorum

subsellia successerint, stercorum ac purgamentorum receptaculum factum.

Respice ad Palatinum montem..... vasta rudera.... cæteros colles

perlustra omnia vacua ædificiis, ruinis vineisque oppleta conspicies,

(Poggius, de Varietat. Fortunæ p. 21.)]

these relics are minutely described by Poggius, one of the first who

raised his eyes from the monuments of legendary, to those of classic,

superstition. [5] \_1.\_Besides a bridge, an arch, a sepulchre, and the

pyramid of Cestius, he could discern, of the age of the republic, a double row of vaults, in the salt-office of the Capitol, which were

inscribed with the name and munificence of Catulus. \_2.\_ Eleven temples were visible in some degree, from the perfect form of the Pantheon, to the three arches and a marble column of the temple of Peace, which

Vespasian erected after the civil wars and the Jewish triumph. \_3.\_ Of the number, which he rashly defines, of seven \_therm\_, or public baths,

none were sufficiently entire to represent the use and distribution of the several parts: but those of Diocletian and Antoninus Caracalla

still retained the titles of the founders, and astonished the curious

spectator, who, in observing their solidity and extent, the variety of

marbles, the size and multitude of the columns, compared the labor and expense with the use and importance. Of the baths of Constantine, of alexander, of Domitian, or rather of Titus, some vestige might yet be found. \_4.\_ The triumphal arches of Titus, Severus, and Constantine, were entire, both the structure and the inscriptions; a falling fragment was honored with the name of Trajan; and two arches, then extant, in the flaminian way, have been ascribed to the baser memory of Faustina and

Gallienus. [501] \_5.\_ After the wonder of the Coliseum, Poggius might have

overlooked small amphitheatre of brick, most probably for the use of the

prætorian camp: the theatres of Marcellus and Pompey were occupied in a great measure by public and private buildings; and in the Circus, agonalis and Maximus, little more than the situation and the form could be investigated. \_6.\_ The columns of Trajan and Antonine were still erect; but the Egyptian obelisks were broken or buried. A people of gods and heroes, the workmanship of art, was reduced to one equestrian figure

of gilt brass, and to five marble statues, of which the most conspicuous were the two horses of Phidias and Praxiteles. \_7.\_ The two mausoleums

or sepulchres of Augustus and Hadrian could not totally be lost: but the former was only visible as a mound of earth; and the latter, the castle of St. Angelo, had acquired the name and appearance of a modern fortress. With the addition of some separate and nameless columns, such were the remains of the ancient city; for the marks of a more recent

structure might be detected in the walls, which formed a circumference

of ten miles, included three hundred and seventy-nine turrets, and

opened into the country by thirteen gates.

[Footnote 5: See Poggius, p. 8--22.]

[Footnote 501: One was in the Via Nomentana; est alter præterea Gallieno

principi dicatus, ut superscriptio indicat, \_Viâ Nomentana\_. Hobhouse,

p. 154. Poggio likewise mentions the building which Gibbon ambiguously

says be "might have overlooked."--M.]

this melancholy picture was drawn above nine hundred years after the fall of the Western empire, and even of the Gothic kingdom of Italy. a long period of distress and anarchy, in which empire, and arts, and riches had migrated from the banks of the Tyber, was incapable

of restoring or adorning the city; and, as all that is human must

retrograde if it do not advance, every successive age must have hastened the ruin of the works of antiquity. To measure the progress of decay, and to ascertain, at each æra, the state of each edifice, would be an endless and a useless labor; and I shall content myself with two

observations, which will introduce a short inquiry into the general causes and effects. \_1.\_ Two hundred years before the eloquent complaint

of Poggius, an anonymous writer composed a description of Rome. [6] His

ignorance may repeat the same objects under strange and fabulous names.

Yet this barbarous topographer had eyes and ears; he could observe the

visible remains; he could listen to the tradition of the people; and he distinctly enumerates seven theatres, eleven baths, twelve arches, and eighteen palaces, of which many had disappeared before the time

of Poggius. It is apparent, that many stately monuments of antiquity

survived till a late period, [7] and that the principles of destruction acted with vigorous and increasing energy in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. \_2.\_ The same reflection must be applied to the three last ages; and we should vainly seek the Septizonium of Severus;

[8] which is celebrated by Petrarch and the antiquarians of the sixteenth century. While the Roman edifices were still entire, the first blows,

however weighty and impetuous, were resisted by the solidity of the mass and the harmony of the parts; but the slightest touch would precipitate the fragments of arches and columns, that already nodded to their fall.

[Footnote 6: Liber de Mirabilibus Romæ ex Registro Nicolai Cardinalis de arragoniâ in Bibliothecâ St. Isidori Armario IV., No. 69. This treatise, with some short but pertinent notes, has been published by Montfaucon,

(Diarium Italicum, p. 283--301,) who thus delivers his own critical

opinion: Scriptor xiiimi. circiter sæculi, ut ibidem notatur; antiquariæ

rei imperitus et, ut ab illo ævo, nugis et anilibus fabellis refertus:

sed, quia monumenta, quæ iis temporibus Romæ supererant pro modulo

recenset, non parum inde lucis mutuabitur qui Romanis antiquitatibus

indagandis operam navabit, (p. 283.)]

[Footnote 7: The Père Mabillon (Analecta, tom. iv. p. 502) has published an anonymous pilgrim of the ixth century, who, in his visit round the churches and holy places at Rome, touches on several buildings, especially porticos, which had disappeared before the xiiith century.]

[Footnote 8: On the Septizonium, see the Mémoires sur Pétrarque, (tom.

i. p. 325,) Donatus, (p. 338,) and Nardini, (p. 117, 414.)]

after a diligent inquiry, I can discern four principal causes of the

ruin of Rome, which continued to operate in a period of more than a thousand years. I. The injuries of time and nature. II. The hostile attacks of the Barbarians and Christians. III. The use and abuse of the

materials. And, IV. The domestic quarrels of the Romans.

I. The art of man is able to construct monuments far more permanent than the narrow span of his own existence; yet these monuments, like himself, are perishable and frail; and in the boundless annals of time, his

life and his labors must equally be measured as a fleeting moment. Of a

simple and solid edifice, it is not easy, however, to circumscribe the duration. As the wonders of ancient days, the pyramids [9] attracted the curiosity of the ancients: a hundred generations, the leaves of autumn,

have dropped [10] into the grave; and after the fall of the Pharaohs and

Ptolemies, the Cæsars and caliphs, the same pyramids stand erect and

unshaken above the floods of the Nile. A complex figure of various and

minute parts to more accessible to injury and decay; and the silent

lapse of time is often accelerated by hurricanes and earthquakes, by fires and inundations. The air and earth have doubtless been shaken; and the lofty turrets of Rome have tottered from their foundations; but the seven hills do not appear to be placed on the great cavities of the

globe; nor has the city, in any age, been exposed to the convulsions of

nature, which, in the climate of Antioch, Lisbon, or Lima, have crumbled

in a few moments the works of ages into dust. Fire is the most

powerful agent of life and death: the rapid mischief may be kindled and

propagated by the industry or negligence of mankind; and every period

of the Roman annals is marked by the repetition of similar calamities. a memorable conflagration, the guilt or misfortune of Nero's reign, continued, though with unequal fury, either six or nine days. [11]

Innumerable buildings, crowded in close and crooked streets, supplied

perpetual fuel for the flames; and when they ceased, four only of the fourteen regions were left entire; three were totally destroyed, and

seven were deformed by the relics of smoking and lacerated edifices. [12]

In the full meridian of empire, the metropolis arose with fresh beauty from her ashes; yet the memory of the old deplored their irreparable

losses, the arts of Greece, the trophies of victory, the monuments of

primitive or fabulous antiquity. In the days of distress and anarchy, every wound is mortal, every fall irretrievable; nor can the damage be

restored either by the public care of government, or the activity

of private interest. Yet two causes may be alleged, which render the calamity of fire more destructive to a flourishing than a decayed city.

\_1.\_ The more combustible materials of brick, timber, and metals, are first melted or consumed; but the flames may play without injury or effect on the naked walls, and massy arches, that have been despoiled of their ornaments. \_2.\_ It is among the common and plebeian habitations, that a mischievous spark is most easily blown to a conflagration; but as

soon as they are devoured, the greater edifices, which have resisted or escaped, are left as so many islands in a state of solitude and

safety. From her situation, Rome is exposed to the danger of frequent

inundations. Without excepting the Tyber, the rivers that descend from either side of the Apennine have a short and irregular course; a shallow

stream in the summer heats; an impetuous torrent, when it is swelled in the spring or winter, by the fall of rain, and the melting of the snows. when the current is repelled from the sea by adverse winds, when the

ordinary bed is inadequate to the weight of waters, they rise above the banks, and overspread, without limits or control, the plains and cities

of the adjacent country. Soon after the triumph of the first Punic war, the Tyber was increased by unusual rains; and the inundation, surpassing all former measure of time and place, destroyed all the buildings that were situated below the hills of Rome. According to the variety of

ground, the same mischief was produced by different means; and the edifices were either swept away by the sudden impulse, or dissolved and

undermined by the long continuance, of the flood. [13] Under the reign

of Augustus, the same calamity was renewed: the lawless river overturned the palaces and temples on its banks; [14] and, after the labors of the emperor in cleansing and widening the bed that was encumbered with

ruins, [15] the vigilance of his successors was exercised by similar dangers and designs. The project of diverting into new channels the tyber itself, or some of the dependent streams, was long opposed by

superstition and local interests; [16] nor did the use compensate the toil and cost of the tardy and imperfect execution. The servitude of

rivers is the noblest and most important victory which man has obtained

over the licentiousness of nature; [17] and if such were the ravages of the Tyber under a firm and active government, what could oppose, or who can enumerate, the injuries of the city, after the fall of the Western empire? A remedy was at length produced by the evil itself: the accumulation of rubbish and the earth, that has been washed down from the hills, is supposed to have elevated the plain of Rome, fourteen or fifteen feet, perhaps, above the ancient level; [18] and the modern city

is less accessible to the attacks of the river. [19]

[Footnote 9: The age of the pyramids is remote and unknown, since diodorus Siculus (tom. i l. i. c. 44, p. 72) is unable to decide whether they were constructed 1000, or 3400, years before the clxxxth Olympiad.

Sir John Marsham's contracted scale of the Egyptian dynasties would fix them about 2000 years before Christ, (Canon. Chronicus, p. 47.)]

[Footnote 10: See the speech of Glaucus in the Iliad, (Z. 146.) This

natural but melancholy image is peculiar to Homer.]

[Footnote 11: The learning and criticism of M. des Vignoles (Histoire critique de la République des Lettres, tom. viii. p. 47--118, ix.

p. 172--187) dates the fire of Rome from A.D. 64, July 19, and the

subsequent persecution of the Christians from November 15 of the same

year.]

[Footnote 12: Quippe in regiones quatuordecim Roma dividitur, quarum

quatuor integræ manebant, tres solo tenus dejectæ: septem reliquis pauca testorum vestigia supererant, lacera et semiusta. Among the old relics that were irreparably lost, Tacitus enumerates the temple of the moon

of Servius Tullius; the fane and altar consecrated by Evander præsenti

Herculi; the temple of Jupiter Stator, a vow of Romulus; the palace of

Numa; the temple of Vesta cum Penatibus populi Romani. He then deplores the opes tot victoriis quæsitæ et Græcarum artium decora.... multa quæ

seniores meminerant, quæ reparari nequibant, (Annal. xv. 40, 41.)]

[Footnote 13: A. U. C. 507, repentina subversio ipsius Romæ prævenit triumphum Romanorum.... diversæ ignium aquarumque clades pene absumsere

urbem Nam Tiberis insolitis auctus imbribus et ultra opinionem, vel diuturnitate vel maguitudine redundans, \_omnia\_ Romæ ædificia in plano

posita delevit. Diversæ qualitates locorum ad unam convenere perniciem:

quoniam et quæ segnior inundatio tenuit madefacta dissolvit, et quæ cursus torrentis invenit impulsa dejecit, (Orosius, Hist. l. iv. c. 11,

p. 244, edit. Havercamp.) Yet we may observe, that it is the plan and

study of the Christian apologist to magnify the calamities of the Pagan world.]

[Footnote 14:

Vidimus flavum Tiberim, retortis

Littore Etrusco violenter undis,

Ire dejectum monumenta Regis

Templaque Vestæ. (Horat. Carm. I. 2.)

If the palace of Numa and temple of Vesta were thrown down in Horace's time, what was consumed of those buildings by Nero's fire could hardly deserve the epithets of vetustissima or incorrupta.]

[Footnote 15: Ad coercendas inundationes alveum Tiberis laxavit, ac

repurgavit, completum olim ruderibus, et ædificiorum prolapsionibus coarctatum, (Suetonius in Augusto, c. 30.)]

[Footnote 16: Tacitus (Annal. i. 79) reports the petitions of the different towns of Italy to the senate against the measure; and we may applaud the progress of reason. On a similar occasion, local interests would undoubtedly be consulted: but an English House of Commons would

reject with contempt the arguments of superstition, "that nature had assigned to the rivers their proper course," &c.]

[Footnote 17: See the Epoques de la Nature of the eloquent and

philosophic Buffon. His picture of Guyana, in South America, is that of a new and savage land, in which the waters are abandoned to themselves without being regulated by human industry, (p. 212, 561, quarto edition.)]

[Footnote 18: In his travels in Italy, Mr. Addison (his works, vol.

ii. p. 98, Baskerville's edition) has observed this curious and

unquestionable fact.]

[Footnote 19: Yet in modern times, the Tyber has sometimes damaged the city, and in the years 1530, 1557, 1598, the annals of Muratori record three mischievous and memorable inundations, (tom. xiv. p. 268, 429, tom. xv. p. 99, &c.) \* Note: The level of the Tyber was at one time

supposed to be considerably raised: recent investigations seem to be conclusive against this supposition. See a brief, but satisfactory

statement of the question in Bunsen and Platner, Roms Beschreibung. vol.

i. p. 29.--M.]

II. The crowd of writers of every nation, who impute the destruction of the Roman monuments to the Goths and the Christians, have neglected to

inquire how far they were animated by a hostile principle, and how far they possessed the means and the leisure to satiate their enmity. In the preceding volumes of this History, I have described the triumph of barbarism and religion; and I can only resume, in a few words, their

real or imaginary connection with the ruin of ancient Rome. Our fancy

may create, or adopt, a pleasing romance, that the Goths and Vandals

sallied from Scandinavia, ardent to avenge the flight of Odin; [20] to break the chains, and to chastise the oppressors, of mankind; that they wished to burn the records of classic literature, and to found their

national architecture on the broken members of the Tuscan and Corinthian

orders. But in simple truth, the northern conquerors were neither

sufficiently savage, nor sufficiently refined, to entertain such aspiring ideas of destruction and revenge. The shepherds of Scythia and

Germany had been educated in the armies of the empire, whose discipline they acquired, and whose weakness they invaded: with the familiar use of the Latin tongue, they had learned to reverence the name and titles of

Rome; and, though incapable of emulating, they were more inclined to admire, than to abolish, the arts and studies of a brighter period. In the transient possession of a rich and unresisting capital, the soldiers

of Alaric and Genseric were stimulated by the passions of a victorious army; amidst the wanton indulgence of lust or cruelty, portable wealth was the object of their search; nor could they derive either pride or

pleasure from the unprofitable reflection, that they had battered to the

ground the works of the consuls and Cæsars. Their moments were indeed

precious; the Goths evacuated Rome on the sixth, [21] the Vandals on the fifteenth, day: [22] and, though it be far more difficult to build than to destroy, their hasty assault would have made a slight impression

on the solid piles of antiquity. We may remember, that both Alaric and Genseric affected to spare the buildings of the city; that they

subsisted in strength and beauty under the auspicious government of theodoric; [23] and that the momentary resentment of Totila [24] was disarmed by his own temper and the advice of his friends and enemies. from these innocent Barbarians, the reproach may be transferred to the catholics of Rome. The statues, altars, and houses, of the dæmons, were an abomination in their eyes; and in the absolute command of the city, they might labor with zeal and perseverance to erase the idolatry of their ancestors. The demolition of the temples in the East [25] affords to \_them\_ an example of conduct, and to \_us\_ an argument of belief; and it is probable that a portion of guilt or merit may be imputed with

justice to the Roman proselytes. Yet their abhorrence was confined to the monuments of heathen superstition; and the civil structures that were dedicated to the business or pleasure of society might be preserved without injury or scandal. The change of religion was accomplished, not by a popular tumult, but by the decrees of the emperors, of the senate, and of time. Of the Christian hierarchy, the bishops of Rome were commonly the most prudent and least fanatic; nor can any positive charge be opposed to the meritorious act of saving or converting the majestic

structure of the Pantheon. [26] [261]

[Footnote 20: I take this opportunity of declaring, that in the course

of twelve years, I have forgotten, or renounced, the flight of Odin from Azoph to Sweden, which I never very seriously believed, (vol. i. p.

283.) The Goths are apparently Germans: but all beyond Cæsar and Tacitus

is darkness or fable, in the antiquities of Germany.]

[Footnote 21: History of the Decline, &c., vol. iii. p. 291.]

[Footnote 22:----------------------vol. iii. p. 464.]

[Footnote 23:----------------------vol. iv. p. 23--25.]

[Footnote 24:----------------------vol. iv. p. 258.]

[Footnote 25:----------------------vol. iii. c. xxviii. p. 139--148.]

[Footnote 26: Eodem tempore petiit a Phocate principe templum, quod appellatur \_Pantheon\_, in quo fecit ecclesiam Sanctæ Mariæ semper

Virginis, et omnium martyrum; in quâ ecclesiæ princeps multa bona

obtulit, (Anastasius vel potius Liber Pontificalis in Bonifacio IV., in

Muratori, Script. Rerum Italicarum, tom. iii. P. i. p. 135.) According to the anonymous writer in Montfaucon, the Pantheon had been vowed by agrippa to Cybele and Neptune, and was dedicated by Boniface IV., on the calends of November, to the Virgin, quæ est mater omnium sanctorum, (p.

297, 298.)]

[Footnote 261: The popes, under the dominion of the emperor and of the exarchs, according to Feas's just observation, did not possess the power

of disposing of the buildings and monuments of the city according to their own will. Bunsen and Platner, vol. i. p. 241.--M.]

III. The value of any object that supplies the wants or pleasures of

mankind is compounded of its substance and its form, of the materials and the manufacture. Its price must depend on the number of persons by whom it may be acquired and used; on the extent of the market; and consequently on the ease or difficulty of remote exportation, according to the nature of the commodity, its local situation, and the temporary circumstances of the world. The Barbarian conquerors of Rome usurped

in a moment the toil and treasure of successive ages; but, except the

luxuries of immediate consumption, they must view without desire all that could not be removed from the city in the Gothic wagons or the fleet of the Vandals. [27] Gold and silver were the first objects of their avarice; as in every country, and in the smallest compass, they

represent the most ample command of the industry and possessions of

mankind. A vase or a statue of those precious metals might tempt the

vanity of some Barbarian chief; but the grosser multitude, regardless

of the form, was tenacious only of the substance; and the melted ingots

might be readily divided and stamped into the current coin of the empire. The less active or less fortunate robbers were reduced to the baser plunder of brass, lead, iron, and copper: whatever had escaped the Goths and Vandals was pillaged by the Greek tyrants; and the emperor constans, in his rapacious visit, stripped the bronze tiles from the

roof of the Pantheon. [28] The edifices of Rome might be considered as a

vast and various mine; the first labor of extracting the materials was already performed; the metals were purified and cast; the marbles were hewn and polished; and after foreign and domestic rapine had been

satiated, the remains of the city, could a purchaser have been found, were still venal. The monuments of antiquity had been left naked of their precious ornaments; but the Romans would demolish with their own

hands the arches and walls, if the hope of profit could surpass the cost

of the labor and exportation. If Charlemagne had fixed in Italy the seat

of the Western empire, his genius would have aspired to restore, rather than to violate, the works of the Cæsars; but policy confined the French

monarch to the forests of Germany; his taste could be gratified only by destruction; and the new palace of Aix la Chapelle was decorated with the marbles of Ravenna [29] and Rome. [30] Five hundred years after charlemagne, a king of Sicily, Robert, the wisest and most liberal

sovereign of the age, was supplied with the same materials by the easy

navigation of the Tyber and the sea; and Petrarch sighs an indignant complaint, that the ancient capital of the world should adorn from her

own bowels the slothful luxury of Naples. [31] But these examples of

plunder or purchase were rare in the darker ages; and the Romans, alone and unenvied, might have applied to their private or public use the remaining structures of antiquity, if in their present form and

situation they had not been useless in a great measure to the city and

its inhabitants. The walls still described the old circumference, but the city had descended from the seven hills into the Campus Martius; and

some of the noblest monuments which had braved the injuries of time were left in a desert, far remote from the habitations of mankind. the palaces of the senators were no longer adapted to the manners or fortunes of their indigent successors: the use of baths [32] and

porticos was forgotten: in the sixth century, the games of the theatre, amphitheatre, and circus, had been interrupted: some temples were devoted to the prevailing worship; but the Christian churches preferred the holy figure of the cross; and fashion, or reason, had distributed after a peculiar model the cells and offices of the cloister. Under the ecclesiastical reign, the number of these pious foundations was enormously multiplied; and the city was crowded with forty monasteries

of men, twenty of women, and sixty chapters and colleges of canons and

priests, [33] who aggravated, instead of relieving, the depopulation

of the tenth century. But if the forms of ancient architecture were disregarded by a people insensible of their use and beauty, the

plentiful materials were applied to every call of necessity or

superstition; till the fairest columns of the Ionic and Corinthian

orders, the richest marbles of Paros and Numidia, were degraded, perhaps to the support of a convent or a stable. The daily havoc which is

perpetrated by the Turks in the cities of Greece and Asia may afford a

melancholy example; and in the gradual destruction of the monuments of

Rome, Sixtus the Fifth may alone be excused for employing the stones of the Septizonium in the glorious edifice of St. Peter's. [34] A fragment, a ruin, howsoever mangled or profaned, may be viewed with pleasure and

regret; but the greater part of the marble was deprived of substance, as well as of place and proportion; it was burnt to lime for the purpose of cement. [341] Since the arrival of Poggius, the temple of Concord, [35] and

many capital structures, had vanished from his eyes; and an epigram of the same age expresses a just and pious fear, that the continuance of this practice would finally annihilate all the monuments of antiquity.

[36] The smallness of their numbers was the sole check on the demands and depredations of the Romans. The imagination of Petrarch might create the

presence of a mighty people; [37] and I hesitate to believe, that, even

in the fourteenth century, they could be reduced to a contemptible list

of thirty-three thousand inhabitants. From that period to the reign of

Leo the Tenth, if they multiplied to the amount of eighty-five thousand,

[38] the increase of citizens was in some degree pernicious to the ancient city.

[Footnote 27: Flaminius Vacca (apud Montfaucon, p. 155, 156. His memoir

is likewise printed, p. 21, at the end of the Roman Antica of Nardini) and several Romans, doctrinâ graves, were persuaded that the Goths buried their treasures at Rome, and bequeathed the secret marks filiis

nepotibusque. He relates some anecdotes to prove, that in his own time, these places were visited and rifled by the Transalpine pilgrims, the

heirs of the Gothic conquerors.]

[Footnote 28: Omnia quæ erant in ære ad ornatum civitatis deposuit,

sed e ecclesiam B. Mariæ ad martyres quæ de tegulis æreis cooperta discooperuit, (Anast. in Vitalian. p. 141.) The base and sacrilegious

Greek had not even the poor pretence of plundering a heathen temple, the

Pantheon was already a Catholic church.]

[Footnote 29: For the spoils of Ravenna (musiva atque marmora) see the

original grant of Pope Adrian I. to Charlemagne, (Codex Carolin. epist.

lxvii. in Muratori, Script. Ital. tom. iii. P. ii. p. 223.)]

[Footnote 30: I shall quote the authentic testimony of the Saxon poet,

(A.D. 887--899,) de Rebus gestis Caroli magni, l. v. 437--440, in the

Historians of France, (tom. v. p. 180:)

Ad quæ marmoreas præstabat Roma columnas,

Quasdam præcipuas pulchra Ravenna dedit.

De tam longinquâ poterit regione vetustas

Illius ornatum, Francia, ferre tibi.

and I shall add from the Chronicle of Sigebert, (Historians of france, tom. v. p. 378,) extruxit etiam Aquisgrani basilicam plurimæ

pulchritudinis, ad cujus structuram a Roma et Ravenna columnas et

marmora devehi fecit.]

[Footnote 31: I cannot refuse to transcribe a long passage of Petrarch

(Opp. p. 536, 537) in Epistolâ hortatoriâ ad Nicolaum Laurentium; it is

so strong and full to the point: Nec pudor aut pietas continuit quominus

impii spoliata Dei templa, occupatas arces, opes publicas, regiones

urbis, atque honores magistratûum inter se divisos; (\_habeant?\_) quam

unâ in re, turbulenti ac seditiosi homines et totius reliquæ vitæ consiliis et rationibus discordes, inhumani fderis stupendà societate convenirent, in pontes et mnia atque immeritos lapides desævirent. denique post vi vel senio collapsa palatia, quæ quondam ingentes tenuerunt viri, post diruptos arcus triumphales, (unde majores horum forsitan corruerunt,) de ipsius vetustatis ac propriæ impietatis fragminibus vilem quæstum turpi mercimonio captare non puduit. Itaque

nunc, heu dolor! heu scelus indignum! de vestris marmoreis columnis, de

liminibus templorum, (ad quæ nuper ex orbe toto concursus devotissimus fiebat,) de imaginibus sepulchrorum sub quibus patrum vestrorum

venerabilis civis (\_cinis?\_) erat, ut reliquas sileam, desidiosa

Neapolis adornatur. Sic paullatim ruinæ ipsæ deficiunt. Yet King Robert was the friend of Petrarch.]

[Footnote 32: Yet Charlemagne washed and swam at Aix la Chapelle with a

hundred of his courtiers, (Eginhart, c. 22, p. 108, 109,) and Muratori describes, as late as the year 814, the public baths which were built at

Spoleto in Italy, (Annali, tom. vi. p. 416.)]

[Footnote 33: See the Annals of Italy, A.D. 988. For this and the

preceding fact, Muratori himself is indebted to the Benedictine history

of Père Mabillon.]

[Footnote 34: Vita di Sisto Quinto, da Gregorio Leti, tom. iii. p. 50.]

[Footnote 341: From the quotations in Bunsen's Dissertation, it may be

suspected that this slow but continual process of destruction was the

most fatal. Ancient Rome eas considered a quarry from which the church, the castle of the baron, or even the hovel of the peasant, might be

repaired.--M.]

[Footnote 35: Porticus ædis Concordiæ, quam cum primum ad urbem accessi

vidi fere integram opere marmoreo admodum specioso: Romani postmodum ad calcem ædem totam et porticûs partem disjectis columnis sunt demoliti,

(p. 12.) The temple of Concord was therefore \_not\_ destroyed by a

sedition in the xiiith century, as I have read in a MS. treatise del'

Governo civile di Rome, lent me formerly at Rome, and ascribed (I believe falsely) to the celebrated Gravina. Poggius likewise affirms that the sepulchre of Cæcilia Metella was burnt for lime, (p. 19, 20.)]

[Footnote 36: Composed by Æneas Sylvius, afterwards Pope Pius II., and published by Mabillon, from a MS. of the queen of Sweden, (Musæum

Italicum, tom. i. p. 97.)

Oblectat me, Roma, tuas spectare ruinas:

Ex cujus lapsû gloria prisca patet.

Sed tuus hic populus muris defossa vetustis

Calcis in obsequium marmora dura coquit.

Impia tercentum si sic gens egerit annos

Nullum hinc indicium nobilitatis erit.]

[Footnote 37: Vagabamur pariter in illâ urbe tam magnâ; quæ, cum propter

spatium vacua videretur, populum habet immensum, (Opp p. 605 Epist. familiares, ii. 14.)]

[Footnote 38: These states of the population of Rome at different

periods are derived from an ingenious treatise of the physician Lancisi, de Romani Cli Qualitatibus, (p. 122.)]

IV. I have reserved for the last, the most potent and forcible cause of destruction, the domestic hostilities of the Romans themselves. Under the dominion of the Greek and French emperors, the peace of the city was disturbed by accidental, though frequent, seditions: it is from the decline of the latter, from the beginning of the tenth century, that we

may date the licentiousness of private war, which violated with impunity the laws of the Code and the Gospel, without respecting the majesty of the absent sovereign, or the presence and person of the vicar of Christ.

In a dark period of five hundred years, Rome was perpetually afflicted by the sanguinary quarrels of the nobles and the people, the Guelphs and Ghibelines, the Colonna and Ursini; and if much has escaped the

knowledge, and much is unworthy of the notice, of history, I have exposed in the two preceding chapters the causes and effects of the

public disorders. At such a time, when every quarrel was decided by the

sword, and none could trust their lives or properties to the impotence

of law, the powerful citizens were armed for safety, or offence, against the domestic enemies whom they feared or hated. Except Venice alone, the

same dangers and designs were common to all the free republics of Italy; and the nobles usurped the prerogative of fortifying their houses, and erecting strong towers, [39] that were capable of resisting a sudden attack. The cities were filled with these hostile edifices; and the example of Lucca, which contained three hundred towers; her law, which confined their height to the measure of fourscore feet, may be extended with suitable latitude to the more opulent and populous states. The first step of the senator Brancaleone in the establishment of peace and

justice, was to demolish (as we have already seen) one hundred and forty

of the towers of Rome; and, in the last days of anarchy and discord, as

late as the reign of Martin the Fifth, forty-four still stood in one

of the thirteen or fourteen regions of the city. To this mischievous

purpose the remains of antiquity were most readily adapted: the temples and arches afforded a broad and solid basis for the new structures of brick and stone; and we can name the modern turrets that were raised on the triumphal monuments of Julius Cæsar, Titus, and the Antonines. [40] with some slight alterations, a theatre, an amphitheatre, a mausoleum, was transformed into a strong and spacious citadel. I need not repeat, that the mole of Adrian has assumed the title and form of the castle

of St. Angelo; [41] the Septizonium of Severus was capable of standing against a royal army; [42] the sepulchre of Metella has sunk under its

outworks; [43] [431] the theatres of Pompey and Marcellus were occupied by the Savelli and Ursini families; [44] and the rough fortress has been

gradually softened to the splendor and elegance of an Italian palace. even the churches were encompassed with arms and bulwarks, and the

military engines on the roof of St. Peter's were the terror of the

Vatican and the scandal of the Christian world. Whatever is fortified will be attacked; and whatever is attacked may be destroyed. Could the

Romans have wrested from the popes the castle of St. Angelo, they had

resolved by a public decree to annihilate that monument of servitude. every building of defence was exposed to a siege; and in every siege the arts and engines of destruction were laboriously employed. After the death of Nicholas the Fourth, Rome, without a sovereign or a senate, was abandoned six months to the fury of civil war. "The houses," says a cardinal and poet of the times, [45] "were crushed by the weight and velocity of enormous stones; [46] the walls were perforated by the

strokes of the battering-ram; the towers were involved in fire and

smoke; and the assailants were stimulated by rapine and revenge." The work was consummated by the tyranny of the laws; and the factions of

Italy alternately exercised a blind and thoughtless vengeance on their adversaries, whose houses and castles they razed to the ground. [47] In comparing the \_days\_ of foreign, with the \_ages\_ of domestic, hostility, we must pronounce, that the latter have been far more ruinous to the city; and our opinion is confirmed by the evidence of Petrarch.

"Behold," says the laureate, "the relics of Rome, the image of her

pristine greatness! neither time nor the Barbarian can boast the merit

of this stupendous destruction: it was perpetrated by her own citizens, by the most illustrious of her sons; and your ancestors (he writes to a noble Annabaldi) have done with the battering-ram what the Punic hero could not accomplish with the sword." [48] The influence of the two last

principles of decay must in some degree be multiplied by each other;

since the houses and towers, which were subverted by civil war, required by a new and perpetual supply from the monuments of antiquity. [481]

[Footnote 39: All the facts that relate to the towers at Rome, and

in other free cities of Italy, may be found in the laborious and entertaining compilation of Muratori, Antiquitates Italiæ Medii Ævi, dissertat. xxvi., (tom. ii. p. 493--496, of the Latin, tom.. p. 446, of the Italian work.)]

[Footnote 40: As for instance, templum Jani nunc dicitur, turris Centii frangipanis; et sane Jano impositæ turris lateritiæ conspicua hodieque

vestigia supersunt, (Montfaucon Diarium Italicum, p. 186.) The anonymous writer (p. 285) enumerates, arcus Titi, turris Cartularia; arcus Julii cæsaris et Senatorum, turres de Bratis; arcus Antonini, turris de cosectis, &c.]

[Footnote 41: Hadriani molem.... magna ex parte Romanorum injuria.... disturbavit; quod certe funditus evertissent, si eorum manibus pervia, absumptis grandibus saxis, reliqua moles exstisset, (Poggius de

Varietate Fortunæ, p. 12.)]

[Footnote 42: Against the emperor Henry IV., (Muratori, Annali d'

Italia, tom. ix. p. 147.)]

[Footnote 43: I must copy an important passage of Montfaucon: Turris

ingens rotunda.... Cæciliæ Metellæ.... sepulchrum erat, cujus muri tam

solidi, ut spatium perquam minimum intus vacuum supersit; et \_Torre di Bove\_ dicitur, a boum capitibus muro inscriptis. Huic sequiori ævo, tempore intestinorum bellorum, ceu urbecula adjuncta fuit, cujus mnia et turres etiamnum visuntur; ita ut sepulchrum Metellæ quasi arx oppiduli fuerit. Ferventibus in urbe partibus, cum Ursini atque Columnenses

mutuis cladibus perniciem inferrent civitati, in utriusve partis ditionem cederet magni momenti erat, (p. 142.)]

[Footnote 431: This is inaccurately expressed. The sepulchre is still

standing See Hobhouse, p. 204.--M.]

[Footnote 44: See the testimonies of Donatus, Nardini, and Montfaucon.

In the Savelli palace, the remains of the theatre of Marcellus are still

great and conspicuous.]

[Footnote 45: James, cardinal of St. George, ad velum aureum, in his

metrical life of Pope Celestin V., (Muratori, Script. Ital. tom. i. P.

iii. p. 621, l. i. c. l. ver. 132, &c.)

Hoc dixisse sat est, Romam caruisee Senatû

Mensibus exactis heu sex; belloque vocatum (\_vocatos\_)

In scelus, in socios fraternaque vulnera patres;

Tormentis jecisse viros immania saxa;

Perfodisse domus trabibus, fecisse ruinas

Ignibus; incensas turres, obscuraque fumo

Lumina vicino, quo sit spoliata supellex.]

[Footnote 46: Muratori (Dissertazione sopra le Antiquità Italiane, tom.

i. p. 427--431) finds that stone bullets of two or three hundred pounds' weight were not uncommon; and they are sometimes computed at xii. or

xviii \_cantari\_ of Genoa, each \_cantaro\_ weighing 150 pounds.]

[Footnote 47: The vith law of the Visconti prohibits this common and

mischievous practice; and strictly enjoins, that the houses of banished citizens should be preserved pro communi utilitate, (Gualvancus de la flamma in Muratori, Script. Rerum Italicarum, tom. xii. p. 1041.)]

[Footnote 48: Petrarch thus addresses his friend, who, with shame and tears had shown him the mnia, laceræ specimen miserable Romæ, and declared his own intention of restoring them, (Carmina Latina, l. ii. epist. Paulo Annibalensi, xii. p. 97, 98.)

Nec te parva manet servatis fama ruinis

Quanta quod integræ fuit olim gloria Romæ

Reliquiæ testantur adhuc; quas longior ætas

Frangere non valuit; non vis aut ira cruenti Hostis,

ab egregiis franguntur civibus, heu! heu'

--------Quod \_ille\_ nequivit (\_Hannibal\_.)

Perficit hic aries.]

[Footnote 481: Bunsen has shown that the hostile attacks of the emperor

Henry the Fourth, but more particularly that of Robert Guiscard, who burned down whole districts, inflicted the worst damage on the ancient city Vol. i. p. 247.--M.]

chapter LXXI: Prospect Of The Ruins Of Rome In The Fifteenth Century.--Part II

these general observations may be separately applied to the amphitheatre

of Titus, which has obtained the name of the Coliseum, [49] either from

its magnitude, or from Nero's colossal statue; an edifice, had it been

left to time and nature, which might perhaps have claimed an eternal duration. The curious antiquaries, who have computed the numbers and

seats, are disposed to believe, that above the upper row of stone steps the amphitheatre was encircled and elevated with several stages of wooden galleries, which were repeatedly consumed by fire, and restored by the emperors. Whatever was precious, or portable, or profane, the

statues of gods and heroes, and the costly ornaments of sculpture which were cast in brass, or overspread with leaves of silver and gold, became the first prey of conquest or fanaticism, of the avarice of the barbarians or the Christians. In the massy stones of the Coliseum, many

holes are discerned; and the two most probable conjectures represent the various accidents of its decay. These stones were connected by solid

links of brass or iron, nor had the eye of rapine overlooked the value

of the baser metals; [50] the vacant space was converted into a fair or

market; the artisans of the Coliseum are mentioned in an ancient survey; and the chasms were perforated or enlarged to receive the poles that

supported the shops or tents of the mechanic trades. [51] Reduced to its

naked majesty, the Flavian amphitheatre was contemplated with awe and admiration by the pilgrims of the North; and their rude enthusiasm broke forth in a sublime proverbial expression, which is recorded in the eighth century, in the fragments of the venerable Bede: "As long as the coliseum stands, Rome shall stand; when the Coliseum falls, Rome will fall; when Rome falls, the world will fall." [52] In the modern system

of war, a situation commanded by three hills would not be chosen for a fortress; but the strength of the walls and arches could resist the engines of assault; a numerous garrison might be lodged in the enclosure; and while one faction occupied the Vatican and the Capitol, the other was intrenched in the Lateran and the Coliseum. [53]

[Footnote 49: The fourth part of the Verona Illustrata of the marquis

Maffei professedly treats of amphitheatres, particularly those of

Rome and Verona, of their dimensions, wooden galleries, &c. It is from

magnitude that he derives the name of \_Colosseum\_, or \_Coliseum\_; since the same appellation was applied to the amphitheatre of Capua, without the aid of a colossal statue; since that of Nero was erected in the court (\_in atrio\_) of his palace, and not in the Coliseum, (P. iv. p.

15--19, l. i. c. 4.)]

[Footnote 50: Joseph Maria Suarés, a learned bishop, and the author of a history of Præneste, has composed a separate dissertation on the seven

or eight probable causes of these holes, which has been since reprinted

in the Roman Thesaurus of Sallengre. Montfaucon (Diarium, p. 233)

pronounces the rapine of the Barbarians to be the unam germanamque causam foraminum. \* Note: The improbability of this theory is shown by Bunsen, vol. i. p. 239.--M.]

[Footnote 51: Donatus, Roma Vetus et Nova, p. 285.

Note: Gibbon has followed Donatus, who supposes that a silk manufactory was established in the xiith century in the Coliseum. The Bandonarii,

or Bandererii, were the officers who carried the standards of their

\_school\_ before the pope. Hobhouse, p. 269.--M.]

[Footnote 52: Quamdiu stabit Colyseus, stabit et Roma; quando cadet Coly

seus, cadet Roma; quando cadet Roma, cadet et mundus, (Beda in Excerptis

seu Collectaneis apud Ducange Glossar. Med. et Infimæ Latinitatis, tom. ii. p. 407, edit. Basil.) This saying must be ascribed to the anglo-Saxon pilgrims who visited Rome before the year 735 the æra of bede's death; for I do not believe that our venerable monk ever passed the sea.]

[Footnote 53: I cannot recover, in Muratori's original Lives of the

Popes, (Script Rerum Italicarum, tom. iii. P. i.,) the passage that attests this hostile partition, which must be applied to the end of the

xiith or the beginning of the xiith century. \* Note: "The division is

mentioned in Vit. Innocent. Pap. II. ex Cardinale Aragonio, (Script.

Rer. Ital. vol. iii. P. i. p. 435,) and Gibbon might have found frequent

other records of it at other dates." Hobhouse's Illustrations of Childe

Harold. p. 130.--M.]

the abolition at Rome of the ancient games must be understood with some

latitude; and the carnival sports, of the Testacean mount and the Circus agonalis, [54] were regulated by the law [55] or custom of the city. The

senator presided with dignity and pomp to adjudge and distribute the

prizes, the gold ring, or the \_pallium\_, [56] as it was styled, of cloth

or silk. A tribute on the Jews supplied the annual expense; [57] and the

races, on foot, on horseback, or in chariots, were ennobled by a tilt and tournament of seventy-two of the Roman youth. In the year one thousand three hundred and thirty-two, a bull-feast, after the fashion

of the Moors and Spaniards, was celebrated in the Coliseum itself; and the living manners are painted in a diary of the times. [58] A convenient

order of benches was restored; and a general proclamation, as far as

Rimini and Ravenna, invited the nobles to exercise their skill and courage in this perilous adventure. The Roman ladies were marshalled in three squadrons, and seated in three balconies, which, on this day, the third of September, were lined with scarlet cloth. The fair Jacova di

Rovere led the matrons from beyond the Tyber, a pure and native race, who still represent the features and character of antiquity. The

remainder of the city was divided as usual between the Colonna and

Ursini: the two factions were proud of the number and beauty of their female bands: the charms of Savella Ursini are mentioned with praise; and the Colonna regretted the absence of the youngest of their house, who had sprained her ankle in the garden of Nero's tower. The lots of the champions were drawn by an old and respectable citizen; and they descended into the arena, or pit, to encounter the wild bulls, on foot as it should seem, with a single spear. Amidst the crowd, our annalist

has selected the names, colors, and devices, of twenty of the most conspicuous knights. Several of the names are the most illustrious of

Rome and the ecclesiastical state: Malatesta, Polenta, della Valle, cafarello, Savelli, Capoccio, Conti, Annibaldi, Altieri, Corsi: the colors were adapted to their taste and situation; the devices are expressive of hope or despair, and breathe the spirit of gallantry and arms. "I am alone, like the youngest of the Horatii," the confidence of an intrepid stranger: "I live disconsolate," a weeping widower: "I burn

under the ashes," a discreet lover: "I adore Lavinia, or Lucretia," the ambiguous declaration of a modern passion: "My faith is as pure," the

motto of a white livery: "Who is stronger than myself?" of a lion's

hide: "If am drowned in blood, what a pleasant death!" the wish of ferocious courage. The pride or prudence of the Ursini restrained them from the field, which was occupied by three of their hereditary rivals, whose inscriptions denoted the lofty greatness of the Colonna name:

"Though sad, I am strong:" "Strong as I am great:" "If I fall," addressing himself to the spectators, "you fall with me;"--intimating

(says the contemporary writer) that while the other families were the

subjects of the Vatican, they alone were the supporters of the Capitol. the combats of the amphitheatre were dangerous and bloody. Every champion successively encountered a wild bull; and the victory may be ascribed to the quadrupeds, since no more than eleven were left on the field, with the loss of nine wounded and eighteen killed on the side

of their adversaries. Some of the noblest families might mourn, but the

pomp of the funerals, in the churches of St. John Lateran and St. Maria

Maggiore, afforded a second holiday to the people. Doubtless it was not

in such conflicts that the blood of the Romans should have been shed;

yet, in blaming their rashness, we are compelled to applaud their

gallantry; and the noble volunteers, who display their magnificence, and risk their lives, under the balconies of the fair, excite a more

generous sympathy than the thousands of captives and malefactors who were reluctantly dragged to the scene of slaughter. [59]

[Footnote 54: Although the structure of the circus Agonalis be destroyed, it still retains its form and name, (Agona, Nagona, Navona;) and the interior space affords a sufficient level for the purpose of

racing. But the Monte Testaceo, that strange pile of broken pottery,

seems only adapted for the annual practice of hurling from top to bottom some wagon-loads of live hogs for the diversion of the populace,

(Statuta Urbis Romæ, p. 186.)]

[Footnote 55: See the Statuta Urbis Romæ, l. iii. c. 87, 88, 89, p. 185,

186. I have already given an idea of this municipal code. The races of

Nagona and Monte Testaceo are likewise mentioned in the Diary of Peter antonius from 1404 to 1417, (Muratori, Script. Rerum Italicarum, tom.

xxiv. p. 1124.)]

[Footnote 56: The \_Pallium\_, which Menage so foolishly derives from

\_Palmarius\_, is an easy extension of the idea and the words, from the

robe or cloak, to the materials, and from thence to their application as a prize, (Muratori, dissert. xxxiii.)]

[Footnote 57: For these expenses, the Jews of Rome paid each year 1130 florins, of which the odd thirty represented the pieces of silver for which Judas had betrayed his Master to their ancestors. There was a foot-race of Jewish as well as of Christian youths, (Statuta Urbis,

ibidem.)]

[Footnote 58: This extraordinary bull-feast in the Coliseum is described, from tradition rather than memory, by Ludovico Buonconte

Monaldesco, on the most ancient fragments of Roman annals, (Muratori,

Script Rerum Italicarum, tom. xii. p. 535, 536;) and however fanciful they may seem, they are deeply marked with the colors of truth and

nature.]

[Footnote 59: Muratori has given a separate dissertation (the xxixth) to the games of the Italians in the Middle Ages.]

this use of the amphitheatre was a rare, perhaps a singular, festival: the demand for the materials was a daily and continual want which the citizens could gratify without restraint or remorse. In the fourteenth century, a scandalous act of concord secured to both factions the

privilege of extracting stones from the free and common quarry of the coliseum; [60] and Poggius laments, that the greater part of these stones

had been burnt to lime by the folly of the Romans. [61] To check this abuse, and to prevent the nocturnal crimes that might be perpetrated

in the vast and gloomy recess, Eugenius the Fourth surrounded it with a wall; and, by a charter long extant, granted both the ground and edifice to the monks of an adjacent convent. [62] After his death, the wall was

overthrown in a tumult of the people; and had they themselves respected the noblest monument of their fathers, they might have justified the

resolve that it should never be degraded to private property. The inside was damaged: but in the middle of the sixteenth century, an æra of taste and learning, the exterior circumference of one thousand six hundred and twelve feet was still entire and inviolate; a triple elevation of fourscore arches, which rose to the height of one hundred and eight feet. Of the present ruin, the nephews of Paul the Third are the guilty agents; and every traveller who views the Farnese palace may curse the

sacrilege and luxury of these upstart princes. [63] A similar reproach is applied to the Barberini; and the repetition of injury might be dreaded from every reign, till the Coliseum was placed under the safeguard of

religion by the most liberal of the pontiffs, Benedict the Fourteenth, who consecrated a spot which persecution and fable had stained with the blood of so many Christian martyrs. [64]

[Footnote 60: In a concise but instructive memoir, the abbé Barthelemy

(Mémoires de l'Académie des Inscriptions, tom. xxviii. p. 585) has

mentioned this agreement of the factions of the xivth century de tiburtino faciendo in the Coliseum, from an original act in the archives

of Rome.]

[Footnote 61: Coliseum.... ob stultitiam Romanorum \_majori ex parte\_ ad calcem deletum, says the indignant Poggius, (p. 17:) but his expression too strong for the present age, must be very tenderly applied to the

xvth century.]

[Footnote 62: Of the Olivetan monks. Montfaucon (p. 142) affirms this fact from the memorials of Flaminius Vacca, (No. 72.) They still hoped

on some future occasion, to revive and vindicate their grant.]

[Footnote 63: After measuring the priscus amphitheatri gyrus, Montfaucon

(p. 142) only adds that it was entire under Paul III.; tacendo clamat.

Muratori (Annali d'Italia, tom. xiv. p. 371) more freely reports the

guilt of the Farnese pope, and the indignation of the Roman people. against the nephews of Urban VIII. I have no other evidence than the

vulgar saying, "Quod non fecerunt Barbari, fecere Barberini," which was

perhaps suggested by the resemblance of the words.]

[Footnote 64: As an antiquarian and a priest, Montfaucon thus deprecates the ruin of the Coliseum: Quòd si non suopte merito atque pulchritudine dignum fuisset quod improbas arceret manus, indigna res utique in locum tot martyrum cruore sacrum tantopere sævitum esse.]

when Petrarch first gratified his eyes with a view of those monuments, whose scattered fragments so far surpass the most eloquent descriptions,

he was astonished at the supine indifference [65] of the Romans themselves; [66] he was humbled rather than elated by the discovery, that, except his friend Rienzi, and one of the Colonna, a stranger of the Rhône was more conversant with these antiquities than the nobles and

natives of the metropolis. [67] The ignorance and credulity of the

Romans are elaborately displayed in the old survey of the city which was composed about the beginning of the thirteenth century; and, without dwelling on the manifold errors of name and place, the legend of the capitol [68] may provoke a smile of contempt and indignation. "The capitol," says the anonymous writer, "is so named as being the head

of the world; where the consuls and senators formerly resided for the

government of the city and the globe. The strong and lofty walls were covered with glass and gold, and crowned with a roof of the richest and

most curious carving. Below the citadel stood a palace, of gold for the

greatest part, decorated with precious stones, and whose value might be esteemed at one third of the world itself. The statues of all the

provinces were arranged in order, each with a small bell suspended from

its neck; and such was the contrivance of art magic, [69] that if the

province rebelled against Rome, the statue turned round to that quarter

of the heavens, the bell rang, the prophet of the Capitol repeated the prodigy, and the senate was admonished of the impending danger." A

second example, of less importance, though of equal absurdity, may be drawn from the two marble horses, led by two naked youths, who have

since been transported from the baths of Constantine to the Quirinal

hill. The groundless application of the names of Phidias and Praxiteles

may perhaps be excused; but these Grecian sculptors should not have been

removed above four hundred years from the age of Pericles to that of tiberius; they should not have been transferred into two philosophers

or magicians, whose nakedness was the symbol of truth or knowledge, who

revealed to the emperor his most secret actions; and, after refusing all pecuniary recompense, solicited the honor of leaving this eternal

monument of themselves. [70] Thus awake to the power of magic, the Romans were insensible to the beauties of art: no more than five statues were

visible to the eyes of Poggius; and of the multitudes which chance or design had buried under the ruins, the resurrection was fortunately delayed till a safer and more enlightened age. [71] The Nile which now adorns the Vatican, had been explored by some laborers in digging a

vineyard near the temple, or convent, of the Minerva; but the impatient

proprietor, who was tormented by some visits of curiosity, restored the

unprofitable marble to its former grave. [72] The discovery of a statue

of Pompey, ten feet in length, was the occasion of a lawsuit. It had been found under a partition wall: the equitable judge had pronounced, that the head should be separated from the body to satisfy the claims of the contiguous owners; and the sentence would have been executed, if the intercession of a cardinal, and the liberality of a pope, had not

rescued the Roman hero from the hands of his barbarous countrymen. [73]

[Footnote 65: Yet the statutes of Rome (l. iii. c. 81, p. 182) impose a fine of 500 \_aurei\_ on whosoever shall demolish any ancient edifice, ne

ruinis civitas deformetur, et ut antiqua ædificia decorem urbis perpetuo

representent.]

[Footnote 66: In his first visit to Rome (A.D. 1337. See Mémoires sur

Pétrarque, tom. i. p. 322, &c.) Petrarch is struck mute miraculo rerum tantarum, et stuporis mole obrutus.... Præsentia vero, mirum dictû nihil

imminuit: vere major fuit Roma majoresque sunt reliquiæ quam rebar. Jam

non orbem ab hâc urbe domitum, sed tam sero domitum, miror, (Opp. p.

605, Familiares, ii. 14, Joanni Columnæ.)]

[Footnote 67: He excepts and praises the \_rare\_ knowledge of John colonna. Qui enim hodie magis ignari rerum Romanarum, quam Romani cives!

Invitus dico, nusquam minus Roma cognoscitur quam Romæ.]

[Footnote 68: After the description of the Capitol, he adds, statuæ erant quot sunt mundi provinciæ; et habebat quælibet tintinnabulum ad collum. Et erant ita per magicam artem dispositæ, ut quando aliqua regio

Romano Imperio rebellis erat, statim imago illius provinciæ vertebat

se contra illam; unde tintinnabulum resonabat quod pendebat ad collum; tuncque vates Capitolii qui erant custodes senatui, &c. He mentions an example of the Saxons and Suevi, who, after they had been subdued by agrippa, again rebelled: tintinnabulum sonuit; sacerdos qui erat in

speculo in hebdomada senatoribus nuntiavit: Agrippa marched back and

reduced the--Persians, (Anonym. in Montfaucon, p. 297, 298.)]

[Footnote 69: The same writer affirms, that Virgil captus a Romanis

invisibiliter exiit, ivitque Neapolim. A Roman magician, in the xith century, is introduced by William of Malmsbury, (de Gestis Regum anglorum, l. ii. p. 86;) and in the time of Flaminius Vacca (No. 81,

103) it was the vulgar belief that the strangers (the \_Goths\_) invoked the dæmons for the discovery of hidden treasures.]

[Footnote 70: Anonym. p. 289. Montfaucon (p. 191) justly observes, that

if Alexander be represented, these statues cannot be the work of Phidias

(Olympiad lxxxiii.) or Praxiteles, (Olympiad civ.,) who lived before that conqueror (Plin. Hist. Natur. xxxiv. 19.)]

[Footnote 71: William of Malmsbury (l. ii. p. 86, 87) relates a

marvellous discovery (A.D. 1046) of Pallas the son of Evander, who had been slain by Turnus; the perpetual light in his sepulchre, a Latin epitaph, the corpse, yet entire, of a young giant, the enormous wound

in his breast, (pectus perforat ingens,) &c. If this fable rests on the

slightest foundation, we may pity the bodies, as well as the statues, that were exposed to the air in a barbarous age.]

[Footnote 72: Prope porticum Minervæ, statua est recubantis, cujus caput

integrâ effigie tantæ magnitudinis, ut signa omnia excedat. Quidam ad

plantandas arbores scrobes faciens detexit. Ad hoc visendum cum plures

in dies magis concurrerent, strepitum adeuentium fastidiumque pertæsus,

horti patronus congestâ humo texit, (Poggius de Varietate Fortunæ, p.

12.)]

[Footnote 73: See the Memorials of Flaminius Vacca, No. 57, p. 11, 12, at the end of the Roma Antica of Nardini, (1704, in 4to.)]

but the clouds of barbarism were gradually dispelled; and the peaceful authority of Martin the Fifth and his successors restored the ornaments

of the city as well as the order of the ecclesiastical state. The

improvements of Rome, since the fifteenth century, have not been the

spontaneous produce of freedom and industry. The first and most natural

root of a great city is the labor and populousness of the adjacent country, which supplies the materials of subsistence, of manufactures, and of foreign trade. But the greater part of the Campagna of Rome is

reduced to a dreary and desolate wilderness: the overgrown estates of the princes and the clergy are cultivated by the lazy hands of indigent and hopeless vassals; and the scanty harvests are confined or exported for the benefit of a monopoly. A second and more artificial cause of the

growth of a metropolis is the residence of a monarch, the expense of a luxurious court, and the tributes of dependent provinces. Those

provinces and tributes had been lost in the fall of the empire; and

if some streams of the silver of Peru and the gold of Brazil have been attracted by the Vatican, the revenues of the cardinals, the fees

of office, the oblations of pilgrims and clients, and the remnant

of ecclesiastical taxes, afford a poor and precarious supply, which

maintains, however, the idleness of the court and city. The population

of Rome, far below the measure of the great capitals of Europe, does not exceed one hundred and seventy thousand inhabitants; [74] and within the

spacious enclosure of the walls, the largest portion of the seven hills

is overspread with vineyards and ruins. The beauty and splendor of the

modern city may be ascribed to the abuses of the government, to the

influence of superstition. Each reign (the exceptions are rare) has been

marked by the rapid elevation of a new family, enriched by the childish

pontiff at the expense of the church and country. The palaces of these fortunate nephews are the most costly monuments of elegance and

servitude: the perfect arts of architecture, sculpture, and painting,

have been prostituted in their service; and their galleries and gardens are decorated with the most precious works of antiquity, which taste or

vanity has prompted them to collect. The ecclesiastical revenues were

more decently employed by the popes themselves in the pomp of the catholic worship; but it is superfluous to enumerate their pious foundations of altars, chapels, and churches, since these lesser stars are eclipsed by the sun of the Vatican, by the dome of St. Peter, the most glorious structure that ever has been applied to the use of

religion. The fame of Julius the Second, Leo the Tenth, and Sixtus the fifth, is accompanied by the superior merit of Bramante and Fontana,

of Raphael and Michael Angelo; and the same munificence which had been displayed in palaces and temples was directed with equal zeal to revive and emulate the labors of antiquity. Prostrate obelisks were raised from the ground, and erected in the most conspicuous places; of the eleven aqueducts of the Cæsars and consuls, three were restored; the artificial

rivers were conducted over a long series of old, or of new arches, to discharge into marble basins a flood of salubrious and refreshing waters: and the spectator, impatient to ascend the steps of St. Peter's,

is detained by a column of Egyptian granite, which rises between two

lofty and perpetual fountains, to the height of one hundred and twenty feet. The map, the description, the monuments of ancient Rome, have been elucidated by the diligence of the antiquarian and the student: [75] and the footsteps of heroes, the relics, not of superstition, but of empire, are devoutly visited by a new race of pilgrims from the remote, and once

savage countries of the North.

[Footnote 74: In the year 1709, the inhabitants of Rome (without

including eight or ten thousand Jews,) amounted to 138,568 souls, (Labat

Voyages en Espagne et en Italie, tom. iii. p. 217, 218.) In 1740, they

had increased to 146,080; and in 1765, I left them, without the

Jews 161,899. I am ignorant whether they have since continued in a

progressive state.]

[Footnote 75: The Père Montfaucon distributes his own observations into twenty days; he should have styled them weeks, or months, of his visits to the different parts of the city, (Diarium Italicum, c. 8--20, p.

104--301.) That learned Benedictine reviews the topographers of ancient

Rome; the first efforts of Blondus, Fulvius, Martianus, and Faunus, the

superior labors of Pyrrhus Ligorius, had his learning been equal to his

labors; the writings of Onuphrius Panvinius, qui omnes obscuravit, and the recent but imperfect books of Donatus and Nardini. Yet Montfaucon

still sighs for a more complete plan and description of the old city, which must be attained by the three following methods: 1. The

measurement of the space and intervals of the ruins. 2. The study of

inscriptions, and the places where they were found. 3. The investigation

of all the acts, charters, diaries of the middle ages, which name any spot or building of Rome. The laborious work, such as Montfaucon desired, must be promoted by princely or public munificence: but the great modern plan of Nolli (A.D. 1748) would furnish a solid and accurate basis for the ancient topography of Rome.]

Of these pilgrims, and of every reader, the attention will be excited by a History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire; the greatest,

perhaps, and most awful scene in the history of mankind. The various causes and progressive effects are connected with many of the events

most interesting in human annals: the artful policy of the Cæsars, who

long maintained the name and image of a free republic; the disorders of

military despotism; the rise, establishment, and sects of Christianity; the foundation of Constantinople; the division of the monarchy; the

invasion and settlements of the Barbarians of Germany and Scythia; the

institutions of the civil law; the character and religion of Mahomet; the temporal sovereignty of the popes; the restoration and decay of the western empire of Charlemagne; the crusades of the Latins in the East: the conquests of the Saracens and Turks; the ruin of the Greek empire; the state and revolutions of Rome in the middle age. The historian

may applaud the importance and variety of his subject; but while he is conscious of his own imperfections, he must often accuse the deficiency

of his materials. It was among the ruins of the Capitol that I first conceived the idea of a work which has amused and exercised near twenty

years of my life, and which, however inadequate to my own wishes, I finally delivere to the curiosity and candor of the public.

Lausanne, June 27 1787

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